



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Twenty-first session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[16 August 2012]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language received from the submitting non-governmental organization.

## **Freedom of human rights defenders in UAE**

Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of torture inform that 51 human rights defenders and activists detained during a major crackdown in the United Arab Emirates have started a hunger strike protesting their arbitrary arrest and illegal detention.

On 16 July 2012, security forces in Ras Al-Khaimah, Dubai and Sharjah began carrying out a major crackdown against human rights defenders and activists across the UAE. A number of human rights defenders and advocates for reform were arrested in Abu Dhabi under orders of the Public Prosecutor. Their arrests were reportedly linked to unfounded allegations that they are part of an organization that poses a threat to national security.

The detentions of the 51 human rights defenders and activists have been extended after the expiration of 21 days as opposed to the laws in force in the country. The detainees were not brought to court when the request to extend their detention was presented to the Judge of the Department of State Security in the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi. Prominent human rights lawyer Abdulhamid Al-Kumaiti noted that “the action taken to extend their detention is a violation to the penal procedure law and can hence be challenged in front of the chief of the Federal Supreme Court.”

### **Khiam Center urges the UAE authorities to:**

- Immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Mohammed Al-Mansoori, Dr. Mohammed Al-Roken, his son Rashid, Abdulla Al-Hajeri and all other human rights defenders as GCHR believes that they have been detained solely as a result of their legitimate human rights work;
- Ensure that no more human rights defenders are deprived of their liberty as a result of their human rights work;
- Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Dr. Mohammed Al-Mansoori, and Dr. Mohammed Al-Roken, his son Rashid, Abdulla Al- Hajeri and all other human rights defenders who are being detained;
- Guarantee in all circumstances that human rights defenders in UAE are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including judicial harassment;
- Appeal to the UN and Human Rights Council to a quick move for the release of detainees and to end the Human Rights violations in UEA and to respect the international conventions of Human Rights.