



To:

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

5 December 2023

Appeal by Green/EFA Members of the European Parliament present at the COP28 for release of Emirati Human Rights Defenders

Your Highness

Members of the Green/EFA group in the European Parliament will be present in Dubai for the COP28. We, as ecologists, are committed to contribute to the debates and policies around climate change, and are convinced that human rights are intrinsically linked to climate protection. The respect for human rights and fundamental freedom are key, as the voice and contributions of local and international civil society in climate action at COP28 is crucial to advance climate justice.

We are concerned about the human rights situation in the United Arab Emirates. In its [resolution of September 2021 the European Parliament](#) strongly condemned *“once again, the detention of Ahmed Mansoor and all other human rights defenders in the UAE, who have been imprisoned solely for exercising their basic human rights, including their rights to freedom of speech, association, peaceful assembly and expression both online and offline, which are enshrined not only in universal human rights instruments, but also in the Arab Charter on Human Rights.”*

Further the European Parliament’s resolution deeply deplored *“the gap between the UAE’s claims to be a tolerant and rights-respecting country and the fact its own human rights defenders are detained in harsh conditions.”*

On 21 November 2023 the [European Parliament adopted a resolution in view of COP28](#) expressing concerns *“about the human rights situation in the United Arab Emirates, in particular the curtailing and violation of freedom of speech, association, peaceful assembly and expression both online and offline, which are enshrined not only in universal human rights instruments, but also in the Arab Charter on Human Rights; expresses once again its concern about the arbitrary and prolonged imprisonment of Emirati human rights defenders Ahmad Mansoor, Mohammed Al-Roken, Mohammed Al-Mansoori and Nasser Bin Ghaith following unfair trials, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release;”*



Over the past two years, [international human rights organisations](#) have repeatedly expressed concerns about the ongoing detention of human rights defenders in the United Arab Emirates. The [Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#) of the United Arab Emirates at the UN Human Rights Council of June 2023 listed 13 recommendations by member states aiming to improve the of human rights defenders in the country.

We therefore reiterate the European Parliaments earlier calls *“for the immediate and unconditional release of Ahmed Mansoor, Mohammed al-Roken and Nasser bin Ghaith, as well as all other human rights defenders, political activists and peaceful dissidents”*

Yours sincerely

Michael BLOSS, Member of the European Parliament

Bas EICKHOUT, Member of the European Parliament

Hannah NEUMANN, Member of the European Parliament

Jutta PAULUS, Member of the European Parliament

Mounir SATOURI, Member of the European Parliament