



Factsheet: UAE's Munasaha Centres

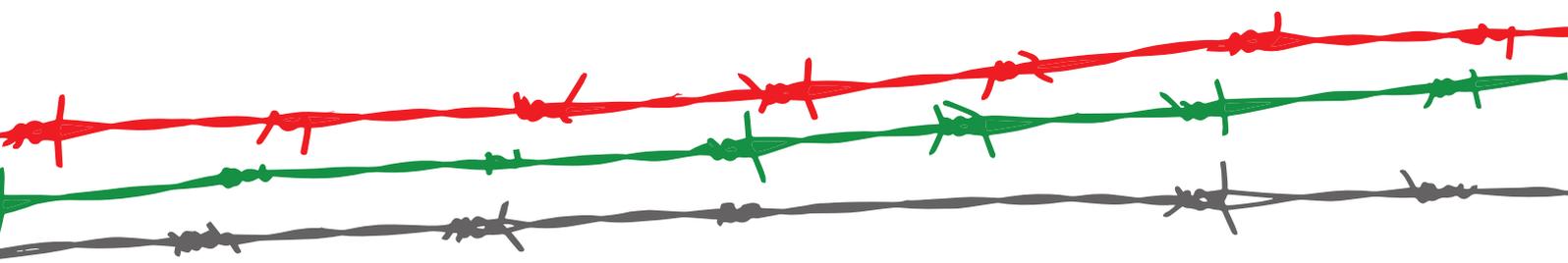
A number of political prisoners in the UAE are indefinitely detained in Munasaha centres, also known as 'counselling' centres. Jailed in direct reprisal of their peaceful activism and expression of political opinion these individuals have served their full original sentences.

The practice of extending prisoners' sentences through the arbitrary detention in Munasaha centres sheds light on the UAE's efforts to further silence those originally convicted for peacefully expressing their political opinion.

What are Munasaha centres?

- Munasaha centres, also known as counselling centres are supposedly meant to offer 'enlightenment and reform' to those who have been imprisoned on charges related to terrorist acts or those the UAE government regard as a 'terrorist threat'.
- Located within the premises of prisons, there is no evidence how these counselling centres' facilities differ from regular prisons.
- Individuals being held in Munasaha centres therefore receive the same treatment as those who are detained in the main ward, including poor detention conditions and inadequate medical care. Individuals are also often denied family visits and calls.





What are Munasaha centres used for?

- Currently 9 individuals are being held indefinitely in the UAE, 11 of which are detained in Munasaha centres.
- Upon the completion of their initial sentences, individuals are placed in Munasaha centres either through court order or through an administrative decision.
- The Abu Dhabi Federal Appeals Court usually issues a ruling to place an individual in a counselling centre for six months, however, this can be extended indefinitely.
- Some individuals are not brought before a judge and their further detention is purely based on an administrative decision.
- Those who are brought before the court are denied access to lawyers, thus no legitimate defence is formed, the brief hearing takes place over the course of one day.

Legal background

- The policy of indefinite detainment in the UAE's Munasaha centres is based on Federal Law. (7) of 2014 on Combating Terrorism, Article 40.
- Munasaha centres have been effectively designed to extend sentences specifically for political prisoners, who are being framed as 'posing a terrorist threat'.
- The practice of indefinitely detaining political dissidents in Munasaha centres is a gross violation of domestic, regional and international human rights law .

