

URGENT ACTION

EGYPTIAN-TURKISH POET FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED

Egyptian-Turkish poet, Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi, has been subjected to enforced disappearance since his extradition from Lebanon to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on January 8, 2025. Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi was arrested by Lebanese security forces on December 28, 2024 at the Masnaa border crossing between Lebanon and Syria. The Lebanese authorities accepted the extradition request by the Emirati authorities on charges of spreading “fake news” and “disturbing public security”, in connection to a video he posted on his social media platforms while in Syria criticizing Egyptian, Emirati, and Saudi Arabian authorities. Concerns for his safety and wellbeing are mounting as his family has been unable to obtain any information about his fate, exact whereabouts or legal status; and he has been denied consular visits by Turkish authorities.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 13.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
Twitter/X: [@MohamedBinZayed](#)

CC: Embassy of UAE in the United States
His Excellency Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba
3522 International Court, NW, Suite 400,
Washington DC 20008
Contact Webform: <https://www.uae-embassy.org/contact#paragraph--109>

Your Highness,

I write to you to express my grave concern over the enforced disappearance of Egyptian-Turkish poet, **Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi**. Lebanese security forces arrested him on December 28, 2024 upon his return from a visit to Syria. During a visit to Damascus in December 2024, Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi filmed himself walking around the Umayyad Mosque and criticizing the authorities of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. According to his family and lawyers, this short clip widely shared on social media triggered his arrest, which followed a provisional arrest warrant issued by the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council, at the request of the Emirati authorities. The Egyptian authorities also made a separate provisional arrest request.

On January 7, 2025, the Lebanese authorities approved the extradition of Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi to the UAE despite concerns that he would be at risk of human rights violations including [arbitrary detention](#) and [unfair trial](#). Since his extradition to the UAE, his family has been trying to locate him without success and have not had any communication with him. Requests for a consular visit by the Turkish authorities have not been granted.

I urge you to immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi, allow him to communicate with his family and lawyers, ensure he has access to adequate healthcare, and is granted a consular visit from the Turkish authorities. Moreover, as his detention is solely related to the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression, I ask you to immediately release him and allow him to travel to Türkiye.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi is an Egyptian-Turkish poet living and working in Türkiye. He is the son of late prominent Egyptian Islamic scholar, Yusuf Al-Qaradawi. His sister, [Ola Al-Qaradawi](#), was arrested in Egypt in June 2017 and has spent four years arbitrarily detained on bogus terrorism related charges. The Egyptian authorities sentenced Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi in his absence in 2017 to five years in prison on charges of spreading false news among others, in a politically motivated case. On January 26, 2025, the Egyptian Parliament discussed and approved a new [treaty](#) to transfer convicted prisoners between Egypt and the UAE. If extradited to Egypt, Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi would be at real risk of [enforced disappearance](#), [torture](#), and [other ill-treatment](#), and [unfair trial](#) leading to [prolonged unjust imprisonment](#).

Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi's arbitrary detention came after he made comments critical of the Emirati, Saudi Arabian, and Egyptian authorities, which is protected under the right to freedom of expression. Under international law and standards, freedom of expression applies to all kind of ideas, and speech can only legitimately be restricted under international law if it violates the rights of others, or, advocates hatred and incites discrimination or violence. Forcibly extraditing him to a country where he is likely to face persecution is a flagrant breach of the principle of non-refoulement, which under international human rights law guarantees that no one is to be returned to a country where he or she would face torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, or punishment and other irreparable harm. On January 8, 2025, several UN Special Rapporteurs issued a [press release](#) urging the Lebanese authorities not to extradite him "to a country where there are substantial grounds to believe that he would be in danger of torture, enforced disappearance or other grave human rights violations".

Since 2011, scores of people in the UAE have been detained in relation to the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. In 2012, after a grossly unfair [mass trial](#) of 94 defendants, known as the UAE94, 69 people were convicted and sentenced to between seven and 15 year prison terms, scores of them for their demands for reform and democracy. Fifty-nine [of those imprisoned in the case](#) remain arbitrarily detained after completing their sentences.

On May 17, 2023, Turkish-Emirati citizen [Khalaf al-Rumaithi](#), was forcibly deported to the UAE from Jordan. He was one of the UAE 94 sentenced to 15 years in prison in his absence and had been living exile in Türkiye for the past decade but had flown to Jordan on May 7, 2023 in search of an Arabic school for his children. The state-owned Emirates News Agency, announcing his deportation from Jordan and arrest in the UAE, said that he will face a retrial on the charge of affiliation with an organization "[that aims to oppose the foundational principles of the UAE government](#)".

The UAE has yet to ratify key human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Nonetheless, many of the provisions of the two covenants are drawn from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which have over time become part of customary international law and are therefore binding to all states.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Arabic, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 7, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi (he/him).