

## UAE tells citizens not to wear national dress abroad

6th July, 2016



The government of the United Arab Emirates has advised its citizens not to wear the country's traditional clothes when travelling overseas. This was after an Emirati businessman was mistaken for a member of ISIS in a hotel in the state of Ohio, USA. The businessman, Ahmad Al Menhali, 41, from Abu Dhabi, was making a phone call in the lobby of a hotel. The hotel receptionist called the police because he was wearing the traditional white kandoura (Arab robe) and

headdress, and he was speaking Arabic, so she thought he might be a terrorist. Police armed with assault rifles wrestled a terrified Mr Al Menhali to the floor. He needed hospital treatment after the incident. He was shocked at how "brutal" the police were.

The police and the hotel have apologised for the incident. The UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised Emiratis to avoid wearing the country's national dress when travelling abroad. It said citizens had to think about their safety outside of the UAE. Mr Al Menhali reportedly blamed Donald Trump, for making people hate Muslims. The Council on American Islamic Relations said it was worried about what happened to Al Menhali. It said: "The fact that the police referred to his clothing in their report as a criminal [sign] is very concerning." It added: "Police need more diversity training. This is shocking". Mr Al Menhali said: "I always wear my traditional clothes during all my travels and never encountered such a thing".

Sources: *GulfNews.com / inquisitr.com / theNational.ae*

## Writing

"My country is a great country to live in for people from other countries". Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / citizens / traditional / overseas / businessman / hotel / terrorist / brutal / apologised / traveling / safety / worried / police / clothing / criminal / diversity / shocking

## True / False

- The United Arab Emirates government has issued some travel advice. T / F
- A UAE businessman was mistaken as an ISIS member in a USA hotel. T / F
- The Emirati businessman was from the UAE capital city Abu Dhabi. T / F
- The man did not suffer any harm when the police came to the hotel. T / F
- The man is still waiting for an apology from the police and hotel. T / F
- The Emirati businessman blamed Donald Trump for the attack. T / F
- An Islamic Relations group said the police needed university training. T / F
- It is the first time the man has worn national dress overseas. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. advised      | a. keep away from |
| 2. traditional  | b. frightened     |
| 3. clothes      | c. worrying       |
| 4. terrified    | d. happening      |
| 5. brutal       | e. suggested      |
| 6. incident     | f. mentioned      |
| 7. avoid        | g. attire         |
| 8. referred to  | h. come across    |
| 9. concerning   | i. vicious        |
| 10. encountered | j. customary      |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of your national dress?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Is the UAE government right to ask citizens not to wear national dress?
- How sad is it that people have to avoid wearing their national dress?
- What do you think of the white robe Arab men wear?
- Was the receptionist calling the police a racist act?
- How would you feel if you were Mr Al Menhali?
- What do you know about the UAE and its people?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. travelling
  2. making
  3. Police armed with assault
  4. He needed hospital
  5. He was shocked at how "brutal"
  6. The police and the hotel have apologised
  7. Mr Al Menhali reportedly blamed
  8. very
  9. Police need more diversity
  10. during
- a. for the incident
  - b. treatment
  - c. Donald Trump
  - d. training
  - e. overseas
  - f. concerning
  - g. a phone call
  - h. the police were
  - i. all my travels
  - j. rifles

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of Mr Menhali blaming Donald Trump for the attack?
- b) How worrying is it the police were called because of someone's clothes?
- c) Are we becoming afraid of everyone who is different?
- d) How safe do you feel in other countries?
- e) What do you think when you see people in their national dress?
- f) Should everyone be given more diversity training?
- g) What can we do to reduce racism?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Mr Al Menhali?

## Spelling

1. wear the country's dairioantlt clothes
2. The hotel otrneitpeics called the police
3. she thought he might be a tirrotres
4. Police armed with slataus rifles
5. hospital treatment after the iindetnc
6. shocked at how atrblu the police were
7. The police and the hotel have esaldgoaip (UK) / gdaiozleop (USA)
8. think about their sytfae
9. police referred to his oihtcnlg
10. Police need more itrdiyvse training
11. rndgiu all my travels
12. never eeenurndtc such a thing

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. j	3. g	4. b	5. i
6. d	7. a	8. f	9. c	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – National dress

You think national dress is the most important thing to take overseas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): an electric adaptor, a backpack or a selfie stick.

### Role B – An electric adaptor

You think an electric adaptor is the most important thing to take overseas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): national dress, a backpack or a selfie stick.

### Role C – Backpack

You think a backpack is the most important thing to take overseas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): an electric adaptor, national dress or a selfie stick.

### Role D – Selfie stick

You think a selfie stick is the most important thing to take overseas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): an electric adaptor, a backpack or national dress.

## Speaking – Traveling

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to take when travelling at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- sunglasses
- national dress
- backpack
- electric adaptor
- medicine
- mobile phone
- selfie stick
- phrase book

### Answers – True False

a T	b T	c T	d F	e F	f T	g F	h F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.