NHRC Statement no. 1/2019

Concerning the prevention of the departure of certain members
of mixed families from the United Arab Emirates

The National Human Rights Committee of the State of Qatar monitors continuing human rights violations by the UAE that contravene all international conventions, agreements, and norms and humanitarian principles.

Mixed families continue to face an uncertain future, under critical circumstances which change the lives of thousands of families in the Gulf region, due to the severe restrictions imposed by the countries of the blockade on relations with the State of Qatar leading on the first place to family dispersal.

In a number of cases monitored by the National Human Rights committee recently, some family members of mixed families have been prevented from departure from the United Arab Emirates.

A very recent case is that of Ms. Shaqraa Mohammed Obaid, Emirati citizen who is married to Mr. Fahd Abdullah Dhyiab, Qatari citizen. She left Qatar on January 23, 2019, with her two sons, Dhyiab and Abdullah (2 years and 4 month respectively) to visit her family in the UAE. And she is currently banned from leaving The UAE with her two children, in violation of her right to family reunification. Moreover, The National Human Rights Committee had documented 87 cases of violations of the right to family reunification following the issuance of the International Court of Justice order.

The National Human Rights Committee deplores the continuing UAE authorities' failure to comply with the International Court of Justice order No. 172 dated 23 July 2018, which urged the UAE to comply with its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and to apply a set of provisional measures including ensuring that families that include a Qatari, separated by the measures adopted by the UAE since 5 June 2017, are united, despite international appeals, and reports of international organizations documenting the violations.

The National Human Rights Committee of the State of Qatar calls on UAE authorities to comply with the International Court of Justice order No. 172 dated 23 July 2018 and to allow The UAE citizen and her two Qatari children to leave the UAE immediately.

6 Jumada II 1440, 26th February 2019
Doha, Qatar