



Urgent Appeal from 40+ International
and Regional Organizations to

**End the Enforced Disappearance of
Poet Abdulrahman Yusuf Al-Qaradawi
and Call for His Release**

A photograph of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a blue suit and white shirt, looking through vertical black bars. A red banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

FREE ABDEL RAHMAN YOUSSEF

To:

Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi

Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

Excellency Abdullah bin Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi, Cabinet Member and Minister of Justice

We, the undersigned human rights organizations, express our deep concern regarding the enforced disappearance and the lack of information surrounding the due process, whereabouts, and well-being of Egyptian-Turkish poet and writer Abdulrahman Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, following his extradition from Lebanon to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on January 8, 2025. Since that date, his family and legal representatives have been unable to contact him, and no official statement has been issued regarding his detention status or legal situation.

Given the importance of upholding transparency and the rule of law, we respectfully seek clarification on Abdelrahman Yusuf Al-Qaradawi's whereabouts, legal status, and conditions of detention, in line with international human rights standards and the UAE's commitment to due process and fair trial guarantees.

Abdelrahman Yousuf Al-Qaradawi was detained in Lebanon on December 28, 2024, upon his return from Syria, following an extradition request reportedly issued by the UAE's Public Prosecutor via the Lebanese Embassy in Abu Dhabi. He was subsequently investigated by the Lebanese Public Prosecutor, and on January 8, 2025, the Lebanese Council of Ministers approved his extradition to the UAE, based on assurances from the UAE government to the Lebanese authorities that he would be treated in accordance with international standards and that his safety would be guaranteed.

Since his arrival in the UAE, his family and legal representatives have been unable to contact him or obtain any official information about his legal status. This has raised serious concerns about his well-being and access to fundamental legal safeguards, including regular communication with his family and legal counsel, disclosure of his whereabouts, and regular consular visits.

On January 8, 2025, several UN Special Rapporteurs and experts issued a press release urging the Lebanese authorities not to extradite Abdelrahman Yusuf Al-Qaradawi to the UAE, citing serious concerns for his safety. In their statement, the experts called on the Lebanese authorities to reconsider Mr. Al-Qaradawi's case and reject his extradition, in line with Lebanon's obligations under international law to prevent torture and enforced disappearance and to uphold the fundamental rights of all individuals on its territory.

The ongoing enforced disappearance of Mr. Al-Qaradawi and the lack of any information about his status, imprisonment condition, or access to legal representation* and communication with his family unfortunately confirms the concerns raised by these UN experts.

In light of the above, we urgently call upon UAE authorities to adhere to international standards through the following measures:

- Clarification regarding Abdelrahman Yusuf Al-Qaradawi's current legal status, whereabouts, and conditions of detention.
- Facilitation of communication between him, his family, and his legal representatives, in accordance with international human rights standards.
- Guarantees that he is afforded all legal safeguards, including access to due process and fair trial rights.
- Assurances regarding his physical and psychological well-being including allowing consular visits from the Turkish embassy.
- Release of Mr. Al-Qaradawi and his safe return to Turkey, where he resides and holds citizenship.

Signatory Organizations:

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| 1-Egyptian Human Rights Forum (EHRF) | 25-Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP) |
| 2-Egyptian Front for Human Rights (EFHR) | 26-Emirates Detainees Advocacy Center – EDAC |
| 3-Sinai Foundation for Human Rights | 27-Najda for Human Rights |
| 4-Al-Nadeem Center | 28-International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) |
| 5-HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement | 29-EuroMed Rights |
| 6-Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights | 30-SMEX |
| 7-Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms | 31-People In Need |
| 8-Association of Freedom of Thought and Expression | 32-MENA Rights Group |
| 9-Refugee Platform in Egypt | 33-Hurriyat Center for Political and Strategic Studies |
| 10-Union for Democracy Organization | 34-EFDA International for Human Rights |
| 11-Diwan Democratic Foundation | 35-Haqqhom for the Defense of Prisoners of Conscience in Egypt |
| 12-Arab Center for Law and Society Studies | 36-Palestinian Lawyers Association |
| 13-Andalus Institute for Tolerance Studies and Anti-Violence | 37-Arab Foundation for Supporting Civil Society and Human Right |
| 14-Egypt Wide for Human Rights | 38-Human Rights Monitor |
| 15-Center for the Advocacy of UAE Prisoners | 39-Egyptian coordination for freedoms and rights |
| 16-FairSquare | 40-Cedar Centre for human rights |
| 17-Revolutionary socialists movement | 41-ALQST for Human Rights |
| 18-Law and Democracy Support Foundation | 42-PEN America |
| 19-Lebanese Center for Human Rights | 43-REDWORD for Human Rights & Freedom of Expression |
| 20-Human Rights Watch | 44-THE SOLICITORS' INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP |
| 21-Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC) | 45- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) |
| 22-Gulf Centre Human Rights (GCHR) | 46- Access Centre for Human Rights |
| 23-The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP) | |
| 24-Legal Agenda | |