

The 17 men on death row received a pardon from the family of the deceased Misri Khan, after paying close to 1 Million US\$. Though they are no longer on death row, they languish in jail. They were re-arrested on September 22nd 2011 when Mustaq, the eye witness and one of the injured in the event, claimed damages up to 1 Million AED from the 17 accused, putting a travel ban against them.

Finally, approximately a year later, the Judge has given a final warning to Mustaq and his brothers to come up with all the valid compensation to support their claims, -announcing that July 11th will be the last court will wait for the said papers. It's been close to a year that the 17 men have languished behind bars, whilst claimants are still seeking astronomical amounts of money from them without valid documentation.

If you believe that creating awareness can lead to change.... Please join us and support us at our BIPS Investigation Category Pitch Session

June 26th 2012 @ Sunny Side of the Docs

At Espace Encan

10.30 am

Pitch # 2 We The People

Every year thousands of workers from India migrate in search of work....

Most sell their homes and fields to buy an 'Employment Visas'

Reaching their destinations, they realize these 'jobs' don't exist

Trapped as 'illegal' their passports seized, they are enslaved...

Some simply are 'MISSING'

**April 2010 17 Indians were given the death penalty for the murder of 1 in Sharjah UAE.**

Most had been missing for a year prior to their sentence. They had sought assistance from the Indian Embassy but were refused. Human Rights Lawyers allege they were forced to confess and were sentenced without a proper trial. Their case highlights challenges migrant workers face in repressive environments. They would have ended up as another statistic, but a few family members won the support of Human Rights and local media and commenced a fight to bring them home. Following the appeal process along with the defence teams and human rights lawyers, we uncover the Indian Embassy's darkest kept secret - 1715 Indians languish in UAE jails, 200 implicated on murder charges. Their sentencing patterns raise concern - 13 men on trial for the murder of 1, 8 men for murder of 1. Sharing spaces with family members, building evidence on camera, takes us into an unseen world of labor camps, ripping façades as it uncovers modern day slavery, starting from Punjab into Sharjah, as they buy their one way ticket into slavery .... The timing is perfect, between Arab Springs and India's tumultuous election - could this be the window of opportunity for everyday people to affect change?

**Winner MipDoc 2011/ Good Pitch-Bertha Investigative Journalism Award  
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