Years on the blockade of Qatar

National Human Rights Committee
Doha - State of Qatar
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National Human Rights Committee – State of Qatar

NHRC is an independent institution, established in 2002 with the aim of protecting and promoting human rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

The committee obtained membership in the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions GANHRI after it underwent an accreditation process from the Subcommittee on Accreditation (SCA) of the GANHRI.

The committee received status ‘A’ in 2010 for a period of 5 years, then underwent a new review in 2015, and was reaccredited to status ‘A’ again for a period of 5 years, which is the highest rating granted to a national institution. This indicates the credibility, independence and full compliance with the Paris principles.
**Blockade on the State of Qatar**

Three Gulf states (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates) in addition to the Arab Republic of Egypt cut diplomatic ties with the State of Qatar on Monday morning, June 5, 2017, by taking many unilateral coercive measures against the State of Qatar and its citizens and residents, where they have committed grave violations of many fundamental human rights.

**Measures of the blockading countries included**

- Cutting diplomatic relations with the State of Qatar
- Closing the air routes, and land and sea borders with State of Qatar
- Closing the airspace of the blockading countries to Qatar flights
- Ordering the Qatari citizens to leave and return to the State of Qatar
- Forcing citizens of the blockading countries to leave the State of Qatar
Documented Violations of Human Rights and Freedoms due to the Blockade

The total number of cases of violations resulting from the blockading countries according to the rights monitored and documented by the National Human Rights Committee in the State of Qatar has amounted to about (4275), including:

1. The right to movement
2. The right to residency
3. The right to property
4. The right to education
5. The right to health
6. The right to work
7. The right to litigation
8. The right to family reunification
9. The right to freedom of opinion and expression
10. The right of freedom from arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance
11. Preventing incitement to violence and hatred
12. The right to practice religious rites
Violations of the right to family reunification:

Arbitrary unilateral measures taken by the blockading countries have torn the Gulf social fabric without regard to humanitarian cases.

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Some forms of violations of the right to family reunification:

- Difficulty in entry procedures
- Tearing the social fabric
- Harsh treatment of the vulnerable categories (mothers and children)
- Prevention from attending funerals and burials
- Harassment at the airport
- No mechanism for communication with the competent authorities
- Causing severe psychological damage
Violation of the right Education

The unilateral arbitrary measures taken against the State of Qatar constituted a major reason for stopping the education of Qatari students receiving their education in the blockading countries.

Some forms of violation of the right to education:

- Non-completion of education
- Non-recovery of their academic fees paid to universities
- No compensation mechanism for students whose education was suspended
- Bearing additional costs for continuing their studies at universities in other countries
- Denying access to educational records
- Delay for nearly a year and a half in completing education
Violations of the right to litigation:

Because of the arbitrary and unilateral measures taken by the blockading countries, citizens and residents of the State of Qatar were unable to resort to the courts in these countries and exercise this right.

Some forms of violations of the right to litigation:

- Failure to provide a mechanism for access to justice
- Preventing Qatars from making power of attorney to their representatives in the blockading countries
- The blockade countries’ lawyers refrained from defending Qatars’ rights and interests
- International law firms with branches in the blockading countries refrained from defending the Qatars
- Obstructing access to courts
Violation of the right to freedom of opinion and expression:

The violations, and penalties that incurred by the citizens of the blockading countries were subjected to due to the blockade on the State of Qatar reached unprecedented limits, simply for showing sympathy through social media.

Some forms of violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression:

- Blocking the Qatari media in the blockading countries
- Forcing the staff from the blockading countries to resign from the Qatari media institutions
- Criminalizing sympathy with Qatar
- Suppressing peaceful expression
رافقتكم السلامة
qnb.com
Violation of the right to movement and residency:

The unilateral arbitrary measures taken by the authorities of the blockading countries include preventing the Qatari citizens from entering these countries and expelling those who were there. Citizens of the blockading countries who were legal residents of the State of Qatar were also forced to leave Qatar within 14 days.

Some forms of violations of the right to movement and residency:

- Preventing Qatari citizens from entering the blockading countries
- Forcing Qatari citizens to leave the blockading countries
- Forcing the citizens of the blockading countries to leave Qatar
- Imposing arbitrary and punitive measures for violators
- Closing of Qatar Airways offices in the blockading countries
Violations of the right to work:

The violations committed by the blockading countries extended to the denial of this right, which is one of the most important economic and social rights.

### Some forms of violations of the right to work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cutting off the family’s source of income</td>
<td>No compensation or alternative solutions, Physical and psychological losses and damages, Displacement of workers working for Qatars in the blockading countries, Forcing citizens of the blockading countries to quit their jobs and leave Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing the companies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No compensation or alternative solutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displacement of workers working for Qatars in the blockading countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcing citizens of the blockading countries to quit their jobs and leave Qatar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Violation of the right to property:

The unexpected blockade decisions imposed by the blockading States caused massive losses of money and property to thousands of people.

Some forms of violations of the right to property:

- Material damages and heavy losses in real estate property
- Inability to dispose of property
- Annulment of contracts
- Disrupting transactions
- Preventing financial and postal transfers
- Freezing balances
- Legal prosecutions due to non-payment of outstanding amounts
Violation of the right to health:
The blockading States’ decisions resulting in the prevention of entry of food and medicine in a flagrant violation of human rights agreements and conventions

Some forms of violations of the right to health

- Suspension of trade and other commercial exchanges affected Qatar’s access to medicines and medical supplies
- Resorting to external suppliers caused an increase in product costs, and charges for transportation and insurance
- Failure to complete treatment for some citizens of the State of Qatar in the blockading countries
Some forms of violations of the right to practice religious rites:

The blockade’s decision resulted in preventing around 1.5 million Muslim citizens and residents of the State of Qatar from performing their right to practice their religious rites.

- Forcing some Qatari citizens to leave Saudi Arabia in an expeditious manner without completing their religious rites, and expelling some of them from the hotels they were staying in.
- Some Qatari citizens were forced to return using alternative routes due to the ban on Qatar Airways aircraft from landing in Saudi airports.
- Preventing citizens and residents of the State of Qatar from performing the Hajj and Umrah rituals.
- The blockading countries stopped dealing in Qatari currency and the Qatari bank debit card.
- Degrading and ill-treatment of Qatari citizens at entry and exit ports.
- Heavy losses incurred upon the Hajj and Umrah agencies in the State of Qatar.
- Security challenges due to hate speech.
- Non-allowance of the presence of official Qatari mission to learn about the situation of Qatari pilgrims.
Statistics of violations by the blockading countries

- Violations by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: 2448
- Violations by United Arab Emirates: 1225
- Violations by Kingdom of Bahrain: 602

Total violations: 4275
## Violations resulting from the blockade by Saudi Arabia (2017 - 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Complaints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arbitrary arrest, detention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practicing religious rites</td>
<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right to litigation</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enforced disappearance</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humiliating, degrading treatment</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>717</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family reunification</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement and residency</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obtaining official documents</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Complaints received by NHRC:** 2448
Violations resulting from the blockade by UAE (2017 - 2020)

- Arbitrary arrest, detention: 0
- Work: 8
- Practicing religious rites: 0
- Right to litigation: 5
- Enforced disappearance: 0
- Education: 157
- Health: 5
- Humiliating, degrading treatment: 0
- Property: 520
- Family reunification: 92
- Movement and residency: 435
- Obtaining official documents: 3

1225 Complaints received by NHRC
Violations resulting from the blockade by Bahrain (2017 - 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Complainants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arbitrary arrest, detention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practicing religious rites</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right to litigation</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforced disappearance</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humiliating, degrading treatment</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family reunification</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movement and residency</td>
<td>230</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obtaining official documents</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

602 Complaints received by NHRC
OHCHR TECHNICAL MISSION TO
THE STATE OF QATAR
17-24 November 2017

Report
On the impact of the Gulf Crisis on human rights
December 2017
Reports of the National Human Rights Committee:

The National Human Rights Committee has published a series of periodical reports monitoring the negative impacts of the blockade on the human rights in the State of Qatar.

Reports on general violations

01. The first report on human rights violations resulting from the blockade
   June 13, 2017

02. The second report on human rights violations resulting from the blockade
   July 1, 2017

03. The third report on human rights violations resulting from the blockade
   August 30, 2017
General reports on violations

The fourth report on the human rights violations resulting from the blockade under the title: (Six months of violations; what is next?) 5 Dec. 2017

The fifth report on the human rights violations resulting from the blockade under the title: (A full year of continuing human rights violations by the blockading Countries) June 5, 2017

After six months; non-compliance By the United Arab Emirates to the decisions of the International Court of Justice. January 15, 2019

A year and a half has passed since the decision of the International Court of Justice - The United Arab Emirates continues in human rights violations. January 20

Special reports on violations

Report on denial of the right to perform religious rites August 24, 2017

Report on the violation of the right to property August 30, 2017

Report on the violation of the right to food and medicine September 3, 2017

Report on the violation of the right to education September 5, 2017
Complaint Committee and Hotline

The National Human Rights Committee, as part of its contingency plan, has established a complete complaints reception unit (integrated call center), receiving complaints via the hotline and email along with holding interviews with the victims and carrying out regular periodic follow-up with them.
International reports on the violations by the blockading countries

Report of the United Nations OHCHR technical mission

Report of the European Union

Report of Amnesty International

Report of Human Rights Watch
On July 23, 2018, the International Court of Justice issued its order No. 172, which included a request to the United Arab Emirates to comply with its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and also to take provisional measures to prevent the aggravation or extension of the dispute including the following:

1. The right to family reunification
2. The right to education
3. The right to access to courts and other judicial bodies
4. The commitment of the parties not to aggravate or extend the dispute or make it difficult to resolve

On June 14, 2019, the second order of the International Court of Justice was issued to reject the complaint submitted by the UAE regarding provisional measures in the framework of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in its dispute with the State of Qatar.
Decision of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Geneva on August 29, 2019, regarding the admissibility of the complaint, in terms of its jurisdiction, submitted by the State of Qatar against the United Arab Emirates, as a result of the discriminatory measures imposed on its citizens since June 2017, and this complaint comes in accordance with Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1965.

Decision of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Geneva on August 29, 2019, regarding the admissibility of the complaint, in terms of its jurisdiction, submitted by the State of Qatar against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as a result of the discriminatory measures imposed on its citizens since June 2017, and this complaint comes in accordance with Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1965.
Findings and Legal Description

The governments of the Kingdom Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Kingdom of Bahrain, through their arbitrary and unilateral actions, have violated several key principles and agreements embodied in the international human rights law:

01 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

02 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

03 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

04 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

05 Human Rights Conventions for Women, Children and Persons with disabilities

06 Enforced Disappearance

In addition to the Arab Charter on Human Rights, the GCC Human Rights Declaration, and the economic agreement between the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The blockading countries also flagrantly violated the Chicago agreement by banning the movement of Qatari civil aviation over their territories without there being any military necessity or reasons related to public security.
Recommendations to all Stakeholders:

The National Human Rights Committee has made recommendations to take all possible measures to lift the blockade, and the resulting violations, and to demand compensation for all the damage caused to all individuals. The Committee made these recommendations to:

- The United Nations
- The Human Rights Council
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- The Secretariat-General of the GCC
- The blockading countries
- The government of Qatar