DUBAI
EVIL UNDER THE SUN
&
THE FORGOTTEN AMERICAN
OUTLAW REGIME:
A CHRONICLE OF DUBAI’S SHOCKING ACTIVITIES

2022 Edition
“We will promote accountability for governments that abuse human rights”
Statement by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on the United States Election to the Human Rights Council (HRC) Oct 14, 2021
OUR lives are plagued by injustice and unfairness. We live in a world where people in power and authority use their positions of privilege to enrich and empower themselves at the cost of the lives of others. We witness atrocities carried out by evil regimes and see the rights of the many abused. And if we are unfortunate, these injustices can touch our loved ones and us.

And what sets us apart from the evil perpetrators of injustice is how we respond when we find it. It is easy to condemn an enemy for acts of malevolence; the difficult choice is how to deal with the friend who commits cruelty. Especially when you have found them kind or rely on them for sustenance - that is the hard choice that defines the person YOU are.

I have loved my life in Dubai, and I have written the Tale of those Two Cities. It is my attempt at redemption for all the times I looked the other way.

DUBAI: It is the best of cities, it is the worst of cities, it is the age of tolerance, it is the age of intolerance, it is the epoch of freedom, it is the epoch of injustice, it is the season of light, it is the season of darkness, it is a city of hope, it is a city of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going to the beach, we were all going to jail — in short, one Dubai was so far like the other Dubai that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

DUBAI is a contradiction, a paradox. It is the most treacherous and dangerous city I have ever visited. And it is the co-existence of the two cities that makes it so. Dubai is the friend you love, the friend who has shown you kindness and compassion, and it has given you everything. Still, it has taken everything from you, and you know the evil it is, for you have seen its soul.

I do not write from bitterness, and I have enjoyed my life. However, I, for too long looked the other way. All is not lost; there are many good and kind people in the Arabian Peninsula, and we must be help them find a better way, and those who have committed the atrocities you will find herein must be stopped and brought to justice. It must stop, and what YOU do makes the difference.

It is all on YOU! All it takes for evil to prosper is for good people to do nothing.

Nelson Mandela: “It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.”

MARTIN PAUL LONERGAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 edition of the Outlaw Regime report documents the magnitude of Dubai’s outrageous activities. The Outlaw Regime report contains a chapter on Dubai’s absurd environmental policies and includes many updates on travellers’ and tourists’ nightmares, judicial misconduct, and financial crimes. This report has been revised to include the range of human rights abuse and systemic racism in Dubai.

Some of the activities highlighted in this report have occurred recently, while others date back to the early days of the current regime. This report clarifies that the one constant is that the Dubai regime will do whatever it takes to maintain its grip on power and fool the world as to its true nature.

Shakespeare’s “The lady doth protest too much, methinks” metaphor applies to Dubai. The tiny city-state vociferously promotes tolerance, religious, and cultural freedom with justice for all. Since the establishment of Dubai as a popular tourist destination, financial centre, and travel hub, it has marketed itself as a centre for equality. The scale, complexity, and effectiveness of its marketing and management of media portraying its global image are impressive and frightening. The lengths Dubai is prepared to go to create the illusion of a safe, lawful, and just regime is perhaps why one must look more closely.

Dubai is the most dangerous Middle East state to visit or conduct business. It plays both sides and cleverly deceives everyone. The draconian police state behind the glitzy five-star hotels is corrupt and ruthless. Dubai is built on slavery and employs a medieval judicial system. Corporate raiding and human trafficking are endemic, alongside international money laundering and absurd environmental policies. Dubai residents who have spoken about human rights issues or government policy are at serious risk of arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and torture. Many are serving long prison terms or have left the country under pressure. Dubai authorities have launched a sustained assault on freedom of expression and association since 2008...

Chapter One Underscores the regime’s role as a constant force for evil across the Middle East and addresses an American businessman’s continued detention and ongoing torture. Zack Shahin is the longest serving overseas American white-collar prisoner. In the abscence of any credible evidence Zack Shahin, an American businessman, was held for over nine years without conviction. He was then handed down a whole of life sentence. Why it took nine years to convict a person for fraud is questionable. Perhaps the utter ridiculousness of the whole affair is the reason most dismiss it and assume he must have done something. Zack Shahin is the innocent victim of a political power grab during a dramatic leadership change. He is the Forgotten Prisoner, and to release him would require cruel and ruthless men to admit their crimes. Zack is buried in an oublielette in the sands of Dubai, for to release him would embarrass too many men. He is tortured and abused daily and lives in inhumane and degrading conditions with no hope of parole for a crime he did not commit. The evidence of his innocence is incontrovertible and in the public record. The Shahin trial undermines the entire Dubai judicial mechanism and is a travesty of justice.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY cont.

Chapter Two  Documents Dubai’s repeated and systemic deployment of human rights abuses. Dubai does not tolerate dissent of any kind and persecutes civil society activists, including labour rights leaders and members of ethnic and LBGT groups. The regime also denies its citizens fair trial guarantees, regularly falling short of the standards provided by its laws. Its prisons are notorious for mistreatment and torture. These issues were on full display when they arrested, tortured, and arbitrarily detained Mathew Hedges, a British Citizen falsely accused of spying. Racism is endemic in the UAE. Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International, recently said, “The UAE must take a clear and public stance that any racist targeting for whatever reason will not be accepted and they must ensure that those who already suffered such treatment be provided with appropriate restitution and redress”.

Chapter Three  The complexity of the judicial system in the UAE lies not only in the differing structures of federal and local courts and of the parallel courts of civil, criminal and Sharia law, but also in how the law is applied. In practice, the system is neither independent nor impartial but instead serves the will of the monarchy. Indeed, as stipulated under Article 94 of the Constitution, “justice is the basis of authority.” Statements such as this exacerbate ambiguity and leave applications of the rule of law to the discretion of a biased judiciary and, by proxy, the monarchy. The way commercial disputes and debt are dealt with is perhaps the worst example of abuse of process. The legal system is operated by those in authority and power, much like Al Capones 1920s Chicago, with the Dubai Police serving as enforcers. Sentencing and treatment of prisoners are based on ethnicity and nationality, with precise racial profiling and discrimination. Black African’s receive the harshest treatment from the courts and police.

Chapter Four  Details Dubai’s illicit financial activities, which undermines the integrity and security of the global financial system, yet are vital to Dubai’s economy and the aggrandizement of its leaders. In the last year, the international press exposed Dubai’s continued use of front companies and related individuals to move funds and exploit currency exchange networks with neighbouring countries. From Nigerian kleptocrats to Mexican narco-traffickers, a range of criminals, corrupt politicians and money launderers call Dubai home or operate from inside its glistening towers, according to the report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In January 2021, Bloomberg reported that the United Arab Emirates is at increased risk of being placed on a global watchdog’s list of countries subject to more oversight for shortcomings in combating money laundering and terrorist financing. The Financial Action Task Force is leaning toward adding the UAE to its “grey list”.

Chapter Five. Human trafficking and sex trade is prevalent in Dubai, as many women are trafficked from all over the world to the city to serve as prostitutes for businessmen clientele. Additionally, many women arrive willingly, signing contracts to become domestic workers or work in Dubai businesses, only to have employers confiscate their passports and force them to work as prostitutes. This is partially enabled by the abuse of the United Arab Emirate’s residence visa system - the Kafala system, which not only requires workers to receive permission from their employer if they wish to change jobs, but it also requires a minimum of two years working for the same person or company.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY cont.

The Kafala system does not allow workers to dispute employers’ nonperformance of contracts, nor does it allow them to escape a potentially abusive situation. If a worker is caught trying to escape their employer, they are returned to the same employer. The kafala system puts the employer in a position, not unlike a slave owner, with the worker helpless to change the situation. Hundreds of thousands of construction workers live in harsh, inhumane, and degrading conditions. They are bonded into employment, trapped in Dubai by debt, low salaries, and cruel overseers and live a fearful slave existence.

Chapter Six  Holiday nightmare destination Dubai has developed into a popular tourist destination for visitors from Europe, America, China, and many other countries. The October to May warm temperatures and long hours of sunshine, with the glitzy five-star hotels, global brand restaurants, vast shopping malls and millionaire’s playground status, attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. It appears as a Las Vegas/Monaco/Marbella in the Persian Gulf, but without the casinos, although they say that’s coming soon. Unfortunately, they don’t tell that what goes in Vegas, Monaco, and Marbella doesn’t in Dubai. And what might cause a traveller some minor inconvenience in Europe or the US can lead to a nightmare hell in Dubai. Although it’s generally hushed up, the media is manipulated and managed, so the tourists seldom hear of it. Still, it is a devastating, life-changing event for those unfortunate travellers who fall through the very thin ice that everyone is skating on. And there are far more of these events than you might think. The occasional one makes the headlines, and still, somehow, Dubai manages to keep drawing the tourists into what is probably the world’s largest and most dangerous honey trap.

Chapter Seven  The divorce and the Princesses. The conduct of Dubai’s Ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has led to police investigations in Britain, damming High Court Judgements and his exclusion from prestigious gatherings where he was once the toast of the party. The Queen of England has distanced herself from the famous racehorse owning Sheikh. The BBC and other credible news organizations who once fawned the Sheikh have screened and reported explosive and damaging documentaries on his kidnapping and subsequent imprisonment of his daughters and the very credible death threats his wife has received.

Mohammed Al Shaibani is named explicitly as the orchestrator of most of the crimes against the Sheikh’s wife and daughters and directly involved with the illegal surveillance and electronic hacking of British lawyers, activists, and peers of the realm.

Chapter Eight  An Environmental disaster in the gulf - mountain-sized ski slopes with real snow on the Arabian Peninsula with temperatures outside over 50 degrees Celsius is as absurd and as wasteful as the multitude of supercars the Dubai Police drive. Image and the pitch are so out of touch with the reality that most critics of Dubai have come to accept the hypocrisy of the bourgeois police state. The carbon footprint per capita is one of the highest on the planet, even though over fifty per cent of the population living as slaves in squalid compounds, so extravagant is the consumption of the privileged few.
Dubai has attracted environmental organisations to base themselves in the Emirate and used the 2020 Expo to promote its alleged sustainability policy. Unfortunately, when it comes to global warming and climate change, it is just part of a persistent illusion to deceive the outside world as to its true nature. The recent project to build a large coal-fired power station to supply electricity to the city is a clear example of the policy of the state to preach that which makes you look good and do whatever you want regardless, is probably the baseline definition of Dubai’s government policy.

Chapter Nine  Mohammed Al Shaibani’s Bank, DIB, has for years been embroiled in US Federal Courts over its direct involvement and funding of the September 911 attacks by Al Qaeda. Families of the dead’s lawsuits are continually hampered by a refusal to disclose information by the Bank. The SEC accordingly excluded DIB from trading its financial instruments in the US. Dubai Islamic Bank is the world’s oldest Islamic Bank, and its majority shareholder is The Investment Corporation of Dubai. Mohammed Al Shaibani is Chairman of the Bank and the managing director of ICD and must be held accountable for the actions of his Bank.

Shaibani has a long history of questionable and illegal activity, including orchestrating the kidnapping at gunpoint of Princess Shamsa in Cambridge, England, to UK tax fraud. And the arbitrary detention of British and American businessmen to enable is hostile corporate raiding and power grabs at home in Dubai, where he is the law. His unequal treatment and persecution of westerners in Dubai are equal only to his apparent friendship with nefarious organisations in the Middle East.

Chapter Ten  The investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD) – A sovereign wealth fund established soon after Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum took the throne of Dubai. ICD holds all the key assets once owned by the Government of Dubai. ICD is listed as the property of the Dubai Government. However, the line between Sheikh Mohammed and ‘the Government’ is blurred. Exactly who would own the billion-dollar behemoth should that tie be broken is unclear. What is certain, everything of value once held by a few disgraced and displaced Emiratis who had enjoyed senior roles under the previous regime is now owned and controlled by ICD. Anyone who stood in the way of the re-structuring was crushed.

ICD has grown like a giant spider web across the globe and has stark similarities to a plot from a bond movie.

Chapter Eleven  Magnitsky sanctions requests are currently being prepared for Mohammed Al Shaibani and a number of his associates in Dubai. Governments impose Magnitsky sanctions on individuals and entities responsible for human rights abuses and corruption worldwide. The sanctions are named after Sergei Magnitsky, a tax adviser killed in a Russian prison after exposing fraud by Russian government officials.

The sanctions freeze the perpetrators’ assets and stop them from travelling internationally. They are used by the UK, US, EU and Canada, representing over one-third of global GDP. The sanctions prevent the perpetrators from accessing the US banking system and the world’s largest financial centre. Visa travel to the US is not permitted, nor owning any assets in US-controlled territory. To be designated for sanctioning and listed by the US Treasury OFAC removes the rights of the individual or entities to enjoy the freedoms and commerce of civilised society. In the UK, the sanctions stop the perpetrators from accessing London, the world’s second-largest financial centre and largest luxury property market.
Zack’s story - A Chronicle of torture, kidnapping, and injustice.
The Forgotten American buried alive in the Dubai deserts
A Texan’s life stolen for greed and power
INTRODUCTION

As part of a politically charged agenda, Zack Shahin – an American businessman, was kidnapped from the Dubai Rulers Court on March 23rd, 2008, by Dubai State Security. For 17 days, Mr Shahin was disappeared. During this time, he was deprived of food, water, and sleep and threatened, humiliated, tortured, and forced to sign blank and Arabic documents that he could not read. For the following 9.5 years, Zack remained incarcerated without conviction...

Mohammed Al Shaibani, Director General of Dubai Ruler Court, CEO of The Investment Corporation of Dubai, masterminded a criminal plan in a drive to seize power and financial control from the late Dr Mohammed Bin Kharbash, State Minister of Finance & Industry (then), Chairman/Managing Director of most vibrant financial entities in Dubai. Kharbash reported to the late Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid. Shaibani reports to Dubai’s newly appointed ruler MBR, the younger brother of Hamdan.

Zack was subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment throughout the nine and a half years before any formal conviction and sentencing. He was hospitalized on many occasions, and his broken body was repaired at the expense of his family, paid by American Express. Numerous protests were made but to no avail. A torturous hunger strike in 2012 led to the direct involvement of Hilary Clinton, and Zack got bail. It lasted weeks, and he was forcibly kidnapped from a US facility in Yemen and spirited back to a Dubai prison hell. A violation of international law facilitated by Emirate’s Airline.

Since 2012, Zack has never left the cruel and torturous facility in the Dubai deserts. He was finally sentenced in 2017 to spend his whole life in jail. It is a long slow death sentence; Zack will die in prison with no hope of parole.

The catalogue of abuse of process is unbelievable. The courts were manipulated, and the accuser controlled the judiciary, the investigation, and the prosecution. To date, no credible evidence has ever been found for the alleged loss, and the “informal document” Zack is accused of producing has never materialized. It is a Dickensian process, and the abuse of power for political gain and financial greed belongs in a forgotten time.

How any of this has been allowed to happen to an honest American Businessman is impossible to comprehend. The incredulity of the affair is perhaps the only reason it has. However, there is no truth to the accusations, and Zack is an innocent victim of a political and corporate power grab.

Close examination of the facts and freeing Zack would expose the crimes of his accusers; therefore, he must die silently and be forgotten in the deserts of Dubai.
WHO IS ZACK SHAHIN?
Born: 21 August 1964
Nationality: American
Education: Graduate - University of Wisconsin
Family home: Houston, Texas
Wife: Soha
Son: Ramy, age 28
Daughter: Meera, age 24

Zack Shahin is an American family man. His mother and father were migrants from Lebanon, and Zack grew up in Ohio, living the American dream. He went through the classic US education system, high school, and university. Later, he tried his hand at various careers in America as a young man. Eventually, Zack found himself working for the Dr Pepper organisation as a promising young executive in 1987.

WHAT DID ZACK NEXT
Zack joined PepsiCo North America in Houston, Texas, in 1989. In Jan 1992, he was re-assigned to PepsiCo International in New York. PepsiCo sent Zack to Dubai as the PepsiCo merchandising manager. Saudi Arabia had famously lifted its embargo on Coke at this time. Zack was promptly sent to KSA as Merchandising Manager for PepsiCo and given control of the Middle East region. In 1995 he was made a director, and by 1997 he was assigned as the franchise director for the lower Gulf and based back in Dubai. At the time, Zack was the youngest director ever at PepsiCo.

HOW DID HE END UP WORKING FOR A DUBAI BANK
Zack was headhunted from his US employers by the local Dubai institutions. He joined Mashreq Bank in 2000 as Executive Vice President of retail banking. Zack was the youngest senior banker from a non-banking background. In short order, he successfully rebranded the Bank. As head of SSDM, over 75% of the entire staff ultimately reported to him.

WHAT ROLE DID HE HAVE IN DUBAI THAT PUT HIM IN HARM’S WAY
In 2004 Dr Kharbash, the Minister for Finance & Industry and Chairman of Dubai Islamic Bank, headhunted Zack to join his Bank. Kharbash appointed Zack as CEO of a subsidiary wholly owned by the Bank, which exclusively managed the Bank’s property portfolio and was staffed by DIB employees. The paid capital then was $5M, and its losses were greater than the capital.
HOW DID HE PERFORM IN DUBAI FOR HIS NEW BOSSES

From 2004 to 2007, Zack rebranded the property arm to Deyaar - and made it into one of the leading real estate companies in the region, moving from the 2004 losses to a retained cumulative profit of $407M.

In July 2007, Zack took Deyaar public via an IPO. Deyaar became the 2nd largest real estate company publicly traded on the Dubai Stock Exchange (DFM) with a market capitalisation of $5 billion and projects in the access of $10 billion. The IPO was oversubscribed 14 times. The paid capital was 1.5 billion, and DIB encashed $707M, i.e., 300M of goodwill and 407M of retained earnings. The operations expanded to INDIA, TURKEY, KAZAKHSTAN, KSA, EGYPT, LEBANON, USA, and the UK. Zack had achieved a colossal turnaround from loss to profit with the dynamic growth of Deyaar by the end of 2007.

Deyaar’s board consisted of nine men. Dr Kharbash was the Chairman, the incumbent Chairman of DIB and the trusted confidant of Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The Vice-Chairman was the Minister of the Economy, and seven powerful UAE nationals filled the remaining seats. These seven held other prominent posts in Dubai, including the head of the Pension Authority, head of Emirates Airlines, head of Civil Aviation and the Deputy Min of Finance.

To facilitate the IPO, Deyaar was converted into PJSC based on approvals from the Ministry of Commerce and the Emirate’s Securities and Commodity Exchange (ESCE). The external auditors were 2 of the big 4 (E&Y and Deloitte). The due diligence for the IPO was extensive, and there were no anomalies reported. Deyaar PSJC received a clean bill of health, and the minutes of the first board meeting show a healthy picture.

WHY DID HE GET INTO TROUBLE IN DUBAI

In 2007 Mohammed Al Shaibanire turned to the UAE from the UK. His mentor, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum had just inherited the rule of Dubai following the death of his oldest brother Maktoum bin Rashid. Shaibanpromptly assumed the role of Director General of Dubai’s Ruler’s Court and commenced the formation of the Investment Corporation of Dubai, although with a minimal portfolio of assets. At this time, all significant financial controls and major assets in Dubai and the UAE Federal Government were under the direct supervision of Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid and his confidant, Dr Kharbash.

Shaibani knew he would have to remove and undermine Dr Kharbash to take control of these portfolios for himself and his mentor MBR, and this would, in turn, weaken Sheikh HBR. Thus, ultimately allowing Shaibanito take over from Dr Kharbash and strengthen MBR’s position as Dubai’s Ruler, and this is what happened. HBR died in 2021 and was never a prominent man under his younger brother’s rule.

Dubai’s Ruler’s Court Auditors, Dubai State Security and Dubai Public Prosecution with Shaibani in complete control made an all-out assault on Dr Kharbash and the entities he oversaw. A systematic and coordinated attack was made on all the major businesses under Kharbash’s control to discredit him and usurp control.

In late 2007 Zack was offered several new roles by Al Shaibani’s agents in fledgling Dubai companies but wanted to stay at Deyaar — he had built it and wanted to stay where he was most effective, as the CEO of Deyaar
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT - ZACK’S DISAPPEARANCE

On March 23, 2008, Zack Shahin attended a meeting with Mr Yassen Amiri, General Manager of the Ruler’s Court/Office Audit Department, Mr Mohammed Marzouki, Director of Audit at the Ruler’s Court and Mr Mohamad Mustapha Audit Manager at Ruler’s Court Audit Department. The pretext was to discuss the Deyaar audit.

The meeting took place inside the Ruler’s Court/Office Complex in the Main Building. Two hours into the meeting, members of the State Security barged in. They took Zack’s mobile away, turned it off, blindfolded him, and led him in a car to an unknown place where he was kept incommunicado for 17 days in solitary or in rooms where he was tortured.

During the first three days of his abduction, Zack was deprived of water, food, sleep, and toilet facilities. Zack was forced to sit in a chair for 18 hours without respite. Zack had no understanding of why he was being tortured.

Zack was interrogated continually at all hours in the following days. Zack was stripped and dressed in a local kandora; chains were placed on his wrists and ankles. He was told to sign papers written in Arabic. When he refused, he was dragged to a car and told they would chain him to his children’s school gates if he didn’t sign. He relented and signed pages filled with Arabic text and blank paper without knowing the contents (Zack cannot read Arabic). Khalid al Amri was the man in charge of the State security detail torturing Zack.

After seven days in custody, Zack was told to call his wife and read a 30-second message to simply tell her he was alive and sorting out things with some friends. By this time, Soha had already contacted the US Embassy. The Dubai Authorities denied any knowledge of where Zack was when the Embassy inquired.

After fourteen days, Zack was forced to repeat the same brief telephone message to his wife. Zack was allowed to use the toilet once every 24 hours, subject to continued threats, humiliation, insults, and mental abuse.

Zack was led around blindfolded, pushed into walls and doors, pushed down steps, tripped, kicked, and continually mistreated in a way that led to a series of injuries. Zack required months of hospitalisation to repair the damage to his neck, knees and spine that occurred during this time and were exacerbated by the ongoing harsh treatment and neglect. The flesh wounds eventually healed; the mental scars remain.

The US consulate announced it would hold a press conference about Zack’s disappearance, and immediately someone called Zack’s wife to say he would be at a police station. On April 8, 2008, the State Security Forces took Zack to Bur Dubai Police Station to be formally arrested for the first time since his abduction.

On April 9, 2008, the Vice Consul and Consulate staff visited Zack and advised him they had been searching for him and initially, the Dubai Authorities were not cooperative. State Security only admitted Zack was in their custody when informed the US Embassy and family would go to the media. All of this is recorded in US Consulate Files and State Department Records.

The episode led Chief Consul De Nison Offult to revise the US travel advisory to the UAE on the State Department website. While travelling to the UAE, “…You can be arrested for unlimited time without access to your lawyer or Consulate….” Zack was DISAPPEARED for seventeen days in total: ARBITRARY DETENTION. HRW world report confirms this.
HOW WERE THE FAMILY DEALT WITH DURING THE ORDEAL?

On the first day of the disappearance, Zack was taken to his family home in the middle of the night. He was pulled from the car and dragged to his front door. As his wife, Soha, opened the door, the bag covering his head was temporarily removed, and Soha was told to keep her mouth shut. The men forcibly restrained Soha from approaching the hooded Zack; she was hysterical and feared for her husband’s life. The men did not identify themselves as police or show official identification or authorisation.

The family home was aggressively searched. All the family’s IT equipment and paperwork was taken away and, to this day, never seen again. Zack and his wife were told to open the safe; if they did not, the children would be dragged from their beds and taken away. Zack complied. Zack was forced to tell his wife not to go to the police or Embassy or else. Zack was then dragged away in chains, leaving his wife hysterical. And despite her pleas, the men would not allow Soha to give Zack his hypertension medication.

During ongoing interrogations in May, June, July 2008 by Khalid Amin al Zarouni, the Chief Prosecutor, threats are made that Zack’s wife will be arrested and thrown in jail and his children placed in care. Zack forced his family to leave the country and seek the protection of the US Embassy, despite their wishes to remain nearby. The family home is packed up, and in the first week of August, under the watchful eye of the US Embassy staff, the family flees the UAE, leaving friends and school behind forever.

Old family friends in Dubai who have rallied around the family in the first few months receive intimidating phone calls from unidentified men, warning them not to associate with or assist the Shahin family. A Dutch business associate is arrested and held for two days incommunicado until the Dutch consulate intervenes, no charges ever brought, just intimidation.

THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

Zack remained in custody for four years without any conviction – he faced various non-specific allegations of fraud and embezzlement, nothing was proved or substantiated. These, at worst, are non-violent, non-political white-collar allegations. Access to family and lawyers was difficult, he was often mistreated, and bail was always unreasonably denied.
HOW DID HE GET BAIL IN 2012, AND WHY DID HE LEAVE UAE

In May 2012, Zack went on a Hunger strike that lasted for 50 days. US State department intervention and media pressure resulted in bail terms, and Zack was released on July 12, 2012. Within 48 hours of his release, Zack was attacked in his hotel room. Foolishly Zack exited the UAE illegally by road, crossing through Oman. On entry to Yemen, Zack was arrested as he held no passport on July 15, 2012.

Zack was transferred from the border to the Yemen capital Sanaa and held in a US Black Ops site. He was regularly visited by US Embassy staff, and his replacement passport was delivered in mid-August. The UAE commenced no extradition proceedings, and Zack was booked to fly to the US via Istanbul on September 1, 2012.

HOW DID THEY GET ZACK BACK TO DUBAI – RENDITION AND CORPORATE KIDNAP BY EMIRATES AIRLINES.

Zack was a free man going home to his family in America. Zack left the US Black Ops with his new American Passport, local army guards, and a British security detail hired by his family. They all headed for the airport to catch his flight to Istanbul, with an onward connection to the US. However, the vehicle was surrounded by armed men on arrival at the airport. A heated dispute began with his escort. Zack was bundled from the vehicle and taken by Colonel Taleb bin Abdulrahman el Tuneiji – the liaison officer at the UAE Embassy in Sanaa, and two armed guards, to an Emirates Airlines plane sitting at the airfield and ready to depart to Dubai.

Initially, the Emirates Operations Officer would not allow Zack onboard without papers. After several phone calls, Emirates Airlines cooperated – participating in a corporate kidnapping of an American citizen. A single handwritten document recorded the rendition, wherein Zack’s name is incorrect. The document also identifies Zack as Lebanese; however, he does not hold a Lebanese passport. Without any official travel authorisation, Emirates Airlines facilitated the kidnapping of an American citizen.

The transfer out of Yemen to Dubai happened without any court order, due legal process, or extradition order from Sanaa – violating ALL international laws. A serious crime punishable by international courts and tribunals was perpetrated under the nose of the US Embassy staff, Yemeni authorities and a private security detail from Britain hired by the Shahin family.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

Zack spent a further five years locked in jail without conviction after he was kidnapped from Yemen. The defence team fought for justice and freedom consistently throughout the years. The initial allegation concerned the payment of an unauthorised commission to him by Deyaar of 125,000 USD. Zack’s lawyers started to pull apart the spurious allegation, and he went public in the American press in 2009. Shaibani’s response to this was swift, brutal, and outrageous. The alleged loss became a 1.1 billion AED embezzlement, quickly attracting media headlines and removing any sympathy for Zack.
THE NINE YEARS WITHOUT CONVICTION

The first conviction came in 2017 – Zack had been held for nine years on remand when the courts finally found him guilty and handed down an unappealable verdict. The time served on remand was not considered as time served when sentenced. Despite the appalling conditions of Zack’s incarceration, the nine years spent in jail was not deducted from the sentence to be served, violating all internationally accepted judicial processes.
The Medical Problems, the Physical Damage, the Hospitalisation

Zack Shahin endures constant abuse, both physical and mental. After the initial months of capture and torture, he was finally admitted to the American Hospital in Dubai, where he remained for six months. Surgeries commenced in January 2009 with an angiogram to address his failing heart. February, he underwent disc surgery in his neck, and the May surgery saw Zack’s knees being rebuilt after extensive damage. The Shahin family paid for the surgeries and months of hospital care.

There has been endless correspondence with the US Embassy over the years in jail concerning the lack of essential medical care. The Russian Hospital diagnosed sleep apnoea, a life-threatening condition, and Zack had to purchase a CPAP machine to stay alive. Often the jail cuts his electricity without notice, and he must remain awake all night in fear.

Zack has insulin issues and must constantly monitor his blood sugars and self-medicate. The constant hardships and abuse have led to severe depression, and Zack suffers from panic attacks. A Psychiatrist diagnoses him as a patient with severe psychological issues caused by trauma. Zack suffers from hypertension and high cholesterol, and the continued and sustained inhumane and degrading treatment and poor sustenance have led to multiple life-threatening health conditions.

Zack has cataracts and lives on numerous medications to support his poor diet and failing health; he requires pain medication permanently. In 2018 he was diagnosed with ageing arthritis; this is a direct result of the conditions in which he lives. In 2019 Zack had to undergo major stomach surgery due to years of poor diet and lack of fresh fruit or vegetables. A gastric sleeve was inserted, and two spinal surgeries are now required.

Zack Shahin’s failing health and inhumane and degrading treatment are described by an inmate who lived in the cell next to him for nine months in 2020. Inmates died from covid, and the bodies were left unattended in the cells for hours. No effective quarantine was ever maintained.
THE JUDGES AND LAWYERS DISMISSED DURING THE NINE YEARS

Lawyers for the defence are bullied and intimidated or persuaded to recuse themselves. So well-known in legal circles the reach of Zack’s antagonists that even today, local lawyers are reticent to provide any legal assistance for fear of retribution.

Lawyers retained on Zack’s behalf in the UAE:

1. Abdul Rahman al Sherif - UAE national/recused himself from the case
2. Hamdan el Hermi - UAE national/parted before transferring to court
3. Ali al Shamsi - UAE national/recused himself halfway thru court trials
4. Hassan Raisi - UAE national/very weak
5. Hamdi el Shiwi - Egyptian/please see below explanation - deported
6. Nasser Nassir - Egyptian/see below explanation - threatened with deportation
7. Hamdi Khalifa - Egyptian/visiting lawyer
8. Nabih Bader - Syrian
9. Riyad Kabban - Iraqi/Australian

Hamdi el Shiwi was deported to Egypt and designated as persona non grata 60 days after Zack’s acquittal in one case. Hamdi had embarrassed the judge over bank accounts that never existed. He had worked for 30+ years in the UAE and was the Chief Justice of Criminal Courts in one of the northern Emirates (Umm al Quwain) for almost 20 years. Additionally, he was one of the few ex-pat lawyers who practised law without a sponsor since he was a pioneer in the judicial system; he passed away in Egypt two years after deportation.

Nasser Nassir took over after Mr. el Shiwi left, and he was progressing well. Within a year of being involved with Zack’s cases, he was summoned to the State Security and advised he had 30 days left to leave the country, as he has become persona non grata after having practised law in the country for 25 years. He swiftly recused himself from Zack’s cases, and his deportation was accordingly cancelled.
There was no continuity or consistency with judges residing or case directions given in any of the proceedings, and judges changed for many reasons. Some leaving the country or recusing themselves from the cases. Or the prosecution recalling the file from a specific judge back for further investigations – then they sit on the file for a few months without doing anything and send it to a different judge who may be more accommodating.

A selection of judges who sat over the nine years:

1. Mohammad Battale - Egyptian, left the country
2. Said Barghoutti - Egyptian, left the country
3. Mohammad Erfan - Egyptian, still active
4. Mohammad Jamal - Egyptian, still active
5. Hamad Abdul-Latif - Egyptian, left the country
6. Fahmi Mounir - Egyptian, left the country
7. Issa al-Sharif - UAE National, still active
8. Mahmoud Fahmi Sultan - Egyptian, still active
9. Rashid el Sumeire - UAE National, still active
10. Dr Yousef Moutawa - UAE National, still active
11. Kaisar Fouad - Egyptian, still active
12. Abdulaziz el Zarouni - UAE National, still active
13. Mustafa el Shinawi - Egyptian, still active
14. Maher Salama - Egyptian, passed away during a holiday in Egypt 90 days after he acquitted Zack.
15. Said bin Farm - UAE National, still active and the convicting judge
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EMIRATIS (DR KHBASH)

Initially, Dr Kharbash was accused of many financial crimes and co-defendant with Zack Shahin in trial proceedings over the next nine years. However, Dr Kharbash was never jailed at any time. Dr Kharbash died in March 2016, yet the court continued to try him as Zack’s case partner. Dr Kharbash was tried as a dead man – something quite extraordinary outside of a capital crime.

Perhaps the most outrageous facts surrounding Dr Kharbash are that he received a state funeral in Dubai after his death and was posthumously exonerated of all wrongdoing. Therefore, he lays at rest innocent of all the allegations brought by Shaibani. Adding to the farce is a document dated March 5, 2009. The document shows Kharbash and Shaibani had settled the matter in its entirety, making the resulting ongoing trials and allegations over the next nine years a total sham. The only purpose the trials can have served is the persecution of Zack Shahin and the British men associated with CCH. They are sentenced to die alongside Zack in Al Awir Prison.

CCH and anyone related to CCH and its extensive Dubai development, referred to as The Plantation, suffered similar fates to Zack. Some of those men (British), Ryan Cornelius, Charles Ridley and two employees of DIB, are sharing space in Al Awir prison with Zack and are sentenced to die in jail. The Plantation was a multi-billion-dollar luxury polo, hotel, and residential project in the heart of Dubai; a jewel Shaibani could not resist stealing.

Over the years, there has been a plethora of information in the press concerning the unequal treatment of Zack Shahin and the apparent toothless efforts of the US Government to obtain justice and fair treatment for him. Many legislators have raised concerns, but eventually, all are silenced; so precious is the relationship with the UAE to the US in the Gulf that it appears the life of an Innocent American is a cheap price to pay. The locals are allowed to behave in a way the US would not tolerate from any other country. Many articles can be found online; herein is a small example.
EVENTUALLY, ZACK SHAHIN WAS FOUND GUILTY OF TWO OFFENCES IN JUNE 2017.

ONE: Forgery of an informal document that resulted in a loss. No document has ever been identified or seen by the judge, court, or defendant.

This case, known as 7793, was held together in some format for nine years. On occasions, nine men were named on the indictment. Initially, the principal defendant was Dr Kharbash, this changed, and Zack became number one, with Kharbash always the last man.

The case brought to trial by Dubai Prosecution claimed a loss of 840M AED. The vast sum was based on the findings of the Ruler’s Court Auditors. However, the Prosecution was unable to substantiate the claims. Their evidence was unreliable, unavailable, or simply didn’t add up. Therefore, the case became impossible to prosecute, and they withdrew to revise it. The Prosecution re-presented their case to a new panel of judges. Whereon, it contained 46 parts with a 290M AED loss. However, again, it was soon in difficulty.

The Prosecution’s debacle had the judges send the case to the Ruler’s Court Arbitrators for review. The two-year review process saw 43 parts dismissed, and the amount of loss further reduced to 42M AED. The panel could not rule on the final three parts, as they were not provided with any evidence. They sent the file back to the court, unable to proceed.

Ultimately, Judge Said bin Farm ruled as directed by Shaibani on the remaining three parts. Despite no credible evidence to support his ruling, the judge handed down an unappealable judgement, and Zack is the only man in jail. The other defendants have long been forgotten or were out of the jurisdiction.

Monstrously, Said Bin Farm Judged Zack to be guilty of:

i. Receiving a bribe from Kharbash. However, Kharbash was never accused of bribing Zack, and there was no monetary evidence.

ii. Profiting from property sales that never happened to persons unknown, without monetary evidence.

iii. A small personal loan repayment to Zack on behalf of a friend was ascribed as profit relating to Deyaar despite irrefutable evidence to the contrary.

Various accredited experts examined the case and the financial records on which Judge Said bin Farm relied, and their conclusions are entirely consistent. There was no loss nor grounds for any civil or criminal case against Zack Shahin. The procedures and evidential chain are at best flawed and unreliable. And in many instances, false and most likely fraudulently contrived to persecute an innocent man. How the 840M loss became just 42M is absurd. What happened to the 798M lost? Did it ever exist? It’s a reasonable question and remains unanswered.
TWO:

Criminally culpable for loss Deyaar made on land purchased in Houston, Texas, adjacent to the prestigious Galleria Shopping Mall in Dec 2007, for $51M. The land was revalued in January 2010, after the global banking crisis at $55M by US valuer Landmark, and the value appears in Deyaar’s records.

The land was sold by Deyaar for $35M in 2014, many years after Zack had been jailed, crystalising a loss of $15M. Although, how Zack could be responsible is incredulous. Incidentally, the purchaser was a star basketball player from the Houston Rockets, who sold within two years for $62M. Had everyone forgotten Zack’s hundreds of profitable deals during his years in control, and he certainly wasn’t the man who sold the land in 2014.

Deyaar attempted to make a civil case in Texas but decided to withdraw after a disastrous deposition by Srinivasan Krishnaswamy, a man who ultimately became the CFO at Deyaar. Texas courts dismissed the lawsuit upon an application to do so by Deyaar. It was destined to fail and would have only highlighted the ridiculousness of the action in Dubai. It is also noted that a claim for the loss failed in the Dubai civil court after a disastrous report by the government auditors.

Various internal memos and auditor’s comments over the years have been examined, and Deyaar manipulates the value of the land to minimalise ongoing land tax liabilities in the US. The land value was suppressed on the Deyaar accounts in 2009 specifically to achieve this. The relevant explanations are found on page 24 of their internal memo.

The land purchase and sale were dealt with by various others within Deyaar, as was typical for a company of its size. The deal was signed off along the way by multiple departments. However, no other person was convicted of any wrongdoing. The Chairmen ultimately signed off the contract to purchase in 2007 and sell in 2014. Meaning Kharbash and Abdul al Hamli are ultimately responsible for their combined acts.
Shaibani’s answer was to legally change the status of both Deyaar, the plaintiff, and Zack, the accused. Zack had been in jail at the time of his conviction longer than the sentencing permitted by the court. And despite irrefutable Dubai Government evidence to the contrary, Zack was now re-classified as a public servant, and Deyaar was to be viewed by the court as a government entity. Therefore, he was now a public official, using a position of privilege to steal from the public purse. The sentencing parameters now suited Shaibani’s purposes.

Ironically, had Deyaar been a Government entity, then the prosecution should have been the responsibility of the Attorney General and not the Public Prosecution, but details didn’t at this point.

The judge sentenced Zack to ten and fifteen years to run consecutively for the two separate offences. The prosecution added a final clause after the court handed down the judgment without judicial approval, making it a whole of life, with no possibility of release unless he pays millions of dollars to Deyaar.

The US Embassy sat back and watched it all happen, knowing Zack was a scapegoat.
WAS ANY MONEY EVER LOST?
THE MILLION, OR PERHAPS
BILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION.

During the process of usurpation, the departing Chairman of DIB, Dr Kharbash, agrees to return an amount of money to the coffers of Dubai and resigns as Minister for Finance & Industry. He also gives up all his prestigious roles to his tormentor, Mohammed Al Shaibani. The settlement agreement Kharbash signed with Shaibani in March 2009 ends all the claims against him. And Shaibani is now the Chairman of DIB.

Perhaps the most significant point is both Deyaar and Dubai Islamic Bank, with their stocks and bonds traded on the financial markets, are subject to intense scrutiny from the financial regulators. They are audited annually by the Big4 international firms rotating regularly. In fourteen years, there has never been a write-off, write down, provision for loss, auditors’ memo, internal memo, or document that has identified any loss attributable to Zack Shahin, his family, or his friends. The money simply never existed.

Shaibani made claims of billions missing from publicly traded companies, yet no one has ever identified the losses or found the money to date. The claims were spurious and only garnered public and media support for his usurpation of power and corporate raiding. In the matter of CCH, so outrageous were his claims of half a billion dollars loss that DIB had to make a formal statement to stabilise its share price - stating unequivocally to the markets and regulators that no losses had occurred.

Shaibani nearly started a run on his Bank in the clumsy bid for power, so irresponsible were his actions. Of course, he had to see it through and jail the men he’d accused if nothing more than to prove himself right. For Shaibani is always right in Dubai, even when the facts prove otherwise!
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE IN DUBAI
Human Rights abuse is prevalent across the entire United Arab Emirates. The first two sections in this chapter contain extracts from Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International’s most recent reports on the UAE’s conduct.

In 2021, United Arab Emirates (UAE) authorities continued to invest in a “soft power” strategy aimed at painting the country as a progressive, tolerant, and rights-respecting nation, yet the UAE’s intolerance of criticism was reflected in the continued unjust imprisonment of leading human rights activist Ahmed Mansoor and others.

The UAE continued to develop its surveillance capabilities, both online and through mass facial recognition surveillance in public spaces. New reports emerged of UAE authorities misusing Israeli spyware to gain access to the private and encrypted communications of journalists, activists, and world leaders.

In 2021, a UAE Interior Ministry official ran as a candidate for president of Interpol and won, an appointment that jeopardizes the global police organization’s commitment to its human rights obligations given the UAE state security apparatus’ long record of multiple abuses.

The UAE blocked representatives of international human rights organizations and UN experts from conducting in-country research and visiting prisons and detention facilities.

**Arbitrary Arrests, Detainee Abuse, and Forcible Deportations**

UAE authorities arbitrarily targeted Pakistani Shia residents by subjecting them to enforced disappearance, incommunicado detention, and eventually groundless deportations. Reports of UAE authorities’ arbitrarily targeting Shia residents, whether Lebanese, Iraqi, Afghan, Pakistani or otherwise, often emerge at times of increased regional tensions.

In late June, UAE authorities reportedly arrested hundreds of African migrant workers from Cameroon, Nigeria, and Uganda, arbitrarily detained them for weeks, and illegally deported them en masse without allowing them to challenge their deportations. Thomson Reuters Foundation reported in September that UAE authorities deported Cameroonians despite their stated concerns about ongoing violence back home.

Especially in cases purportedly related to state security, detainees were at serious risk of arbitrary and incommunicado detention, torture and ill-treatment, prolonged solitary confinement, and denial of access to legal assistance. Forced confessions were used as evidence in trial proceedings, and prisoners complained of overcrowded and unhygienic conditions and inadequate medical care.

Throughout 2021, UAE prison authorities denied detainees living with HIV uninterrupted access to lifesaving antiretroviral treatment, in flagrant violation of their right to health and essential medicines. In at least two UAE prisons, detainees living with HIV were segregated from the rest of the prison population and faced stigma and systemic discrimination. Prisoners living with HIV in the UAE who have been denied adequate medical care are at risk of experiencing serious complications if infected with the Covid-19 virus.

Despite international calls to do so, the UAE refused to allow independent international monitors to enter the country and visit prison and detention facilities.
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Over two dozen prisoners of conscience, including well-known human rights defender Ahmed Mansoor, continued to be detained in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The state continued to restrict freedom of expression, taking measures to silence citizens and residents who expressed critical opinions on COVID-19 and other social and political issues. A number of detainees remained in prison past the completion of their sentences without legal justification. A UK court found that head of government Mohammed bin Rashed Al Maktoum had ab ducted and detained two of his daughters.

Background

Emirati authorities continued to ban political opposition and to detain prisoners for such opposition. Scores of Emiratis continued to serve prison sentences in the UAE-94 case, a mass trial of 94 defendants that concluded in 2013 with 69 convicted on charges of seeking to change the system of government.

In February 2020, the UAE announced the completion of its “phased military withdrawal” from Yemen after five years of co-leading the coalition in the armed conflict. It continued, however, to illicitly divert weapons and military equipment to militias in Yemen (see Yemen entry). In Libya, the Emirati government provided arms to the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army, in violation of a UN embargo, and operated military drones in Libyan airspace, in some cases leading to the killing of people not directly participating in hostilities (see Libya entry).

Arbitrary detention

At least 10 people continued to be arbitrarily detained after completing their prison sentences. Articles 40 and 48 of the counter-terrorism law (Federal Act No. 7 of 2014) stated that those “adopting extremist or terrorist thought” may be held indefinitely in prison for “counselling”. Most such prisoners were held at al-Razin prison in the desert south-east of Abu Dhabi city. They included Omran Ali al-Harithi, a defendant in the UAE-94 trial, who should have been released in July 2019; and Abdullah Ebrahim al-Helu, convicted in June 2016 of belonging to the charitable arm of al-Islah, the formerly legal Emirati branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, who was due for release in May 2017. The authorities released some prisoners after they appeared in videos posted to pro-government social media channels in which they “confessed” that al-Islah was a “terrorist” organization and repudiated their affiliation with it.

In March, the UK High Court of Justice (Family Division) made public a fact-finding judgement reached the previous December that concluded that the head of government had arranged for his daughter Shamsa’s enforced removal from the UK in 2000 and the “capture” and detention of another daughter, Latifa, in a maritime assault launched when she attempted to escape the royal family in 2018.

Unfair trials

Emiratis and foreign national residents continued to face imprisonment following unfair trials. On 17 February, the State Security Chamber of the Federal Supreme Court upheld the conviction and sentencing of five Lebanese men on charges of planning violent acts in the UAE. They had faced unfair trial procedures, including incommunicado detention for months, denial of access to lawyers, and use of coerced “confessions” as evidence. In May, Abdallah Awadh al-Shamsi – an Omani national born to an Emirati mother and an Omani father resident in the UAE – was sentenced to life in prison after proceedings marred by a similar pattern of violations.
Racism in Dubai and the wider region is endemic and deeply ingrained into its culture and society. Despite the rhetoric and progressive diction used by the regime in its policy statements and various self-prophesizing media, the harsh reality of what goes on is accepted and generally remains unchallenged by anyone. Public protest and freedom of speech are banned – with these laws ruthlessly enforced. There are severe consequences for the perpetrators of any dissension.

The inability for an individual or group to speak out has ensured that Dubai’s progress towards racial equality is nothing more than a charade to vilify its critics and provide material for its supporters to ease their consciences. The party continues, and the tourists keep coming, while Dubai operates an unjust and brutal racial profiling policy with impunity.

All large locally-owned enterprises employ and pay with a strict racially profiled policy. The passport and skin colour dictate an employee’s job and salary. Racial profiling is impossible to disguise. On occasion, when two different racially profiled people hold the same position, then the disparity in the wage undisputedly serves to underscore the policy.

The judicial system is equally racially prejudiced, with sentencing disparity and police treatment explicitly aligned with the endemic racial prejudices and inequalities. Suppose the lid was lifted on freedom of expression and public dissent. In that case, the racially motivated riots that would ensue will be terrifying to behold, so swift would be the retribution on the overseers and slave masters. Whilst statues have become unsafe in recent years in the Southern States of America, Dubai’s ruling elite would have to live in exile.
Police in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) carried out a sweeping campaign arbitrarily detaining and deporting at least 375 African migrant workers who were seized from their homes in terrifying night-time raids, taken to prison where they were subjected to degrading treatment and other multiple human rights violations, before being collectively deported without any form of due process, new research from Amnesty International has found.

Hundreds of African nationals were rounded up on the night of 24-25 June 2021 before being arbitrarily detained incommunicado in Al-Wathba prison for up to two months. Emirati police later falsified negative PCR tests for them to travel, stripped them of their belongings, including vital legal documents, and denied them access to legal counsel.

“These African workers were living and working in the UAE legally. This racial targeting caused devastation in the lives of some of the most marginalized members of Emirati society at a time when the UAE government presents itself as a model country for multicultural tolerance as it hosts Dubai Expo 2020,” said Lynn Maalouf, Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International.

“The authorities have brutalized hundreds of individuals on the basis of their skin colour, ill-treating them in detention, stripping them of their personal possessions and their dignity before deporting them en masse. The UAE must take a clear and public stance that any racist targeting for whatever reason will not be accepted and they must ensure that those who already suffered such treatment be provided with appropriate restitution and redress.”

Amnesty International interviewed eight women and 10 men who were arbitrarily deported and expelled from the UAE following the June raids, of which 11 were from Cameroon, five from Nigeria, one from Uganda and one from Ghana. All of them described a pattern of racial targeting in the apprehensions, noting that those rounded up were almost exclusively Black. A few Asian nationals found living in the same flats as the Africans were also arrested.

The Emirati authorities detained them for between 35 and 61 days and summarily deported them without affording them the opportunity to challenge their deportation.

‘They told us they hate Africans’: Hundreds detained, deported from Abu Dhabi
ANTI-BLACKNESS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND THE VIOLENCE THAT DOESN’T GET A HASHTAG

In the wake of George Floyd’s death and the subsequent anti-racist protests taking place around the world, Arab communities have had to finally contend with their own long, long tradition of anti-Blackness. Social media has come alive with different perspectives, but many have pointed out the profound irony in the situation. How can we retweet #BlackLivesMatter with one hand while, in many countries in the region, we hold on to Kafala contracts with the other? Or, as British-Sudanese artist Rayan El Nayal phrases it, have the courage to post on Instagram, but not talk to our families about their continued use of the word 3abeed (Arabic for ‘slave,’ used colloquially to refer to black people)?

However, human rights abuse is not limited to the unfortunate victims of racism or the victims of political and corporate raiding. And many Arabs suffer terribly at the hands of their brethren.

“Damning new details reveal just how cruelly the UAE has been treating Ahmed Mansoor, its most celebrated human rights activist, a man who courageously stood up to his abusive government, demanding it respect human rights when very few would dare,” said Michael Page, HRW’s deputy Middle East director about Wednesday’s report. “The UAE authorities’ railroading of Ahmed Mansoor shows their utter contempt for the rule of law and their determination to intimidate its critics into silence by any means necessary.”

Significant human rights issues included: torture in detention; arbitrary arrest and detention, including incommunicado detention, by government agents; political prisoners; government interference with privacy rights; undue restrictions on free expression and the press, including criminalization of libel, censorship, and Internet site blocking; substantial interference with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedoms of expression and association; the inability of citizens to choose their government in free and fair elections; and criminalization of same-sex sexual activity, although no cases were publicly reported during the year. The government did not permit workers to freely associate, bargain collectively, or join independent unions and did not effectively prevent physical and sexual abuse of foreign domestic servants and other migrant workers.

The constitution prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention. The government, however, reportedly often held persons in custody for extended periods without charge or a preliminary judicial hearing. The law permits indefinite detention, including incommunicado detention, without appeal. In some cases, authorities did not allow detainees contact with attorneys, family members, or others for indefinite or unspecified periods. Some detainees reported being monitored during meetings with family members and consular officials, as well as being prevented from discussing their cases or detention conditions.

In cases of foreign nationals detained by police, which in view of the country’s demographic breakdown were the vast majority of cases, the government often did not notify the appropriate diplomatic officials. For state security detainees, notification was exceptionally rare, and information about the status of these detainees was very limited.
"There's no judge, no jury. They assign you to a prosecutor, and the prosecutor can just do what he wants."
REVEALED: 270 British women arrested in UAE a year amid concerns over torture

HUNDREDS of British women have been taken into custody in the United Arab Emirates each year over the past five years, it can be revealed.

Dubai news: Seven things to NEVER do in the city - or face prison sentence

DUBAI has very strict rules even for tourists entering the UAE. Travellers should avoid doing these seven things or risk being sent to prison - or even face the death penalty.

Dubai’s Laws for Tourists and Residents are found quickly enough online, and most nations publish some official guidelines on the laws and customs of Dubai. However, no one is prepared to give detail on the impossibility of the process once it has begun. Although most in the country are familiar, no one wants to put it in writing, as the author of the content would soon find themselves a victim of the system. But those who have fallen foul of the police states Machiavellian judicial system will tell you off the record, and only if they plan never to return or transit through Dubai. Dissent, criticism, or simply explaining that things don’t run well is a criminal act.

1. Dubai Laws – Swearing on WhatsApp
2. Dubai Laws – Checking someone’s phone
3. Eating or drinking on public transport
4. Carrying foods containing poppy seeds
5. Dubai Laws – Fundraising
6. Weird Dubai Laws – Using a VPN
7. Having an unclean car
8. Taking photos of individuals without their permission
9. Making and spreading rumors
10. Taking Snaps or Sharing Photos of Road Accidents
11. Public Display of Affection
12. Weird Dubai Laws – Dressing
13. Washing your car

"There's no judge, no jury. They assign you to a prosecutor, and the prosecutor can just do what he wants."

The Terrifying True Story Of How Future's DJ Got Stuck In A Dubai Jail For 56 Nights
Dubai is synonymous with money, and lots of it, but for a long time, it has been well documented and widely known that a lot of that money is dirty money. And yet, for years, Dubai, its banks and its businesses have been able to operate with impunity. Their currency, the Dirham, is pegged to the USD; therefore, they are dependent on full access to the US banking system. Yet, they appear to welcome everyone from Nigerian kleptocrats to Mexican narco-traffickers, from Chechnyan warlords to Congolese gold smugglers and on the list goes.

A vast array of criminals, corrupt politicians, and money launderers from all over the world, including some of the world’s most notorious terror organisations such as ISIS and Al Qaeda, appear to have at some time facilitated their financial activities with the help of Dubai. A new report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace According to the report, Dubai is one of the world’s worst dirty money hotspots.

Gold, dug from deadly conflict zones or moved out of Afghanistan by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, is laundered in Dubai and shipped onto the world market, the report said. The report adds that corrupt public officials launder stolen money through luxury real estate, and light-touch free trade zones help businesses hide wrongdoing through false documents.

Dubai’s lax regulatory climate facilitates illicit financial and commercial activity—particularly trade-based money laundering (TBML)—via the emirate’s many free trade zones. The emirate’s ambivalence toward unregulated financial dealings and illicit trade is long-standing and deeply entrenched. Unlike other sharia-based legal systems, Dubai’s civil legal frameworks provide insufficient anti-money laundering regulation and oversight—a reflection of the emirate’s long history as a freewheeling regional trading center. As a result, Dubai is now one of the most conducive places in the world to undertake TBML.
Among the world’s major gold trading hubs, Dubai is a relatively new player. Yet it is savvy enough to pursue previously untapped markets and ambitious enough to frequently cut corners to bring gold to the market. The UAE’s share of world gold trade in 2018 is evidence of just how successful this strategy has become.¹ As late as 1996, the UAE did not even appear among the world’s top one hundred gold-importing countries. Two decades later, the UAE ranked among the top four, above Hong Kong and the United States (see Table 2).

Of the eleven gold refineries in the UAE, the majority are located in Dubai. This accords with the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre’s (DMCC) own statistics, which show that Dubai is responsible for about 80 percent of the total UAE gold imports and exports (measured either by volume or value).

_Dubai Has Become A "Money Laundering Paradise" Says Anti-Corruption Group_

The United Arab Emirates: A key piece in the global money laundering puzzle

_In its latest Corruption Perceptions Index, anti-graft campaigning group Transparency International says that “Dubai has become an active global hub for money laundering … where the corrupt and other criminals can go to buy luxurious property with no restrictions.”_
The US Treasury Department abandoned a major money laundering case against Dubai gold company

After three years of digging, investigators in the United States had accumulated a mountain of evidence that they believed sealed the case against Kaloti Jewellery Group, one of the largest gold traders and refiners in the world. A US Drug Enforcement Administration-led task force determined that the Dubai-based conglomerate had become a key cog in the dirty gold trade, buying the precious metal from sellers suspected of laundering money for drug traffickers and other criminal groups. Kaloti often paid in cash — sometimes so much it had to be hauled in wheelbarrows — and wired money for suspect clients to other businesses, investigators believed.

In 2014 the task force recommended that the Treasury Department designate Kaloti a money laundering threat under the USA Patriot Act, a seldom-used measure known as the financial "death penalty" because it can freeze a firm out of the international banking system. However, the Treasury Department never acted against Kaloti. Former Treasury officials said a decision on whether to move ahead was deferred for fear of angering the United Arab Emirates, a key US ally in the Middle East. When attempts to convince the UAE to act on its own against Kaloti fizzled, the investigation was mothballed.

International investigators recently concluded that the Dubai-based trader Kaloti was buying gold from criminal networks. A new investigation has concluded that criminals used Kaloti to launder drug money and were allowed to sell gold into global supply chains used to make smartphones and cars. The US Treasury was urged by law enforcement six years ago to warn the world that it was a "primary money laundering concern". But the warning was never given.

As a result, Kaloti has continued to sell tonnes of gold to companies in the supply chains of Apple, General Motors and Amazon, which use the precious metal in components. This has put firms and millions of consumers at risk of unwittingly funding criminal activity.
The Kabul to Dubai Pipeline

For almost two decades now, billions of dollars in corruption proceeds have been funneled from Afghanistan, a country devastated by four decades of conflict, to Dubai. These outflows have played a part in stunting Afghanistan’s economic and political development, facilitating the resurgence of the Taliban, and exacerbating regional instability. They have also largely negated the effects of huge sums of development aid and stabilization funds spent by the international community in Afghanistan. These critical observations are evidenced by the multitude of illicit finance cases and credible reports that highlight the cross-pollination of criminality between Afghanistan and Dubai. There is, perhaps, no case that illustrates these linkages better than the notorious Kabul Bank scandal.

UAE Faces Risk of Inclusion on Global Watchlist Over Dirty Money

The United Arab Emirates is at increased risk of being placed on a global watchdog’s list of countries subject to more oversight for shortcomings in combating money laundering and terrorist financing, even after a recent government push to stamp out illicit transactions.

The Financial Action Task Force is leaning toward adding the UAE to its “gray list” early this year, one of two classifications used by the intergovernmental body for nations determined to have “strategic deficiencies,” according to people familiar with the matter, who requested anonymity because the discussions are private.

Pandora Papers reveal Emirati royal families’ role in secret money flows

Dubai and the wider UAE have on many occasions intrinsically linked to money laundering. However, despite the amazing ability of the tiny Emirate to have avoided sanctions and punishment, perhaps the tide is slowly starting to turn. Consistent headlines and investigations over twenty years into Dubai’s questionable financial activity may finally be starting to become too much to ignore. Their powerful and carefully managed media to garner public support and the consistent lobbying in the corridors of power may not be enough to keep everyone’s blinkers on. The truth eventually finds its way to the surface, no matter how unpleasant, and the past catches up with even the most powerful of men.

Pandora Papers have now shed even more light on the complex and murky financial world that Dubai’s ruling elite are so deeply ingrained.

Is it just coincidence, or are the Big4 Auditors in Dubai all corrupt??

KPMG – Delloite & Touche – Ernst & Young – Price Waterhouse Coopers

The Kabul to Dubai Pipeline
HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SLAVERY
Excerpts from
2021 Trafficking in Persons Report: United Arab Emirates

As reported over the past five years, human traffickers exploit foreign victims in the UAE. Foreign workers comprise nearly 90 percent of the UAE’s population and are recruited globally. Lower wage labor, including most manual labor and a significant portion of the service sector, is provided almost entirely by migrant workers predominantly from South and Southeast Asia and the Middle East, with a growing percentage from East and West Africa. It is not uncommon for employers to subject some of these workers to conditions indicative of forced labor, such as passport retention, non-payment of wages and unpaid overtime, restrictions on movement, contract switching, fraudulent employment promises, substandard food and housing provisions, or a failure to meet other contractual agreements. Adults from some of these countries travel willingly to the UAE to work as domestic workers, security guards, drivers, gardeners, massage therapists, beauticians, hotel cleaners, or elsewhere in the service sector, but traffickers subject some of them to forced labor or sex trafficking after arrival. Reports indicate the UAE serves as a trafficking hub where recruiters sell migrants to families who subsequently illegally transport them to other countries in the Gulf.

These widespread abuses have led the US Department of State to rank the UAE consecutively as a Tier 2 country for the last nine years, meaning the country has not met minimum standards for combatting human trafficking.

Although illegal under UAE law, many source-country labor recruiters charge workers exorbitant fees in their home countries (outside of UAE jurisdiction), causing workers to commence employment in the UAE owing debts in their respective countries of origin, increasing their vulnerability to trafficking through debt-based coercion. Despite UAE law to prevent the practice, reports of employers engaging in the practice of contract-swapping persist, leading to less desirable and lower paying jobs for laborers post-arrival in the UAE. Traffickers often recruit victims from the large foreign population already in the country; they may deceive or compel a migrant worker in the UAE, willingly on a tourist or work visa, into forced labor or sex trafficking. Additionally, some laborers enter the UAE on tourist visas and start working for an employer who subsequently opts not to change the tourist visa to a work visa in order to grant legal residency, a common method of exploitation. However, due to pandemic-related border closures and travel restrictions both in the UAE and in other countries, the use of tourist visas as a method to circumvent immigration and labor laws lessened, and traffickers reportedly focused on targeting workers inside of the UAE instead. During the reporting period, workers experienced pandemic-related job loss, non-payment of wages, and movement restrictions, which heightened their vulnerability to trafficking.
The Emirati government needs to take immediate steps to dismantle and repeal the abusive and exploitative kafala system. The employer-based sponsorship system currently in place is exploitative to workers and allows employers to heavily control their workers’ lives. The rampant human trafficking, forced labor, and forced prostitution in the UAE will not ebb until the Government of the UAE takes concerted steps to eradicate them. Officials need to enact these changes in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of migrant workers in the country. If these issues are not properly addressed, employers will continue to exploit their workers, women will continue to be forced into prostitution, and officials will continue to jail victims for crimes directly resulting from them having been trafficked.
They’ve beaten me badly

HOLIDAY NIGHTMARES - DUBAI

Cellmate of Briton who died in Dubai police station says he was attacked by six guards, then left in agony for four days as he begged for medical help

A PRISONER who shared a cell with a British tourist allegedly beaten to death by guards in a Dubai police station has revealed how he begged them to help save his life.

The witness said Lee Brown, 29, told him: "Please, please help me. Call my embassy, call my family." They beat me badly, Please help me otherwise I will die.

His testimony includes the claim that after being attacked by six officers, Mr Brown was left alone for four days to die in his cell and that the officers checked on him.

The officers, he says, even joked: "Ere’ craziy. Let him die in there!"

Mr Brown, a handyman from Essex, had flown first class to the Gulf city and was staying at a £1,110-a-night hotel when he was arrested after a row with a maid and jailed on June 30 inside the notorious Bar Dubai police station.

The witness says police guards had beaten him and he was left without a concrete floor. But he could, in-depth testimony has surfaced from anyone who was inside the police station.

The mail on Sunday tracked down the inmate who shared a cell with Mr Brown and who witnessed his beating. He was also the last person to see and speak to him before his death.

The witness - whose identity cannot be revealed in Dubai police safety - has since been released and is assisting the victim’s family in finding the truth. In an interview, he describes being thrown into the same cell after arriving at the police station in the aftermath of the alleged beating.

His evidence reveals how Mr Brown was covered in blood from "awful" head injuries and how the guards had apparently humiliated him by pulling down his jeans so his genitals were visible. Four days after leaving Mr Brown to die, the witness says police allowed his body in a black bin bag. Mr Brown a mustard modest found him in 11am, Essex, set off on what should have been a spectacular holiday in Dubai butjar three weeks ago. Fying first-class on Emirates and staying in the seven-star Burj Al Arab, billed as the world’s most luxurious hotel, it is believed he was planning to meet a woman he had befriended on the internet.

But early on Thursday, April 7 - just hours after checking into the hotel - he was arrested after a confrontation with a chambermaid.

Officers took him to the Bar Dubai police station - notorious as the most brutal in the city. Other prisoners later told the witness they had seen a gang of six guards laugh as they beat Mr Brown with kicks, punches and batons.

They said they smashed his head against the ground and a wall. It was soon after this alleged attack that the witness was taken to the jail on April 8 after being arrested for a minor offence.

He said: When I got there the officers were immediately aggressive. One shouted: "Hey, go, you got inside! Stupid boy. I will slap you. I hope you die in here."

He was taken, he believes, to a tiny, windowless cell where Mr Brown had been cropped and was alone with him for a crucial ten minutes before he was jailed.

"The door opened," he said. "I saw Lee kneeling against the far wall of the cell with handwritten on his wrists and ankles. He was naked apart from his dark green jeans which had been pulled down. It looked like he had been trying to humiliate him."

He was half conscious but he noticed me when I came in.

"He was in a very bad way and clearly needed emergency treatment. He was bleeding from many wounds on his head and face. It was mainly coming from his right forehead and was running all the way down his face," he said.

Two British students stranded in Dubai for almost three months after dispute over damaged luxury rental car are finally told they can return home

- James Dua-Wiifi and Stanley Kundishora were banned from leaving the UAE
- They were told they had to wait for court hearing over allegations of assault
- But the students have been fined £2000 and told a flight ban from Dubai lifted
- It follows a brief court hearing where they were convicted of minor assault
- They had faced up to 18 months in jail but are now expected to return to the UK.

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Dubai is synonymous with holidays from hell, and terrifying stories make global news each year. Unfortunately, there are many where the victims are too embarrassed by the ordeal that they don’t speak out, and the horrors remain unpublished. A quick search on Google produces frightening stories of despair and injustice. Still, Dubai’s effort to contra this negative information is perhaps most shocking. Only the most recent events can be found, as, after a period, the ongoing management of Dubai’s image online is so proactive across media platforms that the stories soon vanish. It requires a determined researcher to find a story you know was once there.

Dubai is extremely good at manipulating information to serve its purpose. The unfortunate British youngster who received 25 years for possession of a couple of bottles of CBD oil, of the type that can be bought in most high street health shops, has just been reduced to 10 years. They will probably deport him in a year or two, as the story has drawn too much attention. Most forget that thousands of people are jailed in Dubai for much smaller quantities of CBD products, from lower-tier countries on Dubai’s who matters list who will serve twenty plus years.

The real problem with Dubai is that too much of what is considered normal behaviour in Western democracies, or if not expected, at least lawful, and failing that, only a misdemeanour, is unlawful in Dubai. And a whole raft of what are civil disputes between people or commercial entities in Western democracies, and even in many totalitarian states like China and Russia, are criminal acts in Dubai with dire consequences.

The book Dubai – A Tale of Two Cities tells the real story of Dubai, the world’s most dangerous and duplicitous city. Almost every visitor to Dubai is unaware of the difference in the rules concerning crime and punishment from their home country. So welcoming and so well marketed is Dubai that everyone is made to feel welcome and at home on arrival. The feel-good factor, where everyone is having fun, quickly removes visitors’ trepidation. Everyone is having a good time, and it’s just like home, but better, with more sunshine.

It is illegal to drink, and it is illegal to be drunk. No one is prosecuted unless you upset the wrong person or are just unlucky. It is unlawful to kiss your wife in public, and if your partner is of the same sex, then it gets a whole lot worse. And the sentencing is disproportionate to anything that a visitor might expect. Sentences for the smallest of misdemeanours amount to a whole of life.
There are many stories, but perhaps one of the worst is the death of Lee Bradley Brown; it is a tragic tale and underlines the lack of respect for life the authorities in Dubai have.

**Fresh doubts over Briton Lee Bradley Brown’s death in Dubai**

Family to urge foreign secretary to help solve mystery surrounding Dagenham man’s death in Dubai jail cell

Dubai authorities refusing to provide evidence for inquest into death of Dagenham man on holiday

Death of Lee Bradley Brown has its own Wikipedia page, and ten years on, there are too many unanswered questions, and justice has not been served.

The beatings and outrageous conduct of the Dubai Police and Prosecution appear to have little effect on the thousands of tourists who flock to Dubai. A culture of ‘it won’t happen to me’ exists in the mindset of the visitors. The continuous stream of wonderful things happening in Dubai and how much good it does internationally lull the senses of even the most cautious of travellers. The Ruler of Dubai has created an image for himself and the tiny emirate of tolerance and equality. The general opinion was that he steps in even if something terrible happens, quickly resolving everything. This could not be further from the truth.
British football coach sentenced to 25 years’ jail in Dubai over CBD vape liquid

Acquitted executive, wife trapped in Dubai as prosecutors lodge appeal

Two British students stranded in Dubai for almost three months after dispute over damaged luxury rental car are finally told they can return home

Ill and desperate amputee stranded in Dubai: 'I'd give my one leg to end my holiday hell'

American faces jail in Dubai after smoking cannabis legally in the US

Brit, 60, jailed in Dubai reveals inhumane prison where inmates are 'beaten and starved'

Mary Robinson 'horribly tricked' over Dubai princess
Unfortunately, the messy Royal divorce has had the Sheikh found out by the British High Courts, and it is now in print, television documentaries and court findings of fact.

Princess Haya fled after 'campaign of intimidation' by multi-billionaire Dubai ruler

Abduction, forced return, torture and a campaign of intimidation. The damming allegations made against the billionaire ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, by his former wife, Princess Haya Bint Al-Hussain, became established fact, published in a series of judgements by the High Court in London

Following a high-profile case that began in 2019, the court has published a Fact-Finding Judgement (FFJ) in favour of Princess Haya, who fled Dubai last year, along with her two children, telling friends she was in fear of her life.

Sheikh Mohammed had tried to keep the judgment out of the public domain, but his appeal was rejected after the case was ruled to be in the public interest. The ruler of Dubai was found to have "not been open and honest with the court"

After hearing extensive witness statements over a period of time, the court found Sheikh Mohammed to have been responsible for the abduction and forced return of two of his daughters from another marriage.

Sheikha Shamsa fled the family's UK estate in Surrey in 2000 but was later abducted in Cambridgeshire by agents of the sheikh and forcibly returned to Dubai, where she remains in captivity. A request by Cambridgeshire Police to visit Dubai to investigate her abduction was refused.

Sheikha Latifa made two unsuccessful attempts to flee her father's family in 2002 and 2018. After the first, her father imprisoned her in Dubai for over three years. In the second attempt, she was abducted at sea off the Indian coast and forcibly returned to Dubai, where she remains under house arrest. The judge found her allegations of serious physical abuse amounting to torture, made by Latifa in a public video, to be credible.

The judge found that Sheikh Mohammed "continues to maintain a regime whereby both these two young women are deprived of their liberty".
**Timeline of events in lives of Dubai ruler’s daughters and ex-wife**

**August 2000**
Princess Shamsa, then 19, is abducted from the streets of Cambridge, it is alleged by staff working for her father, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, and forced to return to the United Arab Emirates. The Guardian is the first to report in December 2001 that detectives are examining Shamsa’s kidnapping by agents of her father.

**March 2018**
Another daughter of the sheikh, Princess Latifa, then 32, is seized by Indian army commandos from the Indian Ocean as she attempts to flee the emirate, before being forcibly returned to Dubai. Before her attempted escape she had recorded a video in which she said her leaving was “the start of me claiming my life, my freedom”.

**April 2019**
The sheikh’s sixth and youngest wife, Princess Haya, flees to England with their two young children. Subsequently both sides become embroiled in legal proceedings in the family court in London, the sheikh attempting to return the children to Dubai while Haya applies for a forced-marriage protection order, relating to their daughter, and a non-molestation order.
December 2019

In a judgment, published in March last year, Sir Andrew McFarlane, the president of the family division of the high court, finds on the balance of probabilities that the sheikh orchestrated the abductions of Shamsa and Latifa and subjected Haya to a campaign of “intimidation”. The findings relating to Haya include that the sheikh attempted to have her abducted by helicopter, arranged for guns to be left in her bedroom, divorced her without telling her, threatened to seize their children and published threatening poems about her online.

December 2020

McFarlane, after hearing that the sheikh attempted to buy a £30m estate next door to Haya’s house in Berkshire, creates a 100-metre exclusion zone around her property and a 1,000ft no-fly zone above it to protect her from her ex-husband and his agents, saying: “The mother is justified in regarding the purchase of a substantial estate immediately abutting her own as being a very significant threat to her security.” Details of the decision were only published on Wednesday.

May 2021

In another judgment published on Wednesday, McFarlane finds on the balance of probabilities that the sheikh’s agents with his “express or implied authority” unlawfully hacked the phone of his ex-wife and five of her associates – including a British parliamentarian – using NSO Group’s Pegasus spyware. Finding that Haya was personally hacked 11 times, including on one occasion when 265MB of data was uploaded, equivalent to about 24 hours of digital voice recording data or 500 photographs, he calls it a “a total abuse of trust, and indeed an abuse of power”.

‘The walls are closing in on me’: the hacking of Princess Haya

Eleven court judgments, covering 181 pages, plus hundreds of other pages of legal documents have revealed an extraordinary spying scandal: state-sponsored mobile phone hacking conducted on behalf of the ruler of Dubai.
Dubai ruler ordered to pay record-breaking divorce settlement to ex-wife Princess Haya bint al-Hussein

_British Court Orders Dubai Ruler to Pay £554 Million in Custody Settlement_

The settlement, of about $734 million, resolves a lengthy dispute that began when Princess Haya bint Al Hussein and her two children fled to London in 2019.

LONDON — London’s High Court has ordered the ruler of Dubai to pay his ex-wife and their two children more than 554 million pounds, according to court documents released Tuesday that said he posed “grave risk” to their safety.

The documents detail a custody settlement, dated Nov. 19, that appears to be one of the largest in British history, equivalent to about $734 million. The settlement also appears to resolve a two-year court battle between Dubai’s ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, and Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, who fled to London in 2019, seeking political asylum and a divorce.

Lawyers representing Sheikh Mohammed and Princess Haya did not immediately return requests for comment on Tuesday.

The princess’s flight from Dubai, the largest city of the United Arab Emirates, followed failed efforts to leave by two of Sheikh Mohammed’s daughters from another marriage, Sheikha Shamsa al-Maktoum and Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed al-Maktoum.

Dubai’s Princess Haya wants protection from the glitzy city’s ruler and his minions. She’s not the first victim of the regime’s brutality.

For many outside the Middle East, Dubai has developed a reputation as a glitzy, cosmopolitan hub — a view that has been molded and propagated by its ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, who is also the vice president of the United Arab Emirates.

But Maktoum, a 70-year-old billionaire racehorse owner, has faced successive claims of mistreatment by women in his family. The cases have highlighted what activists have said are the emirate’s regressive attitudes toward women’s rights and free speech that are too often masked by the perception of Dubai as the Las Vegas of the Middle East.
The story of Princess Haya is not the first marriage to turn sour for the Ruthless Dictator of Dubai, his first wife Sheikha Randa Al Banna met Maktoum bin Rashid in 1972. Dubai was a little-known desert kingdom Randa al-Banna knew nothing about. The young 23-year-old Sheikh Maktoum pursued her relentlessly, and they were quickly married, whereon they embarked on a champagne lifestyle of private jets and exotic locations. They were regularly seen at the world’s hottest venues and nightclubs in the early days. It would last only a short while, and within four years, it had come to an acrimonious end. Randa al-Banna had to flee from Maktoum’s fiefdom and returned penniless to Beirut without her only child, a daughter born to Maktoum, whom she named Manal.

For over forty years, Randa al-Banna remained silent over her treatment at the hands of Dubai’s ruler, in the forlorn hope of being reunited with her daughter and gaining access to her grandchildren.

Randa al-Banna has tried to see her daughter Manal many times over the years. However, Maktoum has continually failed to deliver on his promises. Just days before Randa al-Banna was due to travel to Dubai to attend her daughter’s wedding to Sheikh Mansour, Dubai’s Deputy Prime minister of the UAE, she was mysteriously attacked by a man wielding a baseball bat. She awoke in the hospital to find Maktoum standing by the bed, smiling and offering to pay for the treatment. It was an intimidating moment.

Maktoum has married at least six times and has over thirty children and rules his fiefdom with an iron fist, despite his carefully crafted image of kindly soul, he is anything but. Dubai has more surveillance than anywhere on earth, with 35,000 cameras trained on street corners. (Washington, D.C., has about 4,000.)

Randa al-Banna interview: ‘Our baby is now in her forties. The emir still won’t let me near’
Snow skiing in the desert?

A bad-for-the-environment thing that everybody wants but nobody needs
Ski Dubai is one example that highlights the massive energy consumption associated with tourism in the UAE and Dubai’s ceaseless efforts to be the biggest and the best, with everything from snow-covered mountains by the beach to luscious green golf courses in its arid deserts. Ski Dubai spans 22,500 m² and has an elevation drop of 85 meters. It takes a few minutes to reach the top via the tow bar or four-person chairlift, but a proficient skier can easily return to the bottom in less than a minute. The snow surface is maintained at -16° C, and the air temperature is -1° during the day, decreasing to -6° when 30 tonnes of fresh snow are made each night.

This tourist attraction receives more than 750,000 annual visitors, and 30 tons of artificial snow are produced each day. The ambient temperature is kept at 30 degrees Fahrenheit. The extensive refrigeration and snow production at Ski Dubai requires around 1000 MWh of electricity per year.

With Dubai tourism’s immense energy consumption, the industry can be viewed as self-destructive in a sense. Since tourism has been shown to play a definite role in driving climate change, touristic activities are literally contributing to the deterioration of the natural environment on which the industry’s viability is based. There could quite possibly come a day when rising sea levels in the Persian Gulf threaten coastal development in the UAE or insufficient water supply deters tourist arrivals.

UAE’s tourism industry is complex, and it’s difficult to weigh the industry’s economic potential with its definite contribution to environmental degradation and climate change. One thing is for certain though: Irresponsible tourism, or tourism with little to no regard for reducing its impacts, is environmentally unsustainable and needs to be re-envisioned—especially in countries, like the UAE where the environmental balance is already fragile.

An indoor, refrigerated ski slope in the middle of a desert country that reaches 50° C in the summers is the definition wasted energy.

**Chilling developments in Dubai**

*This article was published in the Guardian in 2008, the same year Zack and the British men were kidnapped by Shaibani. The alarming fact is that all the ludicrous plans, and many more have come to pass. Dubai tells one story about its ethical approach to the global environment while frantically pursuing a contradictory policy.*

Dubai’s efforts to have the biggest and the best of everything are relentless; it is one rule for the rest of us and another at home. Dubai’s latest excesses are enough to make conservationists weep: A refrigerated swimming pool and an artificially cooled beach. Fourteen years on, there is no end to the misery for the falsely accused men sentenced to die in jail or the environment in Dubai, destined to die from its excesses.
In the oil-rich nation of the United Arab Emirates, an unusual sight is rising in Dubai.

There will surely come a day when Dubai runs the world’s reserves of hyperbole dry. But in the meantime, we continue to draw a sharp intake of breath each time a new construction project is announced. We have had ski domes built in the desert, seen vast artificial islands rise from the sea and watched several structures vying for the title of world’s tallest building. Dubai represents the will, vision and ambition of our species. Yet many believe it shines an unflattering light on our tendency for folly and hubris, too.

All these wonders — plus huge plants to desalinate the water needed to green its desert dunes and air condition its interiors — fuel Dubai’s voracious appetite for electricity. In 2012, Dubai produced 36,297-gigawatt-hours of electricity, according to the electricity and water authority. In 2019, that number jumped by over 10,000-gigawatt hours to 46,704 — more power than the entire country of Bulgaria generates. That’s a lot of energy as 1 gigawatt can power roughly 300,000 homes in the West. Dubai is a single small city by European standards, with a population of less than half the entire population of Switzerland. And yet it consumes twice as much energy as a country whose cold Alpine winters are as extreme as Dubai’s hot summers. Added to the horror of that statistic is over half of Switzerland’s energy is from renewable sources like hydro, and Dubai manages a paltry 3% from solar; Dubai truly is a horror story of wanton waste and greed.
His Excellency Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani
Director General of His Highness The Ruler’s Court of Dubai
and Chairman of Dubai Islamic Bank
Mohammed Al Shaibani’s Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank, has for years been embroiled in US Federal Courts over the Bank’s direct involvement and funding of the September 911 attacks by Al Qaeda. Families of the dead’s lawsuits are continually hampered by a refusal to disclose information by the Bank. The SEC accordingly excluded DIB from trading its financial instruments in the US. Dubai Islamic Bank is the world’s oldest Islamic Bank, and its majority shareholder is The Investment Corporation of Dubai. Mohammed Al Shaibani is Chairman of the Bank and the Managing Director of ICD and must be held accountable for the actions of his Bank.

Mohammed Al Shaibani is the right hand of the Ruler of Dubai and is named in the UK High Court fact-finding judgement responsible for the kidnapping at gunpoint from Cambridge, England, of Princess Shamsa in 2000. He was also the orchestrator of the attempted kidnap of Princess Haya from her garden by helicopter. And the abduction from an American yacht in international waters of Princess Latifa. Accordingly, Shaibani is subject to a Magnitsky sanctions listing application in the UK for his role in the crimes against the wife and daughters of Sheikh Mohammed. Voice recordings provided to the court identify the ongoing torture and imprisonment of the daughters by Shaibani, wherein he is named explicitly by Latifa.

As the head of the Dubai Rulers Court, the MD of the USD300 + Billion Investment Corporation of Dubai, the Chairman of Dubai Islamic Bank and on the board of all the major corporations in Dubai, Mohammed Al Shaibani is second only to Sheikh Mohammed. He is the most influential and ruthless man in Dubai, and perhaps the entire UAE so long is his reach and so powerful his remit. Nothing happens in Dubai without his knowledge, involvement or approval. Naturally, Shaibani would use his power and influence to derail any claim against his Bank by a foreign power.

Leaked emails, seen by the UK’s Telegraph, show how Yousef Al Otaiba, the UAE’s ambassador to Washington DC, privately warned senators that countries at risk of being sued in US courts would be “less likely to share crucial information and intelligence”. The communications reveal how the UAE lobbied against the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (Jasta), with Mr Al Otaiba coordinating his efforts with Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi foreign minister.

Court documents filed in New York show that a legal claim was launched against Dubai Islamic Bank after Jasta was passed. It was alleged the Bank “knowingly and purposefully provided financial services and other forms of material support to al Qaeda ... including the transfer of financial resources to al Qaeda operatives who participated in the planning and execution of the September 11th attacks.” Two of the 19 hijackers who flew planes into the World Trade Center towers in 2001 came from the UAE, and the others entered the US directly from Dubai Airport.

The Canadian Governments terrorist financing assessment recently confirmed they continue to have serious concerns about Dubai and the wider UAE. The report states:

United Arab Emirates (UAE) is assessed to be at elevated risk of terrorist financing for a number of reasons:

i. The UAE is the primary financial and trading hub in the Middle East.

ii. It has open and relatively unrestricted free trade zones.

iii. It has considerable exposure to higher risk jurisdictions outside of the region, including Somalia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Al Qaeda, the Taliban and Daesh Khorasan Province all raise significant revenue in the UAE.
Mohammed Al Shaibani is “judge, jury and executioner” in Dubai

Director General

H.H. THE RULER’S COURT
Oversight of all Dubai Government Departments on behalf of the Ruler, Sheikh Mohammed, Prime Minister of UAE, Minister of Defence of UAE and other functions

Director General

GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI
Executive power over the Emirate of Dubai

Vice Chairman

Financial Audit Department
All fiscal investigation and enforcement and other monetary matters of the Emirate of Dubai

Managing Director

Dubai Police

Managing Director

INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF DUBAI
Dubai’s vast global sovereign wealth fund $300 + Billion assets

Chairman

Dubai Islamic Bank
World’s oldest and UAE’s largest Islamic Bank

Chairman
Mohammed Al Shaibani was ranked the most influential non-royal official in UAE by the Wall Street Journal in 2010 and one of the country’s ten most influential people by Your Middle East platform in 2013. That year, Mohammed Al Shaibani was also considered the sixth of the 500 most powerful Arabs in the world by Arabian Business. He was named the 17th of the 100 most powerful Arabs in 2014 by Gulf Business. In 2020, he was ranked at 26 on Construction Week’s Power 100 list. He also featured in Cityscape Intelligence’s most influential people in the MENA real estate industry.

However, there is a dark side to the man’s rise to fame and fortune.

The British House of Lords has found Mr Shaibani out

Shaibani’s remarkable successes are built on his ruthless grab for power in 2007 & 08. Shaibani, the new man in town, swiftly undermined the old guard and took power and control for himself under the guise of cleaning up what is and always has been a questionable financial hub: same story, another day.

The fledgling Investment Corporation of Dubai, established that year as his master Sovereign Wealth Fund, soon acquired all the prestigious assets from the old guard. With three-quarters of a billion USD ready and available cash from the recent Deyaar IPO sitting in the accounts at DIB, all that was needed was to remove anyone who stood in the way. The plan was simplistic for a man who was judge, jury, and executioner; and who would question Shaibani’s word.

The billion-dollar luxury Plantation Polo development in Dubai, controlled by the unprotected British guys, was swiftly targeted and confiscated. Using Plantation as an asset on the balance sheet at DIB, combined with the cash from Deyaar, there was no stopping Shaibani once he’d jailed those in his way. It was the theft of the century. With the start-up funding nicely secured, he set about turning ICD into a 300 + billion-dollar global monster. With its extensive port and airport holdings around the world, Investment Corporation Dubai is like a story from a James Bond movie, with Shaibani the head of the infamous Spectre.

Shaibani and ICD will soon have control over a large part of the global freight movement. Is it all part of some sinister plot or just a solid business strategy? One must look more closely, considering it is all built on the proceeds of crime, terrorist financing, the unlawful seizure of assets, and the incarceration of British and American businessmen. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani could certainly give Ernst Stavro Blofeld a run for his money.
Dubai’s unequal treatment of persons: Those convicted of crimes are subjected to a sinister racial and ethnic profiling policy. The complete lack of due process and the manipulated judicial system used to convict is horrific, and whether Zack Shahin and the Britons were guilty of anything is another matter. However, once they were denounced, their sentencing was so alarmingly disproportionate that it must be part of an overall policy managed from the top to bury them and what had happened forever.

At the end of 2010, Ambassador Richard Olson wrote to Zack Shahin. Olson had raised US concerns with Dubai’s Ruler, saying, “Most recently, I expressed the United States Government’s concerns directly to Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid, Ruler of Dubai and Vice President of the United Arab Emirates. In this meeting, I told Sheikh Mohammed and his senior advisors that your continued incarceration despite the approval of bail, apparent unequal treatment when compared to Emirati defendants and a lack of transparency and alacrity by the Dubai Courts were troubling.” And continuing “Please be assured that my colleagues in the United States Government share these concerns and continue to raise them with UAE officials. To this end, your case was also raised by United States Attorney General Eric Holder and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State.”

Western prisoners are deliberately and alarming profiled and prejudiced when sentencing. Recently, several examples have been raised with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the US State Department in Magnitsky sanctions listing requests. However, the list of infractions is considerably longer than those identified. It appears that Iranian terrorists can murder British people with impunity in Dubai; then, despite being convicted on irrefutable evidence in the international spotlight and sentenced to life, they are quietly allowed home to Iran after a year in jail.

A known Islamic brotherhood supporter from Turkey, Erin Nil, convicted with the British owners of Plantation, was arrested in Greece on an Interpol warrant. If the crime even happened should have no bearing, Nil was sentenced the same as the British men, and he was available for incarceration. Yet, the Ruler’s Court informs the Greeks they don’t require Nil in Dubai to serve his whole life sentence. Nil, it appears, has a free pass, unlike the Brits.

This racial and ethnic profiling for sentencing is a policy that is fervently enforced and dictated by the man in control and is not the action of a friendly state. The US must consider its position carefully, especially given Shaibani’s steady process of securing control of global port and airport facilities.
Evidence has surfaced in London’s courts appearing to show that for the last 13 years, management of Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB or the Bank), with the written approval of the Dubai Government’s own auditing watchdog, the Financial Audit Authority (the FAA), failed to reveal to its regulators and investors losses of hundreds of millions of dollars.

These very substantial losses crystallised shortly after Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai’s authoritarian ruler, appointed Mr Mohammed Al Shaibani as Chairman of the Financial Audit Department (the FAD), the predecessor to the FAA and DIB (Dubai Islamic Bank).

From court minutes and related papers seen to date, it has not been possible to determine whether DIB (and perhaps the FAA) hoodwinked its auditors, always a BIG4 firm, and currently Deloitte, into issuing its unqualified opinion by simply not disclosing the relevant losses. In which case, the auditor could have been accused of negligence and liable or whether there has been collusion with, or pressure exerted on, the Big4 firm into playing along.

Of course, If one takes off the rose-tinted spectacles, whichever is the correct answer, this situation is fraud.

The Investment Corporation of Dubai holds a 28% ownership interest in DIB and appoints its chairman.

As worrying as these revelations relating to a government-backed bank are, perhaps the more pressing question for investors and banks who keep topping up the finances of the technically insolvent Dubai Government and its wholly or partially owned institutions (including most of the indigenous banks operating from Dubai), is, whether the misrepresentation of the financial statements is just confined to DIB or is, in fact, endemic within Dubai and perhaps the entire UAE.

*The full story of DIB and what is really going on, along with the supporting documentation can be found at the DropBox*
How Former Treasury Officials and the UAE Are Manipulating American Journalists

The United Arab Emirates have retained an American consulting firm, Camstoll Group, staffed by several former United States Treasury Department officials. Its public disclosure forms, filed as a registered foreign agent, showed a pattern of conversations with journalists who subsequently wrote articles critical of Qatar’s role in terrorist fundraising.

How that process worked is fascinating, and its efficacy demonstrates how American public perceptions and media reports are manipulated with little difficulty.

The Camstoll Group was formed on November 26, 2012. Its key figures are all former senior Treasury Department officials in both the Bush and Obama administrations whose responsibilities included managing the U.S. government’s relationships with Persian Gulf regimes and Israel, as well as managing policies relating to funding of designated terrorist groups. Most have backgrounds as neoconservative activists. Two of the Camstoll principals, prior to their Treasury jobs, worked with one of the country’s most extremist neocon anti-Muslim activists, Steve Emerson.

Hold the UAE Accountable for Meddling in US Politics

Letting the Emirates go unpunished sends the wrong signal to perpetrators of foreign influence operations.

Tom Barrack, the billionaire head of Donald Trump’s inaugural committee and a top Trump campaign fundraiser, was indicted on Tuesday for “unlawful efforts to advance the interests of the United Arab Emirates in the United States at the direction of senior UAE officials.”

While Barrack and his co-defendants will be forced to answer for their alleged transgressions, the UAE officials who orchestrated this covert influence operation that targeted the very highest levels of the U.S. government will likely face no consequences for their actions. Had this plot been conducted by the Chinese, Russian or Iranian governments there would be outcries for severe and swift retaliation. For the UAE, however, it has become business as usual to meddle in the U.S. political process with near impunity.
ICD – the Investment Corporation of Dubai – was incorporated in 2006; at the time, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum took the throne in Dubai. ICD is Sheikh Maktoum’s sovereign wealth fund. Although its mandate is to consolidate and manage the government’s portfolio of commercial companies and investments, it is blurred as to whether it belongs to Maktoum or Dubai - are those entities, for now, one and the same? Whatever the position, it secures MBR’s place, for one does not exist without the other.

Strangely, as huge as ICD is, it is not the top-ranked hit on Google. That belongs to the International Classification of Diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) publishes the ICDs to standardize the methods of recording and tracking instances of diagnosed disease worldwide – is there any link one asks.

State capitalism plays a significant role in the economy of Dubai, where the government led by Sheikh Al-Maktoum exercises it through a slew of investment vehicles, including the Investment Corporation of Dubai, Dubai Holding, and Dubai World. The result is a blurring of the state’s assets with that of the ruling family, which poses risks to the sustainability of Dubai’s economy. However, despite the shortcomings of the Dubai model – labour abuses, lack of political pluralism, financial transparency and honesty, and over-reliance on government-related entities (GREs) – this model of autocratic state capitalism has ultimately contributed to Dubai’s exponential economic growth and helped it avoid the rentier state curse syndrome. Is, however, the meteoric growth sustainable, or a state-level Ponzi scheme played out in the world’s financial community?

The origin and meteoric growth of the Investment Corporation of Dubai wouldn’t have been possible without removing several established Emiratis from numerous board and senior management positions in 2007 and 2008. The new Head of the Rulers Court, Mohammed Al Shaibani, acted as inquisitor and enforcer and went about his job remorselessly. Shaibani assumed many of the most senior positions himself and handed out others to loyal friends and confidantes. His broad-ranging powers efficiently brought about the necessary management changes to enable ICD to assume ownership, and none of it was subtle.

The absorption of all the newly controlled entities into ICD gave it the base for its exponential growth – it was a consolidation of absolute power for his boss, and anyone in the way was swept aside ruthlessly.
ICD – the Investment Corporation of Dubai – Manages its global image with ruthless efficiency. Still, the spider’s web does begin to reveal itself with diligent research, and the stories tell the tale. Nothing has changed, same story, different day. The infamous pirates of the Arabian Gulf are easily identifiable.

REVEALED: Tunisian president's family links to 'illegal' UAE oil deal
Watchdog calls for inquiry into connections between Beji Caid Essebsi's brother and Bermuda-registered company owned by Dubai ruling family

THE UAE – A KEY PIECE IN THE GLOBAL MONEY LAUNDERING PUZZLE
By the expected standards of the financial action task force (FATF), a recent report into attempts by the United Arab Emirates to combat money laundering and terrorist financing is damning.

The Investment Corporation of Dubai posts $5.1 billion loss for 2020.
Dubai’s state-owned sovereign wealth fund announced a net loss of $5.1 billion over the past year. The first-ever loss reported by the fund - has the pandemic, and changes in fortune turned the tide on the unstoppable growth of Dubai’s almighty sovereign wealth fund, since inception 14 years ago??
The Magnitsky Act:

- Named for Sergei Magnitsky, Russian tax lawyer, who was arrested, held without trial, and died in a Moscow jail in 2009.
- Signed by Obama to punish those responsible for Magnitsky’s torture by freezing assets and denying U.S. entry.
- Congress adopted a global version in 2016 as part of defense authorization bill.
- Currently 49 individuals sanctioned under Magnitsky Act; 84 people in quantity.

Sanctions Authority

The President of the United States delegates to the Department of the Treasury Secretary of the Treasury, who delegates to the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The Secretary of the Treasury works in cooperation with the Secretary of State and the Department of Justice. State Department legal team and White House attorneys coordinate.

Sergei Magnitsky
April 8, 1972 - November 16, 2009

Magnitsky Acts & the future of accountability for violations of international human rights law

An interview with Bill Browder
1. Submissions are made pursuant to the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020. Those regulations permit the Secretary of State to designate a person where that person is “an involved person in relation to certain serious human rights violations or abuses”.

2. It is the stated aim of the Sanctions Regulations to deter, and provide accountability for, activities which, if carried out by or on behalf of the State, would amount to a serious violation of certain human rights by that State (Regulation 4(1)). Those proscribed activities are set out within Regulation 4(2) and include the violation of an individual’s right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Regulation 5(1) empowers the Secretary of State to designate persons, by name, for asset freezing and immigration restrictions, which can include a travel ban.

3. The relevant designation criteria are set out within Regulation 6. Those Regulations provide that the Secretary of State may not designate an individual unless he has reasonable grounds to suspect that the person is an “involved person” and the Secretary of State further considers that the designation of that person is appropriate, having regard to the purposes referred to above and the likely significant effects of the designation on that person.

4. The Regulations further provide, at Regulation 6(2), that a person is an involved person if that person is or has been involved in an activity which violates the rights set out at Regulation 4(2), including the right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

5. A person may be involved in an activity which violates an individual’s relevant human rights where that person is responsible for, or engages in, such an activity (Regulation 6(3)) or that person facilitates, incites, promotes or provides support for such an activity, conceals evidence of such an activity, provides financial services, economic resources etc contributing to such an activity.

6. For the reasons set out herein, Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani, and other individuals, satisfy the criteria to establish that they are involved persons, within the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020 are appropriate persons for designation.
conclusion

“a judgement or decision reached by reasoning”
The similarities between this document and the “Outlaw Regime” created for Mike Pompeo, available on the US Department of State Website, are striking. The only notable difference is the UAE does not have a nuclear weapons programme, or does it?

The UAE has embarked upon a nuclear power programme in close consultation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, the UAE’s nuclear plant fuels fears of a Middle East arms race. The World’s largest reactor is seen as a threat to stability in a highly charged region. Today’s ally can become tomorrow’s enemy, as Israel’s history of friendship with pre-revolutionary Iran and pre-Erdogan Turkey illustrates.

The election of the UAE to the UN Security Council has raised many concerns. The biggest question is simply why? The only certainty is that if Iran were a friendly trading partner of the US, then the UAE would be subject to sanctions and unable to continue as it has done for years. How the UAE has been permitted to conduct business as it does and remain part of the international community is testimony only to its importance geopolitically in a problematic region of the globe.

The ongoing abuses to British and American Businessmen must come to an end. While the UAE is too important to sanction, the only way to send a clear message is to target the specific individuals responsible in a way that wouldn’t undermine the Ruling families of the Emirates. WikiLeaks clarifies why Zack Shahin was locked away, and the US Government has always known it was to silence him. Allowing Dubai to cover up its internal power struggles and corporate raiding is one thing, but the cost of the life of an American family is too great. #bringzackhome