

Advocacy dossier

Mohammed Al-Mansoori

محمد على المنصورى

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

Dr Mohammed al-Mansoori is an Emirati lawyer, former legal adviser to the government of Ras Al Khaimah and former president of the UAE Jurists' Association, detained since July 2012 and convicted in the UAE94 mass trial. Kept in prison after his sentence ended in 2023, he was sentenced to life in the UAE84 case on 10 July 2024, a sentence upheld on 4 March 2025.

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The case at a glance

Dr Mohammed al-Mansoori is an Emirati lawyer, former legal adviser to the government of Ras Al Khaimah and former president of the UAE Jurists' Association, detained since July 2012 and convicted in the UAE94 mass trial. Kept in prison after his sentence ended in 2023, he was sentenced to life in the UAE84 case on 10 July 2024, a sentence upheld on 4 March 2025.

Status	Arrested	Country
Imprisoned (serving sentence)	**Mar 2026**	**United Arab Emirates**

Sentence	10 years' imprisonment and three years' probation (2 July 2013); a further one year and three months (21 January 2014); life imprisonment in the UAE84 case (10 July 2024, upheld on 4 March 2025).
Charges	Charges under article 180 of the penal code (UAE94 case, 2013) Charges linked to establishing an international branch of the Muslim Brotherhood and to the theft of secret security information (2014 case) Establishing, founding and managing the Justice and Dignity Committee with the alleged aim of committing terrorist acts (UAE84 case, 2024)

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Mohammed Al-Mansoori 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.

04 Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Mohammed Al-Mansoori and on any family members affected by the same order.

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How the case unfolded

October 2007

Travel ban imposed

Barred from travelling abroad

The authorities barred him from travelling from October 2007 and from March 2008 refused to renew his passport, according to Human Rights Watch, which said he had been harassed for many years.

January 2010

Dismissal or expulsion

Dismissed as legal adviser after criticising limits on free speech

The authorities dismissed him from his post as legal adviser to the government of Ras Al Khaimah after he gave a television interview criticising restrictions on freedom of speech in the country.

16 July 2012

Arrest

Arrested by state security in a wave of arrests of reformists

Plainclothes officers took him into custody after he left his home on an errand. His son Hassan said 25 to 28 men in six cars then searched the house and took laptops and papers, and the family could not learn where he was held. He was one of 13 men detained from that day, including the lawyer Mohamed Al-Roken. Amnesty International described both lawyers as prisoners of conscience held for their defence work.

2 July 2013

Conviction

Sentenced to 10 years in the UAE94 mass trial

The State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court convicted him with other signatories and members of the reform movement in the mass trial known as UAE94, under article 180 of the penal code, and sentenced him to 10 years in prison followed by three years of probation. There was no right of appeal.

21 January 2014

Conviction

Given an extra year and three months in a second mass trial

The State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court convicted him, nine other Emiratis and 20 Egyptians of charges linked to establishing an international branch of the Muslim Brotherhood and to the theft of secret security information. He received one year and three months in prison, without a right of appeal. Amnesty International said many defendants had been held incommunicado without a lawyer, some described torture in court, and it considered him a prisoner of conscience.

12 June 2023

Contact with the outside world cut off

Family loses all contact with him

He made his last call to his family from al-Razeen Prison on 12 June 2023. They did not hear from him again until 1 December 2023, when he called from an unidentified State Security facility. In September 2023 MENA Rights Group asked the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to intervene.

16 July 2023

Detention beyond the end of a sentence

Kept in prison after his sentence ends

His prison term came to an end, according to MENA Rights Group, but he was not released. GCHR also describes his continued detention after the completion of his sentence as arbitrary.

7 December 2023

Referral to trial

Put on trial again in the UAE84 terrorism case

A new mass trial opened before the Abu Dhabi Federal Court of Appeal, in which he and other UAE94 prisoners faced terrorism charges over the Justice and Dignity Committee. The official news agency WAM announced on 6 January 2024 that 84 defendants had been referred for trial in Case No. 87 of 2023. Hearings were largely closed, and Human Rights Watch reported that many defendants had been held in solitary confinement for nearly a year and that lawyers had restricted access to the case file.

10 July 2024

Conviction

Sentenced to life imprisonment in the UAE84 case

The State Security Chamber of the Abu Dhabi Federal Court of Appeal sentenced him to life imprisonment, which GCHR says is equivalent to 25 years, for establishing, founding and managing the Justice and Dignity Committee, which the authorities alleged aimed to commit terrorist acts. He was one of 43 defendants given life sentences.

30 July 2024

Other act

UN experts dismayed by the life sentences

UN special procedures experts expressed dismay at the life sentences handed down in the UAE84 case, after having raised alarm in January 2024 about the new charges brought against people who had already served their sentences.

4 March 2025

Appeal: judgment upheld

Federal Supreme Court upholds his life sentence

The State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court rejected the appeals in the UAE84 case and upheld all sentences, including his life term. On 26 June 2025 the Court's Criminal Chamber reconvicted 24 further defendants, raising the number of life sentences in the case to 67.

March 2026

Deprivation of liberty

Still imprisoned under a final life sentence

MENA Rights Group's case record, updated on 26 March 2026, lists him as arbitrarily detained under a final life sentence. He has now been held since July 2012. His place of detention is not publicly confirmed.

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The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Dr Mohammed al-Mansoori, a lawyer and former president of the UAE Jurists' Association, has been held since July 2012. Kept in prison after his original sentence ended in 2023, he is now serving a final life sentence imposed in the UAE84 mass trial and upheld on 4 March 2025.

Background and Work

Mohammed Ali Saleh al-Mansoori was born in 1957 in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah and holds a doctorate in law from the University of Glasgow. He served as head of the office of the Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah and as legal adviser to the emirate's government, and was president of the UAE Jurists' Association. He was also deputy chairman of al-Islah, the Reform and Social Guidance Association, a non-violent Islamist association.

He spoke publicly about restrictions on freedom of expression in the country. Human Rights Watch reported that the authorities barred him from travelling from October 2007 and refused to renew his passport from March 2008. In January 2010 he was dismissed as legal adviser to the government of Ras Al Khaimah after a television interview in which he criticised restrictions on free speech. In 2011 the UN Special Representative on human rights defenders raised concern about his situation.

The Arrest

After the March 2011 petition for an elected parliament, the State Security apparatus began arresting signatories and members of the reform movement. On 16 July 2012 plainclothes officers detained him after he left his home. His son Hassan said that 25 to 28 men in six cars then searched the house and took computers and papers. He was one of 13 men arrested from that day, among them the lawyer Mohamed Al-Roken. Amnesty International described both men as prisoners of conscience held for their work as lawyers.

Detention Conditions and Health

He served his sentence in al-Razeen Prison in Abu Dhabi. In the mass trials of 2013 and 2014, Amnesty International reported prolonged incommunicado detention, restricted access to lawyers and allegations of torture made by defendants in court. On 12 June 2023 he made his last call to his family from al-Razeen; they heard nothing more until 1 December 2023, when he called from an unidentified State Security facility. Human Rights Watch reported that many UAE84 defendants were held in solitary confinement for nearly a year and barred from calls and visits.

Legal Proceedings

On 2 July 2013 the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court convicted him in the UAE94 mass trial and sentenced him to 10 years in prison followed by three years of probation. Other defendants in that trial included Dr. Hadef Al-Owais and Abdulsalam Al-Marzooqi. On 21 January 2014 the same chamber gave him a further year and three months in a second trial concerning an alleged international branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. Neither verdict could be appealed.

His term ended in 2023, but he was not released. On 7 December 2023 a new mass trial, known as UAE84, opened before the Abu Dhabi Federal Court

of Appeal on charges of establishing, founding and managing the Justice and Dignity Committee, which the authorities alleged was formed to commit terrorist acts. On 10 July 2024 he was sentenced to life imprisonment, alongside 42 others, including Mohamed Al-Roken, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Siddiq and Abdulsalam Al-Marzooqi. Ahmed Mansoor and Dr. Nasser bin Ghaith received 15 years each. On 4 March 2025 the Federal Supreme Court upheld the sentences, and on 26 June 2025 its Criminal Chamber reconvicted 24 further defendants, bringing the number of life sentences in the case to 67.

International Response

Amnesty International has considered him a prisoner of conscience since 2012. In January 2024 UN experts expressed alarm at the new charges, and on 30 July 2024 they said they were dismayed by the life sentences. Human Rights Watch described the UAE84 proceedings as an unfair trial producing unjust sentences, citing secret hearings, double jeopardy and allegations of abuse. MENA Rights Group asked the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism to intervene in 2023, and GCHR continues to call for his immediate and unconditional release.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/mohammed-al-mansoori/

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