



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 18, 2011: The World Information Technology and Services Alliance today issued a statement of support for Mr. Firas Bakour, who was released from detention by Syrian police after an extensive campaign organized by the Arab ICT Organization (IJMA3). A prominent leader of the ICT industry in Syria and throughout the Arab world, Mr. Bakour's detention in late March gave cause for concern among many fellow colleagues from the region as well as from around the world.

"In addition to having served as Managing Director of our member association, the Syrian Computer Society (CSC), Mr. Bakour has attended several of our World Congress on IT events and other WITSA functions", said WITSA Secretary General Dr. Jim Poisant. "He is a well known and highly respected colleague to many of the leaders in our 80 country organization", continued Dr. Poisant. Mr. Bakour is also President of the Internet service provider in Syria SCS-NET, and a co-founder and Vice Chairman of IJMA3, as well as President of the Arab ISP Association (ARISPA).

"On behalf of WITSA, and Mr. Bakour's many friends thought out the world, we are pleased and relieved that he is back home safely", said WITSA Vice Chairman Nizar Zakka. "As WITSA Vice Chairman for the Middle East and Africa, and as CEO of IJMA3, I wish to applaud Mr. Bakour for his work and dedication to the Information and Communications Technology Industry and for the many contributions he has made on behalf of the Syrian people", continued Mr. Zakka. "We are proud of our long-term relationship with Mr. Bakour and we give him and his family all our best wishes".

#### **About WITSA**

Founded in 1978, the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is the leading consortium of ICT industry association members from 80 countries and economies. WITSA's members represent more than 90 percent of the world ICT market. As the leading recognized voice of the global ICT Industry, WITSA aims to drive transformation and grow the industry. WITSA believes ICT is the key driving force to enable governments, businesses and societies for global development and economic growth. WITSA is dedicated to the following:

- Advocating international public policies that promotes the industry's growth and development;
- Facilitating international trade and investment of ICT products and services through our global network of contacts;

- Promoting industry cooperation and strengthening our national associations through the sharing of knowledge, experience, and critical information;
- Publishing global ICT research through the WITSA Digital Planet;
- Awarding signature events, World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) and Global Public Policy Summit (GPPS) to different host countries around the world; and
- Organizing and hosting the Global ICT Excellence Awards to recognize the most outstanding ICT users.
- The fulfillment of the digital promise for everyone.

For more information on WITSA, please visit [www.witsa.org](http://www.witsa.org)