



PRESS RELEASE

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DUBAI RULER ACCUSED OF CHILD ABUSE AT LONDON'S HIGH COURT

LONDON: 5 NOVEMBER 2019

Protesters descended on England's High Court yesterday (4 November) for the 20-month anniversary of the illegal kidnap of Sheikh Latifa Al Maktoum, the daughter of the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum.

The protesters were awaiting the arrival of the Dubai ruler at the High Court ahead of a fourth hearing of a bitter custody battle over Sheikh Mohammed's young children with Princess Haya bint Hussein. Princess Haya fled Dubai earlier this year following her meeting with Princess Latifa and Mary Robinson, a meeting seen by many as a failed attempt by the Dubai ruler to whitewash the kidnap of Princess Latifa.

David Haigh a human rights lawyer acting for Sheikh Latifa said *"It is now 20 months since an elite commando unit made up of hundreds of armed state security personnel, helicopters and planes was sent by the UAE and India to attack a small US-registered yacht in international waters, kidnap Latifa al Maktoum, and take her back to involuntary captivity in Dubai."*

Thankfully, however, recent developments at the High Court in London concerning Princess Haya and her custody battle with the Dubai ruler to protect her children and the continuing investigation of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances suggest the picture is changing, and the Dubai authorities' disregard for international law and specifically women's rights may be forced to end.

How strange that someone who is the subject of an application for a "non molestation order" re alleged child abuse in a custody battle over two of his children should be keeping another of his children - a 33-year-old adult - captive back home in Dubai. You'd have thought that releasing Latifa might strengthen his case in his custody battle."

Tiina Jauhiainen, the campaign director for the Free Latifa campaign and Latifa's best friend said *"I cannot believe it is now 20 months since my brave friend Latifa was dragged away at gunpoint, kicking and screaming for her freedom. I have fought since that dark day for humanity, and I and the team at Free Latifa, Latifa's friends and family, including Marcus her cousin, will continue to fight every day until Latifa is free."*

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About Free Latifa: Princess Latifa stands for every person, especially every woman, who is held against their will when they have done nothing wrong. The Free Latifa Campaign is run by Latifa's family, closest friends, supporters and advisors. It is headed by Latifa's best friend Tiina Jauhiainen as Campaign Director, human rights lawyer and campaigner David Haigh, Latifa's cousin Marcus Essabri, and Latifa's close friends Stephania Martinengo and Marco Remes. The campaign also benefits from the support of Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Detained International and a growing number of Latifa's family, supporters, media, lawyers, politicians and celebrities around the world. The campaign has one goal, to #FreeLatifa. Updates on the campaign can be found on www.freelatifa.com

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