

State of Qatar

Universal Periodic Review

In accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1

47st session

The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms (ICSRF) prepared this report on the extent to which State of Qatar applies the international standards of human rights in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review.

ICSRF's profile:

The International Center for supporting Rights and Freedoms (ICSRF) is an international organization, and includes a number of human rights defenders around the world.

The International Center for supporting Rights and Freedoms (ICSRF) is registered as A Swiss association based in Geneva established in 2016 ICSRF. worked from the beginning on the defense of human rights activists in the Arab region. The statements and campaigns of the ICSRF have broad influence in the response of governments, . For more information on the efforts of Center, please visit our website www.icsrf-gcc.org.

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UP Summary of the Universal Periodic Review Report / Concerned Authorities / State of Qatar 2024

The first article of the Qatari constitution states that it adopts a democratic system. Article 6 stipulates that the state respects international conventions and covenants, and works to implement all international agreements, charters and covenants to which it is a party. Qatar has acceded main United Nations human rights conventions, namely: the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination” (1976), and the “Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment” (2000), The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (2009) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1995). It acceded to the First and Second Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2002), the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2001), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2018), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2018)

But the past few years have been characterized by serious violations of the rights and freedoms of activists, opposition members and human rights defenders in the country. For example, violations of the right to life, the right to bodily integrity, the right to liberty and security of the person, the right to freedom of movement and choice of residence, the right to a fair trial, the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the sanctity of private life.

From 2020 until now, Qatar has committed various human rights massacres and practiced racism in an explicit and legal manner, as will be stated in the report, even though it is supposed to be

keen to appear before the world as a country that respects human rights because it hosted the 2022 World Cup.

Qatar now appears as one of the most prominent countries in the Arab world violating human rights. The violations have varied, ranging from amending legislation in a racist manner to instituting legislation that prevents freedom of opinion and expression, the right to assembly, and practicing political life, arresting those who object, bringing them to trial, and sentencing them to long prison terms, as well as banning travel for a large number of defenders. On human rights and dissidents, the arrest of those who seek to lift the travel ban on them, the arrest of founders of human rights groups, and the arrest for expressing one's opinion through tweets on Twitter, The State of Qatar has not implemented the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review that were discussed in the Universal Periodic Review of UPR of Qatar (3rd Cycle – 33rd session)

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134.170. 134.181. 134.183. 134.151. 134.72. 134.182. 134.66. 134.56. 134.264. 134.254. 134.154.
134.208. 134.204. 134.196. 134.197. 134.115. 134.112. 134.119. 134.120. 134.268. 134.195.
134.234. 134.209. 134.31. 134.33. 134.188. 134.172. 134.200. 134.57. 134.90. 134.93. 134.248.
134.155. 134.101. 134.102. 134.116. 134.114. 134.104. 134.103. 134.160. 134.242. 134.10.
134.35. 134.29. 134.26. 134.23. 134.25. 134.17. 134.18. 134.39. 134.16. 134.27. 134.95. 134.21.
134.173. 134.100. 134.106. 134.91. 134.92. 134.94. 134.87. 134.86. 134.71. 134.108. 134.105.
134.118.

Our report deals in particular with rights and freedoms, in particular public rights and freedoms in accordance with the agreements ratified by the government of the State of Qatar.R Report

Summary / Stakeholders / State of Qatar 2024

First: the institutional framework

Background and constitutional framework

1. The approved Qatari constitution establishes an independent, sovereign Arab Islamic state, and sets model rules in the field of public rights and duties that achieve social justice from Article 34 to Article 58. The Qatari constitution does not indicate the supremacy of international agreements over domestic laws and does not give them the legal value of legislation.
 2. The State of Qatar violated Articles 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
 3. Qatar did not implement some constitutional articles. Especially Articles 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 58.
 4. The State of Qatar has not yet joined the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, despite the recommendations made in this regard.
 5. Qatar clearly acts against the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
 6. Although the State of Qatar ratified the two covenants in 2018, it is racing against time to fill any loophole that allows freedom of opinion and expression and is amending its legislation to comply with this policy, as in 2020 it amended Article 136 bis of the Penal Code and also launched Law No. 27 For the year 2019 regarding combating terrorism, which includes broad materials used against opinion-makers, opponents, and human rights defenders.
- Therefore, freedom of opinion and expression is not available at all in the country, and we have observed continued disdain for human rights and failure to respond to requests from human rights

organizations, despite it having previously hosted the 2022 World Cup.

Recommendations:

A- Issuing a decree stipulating the primacy of international treaties and agreements over national legislation.

B. Implementing the provisions of international law and the Constitution within the framework of the national judiciary.

C. Urging the Qatari government to work with the international community to improve human rights conditions.

D. Urging the Qatari government to join the International Criminal Court.

E . Urging Qatar not to use Article 136 bis of the Penal Code and Law No. 27 of 2019 for the purpose of prohibiting freedom of opinion and expression in the country, arresting human rights defenders, opponents, and opinion-makers, and prosecuting them under these laws, issuing prison sentences against them, and depriving them of the right to freedom of movement for many years.

Second: Strengthening the protection of human rights in practice

Civil and political rights

The State of Qatar has acceded to the following United Nations conventions: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It

acceded to the First and Second Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The right to life and against the death penalty:

6. The previous recommendations in this regard have not been implemented, and there are many crimes that are punishable by death in the Qatari Penal Code, such as Article 300, and Law No. (27) of 2019 issuing the Anti-Terrorism Law, which is vague in describing terrorist acts and expands the approval of the death penalty, such as Article 4. Which may include opponents, opinion-makers, and human rights defenders, as stated in Law No. (11) of 2004 issuing the Penal Code in Article 59. The execution of the death sentence shall be by hanging or shooting to death.

Recommendations: Repeated recommendation

- Completely abolishing the death penalty and replacing it with any other punishment.

Freedom of opinion and expression

7. Weak legislation related to freedom of opinion and expression and failure to implement previous recommendations and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in this regard. A large number of bloggers, activists, opposition members, and human rights defenders have been subjected to judicial and security prosecutions, such as arrest, long-term imprisonment, and restrictions on the right to freedom of movement. Law No. 8 of 1979 regarding publications and publishing may be a reason for the imprisonment of journalists from all over the world if they work in Qatar. Without obtaining a license.

Recommendations: Repeated recommendation

a. Amending legislation to provide freedom of opinion and expression.

B. Implementing Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Women's rights

8- We monitored a case in which justice was not achieved for a wife who does not hold Qatari citizenship but is married to a Qatari citizen and was subjected to domestic violence, such as the case of Mrs. Al-Emadi, despite Qatar's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) under Emiri Resolution No. (28). For the year 2009.

9. We monitored the case of activist Nouf Al-Maadeed, who was subjected to severe security violence because of her expression of opinion on social media sites.

Recommendations:

- a. Implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Human rights defenders:

10. The Qatari government did not implement the recommendations in this regard. Activists and human rights defenders face retaliation and intimidation for their legitimate work in defense of human rights. In fact, there is no actual accusation of carrying out work related to human rights, but Qatar undermines this work in various ways and uses Law No. (17) of 2002 regarding the protection of society to retaliate and harass activists, as happened. With Abdullah Al-Muhannadi, Issa Al-Shammari, and Sheikh Mohammed Al-Thani, after they founded the National Campaign for Those Banned from Traveling to present their issues and support activists, opponents, and opinion-makers who are banned from traveling. Even activists who work outside Qatar, such as Abdullah Al-Maliki, were not spared from retaliation, as Al-Maliki was sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment.

Recommendations:

a. Implement the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, within the national judiciary.

Right to a fair trial:

11. There are many restrictions in the trial systems that lead to human rights violations, including Law No. (17) of 2002 regarding the protection of society

12. Legalizing detention without trial. According to Article 2 of the law, the period of detention (imprisonment) shall be two weeks, extendable for a period or other similar periods, with a maximum of six months. It may be extended for a period not exceeding another six months with the approval of the Prime Minister. The aforementioned period of detention shall be doubled if the crime is related to security. Country.

13. There is no article specifically regarding compensation for someone who was wrongly judged and then the judgment is invalidated due to a judicial error.

14. Expanding the use of pretrial detention.

Recommendations:

a. Establish a legal text that allows detainees and defendants whose freedom has been restricted without legal reason to demand compensation.

B. Implementing Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

C. Do not expand the use of pretrial detention.

Political participation

15. On July 29, 2021, the Emir of Qatar ratified Law No. 6 of 2021 promulgating the Shura Council election system. The law, which includes 58 articles, restricts the right to vote to those who have original Qatari nationality, or have acquired Qatari nationality, on the condition that his grandfather is Qatari and was born in the State of Qatar. In Article 10, a

strict condition was set for those entitled to be nominated for membership in the Shura Council, which is that their original nationality must be Qatari.

16. This law clearly contravenes Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

17. This law deprives a large group of citizens from political participation.

Recommendations:

A- Repeal Law No. 6 of 2021 promulgating the system for electing the Shura Council.

B. Implementing Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights within the national judiciary.

International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms