

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

Ref.: UA OMN 2/2026

(Please use this reference in your reply)

18 June 2026

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 58/14, 54/14, 52/9, 59/4, 59/20 and 59/14.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the arbitrary detention of Ms. Mariam Mohamed El-Sayed Abdelbasette in Oman, the risk of imminent arbitrary expulsion and refoulement to Egypt where she is at risk of grave human rights violations, together with her newborn child, and the alleged enforced disappearance of her husband, Mr. Ahmed Moussa, following his deportation from Oman to Egypt on 9 April 2026. We are concerned that terrorism-related proceedings and cross-border cooperation between Oman and Egypt may be targeting Ms. Abdelbasette's online expression and peaceful association with the "Egyptian Generation Z" movement. We are further concerned by reports of threats and intimidation directed against Ms. Abdelbasette and members of her family.

According to the information received:

Ms. Mariam Mohamed El-Sayed Abdelbasette is a 30-year-old Egyptian national. In 2021, she left Egypt lawfully through official border controls and, at that time, was not subject to any travel ban, wanted notice, or pending judicial proceedings. She had also not previously engaged in political activity.

Since 2021, she has lawfully resided in Oman together with her husband and children under work-based residence permits. She is the mother of three young children, including a newborn child born in Oman on 25 May 2026.

Arrest and enforced disappearance of Ms. Abdelbasette's husband

On 26 March 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette's husband, Mr. Ahmed Moussa, was arrested by Omani authorities in connection with allegations of "terrorism financing" and "membership in a terrorist organisation". He was detained for

approximately two weeks before being deported from Muscat to Cairo on 9 April 2026.

During his detention, Omani authorities informed him that his deportation was being carried out at the request of the Egyptian authorities and referred to an alleged INTERPOL listing or request in that connection. However, no written notice, diffusion, judicial order, extradition request, or other INTERPOL documentation has been disclosed.

Since his arrival in Cairo on 9 April 2026, his whereabouts, fate and legal status remain unknown and his family has not heard from him.

Travel restriction, interrogation and threatened deportation

On 15 April 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette attempted to travel from Muscat to Türkiye but was prevented from boarding her flight by Omani authorities who informed her that she was subject to a travel restriction because she was “listed on INTERPOL”.

She was subjected to two interrogations on 15 and 16 April 2026 without legal counsel present, during which officials informed her that, if she left Oman, she would be deported to Egypt. Following the interrogations, Ms. Abdelbasette was informed by Omani officials that she was wanted by the Egyptian authorities in connection with terrorism-related proceedings. At no time was she provided with any written documentation concerning the legal basis for her detention, the travel restriction or threatened deportation, such as any formal decision, summons, indictment, judicial order, extradition request, or INTERPOL notice.

In the days that followed, Ms. Abdelbasette reportedly received photographs of selected pages of an Egyptian case file from third parties. Through those photographs, she came to understand for the first time that she had been identified as a defendant in proceedings¹ before Egypt’s Supreme State Security Prosecution involving terrorism-related and public-order charges. These were framed in collective and undifferentiated language, and included alleged membership in a terrorist organisation, the use of violence, threats and intimidation to disrupt public order, undermining State institutions, spreading false news, and incitement through social media. She has never been formally served with any procedural document from the Egyptian authorities.

The proceedings against Ms. Abdelbasette are reportedly connected to her non-violent online expression and peaceful association with “Egyptian Generation Z”, an online political movement critical of the Government of Egypt. Following the enforced disappearance of her husband after his deportation to Egypt, Ms. Abdelbasette reportedly became increasingly active online in seeking information about his fate or whereabouts and sharing content associated with the movement. Her activities consisted of commenting on,

¹ Ms. Abdelbasette is listed as Defendant No. 4 in Case No. 1871/2026, Al-Waili Police Department, also registered as No. 109/2026 Total North Cairo and, in the parallel State Security registers, as No. 988/2025 State Security Docket and No. 124/2026 State Security Felonies, before the Supreme State Security Prosecution.

sharing, and assisting in the administration of social media content while residing in Oman. She neither engaged in nor advocated violence.

Around late May 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette reportedly received a call while in the hospital from a representative of the Ministry of Justice in Oman, who told her that she would be deported once her health condition stabilized, and that the authorities had been waiting for her to give birth before proceeding with this measure. The representative reportedly stated that Oman is required to hand her over under an international agreement, claiming that she is listed on INTERPOL, and that the authorities are bound to implement these procedures.

Threats and intimidation against Ms. Abdelbasette and her family

In April 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette began receiving threats and intimidation through a messaging application channel targeting individuals associated with the “Egyptian Generation Z” movement. The messages reportedly included direct threats against Ms. Abdelbasette and her family, including statements that “you and your loved ones will suffer a lot in the coming rounds”, references to “Anubis” (the Egyptian god of the dead) in the context of punishment and retaliation, and repeated warnings that an “episode” concerning Ms. Abdelbasette would soon be released. The threats reportedly included photographs of Ms. Abdelbasette and members of her family, and references to her children and (at the time) unborn child.

Ms. Abdelbasette was also reportedly subjected to gendered and degrading smear campaigns, including the use of the term “jihad al-nikah” (“sexual jihad”), a phrase reportedly used in Egypt in connection with campaigns targeting women perceived to be associated with political opposition movements. These statements were intended to stigmatise, intimidate, and incite hostility against her.

The threats apparently formed part of a broader pattern of intimidation directed at individuals associated with the “Egyptian Generation Z” movement, in which persons were identified individually and threatened sequentially. In light of the enforced disappearance of Ms. Abdelbasette’s husband following his deportation to Egypt and the reported invocation of INTERPOL-related measures against her, it appears that Ms. Abdelbasette is being actively targeted for forcible return to Egypt.

Other members of Ms. Abdelbasette’s immediate family have previously been subjected to serious reprisals and coercive measures by the Egyptian authorities. One family member was allegedly convicted in absentia and sentenced to life imprisonment after fleeing Egypt. Another family member has reportedly remained in prolonged pre-trial detention in Egypt since 2019 following mass arrests connected to anti-Government protest calls. In these circumstances, Ms. Abdelbasette fears that she may face similar treatment if returned to Egypt.

Childbirth and detention

On 25 May 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette gave birth at the Medical City of Military and Security Services in Oman. Following the birth, she was deprived of her liberty for over a week in the hospital together with her newborn child and informed that she remained subject to deportation measures. Photographs from Ms. Abdelbasette's hospital file reportedly indicate that she was registered within the hospital system as a "prisoner".

Authorities subsequently informed Ms. Abdelbasette that she would be deported to Egypt once her medical condition stabilised. She was also informed that the authorities were required to proceed pursuant to an international agreement because she was "listed on INTERPOL".

On 7 June 2026, Omani authorities allowed Ms. Abdelbasette to leave the hospital and return to her residence with her newborn child. Ms. Abdelbasette remains in Oman together with her newborn child and two other minor children. However, she appears to continue to face restrictions preventing her from leaving Oman and to be at risk of imminent arbitrary deportation to Egypt, where she would face a real risk of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture or other ill-treatment, and other serious human rights violations in connection with the proceedings reportedly initiated against her. She further fears separation from her children and reprisals against members of her family.

On 10 June 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette attempted to obtain a birth certificate for her newborn child from the Omani Civil Status Authority. However, the authorities required the presence of the father to proceed with the registration. Ms. Abdelbasette explained that she does not know his current fate and whereabouts as he was subjected to enforced disappearance after being forcibly deported to Egypt by the Omani authorities. She was then instructed to obtain a "no objection certificate" from the Egyptian Embassy in Oman and to provide a copy of her marriage certificate, which is in the possession of her forcibly disappeared husband. In light of serious and well-founded protection concerns, Ms. Abdelbasette is unable to approach the Egyptian Embassy and is therefore unable to register her newborn child.

Without wishing to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, we express serious concern that the reported travel restrictions, interrogations, deprivation of liberty, and threatened deportation imposed on Ms. Abdelbasette may have been carried out in the absence of a lawful basis or any procedural safeguards, risking violations of international human rights law, including non-refoulement (under article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by your Excellency's Government on 10 November 2025, the Convention against Torture (CAT), ratified by your Excellency's Government on 9 January 2020, and article 16 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), acceded to by your Excellency's Government on 12 June 2020), the right to liberty including due process and judicial review (ICCPR, article 9), freedom of movement (ICCPR, article 12), and due process in the expulsion of non-citizens (ICCPR, article 13). We are further concerned that the measures taken were not consistent with relevant provisions of the Convention against Torture, ratified by Oman

on 9 January 2020, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ratified by Oman on 9 December 1996, and freedom from arbitrary expulsion under customary international law.

Restrictions on liberty and freedom of movement

We are concerned that the measures reportedly taken against Ms. Abdelbasette, to prevent her from freely leaving Oman may have unlawfully restricted her right to freedom of movement under article 12 of the ICCPR, including her right to leave any country. The prevention of her travel to Türkiye on 15 April 2026 appears to have been based on verbal assertions that she was “listed on INTERPOL”, without any disclosed judicial order, extradition request, INTERPOL notice, or other formal legal basis authorising the restriction. In the absence of a clear and accessible legal basis, such a restriction may be arbitrary and incompatible with the requirement that any limitation on freedom of movement be provided by law and not undermine the essence of the right. Even in cases where individuals have been implicated in an INTERPOL notice, States remain obliged to adhere to robust standards of legality, applying domestic legal standards and in compliance with international law.

We are further concerned that Ms. Abdelbasette’s reported interrogations in custody without legal counsel, and subsequent deprivation of liberty in a hospital for almost two weeks following childbirth, may amount to arbitrary interferences with her liberty contrary to article 9 of the ICCPR, which requires that any deprivation of liberty be carried out in accordance with law, be necessary and proportionate in pursuit of a legitimate aim, be a last resort, and be accompanied by appropriate procedural safeguards and judicial authorisation. The reported circumstances raise serious concerns that Ms. Abdelbasette may have been subjected to coercive measures without being informed of the legal basis for those measures, or provided with any written detention or deportation order.

Denial of due process

We are additionally concerned that Ms. Abdelbasette was not promptly and adequately informed of the reasons for her deprivation of liberty, contrary to article 9 of the ICCPR, and has been deprived of any meaningful opportunity to challenge the allegations and measures reportedly taken against her, contrary to the due process guarantees under article 9, including the right to prompt, independent judicial review of detention. The fact that Ms. Abdelbasette appears to have learned of the allegations against her only through verbal statements by Omani officials and photographs of selected pages of an Egyptian case file shared by third parties raises serious concerns that Ms. Abdelbasette may have been deprived of the ability to understand the nature and basis of the allegations against her, to effectively participate in proceedings affecting her rights, or to seek independent judicial review.

Risk of refoulement and serious human rights violations upon return to Egypt

We are seriously concerned that the threatened deportation of Ms. Abdelbasette to Egypt may expose her to a foreseeable risk of torture or other ill-treatment, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, or unfair trial, contrary to the obligation of non-refoulement reflected in article 7 of the ICCPR (read in conjunction with articles 9 and

14), article 3 of the CAT, article 16 of the ICCPED and article 8 of the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, and article 8 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, ratified by your Excellency's Government on 15 March 2008. We further recall that the Human Rights Committee has affirmed that States parties violate article 7 of the ICCPR where they remove a person to another State in circumstances in which there are substantial grounds for believing that there is a real risk of irreparable harm.

In this regard, we are concerned that there is a credible and personal risk of serious harm to Ms. Abdelbasette in Egypt because she appears to have been targeted in connection with her legitimate online expression and association with the "Egyptian Generation Z" movement; she may face terrorism-related prosecution and deprivation of liberty on the basis of her non-violent political expression and association; and threats and intimidation have been directed against her and her family.

Further, the reported enforced disappearance of her husband following his deportation to Egypt on 9 April 2026, and the apparent absence of any information regarding his fate and whereabouts or legal status since that time, are directly relevant to the assessment of the risks faced by Ms. Abdelbasette in the event of her own removal. We recall that enforced disappearance constitutes a particularly serious human rights violation that places individuals outside the protection of the law and may facilitate torture or other ill-treatment. We are concerned that, if removed to Egypt, Ms. Abdelbasette may be delivered into the same security and detention system into which her husband was forcibly disappeared only weeks earlier. In circumstances where her family has been unable to obtain any information concerning his fate, whereabouts, legal status or physical integrity since his removal, and where another family member has remained in prolonged pre-trial detention in Egypt since 2019, these allegations reinforce concerns that the risks of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture or other ill-treatment that Ms. Abdelbasette faces are real, foreseeable and personal.

We are further concerned that the reported absence of any formal, transparent extradition process, meaningful opportunity for Ms. Abdelbasette to challenge her removal, or judicial safeguards, may increase the risk of refoulement occurring without an adequate assessment of the foreseeable human rights consequences of her return. We recall that article 13 of the ICCPR requires due process in the expulsion of non-citizens, and customary international law prohibits arbitrary expulsion without due process (see International Law Commission, Draft Articles on the Expulsion of Aliens 2014).

Terrorism-related allegations, peaceful expression and cross-border cooperation

We are concerned that the terrorism-related allegations and proceedings reportedly initiated against Ms. Abdelbasette appear to be linked to her peaceful online expression and association with the "Egyptian Generation Z" movement. The information received suggests that her activities consisted primarily of commenting on, sharing, and assisting in the administration of online content critical of the Government of Egypt while residing in Oman and did not involve the advocacy or use of violence.

In these circumstances, we are concerned that Oman may be relying upon or acting in connection with proceedings that may criminalise conduct protected under articles 19, 22 and 25 of the ICCPR, including non-violent political expression and

association. We are additionally concerned that the broad and apparently collective nature of the terrorism-related allegations reportedly brought against Ms. Abdelbasette, including allegations of membership in a terrorist organisation, spreading false news, and incitement through social media, may not satisfy the requirements of legal certainty and foreseeability reflected in article 15 of the ICCPR.

We are further concerned that the apparent reliance on cross-border cooperation measures in connection with the allegations against Ms. Abdelbasette and her husband may facilitate acts of transnational repression targeting individuals residing abroad for the lawful exercise of rights protected under international human rights law, including freedoms of expression and association and the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs. Such measures may also have a chilling effect on the exercise of these rights by other individuals residing abroad who engage in peaceful political expression or association. In this regard, we echo the recommendations of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances in its report on enforced disappearances in the context of transnational transfers (A/HRC/48/57), which cautions States against transnational transfers which disregard the rule of law and legal safeguards.

Additionally, the apparent absence of any transparent legal process surrounding the prior removal of Ms. Abdelbasette's husband, together with the alleged reliance on verbal assertions referring to INTERPOL-related measures, raise broader concerns regarding the compatibility of such cross-border cooperation measures with Oman's obligations under international human rights law.

Threats, intimidation and gender-based discrimination and harassment

We are concerned that the reported threats and intimidation directed against Ms. Abdelbasette and members of her family may have been intended to intimidate, silence or punish Ms. Abdelbasette for the exercise of rights protected under articles 19, 22 and 25 of the ICCPR. We are additionally concerned by the reported use of discriminatory and gendered smear campaigns intended to stigmatise, harass, humiliate and discredit Ms. Abdelbasette on account of her perceived political views and associations. We are further concerned that such reprisals may discourage not only Ms. Abdelbasette, but also others, from exercising their rights to freedoms of expression and association and to take part in the conduct of public affairs, for fear of reprisals.

We recall Oman's obligations under article 2(e) of CEDAW "[t]o take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise". The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women emphasized the redefinition of gender-based violence, which constitutes discrimination against women, "through technology-mediated environments, such as contemporary forms of violence occurring in the Internet and digital spaces", noting that "gender-based violence against women can result from acts or omissions of State or non-State actors, acting territorially or extraterritorially" (general recommendation No. 35, para. 20). The obligation of due diligence under article 2(e) of CEDAW requires States to "adopt and implement diverse measures to tackle gender-based violence against women committed by non-State actors" (ibid). As noted by the Committee, "States parties will be responsible if they fail to take all appropriate measures to prevent as well as to investigate, prosecute, punish and provide

reparation for acts or omissions by non-State actors which result in gender-based violence against women” (ibid).

Rights of the child and family life

We are seriously concerned by the reported impact of the measures described above on Ms. Abdelbasette’s children, including her newborn child, particularly in light of her reported deprivation of liberty following childbirth and the ongoing threat of deportation and family separation. We recall Oman’s obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the requirement that the best interests of the child be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children. In this regard, we are concerned that insufficient consideration may have been given to the particular vulnerability and best interests of Ms. Abdelbasette’s children, including the foreseeable impact that her detention, threatened deportation, or possible removal to Egypt may have on their safety, wellbeing, and family unity. We are further concerned that the insurmountable requirements for the registration of Ms. Abdelbasette’s newborn child, including to go to the Egyptian Embassy despite the well-founded and serious risks she faces, may contravene the right of every child to be registered immediately after birth under article 7 of the CRC.

Conditions of detention and treatment following childbirth

We are seriously concerned by reports that Ms. Abdelbasette remained deprived of her liberty for almost two weeks in the hospital together with her newborn child following childbirth, while continuing to face the threat of deportation to Egypt. In light of Ms. Abdelbasette’s physical condition following childbirth and the particular vulnerability of both mother and newborn child during the post-partum period, we are concerned that the reported measures may not have been necessary, proportionate, or compatible with the requirement under article 10 of the ICCPR that all persons deprived of their liberty be treated with humanity and with respect for their inherent dignity, and with the requirement to consider the best interest of the child under the CRC.

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on www.ohchr.org or can be provided upon request.

In view of the urgency of the matter, we would appreciate a response as soon as possible on the initial steps taken by your Excellency’s Government to safeguard the rights of the above-mentioned persons in compliance with international instruments.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would also be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and any comment you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide detailed information regarding the legal basis for the arrest, detention and deportation of Mr. Moussa, and for the travel restrictions, questioning, detention and threatened deportation of Ms. Abdelbasette, including any requests, notices, alerts, diffusions, warrants or other

information received from Egyptian authorities or INTERPOL, the legal basis relied upon by Omani authorities in taking such measures, and the procedural safeguards available to challenge them.

3. Please indicate whether Omani authorities presently intend to deport or otherwise remove Ms. Abdelbasette to Egypt and, if so, the legal and procedural basis upon which such measures are being pursued. Please provide information regarding any cooperation, communication, or information-sharing that has taken place between the authorities of Oman and Egypt in relation to Ms. Abdelbasette and her husband, including any cooperation involving INTERPOL channels or terrorism-related proceedings initiated in Egypt.
4. Please provide information regarding Ms. Abdelbasette's current legal status, including whether she is presently deprived of her liberty or otherwise subject to restrictions on her liberty or movement, including in hospital following childbirth.
5. Please clarify whether Ms. Abdelbasette has been formally notified of any allegations, proceedings, deportation measures, extradition proceedings, or other legal processes affecting her rights, and whether she has been provided with access to legal counsel and an opportunity to challenge the measures reportedly imposed upon her before an independent authority.
6. Please indicate what assessment, if any, has been undertaken by the Omani authorities regarding the risk that Ms. Abdelbasette may face arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture or other ill-treatment, or unfair trial if returned to Egypt, including in light of the reported enforced disappearance of her husband following his deportation from Oman to Egypt on 9 April 2026.
7. Please detail any steps taken or envisaged by your Excellency's Government to investigate the allegations of threats and intimidation directed against Ms. Abdelbasette and members of her family, including discriminatory, gendered and degrading smear campaigns.
8. Please provide information regarding the legal basis and procedures relied upon in connection with the deportation of Ms. Abdelbasette's husband from Oman to Egypt on 9 April 2026, including whether any judicial authorisation, extradition request, INTERPOL notice, diffusion, or other formal request existed in relation to him. Please indicate whether the risks faced by Mr. Moussa were assessed before his deportation to Egypt, the results of any such assessment, and how his deportation complied with the prohibition of refoulement.
9. Please indicate what measures have been taken to ensure that the rights and best interests of Ms. Abdelbasette's children, including her newborn child, are protected in connection with the measures reportedly imposed upon her.

10. Please indicate whether any measure will be taken to ensure that Ms. Abdelbasette's newborn child is registered in Oman, notwithstanding the absence of documents she is unable to obtain for reasons outside of her control.

This communication, and any response received from your Excellency's Government, will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) at the 60 days mark. Should your Excellency's Government respond within 60 days, both the communication and the response, may be published before the 60 days mark. The communications and responses will also be made available in the subsequent periodic report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to prevent any irreparable harm to the life and personal integrity of Ms. Abdelbasette and her newborn child, including staying any deportation to Egypt, halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence, and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person responsible of the alleged violations.

Please be advised that a related communication has been sent to the Government of Egypt.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Ben Saul

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Gabriella Citroni

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Irene Khan

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Gina Romero

Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Reem Alsalem

Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

Claudia Flores

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls