

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
Presidential Court
F836+2GJ - Al Khubeirah
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Groningen, 2024

Your Highness,

I am concerned that prisoners of conscience Ahmed Mansoor, Nasser bin Ghaith and Mohammed al-Roken are among 87 Emirati men prosecuted on new trumped up charges.

The court charged them with establishing a "terrorist organization" or supporting and endorsing the organization. The "terrorist organization" referred to 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 offence." Since July 2023, the authorities have held the majority of the UAE94 defendants in incommunicado detention and in prolonged solitary confinement.

I 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,