

*(Translated from Arabic)*

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

Geneva, 13 December 2017

Ref. No.: 1/5(4) – 360 (wg)

We wish to inform you that the allegation that Isa Ahmed Qassim has been denied treatment because he is under house arrest is false. As already stated by the Ministry of the Interior at a press conference on 24 May 2017 on the security operation conducted in Diraz: “There has been no decision to impose house arrest on Sheikh Isa Qassim. Had such a decision been taken, it would have been announced at the time.” Hence the said person has not been placed under house arrest and enjoys complete freedom of movement. Furthermore, the consultant Dr. [REDACTED] confirmed that Isa Qassim’s health condition is stable. He preferred not to comment on the details of his health condition out of respect for the members of his family, who prefer not to discuss those details.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health issued statements concerning the said person’s health condition. It confirmed that it had taken careful note of reports concerning his health condition in certain media and of statements objecting to the denial of his right to health care and medical services in the Kingdom. The Ministry of Health insisted that it was paying close attention to his health condition as part of its mandate to provide health services and advanced medical care to all citizens and residents, guaranteeing top-quality and effective treatment. The Ministry’s various facilities, such as health-care centres and hospitals, provide services to all parts of the Kingdom. There are no obstacles impeding access for all citizens and residents to such services, or to specific types of health care. The network of public and private facilities covers all the Kingdom’s governorates, and services are provided to patients and to persons seeking health care at all times and around the clock. Every effort is made to provide health care for all persons who seek or require it, and services are provided equally and without discrimination, taking into account humanitarian factors. Vigorous action is taken to ensure that patients have access to appropriate care and that they can exercise their right to treatment and remedies, in accordance with article 8 (a) of the Constitution, which stipulates that: “Every citizen has the right to health care. The State shall show concern for public health and shall ensure the availability of means of prevention and treatment by establishing various types of hospitals and health facilities.”

According to the Ministry, Dr. [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED] visited Isa Qassim at his home in the village of Diraz on 26 November 2017 at the request of a relative. The doctors responded to the request rapidly and without any impediments. Based on the outcome of their examination, they ordered an ambulance and a medical team to take the said person to hospital for treatment on Wednesday, 29 November 2017. However, his relatives rejected the decision, calling for suspension on the grounds that his condition did not require hospitalization. Dr. [REDACTED] visited him again in his home, at the request of his relatives, and, having examined the patient, issued a medical prescription.

According to the Ministry of Health, following Isa Qassim’s refusal of State medical care, he was admitted to the International Hospital of Bahrain on 4 December 2017 for treatment and completion of the necessary medical examinations. The Ministry underscored that health care was guaranteed even if it was necessary to secure medical treatment by doctors from outside the Kingdom.

The Ministry stressed that the health condition of the person concerned should not be politicized and exploited for special interests, given the need to respect a patient’s privacy and right to treatment.

In addition, Dr. [REDACTED], one of the doctors who monitored his health condition, reported that the doctors had provided non-surgical medical attention. After checking the



patient's health condition, they discharged him from the hospital and he returned home after all the required tests and treatment had been completed.

We reaffirm that the Ministry of Health continues to guarantee access to health care for the general public and for the person concerned, doing its utmost to provide top-quality medical services for all.

---