



**H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

*Brussels, 12 March 2019*

**Subject: call for the release of Ms. Alia Abdel Nour**

Dear Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are writing to express our strong concerns over the continued detention and reported mistreatment of Ms. Alia Abdel Nour, a terminally-ill 42-year-old Emirati woman and to urge her immediate release so that she may live her last days in dignity and in the care of her family.

Emirati authorities are reportedly denying Ms. Alia Abdel Nour, who was diagnosed with breast cancer soon after her arrest, adequate medical care and regular contact with her family. According to information received, prison guards have her hands and feet shackled to her hospital bed at all times. Doctors recently informed Abdel Nour's family that she has only a few months to live.

State security forces arrested Abdel Nour on June 28, 2015 and detained her without charge for over 15 months, during which time she reported being subjected to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment and forced to sign a written confession while blindfolded and under duress. While she was diagnosed with breast cancer only a month into her arrest, she was only transferred to a hospital in November 2016, over a year later. Abdel Nour was convicted of terrorism in 2017 and sentenced to 10 years in prison in a case that seems marred by due process violations.

Despite her ailing health, her family's repeated requests to the Interior Minister, the Public Prosecutor, and the crown prince for compassionate release on health grounds, which is permitted under Emirati law, went unheeded. In the spirit of the UAE's 2019 Year of Tolerance, we call on you to use the authority of your office, as the Crown Prince of the United Arab Emirates, to secure the release of Alia Abdel Nour, and pending her release, to unshackle her and allow family members unimpeded access to her.

Yours sincerely,

*Members of the European Parliament*



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