THE ABSENCE OF THE CULTURE
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARABIAN
GULF

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WHAT IS A HUMAN RIGHTS CULTURE

• A human rights culture is a "lived awareness" of human rights principles in a nation's mind and heart, dragged into one's everyday life.

• It is a culture in which principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are not only respected but implemented.

• It’s a culture in which citizens are governments are held accountable for abusing or violating Human Rights.
History of Human Rights in the Gulf

- Religious History
- Social History
- Political History
- Cultural History
The current official position of HR in Gulf States

- Human rights is relevant to them in positioning because today no government would dare say that it is against human rights.
- Gulf States insist that Human Rights need to be modified in order to gain alignment with social norms and religious beliefs.
Reality of Human Rights Situation in the Gulf

• No enforcement of Human Rights
• No Culture of Human Rights
• Laws are not aligned with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
• Continuous Violations of Basic Human Rights
• Impunity Provided to Human Rights Violators
CONTRIBUTORS TOWARDS DELAYING A CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

• TRIBAL MINDSET
• SLOW PACED POLITICAL EVOLUTION
• THE GROWTH OF RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM
• LIMITED PRESSURE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
• ABSENCE OF ACCOUNTABLITY FOR GOVERNMENTS
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GULF

- BAHRAIN CASE OBSERVATION
- THE OPPOSITION AND THE LOYALISTS BOTH UTILIZE RELIGION TO EITHER ABUSE OR CALL FOR RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- LOYALISTS CLAIM UHRD IS UNISLAMIC
- OPPOSITION CALLS FOR RESPECTING UHRD
POSITIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BAHRAIN

LOYALIST
• LAWS ARE NOT ALIGNED WITH ISLAM
• IT’S A WESTERN PENETRATIONAL STRATEGY
• WE HAVE OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF HUMANS RIGHTS
• WE’VE ESTABLISHED THE ARAB HUMAN RIGHTS COURT

OPPOSITION
• CONTINOUS ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD STOP IMMEDIATELY
• GOVERNMENT SHOULD IMPLEMENT ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS
• HUMAN RIGHTS WILL NOT BE RESPECTED BEFORE A TRANSITION TOWARDS DEMOCRACY
CHANGES IN THE MIND SETS ON GULF NATIONALS TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS

- The effect of the Arab Spring
- Growing demands for democracy
- A growing feeling of the absence of law
- Growing respect for human rights organizations
- Growing tendency to create a climate of understanding between local norms and international law
QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES?

THANK YOU