



Mr. President,

ADHRB would like to raise our concern over the United Arab Emirates' continued violation of a litany of recommendations from its 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle Universal Periodic Review, particularly those recommendations that have been reiterated in the country's 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle review, which has just concluded this session.

We are concerned at the government's demonstrated intent to continue to disregard a wide range of thematic human rights concerns and recommendations expressed during multiple iterations of the UPR process, in particular over its failure to lift restrictions on freedom of expression and to end the systematic use of torture.

Torture in detention centers is widespread, with inmates recounting beatings; prolonged solitary confinement; exposure to extreme climates; deprivation of sleep, prayer, and toilet facilities; electric shocks; and denial of medical care. Female prisoners like Mariam al-Balushi, Amina Abdullahi, and Alia Abdulnoor have all reported ill treatment, torture, threats of rape, and denial of medical care inside Abu Dhabi's al Wathba Prison as recently as 22 June.

Many political prisoners and prisoners of conscience suffer in such conditions having been arbitrarily detained and imprisoned for utilizing their universal right to free expression. For example, prominent human rights defender Ahmed Mansoor received a 10-year prison sentence after being arbitrarily detained and disappeared for months, raising fears he was being tortured. Similar cases include those of Dr. Nasser bin Ghaith and Tayseer al-Najjar, who were arrested on expression-related crimes and may have faced torture.

We call on the UAE to demonstrate its serious commitment to implementing its UPR recommendations by releasing all political prisoners, effectively ending torture, and lifting restrictions on free expression.

Thank you