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MINISTRY RESCUES MAID FROM ABUSE

Officials force employer to come clean and hand over unpaid wages to woman

A HOUSEMAID who worked for months without pay and claims she was beaten by her employer's children has been rescued by UAE authorities.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) stepped in and took action after the Filipina lodged a complaint with its human rights department.

The woman told ministry officials that she had been severely beaten by her boss' children and was never allowed to leave the family home in Fujairah.

She also said she had gone four months without any pay, despite working tirelessly for the employer and her family.

The MoI said the Filipina had first phoned her embassy for help but was not satisfied by the response, so she contacted the ministry's human rights department.

Ministry officials then launched an

By Ismail Sebugwaawo

investigation and summoned the woman's boss.

"The employer said she had no problem with her maid. She said she was not aware that her sons had been mistreating her," the MoI said yesterday.

The officials then went to the home and interviewed the maid.

After concluding their investigations, the authorities made sure the employer paid the maid the four months' salary she was due.

The MoI also gave the maid the choice of whether she wanted to continue working for her employer or cancel her residence visa and leave the UAE.

The woman has decided to return to the Philippines.
ismail@7days.ae



Picture by Tonya Colson

Dubai Police add a bit of G-force to their supercar fleet

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Give Emirati designs a home

Designer says UAE talent should share their creations

By Megha Merani

THE UAE must work to commission and export furniture made locally instead of importing foreign products, according to one designer.

"Design by origin is important because it's a part of creating history," Emirati furniture designer Khalid Shafar (right) told 7DAYS.

"The only way to have that is to have people of the country creating, designing and exporting it outside. They are the only ones who can interpret the culture and export it to the world," he said.

As the only UAE representative at last week's Downtown Design event - an industry fair for architects, real-estate developers and designers from across the world - Shafar underlined the shortage of home-grown designers and appealed for more Emiratis to step up to the challenge.

He said: "It's a fact: we have more demand than supply. And while we may have



BIG PLANS: Shafar

UAE-based designers, we don't have enough Emirati designers to meet demand.

"This is really needed because if Dubai is going to progress in the design field, then we need to have voices and ambassadors coming from within. And this would only be possible through pure Emirati design.

"I'm one of the voices, but I would love to see my colleagues step forward to join me."

Showcasing his personally crafted pieces at the exhibition, Shafar said some of his local interpretations are reflected through his material choices, such as



camel leather. And he aspires to be part of the movement that "defines" UAE-grown design.

He said: "My dream is to define something we make and call it 'Emirati design' - something that people can refer to, just as they do in case of French or Italian design.

"With Dubai already noted as one of the major hubs, it's time for us to put our work out there and show the world our potential.

"I hope we export creations around the world known as 'designed and made in the UAE!'" megha@7days.ae

A SPACE TO ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY

KASA, pictured below, is home to the Khalid Shafar brand - a space where his designs are permanently on display.

The name KASA arises from the Italian word 'casa', meaning home, which has been reinterpreted to resonate with the brand. KASA is located in the heart of the old Ras Al Khor industrial district of Dubai. It was established there with the vision of transforming the area into Dubai's new design district, much as its sister area of Al Quoz became Dubai's newest art hub. The space, which opened in late 2012, reflects Shafar's ambition that it be the reference point or touchstone for UAE design. It will offer designers, collectors and researchers, both national and international, a unique perspective of the aesthetics of UAE design, while shedding light on how it is influenced by local crafts.

Guests can arrange private viewings with the designer by appointment. Visit khalidshafar.com for more information.



FRESH THINKING: A bench (above) and drawers (pictured left) by Shafar

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