

BY AIRMAIL

Vice-president and Prime Minister
H.H. Shaik Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum
Office of the Prime Minister
POB 2838
Dubai, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Fax: +971 4 3531974

Amsterdam, 2 June 2014

Subject: Dr. Mohammed Al-Roken

Your Excellency,

The Dutch Lawyers for Lawyers Foundation ('Stichting Advocaten voor Advocaten') is committed to helping lawyers around the world who are prevented from exercising their profession without any improper interference. L4L is an independent foundation entirely funded by donations from lawyers, which supports lawyers around the world who are not able to perform their work properly because of harassment and/or improper interference by their governments.

Last year on 22 March 2013 we sent you a letter regarding the concern of Lawyers for Lawyers for Dr. Mohammed Al-Roken, who is a respected human rights lawyer in your country and was arrested on 17 July 2012. In this letter we urged your government to guarantee the physical integrity of Dr. Al-Roken, to put an end to all attempts to curb Dr. Al-Roken's legitimate legal work and we called upon your government to assure that any action against Dr. Al-Roken is taken in conformity with the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.

Recently it came to our attention that Dr. Mohammed Al-Roken, who has been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in July 2013, has been subjected to ill-treatment in Al Razeen prison. Al-Roken is denied the right to make contact with his family, he has been subjected to abuse and he has been held in solitary confinement for at least one week.

The United Nations Committee against Torture has recognized the harmful physical and mental effects of prolonged solitary confinement and has expressed concern about its use, including as a disciplinary measure. The Committee has recommended that the use of solitary confinement be abolished or at least that it should be strictly and specifically regulated by law, exercised under judicial supervision, and be used only in exceptional circumstances, such as when the safety of persons or property is involved (A/63/175, para. 80). Also the United Nations Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners 1990 Principle 7




states that efforts to abolish solitary confinement as a punishment, or to restrict its use, should be undertaken and encouraged.

In this context and in addition to our requests in our previous letter, we urge the United Arab Emirates' government to release Dr Mohammed Al-Roken immediately and while he is in prison, to guarantee his well-being by allowing his family to visit him, save him from any abuse whatsoever and to ensure he will not be held in solitary confinement anymore.

We thank you for your attention to this very important matter and we will continue to monitor this case closely.

On behalf of the board of Lawyers for Lawyers,

Sincerely,



Adrie van de Streek
Executive director Lawyers for Lawyers

Letters concerning the same topic were also sent to

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior - Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan
- Minister of Foreign Affairs - Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahya
- Minister of Justice - Dr. Hadeef Jawa'an Al-Dhaheri

A copy of this letter was sent to:

- The ambassador of the Netherlands to the United Arab Emirates; Gerard Michels