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Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan  
President of the United Arab Emirates

**Twitter/X: @MohamedBinZayed  
Instagram:** [**https://www.instagram.com/mohamedbinzayed/**](https://www.instagram.com/mohamedbinzayed/)

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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 28 December 2024 upon his return from a visit to Syria following the ousting of former Syrian president Bachar Al Assad**. 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.

Following his arrest, he was interrogated on 30 December by Lebanese security forces in relation to a 2017 verdict issued in his absence by an Egyptian court as well as about the Emirati authorities’ arrest request. According to his lawyer in Lebanon, who reviewed the Emirati request but was not permitted to obtain a copy, on 2 January 2025, the UAE requested Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi’s extradition on charges of «spreading fake news and rumours, disturbing public security, and spreading information that seeks to disturb public order» based on a social media video he filmed while in Syria. On 7 January 2025, the Lebanese authorities approved the extradition of Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi to the UAE, citing the Lebanese Penal Code and the principle of reciprocity as legal grounds. On 8 January, he was flown 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. On 9 January 2025, the state-owned Emirates News Agency confirmed that Emirati authorities took Abdul Rahman Al-Qaradawi into custody, and that he «faces charges of engaging in activities that aim to stir and undermine public security». 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 and 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,

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**Copie**

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