

### **Item 3- General Debate**

#### **UAE Arbitrary Detentions and Secret Prisons in Yemen**



**Mr. President,**

Arbitrary detention is prohibited in Article 9 of the UN Charter and contradicts the “Human Rights Standards in Arrest and Detention.” Arbitrary detention and creation of secret prisons run by the UAE in southern Yemen is one of the gravest concerns of international organizations and NGOs. The UAE funds, trains and directs proxy forces which have arbitrarily detained, disappeared and brutally mistreated men and boys in Yemen. They run prisons where many have been disappeared and reported horrific abuse.

The Saudi led coalition and UAE have set up prisons, similar to Abu-Ghraib and Guantanamo in Yemeni cities of Aden, Al-Makla and Seghtari to torture detainees. The detention centers are not accessible by international organizations and journalists. Only in the town of al-Makla, approximately 400 people have disappeared following their arrest and in Aden, approximately 1500 have been detained. Yemeni activists also revealed a new secret prison run by the Emirates forces in the coastal districts of Taiz province.

In the last couple of months, the families of the detainees have held several demonstrations in Yemen. They appealed the Saudi Coalition, public opinion, international human rights and humanitarian organizations to “save the lives” of the hunger strikers in Bir Ahmed prison.

**Mr. President,**

ODVV invites the Coalition to respect the international human rights and humanitarian law.

ODVV urges the Human Rights Council to mandate an urgent investigation on the issue of secret prisons in Yemen held by UAE.