

5 May 2021

Carter-Ruck Solicitors

T +44 (0)20 7353 5005
DX 333 Chancery Lane
www.carter-ruck.com

Tortured academic Matthew Hedges issues High Court claim against senior UAE officials

Matthew Hedges, the British academic who was falsely imprisoned and tortured in the UAE over a period of more than six months in 2018, has issued civil proceedings in the High Court in London against four of the senior UAE officials who were involved. The Defendants to the claim are:

1. Counsellor Saqr Saif Al Naqbi, who was the head of State Security Public Prosecution in Abu Dhabi at the material time;
2. Major-General Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, who was the Commander in Chief of the Abu Dhabi police at the material time;
3. Major-General Ahmed Naser Ahmed Alrais Al Raisi, Inspector General in the Ministry of the Interior; and
4. Ali Mohammed Hamad Hammad Al Shamsi, a senior intelligence official in the UAE.

Mr Hedges is claiming damages against the four for assault, false imprisonment and the intentional infliction of psychiatric injury which occurred during the course of his detention in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 5 May 2018 to 26 November 2018.

Mr Hedges said: *"On May 5th 2018, I was detained and tortured in the UAE. Three years later, I am still waiting for the truth and justice. The UAE authorities have refused to answer the complaint that was submitted to them through the UK Foreign Office. It is clear they have no interest in finding out who was responsible for my abuse. This total lack of redress has prolonged my trauma and made it very difficult to move on with my life. On top of that, the FCDO has not done enough to help me clear my name. Today, my fight for justice continues and my lawyers have filed a case in the civil courts in order to hold those responsible to account. I hope it will ensure that what happened to me should never be allowed to happen again."*

For further information, please contact Cameron Doley at cameron.doley@carter-ruck.com or on + 44 (0)207 353 5005.