

سري

التاريخ: ٢٠١٨/١٢/٢٠

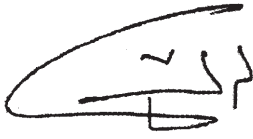
المرجع: LAD/OUT/2018/2012

سعادة/ عبدالرحمن غانم المطيوعي
مدير مكتب وزارة الخارجية والتعاون الدولي - دبي

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،

يطيب لنا بداية أن نهديكم خالص التحية والتقدير، وبالإشارة إلى كتابكم مرجع رقم م ع / ١٢ / ١١٢٨٩٤
المؤرخ في ٢٠١٨/١٢/١٢، والمرفق به بلاغ عاجل مشترك وارد من الإجراءات الخاصة التابعة لمجلس
حقوق الإنسان، نرفق لكم رد ديوان سمو الحاكم المرسل إلى الإجراءات الخاصة لمجلس حقوق الإنسان
في هذا الشأن.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام والتقدير.


د. لؤي محمد بالهول
المدير العام



نسخة إلى:

- معالي / مدير عام ديوان سمو الحاكم
الموقر

18 December 2018

Bernard Duhaime, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary
Disappearances

Agnes Callamard, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

c/o Beatriz Balbin

Chief

Special Procedures Branch

Office of the High Commissioner

United National Human Rights

Dear Professor Duhaime and Dr. Callamard:

We write in response to your letter dated 6 December 2018 (ref UA ARE 3/2018) regarding Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Please accept our most sincere apologies for not responding to your earlier letter dated 2 May 2018, referenced in your 6 December letter. Unfortunately, your earlier letter was not received by this office, hence the lack of response.

Had we received your earlier letter, we would have assured you then, as we do now, that Her Highness Sheikha Latifa is alive, safe and in the loving care of her family at their Dubai residences. We strongly refute the allegations you reference in your 6 December letter. She was and has never been arrested or detained.

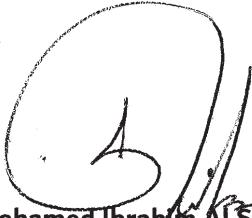
The circumstances surrounding the incident involving Her Highness' in February of this year remain under investigation with various authorities. Pending the outcome of said investigations, we will, in cooperation with the authorities, and in due course, determine the appropriate course(s) of action in response to the activities of those involved.

Her Highness Sheikha Latifa is a private individual without any official role in the Government of Dubai or of the UAE and the publicity surrounding this matter has been deeply disturbing to her. Further, this is a private family matter; Her Highness and her family are working together with professional support to do everything possible to ensure her current and future welfare, which is, and will remain, our foremost priority.

Her Excellency Mary Robinson visited the family on 15 December and spent an afternoon with Her Highness. We believe that Her Excellency sent a personal note to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet. With Her Excellency Ms. Robinson's kind permission, we attach some photographs from their visit.

We trust this clarifies the position and we would be grateful if you would keep such further communications private out of respect and concern for Her Highness.

Yours sincerely,



Mohamed Ibrahim Al Shaibani

Director General of H.H. The Ruler's Court





Ref: 1600



19 December 2018

Beatrice Balbin
Chief
Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner
United National Human Rights
Fax +41 22 734 55 62

Dear Ms. Balbin,

We would be grateful if you would share the following with Bernard Duhaime, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Agnes Callamard, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

In gratitude,



Ahmed Abdul Rahman Al Jarman

**Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation for Human Rights and International Law**



19 December 2018

Bernard Duhaime, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on
Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Agnes Callamard, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or
arbitrary executions

c/o Beatriz Balbin
Chief
Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner
United National Human Rights

Dear Professor Duhaime and Dr. Callamard:

I refer to your letter dated 6 December 2018 reference UA ARE 3/2018. I regret to inform you that, due to human error, the existence of the urgent report and request for information dated 2 May 2018 only came to official attention as a result of the reference to it in your 6 December letter (together the "Communications"). The United Arab Emirates apologises for any confusion and inconvenience.

Please consider this response to be a combined response to the Communications.

Introduction

At the outset, the UAE is pleased to reaffirm once more its dedication to the development, implementation and realisation of human rights. The UAE strongly supports the promotion and defence of human rights. It takes every opportunity to advance and protect human rights.



The UAE has great respect for the Special Procedures, including the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (the “Working Group”) and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (the “Special Rapporteur”). It admires and commends their efforts to promote and protect human rights. The UAE is, therefore, pleased to cooperate with their joint urgent appeal in the case of Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum in order to clarify matters.

The UAE appreciates the opportunity to provide observations on the Communications. The UAE sets these out below, starting with the assurance that Sheikha Latifa is alive and well and living with her family at home in Dubai. She has never been arrested, detained or disappeared.

Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum is alive and well and living with her family in Dubai.

Sheikha Latifa is alive and well and living with her family in Dubai. She is not dead, detained or disappeared. As the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur can see in the communication from Sheikha Latifa’s family that is attached to this response as Annex A, she was visited at home by Her Excellency Mary Robinson (the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) last week. Photographs taken during the afternoon that Her Excellency spent with Sheikha Latifa are provided with their consent in Annex A. It is understood that Her Excellency sent a personal note to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet, about that visit.

The allegations about Sheikha Latifa contained in the Communications appear to be based on well-rehearsed scripts that are circulating on the internet as recited by certain individuals who have been pursuing their own self-interest. The allegations were then recycled apparently without



fact checking by a few media outlets. In contradiction of these internet urban myths, Sheikha Latifa is alive and well and living with her family at home in Dubai.

The allegations in the Communications are incorrect and from unreliable sources.

The allegations referenced in the Communications are from patently unreliable sources. They are contra-factual and nothing more than recycled internet gossip. These same spurious allegations can be found at the click of a computer mouse by merely searching Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum's name. The UAE strenuously refutes these false allegations. They appear to be the result of self-promoting statements made by certain opportunistic criminals who are trying to exploit circumstances for their own personal gain. These are not "reliable sources", as are required by the UN Commission on Human Rights resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980.

Clarification requested from the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur about their approach to the allegations.

The UAE notes the reference in the Communications to the fact that the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur "do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations". Given that statement from the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur, should the fourth request for observations in your letter of 6 December 2018 not read "the alleged disappearance of Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum"? The UAE reiterates Sheikha Latifa has never "disappeared".



Specific requested observations

You have requested the UAE's observations on four matters. The requests and the UAE's observations are set out below, in order.

1. "Please provide any comment(s) and/or any additional information you may have on the above-mentioned allegations."

Observation: In addition to the comments provided above, Annex A contains additional information from Sheikha Latifa's family, including information that confirms that Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum is alive and well and living at her family home in Dubai.

2. "If Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum is alive please provide evidence that she is as well as information on her current whereabouts."

Observation: In addition to the comments provided above, Annex A contains additional information, including information that confirms that Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum is alive and well and living at home with her family in Dubai. This information includes photographs taken three days ago of an afternoon visit by Her Excellency Mary Robinson (the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) with Sheikha Latifa in Dubai.

3. "If she is detained, please provide evidence that she is, including information on the factual and legal grounds of her detention, her place of detention, the location of that place, the authorities in whose custody she remains, and evidence that she is detained there."



Observation: Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum has not been and is not now detained.

4. “Please provide information on any investigation conducted into the disappearance of Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum, its findings and conclusions.”

Observation: Sheikha Latifa al Maktoum has not and is not disappeared. She is living at home with her family in Dubai. There has been no investigation of a disappearance that never occurred.

In gratitude,



Ahmed Abdul Rahman Al Jarman

**Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation for Human Rights and International Law**





