



Uganda - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 23 December 2009

Information on the lack of police protection in the United Arab Emirates

The US Department of State Country Report states under the heading 'Role of the Police and Security Apparatus':

"The federal Ministry of Interior (MOI) oversees police general directorates in each of the seven emirates; each emirate, under its corresponding police general directorate, maintains its own police force and supervises the police stations therein. Although all emirate police forces theoretically are branches of the ministry, in practice they operated with considerable autonomy and varying degrees of efficiency. The police forces, under the umbrella of the MOI, are responsible for internal security, and the federal armed forces are responsible for external security.

While reported incidents of police corruption were uncommon, the MOI intervened several times in criminal cases to ensure that local police were compliant with federal law and policy. There were no reports of impunity." (US Department of State (25 February 2009) *Country Report on Human Rights Practices – United Arab Emirates*)

This report also states under the heading 'Arrest and Detention':

"The law prohibits arrest or search without probable cause; however, incidents occurred in practice. There were credible reports that security forces failed to obtain warrants in some cases.

Police stations received complaints from the public, made arrests, and forwarded most cases to the public prosecutor. Cases were then transferred to the courts. In cases involving foreign defendants, especially for crimes of moral turpitude, authorities often summarily deported the defendants upon completion of their jail terms. Police must within 48 hours report an arrest to the public prosecutor, who then must determine within 24 hours whether to charge, release, or further detain the suspect. In practice the public prosecutor did not always meet the 24-hour time limit, although police usually adhered to their 48-hour time limit. Public prosecutors may order detainees to be held as long as 21 days without charge, or longer in some cases with a court order. Courts may not grant an extension of more than 30 days of detention without charge; however, judges may continue to renew 30-day extensions indefinitely and without charge. Public prosecutors may hold suspects in terrorism-related cases without charge for six months. Once a suspect is charged, terrorism cases are handled by the Supreme Court, which may extend the detention period indefinitely.

There is no formal system of bail; however, authorities can temporarily release detainees who deposit money, a passport, or an unsecured personal guarantee statement signed by a third party. Defendants in cases involving loss of life, including involuntary manslaughter, can be denied release in

accordance with the law. Release is usually permitted after payment to the victim's family of compensation, commonly called "diya" or "blood money," which is a form of financial penalty imposed on defendants in criminal cases involving a death.

A defendant is entitled to an attorney only after the police have completed their investigation. As a result police sometimes questioned accused persons for days or weeks without providing them the benefit of legal counsel. Persons arrested on nonsecurity charges were generally granted prompt access to family members." (Ibid)

This report also states under the heading, 'Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment':

"The constitution prohibits torture; however, there were unverifiable allegations of tortured political prisoners during the year, as well as reports that a royal family member tortured a foreign national who had allegedly overcharged him in a grain deal.

In addition, Shari'a (Islamic law) courts sometimes imposed flogging sentences as punishment for adultery, prostitution, consensual premarital sex, pregnancy outside marriage, defamation of character, and drug or alcohol abuse. Authorities used canes to administer floggings, resulting in substantial bruising, welts, and open wounds on recipients' bodies. (Ibid)

This report also states under the heading, 'Prison and Detention Center Conditions':

"Police in Dubai and Abu Dhabi stated that nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the International Committee of the Red Cross had access to observe prison conditions if requested. However, on September 21, when members of the NGO Emirates Human Rights Association (EHRA) went to visit female inmates at Dubai's Al-Aweer Detention Facility, prison authorities denied the monitors access 'to protect the prisoners' social and psychological rights.'

Although charitable NGOs visited prisons during the year, they were only permitted to provide material support. They were unable to determine the welfare and well-being of the prisoners. However, some clergymen reported psychological abuse and frequent physical abuse of their imprisoned parishioners." (Ibid)

This report also states under the heading 'Arbitrary Arrest or Detention':

"The constitution prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention; however, there were reports that the government held persons in official custody without charge or a preliminary judicial hearing. Current law permits indefinite, routine, incommunicado detention without appeal. Under this procedure the detainee may contact only his or her attorney." (Ibid)

Freedom House report:

"The UAE is considered one of the least corrupt countries in the Middle East. It was ranked 35 out of 180 countries surveyed in Transparency

International's 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index." (Freedom House (16 July 2009) *Freedom in the World 2009 - United Arab Emirates*)

Amnesty International state in their annual report under the heading 'Arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment':

"At least 20 people were arrested in Khor Fakkan in October in pre-dawn raids, and then detained incommunicado and denied access to lawyers. Some were reported to have been tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

Two Pakistani brothers were reported to have been detained in October and tortured, including with electric shocks." (Amnesty International (28 May 2009) *Amnesty International Report 2009 – UAE*)

Reporters without Borders states:

"Reporters Without Borders wrote to interior and local development minister Rafik Belhaj Kacem yesterday voicing deep concern about a recent increase in police harassment aimed at silencing all those who dare to criticise the government. The letter urged the authorities to stop resorting to such intimidatory and repressive practices." (Reporters Without Borders (18 March 2009) *Letter to Interior minister about increased police harassment of journalists*)

The 2008 Amnesty International Report states under the heading 'Incommunicado detention and torture':

"In February, 'Abdullah Sultan al-Subaihat was arrested by Amn al-Dawla (State Security) officers in the Emirate of 'Ajman. He remained held incommunicado at an undisclosed location until June when he appeared before the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi on charges of "obtaining secret information on state security". The court, whose verdicts cannot be appealed, sentenced him to three years' imprisonment in September. During the trial, whose sessions were held in secret, 'Abdullah Sultan al-Subaihat alleged that he had been tortured while detained by Amn al-Dawla by being beaten with a hosepipe, deprived of sleep, forced to hold a chair above his head for prolonged periods and threatened with sexual assault. The court failed to order any investigation into these allegations. 'Abdullah Sultan al-Subaihat had previously been detained with two others in August 2005; all three were held incommunicado and for undisclosed reasons until October 2005, when they were released uncharged.

Pakistan national Rashed Mahmood was detained in the Emirate of 'Ajman in June and held incommunicado for more than three months. He was released without charge in September and expelled to Pakistan. He was reported to have been severely beaten during the first two weeks of detention.

A Sudanese national who was arrested and detained for two days without explanation after he arrived in the UAE in September subsequently went missing, raising fears that he was the victim of an enforced disappearance. Al-Sadiq Sadiq Adam Abdalla was still missing at the end of the year." (Amnesty International (28 May 2008) *Amnesty International Report 2008 - UAE*)

The Overseas Security Advisory Council state in their 2009 Crime & Safety Report for Dubai under the heading 'Overall Crime and Safety Situation':

"The Department of State rates Dubai as a medium threat for crime based on open source reporting and U.S. Consulate General Dubai's Regional Security Office (RSO) incident reporting file. However, the actual crime rate is difficult to measure due to the government's policy of not releasing crime statistics. While some crimes are reported in newspapers, it is difficult to determine if crime is on the rise. It is believed that mundane/petty thefts occur often, especially within the large expatriate workforce, which accounts for over 85 percent of the population. Random violent criminal acts are a rare occurrence in Dubai.

The UAE's crime rate appears to be comparable to most similarly sized cities worldwide. Reported crimes, to include homicides, tend to be within the expatriate population, which is predominantly South Asian. Western expatriates and UAE nationals are rarely accused of or implicated in criminal activities. The UAE judicial system acts swiftly and severely against criminals. An expatriate convicted of a crime will receive a judicial sentence as well as immediate deportation afterward." (Overseas Security Advisory Council (25 February 2009) *United Arab Emirates 2009 Crime & Safety Report: Dubai*)

The Overseas Security Advisory Council state in their 2009 Crime & Safety Report for Abu Dhabi under the heading 'Overall Crime and Safety Situation':

"General crime in Abu Dhabi is on the rise. It is rated between low and medium based on open source reporting and U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi's Regional Security Office (RSO) incident reporting file. However, the actual crime rate is difficult to measure due to the government's continuing policy of not releasing crime statistics. As some crimes are reported in newspapers, the RSO believes that mundane/petty thefts do occur often, especially within the large expatriate workforce, which accounts for over 80 percent of the population. Recent criminal reports include taxi drivers making inappropriate advances or groping female passengers and assaults or fighting among teenagers or young adults. Random violent criminal acts do remain a rare occurrence in Abu Dhabi.

The Abu Dhabi crime rate appears to be significantly lower than most similarly sized cities worldwide. Reported crimes, to include homicides, tend to be within the expatriate population which is predominantly South Asian. Western expatriates and United Arab Emirates (UAE) nationals are rarely accused or implicated in criminal activities. The UAE judicial system acts swiftly and severely against criminals. An expatriate convicted of a crime will receive a judicial sentence as well as immediate deportation afterwards." (Overseas Security Advisory Council (25 February 2009) *United Arab Emirates 2009 Crime & Safety Report: Abu Dhabi*)

The Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington states on its website under the heading 'Dubai Police':

"We are the most forward thinking and progressive Arab Police Force today. Comprising our ranks are fifteen thousand personnel of the highest educational standard of any organization. Dubai Police Force comes under

the direction of His Highness (HH) Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai...

We use excellent performance standards and have highly defined descriptions of our tasks, duties and jurisdictions. We have developed institutional performance criteria in the application of strategic planning, simplifying procedures and managing the human and financial resources more proficiently. We take pride in our creative initiatives, appreciate personal excellence and work as one team." (Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington (undated) *Dubai Police*)

A report in the Daily Record states:

"YEAR-ROUND sunshine and top wages aren't the only reasons why retired cops are ditching Scotland for Abu Dhabi.

The people of the oil-rich emirate are 10 times less likely to be a victim of crime than the UK population.

And it's the pride and dedication of the local police that has persuaded many to settle half a world away in the capital of the United Arab Emirates as strategic advisors.

Former inspector Jim Fairfull said: 'There is a policeman here who has had a Maserati, a Ferrari and a Rolls Royce.

'So why is he a policeman? 'Because he has a concept of a duty to his country and a responsibility to the Sheikh for his family name.

'What you have here is a very proud group of individuals who are very proud of their own country.'"

Jim, from Clydebank, near Glasgow, moved to the city state in 2005 after three decades with Northumbria Police.

Now a strategic planning expert, the mindset of local officers has impressed him.

'He said: 'In the UK, we all work for our pension but you have a bunch of people here who are very proud to be police officers.

'It is about family name, about being part of their society and helping their society grow and develop.

'It is their civic responsibility.' Jim, 58, says the Persian Gulf's economic powerhouse has maintained its status as one of the world's safest cities despite the frantic pace of change in recent years.

He added: 'You are 10 times less likely to be a victim of crime in Abu Dhabi than you are anywhere in the UK.

'It's a level of crime which is way below any expectation in the UK.'

To stay ahead, the police force have brought in consultants to combat threats such as fraud and cyber crime and improve areas like road safety.” (Daily Record (4 January 2010) *The cops here own Ferraris but they live to keep streets safe*)

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time

constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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