

Saudi HRC seeks minister's response over salary cuts

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The Human Rights Commission (HRC), Saudi Arabia's government-funded rights watchdog, has asked Labour Minister Ghazi Al Gosaibi to give his response to the unlawful act by a local company of deducting large sums from the salaries of foreign workers.

According to the HRC, the local company, which is in the food and maintenance sector in Jizan, allegedly deducted SR400 from the salaries of 183 of its Asian employees. The employees were told that the money was going to social insurance which the company was not registered for. In addition, the company was not paying employees' salaries on time.

It said that its official letter to the minister was in response to several local newspaper reports which mentioned that the rights of over 100 labourers had been recently violated by a local company in the kingdom.

The commission said that in some cases employees' salaries were paid three months late. The rights body chose not to name the company. "The official letter was sent to the labour minister a few days ago and we are waiting for his official response in the matter," said a source from HRC.

An HRC spokesman, Zuhair Al Harithi, said that the company's act was a clear violation of Saudi labour laws. He said that in the official letter, the HRC supported its rightful claim to demand an official response from Al Gosaibi citing Article 94 in the Saudi Labour Law.