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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION
AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID

Reports submitted by States Parties under
article VII of the Convention

Addendum

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 1/

[23 July 1979]

ITEM I

A. The State of the United Arab Emirates has, since its creation, adopted an open policy of co-operation with all countries of the world. However, the authorities in the State have been aware that relations could not be established with those States that practised the crimes of racial discrimination and apartheid, such as the racist Republic of South Africa and Rhodesia, as well as any other State that practised crimes of apartheid against the indigenous population who have the right to their land and country, and against whom the crime of apartheid, or segregation between the white race and the black or other races, is being committed.

The State of the United Arab Emirates has adopted in this respect a clear approach, that is, not to pursue any form of co-operation with those States practising crimes of apartheid against mankind. Legislations of the United Arab Emirates embody the principle of equality of all members of the society, without any distinction between white and black, but rather providing for equal rights and duties for all. Article 14 of the Constitution provides that equality, social justice, establishment of security and peace, and equal opportunities for all citizens are the foundations of the society, and that solidarity and compassion closely link citizens. Article 25 of the Constitution also provides that "All persons are equal before the law, without any discrimination among citizens of the Federation on grounds of origin, nationality, religious belief or social position."

1/ The initial report submitted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates (E/CN.4/1277/Add.5) was considered by the Group of Three at its 1978 session.

B. Article 41 of the Constitution stipulates that "Each person may submit a complaint to the competent authorities, including juridical authorities, against any violation of the rights and freedoms provided for in Chapter III."

1. Freedom of opinion and expression, both orally and in writing, and through all media of expression, are guaranteed in accordance with the law.
2. Freedom and secrecy of postal, telegraphic and other communications are guaranteed in accordance with the law.
3. Freedom of religious rites according to observed customs is inviolable, provided it does not contradict with public order or morality.
4. Freedom of association and assembly is guaranteed within provisions of the law.
5. Each citizen is free to choose his work, profession or occupation in accordance with the law and with relevant regulations governing some professions or crafts.

Forced labour shall not be imposed on any person except in extraordinary cases provided for under the law, and on condition of giving a compensation.

No person shall be enslaved.

6. The Federation encourages co-operation and savings.
7. Education is an essential factor for the progress of the society. At present, education is compulsory up to the sixth form of primary education. Education is also free in all stages. The law provides for the necessary plans to spread education in various grades and to combat illiteracy.
8. Individuals and bodies may establish schools under the law, subject to directives and control of the competent authorities, in this case, the Ministry of Education.
9. Every person has the right to reside in any country he chooses, and to return to his country of origin.
10. All citizens of the Federation have the right to have one citizenship, and, when abroad, to enjoy the protection of the Federation in accordance with observed international principles. Citizenship shall not be withdrawn from any citizen except in extraordinary cases provided for by the law.
11. Work is a fundamental element for the progress of society. The Federation strives to provide work to citizens and to qualify them for work, creating the propitious conditions with legislations to protect the rights of employees and employers, taking into account evolving international labour legislations.
12. The right of all citizens to own a suitable healthy residence. Entry to such a residence shall be only with the consent of the owners and with the authority of the law in circumstances defined by the law.

13. Society provides health care to all citizens, as well as means of protection from and treatment of diseases. The establishment of public and private hospitals, clinics and treatment centres is encouraged. All citizens and foreign residents enjoy free medical care and treatment, as well as all other social services.

C. All residents in the Federation, regardless of their nationality, enjoy protection by State organs. The courts of the Federation protect their rights. Any resident has the right to submit a complaint to the courts. There are no laws designed to discriminate between the citizens and nationals of other States living in the various parts of the Federation. They all enjoy free education in the schools of the Federation, as well as free medical care. Article 40 of the Constitution stipulates that "Aliens in the Federation enjoy the rights and freedoms prescribed in observed international instrument or treaties and conventions in which the Federation is a party, and they have the corresponding duties."

ITEM II

A. There are no persons or groups of persons in the Federation against whom discrimination is practised, neither by government authorities, nor by individuals or associations. Article 14 of the Constitution stipulates that "Equality, social justice, establishment of security and peace, and equal opportunities for all citizens are the foundations of the society, and that solidarity and compassion closely link citizens".

B. In the United Arab Emirates, there are no organizations or persons that practise racial discrimination against any person or groups of persons. All citizens and non-citizens enjoy protection by the Federation's authorities against any racial discrimination or segregation. Since the establishment of the Federation, the State adopted a policy of assisting peoples fighting against imperialism and racial discrimination in Africa, and extending material and moral assistance to national liberation movements in Namibia and Rhodesia, as well as refusing any form of co-operation with the racist régime in South Africa.

C. There are no public authorities or institutions in the State that practise segregation. Islamic laws prohibit such institutions or societies that may practise racial discrimination. The Federation always seeks to protect the rights and freedoms of the people and to provide for the good of all citizens (Article 10 of the Constitution).

ITEM III

A. All local laws and regulations prohibit any form of racial discrimination. Local authorities take all measures and actions against any person who performs such acts. (See Article 4 of the Constitution, and Article 25 quoted above).

B. As mentioned above, there are no organizations or persons practising racial discrimination or segregation. Objectives of the Federation are "To establish bonds of friendship and co-operation with all peoples on basis of the principles of the United Nations Charter and of international moral ideals" (Article 12 of the Constitution) and prohibiting all forms of racial segregation and discrimination. (See Article 25 of the Constitution quoted above).

C. Local legislation in the Federation establishes equality between citizens and aliens residing in the Federation in all fields, including work, education, and medical treatment. All these benefits are granted free of charge, in accordance with international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see Article 40 of the Constitution quoted above). Local authorities protect residents and accord them the same treatment as citizens of the Federation.

D. Applicable laws and regulations in the Federation punish any person who practises racial segregation. All persons are equal before the law, and any citizen or resident has the right to acquire assets but only through legitimate means. The State has the responsibility of protecting movable and immovable assets. Article 24 of the Constitution stipulates that "National economy is based on social justice and is founded on genuine co-operation between public and private enterprise, with the objectives of achieving economic development, increasing production, raising the standard of living, and realizing prosperity for all citizens within provisions of the law.

It also encourages co-operation and savings.

E. The Constitution of the Federation, and all laws giving effect to the Constitution, prohibit the formation of organizations and engagement in activities aimed at advocating any propaganda for apartheid and racial discrimination. No such organizations or activities exist in the Federation.

ITEM IV

A. All citizens in the Federation enjoy equality and justice in all respects, and the Constitution makes provisions for this purpose. There is no distinction between whites and blacks, nor between citizens or alien residents in the Federation. Relevant articles have been referred to above.

B. Fundamental freedoms of all members of the society are included in Chapter III of the Constitution, "Public Freedoms, Rights and Duties". We have already referred to a large number of the articles of this Chapter in the first report, as well as in the present report. Personal freedom is guaranteed for all citizens, and no person is subjected to torture or degrading treatment (Article 26). Citizens and other residents in the Federation have:

1. the right to form social and cultural societies and clubs, without any discrimination among their members;

2. the freedom to acquire assets through legitimate means, and encouraging savings and

3. the right to education for all, etc.

C. In accordance with provisions contained in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the Federal authorities undertook to provide compulsory education to all citizens and to educate them in light of cultural and social progress and without any discrimination. The authorities also encourage the spirit of co-operation, compassion and friendship among all citizens. Each person is free to choose his own work, profession or occupation and public posts are open to all citizens on a basis of equality. (Articles 34 and 35 of the Constitution).