



Dear Mohammed Ben Sulayem,

16 March 2022

Cc: Formula 1, Teams: McClaren, Mercedes, Ferrari, Alpine Racing, Aston Martin, Red Bull, Williams, Alpha Tauri

We are writing to raise our concerns over upcoming Formula 1 (F1) races in Gulf countries, with the season opening in Bahrain, followed by a race in Saudi Arabia. Both states, as well as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), are participants in the Saudi-led military coalition waging an ongoing war in Yemen.

The coalition has [committed](#) war crimes during their campaign in Yemen over the past seven years and contributed to what the United Nations has [termed](#) “the world’s worst humanitarian crisis”. This year alone, in a single airstrike the Saudi-led coalition [killed](#) at least 100 people. The three Gulf countries’ participation in the catastrophic war has been met with silence on the part of the Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) and F1, whilst Bahrain has been rewarded with both what is [believed](#) to be the “longest race contract deal ever signed” and Gulf Air Grand Prix opening race of the season, and Saudi Arabia benefitted from being added to the F1 calendar despite its appalling rights record.

We note that you met with Mohammed bin Zayed, the *de facto* leader of the UAE, where he [congratulated](#) you on your election as FIA President, wishing you “*success in representing the UAE in the best possible manner, reflecting its bright image worldwide*”, whilst you also [received](#) a medal of honour from King Hamad bin Isa AlKhalifa of Bahrain in 2004. These affiliations should not prevent you from taking a public stance against the ongoing conflict in Yemen and we rather hope that your relationships with Gulf statesmen can help to influence positive change.

We applaud your position on Ukraine and we are encouraged by your explicit public [condemnation](#) of the Russian invasion and your expression of “sadness and shock” for victims in Ukraine. Whilst we fully support the proactive steps taken by the FIA on this front, we are concerned that you have yet to take similar measures when it comes to Gulf nations, and we ask that you apply the same moral standards in condemning violations and supporting victims in all countries where F1 races take place.

Victims include individuals such as Dr Abduljalil AlSingace, who has been unlawfully imprisoned for over a decade in Bahrain simply for calling for democracy, as have Hassan Mushaima and Sheikh Ali Salman. Naji Fateel, Ali AlHajee, Sayed Nizar Alwadaei and six children also remain [arbitrarily detained](#) in Bahrain, whilst torture victims Mohammed Ramadhan and Husain Moosa are at risk of imminent execution along with 24 others. In [Saudi Arabia](#), 81 individuals were [executed](#) this weekend. People like Salma Al-Awda and Hassan Farhan Al-Maliki continue to face the death penalty, and earlier this month another child [defendant](#), who was 14-years-old at the time of their alleged crime, was again sentenced to death by the regime. In the UAE, leading human rights activist [Ahmed Mansoor](#) remains wrongfully behind bars.

We are concerned that the FIA and F1 are actively facilitating sportswashing in Gulf countries and their continued failure to raise abuses committed by these regimes creates a stark double standard. We thus urge the FIA to apply the same standards of commitment to human rights across all countries and use your platform to publicly raise the aforementioned concerns and individual cases, publicly sympathise with these victims and establish a clear human rights policy.

Yours sincerely,

*Members of the UK Parliament*

1. Brendan O'Hara MP, Scottish National Party
2. Ian Blackford MP, Westminster Leader, Scottish National Party
3. Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats
4. Caroline Lucas MP, Westminster Leader, Green Party
5. Andy McDonald MP, Labour
6. Andy Slaughter MP, Labour
7. Clive Betts MP, Labour
8. Clive Lewis MP, Labour
9. Hilary Benn MP, Labour
10. Kim Johnson MP, Labour
11. Paula Barker MP, Labour
12. Richard Burgon MP, Labour
13. Zarah Sultana MP, Labour
14. Alistair Carmichael MP, Liberal Democrat
15. Christine Jardine MP, Liberal Democrat
16. Daisy Cooper MP, Liberal Democrat
17. Jamie Stone MP, Liberal Democrat
18. Layla Moran MP, Liberal Democrat
19. Sarah Olney MP, Liberal Democrat
20. Tim Farron MP, Liberal Democrat
21. Wendy Chamberlain MP, Liberal Democrat
22. Alan Brown MP, Scottish National Party
23. Alison Thewliss MP, Scottish National Party
24. Alyn Smith MP, Scottish National Party
25. Chris Law MP, Scottish National Party
26. David Linden MP, Scottish National Party
27. Joanna Cherry QC MP, Scottish National Party
28. Patricia Gibson MP, Scottish National Party
29. Dr Philippa Whitford MP, Scottish National Party
30. Richard Thomson MP, Scottish National Party
31. Ben Lake MP, Plaid Cymru
32. Hywel Williams MP, Plaid Cymru
33. Chris Hazzard, MP Sinn Féin
34. Francie Molloy, MP Sinn Féin
35. John Finucane, MP Sinn Féin
36. Michelle Gildernew, MP Sinn Féin
37. Mickey Brady, MP, Sinn Féin
38. Órfhlaith Begley MP, Sinn Féin
39. Paul Maskey, MP Sinn Féin
40. Kenny MacAskill MP, Alba Party

41. Claudia Webbe MP
42. Jeremy Corbyn MP
43. Jonathan Edwards MP

*House of Lords*

44. Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Green Party
45. Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb, Green Party
46. Lord Purvis of Tweed, Liberal Democrat
47. Baroness Smith of Newnham, Liberal Democrat
48. Lord Scriven, Liberal Democrat
49. Baroness Stern, Crossbench

*Members of the European Parliament*

50. Alviina Alametsä MEP, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
51. Ernest Urtasun MEP, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
52. Dietmar Köster MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

*Members of the Spanish Parliament*

53. Senator Adelina Escandell i Grases, Esquerra Republicana
54. Senator Ana Maria Surra Spadea, Esquerra Republicana
55. Senator Elisenda Pérez i Esteve, Esquerra Republicana
56. Senator Jordi Martí Deulofeu, Esquerra Republicana
57. Senator Josep Maria Reniu i Vilamala, Esquerra Republicana
58. Senator Josep Rufà i Gràcia, Esquerra Republicana
59. Senator Miquel Caminal i Cerdà, Esquerra Republicana
60. Senator Mirella Cortès i Gès, Esquerra Republicana
61. Senator Robert Masih i Nahar, Esquerra Republicana
62. Senator Vanessa Callau Miñarro, Esquerra Republicana
63. Senator Xavier Castellana i Gamisans, Esquerra Republicana
64. Carolina Telechea Lozano, Esquerra Republicana
65. Gabriel Rufián Romero, Esquerra Republicana
66. Gerard Álvarez García, Esquerra Republicana
67. Inés Granollers Cunillera, Esquerra Republicana
68. Joan Capdevila Esteve, Esquerra Republicana
69. Joan Margall i Sastre, Esquerra Republicana
70. Jordi Salvador i Duch, Esquerra Republicana
71. Maria Carvalho Dantas, Esquerra Republicana
72. Marta Rosique i Saltor, Esquerra Republicana
73. Montse Bassa i Coll, Esquerra Republicana
74. Norma Pujol Farre, Esquerra Republicana
75. Pilar Vallugera i Balañà, Esquerra Republicana
76. Xavier Eritja Ciuró, Esquerra Republicana
77. Aina Vidal Sáez, En Comú Podem

*Members of the Irish Parliament*

- 78. Senator Joe O'Reilly, Fine Gael
- 79. Brendan Howlith TD, Labor
- 80. Cathal Crowe TD, Fianna Fáil
- 81. Ivana Bacik TD, Labor
- 82. Jim O'Callaghan TD, Fianna Fáil

*Members of the Belgian Parliament*

- 83. Senator Orry Van de Wauwer, New Flemish Alliance
- 84. Nahima Lanjri, Christian Democratic and Flemish Party

*Members of the Italian Parliament*

- 85. Jessica Costanzo, Five Star Movement
- 86. Nicola Morra, Five Star Movement

*Members of the German Parliament*

- 87. Andrej Hunko, MdB, Die Linke
- 88. Rainer Keller, MdB, Social Democratic Party

*Members of the French Parliament*

- 89. Dominique Potier, Socialist Party
- 90. Régis Juanico, Génération.s Party