

<b>"Free the UAE 5 Campaign"<sup>i</sup> Case Timeline and History (as of 31 October 2011)</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Links</b>
<b>2010</b>		
February 2010	UAE authorities block UAE Hewan website, preventing anyone in the UAE from accessing the website.  (Other sites are subsequently blocked, including Hetta ( <a href="http://www.hetta.com/">http://www.hetta.com/</a> ) in January and July.)	<a href="http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2010/02/25/uae_hewan_blocked">http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2010/02/25/uae_hewan_blocked</a>  <a href="http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2010/07/05/hetta_blocked/">http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2010/07/05/hetta_blocked/</a>
June – September 2010	Four of the five defendants in the UAE 5 case allegedly make the statements on UAE Hewan related to charges in the case.	
December 2010	Tunisian protests inspire the “Arab Spring” to begin. (President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia flees on 14 February after growing demonstrations against him.)	
<b>2011</b>		
February 4, 2011	In a separate case, UAE activist Mohammed Hassan Al Hammadi is arrested after delivering a speech in support of the demonstrators in Egypt, and charged with “Disturbing Public Security”	<a href="http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/02/10/clerk_detained/">http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/02/10/clerk_detained/</a>  <a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/uae-urged-disclose-whereabouts-detained-man-2011-02-09">http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/uae-urged-disclose-whereabouts-detained-man-2011-02-09</a>
February 14, 2011	Symbolic date of the Bahrain revolution, the biggest “Arab Spring” movement in the Gulf (President Hosni Mubarak steps down on 11 Feb.)	<a href="http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2011/02/16/egypt_like_protests_suppressed">http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2011/02/16/egypt_like_protests_suppressed</a> <a href="http://www.opendemocracy.net/kristian-coates-ulrichsen/gulf-states-studious-silence-falls-on-arab-spring">http://www.opendemocracy.net/kristian-coates-ulrichsen/gulf-states-studious-silence-falls-on-arab-spring</a>
March 9, 2011	Ahmed Mansour signs a petition, signed by 133 people, calling for universal electoral participation in electing the Federal National Council and to give the body legislative powers.	<a href="http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704132204576190012553500944.html">http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704132204576190012553500944.html</a>
April 1, 2011	Dr. Nassir bin Ghaith, political and legal scholar, publishes (a week before his arrest) an article analysing the effect of Arab Spring on GCC in general and UAE in particular.	<a href="http://www.darussalam.ae/content.asp?contentid=1813">http://www.darussalam.ae/content.asp?contentid=1813</a>
April 6, 2011	Four civil society associations sent UAE authorities a petition calling for political reforms.	<a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/uae-targets-activists-clampdown-widens-2011-04-28">http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/uae-targets-activists-clampdown-widens-2011-04-28</a>
April 8, 2011	Ahmed Mansour, Fahad Salim Dalak, and Ahmed Abdul Khaleq are arrested by UAE State Security authorities. They detain them in a secret State Security prison.	<a href="http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/04/09/uae-government-detains-human-rights-defender">http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/04/09/uae-government-detains-human-rights-defender</a> <a href="http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/04/14/activists_arrested">http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/04/14/activists_arrested</a> Ahmed Mansour’s blog: <a href="http://emarati.katib.org/">http://emarati.katib.org/</a>
April 9, 2011	Dr. Nasser bin Ghaith, political and legal scholar and regular	

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	commentator on UAE politics, is arrested by UAE State Security authorities. They detain him in a secret State Security prison.	
April 10, 2011	Fahad Salem al-Shehhi, head of al-Shohoh National Heritage Association, one of the three other organizations that signed the call for greater democracy, was detained on 10 April in Ajman Emirate but is reported to have been released seven days later. He too is associated with the Hewan online political forum which is blocked by the UAE authorities.	<a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/uae-targets-activists-clampdown-widens-2011-04-28">http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/uae-targets-activists-clampdown-widens-2011-04-28</a>
April 13, 2011	Hassan Ali Khamis is arrested by State Security authorities. Authorities had previously arrested his brother by mistake on April 8, but subsequently released the brother and arrested Hassan. They detain him in a secret State Security prison.	<a href="http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/06/09/mansour_detention_extended/">http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/06/09/mansour_detention_extended/</a> <a href="http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/04/29/imprisoned_pending_in_vestigation/">http://ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/04/29/imprisoned_pending_in_vestigation/</a>
Approximately April, 2011	Ahmed Mansour is transferred from the secret prison to the federal Al Wathba prison in Abu Dhabi.	<a href="http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/04/25/uae-activists-arrested-opposing-government">http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/04/25/uae-activists-arrested-opposing-government</a> <a href="http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/04/27/activists_arrested">http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/04/27/activists_arrested</a>
April 21, 2011	In response to their petition, UAE authorities dissolved the elected Board of the Jurist Association, one of the country's few non-governmental organizations, and reconstituted it with state-appointedees, citing a law that prevents nongovernmental organizations from engaging in politics.	<a href="http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/04/22/uae-government-dissolves-rights-group-s-board">http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/04/22/uae-government-dissolves-rights-group-s-board</a>
May 2, 2011	In response to its call for greater democracy, UAE authorities dissolved the elected Board of the Teachers' Association and reconstituted it with members of the government, citing a law that prevents non-governmental organizations from engaging in politics.	<a href="http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/05/03/uae-civil-society-crackdown-widens">http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/05/03/uae-civil-society-crackdown-widens</a> <a href="http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/node/14884">http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/node/14884</a>
June 1, 2011	The five men are finally charged. All five are charged with the crime of "publicly insulting" government officials under Penal Code article 176, and Ahmed Mansour is also charged with three other vague violations of "inciting to law breaking," "call to demonstrate," and "call to boycott elections of the Federal National Council."	<a href="http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/06/15/activists_charged/">http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/06/15/activists_charged/</a>

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June 14, 2011	First secret hearing in the trial of the UAE 5.	<a href="http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/06/15/uae-end-trial-democracy-petitioners">http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/06/15/uae-end-trial-democracy-petitioners</a>  <a href="http://www.anhri.net/en/?p=2694">http://www.anhri.net/en/?p=2694</a>  <a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/uae-end-trial-activists-charged-insulting-officials-2011-07-17">http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/uae-end-trial-activists-charged-insulting-officials-2011-07-17</a> (with video of Drewery Dyke, Amnesty International)
July 18, 2011	Second secret hearing in the trial of the UAE 5.	<a href="http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/07/17/drop_charges/">http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/07/17/drop_charges/</a>
July 25, 2011	Third secret hearing in the trial of the UAE 5.	
August 31, 2011	Four of the five defendants leak a statement from Al Wathba prison listing numerous irregularities and due process violations in their trial and stating that they believe they will not receive a fair trial.	<a href="http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/09/22/uae-free-activists-elections">http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/09/22/uae-free-activists-elections</a>
September 26, 2011	Fourth secret hearing. Four of five defendants walk out of the courtroom after the court refuses to address their demands for a fair trial. Three state security computer forensic technicians testify for the prosecution. The Court tells private lawyers attempting to intervene in the case with civil claims against the defendants that they do not have standing and cannot intervene.	<a href="http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/09/21/free_activists/">http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/09/21/free_activists/</a>
October 1, 2011	Statement released from detainee Dr. Nasir Bin Ghayth	<a href="http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/10/01/statement-emirati-detainee-dr-nasir-bin-ghayth">http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/10/01/statement-emirati-detainee-dr-nasir-bin-ghayth</a>
October 2, 2011	Fifth hearing, now public. Court allows access by media and rights groups for the first time. Defendants boycott their trial and do not appear in court, protesting an unfair trial. A senior official from the telecommunications agency testifies for the prosecution. The Court allows three private lawyers claiming to have civil claims against the defendants intervene in the proceedings and make statements, despite having ruled previously that such intervention was impermissible.	<a href="http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/10/02/unfair_trial">http://www.ifex.org/united_arab_emirates/2011/10/02/unfair_trial</a>
October 9, 2011	Sixth (now public) hearing. Defense presented one witness, by permission of the Court. Witness Ahmed bin Gharib, editor in	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/09/world/meast/uae-activists-trial/">http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/09/world/meast/uae-activists-trial/</a>

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	chief of Hetta online magazine, who testified that UAE Hewart website was blocked since early February 2010. The Court allows the private attorneys to make lengthy statements (mostly praising the country and its benefits.)	
October 9, 2011	Families of 5 detainees issue public statement calling for their release	<a href="http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/10/09/uae-call-help">http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/10/09/uae-call-help</a>
October 23, 2011	Seventh (now public) hearing in the case where defense called two witnesses that established that Nasser bin Ghaith was in Abu Dhabi at the time he allegedly posted the article to UAE Hewart (effectively an alibi). This is significant because the prosecution has tied the article's posting to a specific IP address connected to a computer at bin Ghaith's house in Dubai. Lawyers make closing statements and judge announces verdict will be issued in a month.	<a href="http://arabnews.com/middleeast/article523109.ece">http://arabnews.com/middleeast/article523109.ece</a>
October 30- November 4, 2011	International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference in Dubai	<a href="http://www.int-bar.org/conferences/Dubai2011/index.cfm">http://www.int-bar.org/conferences/Dubai2011/index.cfm</a>
November 27, 2011	Verdict to be announced.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/272163226137806/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/272163226137806/</a> (Gulf Centre for Human Rights Facebook)

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<sup>i</sup> Note: The "Free the UAE 5 Campaign" coalition is composed of seven NGOs - Al Karama (Dignity), Amnesty International, the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI), Front Line Defenders, the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), Human Rights Watch and Index on Censorship. It is supported by the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX).