

*[Translation]*

Dear Ms. [REDACTED],

Good Evening,

In reference to your last correspondence, dated August 30, 2018, on the arrest and intimidation of lawyers of families suspected of belonging to the Islamic State (ISIS), kindly find below our response as follows:

- 1- Lawyers who are harassed can in principle file a complaint to the judges investigating the corresponding cases. They may also raise their complaint to the Syndicate of Lawyers, as well as submit a complaint to the Commission for Human Rights, and to the Inspector-General at the Ministries of Defense and Interior.  
All the above-mentioned entities can do a lot in response to such complaints.
- 2- Regarding the measures in place, there has been ongoing coordination between the Syndicate of Lawyers and the Judicial Council to end such cases of intimidation and harassment against lawyers. There are lawyers who work on all the different types of cases examined by the judiciary, and such incidents rarely happen on this basis.
- 3- Certainly, if any such allegations come to be true, appropriate measures will be taken to deter those involved in such practices. Currently, we don't have statistics or input on such cases, and we will try to find out more.
- 4- Unfortunately, we don't have specific information or details on cases of detaining lawyers. Some individuals might be detained for terrorism-related charges, and this has nothing to do with their profession. There are no cases of detention of individuals in the context of them being lawyers. Please do provide us with information on any such case.

Some fears and allegations may not be the result of security services' behavior, but may stem from social loopholes, especially in areas that were occupied by ISIS, where people developed a psychological reaction towards each individual they suspected of representing or defending ISIS.

There is also confusion in identifying the security apparatuses involved, as you mentioned the security/intelligence services. We would like to note that this apparatus has nothing to do with the prosecution and detention of terrorists, as its competence extends to external security of the state as you know. Similarly, the National Security Services do not own or manage any detention places of their own.

Best Regards,

Haidar al-Agaili