



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW SUBMISSION FOR QATAR

NGO Submission

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ABOUT HRF

The Human Rights Foundation (HRF) is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that promotes and protects human rights globally, with a focus on closed societies. HRF unites people in the common cause of defending human rights and promoting liberal democracy. Our mission is to ensure that freedom is both preserved and promoted around the world.

We focus our work on the founding ideals of the human rights movement, those which are most purely enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

HRF's Center for Law and Democracy (HRF-CLD) is a program of HRF. HRF-CLD promotes legal scholarship in the areas of comparative constitutional law and international law, with a focus on international human rights law and international democracy law.

INTRODUCTION

This submission was prepared by HRF, for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the state of Qatar. In this submission, HRF evaluates Qatar's implementation of recommendations made during its previous UPR, as it relates to the current human rights situation in the country, which is characterized by systematic, widespread, and gross violations of human rights, including: the ongoing curtailment of the freedoms of assembly, association, and expression, as well as violations of women's and migrants' rights.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE PREVIOUS REVIEW

1. As a Member State of the United Nations (UN), the state of Qatar has committed to protecting, promoting, and respecting the individual rights and fundamental freedoms laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The most recent UPR of Qatar by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council took place on

May 15, 2019.¹ A total of 270 recommendations were made to Qatar, with the government accepting 178 recommendations and noting 92.² Although Qatar accepted the majority of recommendations, grave human rights violations persist.

2. As a Member State of the United Nations, Qatar has committed to protect, promote, and respect the individual rights and fundamental freedoms laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Additionally, Qatar has ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
3. Notably, Qatar has yet to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.³
4. The 2004 Constitution of Qatar (*hereafter* Constitution) formally enshrines the protection of several human rights. Despite these constitutional guarantees, individuals in Qatar are routinely subjected to human rights violations, not least by the very existence of laws that criminalize and impinge upon their fundamental freedoms.

QATAR'S NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

¹ *Universal Periodic Review - Qatar*, U.N. Human Rights Council, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/qa-index>.

² *Qatar: Responses to Recommendations – Third Review, Session 33*, U.N. Human Rights Council (May. 2019), https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session33/OA/UPR33_Qatar_Matrix_E.docx.

³ *U.N. Treaty Base, United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies*, U.N. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=140&Lang=EN.

5. Qatar's Constitution⁴ contains several key provisions relating to the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens.
6. The Constitution guarantees the protection of workers from maltreatment in *Article 30*:
The employee–employer relationship shall be based on the ideals of social justice and shall be regulated by the Law.
7. The Constitution guarantees protections against discrimination in *Article 35*:
All persons are equal before the Law and there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of gender, race, language or religion.
8. With regard to personal freedom and protection from torture and ill-treatment, the Constitution states in *Article 36*:
Personal freedom shall be guaranteed and no person may be arrested, detained or searched, neither may his freedom of residence and mobility be restricted, save under the provisions of the Law. No person may be subjected to torture or any degrading treatment, and torture shall be deemed a crime punishable by Law.
9. The Constitution guarantees protection of freedom of assembly in *Article 44*:
The right of citizens to assemble in public is guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of the Law.
10. The Constitution guarantees protection of freedom of association in *Article 45*:
The right of citizens to establish associations is guaranteed under the conditions and circumstances set out in the Law.
11. The Constitution guarantees protection of freedom of speech in *Article 47*:
Freedom of expression of opinion and scientific research is guaranteed under the conditions and circumstances set forth in the Law.
12. The Constitution guarantees protection of freedom of the press in *Article 48*:

⁴ *The Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar*, 2004, National Legislative Bodies (2004)
<https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/2004/en/101710>.

Freedom of the press and media, shall be guaranteed in accordance with the Law.

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

13. The Kingdom of Qatar is a constitutional monarchy, with a population of approximately 3.2 million people.⁵ The “Al Thani” royal family has been the ruling family since Qatar gained independence from Great Britain in 1971.⁶ The current Emir, or monarch, of the country is Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who assumed power in June 2013.⁷
14. Roughly 90% of Qatar’s population is composed of noncitizens, who lack the political rights or electoral opportunities of their Qatari counterparts.⁸ Under Law No. 38 of 2005, residents can apply for citizenship only after they have lived in Qatar for 25 years, if they have not left Qatar for over two months in a single calendar year and are “of good repute.”⁹ However, citizenship is still contingent on the Emir’s decree.¹⁰ Naturalized citizens may lose citizenship if they undermine Qatar’s social, economic, or political structure.¹¹
15. In 2003, Qatar enacted a new constitution, which established a parliament, known as the “Shura Council,” in which two-thirds of the body would be popularly elected, with the remaining one-third appointed by the Emir.¹² The first elections for the Shura Council were scheduled to take place in 2007;¹³ yet, October 2021 marked the Council’s first election.¹⁴

⁵ *Qatar*, Britannica (last updated Feb. 7, 2024) <https://www.britannica.com/place/Qatar>.

⁶ Mohamed Keita and Kristen Anna, *Qatar’s Human Rights Record in the World’s Spotlight*, Human Rights Foundation (Nov. 18, 2022), at 6, <https://hrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Qatar-Human-Rights-Report-FINAL.pdf>.

⁷ *Qatar Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani*, BBC (June 25, 2013) <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-23046307>.

⁸ *Qatar: Freedom in the World 2023*, Freedom House <https://freedomhouse.org/country/qatar/freedom-world/2023>.

⁹ *State of Qatar, Law No. 38 of 2005 On the Acquisition of Qatari Nationality*, National Legislative Bodies (Oct. 30, 2005) <https://www.refworld.org/docid/542975124.html>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Sheikh Tamim ibn Hamad Al Thani*, Britannica (last updated Jan. 26, 2024) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sheikh-Tamim-ibn-Hamad-Al-Thani>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Andrew Mills and Lisa Barrington, *Qatar’s First Legislative Elections See 63.5% Voter Turnout*, Reuters (Oct. 2, 2021) <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/qatar-holds-first-legislative-elections-2021-10-02/>.

16. In July 2021, the Emir signed Law No. 6 of 2021, restricting eligible voters to “native” Qataris, whose families were proven to have settled in Qatar before 1930.¹⁵ This effectively excluded the majority of Qataris who were naturalized in 2005, along with those who are unable to prove that their grandfathers were born in Qatar prior to 1930.¹⁶ Additionally, members of Qatar’s Al Murra tribe, who were stripped of their nationality in 1996, were also barred from voting.¹⁷ Following protests in August 2021, the Emir pledged to amend the law to promote “equal Qatari citizenship” for future votes.¹⁸
17. Recently, Emir Tamim has invested significantly in sports infrastructure as a means of highlighting the country’s international prominence. In 2022, Qatar hosted the International Association Football Federation (FIFA) World Cup, with approximately 3.4 million spectators,¹⁹ and in 2024, Qatar hosted the Asian Football Confederation Asia Cup,²⁰ with 1.06 million total spectators.²¹ In 2027, Qatar will host the men’s International Basketball Federation World Cup, and in 2030, the Asian Games.²²

FREEDOMS OF ASSEMBLY, ASSOCIATION, AND EXPRESSION

18. Protections ensuring the freedoms of assembly, association, and expression are

¹⁵ *Qatar: Election Law Exposes Discriminatory Citizenship*, Human Rights Watch (Sept. 9, 2021) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/09/09/qatar-election-law-exposes-discriminatory-citizenship>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ Andrew Mills, *Qatar’s Ruler Says Citizenship Laws to be Amended, Slams Excessive Tribalism*, Reuters (Oct. 26, 2021) <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/qatars-ruler-says-citizenship-laws-be-amended-slams-excessive-tribalism-2021-10-26/>.

¹⁹ *One Month On: 5 billion engaged with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™*, InsideFIFA (Jan. 18, 2023) <https://www.fifa.com/tournaments/mens/worldcup/qatar2022/news/one-month-on-5-billion-engaged-with-the-fifa-world-cup-qatar-2022-tm>.

²⁰ *Asian Cup confirmed for Jan-Feb slot in Qatar Next Year*, Reuters (Apr. 5, 2023) <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/asian-cup-confirmed-jan-feb-slot-qatar-next-year-2023-04-05/>.

²¹ *AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 Sets New All-Time Attendance Record*, The Asian Football Confederation (Jan. 30, 2024) <https://www.the-afc.com/en/national/afc-asian-cup/news/afc-asian-cup-qatar-2023-sets-new-all-time-attendance-record.html>.

²² *Sport in Qatar*, Qatar Government Communications Office <https://www.gco.gov.qa/en/focus/sport/>.

formally enshrined in Qatar’s constitution, but in practice are not upheld by the regime, enabling violations of these protections to persist.

19. The majority of public and private media outlets operating in Qatar are connected to members of the Al Thani family and consequently, practice self-censorship regarding matters pertaining to the government.²³ Qatar’s most notable private media outlet, Al Jazeera, receives 90% of its funding from the regime and is owned by royal family member Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer Al Thani.²⁴
20. On January 8, 2020, Emir Tamim amended Article 136 of the Penal Code to ensure that the dissemination or publication of “false news” is punishable by up to five years in prison or a fine of 100,000 Qatari Riyal — approximately USD 27,473.²⁵
21. On May 10, 2022, a criminal court sentenced activists and brothers Hazza and Rashed bin Ali Abu Shurayda al-Marri to life in prison, under the premises of “contesting laws ratified by the Emir” and “organizing unauthorized public meetings.”²⁶ Hazza was arrested on August 10, 2021 after participating in protests against Law No. 6 of 2021, and for tweeting a video protesting against the new law.²⁷ His brother Rashed was arrested the next day for providing Hazza legal assistance.²⁸ While detained, the two brothers were held in solitary confinement for at least seven months, and state officials interrogated them without their lawyers.²⁹
22. On July 13, 2022, 15 suspected regime agents attacked exiled human rights

²³ Mohamed Keita and Kristen Anna *supra* note 6 at 10.

²⁴ Al Jazeera, Influence Watch <https://www.influencewatch.org/organization/al-jazeera/#:~:text=According%20to%20Al%20Jazeera%2C%20Al,by%20QMC%2C%20the%20official%20state.>

²⁵ Qatar Changes Penal Code to Include ‘False News’ Law, Committee to Protect Journalists (Jan. 21, 2020) <https://cpj.org/2020/01/qatar-penal-code-false-news/>.

²⁶ Qatar: Further information: Two Qatari Lawyers Handed Life Sentences: Hazza and Rashed bin Ali Abu Shurayda al-Marri, Amnesty International (May 16, 2022) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde22/5603/2022/en/>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

activist Abdullah Al-Maliki in Munich, Germany.³⁰ Al-Maliki was participating in a peaceful protest to shed light on the regime’s human rights abuses. Al-Maliki fled Qatar in 2016 after facing persecution which culminated in the temporary revocation of his citizenship.³¹ In March 2022, Al-Maliki was charged in absentia with “publicly challenging the Emir’s exercise of his powers” and inciting the overthrow of the government — both of which carry the death penalty — in response to his activism and demonstrations in front of Qatari embassies throughout Europe.³²

23. On July 21, 2022, the State Security Bureau arrested three activists: Abdullah bin Ahmed Bu Matar Al-Mohannadi, Saud bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Thani, and Issa Mardi Juhaim Al-Shammari.³³ These activists were founding members of the National Campaign for Travel-Banned Citizens, an organization that seeks to lift participants’ ongoing travel bans and restore their statuses as law-abiding citizens.³⁴ Their arrests followed the campaign’s first meeting, which took place on July 12, 2022.³⁵ On September 22, 2022, state officials released Al-Shammari; however, Al-Mohannadi and Al Thani remain arbitrarily detained.³⁶

GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION

24. Although the constitution formally protects women, discriminatory gender laws and practices have systematically targeted the well-being of women, subjected them to additional endangerment, and infringed upon their rightful liberties. In 2023, Qatar ranked as country 133 out of 146 in the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report.³⁷

³⁰ *Targeting of a Peaceful Gathering; A ‘National Campaign for Travel-Banned Citizens’ Established*, Gulf Center for Human Rights (Jul. 15, 2022) <https://www.gc4hr.org/targeting-of-a-peaceful-gathering-a-national-campaign-for-travel-banned-citizens-established/>.

³¹ Mohamed Keita and Kristen Anna *supra* note 6 at 19.

³² *Id.* at 19-20.

³³ *Online Activist Released but Two Colleagues kept in Arbitrary Detention*, Gulf Center for Human Rights (Sept. 24, 2022) <https://www.gc4hr.org/online-activist-released-but-two-colleagues-kept-in-arbitrary-detention/>.

³⁴ Gulf Center for Human Rights *supra* note 30.

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ *Global Gender Gap Report 2023*, World Economic Forum <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2023/in-full/benchmarking-gender-gaps-2023/#performance-by-subindex>.

25. National legislation intrinsically discriminates against women, particularly under Article 58 of the Family Law, which mandates women to obey their husbands during marriage.³⁸ Women may be deemed “disobedient” if they travel or work without the permission of their husbands, or if they refuse to engage in sexual activities without a “legitimate” justification.³⁹ Under Articles 281 and 282 of the Penal Code, engaging in sexual activities outside of marriage can result in a sentence of seven years’ imprisonment.⁴⁰ The sentence can increase to 15 years’ imprisonment if parties know the act is prohibited.⁴¹
26. Qatar practices the male guardianship system through a series of laws that force women into submission by their male guardians. For instance, women cannot marry without the permission of a male guardian, regardless of age or prior marital status, though men can marry without such permission.⁴² Additionally, the Interior Ministry has limited women’s right to movement by mandating that unmarried Qatari women under 25 years old must obtain an exit permit from their male guardian in order to travel abroad.⁴³
27. On August 4, 2020, women’s rights defender Noof Al-Maadeed revealed her escape from Qatar on November 26, 2019 after experiencing physical abuse by her father.⁴⁴ Al-Maadeed explained that she was “only allowed to go to school and back.”⁴⁵ Al-Maadeed used her father’s phone to access the government app “Metrash,” which processed her exit permit to enable her to leave Qatar.⁴⁶ Al-Maadeed traveled to the United Kingdom (UK), where she applied for political

³⁸ “Everything I Have to Do is Tied to a Man:” Women and Qatar’s Male Guardianship Rules, Human Rights Watch (Mar. 29, 2021), at 29, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2021/03/qatar0321_web_0.pdf.

³⁹ *Id.* at 4.

⁴⁰ *Id.* at 82.

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² *Id.* at 3.

⁴³ *Id.* at 61.

⁴⁴ *Qatar: The Story of a Women’s Rights Defender named Noof Al-Maadeed*, Gulf Center for Human Rights (Sept. 11, 2023) <https://www.gc4hr.org/the-story-of-qatari-womens-rights-defender-noof-al-maadeed/>.

⁴⁵ Ruth Michaelson, ‘If I’m not on social media, I’m dead’: Qatari feminist activist feared killed or detained, *The Guardian* (Dec. 15, 2021) <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/dec/15/if-im-not-on-social-media-im-dead-qatari-feminist-activist-feared-murdered-or-detained>.

⁴⁶ Human Rights Watch *supra* note 38 at 1.

asylum.⁴⁷ On October 6, 2021, Al-Maadeed retracted her asylum application in the UK, following assurances from Qatari officials that she would receive protection upon her return.⁴⁸ On October 12, 2021, Al-Maadeed revealed that she had experienced three unsuccessful assassination attempts orchestrated by her family.⁴⁹ From October 13, 2021 to January 8, 2022, she remained offline,⁵⁰ with reports suggesting she was sent to a psychiatric hospital.⁵¹ She reemerged on January 9, 2022.⁵² On March 18, 2023, Al-Maadeed released videos condemning Qatari officials' lack of cooperation in addressing her human rights and lifting her travel ban.⁵³ At the time of writing, Al-Maadeed's status remains unknown.

28. Women who report sexual harassment or assault frequently face investigations about their own sexual conduct.⁵⁴ In June 2021, Paola Schietekat, a Mexican national working for the FIFA World Cup organizing committee, experienced sexual and physical harassment by a colleague.⁵⁵ When Schietekat reported the assault, Qatari authorities began investigating her and demanded a virginity test.⁵⁶ Schietekat's assailant falsely claimed the two were in a relationship, and despite Qatari officials having forensic evidence, Schietekat was charged under the Penal Code for fornication in an extramarital relationship.⁵⁷ Because Schietekat is Muslim, she also faced the possible charge of 100 lashes.⁵⁸ Despite living in the region since she was 19, Schietekat had to flee Qatar out of fear of potential repercussions.⁵⁹

⁴⁷ Gulf Center for Human Rights *supra* note 44.

⁴⁸ Gulf Center for Human Rights, *Where is Qatari Human Rights Defender Noof Al-Maadeed?*, Global Voices (Dec. 29, 2021) <https://globalvoices.org/2021/12/29/where-is-qatari-human-rights-defender-noof-al-maadeed/>.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ Gulf Center for Human Rights *supra* note 44.

⁵¹ Melanie Swan, *Qatari Feminist Noof al-Maadeed 'Locked up in Psychiatric Hospital'*, The Times (Dec. 17, 2021) <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/qatari-women-s-rights-activist-noof-al-maadeed-being-held-against-her-will-in-psychiatric-hospital-7jbhjp6s3>.

⁵² Gulf Center for Human Rights *supra* note 44.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.* at 6.

⁵⁵ Albinson Linares and Noticias Telemundo, *A Mexican Woman Reported an Assault in Qatar, She faces jail, 100 lashes*, NBC News (Feb. 23, 2022) <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/mexican-woman-reported-sexual-assault-qatar-faces-jail-100-lashes-rcna17217>.

⁵⁶ Human Rights Watch *supra* note 38 at 16.

⁵⁷ Albinson Linares and Noticias Telemundo *supra* note 55.

⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹ *Id.*

MIGRANT ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

29. Protections against migrant abuse and exploitation are formally enshrined in Qatar’s constitution, but in practice are not upheld by the regime, allowing employers to gravely oppress and mistreat their workers.
30. As of 2023, Qatar relies upon roughly 2 million migrant workers, which is roughly 95% of its total labor force.⁶⁰ These migrants are subject to the kafala or “sponsorship” system, which completely binds an employee’s immigration status to an individual employer or sponsor, authorizing the employer to be responsible for the employee.⁶¹ On August 30, 2020, Emir Tamim lifted the mandate of a “No-objection certificate,” which had prevented migrant workers from changing jobs without their employer's permission.⁶² This law stipulates that workers can “resign” by giving a one-month written notice if their tenure with the employer is less than two years, or a two-month notice if it exceeds two years.⁶³ Despite the new law, the government still mandates migrant workers to obtain signed letters from their initial employer endorsing their resignation, effectively upholding the existing system of oppression of employees.⁶⁴
31. In February 2021, *The Guardian* reported that approximately 6,500 migrant workers have died in Qatar since the regime officially announced it was hosting the 2022 World Cup in December 2010.⁶⁵ *The Guardian* suggests that the figure surpasses 6,500, given that it does not account for significant migrant-exporting nations such as the Philippines and Kenya.⁶⁶

⁶⁰ 2022 World Report: Qatar, Human Rights Watch <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/qatar>.

⁶¹ Mohamed Keita and Kristen Anna *supra* note 6 at 8.

⁶² *Qatar: New Laws to Protect Migrant Workers are a Step in the Right Direction*, Amnesty International (Aug. 30, 2020) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2020/08/qatar-announcement-kafala-reforms/>.

⁶³ *Id.*

⁶⁴ *Migrant Worker Abuses in Qatar and FIFA World Cup 2022*, Human Rights Watch (Dec. 18, 2021) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/12/18/qa-migrant-worker-abuses-qatar-and-fifa-world-cup-2022#Q2>.

⁶⁵ Pete Pattison and Niamh McIntyre, *Revealed: 6,500 Migrant Workers Have Died in Qatar Since World Cup Awarded*, *The Guardian* (Feb. 23, 2021) <https://www.theguardian.com/globaldevelopment/2021/feb/23/revealed-migrant-worker-deaths-qatar-fifa-world-cup-2022>.

⁶⁶ *Id.*

32. On November 12, 2019, Abdullah Ibhais, a Jordanian national and the former media and communications director for Qatar's 2022 World Cup organizers, was arrested in response to internally criticizing and opposing his superiors' attempts to cover up a migrant strike,⁶⁷ which took place on August 4, 2019.⁶⁸ Qatari officials interrogated Ibhais for nine days, during which time he was threatened with six months of detention, physically abused, denied access to legal representation, and forced to sign a pre-written "confession."⁶⁹ Ibhais subsequently faced the charges of "misusing of public funds," "bribery," "collusion," and "causing harm to the Supreme Committee."⁷⁰ In April 2021, Ibhais was sentenced to five years in prison.⁷¹ In December 2021, the Court of Appeal upheld his conviction, but reduced his prison sentence to three years.⁷²

33. On May 4, 2021, state security officials arrested activist blogger Malcolm Bidali in connection with his work advocating for migrants' rights and exposing exploited workers' stories.⁷³ Interrogators confiscated Bidali's phones and forced him to unlock them.⁷⁴ On May 20, 2021, Bidali was allowed to call his mother and told her he was being held in solitary confinement for 23 hours per day, while facing threats from interrogators, and being denied access to a lawyer.⁷⁵ On May 29, 2021, in a closed trial, Bidali was charged with "offences related to payments received by a foreign agent for the creation and distribution of disinformation within the State of Qatar."⁷⁶ On June 2, 2021, Bidali was released after spending nearly one month in detention.⁷⁷ On July 14, 2021, Qatar's Supreme Judiciary

⁶⁷ Mohamed Keita and Kristen Anna *supra* note 6 at 12.

⁶⁸ Miguel Delaney, *The Man Who was Jailed After Working on Qatar's World Cup*, The Independent (Dec. 17, 2022) <https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/world-cup/abdullah-ibhais-case-qatar-jail-b2246209.html>.

⁶⁹ *Qatar: World Cup ex-media manager unfairly tried: Abdullah Ibhais*, Amnesty International (Feb. 9, 2022) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde22/5222/2022/en/>.

⁷⁰ *Id.*

⁷¹ Mohamed Keita and Kristen Anna *supra* note 6 at 9.

⁷² Amnesty International *supra* note 69.

⁷³ *Qatar Detains Kenyan Labor Rights Blogger Malcolm Bidali Without Charge*, Committee to Protect Journalists (May 18, 2021) <https://cpj.org/2021/05/qatar-detains-kenyan-labor-rights-blogger-malcolm-bidali-without-charge/>.

⁷⁴ Bidali, Malcolm [NoahArticulates]. "Tweet Message" X (Twitter), Jul. 12, 2023, <https://twitter.com/NoahArticulates/status/1678999267082477568>.

⁷⁵ *Qatar: Kenyan Labour Rights Activist in Solitary Confinement*, Amnesty International (May 28, 2021) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2021/05/activist-malcolm-bidali-in-solitary-confinement-in-qatar/>.

⁷⁶ *Malcolm Bidali Fined and Allowed to Leave*, Front Line Defenders

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/malcolm-bidali-fined-and-allowed-leave-qatar>.

⁷⁷ *Id.*

Council charged Bidali with “broadcasting and publishing false news with the intent of endangering the public system of the state” and fined him 25,000 Qatari Riyals, or approximately USD 4,120.⁷⁸ Bidali left Qatar on August 16, 2021.⁷⁹

RECOMMENDATIONS

34. HRF calls on Qatar’s government to:

- a. Protect the rights of all detainees in Qatar and their families against torture, physical and verbal abuse, and sexual exploitation, as well as to ensure uninterrupted access to lawyers and familial contact, while safeguarding the rights of Qataris to due process of the law;
- b. Cease the systematic detention and intimidation of activists, journalists, and dissidents who criticize the government, ensuring that individuals can voice their criticisms against the government;
- c. Ensure that the State’s internal legislation, specifically with regard to the treatment of women, fully adheres to the commitments made by the international human rights instruments it has signed or ratified;
- d. Protect, respect, and promote, without reservation, the rights of all women in the country to exercise their freedom of movement and right to choose their own partner, and to ensure that women are protected by law against sexual assault and rape, while also abolishing the male guardianship practice; and
- e. Protect, respect, and promote, without reservation, the rights of all migrant workers in the country, improve working conditions and standards of living, and ensure that private companies are fully compliant with laws that protect against the exploitation of migrant workers.

⁷⁸ *Id.*

⁷⁹ *Id.*

