



Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK
المنظمة العربية لحقوق الانسان في بريطانيا

November
2014
London



Forced Disappearance
and Torture
in the United Arab Emirates



Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK

PO BOX 68981 LONDON NW26 9FY

Email: info@aohr.org.uk Web: www.aohr.org.uk

About AOHR-UK

*Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK is
an independent human rights outfit based in London.
It campaigns for human rights and freedom in the
Middle East and North Africa.*

CONTENTS

1.	<i>Clamping Down on UAE Citizens</i>	13
2.	<i>Methods of Torture</i>	25
3.	<i>The Case of Egyptian Nationals</i>	27
4.	<i>The Case of the Qatari Citizens</i>	43
5.	<i>The Case of the Libyan Nationals</i>	49
6.	<i>Conclusions and Recommendations</i>	53



Introduction


The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was established in 1971 from the union between 7 emirates. The constitution stipulates that the UAE is a federation, without providing for a specific form of government. The ruling families of Dubai and Abu Dhabi almost exclusively share control of the small Gulf state with the richest emirate Abu Dhabi as the centre of political power. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, the population of the UAE was estimated to be around 9.3 million in 2013, of those only 950,000 are Emiratis.

Introduction



Despite all the economic and social advances, the break from most customs and traditions, and the modernisation witnessed in architecture, food and clothing, political life and human rights have lagged behind. The decision-making process has largely excluded the great majority of citizens and remains limited to the ruling elite who exercise total control over the country's wealth, judiciary and local and foreign policies.

The popular movements that swept through the Arab world in 2011 inspired a number of UAE citizens. They felt inspired in criticising the way their country was being governed and demanded political reform. These efforts on social media were met with harsh measures from the authorities. Many activists were arrested. They were put into trial for alleged-



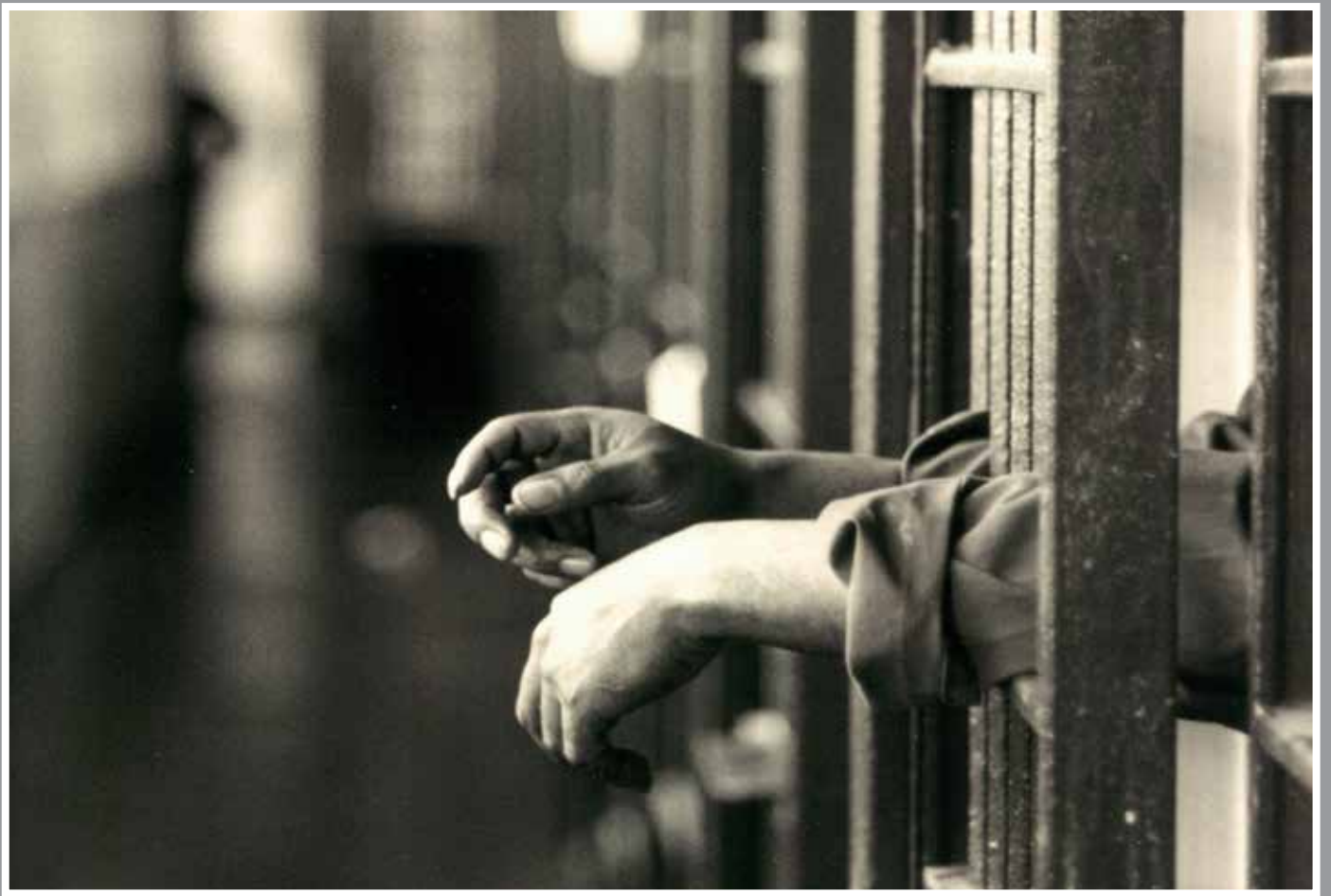
ly being a threat to national security. Some activists signed petition urging the government to reform the Federal National Council. The petition was presented to the president of the country on the 3rd of March 2011. UAE authorities responded by dissolving the institutions managed by some of the signatories and stripped seven of them of their citizenships. Authorities also arrested many others and charged them with belonging to a 'terrorist organisation'.

Repressive measures were also used against to non-Emiratis who had been living in the country for years. Foreign nationals, citizens of neighbouring countries which experienced dramatic overthrow of their regime were also arrested even if they were only in the Emirates for a few hours on transit to other countries. These actions reflected an alarming level

of hostility against pro democracy activists and the level of fear and panic felt by the UAE.

In addition to cracking down on freedoms of expression, imposing greater restrictions on social media, revoking citizenships, arrests and deportations, the UAE security apparatuses committed other crimes against detainees such as forceful disappearances and torture as will become evident in the course of this report.





Clamping Down on UAE Citizens

The UAE authorities have been clamping down heavily on their own citizens. Below are the prominent civil society institutions and organisation that have faced severe repression.

1. Clamping Down on UAE Citizens




1.1 *Al-Islah Movement:*

The UAE president responded to a petition demanding political reforms by issuing a decision in December 2011 by revoking the citizenship of six UAE nationals. AL-Emarat Al-Youm newspaper published the following on its official website on the 23rd December 2011,“ A source at the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs announced that the UAE president His Highness Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, issued a presidential decree on the 4th of December 2011 revoking the citizenship of the following:

- a. Hussein Munif Abdullah Hassan Al Jabri (granted UAE nationality on 24/05/1976).
- b. Hassan Munif Abdullah Hassan Al Jabri (granted UAE nationality on 24/05/1976).
- c. Ibrahim Hassan Ali Hassan Al Marzouqi (granted UAE nationality on 11/03/1979).

1.1 *Al-Islah Movement:*

- 
- d. Shaheen Abdullah Malallah Haider Al Hosani (granted UAE nationality on 18/11/1976).
 - e. Ali Hussein Ahmed Ali Al Hammadi (granted UAE nationality on 03/06/1986).
 - f. Mohammed Abdul Raziq Mohammed Al Sidiq Al Abeidli (granted UAE nationality on 19/07/1976).

In addition Ahmed Ghaith Al-Swedi had his citizenship revoked in April 2011 for the same reasons.

The Immigration authorities summoned those who had their citizenship revoked on Monday the 9th of April 2012 and ordered them to sign a statement pledging they would seek another nationality but the six men refused to sign it and insisted on holding on to their UAE nationality. The six men and Ahmed Ghaith Al-Sweidi were subsequently arrested and held at Al-Shahama prison in Abu Dhabi.

1.2 *Dissolving Civil Society Establishments*

In April and May 2011, UAE authorities dissolved the board of directors of a number of civil society institutions including the Teachers Association, Jurists Association, Al-Islah Association, and Al-Irshad Association. New boards of directors were appointed by the government. Authorities accused these associations of breaking federal law by signing a petition calling for universal suffrage. Authorities also closed the Centre for Creative Thinking, which was headed by Ali Hussein Al-Hamadi after he had his citizenship revoked. The UAE subsequently drafted very stringent laws for granting licenses for research and training centers following the revolutions that swept through the Arab world.

1.2 *Dissolving Civil Society Establishments*

1.3 Mass arrests:

1.3 Mass arrests:

Many activists from Al-Islah Association were arrested during raids on their homes and places of work. Some were abducted from the streets without judicial oversight. The number of those arrested is estimated to be around 94, including 13 women. No one knew where the detainees were being held, as they were not allowed to seek legal representation or meet family members. State-owned media and influential figures in government launched a fierce campaign against the detainees without giving any opportunity to defend themselves. On the 20th of September 2012, Reuters quoted UAE media outlets as claiming that detained Islamists have confessed to establishing a secret organization with a military wing to overthrow the government and establish an Islamic state.

The charge of establishing an armed organization was dropped during the first court hearing. The charges that remained pertained to social and religious activities the defendants had engaged in for decades. Some had already been questioned in the past, arrested


or banned from travelling. Some had lost their jobs but with the advent of the Arab Spring, what used to be considered innocuous activities were vilified by the state, which perceived them as a secret movement established in 2010 to overthrow the regime despite the fact that Al-Islah Association was established in 1974¹.

1.4 *Trials:*

A number of detainees have been in jail for a year, others for a few months but in all instances they have been cut off from the rest of the world and have no idea where they are being held. They are kept in solitary confinement and subjected to various forms of physical and psychological abuse. They were banned from meeting with their lawyers or family members. On the 4th of March 2013 the detainees were allowed to see each other for the first time during the trial.

1.4 *Trials:*

1. Court documents from file no. 17/2010/State Security.



Ninty-four UAE nationals, including 13 women, appeared before the Federal Supreme Court charged with forming a secret organization and conspiring with foreign powers to overthrow the government. The defendants are aged between 21 and 65, most are married with children and had previously occupied prominent positions in the public and private sectors Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Quwain, Fujairah, and Ras al-Khamiah.

The panel of judges included Falah Al-Hajiri, Mohammed Ahmed Abdulqadir and Abdulrasool Tantawi. The court's decision is final and not subject to appeal before any other court. The hearings concluded on the 21st of May 2013 with ruling set for the 2nd of July 2013.

The court sessions, which ran from the 4th of March 2013 until the 21st of May 2013, saw the defendants file in blindfolded to appear before the judges. Thirteen sessions were held during that period each lasting between 5 to 7 hours. Although the defense teams were allocated time to defend their clients, it was never enough. The last three sessions were exclusively dedicated to hearing from the prosecutors. The defense teams requested more time to present

their defense especially since the prosecutors persistently failed to hand over documents related to the case to the lawyers on time. The judge ruled against the defense teams. During the hearings, many defendants were not given enough time to testify and every time anyone brought up the issue of torture they were subjected to, the defendant would be prevented from continuing with his testimony.

The most important component of defendants' testimonies was the torture they had been subjected to and under which they made false confessions to spare themselves from the physical abuse. These confessions form the basis of the charge, which alleged that the defendants had formed a secret organization to overthrow the government when in fact it was no more than a licensed public association that worked quite openly for decades.

The use of evidence or confessions obtained through torture in any legal proceedings is contrary to international and domestic laws. It is therefore incumbent upon any court to ensure that these confessions were not extracted under torture or the threat of torture by forming a special committee to investigate the defendants' claims

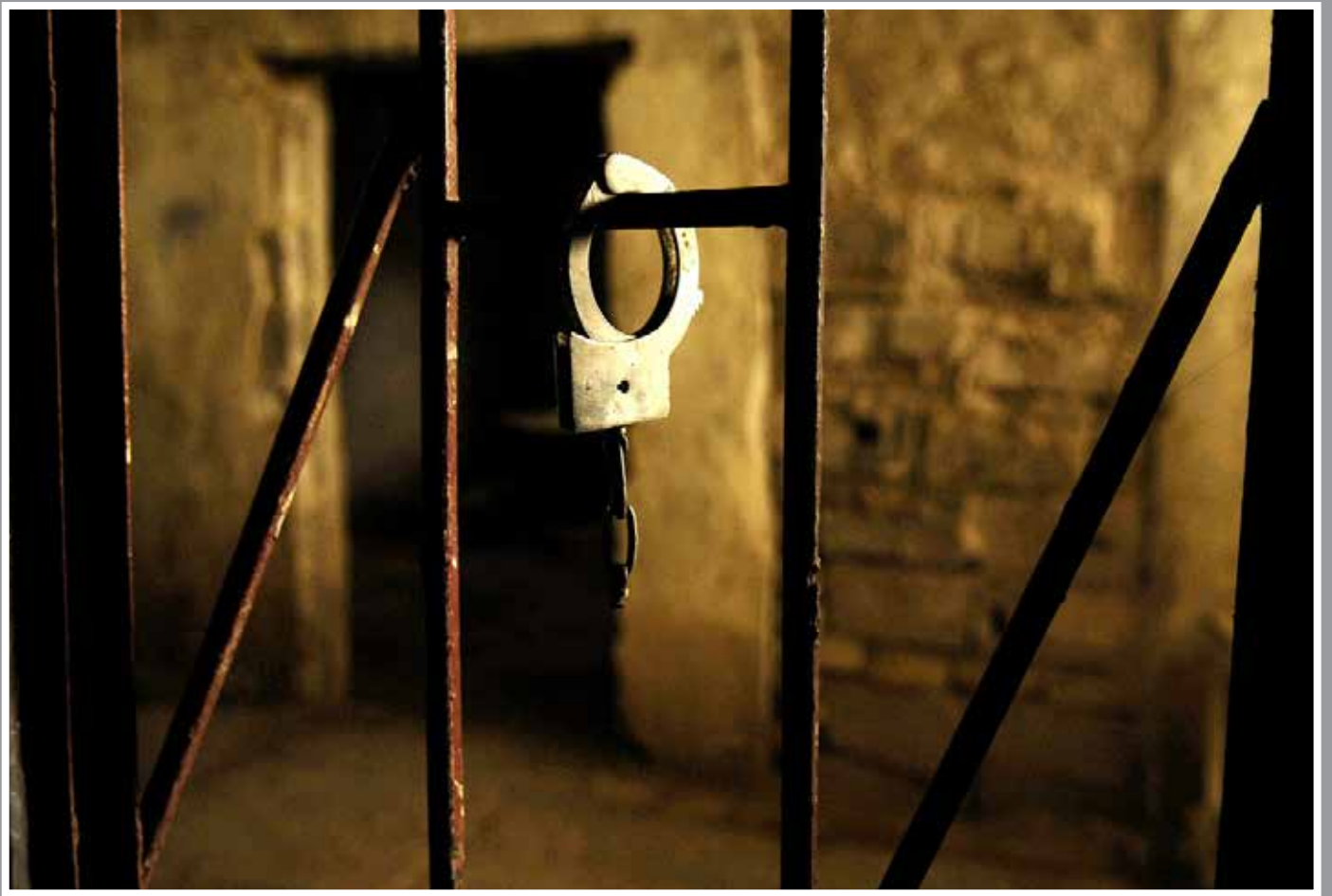
that they had been tortured, something the UAE courts have failed to do.

AOHR UK obtained testimonies from many defendants who testified that they had been tortured and abused in UAE detention centers. The abuse they had been subjected to amounts to torture as defined by the 1984 UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It stipulates that torture “means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.”

Despite all these breaches which should have resulted in the dismissal of all charges, the State Security Department at the Federal Supreme Court issued a decision on the 2nd of July 2014 convict-

ing 68 people of the charge of forming a secret organization and plotting to overthrow the government. The defendants were given jail sentences between 3 and 15 years in a case where the government convicted prominent figures who had served the country for decades, on bogus charges.





2. Methods of Torture:

According to testimonies seen by AOHR UK, several methods of torture are used against the Emirati detainees (torture methods varied between detainees):

1. Solitary confinement for weeks or months in very small cells (2m x 3m).
2. Exposure to blinding light round the clock.
3. Being forced to go to the public toilets blindfolded and naked except for a small towel around the waist.
4. Being placed in the same room with AC units emitting very rancid smells.

2. Methods of Torture:



5. Being interrogated while blindfolded.
6. Transferring detainees to courts or hospitals handcuffed and blindfolded.
7. Being placed in a coffin for hours.
8. Verbal abuse and death threats.
9. Severe beatings.
10. Denailing (one case).
11. Confiscating prescription glasses and wrist watches.
12. Threatening to electrocute prisoners and then forcing them to sit in an electric chair.
13. Denying detainees access to books, newspapers or writing paper.
14. Preventing detainees from performing religious rituals such as prayers and fasting or common prayers on Friday.
15. Preventing detainees from meeting with their lawyers and family members.
16. Denying detainees access to proper medical care.

3. The Case of Egyptian Nationals:

In the aftermath of the political changes that swept through Egypt following the 25 January 2011, UAE security apparatuses embarked on a fierce campaign of deportations. Many Egyptians and other foreign nationals who had spent years working the UAE were given only a few days to leave the country. Scores of Egyptians who had served the country were arrested. On the 21st of November 2012, security forces arrested 54-year old Saleh Faraj Daifallah who holds a PhD degree in Human Development and worked as director of Auditing Department at Dubai Islamic Bank. During the same month the following Egyptians were arrested:

3. The Case of Egyptian Nationals:



1. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Arabi (52), teacher of Islamic education at Al-Ahliyya Schools in Dubai and the Imam of the Airport Mosque.
2. Salah Rizq Al-Mashad (57), electromechanic engineer at Dubai Municipality.
3. Mohammed Hmoud Shahda (47), psychiatrist at Rashed Hospital since 2004.
4. Midhat Al-Ajiz (40), professor of chemistry at Ajman University since 2003.

More than 14 Egyptian were arrested, some had been working in the UAE for two decades. None of the detainees' families were notified of the arrests and whatever little information they later obtained was gleaned from friends and unverified reports from the Egyptian embassy in the UAE. In December 2012, families of detainees took part in a protest outside the UAE embassy in Cairo. During a second protest held on the 6th of January 2013 outside the Arab League headquarters, thugs attacked the families of the detainees.

On the 1st of January 2013, a local UAE newspaper announced the arrest of an Egyptian cell operating in the UAE. The paper alleged that it had information that the cell's activities posed a serious threat to UAE security. An official Egyptian delegation was dispatched by the Egyptian president to the UAE to investigate the matter but it failed to secure a meeting with the detainees or obtain any information about the charges.

Despite the gravity of the charges, UAE authorities refused to allow an Egyptian embassy representative to meet with the detainees or allow family members and legal counsels access to the case files.






3.1 *Personal Testimonies*

The wife of Saleh Faraj Daifallah, Mrs. Afaf Al-Najjar, said in a testimony:

“My husband was taken on the 21st of November 2012. A colleague of his, Dr. Mohammed Shahda, notified us of his arrest on the 25th of November 2012. Dr. Shahda told us that ten armed people in civilian clothes raided the apartment in the middle of the night, took my husband’s laptop and his mobile phones and arrested him. Dr. Shahda was suspicious of the way the arrest was conducted so he filed a complaint with the Dubai police department but they denied any knowledge of the incident. He also contacted the Egyptian embassy, which failed to obtain any useful information. Ten days later we learned from the Egyptian embassy in the UAE that my husband may have been taken by Abu Dhabi security services. On the 30th of November 2012, a security force arrested Dr. Shahda. We couldn’t visit my husband or ask a lawyer to go and see him because authorities prohibit retaining a lawyer before

3.1 *Personal Testimonies*



he is charged. We are very worried about his health condition because he suffers from thyroid problems and needs regular check-ups. My husband served the UAE for more than two decades. He also taught scores of courses at various police departments in the UAE. We were about to go back to Egypt when he was arrested. I had left with my children on the 23rd of August 2012 to enrol them in schools and universities in Egypt and settle there permanently. We have seven children who are very worried about their father. As a family, we have every right to know what has become of my husband following his arrest.”

In another testimony the son of Abdullah Za’za, Ahmed Za’za, said:

“On the 3rd of December 2012, the Department of Immigration sent my father a deportation order and gave him 15 days to leave the country. My father was still in the process of preparing his papers to leave the UAE when security officers dressed in civilian clothes raided my father’s clinic in Umm al-Quwain on the 11th of December 12 and arrested my father after searching the office and seizing some of his personal belongings. He was taken to an unknown location and we cannot see him because authorities

have refused to tell us where he is being held or what the charges against him are. He suffers from a herniated disc, hypertension and diabetes and requires medications. We are very worried about him and demand his immediate release.”

After 7 months of forceful disappearance, the public prosecutor Ahmed Rashed Al-Danhani announced on the 19th of June 2013 that 30 Egyptians and Emiratis have been referred to the State Security Department at the Federal Supreme Court. On the 21st of January 2014, the defendants were given jail sentences between 3 months and five years after a two-month trial during which they were not permitted legal representation. Of the 30, 13 were sentenced in absentia.

The case of Ahmed Mas’ad Al-Ma’adawi (born 01/09/1984):

Ahmed’s wife revealed to AOHR UK that she and her father, Abdurahim Mohammed Yusuf, had headed to Abu Dhabi airport on the 13th January 2014 to see off her husband who was travelling to Turkey. Ahmed checked in and queued to have his passport stamped. A few minutes later he called his wife and told her he had been denied a departure visa and that he had been detained by





airport authorities. The phone went dead as Ahmed was speaking to his wife and despite her attempts to call him several times, his mobile phone was switched off. She called airport security who told her he had left the country but Turkish Airlines told her he never boarded the flight to Istanbul that day. She went back the next day to enquire about her husband and a man from passport control told her that her husband had not been allowed to leave the country the day before because he was wanted by the authorities. She went to Abu Dhabi police who confirmed her husband was not allowed to leave the country because he was accused of breaching the conditions of his Kafala (sponsorship) by not leaving the country when his residency expired. His wife confirmed that his flight to Turkey was scheduled for two days before his residency was due to expire. Three days after his arrest, police forces came and searched Ahmed's father-in-law's house and brought Ahmed with them. The search lasted an hour without the police producing a search warrant. They took away his laptop and told them it would be released in two days. On the 13th of February, security forces searched the house again without a search warrant. This time they arrested the father-in-law without telling the family where they were taking him or why he was detained. The family attempted to

contact various judicial and security apparatuses but to no avail. They also wrote to the ministers of interior, defense and justice, and the public prosecutor but failed to obtain any information. ON the 3rd of June 2014, the father-in-law was released and deported. He told his family he had no idea where he was being held and had been held in solitary confinement somewhere in Abu Dhaib without being questioned or charged with any offenses. He was rarely allowed out of his cell and even when he was, he was always blindfolded.

On the 7th of August 2014, following 7 months of forceful disappearance, Ahmed was handed over to the Egyptian authorities who also forcefully disappeared him for 13 days. On the 20th of August, he was transferred to Al-Mansoorah 1st Precinct and the following day appeared before the public prosecutor accused of belonging to armed militias in Syria despite having never set foot in that country (file no. 16055/2014).



3.2 *Torture Against Egyptian Detainees*

The testimonies made by Egyptian detainees in the UAE revealed a systematic pattern of torture and abuse. Torture techniques included:

A. *Physical Torture*

1. Severe blows to the head.
2. Beatings with a heavy stick.
3. Hanging arms and legs with chains.
4. Beatings that targeted delicate parts of the body leading to bloody urine.
5. Forcing detainees to go on their hands and knees and beating them with a heavy stick.

3.2 *Torture Against Egyptian Detainees*



6. Kicking detainees with army boots.
7. Beating arms and legs with a heavy stick.
8. Punching and slapping the face.
9. Electrocutation.
10. Using laser to torture sensitive areas of the body
11. The use of electric chair.
12. Being forced to stand for hours on one leg while carrying a heavy chair.
13. Questioning detainees for very long periods of time (8-16 hours).
14. Questioning detainees at very late hours.
15. Maintaining very low temperatures in cells.
16. Exposing detainees to very strong currents form Air-conditioning units.
17. Preventing detainees from using toilets for long periods of time.
18. Questioning detainees while their arms and legs are in cuffs.

19. Forcing detainees to eat under blazing sunlight.
20. Placing detainees in cells that lack proper ventilation.
21. Holding detainees in solitary confinement for various periods of time at undisclosed locations.
22. Blindfolding and handcuffing detainees every time they leave their cells.
23. Forcing detainees to sleep on hard floors without mattresses or pillows.
24. The use of lie-detectors.
25. Questioning detainees while they are standing or sitting in very uncomfortable positions.
26. Sexual harassment.



B. *Psychological Torture*

1. Threatening detainees with charging them with breaching national security.
2. Threatening detainees with charging them with exchanging intelligence with an enemy state.
3. Threatening detainees with arresting their wives on bogus crimes involving moral turpitude.
4. Threatening to revoke children's school certificates.
5. Threatening to keep detainees in jail indefinitely.
6. Death threats.
7. Threatening to hand detainees over to Egyptian security forces for more torture.
8. Threatening to charge detainees with belonging to a Muslim Brotherhood Cell and accuse them of planning to blow up the US embassy.
9. Forcing detainees to go to the bathroom semi-naked.

10. Detainees don't know whether it is day or night.
11. Threatening to annually rape detainees with sticks and toys after applying lubricants to their anuses.
12. Threatening to hold detainees in torture chambers.
13. Passing on bad news about family members or their home countries.
14. Informing detainees they had been sentenced to 25 years.
15. Threatening to hold detainees in solitary confinement for the duration of their sentence.





4. The Case of the Qatari Citizens:

UAE security forces have a list of Gulf citizens wanted on various charges including some who are not allowed to enter the UAE. As a result of Qatar's support for the Arab Spring and for the peaceful political changes in some Arab countries, the UAE adopted a very hostile stand vis-à-vis Qatar to the extent of suspending diplomatic ties between the two countries. Several innocent Qataris found themselves paying the price for their country's political stand.

On the 26th of February 2013, UAE authorities arrested Dr. Mahmood Abdulrahman Al-Jida, 52, director of the medical services at Qatar Petroleum. Al-Jida, who is married with 8 children, was travelling from Thailand to Qatar through Dubai Airport.

4. The Case of the Qatari Citizens:



When he failed to arrive on his scheduled flight, his family contacted the Qatar government, which in turn got in touch with the UAE authorities who told the Qataris there was a problem with Al-Jida's passport that will be resolved soon.

Eleven days after he disappeared, Al-Jida called his family and told them he was being held by the Emirati authorities but could not provide more information because the phone call was being monitored by the security forces. The family later learned he was being held in Abu Dhabi at an unknown location.

Al-Jida was denied his legal and human rights when he was first arrested. Only two of his sons managed to see him for 10 minutes on the 2nd of April 2013 in the presence of two UAE security officers at Homeland Security. Al-Jida's sons said their father was clearly distressed. He told his sons he was abused and held in solitary confinement. It emerged later that interrogators threatened to remove his nails and hang him upside down. He was also brutally beaten up, subjected to sleep deprivation and exposed to blinding lights.

After almost 109 days, Al-Jida was allowed to meet with an Emi-

rati lawyer retained by the Qatari government. On the 17th of April 2013, his family succeeded in obtaining a permission to visit him. Al-Jida who appeared haggard and exhausted told his family he was forced to sign some papers and was being kept in solitary confinement in an unknown location. He was brought in to see his family while still wearing the blindfolds.

Al-Jida's trial commenced on the 4th of November 2013 after he was officially charged with belonging to an illegal organization. On the 2nd of March 2014, Al-Jida was sentenced to seven years in prison. His son, Abdulrahman, was arrested during one of the court sessions in December 2012.





4.1 *The Case of Yusuf and Hamad:*

The two Qatari nationals Yusuf Abdulsamad Abdughani Ali Al-Molla (born 1/1/1984) and Hamad Ali Mohammed Ali Al-Hamadi (born 9/5/1981) travelled by land from Doha to the UAE on Friday the 27th of June 2014. Security forces arrested them upon arrival at Al-Ghweifat even though they had visited the UAE several times before and had never committed any crime. Despite many attempts, their families failed in locating them or finding out why they were arrested so they filed a complaint with the Qatari ministry of foreign affairs which in turn exerted many efforts to locate the two Qatari men but to no avail.

Yusuf's family told AOHR UK that he was married and suffers from severe back pain due to several herniated discs. Hamad is married with one daughter and suffers from kidney stones.

Both families have been greatly distressed by the arrests and the possibility that Hamad and Yusuf may have been abused or tortured. Yusuf's mother suffers from diabetes and hypertension and her health deteriorated rapidly following news of his arrest.

4.1 *The Case of Yusuf and Hamad:*



5. The Case of the Libyan Nationals:

The UAE has been vocal about its hostility to revolutionary Libyans and its support for General Khalifa Haftar who has been leading military operations against revolutionaries in Benghazi and Tripoli. There have been reports of UAE military strikes against revolutionaries in Tripoli including air raids on the airport area on the 23rd of August 2014. When the air strikes failed to achieve their objectives, the UAE arrested many Libyan businessmen working in the Emirates.

5. The Case of the Libyan Nationals:



UAE state security forces arrested nine Libyans at their homes and hotels on August 31st and September 1st 2014 without producing any arrest warrants. Authorities have refused to reveal where they were being held nor did they allow their families or lawyers to visit them. The Libyans arrested are: Bashir Al-Shibah, Al-Ta-her Al-Qilfat, Kamal Al-Dirat, Hamad Kamal Al-Dirat, Mohamed Al-Faki, Mohammed Al-Aradi, Al-Siddiq Al-Kakkli, Mahmoud Ben Gharbiyya, and Salim Al-Aradi. Authorities also arrested Ri-fa't Hadaqa on the 6th of September 2014 without providing any reasons for his arrest or reveal where he was being held. Some of those arrested have been living in the UAE for two decades and had never been accused of any wrongdoing during that time.

Human Rights Watch has contacted family members of another 3 of the 10 Libyans reported to have disappeared, all from the business community. Although some feared angering authorities if they discussed the cases on the record, it appears that the families haven't heard from those men since they were detained in the last week of August.

The great concern for the wellbeing and fate of those forcefully disappeared in the UAE stems from evidence of torture at the hands of UAE security forces. The fact they had been arrested, taken to unknown locations and denied access to their family or lawyers in addition to reports that other detainees had been brutally tortured has greatly distressed their families.







**Conclusions
and
Recommendations**



The UAE has become notorious for its human rights violations, which have been documented over the past few years. The international community has chosen to turn a blind eye to these violations because of the pressure the UAE exerts through its arms purchases from western countries.

Enforced disappearances are grave international crimes that can place victims at serious risk of torture and cause their families anguish. The new disappearances are evidence of the UAE's increasingly repressive behavior.

Several legal and human rights organizations have pressured the EU into adopting a resolution on the 26th of October 2012 regarding the deterioration of the human rights situation in the UAE. The EU expressed "great concern about assaults, repression and intimidation against human rights defenders, political activists and civil society actors within the United Arab Emirates who peacefully





exercise their basic rights to freedom of expression, opinion, and assembly; calls on the authorities of the United Arab Emirates to halt the on-going crackdowns immediately”².

The UAE has refused to ratify to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance for the year 2006. However, this does not permit the UAE to breach human rights with impunity since its membership in the UN and the UN Human Rights Council imposes certain commitments and obligations on the UAE. According to article (5) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” and article (9) “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.”

2. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0400+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>.

- The United Arab Emirates has never taken any serious steps towards supporting citizen participation in democratic life and advancing civil society institutions.
- UAE authorities have denied its citizens rights such as freedom of expression, peaceful protests and peaceful assembly, and have persisted in persecuting and repressing any form of political opposition.
- UAE judiciary is under the total control of the government, rendering the judiciary almost incapable of fairly adjudicating citizen complaints against authorities.
- UAE security forces are not subject to any judicial oversight. They can arrest, forcefully disappear and torture detainees with total impunity.
- Evidence points to grave human rights violations against detainees.
- As a UAE member, the UN has ratified general agreements, which safeguard human rights and protect against arbitrary practices, rendering the UAE accountable for human rights abuses.





- UN Special Rapporteurs on Torture and Forceful disappearance must investigate the human rights violations against detainees in the UAE and bring those responsible to justice.



Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK

PO BOX 68981 LONDON NW26 9FY

Email: info@aohr.org.uk Web: www.aohr.org.uk