

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF SWEDEN'S
SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY ACADEMIES

Stockholm 3 June 2021

Elisabeth Rachlew /ch

His Highness Sheikh
Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President
Ministry of Presidential Affairs
Corniche Road
Abu Dhabi, P.O. Box 280
United Arab Emirates

Your Excellency,

We, the Human Rights Committee of Sweden's Scientific and Literary Academies, write respectfully to express our most urgent concern regarding Dr. Nasser bin Ghaith, an Emirati economist who is serving a 10-year prison sentence, under difficult conditions of confinement, for his peaceful expressive activities.

In August 2015, Dr. bin Ghaith was arrested by State Security officers and held for a number of months in incommunicado detention in an unknown location. He was subsequently charged with "committing a hostile act against a foreign state" and "posting false information in order to harm the reputation and stature of the state and one of its institutions." In March 2017, following closed proceedings, Dr. bin Ghaith was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison. In late 2017, the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) issued an expert opinion, finding that his detention was arbitrary on the grounds that it resulted from his exercise of the right to freedom of expression and that his right to a fair trial had been violated.

We understand that Dr. bin Ghaith is currently held in Al-Razeen prison, where he reportedly has been subjected to ill-treatment, including physical assault by prison authorities, denial of needed medications, and prolonged periods of solitary confinement. Our concern for his situation is heightened because he suffers from several serious medical conditions, including high blood pressure, for which, we understand, he has not received necessary medical treatment.

In light of the information above, we respectfully urge you to use your good offices to ensure Dr. bin Ghaith's immediate and unconditional release from prison. In the interim, we urge you to ensure that his conditions of confinement conform to international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Respectfully yours,



Elisabeth Rachlew

Professor, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee

Copy:

Embassy of United Arab Emirates in Stockholm, Sweden
The Embassy of Sweden in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



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SVENSKA
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SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY ACADEMIES

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His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin
Rashid Al-Maktoum
Vice-President and Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
P.O. Box 212000
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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