

Press Release

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BBC Arabic apologises to Rached Ghannouchi over false allegations of inclusion on 'terror list'

Rached Ghannouchi (the leader of the Tunisian Ennahdha Party) has received an apology from BBC Arabic over allegations, published on 23 November 2017, that he was one of the individuals included on the list of designated terrorist organisations and individuals which Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt had published in the context of the Qatar diplomatic crisis.

These allegations were false. As BBC Arabic now accepts, there is no question of Mr Ghannouchi having been included on that list.

The apology, which was published on the home page of BBC Arabic on 18 January 2018, stated:

في خبر نشر على موقعنا الإلكتروني وعلى صفحاتنا الاجتماعية يوم 23 نوفمبر/ تشرين الثاني 2017، عن قائمة أصدرتها دول عربية تقاطع قطر وتضم منظمات وأفراداً بزعم التطرف والإرهاب، كتبنا خطأً أن اسم السيد راشد الغنوشي، زعيم حركة النهضة التونسية، ورد في تلك القائمة.
إن اسم الغنوشي لم يرد في القائمة وليس هناك أي تلميح مقصود لاتهامه بالعلاقة مع نشاطات إرهابية.
وقد أقرت بي بي سي بالخطأ واتخذت خطوات لتصحيحه بعد فترة قصيرة من النشر.
نعتذر للسيد الغنوشي عن هذا الخطأ وعن أي إزعاج نتج عنه.

Translated into English, the apology reads:

Apology to Rached Ghannouchi

In an article and social media post, which were published on 23 November 2017, reporting on the publication of a list of organisations and individuals alleged to be extremist or terrorist organisations by Arab states boycotting Qatar, we reported in error that Mr Rached Ghannouchi – the leader of the Tunisian Ennahdha Party – was named on that list.

Mr Ghannouchi was not named on the list and no suggestion was intended that he had been accused of involvement in terrorist activities.

The BBC recognised this error and took steps to correct it shortly after it was published.

We apologise to Mr. Ghannouchi for this error and for any distress caused.

For further information, please contact Nigel Tait (Nigel.Tait@carter-ruck.com).

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