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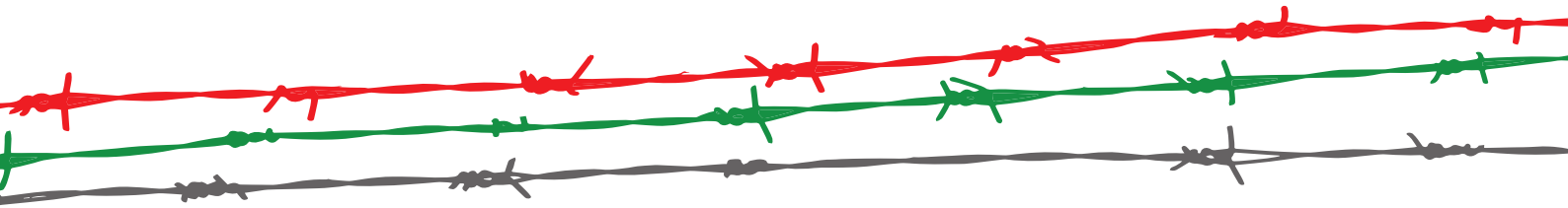
# FACTSHEET

## THE PRACTICE OF INDEFINITE DETENTION IN THE UAE

Emirati authorities consistently fail to release political prisoners past their release date. Since 2012, fourteen detainees (two of which are women) have been held indefinitely without due process in the UAE. Instead of being released upon completion of their sentence, prisoners are transferred without legal basis to so-called “Munasaha centres”, or “counselling centres”, inside prison facilities.

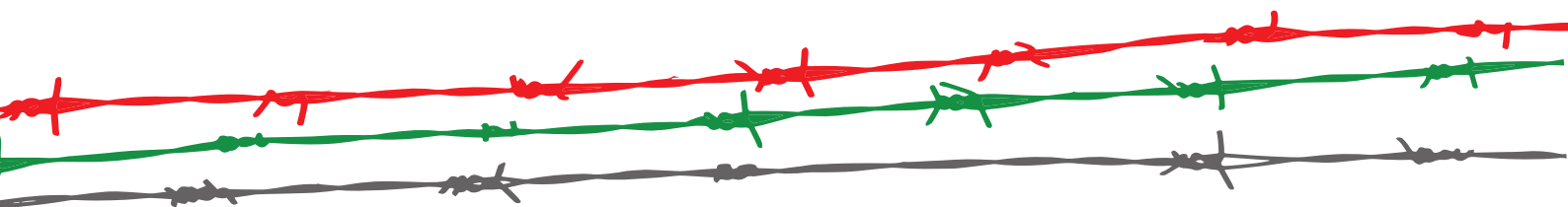
Officially used for “enlightenment and reform of persons deemed a terrorist threat”, these “counselling centres” are employed as a political tool to silence dissent, under the pretext that political prisoners pose a “threat” to the state and society. Those who have been transferred to such centres have not been charged with any offence, therefore they are not able to appeal a judicial verdict. This practice allows the government to hold prisoners indefinitely without due process in order to repress human rights activists’ freedom of speech.

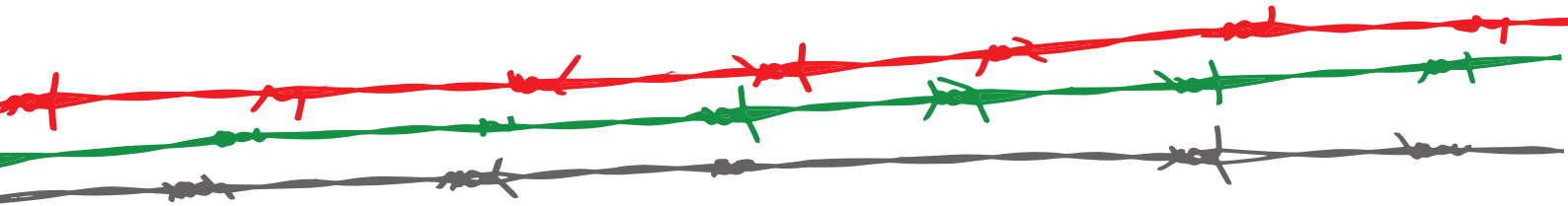




## **Indefinite detention of political activists - Facts and figures:**

- As of April 2021, nine prisoners of conscience who have completed their sentences continue to be detained without due process.
- The two women indefinitely detained are being held at al-Wathba prison, Abu Dhabi, the same detention facility where they carried out their initial sentences. However, all seven indefinitely detained men have been transferred to Munasaha centres within their prisons
- In August 2019, three detainees, Osama Al Najjar, Badr Al Buhairi and Othman Al Shehhi, were released. Their initial sentences expired in March 2017 and July 2018 respectively.
- In April 2021, four detainees were released as part of the annual pardon of prisoners' tradition of Ramadan. Ahmed al-Mulla and Faisal al-Shehhi were due for release in April and May 2017 respectively. Mansoor al-Ahmadi was due for release in October 2019 and Saeed al-Buraimi was due for release in March 2018.
- The UAE's use of indefinite detention has been condemned internationally by human rights groups, who have increasingly put pressure on the Emirati government to end such practices.





## Violations of human rights:



- The continued detention of political activists beyond their original sentence breaches both international human rights norms as well as the UAE's own laws regarding fair trials and due process.



- The UAE fails to clarify why prisoners are being held beyond their original sentence and whether they are charged with an offence.



- UAE counterterrorism law sets no time limit for indefinite detention and fails to define the term "terrorist threat" clearly.



- The UAE continues to fail to enforce its constitutional responsibility to provide prisoners indefinitely detained with the right to a fair trial and to provide access to legal counsel prior to being transferred to a Munasaha centre.



- Most political prisoners are being detained in one of the world's most repressive prisons, Al Razeen in the Abu Dhabi desert, which consistently violates the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.



- Prisoners held in Al Razeen have consistently reported inhumane living conditions as well as the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment by prison warders.



Name	Status of prisoner	Sentence	Duration of sentence	Date of actual release
Osama al-Najjar	Arbitrary detention	17/03/14 - 17/03/17	3 years	08/08/19
Othman al-Shehhi	Arbitrary detention	24/07/13 - 24/07/18	5 years	08/08/19
Badral-Buhairi	Arbitrary detention	22/04/14 - 22/04/17	3 years	08/08/19
Fisal al-Shehhi	Arbitrary detention	22/04/14 - 22/04/17	3 years	12/04/21
Mansoor al-Ahmadi	Prisoner of Conscience	12/10/12 - 12/10/19	7 years	12/04/21
Ahmed al-Mulla	Arbitrary detention	01/05/14 - 01/05/17	3 years	12/04/21
Saeed al-Buraimi	Arbitrary detention	26/03/13 - 26/03/18	5 years	12/04/21
Omran al-Radwan al-Harathi	Prisoner of Conscience	16/07/12 - 16/07/19	7 years	
Mahmoud Hasan al-Hosani	Prisoner of conscience	16/07/12 - 16/07/19	7 years	
Fahd Abdulqader al-Hajiri	Prisoner of conscience	02/03/13 - 02/03/20	7 years	
Abdullah Abdulqader al-Hajiri	Prisoner of conscience	16/07/12 - 16/07/19	7 years	
Khalifa al-Rabia	Arbitrary detention	23/07/13 - 23/07/18	5 years	
Abdullah Ibrahm al-Hilo	Arbitrary detention	22/04/14 - 22/04/17	3 years	
Abdullwahid Hasan al-Sihi	Arbitrary detention	26/03/13 - 26/03/18	5 years	
Amina Mohammed al-Abdouli	Arbitrary detention	19/11/2015 - 19/11/2020	5 years	
Maryam Suliman al-Balushi	Arbitrary detention	19/11/2015 - 19/11/2020	5 years	

