

Motion (Reviewed and forwarded by the Social Responsibility Committee, April 2013):

Whereas the poet and University of Cairo student Mohammed ibn al-Dheeb al-Ajani was sentenced to life in prison (as reported by the BBC and *The Guardian*, Nov. 29, 2012) for a videotaped reading of a poem allegedly insulting the emir of Qatar Sheik Hamid bin Khalifa Al Thani and allegedly inciting the overthrow of the ruling regime (sentence subsequently amended to 15 years as reported by Al Jazeera English on Feb. 25, 2013);

Whereas Northwestern University supports the universal human right of persons to freedom of intellectual, political, and artistic expression;

Whereas Northwestern University and the United States of America support UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 10 (“Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him”) and Article 19 (“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”);

Whereas Northwestern University maintains an intellectual and institutional presence in Qatar through Northwestern University in Qatar or NU-Q;

It is resolved that the Faculty Senate calls for the full pardon and immediate release of Mohammed ibn al-Dheeb al-Ajani and supports freedom of intellectual and artistic expression for the people of Qatar.

MOTION CARRIED: 5/1/2013