in The the Last Human Rights Defender United **Arab Emirates**



Your citizenship could be revoked – and that is a real death, equivalent to the death penalty

That petition was well received in the beginning by the orities, but when we started to defend and promote it in interviews and with international news agencies, we saw ange change that happened suddenly, during the [peak e] Arab Spring. Two presidents, in Tunisia and Egypt, been] thrown out basically, so that brought everybody to extreme alert. We weren't driven initially by what happening in the Arab Spring as much as [by the] decree at February 2011 that governed new elections and the ber of people who were going to be hand-picked again ect members of the FNC. We were surprised to see no overnent in parliament. Basically there was no new would at least try to absorb anger that was growing in the Arab Spring, would at least try to absorb anger that was growing in the le Arab world for more freedom and more accountability, were shocked to see no improvement. That's why we wrote petition, and we wrote it in a very polite manner. But the information, and we more other reasons as well – I was involved for yyears in defending human rights [and] had some very llinks with international human rights organisations, international media and also the UN. I could see that [the orities] were trying to prepare the nation for my arrest. and be noticed by the international community, so they ad absolutely no effort really to smear me; they started bricate videos; they created a dedicated internet site out me]; they made up stories every day and started to ad information by Blackberry Messenger, by Facebook, by ter at a later stage – and then radio, TV, newspaper writers ed getting involved. I received several death threats dividuals who even indicated their actual names and ne numbers; in some cases they put their photos on their book profiles. I knew that something was going to happen cook copies of these threats to my lawyer in the hope that vould take legal action. Unfortunately [the threats] were estrated by the ody that was supposed to be protecting and none of these cases were accepted by the authorities.

Were you arre

ound an obsession will all to the UAE. Yes, we are in a very gion that has lots of problems, but I don't think by resorting this security mechanism you will able to defeat problems, becausel you are creating reasons for internal differences is tead of stronger unity.

UAE is now seen in the region to be the country that is adding the anti-democracy movement like that, Saudi Arabia is now seen like that... All the Arab Spring countries that were oping for a better future were dealt with by Saudi Arabia and IAE and the dictatorships were brought back and supported gypt is the biggest example of this. Egypt's biggest supporter IVAE, and Saudi Arabia second. So the UAE is seen right now as a force that is going against the hope of the people in he region – despite the fact that it is creating big cities and that they would love to live in. There is a deep contradiction rere – the UAE government needs people, and an environment hat they would love to live in. There is a deep contradiction rere – the UAE government needs people to live by its rules, it doesn't want to give them freedom. But freedom you don't have anything else. You could lose everything else – there is no [...] sustainable development without human rights, and this is what we lack in the region and, of course, in the UAE.

There's a paradox, because from the outside we also see that the UAE has exceptional material wealth which it shares out, invests in the people, higher education, healthcare – unlike other countries with weak or no democratic representation...

You know we live in this real paradox [...]. Yes, UAE offers free ones of the people and the order is going and for higher is citizens, sends lots of people aboard for higher is citizens, sends lots of people aboard for higher ones of the people and the pe

The impact of a smart city arrangement is different in a non-democratic country. We would suffer a lot more.

Ahmed Mansoor The Last Human Rights Defender in the UAE

ently serving a 10 year priso-ties – specifically, for 'promo-ion' and 'serving agendas ain trianism'. We are republishin s from his Twitter feed, @Ah a machine translation into E n opportunity to assess the co @Ahmed_Mansoor has 16.81

The 'Nobel Prize for Hun

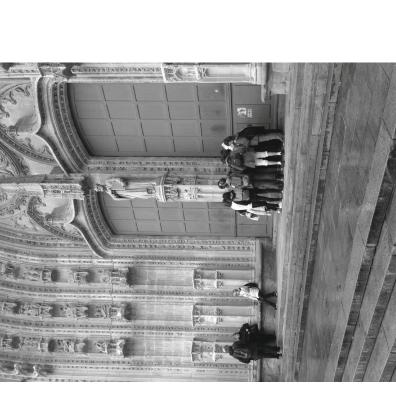
he UAE Five

Timeline

ditorial

UK ambassador to the UAE Dominic Jermey referred to London

The Million Dollar Dissiden
Mansoor's iPhone is targeted by expensive 'lawf
spyware developed by the Israel-based NSO Gron
had been the target of several prior electronic





The UK-UAE Relationship

Time does not gore my wo For I have no wound and tl And no consolation

Beyond the Failure

159 weets