

Brussels, 18 February, 2019

The United Arab Emirates President
His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

The United Arab Emirates Prime Minister
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
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The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Justice
The Minister of Justice
His Excellency Sultan Bin Saeed Al Badi
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His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum,
His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
His Excellency Sultan Bin Saeed Al Badi,

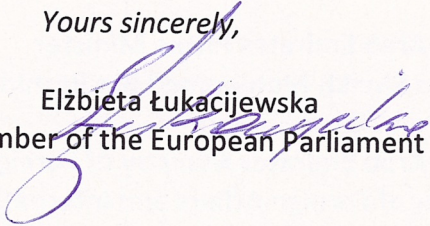
As a Member of the European Parliament, I would like to kindly draw your attention and request some further clarifications concerning the controversial case of Mr. Artur Ligęska which is being widely discussed in the European Parliament. Mr Ligęska is a highly respected Polish citizen, businessperson and owner of fitness club chain. He has recently been sentenced to life imprisonment in the United Arab Emirates under unclear drug-ownership-related charges, despite his successful career in sports and regardless of having undergone voluntary blood tests after being arrested by the UAE's police department.

Mr Ligęska is a well-known figure in my constituency. According to the media coverage, in October 2017 he left Poland to relocate to the United Arab Emirates. In April 2018, he was arrested just after having made his decision to finally return to Poland. On 28 January 2019 he was sentenced to life imprisonment and is currently held captive in Al-Sadr prison, under the drug-related allegations that have not been proven. Moreover, the media report on extremely harsh conditions that he is held in – with no access to legal advice, medical care and proper nutrition.

Therefore, I would like to inquire further clarifications on Mr Ligęska's current situation, which, according to the Polish Ombudsman and human rights organizations, is a clear case of his basic rights' violation. On this occasion, I would like to call on the UAE's authorities to ensure Mr Ligęska's safety, proper medical care and nutrition, as well as to secure his access to the legal and diplomatic services.

I believe that only clear actions taken by the authorities to provide further clarifications on the case of Mr Ligęska may result in successful cooperation between the European Union, particularly the European Parliament, and the United Arab Emirates.

Yours sincerely,


Elżbieta Łukacijewska
Member of the European Parliament

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