Vice-President and Prime Minister

HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al-Maktoum

Prime Minister’s Office

PO Box 212000

Dubai

United Arab Emirates

Your Highness,

I write to call your attention to the case of Dr. Nasser bin Ghaith. Dr. Ghaith faces several serious charges related to his peaceful political activities. Among these charges are “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.” These charges and the others filed against him are unjust since they represent the peaceful exercise of Dr. Ghaith’s rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Furthermore, there are allegations that UAE officials have engaged in torture of Dr. Ghaith during his detention. During a court appearance, he told the court that over nearly eight months, UAE officials held him in secret detention and tortured him by both beating and depriving him of sleep. Such torture is a clear human rights violation as well as a violation of international law.

I respectfully call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Nasser bin Ghaith as he is detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression, association, and assembly. I ask that you order a full and independent investigation into his enforced disappearance and the allegations of torture, and that any proceedings against him exclude statements extracted under torture and other-ill-treatment or while he was subjected to enforced disappearance. Finally, I respectfully ask you to ensure that while he is detained, Dr. Ghaith is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and that he has regular access to a lawyer of his choice and his family.

Sincerely,