

Dubai runaway princess feared threats, found gun on her bed

Dubai's ruler **Sheikh** Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum conducted a campaign aimed at "**intimidating** and frightening" his **estranged** wife Princess Haya Bint al-Hussein before she fled to the U.K., a London judge has ruled in a case over the welfare of their two young children.

Sheikh 酋长; 族长

intimidate 恐吓; 威胁

estrangle 离间; 使疏远

estranged 分居的; 决裂的

The princess said she feared for the safety of her family since she twice found a gun on her bed a year ago, with the **muzzle** pointing to the door and the **safety catch** off, Judge Andrew McFarlane wrote in a ruling released Thursday. He granted protective orders for the children.

muzzle 使缄默; 枪口

safety catch 保险栓

The couple fought the case in London's family courts after Princess Haya, 45, flew to the U.K. in April. The sheikh initially sought an order forcing the two children to return to Dubai before later dropping the attempt, McFarlane said.

The ruling by one of Britain's most senior judges will be a huge embarrassment to the royal family. Sheikh Mohammed is credited with turning Dubai into a major tourism and business hub. While Dubai's government is treating the case as a private matter, the decision against its ruler contrasts with the image of openness and ease of doing business presented by the emirate.

The judge said that two older daughters by another marriage, Sheikha Latifa and Sheikha Shamsa, had themselves been detained in Dubai. Princess Haya described how in 2018 Latifa, who's now 35, was **abducted** by an armed Indian **commando** team at sea. Princess Haya said that her relationship with Sheikh Mohammed **deteriorated** after she tried to help Shamsa and Latifa.

abduct 绑架; 诱拐

commando 突击队

deteriorate 恶化