

10th session of Human Rights Council

Universal Periodic Review

United Arab Emirates

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Intervention by: Dr. Charles Graves, Interfaith International

Mr. Chairman,

Interfaith International has received with satisfaction the submission of the Report of the United Arab Emirates to the UPR procedure. Our organisation has been following developments in respect to human rights and fundamental liberties in the region and in the United Arab Emirates since several years. The economic miracle realised by the Emirates in the last few decades has allowed this country to attract a large influx of foreign workers and this has permitted the country to achieve certain goals related to economic rights. This realisation of economic rights has favored a certain tolerance among the population, and moreover has favored the opening of temples, churches and other places of religious veneration whereby the population can enjoy their religious faiths without hindrance. The Emirates are one of the rare countries in the region which authorises on its soil the right to construct cemeteries for Christians and cremation sites for the Hindu religious minorities.

We encourage the United Arab Emirates in its continuing efforts to create a suitable climate for interreligious and intercultural dialogue in the country in partnership with its civil society.

Beyond this, Mr. Chairman, we encourage the Emirates to sign and ratify the additional protocol to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Criminality. Also we encourage the Emirates to elaborate a programme of indemnisation, rehabilitation and professional insertion of victims of the slave trade. Moreover we encourage the Emirates in their efforts to create a national strategy promoting a proper economic citizenship for migrant workers and members of their families.

Mr. Chairman, we are looking forward to the implementation of these recommendations preceding the next examination for the United Arab Emirates within the UPR

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.