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Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates

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Your Highness,

**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 9 May 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 10 July to issue the verdict.

Throughout the trial sessions, defendants said in court that they had been forced to hear very loud music throughout the day and especially during their rest and sleep periods. They described then being interrogated and having their ‘confessions’ filmed, and any refusal would result in them being punished with solitary confinement. The defendants continue to be deprived of contact with their families or lawyers.

The new mass trial began on 7 December 2023, on charges of establishing a «terrorist organization» and supporting and funding this organization. The prosecution of at least 66 of the defendants in the ongoing mass trial breaches the prohibition of double jeopardy as they were previously convicted in 2013 in the «UAE 94» mass trial on charges related to establishing the Justice and Dignity Committee, to call for the respect of human rights in the UAE. Sixty of them are being held beyond the expiry of their sentences.

**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,

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**Copie**

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