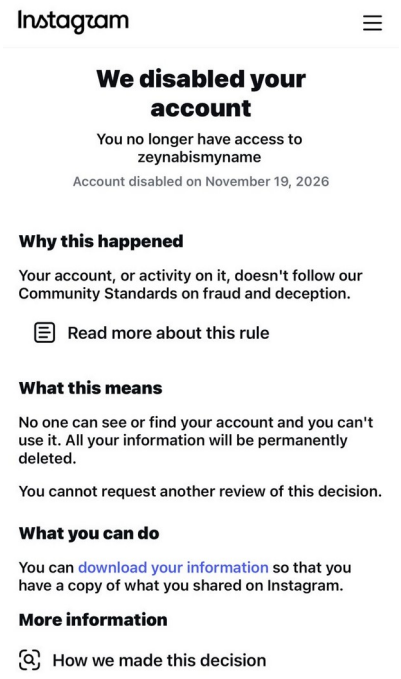
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2026

INSTAGRAM DELETES THE ACCOUNT OF THE DUBAI ROYAL'S EX-WIFE THE DAY AFTER HER UN COMPLAINT OVER TORTURE AND ABUSE IN DUBAI

Zeynab Javadli, whose three daughters were taken from her by armed, masked officers in Dubai in June and whose complaint of torture and abuse by UAE officials went to the United Nations yesterday, has had her Instagram account, @zeynabismyname, disabled today for "fraud and deception". Instagram says all her information will be permanently deleted and that she "cannot request another review of this decision". It is the second time Instagram has deleted the account of a woman asking the world for help from Dubai. In 2018 it was Princess Latifa. Her lawyers are asking Meta to explain, and asking the public to ask the same question.

LONDON, 19 November 2026: This morning Zeynab Javadli opened Instagram to find the notice: "We disabled your account. You no longer have access to zeynabismyname. Account disabled on November 19, 2026." The reason given is that her account, "or activity on it, doesn't follow our Community Standards on fraud and deception". The notice says that "no one can see or find your account", that "all your information will be permanently deleted", and that "you cannot request another review of this decision". Under "How we made this decision" Instagram says: "Our technology found your account, or activity on it, doesn't follow our rules. As a result, a member of our team took action." She had posted nothing on the account that day.



The notice on Ms Javadli's phone, morning of 19 November 2026.

The account was removed within hours of the Daily Mail reporting, just after midnight on 19 November, that her barrister, Rodney Dixon KC, had filed an urgent complaint against the United Arab Emirates with the UN Special Procedures in Geneva ("Dubai prince's ex-wife says she was tortured and abused by UAE officials during raid to seize her children: British lawyers ask UN to investigate", Daily Mail, 19 November 2026), followed by The Sun and the Times of India, and on the day her video message to the United Nations was released.

Ms Javadli, 35, the former wife of Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, a nephew of the Ruler of Dubai, has used the account to speak to the world since her home was raided in the early hours of 3 June 2026, when around eighteen armed, masked officers beat and drugged her and took her daughters, aged ten, eight and seven, from their beds. She has not seen them since. She is on trial in Dubai for kidnapping her own children, and is already charged with cybercrime offences in Dubai for the posts in which she asked the UN and the world for help. Every post on the account was in her own name and about her own life. Nothing on it was a fraud, and nothing on it deceived anyone.

David Haigh, the international human rights lawyer who represents Ms Javadli, said:

"Instagram has not only silenced Zeynab, it has branded her a fraud and told her she has no right to be heard. A mother whose children were taken from their beds by masked men has been called a deceiver by an algorithm, and a member of Meta's team signed it off. On the day her case reaches the United Nations, her voice is deleted, permanently, with no appeal. We have asked Meta who complained, what the alleged fraud is, and why a human being at Meta thought this was right. If this was done on a complaint from Dubai, or from anyone acting for it, the public is entitled to know.

"We have seen this before. In March 2018, as Princess Latifa fled Dubai by sea, her Instagram account was deleted while she was still at sea, against her will. Her boat was then stormed by Emirati commandos, she was dragged back to Dubai, and the world was told she was fine. Her account never came back. Now Instagram has done it to Zeynab, the day after her case went to the United Nations. When a woman asks for help on Instagram, it deletes her account when people like the UAE ask it to. They have done it twice now. Two women asking for help, and Instagram silences them. We will not let that happen quietly this time. I am asking everyone who has followed Zeynab's case to ask Instagram and Meta, politely and persistently, why @zeynabismyname has been deleted and when it will be restored."

What you can do

Ask Instagram and Meta to restore @zeynabismyname and to say what the "fraud and deception" was. Meta's press office is press@meta.com. Instagram's own notice says Ms Javadli cannot ask for another review, so her lawyers are taking the decision to Meta's Oversight Board and to Meta directly; public messages to @instagram and @meta on Instagram, X and Threads, with the hashtag #FreeZeynabsVoice, help. Please keep every message courteous.

Ms Javadli remains on X at @zeynabjavadli. Her video message to the United Nations, her press statements and the background to the case are at dubaiwatch.org/zeynab-javadli.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. A screenshot of the Instagram notice as it appeared on Ms Javadli's phone on the morning of 19 November 2026 is reproduced above; the full set of screenshots is available on request. The notice gives the date of disabling but no time. The Daily Mail report: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-16303489/Dubai-princes-ex-wife-tortured-abused-UAE-officials.html (published 00.01, 19 November 2026). The Sun: https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/41068445/dubai-prince-ex-wife-tortured-children-custody-battle/

2. The UN complaint: a Further Urgent Communication to the UN Special Procedures (the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteurs on torture, on freedom of expression and on the independence of judges and lawyers, and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls)

was filed on 18 November 2026 by Rodney Dixon KC of Temple Garden Chambers. The full press release of 19 November 2026 is at dubaiwatch.org/zeynab-javadli.

3. The cybercrime charges: Ms Javadli is charged in Dubai with offences under the UAE cybercrime law in respect of her online posts asking for help, in addition to the charge of kidnapping her own children (Case No. 21630/2026). On 18 November 2026 the judge due to give judgment in that case withdrew and the case was sent to a new judge.

4. Princess Latifa: Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed Al Maktoum attempted to flee Dubai by sea in February and March 2018 and was seized by Emirati and Indian forces from the yacht Nostromo off India on 4 March 2018 and returned to Dubai. UN human rights experts called for her release in April 2021. Mr Haigh was her lawyer and co-founded the Free Latifa campaign. Her verified Instagram account, @latifa_1, was taken down during the escape. Al Bawaba reported at the time that the account had been taken down "against her will" while she was on the yacht, that it was briefly restored and then removed again, and that Instagram had been asked to comment (Al Bawaba, "Exclusive: Princess Latifa's Instagram Account Taken Down 'Against Her Will' During Escape from UAE", https://www.albawaba.com/news/exclusive-princess-latifa%E2%80%99s-instagram-account-taken-down-%E2%80%98against-her-will%E2%80%99-during-escape-uae-1). On 3 April 2018 Kim Dotcom asked publicly on Twitter "on who's authority and why did @instagram delete the account of #SheikaLatifa?" (https://x.com/KimDotcom/status/981215725124706304). Instagram never gave a public explanation.

PRESS CONTACTS

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