



Arab Organisation
for Human Rights in the UK



**How did
the UAE regime kill**

ALIA ABDEL NOUR

**VICTIM OF MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE
IN ABU DHABI'S PRISONS**



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- » Alia Abdel Nour Muhammad Abdel Nour (born November 20, 1977) was arrested on July 29, 2015 from her home in Ajman.
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- » For four months, Alia was subjected to enforced disappearance and physical and psychological torture to extract confessions.
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- » She was presented before the Public Prosecution without the presence of a lawyer for the first time in December 2015, after which she was transferred to Al-Wathba prison in Abu Dhabi.
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- » February 2016 was the first time her family were permitted to visit her in prison.
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- » In August 2016, she was first admitted into Al-Mafraq Governmental Hospital in Abu Dhabi, but the hospital was not equipped to deal with her medical condition, thus she suffered medical negligence.
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- » On February 16, 2017, Alia was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment by the State Security branch of the Federal Court of Appeal in Abu Dhabi. On May 15, 2017, the Federal Supreme Court upheld the verdict following nine trial sessions lacking the most basic standards of a fair trial, in State Security case No. 150 of 2015.

» Alia's family submitted more than five complaints to the Crown Prince's Court to request her release on health grounds after her health began deteriorating. On October 30, 2017, the Crown Prince's Office informed the family of its refusal to show mercy and allow Alia's release.

» Alia was in good health before her arrest. She did suffer from cancer previously, but in 2008 the disease became under remission following a trip to Germany for treatment. As a result of the harsh and inhumane detention conditions, and denial of her treatment, Alia's health deteriorated and the disease reappeared and spread throughout her body.

» On February 26, 2019, UN experts demanded the release of Alia Abdel Nour and called for an investigation into her torture and medical negligence.

» On May 4, 2019, Alia died due to medical negligence, poor detention conditions, and due to the Emirati authorities ignoring pleas for her release. - On May 7, 2019, a spokeswoman for the United Nations Human Rights Commission said that reports show that the detainee Alia Abdel Nour did not receive necessary treatment in UAE prisons, and called for an investigation into the circumstances of her death.

» On May 7, 2019, the European Union commenting on the death of prisoner of conscience Alia Abdel Nour said that the UAE ignored calls to release Alia before she died from cancer.

» On May 7, 2019, Head of the sub-committee on Human Rights in the European Parliament Antonio Panzeri expressed his disgruntlement with the death of Alia Abdel Nour in Emirati prisons. "It is shocking that the UAE authorities showed no compassion, by ignoring all requests to release Alia and not allowing her to live her last days of life in dignity and with her family at home," he said in a statement.



Details of violations against Alia Abdel Nour:

- » Security forces raided and searched her house barbarically without a warrant.

- » All inhabitants of the house were physically and verbally assaulted, and Alia was beaten so much so that she continued to suffer from her injured left arm during the first months of detention.

- » Alia was taken to a secret prison of the Emirati security services and remained there for four months.

- » During the period of her enforced disappearance, Alia was held in a solitary cell without any bedding, ventilation, windows, toilet or food, as well as being stripped of her outer clothes and having surveillance cameras fitted in her cell, all while being constantly handcuffed and blindfolded.

- » Alia was interrogated daily about her personal life, her activities and the websites she browsed on the internet. Interrogations were always undertaken under psychological and physical pressure, and under threats of killing her sister and parents she was forced to sign papers, the content of which she did not know, and of confessions of false charges.

- » Alia was deprived of visits by her lawyer and family during the investigation period, which confirms the intention of the authorities to make false accusations against her.

- » Alia was detained at Al-Wathba prison in Abu Dhabi despite being in temporary custody. The prison is renowned for convicts in criminal cases such as murder, theft and drugs.

» Alia's health deteriorated as a result of the torture she was subjected to, and as a result of the poor conditions in Al-Wathba prison. The cancer returned and spread in her body with symptoms of swellings in her lymph nodes and fibrosis and cysts in her liver. Additionally, she developed osteoporosis as a result of being detained for a long period in a very cold cell without any bedding, as well as developing impaired vision and losing the ability to walk.

» Over the course of nine hearings held before the courts in State Security case No. 150 of 2015, Alia was deprived of any legal representation and any defence lawyer considering taking her case would be threatened. Alia was not faced with any material evidence related to her conviction other than a record of websites she had visited. She was charged with being in connection with the names of the persons whose names were listed in those sites.

» Alia's family suffered immensely from ill-treatment and humiliation at the hands of security forces during their visit to her – they were abused and terribly humiliated, on top of the hardship of travelling to the detention centre which was far from the family home (travelling about 500 km back and forth).

» While she was in Al-Mafraq hospital in the Surgery Department, Alia was subjected to medical negligence – she was deprived of medication, given only some painkillers. She was held with her feet and hands shackled in a room where no sunlight entered and without adequate ventilation.

» There were guards outside and inside her room. Her hands and feet were continuously shackled despite her health and needs. She was even forced to go to the toilet while her feet and hands were cuffed.

» On October 29, 2017, Alia Abdel Nour said in a telephone conversation with her family from inside her detention at Al-Mafraq Hospital in Abu Dhabi: "My chest feels so tight. They are deliberately provoking me, and for no reason. They want me to create problems – they want nothing but problems – just to get my most basic rights. I do not want anything. I only want to contact you."



Conditions in Al-Wathba Prison:

- » According to statements obtained by AOHR UK from other detainees inside Al-Wathba prison, policewoman S.Y. was constantly and deliberately harassing Alia Abdel Nour.

- » Prisoners of security-related cases inside Al-Wathba prison are subjected to humiliating searches by Moroccan and Nepalese female soldiers, where they are forced to strip naked. Detainees have complained about this in leaked letters and recordings, such as those from detainees Amina Al-Abdouli, Mariam Al-Balushi, and Sudanese detainee Ijlal Abdel Moneim.

- » The cells in Al-Wathba prison are overcrowded. While each cell should accommodate only 8 prisoners, dozens of female prisoners are forced to occupy them, with insects like ants and cockroaches proliferating inside the cells, leading to disease outbreaks and rapid transmission of infection among detainees.

- » Water is cut off from cells for more than eight hours a day, with detainees deprived of clean drinking water, as well as underfeeding and poor food, causing most of the prisoners to get sick.

- » Air conditioners are disabled in the summer months, making life impossible under such circumstances. In the winter, dirty blankets with foul smells are distributed to the prisoners. Detainees are not allowed to wash the blankets, and no cleaning products, hygiene necessities or refuse bags are provided. At times when these items are available, they are seized by some policewomen.



Recommendations:

- Western countries in their continuing commercial, military and security relations with the Emirati regime, despite their crimes, are encouraging this regime to commit more crimes.
- The UK and EU countries must not continue to maintain normal relations with the UAE regime. Sanctions must be imposed on such regimes.
- The death of Alia Abdel Nour must move the United Nations to move to hold the perpetrators of these crimes to account and rescue other patients in Emirati prisons so that they do not meet the same fate as Alia Abdel Nour.