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THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Kungl. Vetenskapsakademien har till uppgift att främja vetenskaperna och stärka deras inflytande i samhället.
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has as its aim to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society.

Stockholm 27 April 2020

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 joint Human Rights Committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, the Swedish Academy and the Young Academy of Sweden, write respectfully to express our most urgent concern regarding the health and well-being of two professional colleagues imprisoned in the United Arab Emirates. The colleagues are economist Nasser bin Ghaith and engineer Ahmed Mansoor. They are both serving 10-year prison sentences as a result of their peaceful exercise of rights protected by international law.

Dr. bin Ghaith and Mr. Mansoor suffer from health conditions that make them especially vulnerable to serious consequences in case of a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection. We understand that, while a number of countries in the Gulf region have released prisoners in recent weeks, Dr. bin Ghaith remains held in Al-Razeen Prison and Mr. Mansoor continues to be held in Al-Sadr Prison.

The World Health Organization and United Nations human rights experts have called on governments to take immediate steps to address prison overcrowding, including the priority release of prisoners who have been detained for offenses not recognized under international law. In light of this urgent situation, we respectfully request your help in ensuring Dr. bin Ghaith's and Mr. Mansoor's release from prison on humanitarian grounds without delay. Such assistance would be widely welcomed throughout the international scientific community.

We thank you, Your Excellency, for your attention to this important matter. These are dire and challenging times and we send our best wishes to you, Your Excellency, and the people of the United Arab Emirates.

Sincerely 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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Rashid Al-Maktoum
Vice-President and Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
P.O. Box 212000
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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