

NHRC Statement No. (02/2020)**on the Third Anniversary of the Blockade of Qatar**

The continuation of the unjust blockade of Qatar and the accompanying arbitrary measures for the third year in a row deepen the immense humanitarian suffering being endured by citizens and residents of the State of Qatar and the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, as the number of complaints received by the National Human Rights Committee reached 4275 complaints.

The National Human Rights Committee emphasizes that the blockading countries continue to target the peoples and tearing the Gulf social fabric, in flagrant violation of international and regional human rights conventions, despite the international appeals launched by organizations, parliaments and governments across the world.

The lack of responsiveness by the blockading countries to the Gulf mediation and rejection of any international and regional efforts to resolve the crisis is only a pretext to perpetuate violations and inflict harm on their peoples. In this regard, the National Human Rights Committee expresses its deep concern at the failure of all attempts to discourage these countries from their violations or even urge them to find radical solutions to end violations, to fulfil the aspirations of the peoples. The National Committee also strongly deplores the failure of the Gulf system to address the adverse impacts of the humanitarian crisis of the unjust blockade.

The National Human Rights Committee reiterates its position calling for the immediate cessation of grave violations and putting an end to the suffering of the victims and ensure redress for them prior to initiation of any political solutions, in accordance with international human rights agreements.

The National Human Rights Committee also notes that disregarding the issue to lift injustice and compensate the victims will inevitably lead to widening the gap, tearing the Gulf fabric and losing confidence in the Gulf system. Accordingly, the National Human Rights Committee calls upon the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council to assume its responsibilities and expeditiously address the humanitarian implications of the crisis prior to initiation of any political solutions.

The National Human Rights Committee, having noted with satisfaction the movements of the State of Qatar before international organizations and tribunals to provide redress and compensation to victims and expose the violations of the blockading countries to international public opinion, calls upon the State of Qatar to continue moving forward and recalls its obligation to preserve the rights of victims and not to waive claims for reparations under any circumstance or pressure by any party.

In conclusion, the National Human Rights Committee commends the positions of international human rights organizations in documenting violations and condemning the blockading countries, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Parliament in condemning the blockading countries, and undertakes to the victims and the public opinion to continue its efforts to prosecute those states and coordinate with the concerned organizations and bodies in this regard, regardless of what happens in the future with regard the resolution of the crisis.