



# DETAINED IN DUBAI

UAE Civil & Criminal Justice Specialists

05 March 2018

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Metropolitan Police

Dear Sirs,

## URGENT

### MISSING PERSONS REPORT SHEIKHA LATIFA MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM HERVÉ JAUBERT ("MISSING PERSONS")

We refer to the above matter and advise as follows:

#### Overview:

Detained in Dubai is an UK organisation that inter alia assists people with legal problems in the United Arab Emirates "UAE", we have been assisting people for over ten years and have worked on in the region of 10,000 cases.

We were contacted by persons claiming to be the above named parties, who wished to seek assistance and advice; Both parties contacted us via email, WhatsApp and WhatsApp voice calls. Copies of which are supplied and/or available.

The Missing Persons said that they had "escaped" Dubai, UAE. Sheikha Latifa claimed that she was a member of the ruling family in Dubai and the daughter of its ruler, providing a copy of her UAE passport and Emirates ID card.

Sheikha Latifa stated that she suffered "abuse", "imprisonment" and "torture", and claimed to be intending to seek asylum in the United States. The missing persons said they had departed on an American registered vessel under an American flag and were approaching the Goanese coast of India, where they had intended to legally disembark (having pre-arranged visas) and travel from the airport to the US where we were told initial visas had already been arranged for her "European passport". I, Radha Stirling, a British national, received a WhatsApp call from the same woman in a panicked state from the number +358 [REDACTED] at 18:24 GMT, claiming she was frightened, hiding, that there were men outside and that she had heard gunfire. She indicated she was also with another person, a "friend". I also received WhatsApp text messages that states "Please help. Please please there's men outside I don't know what's happening" at 18:24 GMT.

Neither myself nor any of those involved in this matter have heard from either party since. This includes people who were her friends. Understandably, we are concerned for the safety of the missing persons but also now concerned for those that were involved in this by the missing persons.

I set out below a brief timeline of events:

1. We received an email from [latifa](#) [REDACTED] on the 26th of February 2018, *the contents of which are attached but in short, she requests help and explains that she has been subjected to torture*. She refers to herself as Sheikhha Latifa Al Maktoum (Sheikha Latifa), the daughter of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Saeed Al Maktoum.
2. We were concerned about the authenticity of the email, understably and so performed verification checks. The said email address has been confirmed to be her usual email ID by her close friend and health professional Ms Helga Bergsteinsdottir. Ms Bergsteinsdottir was approached by us as a known mutual contact to confirm the identity of Sheikhha Latifa. Helga is a friend of my colleague, British Solicitor, David Haigh. He telephoned her to confirm the voice messages, share the compiled evidence with a view to confirming the identity. Further Mr Haigh's assistant in Dubai was a close friend of Sheikhha Latifa. We have been in touch with Ms Bergsteinsdottir throughout.
3. Sheikhha Latifa identified herself as reported in this article (as there are a number of daughters of the ruler of Dubai who are known by the same name, common in the UAE):  
<http://emirateswoman.com/meet-sheikh-mohammeds-daredevil-daughter-whos-new/>
4. Mr Hervé Jaubert, a French author and public figure, living in Florida whom I recall as holding US [and french] citizenship, contacted me from email address [REDACTED] (one that I have always known him to use). He also made contact through his facebook messenger account with a contact, one that seemed to be his true facebook account. I have been acquainted to Hervé Jaubert since 2007 when he approached me to discuss his book "Escape from Dubai". He advised members of *Detained in Dubai* on Monday that he was en route to India with the princess and ultimately, planned to fly to the US. He expressed great fear for their safety and stated he believed that the ruler of Dubai had sent planes and boats after them. He was clearly panicked and sought assistance in the event that they were detained by Indian authorities. He further sought assistance from us in issuing a press release in the hope this would protect them.
5. Sheikhha Latifa said that she had managed to escape the country and was headed to India to try to fly to the United States to seek asylum. She made allegations that members of the UAE royal family, including her immediate family and father the ruler of Dubai, had subjected her to torture, inhumane treatment, abuse, assault and forced detention with the same happening to her sister. She stated that she was "wanted dead" by her father the ruler, and in fear for her life. She expected that if caught, she would be killed. She blamed this on the support of her sibling who had allegedly also tried to escape a few years previously.
6. She has sent voicemails to identify herself and I have attached these. Helga, who David Haigh telephoned as she is known to be a mutual friend, has listened to these and confirmed that she believed these voicemails to be Sheikhha Latifa as well, as we have stated above, the email and is very concerned. Helga had not only been a friend of Sheikhha Latifa but had treated her as a therapist and life coach for 5 years and has intimate knowledge of the abuse she suffered.
7. Both the missing persons were unsure of what would happen if they disembarked in India but advised that they were running out of fuel and would need to go ashore unless offshore refuelling could be arranged. Both were concerned that Indian authorities would simply notify the UAE of her whereabouts and surrender them immediately, despite any protests.
8. Hervé advised that he had received confirmation that his associate had been arrested in Oman on request of the UAE.



9. While their preparations to complete their journey continued, I was WhatsApp voice called by Latifa at 18:24 GMT who appeared to be highly distressed and in a state of panic. She said *"Radha please help me, there are men outside"* and that she had heard *"gunshots"*. She said she was hiding in the bathroom, which I assumed to mean onboard the boat, with her (unidentified) "friend". I requested that she make voice recordings and videos and send as much information as she could. However, I received no response after this and only saw that she had been online intermittently for a few minutes after the call. I typed further questions but they remain unseen. I have tried to call both Herve and Latifa but have not been able to. The numbers continue to ring out. Latifa has been using +358 [REDACTED]1 and Hervé +363 [REDACTED]1.
10. My colleague David Haigh has tried to contact them, as has a senior british barrister Mr Toby Cadman that works with Mr Haigh. Similarly, Helga has tried to contact her.
11. We have taken advice from several barristers, legal professionals and human rights charities about the matter, to ensure we act in an appropriate manner.
12. Finally as mentioned above, we are gravely concerned about retaliation by the person or persons from whom the missing persons were fleeing when they went missing.

From the interactions, we are under the impression that they were within 50 miles off the Goanese coast of India and last heard from at 18:24 GMT.

Yours Sincerely,



Radha Stirling, CEO

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Skype: [REDACTED]

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