

SCHOLARS AT RISK

N E T W O R K

Shaikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum
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Via fax to: +971 (4) 353-1974

April 15, 2011

RE: Dr. Nasser bin Ghaith

Your Highness:

I write on behalf of the Scholars at Risk Network to express grave concern for Dr. Nasser bin Ghaith, a scholar and lecturer of economics at the Abu Dhabi branch of France's Paris-Sorbonne University. Scholars at Risk is an international network of over 250 universities and colleges in 30 countries dedicated to promoting academic freedom and its constituent freedoms of thought, opinion, expression, association and travel. In cases like Dr. bin Ghaith's involving alleged infringement of these freedoms, Scholars at Risk investigates hoping to clarify and resolve matters favorably.

According to published reports, state security forces in Dubai detained Dr. bin Ghaith on Sunday, April 10, 2011 and are holding him in an undisclosed location without any public statement of charges against him or other explanation for his arrest. It has been reported that his detention is likely related to recent statements he reportedly made criticizing government authorities for failing to undertake significant political reform. If these reports are true, Dr. bin Ghaith's detention would be a clear violation of internationally recognized standards of free expression, due process, fair trial and detention, as enshrined in the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many subsequent instruments. Moreover, if true, Dr. bin Ghaith's detention without cause, especially if it were to continue, would be a serious and unfortunate blow to the many good efforts of the government and others to develop the Emirates' reputation and position as a center of knowledge, education and culture, as these can only flourish in places which respect intellectual inquiry, free expression and human rights.

We therefore respectfully urge you to intervene in Dr. bin Ghaith's case, to direct the government to disclose his whereabouts and condition, and to ensure his well-being—including regular access to family, to legal counsel of his choosing and to medical treatment—pending his earliest release. We appreciate your immediate attention to this important matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Quinn
Executive Director

cc:

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