

Observation mission

Doha, Qatar

22 - 25 July 2017

Brussels



Introduction

AFD International is a non-governmental human rights organization with headquarters in Brussels and offices in Paris, Madrid, Turin, Rotterdam, London, Düsseldorf.

Concerning the blockade imposed on June 5, 2017 by three states of the Gulf region (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates) and Egypt against Qatar by blockading its land, air and maritime borders.

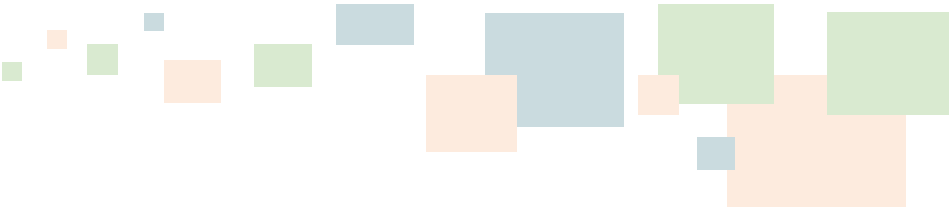
Concerning the complaints that AFD International has received from various victims of this blockade, our NGO has set itself the following objectives: to assess the impact of the blockade on citizens residing in the region and more specifically in Qatar, socially and economically, psychologically and medically. To this end, we asked the National Committee of Human Rights of Qatar (NHRC) to meet members of this committee as well as the victims of the blockade. The limited time for the mission did not allow us to meet all immigrant populations, which could be done in the future if the situation persists.

Four main categories of victims were quickly identified:

1. Families with one or more extraneous elements
2. Business owners and entrepreneurs with a focus in these regions;
3. Persons with a medical condition requiring care abroad;
4. International students

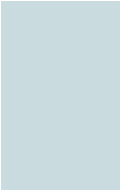
We have also covered issues related to:

- Poverty-related diseases
 - o The request of the four states to close the satellite channel Al Jazeera and other media
- Liberty of movement
 - o The access of Qataris to the countries of the region
 - o The return of foreign workers working for Qatari companies

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- Freedom of belief, religion
 - o The free access of pilgrims to Mecca



Legal references



This analysis is based on the objective criteria of the law, and in this report we have taken as a reference the most effective international legal text, namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966, currently ratified by 169 States.

Four articles are particularly relevant for analysing the facts we have found.



Article 12 - Freedom of movement

"1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall have the right to move freely there and to freely choose his residence therein.

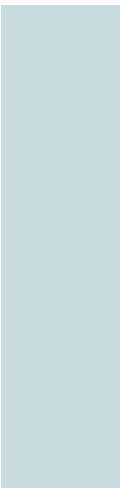
"2. Everyone is free to leave any country, including his own.

"3. The rights mentioned above may be restricted only if they are proscribed by law, necessary to protect national security, public order, public health or morals, or the freedom of others, and compatible with the other rights recognized under the present Covenant.

"4. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country".

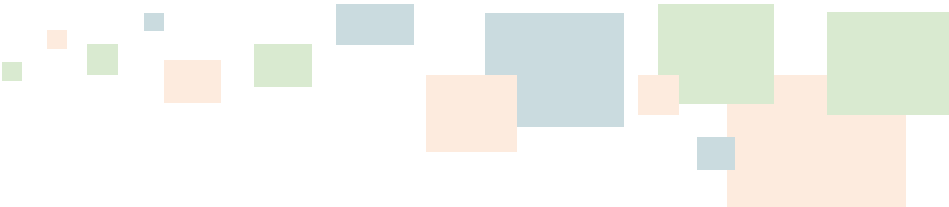


Article 18 - Freedom of religion

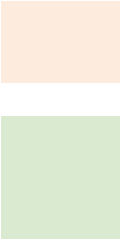


"1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right implies the freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice, as well as the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief, individually or in common, both in public and private, through worship and the fulfilment of rites, practices and teachings.

"2. No one shall be subjected to coercion which may impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.



"3. The freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to the restrictions prescribed by law and which are necessary for the protection of public safety, order and health, morals or the fundamental freedoms and rights of others.



"4. The States party to the present Covenant undertake to respect the freedom of parents and, where appropriate, of legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in accordance with their own convictions".



Article 19 - Freedom of expression

"1. No one shall be concerned for his opinions.

"2. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression; This right includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, in an oral, written, printed or artistic form or by any other means of their choice.

"3. The exercise of the freedoms provided for in paragraph 2 of this article shall entail special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions which, however, must be expressly laid down by law and which are necessary:

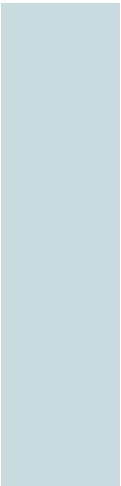
"(A) Respect for the rights or reputations of others;

"(B) For the protection of national security, public order, public health or morals".



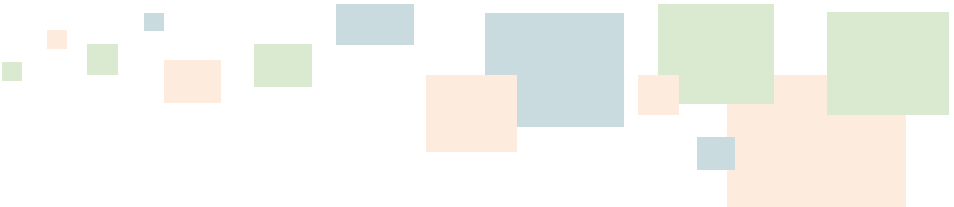
Article 26 - Rejection of discrimination

"All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. In this regard, the law must prohibit discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination, including race, color, sex, language, religion, political opinion and any other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status".

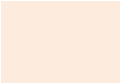


For each of these texts we are bound by the interpretation given by the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations, namely:

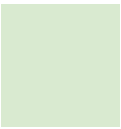
- General comment on Article 12 on freedom of movement, CCPR / C / 21 / Rev.1 / Add.9 of 2 November 1999



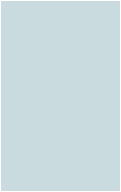
- General Comment No. 34 on Article 19 on Freedom of Opinion and Freedom of Expression, CCPR / C / GC / 34 of 12 September 2011



- General Comment No. 22 on Article 18 on freedom of thought of conscience and religion, CCPR / C / 21 / Rev.1 / Add.4 of 27 September 1993




- General Comment No. 18 on Article 26 on non-discrimination thirty-seventh session (1989) of 10 November 1989



According to the NHRC¹ (National Human Right Committee) there are 11,387 residents of the three countries (Bahrain, UAE, Saudi Arabia) in Qatar. There are 1904 who are employed in private or public institutions, and who have been asked to leave Qatar. More than 5300 students of all ages are impacted by this decision. With regard to the Egyptians, there are more than 300,000 workers originating from that country in Qatar and there has been no request from the Egyptian authorities for them to leave the country to date.



Context



During this mission we met with members of the NHRC, who gave us two interviews and agreed to answer all our questions. They also gave us all of their reports. We subsequently heard some 50 victims of the blockade.

Each of them was able to tell us about their personal situation and we took their surname, first name, nationality and civil status. To ensure the safety of the persons interviewed and to ensure their anonymity, we have not indicated their full names in this report. We regret that we have not been able to meet victims from all the immigrant populations living in Qatar. Nevertheless, our mission has allowed us to make some observations concerning them, and we will not fail to mention them in this report.

¹ <http://www.nhrc-qa.org/en/>, consulted 10/08/2017

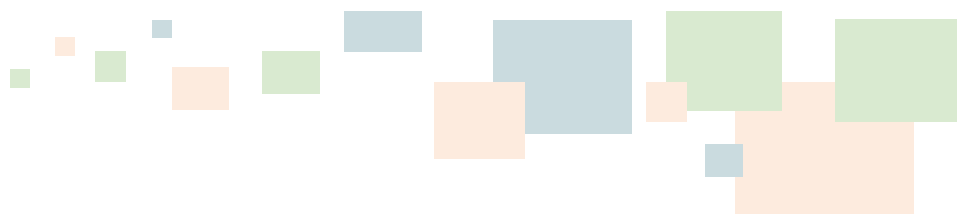


Childrens' right to not be deprived of their parents.

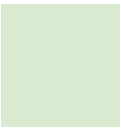
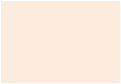
a. Qatari women with children of other nationalities

There are 1337 women of Qatari nationality married to men of Saudi, Bahraini or Emirati nationality². We met a large number of families including of women of Qatari nationality who are or were married to men from these three countries. The law in this region automatically grants the nationality of the father to the children. The instruction to leave Qatar by the authorities of the three countries to their citizens, implies that their children must also leave the country. This makes mothers fear that they will lose the affection with their children and their spouses since dual nationality does not exist. The authorities of the three countries mentioned that their citizens had to leave the country with their children, under threat of criminal and civil penalties (prison sentences, fines, deprivation of nationality, etc.). Those who refuse to return may not have a valid passport and this may complicate their situation in Qatar. Indeed, a large number of institutions in Qatar require a valid passport for many functions such as enrolling children in education, work, etc. Without a valid passport, families risk not being able to travel and, on the other hand, the possible forfeiture of nationality risks making all these people stateless.

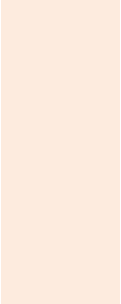
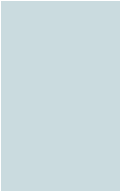
² Source NHRC




The victims we met told us the following:



Aziza M, Qatar, divorced from Saudi Arabian, "Academic adviser" for the Qatari Civil Aviation Authority, she has an 11-year-old daughter, a Saudi national. Divorced for 6 years. She received support "from time to time" but no longer receives it. Her daughter is in a private school and will not be able to re-register if her passport is no longer valid. She cannot travel with her and would like her to obtain Qatari nationality.



Hanoud, Qatar, an official in the Ministry of Health, married to a Saudi Arabian since 1991, 8 children of Saudi nationality. Her husband is a soldier in the army of Qatar since 1993. Four of his children have degrees but "they cannot find work because of their Saudi nationality" and Saudi Arabia also orders them to return. They have not returned, nor has her husband. She says they risk "three years in prison". The children's passports expire in 2018. Her daughter is married to a Qatari. Their son is therefore Qatari. But this does not give her daughter the Qatari nationality. Her children's situation causes her great concern. They applied for Qatari nationality in 2012. No answer yet.



Yasmine, Qatar, 31, secretary of a school, Saudi husband. On the day of the embargo, he called a hotline made available to the Saudis living in Qatar. He was told, "You have to go home with your children." He was afraid, he stayed. Now he can no longer visit his mother in Saudi Arabia. When his passport expires he will not be able to move, nor will the children. "The children will be able to apply for Qatari nationality only at the age of 18! »



b. Saudi, Bahrain, Emirati women with Qatari children

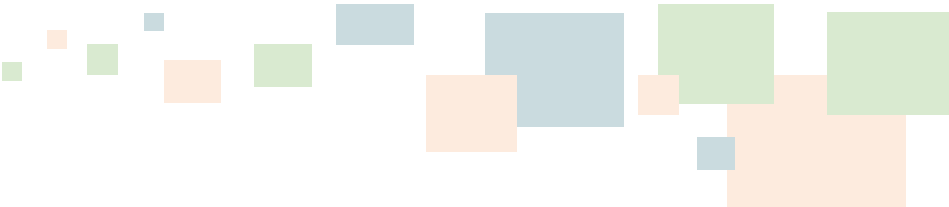
There are 5137 men of Qatari nationality married to women from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates³. The problems faced by Saudi, Bahraini and Emirati women are that their children and husbands have Qatari nationality and that pressure is exerted by their states of origin to leave Qatari territory. For those who have contacted their embassies, the message sent to them is that they must return alone to their country of origin. The children and husbands of Qatari nationality would not be accepted if they came with them. A Saudi national reported to us that the interlocutor at the Saudi Embassy had personally threatened to abduct him and bring him back to the border.

The vast majority of families have always lived in Qatar or lived there for many years, and some of them have no connection with their country of origin. Asking them to return to a country without their husband or child is an unbearable violation of their familial rights. They all want to be able to benefit from an accelerated procedure to acquire the Qatari nationality to stay in Qatar.

The victims we met told us the following:

***Sawsan**, 7 children (the oldest is 12 years old), pregnant with the eighth. Saudi separated from her husband for 4 months, a Qatari businessman. She asks if we are there to listen to her or to*

³ Source: NRHC

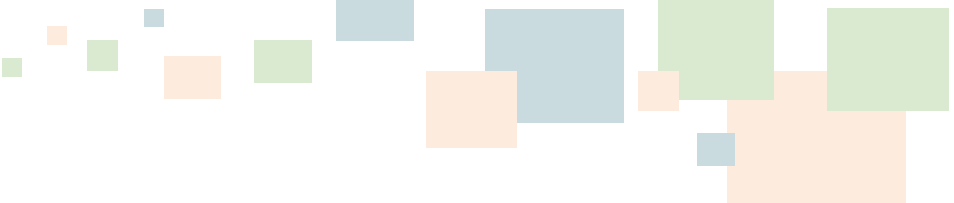


solve her problems. She had been receiving support, but now she is no longer receives this. She had also been helped by her Saudi family but could no longer receive this because of the blockade. Her brother died in Saudi Arabia, she was unable to attend his funeral. Her country asks her to return but her children are Qataris. "They do not accept that they can come back with me." She considers herself Qatari and has "nothing to do there." She is afraid to go to Saudi Arabia because she fears the blockade. His mother could not come to see her here. She asked for Qatari nationality "but there is a blockade". Saudi Arabia promised her that if she returned she would receive help. But "others have returned and they have not been given anything." She is afraid of being on the street

Fatima A., A Saudi woman divorced for four months by a Qatari "annuitant", with a child of three and a half years. His passport has expired. Saudi Arabia asked her to return if she does not want to pay a fine and go to jail. The embassy of Saudi Arabia "threatened her personally." She is scared. It has no resources and cannot find work because, according to her, this is a "priority given to Qataris ". She lives in one room. A maintenance payment (2000 Riyals for housing and 1500 Riyals for the child) should be paid but has not yet been received. She would like to obtain Qatari nationality. She applied for nationality and should have received it 1 year ago. There would have been delays, but now she is divorced, she will not be able to obtain the nationality, because the maintenance of the matrimonial bond is necessary. She asked for help from a charity but nothing at the moment. It can receive aid but it is not regular (every 6 months).

Mirvat Of Bahraini origin, married to a Qatari.

She has lived in Qatar for 17 years. She was granted Saudi nationality six months ago, five years after the application. Two young children Her mother is in Bahrain, very ill, hospitalized for two months after a cardiac intervention. She could visit her through Kuwait but it is more expensive, and in any case she should go through a complicated procedure because she has lost her Bahraini nationality (no dual nationality is possible) and she should therefore find someone in situ to attest that she is indeed the daughter of her mother. She may not be able to return to Qatar on the grounds that she is the originally of Bahraini nationality. She does not speak with her family in Bahrain because she "fears being listened to". In any case, if she went

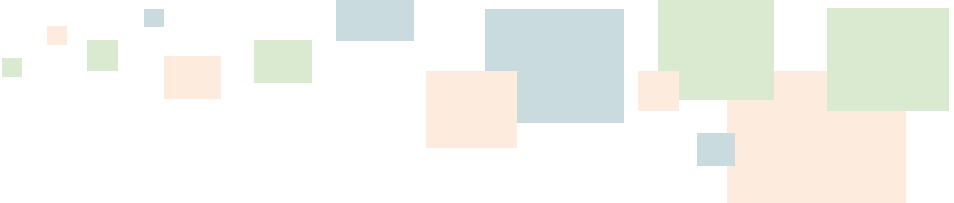


to Bahrain, she said she risked a fine of 87,000 € and a prison sentence for taking Qatari nationality. "I'm not a criminal! »

Thuraya, Saudi Arabian, 20 years old. She has been in Doha for three years. She is studying and working. She came to Qatar at 17, with a group of girlfriends, welcomed by a member of her family. She claims to be the sole supporter of her mother, who lives alone in Saudi Arabia, abandoned by her husband one year after her birth. Both the authorities (she called her embassy in the first two days of the blockade) and her family told her "you have to go home". They told her that they were under threat of prosecution, against them and against her. Now her family no longer dares to make contact with her. The girlfriends who came to Qatar with her returned to Saudi Arabia, but "it's easier for them because they belong to wealthy families." A friend wanted to come to see her through Kuwait but she was threatened with not to be able to return to Saudi Arabia. She wants to stay in Qatar, where she sees her future.

Owners, contractors.

We met several contractors, owners who were victims of the blockade. Some have been refused entry or have been banned from one of the three countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE) where they have business or property, which seriously jeopardizes their business. On the other hand, immigrant workers in the service of Qataris have remained in the various countries, without any contact with their employers, which puts them in jeopardy. Most of them have a visa for a limited stay, which cannot be renewed without the presence of their employer. They can no longer be paid because transfers between Qatar and these countries are no longer allowed. Entrepreneurs therefore no longer have access to financial means to guarantee the continuity of their businesses. They risk bankruptcy and they are powerless to help their workers. The NHRC has received more than 490 cases of workers of all origins (there are more than 1,000 cases in all three Gulf countries) who are in a state of distress, without income and without the possibility to leave the country to join their employers who are located in Qatar. Workers attempting to drive from Saudi Arabia are systematically turned back and vehicles registered in Qatar are also systematically confiscated or blocked by customs or police forces.



Farmers with livestock cannot send money to their workers to feed their animals, and dozens of animals of several Qatari herders have died as a result of the blockade.

We heard the explanations of several victims, as follows:

***Sadek Said E.**, 52 years old, Qatari. His wife, of Saudi origin, obtained the Qatari nationality after 5 years. Because of the blockade she can no longer visit her family in Arabia. He has a farm and a herd of camels in Saudi Arabia. The two Bangladeshi who temporarily occupy themselves are stuck there. Since he is their guarantor, his presence would be obligatory to enable them return to Qatar. The situation is inextricable. He cannot pay them. The residents permit of one of the two has expired, and he is in an administrative vacuum. It is also impossible to send money to pay for fodder for the animals. He tried to repatriate his camels but they were stuck at the border.*

***R. H.**, A Qatari citizen born in 1942, owns a farm in Saudi Arabia. It is made up of 387 sheep and 52 camels. To manage this farm, he uses agricultural equipment and has several employees from the Sudan for whom he is responsible. He said that he was expelled from Saudi Arabia two days after the blockade against the State of Qatar, by simple oral decision of the Saudi police (without any written decision beforehand), leaving behind all his possessions. Since any financial transfer-from Qatar to the three states is prohibited, this entrepreneur fears for the continuity of his enterprise and can no longer ensure the payment of the wages for his workers. Moreover, it is no longer possible for him to buy fodder or provide the medical treatment necessary for his animals. The victim is surprised to have undergone this abusive decision knowing that he has no judicial precedent and that he is in compliance with all his civic obligations (both civil and fiscal). In addition, he has all the evidence that proves his payment of taxes to the tax service of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He tried to use Saudi friends to manage his affairs on the spot, but without success because of their great fear of being punished by the Saudi authorities. He is currently experiencing major anxiety in view of the great uncertainty he has about his property worth several million Riyals (as the price of a camel equals between 5 million to 15 million Saudi riyals.)*

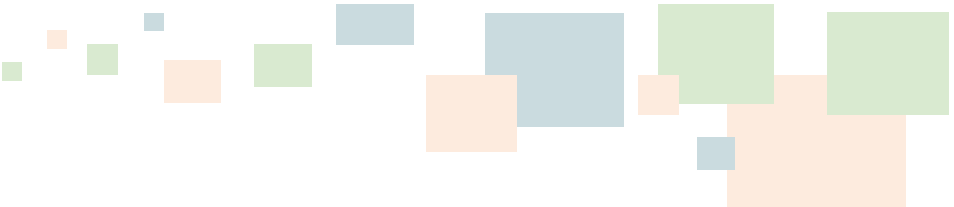


Property owners can no longer travel to the three Gulf countries and are no longer able to manage their property.

***Shams**, An elderly woman in a wheelchair, of Qatari nationality. She bought an apartment in Mecca, where she goes every year at Ramadan (she cannot hold back her tears). This year her daughter was there at the time of the embargo, Saudi Arabia asked her to leave the Saudi territory. This lady fears that she will not be able to go to Mecca to her apartment.*

***Myriam Hassan A**, Qatar, 26 years old. She paid four monthly instalments as part of a project to purchase an apartment in Dubai. She was unable to pay the fifth because she did not receive the necessary email notification from the seller. Contacted, the latter told her "I was told not to have any contact with you". She still has no title and is afraid of losing her money and the apartment.*

***AI A** Who lives in Qatar, is of Jordanian nationality. He had to travel to Jordan by car with his family. His vehicle was registered in Qatar. He officially asked the Saudi embassy in Qatar before leaving and before the blockade for permission to cross the Saudi state to go to Jordan. Authorization was formally received (a document is in his possession attesting to this). But after the imposition of the said blockade on the State of Qatar and when the date of his departure arrived, Mr. Amer Ibrahim contacted the Saudi border center with the State of Qatar and informed them that he had permission to travel to Jordan, a journey that would last three days.*



At the border between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, he was assured that he could travel without problems. Arriving at the border post between Saudi Arabia and Jordan, he was forbidden to cross the border in his car on the pretext that it was registered in Qatar. No official argument or document was accepted by the border authorities, which forced him to stay there with his family for three days. Three days later, the Saudi authorities informed him that he could continue his journey to Jordan on condition of removing the license plates that were on his car. He could not do so, as he was forbidden to present an unregistered car at the Jordan border post. Faced with this situation, Mr. Amer was forced to complete his trip by taxi. Upon his arrival in Jordan, he met Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Jordan, and asked him to find a solution to the problem. Ambassador Amer Ibrahim Ahmed confirmed that this act is illegal and that he would intervene in person to resolve this problem and allow the return of the car to Mr. Amer in Jordan. All in vain. After the end of Ramadan, Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed returned to the border post to recover his car and return to Qatar, which was denied him on the grounds that the travel permit to return from Jordan to Qatar had been cancelled. He was forbidden to have his car repatriated to Qatar. The latter remains still detained at the border post (Jordan / Saudi Arabia) and still does not know how to recover it. Mr. Amer Ibrahim Ahmad said that these decisions left his family with severe financial and financial damages and he was eventually forced to return to Qatar by plane, which meant he was forced to incur substantial financial expenses, which he could not have funded without the help of some of his Qatari friends.

*A **Qatari citizen** in the State of Bahrain has three properties in the form of residential buildings: one of 9 floors and two others of 12 floors. Since the blockade, he can no longer receive the rent from the apartments because it is forbidden to enter the State of Bahrain and he cannot have the funds transferred, as well. He is unable to manage his property. He cannot mandate a lawyer from Bahrain to solve his problem, as the Bahraini embassy in Qatar is closed.*

Impact on sick people

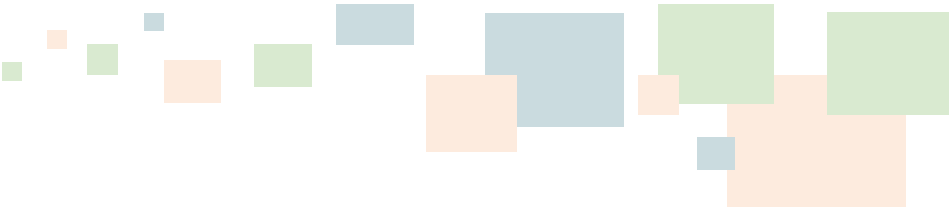
A large number of patients are in critical health situations, who have had to leave the hospitals where they were and some of whom have had to leave the country at the risk to their lives.

Some of them were forced to discontinue their treatment. A Saudi citizen reported that he had to be treated several times in Qatar and to interrupt this as requested by the Saudi authorities would have jeopardized his health. Not having responded to the 14-day deadline imposed by Saudi Arabia, he fears being punished if he comes back to his country today.



During the hearings we gathered the following testimonies:

1. One respondent told us, *"My son has to undergo facial surgery by his Saudi doctor who has been working on his case for more than 6 months to prepare him for this operation, but since the crisis the operation cannot be done. His doctor is very disappointed because it is a serious operation. "*
2. Another person told us about the case of his daughter, a teenager who had been monitored by a Saudi doctor since the age of two. This requires regular treatment including a surgical operation, but because of the blockade it is no longer possible for her to access her treatments. Her condition requires urgent brain surgery in Qatar, which puts this child in a state of trauma and high stress.
3. A lady presents her concerns about her 25-year-old son who is severely cognitively impaired and suffers from epilepsy. She was forced to leave her 70-year-old husband in Bahrain and



return to Qatar. She said she was grateful to Qatar for providing her with medicines, but she said her son needed follow-up and treatment from her doctor in Bahrain. She expresses her fear of the authorities of Bahrain, since she brought her disabled child with her to Qatar without the formal agreement of the authorities. She said she did so because she had no other alternative and because her child needs constant monitoring due to her disability. She admitted to us that she had great difficulty in assuming the financial burden of this, and that she did not have accommodation adapted to her son's needs.

4. Another woman of Qatari nationality tells us that her husband, who has already lost one leg due to diabetes, now requires a new procedure to amputate the other leg. While her husband and children can go to Bahrain; She, however, is not allowed to travel to Bahrain with them. She asks the following question, "Who will take care of him after the operation?" How will he be able to look after the children without me? "

5. Another testimony from a father tells us of his son who was undergoing medical treatment in a Saudi hospital, and who was told that he had to leave the hospital and return to Qatar "for his own safety. "

6. Respondents reported frustration among doctors who could not track their patients in the blockaded countries, said they had written reports, and offered free treatment to patients despite the ban imposed by these States.

Students

A large number of Qatari students were turned away from the schools they attended in the three countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates). Some of them were in their final year and were not allowed to take their final exams.

So they have lost one year of studies to complete the cycle of studies if the blockade situation does not change. There are also cases of students who have not received their diplomas after they have successfully completed their studies.

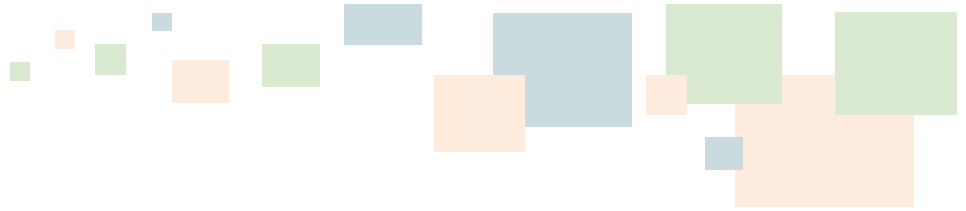
Those we met reported the following:

Mara Studied English by correspondence at the University of King Faisal in Saudi Arabia. She tried to get in touch, but since June 5, 2017 no reply. She is on the verge of her degree but was unable to take the online exam. All contacts were made via the WhatsApp application, but since the blockade it no longer responds.

Dima, also studied at the university of King Faisal. She obtained her diploma but her presence in situ is compulsory to collect it, she must then have it validated in situ in Saudi Arabia which is impossible because of the blockade!

Abdallah Mubarak, Qatari, 23 years old. He studied political science for two years at the University of the King-Saud of Riyadh. He is about to finish his studies. He was in Arabia at the time of the decision of the embargo. The Qatari embassy has notified him to return to Qatar "for his own safety". The university no longer answers him. He paid in advance the rental of a villa and is afraid of losing this advance, and worries about the continuation of his studies.





The pilgrims

During the month of June, two days after the announcement of the blockade, pilgrims were turned back after having been Saudi Arabia for a few days to make their pilgrimage during the month of Ramadan. Others were turned back when they arrived at the airport, forcing them to return via Turkey⁴.

Prohibiting or deporting pilgrims from the Holy Places because of the blockade is a violation of the right of worship guaranteed by the international conventions.

Request for the closure of the Al Jazeera channel

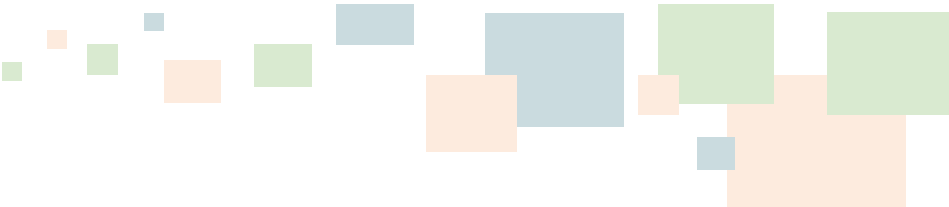
Of the 13 points that the four countries want to impose on Qatar, the closure of the Al Jazeera satellite channel and other media is a worrying request that gives us an insight into how freedom of expression is perceived by States. Indeed, in addition to being a violation of the sovereignty of a State⁵ It is a blatant violation of the fundamental right of freedom of expression and freedom of opinion enshrined in articles 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁶ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁷. During our mission, we met the members of the Executive Board of the Al Jazeera Group, including the Managing Director of the channel, Mr Mostefa Souag, with whom we raised the accusations put against them. Mr Mostefa Souag reminded us of how the channel sees its work. According to him, the channel plays its role providing information and this acquired legitimacy worldwide over 20 years of time poses problem, according to him, for the dictatorships of the region. According to him, the main criticism aimed at the channel is its of raising awareness in the Arab population and its coverage of the Arab Spring.

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPVX-xm33DE>, consulted 10/08/2017

⁵ Art. 2 of the Charter of the United Nations agreed in San Francisco on 26 June 1945

⁶ <http://www.un.org/fr/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>, Consulted on 09/08/2017

⁷ <http://www.ohchr.org/FR/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx>, Consulted on 09/08/2017



Indeed, in our opinion, this request to close down Al Jazeera is of a piece as when it was the target of the regimes of several countries where they were covering serious events, as in Egypt in 2011 when the authorities Egyptians closed their office and arrested and sentenced several journalists from the channel to prison terms. Following the announcement of the blockade, their offices were closed in four countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan). Pressure was exerted on the journalists working for the channel and the famous Saudi journalist Ali Al Dafairi was forced to resign and was forbidden to travel to Qatar. Now 58 journalists have been summoned to leave Al Jazeera and are threatened with punishment if they return to their country of origin. This situation is a continuation of serious and repeated violations of freedom of expression.

Concerning the pretext that they are "Muslim Brotherhood's" channel, the Director recalled that journalists are chosen in Al Jazeera for their skills and that their religion or origin is never taken into consideration as a criterion for engagement. They reminded us that all religions and origins co-exist and work for the channel (Copts, Muslims, Sunnis, Shiites, Hindus, Christians, etc.) without distinction and without discrimination, which is easily verified and verifiable . That their coverage of events of any sort in the world is always approached from two points of view: "for" and "against" and that is the way in which it treats all subjects, in an unbiased manner. Even when the "followers" of the Muslim brothers were executed in Rabaa al-Adawiya⁸ the square by the Egyptian army, the channel covered the event by giving a voice to both parties.

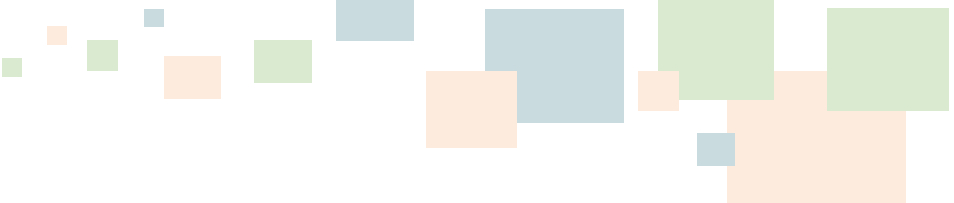
In any case, the violations of freedom of the press and of expression in no way could be justified.

Our findings.

Our observation is that, as in many similar situations, the weakest citizens are the first victims.

The less the families are socially favored the more they are impacted by the blockade.

⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/fr/news/2014/08/12/egypte-le-massacre-de-rabaa-et-dautres-tueries-constituent-probablement-des-crimes>, Consulted on 09/10/2017



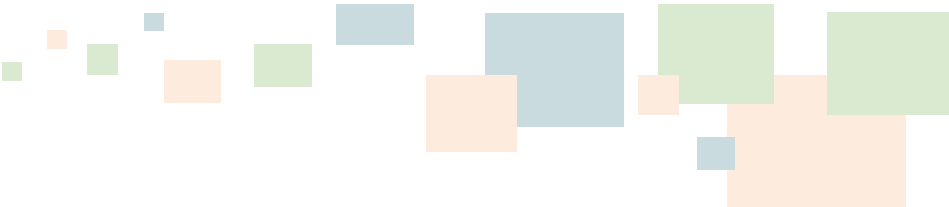
We consider that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt grossly and often irreparably infringe a series of fundamental rights of a very large number of people living in the region without distinction. That by this blockade they violate a whole series of provisions of the Universal Charter of Human Rights, including articles 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 26⁹. That they violate certain international conventions which they have signed and ratified, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates in article 2.1: *"The States party to the present covenant undertake to respect and guarantee to all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present covenant without distinction as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."* » Calls for hatred and war, even if they are expressed by private channels, are contrary to Article 20, which stipulates that *"1. Any propaganda in favor of war shall be prohibited by law."* and *2. Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law."* That it is the responsibility of States to not only not violate rights but also to enforce them.

That States should respect the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)¹⁰, That the countries in question violate Article 2.2 which states that: *"The States party to the present Covenant undertake to ensure that the rights set forth therein shall be exercised without discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."* Article 6.1, which provides that: *"The States party to the present Covenant recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to earn a living through freely chosen or accepted employment and shall take appropriate measures to safeguard that right."* In article 10 which states: *"The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that:*

1. The widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental unit in society, particularly for its establishment and that it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children. Marriage must be entered into

⁹ <http://www.un.org/fr/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>, Consulted on 09/08/2017

¹⁰ <http://www.ohchr.org/FR/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx>, Consulted on 09/08/2017



with the free consent of the intending spouses.

2. Special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth. During such period, working mothers should be accorded paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits.

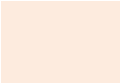
3. Special measures of protection and assistance should be taken on behalf of all children and young persons without any discrimination for reasons of parentage or other conditions. Children and young persons should be protected from economic and social exploitation. Their employment in work harmful to their morals or health or dangerous to life or likely to hamper their normal development should be punishable by law. States should also set age limits below which the paid employment of child labor should be prohibited and punishable by law. " With regard to education, the Covenant states in article 13.1: "The States party to the present Covenant recognize the right of every person to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. »

Demanded of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

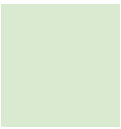
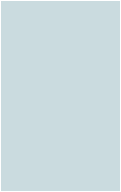
We would like to make it clear that we, as for Qatar, have contacted the authorities of the three Gulf countries (United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia) requesting them to receive our delegation in order to carry out a mission similar to that conducted in Qatar. To date we have received no reply from them, which we regret.

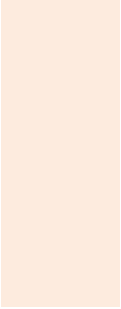


Our Recommendations


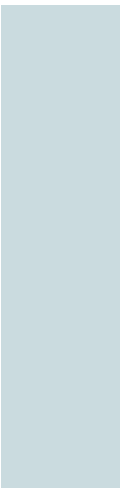


We call on the authorities of the three states (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE) and Egypt:

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1. To put an immediate end to the blockade
 2. To enable their national citizens to travel freely to Qatar
 3. To allow citizens living in Qatar to visit the different countries, given the social, economic and cultural interests they have there.
 4. To prohibit and sanction any call for hatred against the citizens of Qatar
 5. We call on the four states of the region to end their demand for the closure of the media, especially Al Jazeera.

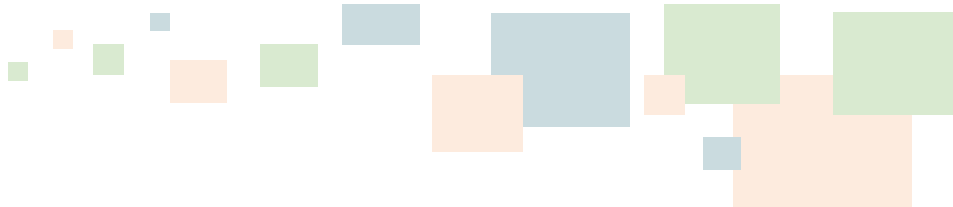


We consider the declaration of IFJ (International Federation of Journalists)¹¹ July 24 in Doha¹² that Al Jazeera is an independent channel in its positions must be able to express its views without censorship. That the demands of the four States in the region as well as the Kingdom of Jordan is unacceptable and unfounded. Moreover, we consider that it is not acceptable for states such as Egypt to blacklist these fellow citizens when they contribute to the Al Jazeera channel or on any other channel. The case of the Egyptian lawyer Me Navine Malak, who regularly contributes to the channel and who was condemned by the Egyptian authorities, as opposed to the regime of General Al Sissi, illustrates this very well. We consider this to be a serious and manifest violation of freedom of expression and freedom of opinion enshrined in international conventions.

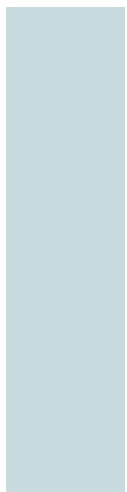
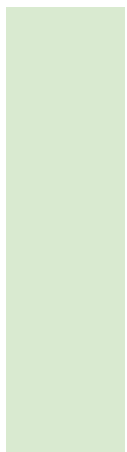
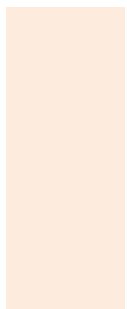
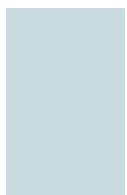
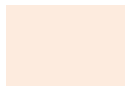
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6. Finally, we call on the Saudi authorities to remove any restrictions on the access of Qatari citizens to the holy places.
 7. At our press conference on July 23, 2017 in Doha, the NHRC asked the Qatar authorities to find a solution for the wives and husbands of Qatari citizens and their children who, since the beginning of the blockade, were in an extremely difficult situation because their identity documents cannot be renewed following the closure of the embassies. The authorities reacted positively by granting these citizens residence permits enabling them

¹¹ The IFJ represents more than 600,000 journalists in 141 countries around the world.

¹² <http://www.ifj.org/nc/en/news-single-view/backpid/1/article/doha-conference-calls-for-media-freedom-and-workers-rights/>, Accessed 11/08/2017



to remain legally in Qatar, to work there and to acquire property there as any other citizen of Qatari nationality. We appreciate this.



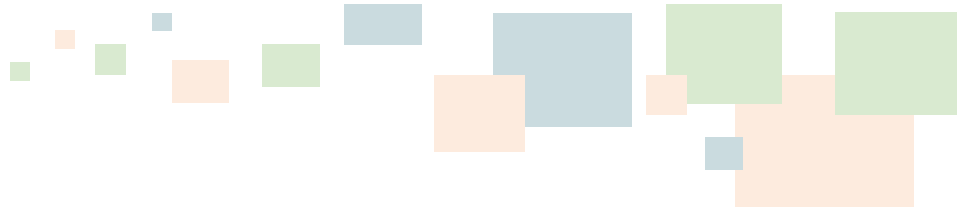


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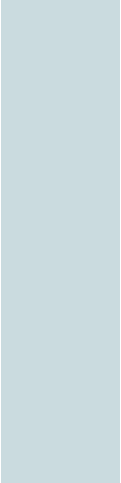
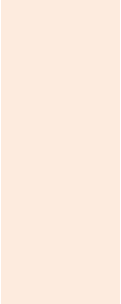
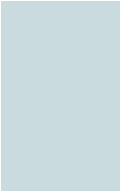
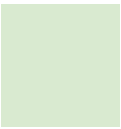
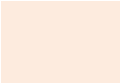
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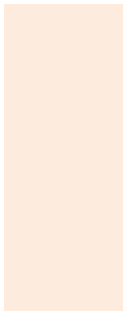
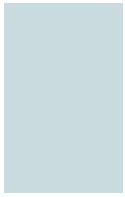
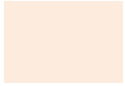
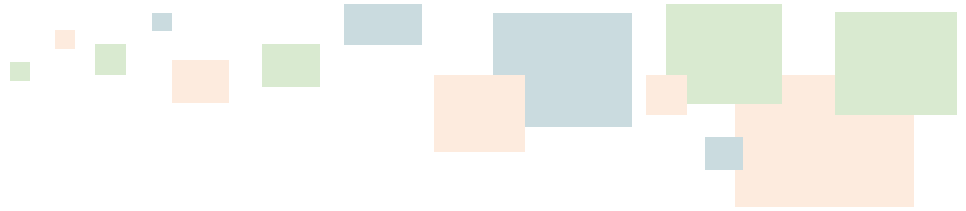
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