

Advocacy dossier

Husain Mouneif al-Jabri

حسين منيف الجابري

Imprisoned (serving sentence) **United Arab Emirates**

Arrested in 2012 and sentenced to ten years in the UAE94 trial, Husain Mouneif al-Jabri completed his term in 2022 but was held indefinitely under "counselling" detention before being forcibly disappeared and sentenced to life imprisonment in the UAE84 trial in 2024, a sentence upheld in 2025.

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The case at a glance

Arrested in 2012 and sentenced to ten years in the UAE94 trial, Husain Mouneif al-Jabri completed his term in 2022 but was held indefinitely under "counselling" detention before being forcibly disappeared and sentenced to life imprisonment in the UAE84 trial in 2024, a sentence upheld in 2025.

Status**Imprisoned (serving sentence)**	Arrested**12 Jun 2023**	Country**United Arab Emirates**
Sentence	Life imprisonment in the UAE84 trial (10 July 2024), according to the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center; appeals rejected by the Federal Supreme Court on 4 March 2025. This followed ten years in the UAE94 case (2013), completed in April 2022.	
Charges	Secret organisation to undermine the state (2013 trial) Charges not publicly disclosed (2023 re-trial)	

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Husain Mouneif al-Jabri immediately and unconditionally.

02 Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

03 Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

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Documented violations

Each violation and the international standard it breaks.

Arbitrary detention International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9

Criminalisation of solidarity International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 21, 22
UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 5

Denial of family visits UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 58

Denial of legal counsel International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14(3)

Enforced disappearance International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Article 2
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 9, 16

Judicial harassment UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12

Prolonged pretrial detention International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9(3)

Unfair trial International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

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How the case unfolded

March 2011

Defender activity

Signs the petition for democratic reform

He was among 133 signatories of the March 2011 petition calling for democratic reform and an elected parliament.

9 April 2012

Arrest

Arrested in UAE94 sweep

Security forces arrested al-Jabri as part of a coordinated operation targeting 94 individuals, including academics, lawyers, and civil society figures.

9 April 2012

Context

Brother Hasan arrested the same day

His brother Hasan Moneif al-Jabri was arrested the same day, sentenced in the UAE94 case and charged again in the UAE84 trial.

4 March 2013

Hearing

Trial begins before State Security Chamber

Al-Jabri's trial opened before the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi. Proceedings were closed to the public and independent observers.

2 July 2013

Conviction

Sentenced to ten years

The court sentenced al-Jabri to ten years in prison for alleged membership in a secret organisation.

April 2022

Detention beyond the end of a sentence

Sentence completed; indefinite detention begins

Al-Jabri completed his ten-year prison term but was not released. He was transferred to indefinite detention under the Munasaha counselling regime.

18 August 2022

UN special procedures communication

UN Special Rapporteurs petitioned

MENA Rights Group and the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center requested intervention by UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders and counter-terrorism.

7 September 2022

Petition to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

WGAD petition filed

MENA Rights Group and the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center formally petitioned the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

30 March 2023

UN opinion or decision

UN rules detention arbitrary

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted an opinion finding al-Jabri's Munasaha detention arbitrary and in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

12 June 2023

Start of enforced disappearance

Last family phone call from al-Razeen

Al-Jabri made his last phone call to his family from al-Razeen Prison. Contact ceased after this date.

12 September 2023

UN special procedures communication

UN enforced disappearance petition filed

MENA Rights Group requested the urgent intervention of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

1 December 2023

Reappearance in custody

Calls family from unknown State Security facility

After five months of enforced disappearance, al-Jabri called his family from an unidentified State Security facility.

7 December 2023

Hearing

New mass trial begins

Al-Jabri appeared before the Abu Dhabi Federal Court of Appeal as one of 84 defendants in a new mass trial, Case No. 87 of 2023.

19 December 2023

UN special procedures communication

Urgent UN intervention requested

MENA Rights Group and the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center requested urgent intervention by the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights.

6 January 2024

Charge filed

Charges announced via state media

UAE state news agency WAM announced that 84 defendants, including al-Jabri, had been charged and referred for trial. Charges were not publicly detailed.

19 January 2024

Statement by UN experts

UN experts express alarm

UN human rights experts expressed alarm at the new charges and reiterated concerns about fair trial violations and double jeopardy.

10 May 2024

Hearing

Verdict date set

The court set 10 July 2024 as the date to deliver the verdict following defence submissions.

10 July 2024

Conviction

Sentenced to life imprisonment

The Abu Dhabi Federal Appeals Court (State Security) convicted 53 defendants and sentenced 43 to life imprisonment. The Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center reports that al-Jabri was among those sentenced to life.

30 July 2024

Statement by UN experts

UN experts condemn sentences

UN human rights experts expressed dismay at the life sentences and reiterated concerns about fair trial and legality.

4 March 2025

Appeal: judgment upheld

Appeal rejected

The State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court rejected the appeal by 53 defendants and upheld the life sentences.

26 June 2025

Other act

Federal Supreme Court gives life sentences to 24 co-defendants in the UAE84 case

On appeal by the Attorney General, the Criminal Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court overturned the dismissal of the cases against 24 co-defendants and sentenced them to life imprisonment, bringing the life sentences in the case to 67. The ruling concerned those 24 defendants; no source reports a change to his own sentence.

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The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: this record was checked again. Husain Mouneif al-Jabri remains in detention in the UAE84 case, whose appeals the Federal Supreme Court rejected on 4 March 2025; the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center reports that he was sentenced to life imprisonment on 10 July 2024. His place of detention has not been publicly confirmed since he called his family from a State Security facility on 1 December 2023, and no release has been reported. Human Rights Watch reported that after UAE94 prisoner Ali al-Khaja died in custody at al-Razeen prison on 19 November 2025, families of other political detainees there were not allowed to visit.

Background and Work

Husain Mouneif al-Jabri worked for many years in the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs, one of the central institutions of Emirati governance. Little public information remains about his career or personal life; the state has treated the identities and activities of most UAE84 defendants as matters of national security rather than public record.

The 2012 Arrest and First Trial

On 9 April 2012, security forces arrested al-Jabri. He was one of 94 individuals, later known as the UAE94, detained in a coordinated sweep targeting lawyers, academics, judges, teachers, and members of civil society. The arrests followed a 2011 petition calling for political reform and an elected legislature. Authorities accused the group of forming a secret organisation to undermine the state.

Al-Jabri's trial began on 4 March 2013 before the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi. Proceedings were closed to the public and to independent observers. On 2 July 2013, the court sentenced al-Jabri to ten years in prison. Legal representation was severely restricted throughout. The trial drew international condemnation for its lack of due process and its use to suppress peaceful dissent.

Indefinite Detention under the Munasaha Regime

Al-Jabri completed his ten-year sentence in April 2022. He was not released. Instead, the State Security Apparatus invoked the Munasaha Centre Law, legislation enacted in 2014 that permits indefinite "counselling" detention of individuals deemed insufficiently "rehabilitated" after completing counter-terrorism sentences. No judicial review is required. The detention can be renewed without limit.

Al-Jabri was held at al-Razeen Prison under this regime. In March 2023, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued an opinion on his case, finding that his continued detention violated multiple provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and constituted arbitrary deprivation of liberty. The Emirati government ignored the ruling.

Enforced Disappearance and Re-Trial

On 12 June 2023, al-Jabri made his last phone call to his family from al-Razeen. After that date, all contact ceased. His family received no information about his whereabouts or legal status. On 12 September 2023, MENA Rights Group formally requested the intervention of the UN Working Group

on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

On 1 December 2023, al-Jabri called his family from an undisclosed State Security facility. Days later, on 7 December, he appeared in court as one of 84 defendants in a new mass trial, Case No. 87 of 2023. State media announced on 6 January 2024 that all 84 had been formally charged and referred for trial. The charges were not made public. UN experts expressed alarm at the proceedings, noting that many defendants had already served long sentences and were being prosecuted again in apparent violation of the prohibition on double jeopardy.

Mass Sentencing and Appeal

On 10 July 2024, the Abu Dhabi Federal Appeals Court (State Security) issued its verdict. The court sentenced 43 defendants to life imprisonment; the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center reports that al-Jabri was among them. Five others received 15-year terms; five received ten years. On 30 July 2024, UN human rights experts expressed dismay at the sentences and reiterated concerns about fair trial violations and the legality of the proceedings.

Fifty-three defendants, including al-Jabri, appealed. On 4 March 2025, the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court rejected the appeal and upheld the sentences. On 26 June 2025, in an extraordinary reversal, the Criminal Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court issued a final judgment that convicted defendants previously cleared, raising the total number of life sentences in the case to 67. The reasoning was not disclosed.

Detention Conditions and Legal Status

Al-Jabri remains in State Security custody. His current location is not publicly confirmed. Family visits have been denied or severely restricted throughout his detention. Access to legal counsel has been limited and monitored. The charges against him in the 2023 trial have never been publicly detailed. The trial was closed to international observers and independent media.

International Response

In March 2023, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found al-Jabri's detention arbitrary and called for his immediate release. In December 2023, MENA Rights Group and the Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center requested urgent intervention by the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights. In January 2024, UN experts expressed alarm at the new charges. In July 2024, UN experts condemned the life sentences and the lack of fair trial guarantees. The Emirati government has not responded substantively to any of these interventions.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/husain-mouneif-al-jabri/

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