



Item 6: UPR of the United Arab Emirates

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Mr. President,

Regarding the United Arab Emirates UPR we have great concerns. In the Emirates, human rights defenders and political critics¹ face arbitrary arrests, mistreatment, torture, unfair trials, heavy prison sentences, or a revoke of their citizenship. Prominent activists and international award winners are considered as criminals for exercising their right to freedom of expression.²

Dozens of the activists, including prominent human rights defenders, judges, academics, and student leaders, who had peacefully called for greater rights and freedoms, got arrested in UAE.³

The government is under scrutiny for torture and has not responded to the requests of the UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on Torture in UAE prisons.⁴

According to the reports, the UAE also runs a network of secret detention facilities in Yemen where there are widespread allegations of mistreatment and torture of the detainees.⁵

Emirate's kafala custom creates a form of slavery for migrant workers especially women who are subject to sever forms of abuse by their employers and the discriminatory criminal courts.⁶

Mr. President,

WE call on UAE to:

- Implement recommendations by UN human rights experts and end its continuing use of harassment, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment, and unfair trials against activists, human rights defenders, their families and those critical of the authorities.
- Make amendments to the labor law to protect all migrant workers and their families.

We call on the HRC to launch an independent probe into the UAE secret detention facilities in Yemen.

¹ <http://www.gc4hr.org/news/view/1193>

² previous source

³ They include prominent lawyers Dr. Al-Roken and Dr. Al-Mansoori, Judge Al-Abdouli, student leader Al-Hajri, blogger Al-Nuaimi, teacher Al-Dhufairi, and member of ruling family Dr. Sultan Kayed Mohammed Al-Qassimi

⁴ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Torture/SRTorture/Pages/SRTortureIndex.aspx>. At the Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment published on 27 February-24 March 2017 'The Special Rapporteur regretted that the Government of UAE did not, in its reply, outline any measures taken to protect the physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Ghaith. Hence, the Special Rapporteur found that the Government did not sufficiently address the concerns, legal obligations, and questions raised in the initial communication, prompting him to infer that the Government failed to fully and expeditiously cooperate with the mandate issued by the Human Rights Council in its resolution.

⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/reports-allege-torture-in-secret-prisons-run-by-united-arab-emirates-andallies-in-war-torn-yemen/2017/06/22/434244f8-5752-11e7-9e18-968f6ad1e1d3_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.fe5c1c734024

⁶ <http://hrbrief.org/2016/11/culture-slavery-domestic-workers-united-arab-emirates/>