

# URGENT ACTION

## PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN NEW MASS TRIAL

Human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience **Ahmed Mansoor, Mohammed al-Roken, and Nasser bin Ghaith** are among 87 Emirati men being prosecuted in a new case on trumped up terrorism-related charges. Their trial, which began on December 7 before the Federal Appeal Court in Abu Dhabi, includes 62 unjustly imprisoned victims of the 2013 mass trial, known as the UAE94, 59 of whom remain arbitrarily detained after serving their sentences.

### 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 **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  
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[info@uaeembassy-usa.org](mailto:info@uaeembassy-usa.org)

Your Highness,

I am concerned that 26 prisoners of conscience including **Ahmed Mansoor, Nasser bin Ghaith, and Mohammed al-Roken** are among 87 Emirati men prosecuted on new trumped-up charges. Their mass trial started on December 7, 2023. Among other defendants are 62 political dissidents unjustly convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in the grossly unfair mass trial known as the UAE94 that concluded in 2013. Fifty-nine of them remain arbitrarily detained after completing their sentences.

According to the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center (EDAC), a human rights group, the court charged 43 individuals with establishing a "terrorist organization," while 44 others were charged with supporting and endorsing the organization. This "terrorist organization" is the Justice and Dignity Committee, formed by defendants in the UAE94 case in 2010-2011 to call for the respect of human rights in the UAE. Defendants from the earlier UAE94 mass trial were already convicted and sentenced to prison terms in 2013. This contravenes article 19(1) of the [Arab Charter for Human Rights](#), to which the UAE is party, which states: "No one may be tried twice for the same offense, anyone against whom such proceedings are brought shall have the right to challenge their legality and to demand his release."

We call upon your Highness to immediately and unconditionally release 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 to drop all charges against them stemming from their exercise of their human rights.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Since 2011, scores of people in the UAE have been detained in relation to the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. In 2012, after a grossly unfair [mass trial](#) of 94 defendants, known as the UAE94, 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. Fifty-nine of [those imprisoned in the case](#) remain arbitrarily detained after completing their sentences.

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. On May 17, 2023, Turkish-Emirati citizen [Khalaf al-Rumaithi](#), was forcibly deported to the UAE from Jordan and was one of the UAE 94 sentenced to 15 years in prison in his absence. The state-owned Emirates News Agency said that he will face a retrial on the charge of affiliation with an organization "[that aims to oppose the foundational principles of the UAE government](#)". In 2021, **Mansoor al-Ahmadi**, one the UAE 94 defendants sentenced to seven years in prison was released about a year and half after his sentence ended. He was re-arrested in June 2023 after attending a summons at the State Security Apparatus in Abu Dhabi. Both Khalaf al-Rumaithi and Mansoor al-Ahmadi are now defendants in the new mass trial.

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. Up until his arrest, he was the only independent voice to speak out against human rights violations from inside the country after the end of the 2013 mass trial. Human rights defender [Nasser bin Ghaith](#) is serving a 10-year prison sentence handed to him on March 29, 2017. 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. During his trial in 2017, the authorities restricted his access to his lawyer, and he was unable to prepare adequately for his defense.

The UAE has not ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) or the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Nonetheless, many of the provisions of the two covenants are drawn from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which have become part of customary international law and are typically binding on all states.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** February 13, 2024

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