



The Louvre museum and Agence France-Muséums have read the report published by the organization *Human Rights Watch* on February 10, 2015 titled "Migrant Workers' Rights on Saadiyat Island in the United Arab Emirates: 2015 Progress Report" which includes already known information that have been discussed throughout the year.

In line with its commitments, the French side has been keen to comply with the social norms on the site of the Louvre Abu Dhabi since the beginning of the project. As provided in the Intergovernmental Agreement, the Louvre and Agence France-Muséums are closely collaborating with their Emirati partners. The Emirati *Tourism Development and Investment Company* (TDIC) is in charge of the construction of the building, designed by Jean Nouvel. However, TDIC is not in charge of the construction of all the projects on Saadiyat Island mentioned in the HRW report.

In order to enhance this matter on the construction of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the French side has been holding a constant and demanding dialogue with its Emirati partner. In this context, TDIC has developed an internal employment policy (*Employment Practices Policy*), integrated in the obligations of the consortium in charge of the construction of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, an Arabtec-led joint venture with Constructora San Jose SA and Oger Abu Dhabi LLC.

This policy is audited by the independent firm *PricewaterhouseCoopers* (PwC), whose results have been made public every year for three years now. The French side acknowledges the will of the Emirati side to improve this subject, and documented and measurable important improvements have been made to this effect as HRW has previously underlined.

In its third report published in December 2014, PwC reported on the interviews held with 1050 workers and the inspections carried out during the year. This exercise of transparency helps to identify progress to be made and improvements achieved. In this regard, we note the following:

- A medical insurance for 99% of workers;
- 100% of workers have access to their passports;
- A grievance procedure for workers and the ease of filing complaints;
- A sanctions system against contractors who do not comply with the internal employment policies of TDIC;
- Quality accommodation in line with the international standards.

Moreover, the report pointed out that the issue of the workers' recruitment fees remains a focal point for all. The French side remains vigilant on this issue that goes beyond the only stakeholders of the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Since the beginning of the project, the French side recognizes the key role of the workers in the construction of the Louvre Abu Dhabi. The dialogue with the Emirati side remains demanding and constructive in order to continue moving this policy forward in favor of workers and to make the Louvre Abu Dhabi a reference in the field.

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