Statement of Qatar National Human Rights Committee

On

The demands of the besieged countries

The National Human Rights Committee of Qatar is watching with great concern what has been circulated through the media and news agencies about the list of conditions submitted to the State of Qatar by the sieging countries including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt. At the time we were awaiting for lifting the illegal siege on the citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr, and ending the flagrant violations they have been subjected to, the Gulf and international community were shocked by the list of demands and conditions that violate human rights conventions and other international and regional agreements. The NHRC considers that the lifting of the siege should not be related to any restrictions or conditions as it contradicts all international and human rights conventions, the siege should be lifted immediately and without prior conditions.

Some of the conditions in the list of demands relate to gross violations of human rights, such as the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to nationality and the right to asylum, as follows:

- Shutting down Al-Jazeera and its affiliated stations:
  This condition violates all human rights conventions which provide for the freedom of opinion and expression and the protection of journalists pursuant to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and recommendations of International conferences on human rights.

- Refusal to naturalize the citizens of the siege countries and expel those currently in Qatar:
  This condition also violates most human rights conventions and resolutions issued by the Human Rights Council, which provide for the right to nationality and international standards prohibiting arbitrary deprivation of nationality.

- Handing over all individuals who are wanted by the four countries:
  The NHRC recalls that international human rights conventions prohibits extradition of criminals to their countries as they may be subjected to torture, ill-treatment, unfair trials or death sentences, especially if they are political opponents! This with no doubt violates human rights conventions, asylum agreements, fair trial standards and the joint security agreement between the GCC states.

These demands violate most of the human rights conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Conventions on Asylum and Extradition, Human Rights Declaration for the Member States of the Cooperation and the Security Agreement between the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other conventions and covenants. Accordingly, the International law prohibits states to calls on other states to violate human rights.

The NHRC calls on all international human rights organizations, led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations contractual and non-contractual mechanisms, to protect freedom of opinion and expression, and take urgent action to end the illegal blockade, urge the besieged States to stop further violations and prevent acceptance of those conditions that violate human rights conventions. Acceptance of these demands and conditions by the State of Qatar will led to international accountability and breach of Qatar’s obligations under human rights conventions. Accordingly, The NHRC requests the State of Qatar not to accept these demands.
The NHRC shall take the necessary legal and judicial action to prevent those violations in the list of demands and identify the international responsibilities of the besieged States in international forums, the United Nations and UNESCO. For the first time in history, a siege is imposed on a people where the demands violate human rights and deny international values, principles, morals and obligations.

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Doha, Qatar