

> Qatar
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اللجنة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان
National Human Rights Committee

**Speech of National Human Rights Committee in
Human Rights Council on
Comprehensive Periodic Review of State of Qatar in
the Session to be Held in Geneva on 09/05/2010**

I extend to you my sincere thanks and appreciation, and I have the honor to review with your esteemed council view of National Human Rights Committee on human rights situation in State of Qatar.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The review of the main features of human rights in State of Qatar reveal several efforts undertaken by the State at both the legislative and executive levels which disclosed its belief of the great value of human rights. This is clear as highlighted by country's constitution to pursue the state the democratic system and that justice, benevolence, freedom and good morals are pillars of Qatari society, and the rule of law is the basis of governance in the country, which guarantees all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as stated in Part Three of the Constitution and put the necessary safeguards to protect them including the inadmissibility of the request for amendment of the provisions on rights and freedoms except for the purpose of granting more rights or guarantees.

In terms of joining international conventions, the State joined certain human rights conventions relating to combating racial discrimination, punishment of the crime of apartheid, apartheid in sports, combating torture, child rights and the two Protocols thereto, rights of people with disabilities in addition to some of the ILO Conventions on forced labor, the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation, minimum age for employment and the worst forms of child labor. Also, recently joined the Convention on the elimination all forms of discrimination against women, combat transnational crime, and the

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Human Trafficking, also raised its previous reservations on some provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also joined some of the regional conventions on human rights, the Arab Convention for the copyright 1981, and the Arab Charter for Human Rights. It explained to these conventions the force of law following ratification, in accordance with Article 68 of the Constitution, in addition to initiating a study of joining International Covenants on Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as recommended by the Committee in their periodic reports in this regard. The Committee hopes to join them over the near term.

At the legislative level, the existing legislations guarantee all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in accordance with the principles of the Constitution and international standards of human rights to the greatest extent except for provisions of certain legislations recommended by the Committee to be re-considered to relief of some contained constraints. There are some drafts of laws which monitored by the Committee their start preparation by the state to be replaced by some legislations concerning organization of media and housing activities as recommended by the Committee in this regard. The Committee hopes to begin a review of some provisions of some other legislation for the protection of society, state security service, terrorism, associations and administrative disputes, as recommended by the Committee in their periodic reports in this regard.

At the executive level, in the context of the institutional framework for human rights, there are several agencies and institutions aim to promote and protect human rights at the local, regional and international levels. In addition to National Human Rights Committee which established in

accordance with the principles of Paris, this framework includes public prosecution body which is mandated by the Constitution to supervise the judicial enforcement affairs, take public suit and the application of criminal laws, as well as some governmental departments and bodies concerned with human rights in some ministries such as the Department of Human Rights in Ministry of the Interior, the Office of Human Rights in Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Qatar Foundation for the protection of women and children and Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking, in addition to many institutions established at the National level and play an active role in this field, as well as institutions that were created in Qatar for the promotion and protection of human rights at both the regional and international levels, such as Arab Democracy Foundation, which aims to promote democracy in Arab countries, The Doha Centre for Media Freedom, which aims to promote media freedom and the defense of journalists and media workers, Silatech enterprise, which aims to develop the economic situation of youth in the Arab region and Reach Out to Asia Organization, which aims to provide education for all in Asia, as well as hosting United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre.

In the context of cooperation with international mechanisms, the committee allocated efforts in this path, whether by submitting initial and periodic reports to treaty committees on the conventions in which the State has become a party or by submitting the necessary clarifications for the observations of these committees.

In the course of international commitments, promotion and protection of all human rights, The State has taken efforts to implement the most often of the provisions of international conventions jointed by the State, but the effective implementation of some few of them require further efforts to incorporate such provisions into national legislation, as recommended by the Committee in its reports submitted to the Council of Ministers.

Within the scope of civil and political rights, the last era witnessed efforts on the legislative and executive tracks aimed at the strengthening of certain rights, including equality, non-discrimination against women, the right to liberty, personal security, the rights of prisoners and the right of establishing justice and the rule of law. The newly issued legislation, regarding establishment of Supreme Constitutional Court, penitentiaries, regulate entry, exit and residence of foreigners and organizing of human resources, ensure the promotion of these rights, but still there are some challenges on some of these rights, which made the committee to start studying some of them as recommended by the committee, regarding the right of full equality between women and men on the transfer of nationality to their children and to strengthen the role of women to participate in political life, some problems relating to the arrest and deportation and few number judges and prosecutors compared to the number of cases.

Within the scope of economic, social and cultural rights, Public expenditure on education and health care continued in their high levels, which resulted in significant progress for state preparation of the annual development report issued by the United Nations, which reached to 33rd world rank by 2009 report, in addition to the efforts regarding provision

of employment opportunities for nationals, which resulted in low unemployment rate that does not exceed 1%. However, there are some challenges still facing some of these rights as mentioned by the Committee in their periodic reports, regarding lack of legislative protection for the rights of domestic workers, promote the rights of migrant workers in the transfer from one job to another and integrating human rights principles in more curricula of various educational stages, which made the committee to start study some of them and prepare draft law organizing domestic worker rights, and the committee hopes to be issued in the near future. I would like to emphasize in my conclusion that the human rights track in Qatar has witnessed more achievement during the past era and efforts of the state in this field over the years inspire confidence in overcoming the remaining challenges related to certain rights

Thanks for your attention