

Legal Bulletin

Al Mubasheri Advocates and Legal Consultancy

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Practice Areas:

- Litigation & Alternative Disputes Resolutions
- Banking & Finance
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- Insurance Law
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Contact Us:

**Al Mubasheri
Advocates & Legal
Consultants**

P.O.Box. 6178 Dubai
Office 611 & 612,
Block B, Al Hudaiba
Awards Building, Al
Mina Road, Corner Al
Diyafah Street, Bur
Dubai, Dubai, United
Arab Emirates

Tel.: +971 4 3589998
Fax : +971 4 3589990

www.mublegal.com

Office Hours:
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UAE human trafficking law tightened

Dubai/ The UAE's human trafficking law has been amended so that intent to commit an offence is now the same as committing the crime itself.

Dr. Anwar Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said the 2006 law to combat human trafficking has been altered to become more detailed and comprehensive. It now ensures that a person aware of a human trafficking crime and who does not report it can be punished, as well as offering more support for

victims and protection for witnesses.

The amendment to the law shows that the country is serious about cases of human trafficking, whereas it is not simply a frozen [law], but it is being continuously developed.

"It's important that the authorities are aware of

any changes to the laws to properly enforce it," Dubai Police chief Maj Gen Khamis Al Muzeina said.

Brig Mohamad Al Murr, head of the Human Rights Department at Dubai Police, said that the amended law stipulates a minimum fine of Dh100,000 and

victims are women, who we want to help get back on their feet without falling into the same cycle of human trafficking," she said, adding that most of these women are uneducated and/or come from poor countries.



a minimum of five years in jail. Those convicted of withholding information about human trafficking will be fined a minimum of Dh5,000 and serve a one to five-year jail term.

Sara Ibrahim Shuhail, director of the Ewa'a Shelters for Women and Children in Abu Dhabi, said that psychological and financial support is important in rehabilitating victims of human trafficking. "Most

"We want to make sure they have the tools to not fall victim to such crimes in their home countries. We also provide them with a sum of money until they are able to take care of themselves and find jobs." However, Ms. Shuhail said that some women run the risk of getting killed in war-torn countries and that Ewa'a dealt with three such cases last year.

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“We were able to rescue three girls, all minors, who were pressured into performing horrible acts,” she said, adding that her organization was able to help them obtain citizenship for another country.



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