

URGENT ACTION

RULING IN SHAM MASS TRIAL SET FOR JULY 10

The tenth and final session in the grossly unfair trial of 84 Emirati men, including human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience, Ahmed Mansoor, Mohammed al-Roken, and Nasser bin Ghaith, took place on May 9, 2024 before the Federal Appeal Court in Abu Dhabi. The judge set July 10 to issue the verdict.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Second Urgent Action 120.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates

Twitter: [@MohamedBinZayed](#)

Embassy of UAE in the United States

His Excellency Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba

3522 International Court,

NW, Suite 400, Washington DC 20008

Email: info@uaeembassy-usa.org

Your Highness, or Dear Ambassador,

I am concerned that the mass trial of **84 Emirati men**, including **26 prisoners of conscience**, among them, **Ahmed Mansoor**, **Nasser bin Ghaith**, and **Mohammed al-Roken**, has been marred by serious fair trial violations and allegations of torture and ill-treatment.

The tenth trial session took place on May 9, 2024 before the Federal Appeal Court in Abu Dhabi to hear defense lawyers' pleading and some detainees' statements. Representing himself, human rights defender and prisoner of conscience Ahmed Mansoor stated that what the prosecution described as criminal acts was simply the detainees exercising their right to freedom of expression. Mohammed al-Roken raised concerns at the fact that the defendants are being tried on charges for which they had already been convicted in 2013. Other defendants described the deterioration of their physical and mental health due to the prison conditions. The judge set July 10, to issue the verdict.

I urge Your Highness to take all necessary measures to secure the immediate and unconditional release of prisoners of conscience Ahmed Mansoor, Mohammed al-Roken, Nasser bin Ghaith, and all others arbitrarily detained and prosecuted in the ongoing mass trial solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association; and for all charges against them stemming from their exercise of their human rights to be dropped. In the meantime, I call on you to ensure that they are detained in conditions that comply with international standards, that they are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment; and have immediate and regular access to their families and lawyers and any health care they may require.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Multiple gross violations of the defendants' fair trial rights have been observed since the beginning of the new mass trial on December 7, 2023, including authorities directing witness testimony, failure to disclose key details such as the exact charges or what articles of the law are being used to bring the charges, restrictions on lawyers sharing documents relating to the case with the defendants, and their families and barring family members from attending hearings during the trial.

A month into the trial, on January 6, 2024, the UAE authorities finally [announced](#) the trial on the official news agency WAM, confirming the number of defendants on trial and the charges they were facing for 'establishing another clandestine organization for the purpose of committing acts of violence and terrorism on UAE soil'. Based on information from family members and the published WAM statement, the charges appear to be brought under the 2014 counterterrorism law and to be based on alleged membership in the Justice and Dignity Committee, a branch of the al-Islah movement, which is considered to be the Emirati version of the Muslim Brotherhood group. In the words of the 2013 indictment and judgment in the UAE 94 trial (see below), the Committee "undertook to raise society's awareness of its rights," "published articles about those rights," and "worked to communicate with international rights organizations".

In 2013, after a grossly unfair [mass trial](#) of 94 defendants, known as the UAE 94, 69 people were convicted and sentenced to between seven and 15-year prison terms, scores of them for their demands for reform and democracy. Under UAE law at the time, the judgement was final and not subject to appeal, in violation of international law.

Prominent human rights lawyer and former president of the UAE's Jurists Association, **Mohammed al-Roken**, was arrested on July 17, 2012. He was sentenced in July 2013 to 10 years' imprisonment, followed by three years' probation, at the end of the UAE 94 trial. He should have been released from prison on July 17, 2022.

Human rights defender, [Ahmed Mansoor](#), was arrested on March 20, 2017 and sentenced in May 2018 to 10 years' imprisonment. He was convicted on charges including having "[insulted the 'status and prestige of the UAE and its symbols', including its leaders](#)". Since his arrest, Ahmed Mansoor has been held in solitary confinement.

Human rights defender [Nasser bin Ghaith](#) is serving a 10-year prison sentence handed to him on March 29, 2017 by the Federal Appeal Court in Abu Dhabi. He was convicted on charges including "posting false information" about UAE leaders and their policies, based on comments he made on X (formerly Twitter) stating that an earlier trial of himself and four other Emiratis was unfair.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Arabic, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 31, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Ahmed Mansoor (he/him); Mohammed al-Roken (he/him); Nasser bin Ghaith (he/him).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-sham-mass-trial-of-84-emirati-men-ongoing-uae-120-23/>