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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid

Addendum

Communications to and from Governments

Corrigendum

1. Masthead

In the masthead of document A/HRC/16/57/Add.1, the date *should read* 14 February 2011

2. Page 19

After paragraph 84, insert a new subsection 2 *reading*

2. Response

85. On 3 August 2010, the Government of the United Arab Emirates responded to the letter of the Special Rapporteur, which contained extensive information on the compensation process. It contained a report by the follow-up committee on compensation for former child camel jockeys on action taken by the United Arab Emirates in respect of former camel jockeys. The report states that the United Arab Emirates has taken necessary and appropriate measures to repatriate all former child camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates who are nationals of the countries concerned (Pakistan, the Sudan, Mauritania and Bangladesh). All those who were entitled to it received compensation, and rehabilitation and social reinsertion programmes were established for them in their home countries. Moreover, laws have been formulated and actions and measures have been taken to prevent groups such as this from taking part in camel races in the United Arab Emirates in the future. In addition, the report by the follow-up committee included the following efforts made by the United Arab Emirates in this regard:

(a) The adoption of Federal Act No. 15 of 2005 which prohibits the participation of children under 18 years of age, and accompanying penalties.

(b) Measures taken to implement Federal Act No. 15 of 2005:

- the establishment of executive monitoring and follow-up mechanisms under a special committee;
- the establishment of a field operations unit which stipulates entry permit requirements for jockeys in accordance with the relevant Federal Act; undertakes surveillance and monitoring of all camel race tracks, in coordination with the national camel-racing federation; coordinates with relevant authorities in order to check the actual age of each camel jockey, against the information entered on their passports; implements an awareness raising campaign to encourage all camel owners to use robotic jockeys and to inform them of Federal Act No. 15 of 2005 and the penalties prescribed for violations, namely, a term of up to 3 years' imprisonment and a fine of not less than 50,000 UAE dirhams (Dh).

(c) Steps taken to implement the agreement with UNICEF and memorandums of understanding with the States concerned:

- In accordance with the two-phase agreement signed by the United Arab Emirates and UNICEF covering the period 2007–2008 and 2008–2009, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior issued a decision establishing a special follow-up committee on implementation of the agreement and compensation procedures and the establishment of rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes for the children concerned.
- The special committee formed joint committees, two thirds of the members of which represented the States concerned. In line with of the memorandums of understanding signed by the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates with the Governments of these States, these joint committees considered all the claims that were submitted to them. The special committee followed up on the implementation of rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes, in coordination with UNICEF and other partners.
- The compensation committee also made repeated visits to all the States concerned in order to ensure that the process whereby compensation cheques were distributed to children there was conducted satisfactorily. The final announcement that the compensations process had concluded in Pakistan was made on 22 January 2010. The conclusion of the compensation process in the Sudan was announced on 4 April 2010, at a joint press conference with the Sudanese Ministry of Interior which was attended by local and foreign media.

(d) Consideration of claims:

- Claims were received or rejected following close scrutiny and careful consideration by local committees which, as mentioned above, were composed of three members, two from the States concerned and one from the United Arab Emirates special committee. The subcommittees consulted medical and legal advisers and the compensation protocol in order to help them with their work.
- Furthermore, the subcommittees were fully empowered to conduct investigations, ask questions and assess the compensation amounts in the light of the protocol drawn up by an adviser to the special committee. In some cases where fatalities had occurred, 30,000 United States dollars (\$) was paid in compensation. All those children who were entitled to it received compensation once the claims submitted in the States concerned had been considered. The subcommittees did not reject any

claim where the claimant was entitled to compensation. The total compensation awarded to the children in the aforesaid States amounted to \$11,082,750 and the full amount was transferred in coordination with the subcommittees and officials in these States. Data on the children who received compensation, the number of claims filed and the number that were rejected are set out below.

	<i>Number of claims</i>	<i>Children compensated</i>	<i>Claims rejected</i>
Pakistan	1 400	1 303	97
The Sudan	2 553	2 079	474
Bangladesh	906	879	27
Mauritania	479	467	12

(e) Efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate children into their societies:

- Following the promulgation of Federal Act No. 15 of 2005, the Government brought together child camel jockeys from all over the United Arab Emirates, placed them in shelters, took care of their affairs and started to return them promptly to their countries of origin. This initiative, taken in coordination with UNICEF, cost Dh 10 million.
- The Government also allocated Dh 30 million to help fund rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes for children. This amount was transferred to UNICEF in order to implement the programmes that had been established in coordination with officials in each State. The main committee visited the four States concerned (Pakistan, the Sudan, Mauritania and Bangladesh) and also made continuous visits to the representatives of each State in order to ensure that the compensation process was conducted according to the protocol and that the children's rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes continued to be implemented. More than 50 such visits were made in 2008, 2009 and 2010, punctuated by support coordination programmes with UNICEF and the other authorities concerned.
- The United Arab Emirates has implemented with care and attention the agreements concluded with UNICEF and the memorandums of understanding concluded with the Governments of the States concerned. For that purpose, it established a budget of Dh 100 million to cover the costs of returning, repatriating and compensating children and establishing rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes for them.

(f) Publicization of the programme:

- The United Arab Emirates provided sufficient funding to cover the subcommittees' administrative costs, equip their offices and meet their other needs. It also provided funding for media and medical committees and the costs of advisers and other support staff. The subcommittees ran intensive advertising campaigns on television and radio and in the press to publicize the programme in all the children's home countries.
- Public announcements on the receipt of claims were run for a sufficient period of time (from the signature of memorandums of understanding with the States concerned in 2007 to the end of 2008). In some States, claims continued to be received until early 2009. The States concerned announced the following deadlines for the receipt of claims:
 - Pakistan, 31 December 2008
 - The Sudan, 21 December 2008

- Bangladesh, 15 February 2009
- Mauritania, 10 January 2009

(g) Receipt of compensation by children:

- The sums determined by the subcommittees in the four States concerned were delivered to all the children, and the conclusion of the compensation programme was announced once the mechanism had completed its work and the subcommittees had issued cheques in the names of the children. In Pakistan, cheques for the children were delivered to His Excellency Mr. Rehman Malik, Interior Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in the presence of the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Islamabad, His Excellency Mr. Ali Saif al-`Awani and a representative of the Pakistan joint committee. The Pakistani Ministry of Interior wrote to inform us of this event, which was covered by the Pakistani press.
- The Pakistan subcommittee considered all the claims submitted to it and awarded compensation to 1,303 Pakistani children. No valid claim for compensation was rejected. The main committee reviewed each case file in detail, including the decision of the subcommittee. The funds for compensating minors were delivered to the authorities concerned, namely, mother and child protection boards, government authorities and non-governmental institutions. These authorities deposited the money in banks in order to ensure the interest could be spent on the children. This arrangement was verified by the special committee when it visited these States.
- As mentioned above, funds were transferred through UNICEF to support programmes for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the children. The funds amounted to Dh 30 million, of which Pakistan received Dh 7.34 million to establish rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes and to improve the children's living conditions. The States concerned and numerous international organizations have commended the United Arab Emirates humanitarian programme.

85 bis. The report stated that the United Arab Emirates seeks to act in the interest of the children concerned and to provide them with compensation, in keeping with the approach and policy pursued in the United Arab Emirates. The report refutes the estimate of an international NGO that approximately 15,000 children have been trafficked from Pakistan as groundless. The precise figures which the United Arab Emirates, in partnership with the competent authorities in the States concerned produced, based on available data and information, indicate that 4,728 children from Pakistan, the Sudan, Mauritania and Bangladesh were trafficked and that there were none from any other State.

85 ter. With regard to reports that most of the children were sold to human traffickers by their impoverished parents and that some were kidnapped and sold to human trafficking rings, the report underscored that these allegations are unfounded and have no connection with the situation of former child camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates. Most of the children involved in camel racing were present by choice and with the consent of those who exercised parental authority over them, who also accompanied them. They worked for salaries that were considered generous and were well-treated by their employers – contrary to the allegations claiming that they were kept in farms in poor living conditions, not fed, subject to abuse, beatings and electric shocks, and other such far-fetched allegations. Such acts, if committed, are punishable by law in the United Arab Emirates. Indeed, Part 7 of the Criminal Code promulgated by Federal Act No. 3 of 1987, as amended, concerns all offences against the person, in particular offences that endanger human life and limb, infringe liberty and endanger or threaten persons. Federal Act No. 51 on the suppression of human trafficking is a special law enacted to combat offences such as intimidation, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of authority, exploitation of a situation of vulnerability, and other acts involving sexual exploitation, bonded labour, slavery or forced labour.

Moreover, the law prescribes a penalty of life imprisonment, if the victim is a child, a woman or a person with a disability. Offenders are brought to the Office of the Prosecutor and before the competent court, as the United Arab Emirates respects human rights principles and abides by all the conventions, treaties and protocols that it has ratified.
