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**ORAL STATEMENT**  
**Item 6:**  
**Consideration of UPR reports: United Arab Emirates**

UN Human Rights Council  
54<sup>th</sup> session  
11 September – 14 October

Mr. President,

There are at least 26 prisoners of conscience in UAE prisons, plus scores more arbitrarily imprisoned after the grossly unfair mass trial of 2013.<sup>1</sup> We are disappointed that during its review no state mentioned by name any of the well-known imprisoned human rights defenders such as Mohamed al-Roken and Ahmed Mansoor.

We are deeply disappointed that the UAE has not accepted any recommendation for the release of human rights defenders, prisoners of conscience,<sup>2</sup> or people held past the end of their sentences.<sup>3</sup> And we are appalled that the UAE would not accept recommendations as basic as one calling for prohibition of secret detention and protection against torture,<sup>4</sup> or one saying that terrorism laws should not be used to prosecute human rights defenders.<sup>5</sup>

The UAE is not a party to either of the international human rights Covenants, and has refused to

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<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International, “United Arab Emirates: Dissidents Imprisoned and Migrants Racially Targeted”, 25 October 2022 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde25/5983/2022/en/>, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (WG UPR), Report: United Arab Emirates, 29 June 2023, UN Doc. A/HRC/54/15, recommendation 35.148 (Belgium); UAE, آراء بشأن الاستنتاجات وأو التوصيات، والالتزامات الطوعية والردود المقدمة من الدولة موضع الاستعراض [Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review], 5 September 2023, UN Doc. A/HRC/54/15/Add.1, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendation, 35.128 (Netherlands); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendation 35.125 (Italy); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 5.

<sup>5</sup> WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendation 35.158 (Liechtenstein); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 5.

accept all recommendations to join these Covenants,<sup>6</sup> or even consider joining them.<sup>7</sup> This open refusal to accept international human rights law, shortly before the UAE will host the annual global climate conference, sends an ominous signal.

Thank you.

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<sup>6</sup> WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendations 35.2-35.4 (Italy, Paraguay, Mauritius and Togo), 35.9 (Ecuador), 35.11 (Ireland and Namibia), 35.14 (Namibia), 35.15 (Czechia), 35.20 (Estonia), 35.30 (Germany), 35.44-35.46 (Slovakia and Spain), 35.144 (France); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 3.

<sup>7</sup> WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendations 35.5-35.8 (Peru, Nepal, Finland, Chile and Palestine), 35.10 (Cyprus), 35.12 (Kenya), 35.13 (Lithuania), 35.16 (Latvia), 35.17 (Colombia), 35.38 (South Korea), 35.39 (Moldova), Honduras (35.48); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 3.