

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPR Info refutes inaccuracies regarding UAE Pre-session

Geneva, Switzerland, 15 December 2017 – Yesterday, *Al Jazeera* published [an article](#) addressing the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Pre-sessions (1), an international advocacy event organised by *UPR Info*, a Geneva-based non-governmental organisation. *UPR Info* calls on *Al Jazeera* to update its article to accurately reflect the Pre-session of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which took place on 13 December 2017 at the United Nations in Geneva. The article maintains that the “UAE delegate ‘storm[ed]’ out” of the Pre-session, having “refuse[d] to address allegations of human rights abuses in the country”. However, this statement does not take into account that the Pre-session was organised as a panel discussion amongst civil society.

During the Pre-session, the delegate of the UAE did in fact seek to stress the progress made by his country in realising human rights. *UPR Info* explained that the State under Review, in this case, the UAE, will have the opportunity to present its report on the national human rights situation at the formal UN-organised UPR Working Group in January 2018. *UPR Info* does not believe that the article in *Al Jazeera* correctly reflected the full circumstance of the event.

UPR Info does not advocate on human rights issues, but rather offers a platform for civil society with such information to share its views with concerned parties at the international level.

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For more information please contact Nargiz Arupova, *Pre-sessions Programme Manager*,

E: n.arupova@upr-info.org T: 022 321 77 70

Information is also available on our website: <https://www.upr-info.org/presessions/>

(1) The UPR Pre-Sessions, held at the United Nations Office Geneva (UNOG), gather together civil society organisations and national human rights institutions to present the human rights situation to diplomatic representatives with a view towards shaping UPR recommendations.