Press Release

27 May 2021

Tortured football fan Ali Issa Ahmad sends formal notification of civil claim to senior UAE officials

Ali Issa Ahmad, the British tourist who was falsely arrested and tortured in the UAE in 2019 after attending an Asian Cup football match, has today sent formal letters of claim to six senior UAE officials. The proposed Defendants to his claim are:

- 1. Counsellor Saqr Saif Al Naqbi, the head of State Security Public Prosecution in Abu Dhabi;
- 2. Major General Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, the commander-in-chief of the Abu Dhabi Police;
- 3. Major General Ahmed Al Dahri, the second-in-command of the Abu Dhabi State Security Department;
- 4. Major General Ahmed Naser Ahmed Alrais Al Raisi, Inspector General in the Ministry of the Interior;
- 5. Major General Saif Al Zairi Al Shamsi, commander-in-chief of the Sharjah Police; and
- 6. Brigadier Dr Khalid Hamad Al Hamadi, Director of the Sharjah Police Research Centre.

Mr Ahmad is seeking damages against the six for false imprisonment, assault and battery, intentional infliction of harm including psychiatric harm, and negligence which occurred during the course of his detention in Sharjah, UAE between 23 January and 12 February 2019. Mr Ahmad is also pursuing a claim against Counsellor Saqr Saif Al Naqbi for malicious prosecution.

Mr Ahmad said: "I have been waiting for too long for justice for what happened to me. I was very badly tortured and nearly killed in prison in the UAE. They tried to make it look as though I did these things to myself, that I cut and burnt myself. It is so cruel and wrong that they did this. The UAE authorities have ignored all my complaints and there has been no investigation, and no-one held accountable. I have decided to launch a civil case against those who are responsible for torturing me so that the truth can come out and there can finally be justice for the terrible things that were done to me".

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Mr Ahmad's case has featured widely in the media, including in The Daily Telegraph on 5 February 2019 and The Guardian on 18 July 2019.

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