



Press Release: UAE Kangaroo Court for Reform advocates

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In press statement dispatched to the media, The reform movement (Al-Islah) clarified lack of justice and unfairness that its members have to suffer in the country. The statement affirmed that members of the reform movement (Al-Islah) in United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been subjected to relentless governmental pressure campaigns. This includes imprisonment, torture and stripping them of their civil and political rights. Such procedures are carried by the UAE government and its state services including intelligence and security apparatuses.□

Members of Al-Islah are jailed under unfounded claims and fabricated accusations. Meanwhile court system which supposed to be fair, just and impartial loses its independence by imposing the will of the state through political trials. Apparently, the judiciary system is vulnerable due to direct state intervention in justice course.

Recently, members of Al-Islah were tried before the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi. The judges ignored the revelations of the members where Ahmed Gayth Alswaidi stated that he was exposed to cruel torture exerted by UAE security services. Yet, in another later court session he seems to be exposed for further torture.

A doctor and judge Ahmed Alza'abi also reveals that he faced torture and nails avulsion. He was heavily beaten and even urinated blood as a result. Such statements were also ignored by the judge.

Evidence brought before the court is obvious sign of the amount of fabrication and exaggeration practiced by the states. No strong or real evidence was submitted to the court. Evidence provided by witnesses included mobile text messages (SMS) which includes an exchange of congratulations on the winning of Mohammad Morsi as president in Egypt. The text was used to indicate that there is a link with the Muslim Brotherhood Movement.

Meanwhile, a second witness states that some members possess some books written by Sayed Qotob and Hasan Al Bana (Founders of Muslim Brotherhood Movement) although such books are available to the public in government's libraries. Others, stated that Al-Islah is conspiring to break through the UAE regime. Yet, most of allegations were debunked by the detainees.

Al-Islah considers the entire trial is unlawful were huge accusations and claims are built on no evidence. The judiciary system is taking sides against members of the group. The judges helped and corrected the witnesses accounts many times all of which to serve the claims of the state. Meanwhile, the defence of accused figures was not given enough chance to question the evidence provided by witnesses. Moreover, no independent human rights organisations were allowed into the court due to lack of security permissions. In light of such facts, Al-Islah announces that there are no fair and just trials at all.

The trial of members of Al-Islah is campaigned by extensive state media campaigns which defame them and even issues judgments before any court rulings. This includes publicising wrong information and unfounded accusations, such act shows that these media outlets are biased and lack objectivity and impartiality. The coverage of such outlets provided fabricated news to misguide the mainstream in the country. This pushed one of the judges to draw the attention of the media outlets and request fair coverage. Although the judge stated the above, he was very biased as he did not insist or pressure them to draw any accusation!

Continuous arrests have taken place against members of Al-Islah including: Saod Klaib, Tahir Al Tamimi, Abd Alwahid Al Badi and Saeed al Braimi. Other arrests targeted Abdalah Al Hadidi and Walid al Shahi were both were sentenced to 10 months.

Sheikh Sultan Bin Kayed al Qasmi, head of Al-Islah, stated, "I don't think, that members of Al-Islah are the only targeted ones, but anyone that call on reform is yet to be targeted. Many other governmental and non-governmental organisations are on the spot and face transparency and independence test!". He also stated "The judiciary system with its many structures and legal procedures as well as security and media system are the main bodies to be looked at."

Based on the above, Al-Islah considers the trial of its members as a mere political attempt to punish and suppress those who called for their national rights which are guaranteed by the constitution. Their demands were simple, which is to create a real democratic sphere in the country where people can have their own representatives in the parliament. As a result of their quest, they were exposed to brutal security campaigns.

Al-Islah vows to continue its peaceful struggle which aims to contribute to the welfare of Emirates people far from any political repression and or freedom silencing. Our slogan will remain, "Since when have you turned men into slaves, whereas they are born free"

We demand the following:

- An immediate release of all political detainees who are imprisoned for no reason.
- The judiciary system must remain entirely independent and adhere to justice and equality and not to be biased to the state.
- We call on holding the security state services accountable for intervening in civil liberty.
- Holding those who have committed acts of torture and intimidation to political detainees, should be tried by independent court.
- Citizens of the UAE should enjoy their full rights especially civil rights including freedom of expression.
- We reaffirm on our pursuit for an elected National Federal Council that truly represents the people of the UAE and able have legislative powers, monitoring human rights and practices of state's services.

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