

*(Translated from Arabic )*

### **Reply from the competent authorities concerning Nasser Bin Ghaith**

On 18 August 2015 the above-mentioned individual was arrested in accordance with the legal rules and regulations applicable in the State of the United Arab Emirates. He was informed of the grounds for his arrest and the authority responsible for his arrest and investigation. The arrest was conducted in the presence of members of his family (his wife, his brother and his children), who were informed of the location of his detention in Abu Dhabi. He was allowed to communicate with his family during his detention in the State's Central Prison, a facility in which inmates are permitted to exercise all their rights during the period of detention. He was also offered regular health care and could appoint a defence counsel, namely the lawyer [REDACTED].

On 16 November 2015 he was referred to the competent public prosecutor's office, which forwarded his casefile to the Federal Supreme Court on 3 March 2016. He was charged with: undermining political relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Arab Republic of Egypt; exploiting religion to provoke unrest, undermine national unity and disturb law and order; incitement to hatred and contempt of the members of a denomination; deliberately propagating biased information and disseminating propaganda conducive to disturbances of law and order and to the undermining of public interests; cooperating with an organization that promotes opposition to the fundamental principles of State governance, while being fully aware of its goals; participating in acts undertaken by a terrorist organization despite being fully aware of its status and objectives; and disseminating information on the Internet aimed at undermining the reputation of the State and its institutions.

The first trial hearing was held in public on 4 April 2016 and was attended by many representatives of the media and civil society. The hearings were held in the presence of his brother [REDACTED], his wife [REDACTED] and his lawyer [REDACTED]. The charges against him were read out in public. He was informed of them, provided with the casefile and permitted to exercise, in coordination with his lawyer, all rights to a defence before the Court.

On 5 December 2016, the Federal Supreme Court decided to refer the case of the accused to the Abu Dhabi Federal Court of First Instance, in accordance with Federal Decree Law No. 11 of 2016 concerning the judiciary. The hearings before the Court were held in public and he was guaranteed the same rights to a defence. On 29 March 2017, the Court sentenced him to a 10-year term of imprisonment. Although he was legally entitled to lodge an appeal against the judgment, he failed to lodge an appeal to the Federal Supreme Court within 30 days of the date on which the sentence was handed down.

