

**Vice-President and Prime Minister
Shaikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum
Office of the Prime Minister
POB 2838, Dubai, UAE**

Brussels, the 21st of August 2013

Re: Concerns regarding the situation of Dr Mohamed al-Mansoori, a prominent human rights lawyer.

Your Highness,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 1 million European lawyers. In addition to membership from EU bars, it also has observer representatives from a further eleven European countries' bars.

The CCBE, through its Human Rights Committee, places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The CCBE is particularly concerned by the situation of human rights defenders in the world.

The CCBE wrote to you earlier this year, on 20 March 2013 and on 24 July 2013, to express its serious concern over the situation of Dr Mohamed al-Mansoori, who was arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison as part of a mass trial involving 94 dissidents.

The CCBE has been informed that, following the verdict issued by the Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi on 2 July 2013, five of the detained human rights defenders resorted to a hunger strike to protest the mistreatment they continue to suffer while in detention. Those on hunger strike reportedly include the prominent human rights lawyer, Dr Mohammed Al-Mansoori.

The CCBE is alarmed about such alleged ill-treatment that continues even after the conviction of the human rights defenders and activists and is evidence of a particularly repressive environment against human right defenders in the United Arab Emirates.

In this context, the CCBE wishes to draw to your attention some relevant articles of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (1990):

Article 16 States that:

Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.

Furthermore Article 17 states that:

Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.

In view of the above, the CCBE respectfully urges your Highness to take all the necessary measures to safeguard the physical and mental integrity of Dr Mohammed Al-Mansoori as well as of all the others convicted detainees. The CCBE also implores you to take immediate and effective steps to guarantee that the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are promptly and independently investigated and the findings published.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Tsouroulis', written in a cursive style.

EVANGELOS TSOUROULIS
CCBE President