



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

UPR United Arab Emirates

Mr. President,

ICSFT is deeply concerned by the numerous cases of human rights violations which continue to be carried out by the United Arab Emirates both nationally and internationally.

The Saudi-led coalition war in Yemen has officially entered its fourth year and so far has been met by a deafening silence of the international community. In this environment of total impunity, the UAE, as the main ally to this coalition, continues carrying out a devastating air bombardment campaign in Yemen amounting to war crimes. Indiscriminate airstrike attacks against civilian infrastructure including medical facilities and schools are a clear violation of the laws and customs of war.

Ongoing attacks on Hodeida, the main port of the country – and main humanitarian lifeline for more than 22 million Yemenis who depend on international humanitarian aid to survive – and the worldwide-spread news of sexual and other forms of torture at UAE-controlled prisons in Yemen are some of the most recent and serious violations committed by the United Arab Emirates outside its borders.

Internally the human rights record is not any better either. We continue to see images of human rights defenders persecuted and arrested for peacefully expressing their ideas. Civil society as a whole continues to face pressure through repressive laws, arbitrary detentions, travel bans and digital intimidation. Those who dare to merely exercise their right to freedom of speech face decades of imprisonment and fines of millions of

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dirhams. This was the case of Ahmed Mansoor, accused of criticizing the government over social media posts.

We call on this Council to openly condemn these violations based solely on human rights standards and not divisive politics.

We urge the UAE to end the crackdown against all human rights defenders, immediately and unconditionally releasing those arrested for exercising their right to freedom of expression, as well as ending the war crimes in Yemen.

Thank you Mr. President