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The Gulf Cooperation Council's 2004 Convention Against Terrorism to which Qatar is a state party has a **definition of terrorism which is too broad and too vague**. It is likely to lead to the restriction and prohibition of the rights of freedom of expression, association and assembly, as well as punishment for their legitimate use.

As part of the fight against terrorism, Acts No. 17 of 2002 on the Protection of Society and the law of 2004 both *de facto* legalise arbitrary and incommunicado detention by providing that a person can be detained without trial for up to two years without the right to appeal and without any legal protection. These laws open the door to all sorts of possible abuse and should be repealed.

The United Nations Committee against Torture recommends there be a **definition of torture** in national legislation in conformity with art. 1 of the Convention. It also states that States should ensure that all acts of torture are treated as criminal offenses and that appropriate penalties are provided for the authors of such crimes. Qatar should include such a definition in its domestic legislation and should also provide legal provisions expressly prohibiting the expulsion, return or extradition of a person to another State that practices torture.

A **Code governing nationality** was promulgated in 2005 (Law No. 38/2005). This law attributes sweeping powers to the Emir. For example, article 11 of the law authorizes the withdrawal of citizens' nationality in certain cases, eg if he or she is engaged in an institution or organization that is detrimental to the social, economic or political organisation of Qatar.

Naturalized citizens enjoy even less protection as their nationality can be withdrawn at any moment if the Minister of Interior considers this to be consistent with the general interest. The inequality of naturalised citizens and those of Qatari origins is established by law and they do not enjoy the same rights as persons born with the Qatar nationality. For example, naturalised citizens may not stand as candidates for election, nor can they vote.

Qatar should take the necessary measures to ensure *de facto* equal rights for all its citizens and fight against situations of statelessness which may result from the implementation of the Nationality Code, in accordance with the Convention on the Reduction of Cases Statelessness of 30 August 1961.