

Aspects of Protection and Respect for Human Rights During FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

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ABSTRACT

The research aims to explain and analyze the aspects of protection and respect for human rights during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, by discussing the reality of human rights in the State of Qatar and the legislation related to that, in addition to analyzing the implications of Qatar's victory to host FIFA World Cup 2022 on legislative reforms. The research follows the descriptive analytical method due to its suitability to the nature of the current study and to answer its questions.

The results of the research show the keenness of the State of Qatar to develop legislation to protect human rights, which came prior to the winning the bid to host the 2022 World Cup. The results also show that Qatar's victory in hosting the World Cup contributed to accelerating the process of legislative reforms that the country had previously begun. The results also show that the state has undertaken a series of pioneering legislative, administrative and educational reforms in the field of human rights protection. In addition to what the results show, Qatar provides a great opportunity for international human rights organizations to become part of the monitoring operations of international sporting events.

The research recommends the need to continue the process of legislative reforms to ensure absolute protection of human rights, and the importance of developing educational curricula in schools and universities alike, and creating university majors related to human rights in order to meet the state's need for specialists in this regard, in addition to the possibility of the State of Qatar participating in any international sporting event in the future as an observer in the field of human rights.

Key words: Human Rights, FIFA World Cup 2022, Legislative Reforms, Qatari Laws, State of Qatar.

المُلخَص

مظاهر حماية واحترام حقوق الإنسان خلال كأس العالم فيفا قطر 2022

الملازم أول/ حمد خالد المالكي

قسم الإصدارات العلمية، مركز البحوث والدراسات الأمنية، أكاديمية الشرطة، دولة قطر

يهدف البحث الحالي إلى بيان وتحليل مظاهر حماية واحترام حقوق الإنسان خلال كأس العالم فيفا قطر 2022، وذلك من خلال مناقشة واقع حقوق الإنسان في دولة قطر والتشريعات الخاصة بذلك، وتحليل انعكاسات فوز قطر باستضافة كأس العالم فيفا 2022 على الإصلاحات التشريعية. يتبع البحث المنهج الوصفي التحليلي نظراً لملاءمته لطبيعة الدراسة الحالية والإجابة عن أسئلتها.

تظهر نتائج البحث أن حرص دولة قطر على تطوير التشريعات الخاصة بحماية حقوق الإنسان جاء سابقاً لفوزها بملف استضافة كأس العالم 2022، كما تظهر النتائج بأن فوز قطر باستضافة كأس العالم ساهم في الإسراع بعملية الإصلاحات التشريعية التي بدأتها الدولة مسبقاً، كذلك تظهر النتائج قيام الدولة بسلسلة من الإصلاحات التشريعية والإدارية والتعليمية الرائدة في مجال حماية حقوق الإنسان، بالإضافة إلى ما تظهره النتائج من تقديم قطر فرصة كبيرة لمنظمات حقوق الإنسان الدولية كي تصبح جزءاً من عمليات الرقابة على الفعاليات الرياضية الدولية.

يوصي البحث بالحاجة إلى الاستمرار في عملية الإصلاحات التشريعية لضمان حماية مطلقة لحقوق الإنسان، وأهمية تطوير المناهج التعليمية في المدارس والجامعات على حد سواء، واستحداث تخصصات جامعية مرتبطة بحقوق الإنسان من أجل سد حاجة الدولة إلى متخصصين في هذا الشأن، بالإضافة إلى إمكانية مشاركة دولة قطر في أي حدث رياضي عالمي مستقبلاً بصفة مراقب في مجال حقوق الإنسان.

الكلمات المفتاحية: حقوق الإنسان، كأس العالم فيفا 2022، الإصلاحات التشريعية، القوانين القطرية، دولة قطر.

1. Introduction

The heavenly religions are considered the basis from which most laws and legislation derive the spirit of human rights law, including international agreements, treaties and covenants, including the tolerant Islamic law, which contains basic principles, values and lofty goals in the field of human rights, representing an unprecedented social revolution in human history. Human rights were at the forefront of the teachings of Islamic law, such as the right to life, freedom, equality, justice, personal freedom, freedom of belief, privacy, and human protection from torture.

When talking about the historical accumulation of peoples' struggle for human rights, we talk about the "Magna Carta"⁽¹⁾, and the American Declaration of Independence, and the Declaration of Human Rights of the French Revolution in addition to other stages of the human struggle for rights and freedoms, but the role of Islam in this is often overlooked. In this regard, the first Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula established the "Al-Fudul Alliance" at the end of the sixth century AD in the house of Abdullah bin Jad'an, one of the notables of Mecca. The alliance included a pledge to support the oppressed, prevent injustice against them, and protect their rights. This alliance received the blessing of the Messenger, peace be upon him, in which he said: "If I were called upon to do something similar in Islam, I would respond". This alliance is considered the first human rights association in history⁽²⁾.

It is worth noting that there are fundamental differences between the universal reference to human rights and the Islamic reference to these rights. Human rights in the global or universal discourse are based on a secular reference: natural law and the philosophy of the Enlightenment, as it excludes religion from being a source in this reference, while human rights from the Islamic perspective, as confirmed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Islam issued in 1981, are rights legislated by the Creator and it is not the right of humans, whoever they may be, to suspend or attack them⁽³⁾.

Human rights were only part of the Arab-Islamic heritage in the region, and this is what made some Arab countries derive their constitutions from the teachings of Islam that guarantee the right and freedom of individuals, and the permanent constitution of the State of Qatar in 2004 came as a continuation of this approach that began more than 14 centuries ago. The text of Article (18) of the Constitution

(1) The Magna Carta is an English document that was first issued in 1215 AD, then issued again in 1216 AD, but in a version with fewer provisions, as some of the temporary provisions present in the first version were cancelled, especially those provisions that direct explicit threats to the ruler's authority, and these provisions were adopted. The document became a law in 1225 AD, and the version issued in 1297 AD is still in the books of bylaws for both England and Wales until now.

(2) Faiq, M. (2005). Human Rights between Privacy and Universality, Center for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut.

(3) Saadoun, S. (2018). The dialectic of universality and particularity in human rights education, reviewed on 28/8/2024, in: <https://bit.ly/3z32UP0>.

affirmed that “Qatari society is based on the pillars of justice, benevolence, freedom, equality, and good morals,” and Article (19) continued what it stated, “The state shall safeguard the pillars of society and guarantee security, stability, and equal opportunities for citizens.” Article (35) also clearly and directly affirms human rights in Qatar in its text: “People are equal before the law, without discrimination among them on the basis of sex, origin, language, or religion.”

Since the establishment of the modern state Qatar has been keen to pay attention to human rights and freedoms, and in this regard it has taken many necessary legislative, legal and administrative measures to implement those rights, and to provide the appropriate legal environment for the establishment and modernization of human rights as part of the Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar 2004, the Qatar National Vision 2030, the Qatar National Vision 2030 Strategy, the First National Development Strategy 2011-2016, and the Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022, as these references, in addition to tolerant Islamic law, are considered a supportive environment to ensure the implementation of human rights in accordance with what is called for in international treaties and agreements.

Qatar’s hosting of the 2022 World Cup represented a qualitative leap in the development of national legislation to protect the rights and freedoms of individuals, as Doha became the focus of attention of the entire world, especially organizations concerned with human rights, as this major international sporting event required the establishment of a massive infrastructure in the country, and the development of various facilities, in addition to the construction of new facilities capable of hosting an event of this size, and this in turn led to the recruitment of hundreds of thousands of workers from around the world in order to contribute to organizing this event, which made international organizations closely follow the reality of human rights in the country, the suitability of national legislation for this matter, and the extent to which workers enjoy the necessary legal protection⁽⁴⁾.

Based on the above, and in an effort to research the extent of the development of national legislation related to human rights as a result of hosting the 2022 World Cup on the one hand, and in confirmation of the continued development of these national legislation and laws after the end of the global sporting event on the other hand, as this stage has become a qualitative shift in the history of the modern Qatari state strives to improve various aspects of life, including the legal aspect, to ensure the protection of human dignity, freedoms and rights. This study comes to explore the reality of human rights in the State of Qatar, and the extent of the implications of winning the bid to host the World Cup on legislative reforms in the country.

(4) Al-Barawi, H. (2017). A reading of the development of legal protection for workers in the State of Qatar in light of the organization of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Qatar University Press, Doha.

2. Research problem

The issue of human rights in Qatar has been considered a priority issue since the establishment of the modern state, because these rights are linked to human dignity and freedom, which requires the continuous implementation and development of these rights in a way that is consistent with what is required by tolerant Islamic law on the one hand, and international laws and conventions related to human rights on the other hand. Hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 represented a qualitative leap towards developing legislation for the protection of human rights, and protecting these rights from any violations in a way that ensures respect for human dignity. This reflects the problem of the study by determining the extent of compatibility of legislative development related to human rights in Qatar adheres to what is required by international conventions in this regard, and reviews the extent of the success of legislative reforms in protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals. Accordingly, the study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What is the concept of human rights and its classifications in international laws and treaties?
2. What is the reality of human rights in the State of Qatar in light of the relevant legislation?
3. What are the implications of Qatar's winning the vote to host FIFA World Cup 2022 on legislative reforms?

3. Research importance

The importance of the research is evident from the importance of human rights guaranteed by divine laws, international agreements, and national laws in various countries, as the level of guaranteeing human rights reflects the extent of development of the state and its legislation. These rights are what guarantee the individual a decent life that makes him an active part of his society and keen on development. The importance of the research, both scientific and practical, can be stated as follows:

1. Scientific importance: The scientific importance of the research is to build a theoretical framework about the concept of human rights and its classifications in international laws and treaties, and the reality of human rights in the State of Qatar considering the relevant legislation.
2. Practical importance: The practical importance of the research is to analyze the extent of the implications of Qatar's winning the vote to host FIFA World Cup 2022 on legislative reforms in the country.

4. Research objectives

The current research seeks to achieve its main objective of explaining and analyzing the aspects of protecting and respecting human rights during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, by reviewing the concept of human rights and their classifications in international laws and treaties, and developing a theoretical foundation that enables a more transparent reading of the reality of human rights in Qatar, and the connection of all of this to the human rights file during the hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, and the extent to which this matter is related to the seriousness of legislative reforms in the country.

5. Research Methodology

The current research follows the descriptive analytical approach, which is based on collecting information and facts about a phenomenon and analyzing it, to determine the nature of the situation in the current period and direct work in the future period. It is the most appropriate approach to the nature of current research and enables answering the research questions, and presenting a proposed future vision considering the results that will be reached⁽⁵⁾. The current research followed the descriptive analytical approach to explain and analyze the aspects of protection and respect for human rights during FIFA Qatar 2022.

6. Research limits

The research includes the following limits:

1. Objective limits: manifestations of protection and respect for human rights during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.
2. Spatial boundaries: The State of Qatar.

7. Research terms

The study included several key terms that should be defined to the reader, as follows:

1. Human rights: "A set of rights that every individual enjoys or should enjoy in the society in which he lives, which necessitates that these rights be universal and enjoyed by every individual as a human being without distinction between one individual and another. These rights must also find their echo in a legal obligation to implement it, not a moral obligation"(6).

(5) Obaidat, D., Adass, A., & Abdel Haq, . (2017). Scientific research: its concept, tools and methods, 18th edition, Dar Al-Fikr for Publishing and Distribution, Amman.

(6) Abdel Ghaffar, M. (2000). Human rights guarantees at the regional level, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Cairo, p.14.

2. Human rights in Qatar: Qatari legislation derived a general framework for human rights from the Arab Charter on Human Rights, and in this framework human rights are defined as “...the right to enjoy the rights and freedoms stipulated in the Arab Charter on Human Rights, without discrimination based on race, color, sex, language, religious belief, opinion, thought, national or social origin, property, birth, physical or mental disability”(7).
3. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “An important historical document in the history of human rights, drafted by representatives from different legal and cultural backgrounds from all over the world. The General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris on December 10th, 1948, under Resolution 217-A as the standard. The common goal that should be aimed at by all peoples and nations, and it defines, for the first time, the basic human rights that must be universally protected”(8).

8. Previous studies

Basfar (2023)⁽⁹⁾ conducted a study that aimed to clarify the concept of human rights, the concept of international human rights law and its sources. The study also aimed to evaluate the performance of United Nations agencies active in the field of human rights. The study followed the comparative analytical approach and the descriptive approach. The study included the concept of human rights, the United Nations organs concerned with human rights and the role of each organ therein, and the effectiveness of the performance of the United Nations organs active in the field of human rights. The results of the study showed the absence of international mechanisms at the disposal of the United Nations to force states to give up their personal interests to protect human rights, even partially. The results also showed the weak state of interoperability between the United Nations entities concerned with human rights and internal systems to enhance the role of the United Nations in protecting human rights.

As for the study of Heerdt (2023)⁽¹⁰⁾, it aimed to demonstrate the extent of due care for human rights in international sporting events, through a case study of the FIFA Human Rights Volunteers Program in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar.

(7) Arab Charter on Human Rights. (2004). The Charter was ratified by Resolution No. 6405 of 3/4/2004 of the 121st Regular Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, approving the Arab Charter on Human Rights (Q.S.: 270 D.R. 16) – 5/23/2004, Paragraph 1 of Article 3.

(8) United nations. (1993). Human Rights: A Collection of International Instruments, Volume I, Part 1, Volume 1, A.94.XIV, United Nations, New York.

(9) Basfar, A. (2023). The role of the United Nations in protecting human rights, International Journal for Publishing Research and Studies, 4(41), 130-173.

(10) Heerdt, D. (2023). Games–Time Human Rights Due Diligence: A Case Study of FIFA’s Human Rights Volunteers Program at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, German Law Journal, 24, 1740–1751.

The study followed the analytical approach. The results of the study showed that the World Cup in Qatar 2022 provided human rights organizations and volunteers in the field of protecting freedoms and rights with a historic opportunity to become an essential part of any international sporting events that will be held in the future, as the Qatari openness to international human rights organizations and their involvement in the various stages of the World Cup has been made a permanent reference for international organizations seeking to monitor human rights in countries, and the study considered in its results that the 2022 World Cup in Qatar came as a qualitative leap in the history of human rights monitoring.

Al Thani (2022)⁽¹¹⁾ conducted a study that aimed to explain the role of sports, and in particular, the impact of Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup on how Qatar dealt with the human rights file, and to demonstrate the extent to which the rights and social legacy of migrant workers inside Qatar were benefited during the 2022 World Cup, and the study followed the descriptive approach. The results of the study showed that taking advantage of the sport as a development model, the country has been able to utilize sport as a means of reshaping its traditional national brand that has been in place for decades. The study emphasized that although the human rights of migrant workers in Qatar have been a source of scrutiny at the international level, such discourses are partly, or rather largely, countered before. The state used mechanisms to demonstrate accountability and commitment to international human rights and international development standards, thus restoring soft power capabilities in the process.

On the other hand, Al-Derbi (2021)⁽¹²⁾ conducted a study that aimed to research and analyze the efforts of the United Nations in protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and the role of specialized United Nations institutions in this regard, and the study followed the analytical approach in order to achieve its goals. The results of the study showed that the United Nations agencies play a major international role in the framework of supporting human rights and protecting them from any violations in various countries, and that they take the initiative to activate their role on the ground by trying to oblige member states to adhere to international conventions and treaties on human rights, as states are committed to providing reports on the human rights situation there. However, the study, on the other hand, confirmed the absence of a binding international mechanism that enables the United Nations to implement sanctions against countries that violate human rights.

Al-Zoubi et al. (2020)⁽¹³⁾ also conducted a study that aimed to examine

(11) Al Thani, M. (2022). Channeling Soft Power: The Qatar 2022 World Cup, Migrant Workers, and International Image, *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, 38(17), 1729–1752.

(12) Al-Derby, A. (2021). United Nations efforts in the field of human rights protection: a study of experiences and expertise, *Journal of Politics and Economics*, 16(12), 237-287.

(13) Al-Zoubi, L., Saleh, M., Tajudeen, A., & Bagotian, S. (2020). States of emergency and their impact on the restriction of human rights in international law, *Sharia and Law Journal of Malaysia*, 8(2), 85-93.

emergency situations and their impact on restricting human rights in international law. The study followed the descriptive and analytical approach to achieve its goals and answer its questions. The results of the study showed that there is a disparity in the application of emergency laws between countries, and the matter is often related to political motives. The results of the study also showed the many negative effects that affect human rights in emergency situations, such as restricting freedom and movement and disrupting the constitution. The results also showed the lack of the role of international human rights organizations in providing protection for human rights. While Al-Enezi (2020)⁽¹⁴⁾ conducted a study aimed at clarifying the role of the International Council for Human Rights as an international mechanism concerned with these rights. The study also aimed to attempt to explore the shortcomings, and defects in its international organization, and to identify the factors that determine and influence its effectiveness in order to attempt to reform, evaluate, and activate it, which may have an increasing positive impact on countries' policies and approvals related to human rights. The study followed the descriptive analytical approach. The results of the study showed that the International Council for Human Rights contributed positively and significantly to the promotion of human rights. However, the results confirmed that the Council's mechanisms are not binding, but they rather represent a moral value that the Council has towards human rights. The results also showed the absence of a supervisory role for the Human Rights Office in the General Secretariat of Member States, as a result of it not having a special monitoring and control mechanism.

As for Al-Barawi's study (2017)⁽¹⁵⁾, it aimed to monitor the features of Qatar's victory in organizing the 2022 World Cup from the moment of the announcement, and the repercussions of that on Qatari legislation in several areas, including the development of legal protection in the field of workers' rights. The study sought to monitor these features in two main sections: the first section covers the development of legal protection in the stage before concluding the contract between the worker and the employer, while the second section includes the development of legal protection in the stage of implementing the employment contract. The study showed that in the stage before concluding the contract, development features appeared in accordance with general rules by imposing an obligation on the employer to provide data before contracting, and these features appeared in accordance with the special rules of the Labor Law through the organization of recruitment offices. As for the contract implementation stage, reviewing the features of development in more than

(14) Al-Enezi, I. (2020). The Role of the Human Rights Council in Protecting Human Rights, The Legal Journal, 8(7), 2449-2472.

(15) Al-Barawi, H. (2017). A reading of the development of legal protection for workers in the State of Qatar in light of the organization of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Qatar University Press, Doha.

one field, as protection was discussed in the fields of health, social protection, wage protection, and finally human rights protection, through explaining and analyzing the texts of the Qatari Labor Law.

9. Previous studies' discussion

It is clear from the previewing of previous studies that they dealt with the concept of human rights, the concept of international human rights law and its sources, as well as evaluating the performance of United Nations agencies active in the field of human rights, as in the study by Basfar (2023), and the study by Al Thani (2022) on using sport as a development model to push further Qatar's status in the field of human rights, in addition to analyzing the efforts of the United Nations in protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the role of specialized United Nations institutions in this regard, as in the Al-Derby study (2021), as well as the impact of emergency situations on restricting human rights in International law, as in the study of Al-Zoubi et al., (2020), in addition to explaining the role of the International Council for Human Rights as an international mechanism concerned with these rights, as in the study of Al-Anzi (2020), as well as monitoring the repercussions of Qatar's winning in organizing the 2022 World Cup on Qatari legislation in several areas, including the development of legal protection in the field of workers' rights, as in Al-Barawy's study (2017).

The discussion of previous studies focused on human rights in general, except for the study by Al Thani (2022) and the study by Al-Barawi (2017), which dealt with the Qatari environment, while the current study deals with aspects of protecting and respecting human rights during FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in addition to its review of the reality of human rights in the State of Qatar, which has not been addressed by any of the previous studies to the best of the researcher's knowledge.

It is also clear that previous studies dealt with international human rights law, while the current study is applied to Qatari society, which none of the previous studies addressed to the researcher's knowledge, except for the study by Al Thani (2022), and the study by Al-Barawi (2017).

10. The concept of human rights and its classifications

Firstly, it should be noted that a comprehensive and specific definition of human rights has not been developed due to the differences in societies and cultures' view of this concept from one country to another, and the different nature and trends of studies that have dealt with this concept. Some believe that human rights have a moral dimension simply because it is directly human beings, and therefore this human being has natural inalienable rights. Others see that human rights are legal

rights created according to law-making processes in societies at the national and international levels, while another trend sees that human rights are original rights without which humans cannot live.

The origins of human rights go back to pre-human times, since the texts that were developed in ancient civilizations, such as the Sumerian and Babylonian civilizations and the Code of Hammurabi, which were considered the first texts on human rights that humanity has known since ancient times. Ancient Greek civilization also knew the origins of human rights subject to natural laws, which included the right to freedom of expression, equal respect for all, and equality by law⁽¹⁶⁾.

Human rights meaning in statutory laws is the texts and laws enacted related to the protection of human rights in constitutions, legislation, and customs, in addition to the rulings of national courts. Parts of those rights may be inspired by an international source, and the state is obligated to guarantee them. National statutory laws are laws that are superior to international laws, as the victim whose rights are violated first resorts to the means of protection in domestic law, meaning that domestic law precedes international law in application regarding human rights and freedoms⁽¹⁷⁾.

The constitution constitutes the basic guarantee for the establishment of the state of law on the one hand, and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the other hand, because the constitution is what sets out the system of government in the state, the formation of its public authorities, the distribution of powers among them, and how to exercise them. It also sets out the rights of individuals and the means necessary to guarantee and preserve them⁽¹⁸⁾.

Human rights include civil and political rights that relate to freedoms, economic, social and cultural rights that relate to security, environmental and cultural rights that relate to development, the right to life within a safe environment, and the right to development at various levels. All these rights are interconnected and indivisible, and they are global standards. They preserve human dignity at the same level in all parts of the world and take on a legal nature that binds governments to respect these rights. They reflect the essence of human dignity and serve as a deterrent to those who possess power and may misuse it against people. Human rights also guarantee justice and honesty in human relations which enables the individual to achieve his ambitions and goals in an atmosphere where democracy, justice, and equality prevail⁽¹⁹⁾.

Human rights became an international matter under international treaties

(16) Dahandal, L., Hassan, B., & Bosrup, R. (2010). Human Rights Across Cultures, Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies, Cairo.

(17) Al-Ani, H. (2004). The Theory of Public Freedoms: Analysis and Documents, Publications of the Legal Library, Baghdad.

(18) Shiha, I. (1983). Constitutional Law, University Publishing House, Beirut.

(19) United States Department of State. (2018). Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, United States Department of State, Washington DC.

and agreements that followed the emergence of international human rights law in the wake of World War II in conjunction with the establishment of the United Nations, although human rights were legally protected in some systems under local laws, as in the Declaration of Human Rights in France, which followed the French Revolution, as well as the Declaration of Human Rights in the United States of America during the Declaration of Independence, but the real internationalization of human rights began following the end of the second World War ⁽²⁰⁾.

With the establishment of the United Nations in 1954, promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all individuals without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion became inevitable, and one of the basic goals that the international community seeks to achieve. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued, in 1948, the first official formulation of the term “human rights” as used in the text of the United Nations Charter⁽²¹⁾.

The international human rights movement was strengthened when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. It was formulated as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations. For the first time in human history, the Declaration articulates the basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all humans should enjoy. Over time they have been widely accepted as the basic rules of human rights that everyone must respect and protect. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, along with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, constitute the International Bill of Human Rights⁽²²⁾.

A series of international human rights treaties and other adopted instruments since 1945 gave legal form to inherent human rights and developed the body of international human rights. Other instruments have been adopted at the regional level that reflect specific human rights concerns in the region and provide specific protection mechanisms. Most countries have also adopted constitutions and other laws that formally protect basic human rights, while international treaties and customary law form the backbone of international human rights law ⁽²³⁾.

International human rights law sets out the obligations that states are

(20) Ghali, B. (1993). Human Rights between Democracy and Development, *Journal of International Politics*, 29(114), 141-148.

(21) Hamed, M. (2021). The influence of political thought on human rights, *Journal of Political Science*, 62, 425-448.

(22) Jarrar, A. (2009). *Intellectual trends in human rights and fundamental freedoms*, Wael Publishing House, Amman.

(23) Abbas, A. (2018). Generations of Human Rights between Intellectual Proposition and Scientific Support, *Kufa Journal of Legal and Political Sciences*, 16(2), 299-318.

obligated to respect by joining international treaties, whereas states have obligations and duties under international law to respect, protect and fulfill human rights, this obligation to respect means that states must refrain from interfering with or limiting the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires states to protect individuals and groups from human rights violations, and the obligation to enforce means that states must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights⁽²⁴⁾.

11. Human rights in the State of Qatar

Since the establishment of the modern state in Qatar, those in charge of it have been given the task of strengthening and consecrating the state of rights, freedoms, law and institutions. The establishment of the National Human Rights Committee came by Decree Law No. (38) of 2002 as a real guarantee for the preservation of human rights, and the work of the committee was reorganized by Decree Law No. (17). of 2010, as this committee is classified as grade (A) by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), whose membership includes all national organizations and committees concerned with human rights in the world.

Paying attention to human rights and developing its legislation in the State of Qatar has become a matter of great importance, considering the achievements the state has made in this field at all international, regional and national levels, especially after the issuance of a new permanent constitution for the state in 2004, as this constitution guaranteed several rights, at the forefront of which is equality before the law, the prohibition of discrimination, not restricting people's freedom except in accordance with the law, and ensuring public freedoms, including freedoms of the press and expression in particular, in addition to establishing associations and places of worship, and establishing the principle of separation between executive, legislative and judicial powers, its provisions also included the establishment of a Shura Council⁽²⁵⁾.

On the other hand, the Human Rights Office was established pursuant to Minister of Foreign Affairs Resolution No. (16) of 2003 to form the link between the entities concerned with human rights within Qatar and other countries and international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights, in continuation of the approach aimed at enhancing the reality of human rights in the state, as official efforts to promote the reality of human rights in Qatar began many years before winning the bid to host the 2022 World Cup, as the state was seriously seeking to improve the reality of human rights and raise the level of legal regulation related to this matter.

(24) Al-Dulaimi, . (2018). Human Rights, Dar Al-Sanhouri for Printing, Publishing and Distribution, Beirut.

(25) Sukkar, A., & Tarawneh, M. (2017). Introduction to the Study of Human Rights, Police College Publications, Doha.

In continuation of the serious efforts to improve the reality of human rights in Qatar, the state has signed 7 international human rights agreements out of 9, and the state has spared no effort in striving to improve its image in the international community through developing its national legislation and active participation with the international community. To achieve advanced ranks on human rights indicators, the State of Qatar has achieved an advanced rating of 100% for countries that submit reports to international mechanisms according to statistical indicators issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The country has witnessed during the period extending since its accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the year 2018 wide-ranging developments at the legislative and institutional levels, and at the level of policies and strategies aimed at promoting and strengthening the human rights infrastructure⁽²⁶⁾.

By ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Qatar is legally obligated to respect, protect and fulfill the range of rights that both treaties guarantee to every individual, which includes hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who contributed to establishing the infrastructure for the World Cup 2022, or worked as domestic servants. This positive step came due to concerted efforts to improve the country's position in the field of human rights before hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2022, as the country prioritized rising to the occasion in international forums⁽²⁷⁾.

Regarding the protection of the rights of expatriate workers, Qatar adopted a series of pioneering legislative and institutional reforms in the region, which led to the abolition of the sponsorship system, improving working conditions and decent living for all workers, and creating a safe and balanced work environment, in accordance with international labor standards. Then came Cabinet Resolution No. (4) of 2021, which gave powers and presence to law enforcement agencies responsible for combating human trafficking in police, prosecution, and judicial stations. In the field of promoting and protecting women's rights, Qatar adopted several measures, including, for example, providing free legal assistance, psychological rehabilitation, providing shelter for women victims of violence, and providing social assistance and salaries to divorced women and widows. The National Committee for the Affairs of Women, Children, the Elderly, and Persons with Disabilities was also established in accordance with Cabinet Resolution No. (26) of 2019⁽²⁸⁾.

(26) Gulf Times. (2019). Qatar has made Legislative Reforms to Promote and Protect Human Rights, reviewed on 3/5/2024, in: bit.ly/3R5Lp6t.

(27) Amnesty International. (2018). Qatar Finally Joins Two Key Human Rights Treaties, reviewed on 5/5/2024, in: bit.ly/3Km6lmc.

(28) Keita, M., Anna, K., Mandour, M., & El-Hage, J. (2022). Qatar's Human Rights Record in the World's Spotlight:

The State of Qatar has continued its efforts within the framework of promoting human rights in the country, as the year 2018 witnessed the issuance of several important laws related to the reality of human rights, such as Law No. (10) regarding permanent residence, Law No. (11) regulating political asylum, and Law No. (13) regarding the cancellation of exit permits for expatriate workers, Law No. (16) regarding regulating non-Qatari ownership and use of real estate, and Law No. (17) regarding establishing the fund to support and grant expatriate workers insurance⁽²⁹⁾.

The human rights reality in Qatar has begun to improve significantly over the past two decades, and the international community has begun to recognize what the state has achieved in developing its national laws to advance the reality of human rights. In this context, Qatar was elected by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session to membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council, with a majority of 182 votes, for a period of three years that has started in January 2022. This majority of votes reflects the confidence of the international community in the active and positive role played by Qatar in the field of protecting and promoting human rights and issues related to them, and it also reflects the approach and policy that Qatar is committed to promoting and protecting human rights at the local, regional and international levels and fulfilling its obligations in this regard. The election of Qatar came in recognition of its extensive record of initiatives to bring peace to the world, support mediation and dialogue between countries to resolve conflicts, and its efforts to establish international peace and security. Qatar was elected from the group of Asia-Pacific countries, and fifteen members were elected to the Human Rights Council for the period 2022-2024 for three years started on January 1, 2022⁽³⁰⁾.

On the educational level, Qatar began developing school curricula and including human rights as part of the comprehensive democratic transformation in the country. In 2021, the course “Guides for Human Rights Education for the preparatory, primary and secondary levels” was added, and the curriculum contained topics, including the right to identity, play and leisure, education, health, a healthy environment, dignity, equality, human rights, development, freedom of opinion and expression, privacy, and justice⁽³¹⁾.

White Paper with Policy Recommendations, Human Rights Foundation, New York.

(29) Qatar News Agency. (2024). Qatar Affirms Commitment to Enhancing Human Rights Legislation, reviewed on 11/5/2024, in: bit.ly/454KJ79.

(30) Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (2021). Qatar Victory in Human Rights Council Membership Reflects Confidence, reviewed on 5/5/2024, in: bit.ly/3wWR9sr.

(31) United Nations Human Rights Office. (2023). Education of Human Rights in the State of Qatar, reviewed on 9/5/2024, in: bit.ly/4bVuDir.

The State of Qatar continued its efforts to play a pioneering role in the fields of human rights and democracy by organizing and hosting relevant Arab and international events. The National Human Rights Committee, through its hosting of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions, contributed to organizing a conference that addresses the challenges of security and human rights in cooperation with the Council of Arab Interior Ministers in Tunisia during November 2015, and in January 2016, it hosted an important international conference in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, dealing with strengthening the role of the Commission in the Arab region, in the presence of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and it included an Arab governmental and non-governmental presence, according to the thirtieth annual report issued by the Arab Organization for Human Rights⁽³²⁾.

Despite some of the criticism that affected the human rights file in recent years, and the attacks it was subjected to following its winning in hosting the 2022 World Cup by many regional and international entities, the State of Qatar continued the process of legislative reforms and the development of laws aimed at protecting human rights and freedoms and its dignity, and made its efforts the focus of attention of the international community, which praised what the country had achieved in a few years, which made it eligible for membership in the United Nations Human Rights Council, and FIFA World Cup 2022 came to prove the seriousness of Qatar's efforts in legislative reform.

In this context, the Europeans' lack of respect for cultural privacy appeared despite the claims of diversity in the Qatar 2022 World Cup; European countries entered into a heated conflict with the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) and the State of Qatar, due to the host country's refusal to allow European teams to support homosexuality, considering it contrary to Arab and Islamic values, which was rejected by many European teams, such as Germany, England and France. This led Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA, to criticize Western nations, accusing them of disregarding the sovereignty and privacy of other countries. He argued that they impose their perspectives as the only valid ones, an approach he deemed inconsistent with the fundamental principles of human rights that they often champion.⁽³³⁾

Since the announcement of Qatar's acceptance of its candidacy to host the World Cup, the western media has insisted on luring it into the human rights arena and

(32) Arab Organization for Human Rights. (2022). The thirtieth annual report of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, Arab Organization for Human Rights, Cairo.

(33) Jamal, M. (2022). Duality and Functionality: How Does Europe Deal with Human Rights Issues? reviewed on 30/8/2024, in: <https://bit.ly/3ANDYf2>.

examining the country's record in this area, where it has also woven an ambiguous discourse around the issue of workers' rights, one of the most prominent points of controversy between Doha and the western media. It may seem understandable and acceptable to exploit a sporting event of this magnitude to pressure for improving workers' conditions but reducing a highly complex and intertwined issue such as migrant labor in West Asia to a purely national problem entails a clear duality. In this context, the literature of political economy for example, opens up vast horizons for approaching an issue in which the local legal dimension overlaps with the struggles of the proletariat that transcend all places, including the western geographic area itself, and through which the structural problems associated with the globalized capitalism that transcends borders that produced this phenomenon intertwine with what is known as the racist system of labor, which is an ancient legacy that western companies themselves are keen to continue, while addressing it requires structural solutions that are jointly formulated by the various officials responsible for this phenomenon in the various transit and migration stations through which these workers pass⁽³⁴⁾.

On the other hand, the New York Times reported in February 2019 that an unknown consulting firm based in London had published a "plan to discredit Qatar, a supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood," which some regimes consider a terrorist organization. Part of the plan would include publishing articles in British media outlets to damage Qatar's reputation. Similarly, Australian political communications strategist Sir Lynton Crosby organized a £5.5 million campaign to cancel the World Cup in Qatar. The Guardian at the time saw a presentation titled Project Ball detailing how the firm pressured FIFA to cancel Qatar's hosting of the World Cup and award it to another country, by linking the first World Cup in a Muslim-majority country to terrorism. Earlier, The New York Times and The Intercept revealed the involvement of the American lobbying firm "Camstoll" in organizing an anti-Qatar campaign by publishing several media materials in American media outlets. The Intercept reported, in an article written by journalist Glenn Greenwald, that the "Camstoll" Communications and Public Relations Group includes American officials who previously worked in the US Treasury, and were responsible for US relations with the Gulf states and Israel, and the mission of tracking the sources of funding for terrorist organizations. The New York Times wrote that the campaign organizers suggested that the best time to distort Qatar's image was the coincidence and parallelism between the two alleged files: Qatar's support for "jihadist terrorist"

(34) Kharsa, S. (2022). Campaign against the Qatar World Cup: Western media trapped in the discourse of Orientalism, reviewed on 1/9/2024, in: <https://bit.ly/3MwKhWZ>.

organizations, and the “corruption” in awarding Qatar the 2022 World Cup⁽³⁵⁾.

12. The implications of Qatar hosting FIFA 2022 on legislative reforms

The Qataris were surprised by the level of criticism they received after winning the bid to host the World Cup 2022, as the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the committee responsible for the infrastructure and operations of Qatar’s hosting of the Cup, worked at a different speed than other parts of state institutions, causing delays in implementing some reforms. While human rights groups may not be satisfied with Qatar’s progress, their activism has paid off, as Qatar has distinguished itself from other Gulf states by openly engaging with its critics, responding to them, and including them in various stages of human rights reform review processes, which contributed to continued pressure on various countries in the region for further reforms on human rights issues beyond⁽³⁶⁾.

Qatar has responded to globalization trends that combine traditional culture with modernity, its adherence to the universal values of democracy, solidarity and human rights, and its respect for cultural differences, in addition to being a meeting point between East and West, which pushed the state towards pursuing reform processes in various sectors of the state during the past few decades, starting with infrastructure and public facilities, through education, health, and housing, all the way to legislative reforms⁽³⁷⁾.

The state’s efforts within the framework of legislative reforms were not linked to winning the bid to host the World Cup 2022, which was announced in December 2010 in order to prepare for the global event that took place in 2022, but rather the reforms began much before that winning, as the establishment of the National Human Rights Committee in Qatar came to represent a serious shift in the process of legislative reforms to guarantee human rights in the country, and the Qatari legislator was keen in the text of Article (2) of this law to define the powers of the committee in a way that guarantees the highest possible levels of implementation of human rights, as follows:⁽³⁸⁾

1. Working to achieve the goals set forth in international agreements and covenants concerned with human rights, to which the state has become a party.

(35) Ja’afar, K. (2024). Slandering Qatar again: Look for Israel, reviewed on 2/9/2024, in: <https://bit.ly/3XsW0MD>.

(36) Ziadeh, S., Flacks, M., Dorsey, J., & Clawson, P. (2022). 2022 Qatar World Cup: Sports, Politics & Human Rights, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Washington D.C.

(37) Amara, M. (2013). Qatar and the 2022 FIFA World Cup: A strategy for organizing and promoting sporting events, Qatar University Research Journal, 17, 118-120.

(38) Article 2 of Decree Law No. (38) of 2002 establishing the National Human Rights Committee.

2. Providing advice to relevant authorities in the state on matters related to human rights and freedoms.
3. Considering violations of human rights and freedoms, if any, and suggesting ways to address them and prevent them from occurring.
4. Monitoring any observations that international organizations and non-governmental organizations may raise in the field of human rights in the country and coordinating with the relevant authorities to respond to them.
5. Contributing to the preparation of reports prepared by the state regarding human rights and freedoms.
6. Cooperation with international and regional organizations concerned with the protection of human rights and freedoms.
7. Promoting awareness and education about human rights and freedoms.

It is clear from the text of the aforementioned article that the Qatari legislator was keen to make human rights a part of the general culture in the country, and emphasized this in paragraph (7) of the previous article about the necessity of the National Human Rights Committee promoting awareness and education about human rights and freedoms, and this is what makes the law establishing the National Committee is a prelude to the start of a comprehensive reform process in the state, affecting various entities and different aspects of human rights, in preparation for the state's move towards comprehensive legislative reforms.

On the other hand, and in line with Qatar's winning the bid to host the 2022 World Cup, Emiri Resolution No. (27) of 2016 regarding the organizational structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs came to define the competencies and tasks of the Human Rights Department in the Ministry in a way that ensures achieving the highest possible work effectiveness at the Human Rights Office, as The Emiri decision specified these powers and tasks as follows: ⁽³⁹⁾

1. Providing opinion and advice on matters and issues related to human rights that are referred to it.
2. Expressing an opinion on draft international agreements and existing agreements related to human rights to which the state wishes to be a party, in coordination with the Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry and the competent authorities in the state.
3. Participate in preparing reports prepared by the state on human rights in

(39) Emiri Resolution No. (27) of 2016 regarding the organizational structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

accordance with international agreements and submitting them to the relevant international monitoring entities, in coordination with the Ministry's Legal Affairs Department.

4. Preparing studies, research and reports related to human rights in cooperation with the competent authorities in the country.
5. Preparing appropriate responses to reports issued by international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on the human rights situation in the country, in coordination with the competent authorities, and sending them to these organizations.
6. Preparing responses to foreign governments' reports on human rights conditions in the country, in coordination with the competent authorities, and communicating them to those governments.
7. Providing the country's diplomatic and consular missions abroad with human rights developments in the country.
8. Follow up on issues related to human rights locally and internationally, follow up on meetings and activities held within the framework of regional, Arab and international organizations in the field of human rights, and coordinate to involve the relevant administrative units in the ministry and the competent authorities in the country.
9. Referring complaints received from abroad related to human rights to the competent authorities and following them up.
10. Preparing the necessary plans and proposals to benefit from the consulting and technical assistance services provided by international organizations and entities in the field of human rights.
11. Representing the Ministry in the entities concerned with human rights established by the state.

This Emiri decision to define the tasks and powers of the Human Rights Office in Qatar came in response to winning the hosting of the 2022 World Cup, and as a move towards further strengthening of legislative reforms in the country as an official approach for the state, as the Emiri decision strengthened the powers and tasks of the Human Rights Office to become part of the participation process of monitoring the reality of human rights during the organizing of the World Cup 2022, through which coordination can be made with international governmental and non-governmental entities and organizations concerned with human rights through the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the above, the Qatari legislator was keen to develop laws and

legislation related to the rights of workers in the country, in line with Qatar's reception of thousands of workers who came to participate in building the infrastructure for the World Cup 2022, which led to the inevitability of developing this legislation in line with the volume of expatriate workers that came to the country after the announcement that Doha had won the hosting bid of FIFA World Cup 2022, which caused the Qatari legislator to introduce some laws and amend others. As a result, Law No. (21) of 2015 regulating the entry and exit of expatriates came as a qualitative leap in terms of protecting workers' rights, as the law was not limited to merely abolishing the sponsorship system and reorganizing the relationship between the worker and the employer on the basis of the employment contract, but rather included many texts that respect the rights of the worker as a human being, and respect international covenants related to the protection of human rights, to which the State of Qatar is a party. This development came within several axes as follows:

12.1: Criminalizing trafficking in entry visas or waiving them

There have been some wrong practices regarding the use of expatriate workers, as the expatriate worker arrives with a specific entry visa and does not find work, forcing him/her to accept, under the pressure of necessity, lower-paid work, or work that is not commensurate with his/her qualifications and academic and job experience, and under unfair conditions, which has reinforced the spread of the phenomenon of human trafficking through entry visas, as many international and human rights organizations consider that trafficking in entry visas falls within human trafficking. Therefore, the Qatari legislator amended some provisions of Law No. (15) of 2011 regarding combating human trafficking in accordance with Law No. (5) of 2020, as Article (17) of the law stipulates that "Anyone who attempts to commit any of the crimes of human trafficking or crimes of smuggling migrants stipulated in Articles (2) and (4 bis) of this law."

Article (21) of the previous law also came to emphasize the scope of the limits of human trafficking from a legal perspective, as the article stipulated that "Anyone who incites, by any means, to commit one of the crimes of human trafficking stipulated in this law, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding seven years and a fine not exceeding (50,000) fifty thousand Qatari riyals, even if the incitement has no effect." Thus, the Qatari legislator did not leave a space for weak-minded people who committed the crime of human trafficking to be able to exploit the arrival of thousands of migrant workers to the country.

The Qatari legislator also increased the punishment for perpetrators of the crime of human trafficking, as Article (14) of the previous law stipulates that "Anyone who commits one of the crimes shall be punished with imprisonment for a

period not exceeding seven years and a fine not exceeding (250,000) two hundred and fifty thousand riyals, anyone who commits one of the crimes of human trafficking stipulated in Article (2) of this law”.

In this regard, Article (2) expanded on the challenge of the human trafficking framework in the law, as it stipulated that “Any person who uses, transports, delivers, harbors, receives, a natural person in any way, whether within the state or across its national borders, if this is done by the use or threat of force or violence, or by kidnapping, fraud, deception, abuse of power, exploitation of a state of weakness or need, or the promise to give or receive sums of money or benefits in exchange for obtaining a person’s consent to trafficking another person over whom he has control, all if these acts are for the purpose of exploitation, whatever its form, including exploitation in prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, exploitation of children in that, pornography, begging, forced labor or service, slavery, or practices similar to slavery or servitude, or the removal of human organs or tissues, or part thereof.” This expansion in defining the framework of the crime of human trafficking would tighten the noose on those who dare to commit such a crime.

Furthermore, Law No. (21) of 2015 regulating the entry, exit and residence of expatriates came in order to tighten control over those who manipulate people’s livelihoods and rights, and in an effort to guarantee the rights and freedoms of individuals when they come to the country, as Article (4) of the previous law stipulates: “... forbidden to assign traits to others, dispose of them in any way, or trade them by others, whether the assignment, disposition, or trading is for or without compensation.” In this regard, the legislator did well when he criminalized all forms of assignment, disposition, or trading of traits, whether this is in return or without compensation, so that the worker is not subject to trafficking in any form.

Article (7) of the previous law also came to protect the expatriate worker who wishes to leave the country, without falling under the control of the recruiting employer, as was the case in the past, as the previous article stipulated that “... the expatriate has the right to work in the event that he is not able to leaving the country for any reason, resorting to the Expatriates’ Exit Grievances Committee, the formation of which, the definition of its powers, the procedures to be followed and its work system shall be issued by a decision of the Minister, and the committee must decide on the grievance within three working days.” That is, the Qatari legislator was keen on the human right to leave the country in line with what was stipulated in international charters and treaties in this regard.

To ensure the financial rights of expatriate workers and their receipt of the remainder of their entitlements when they wish to leave the country or the expiration

of the term of their employment contract, the Qatari legislator specified this matter in the text of Article (20), as the article stipulates that “the Ministry may oblige someone who recruits an expatriate to work subject to the aforementioned labor law to provide a bank guarantee to guarantee the fulfillment of his obligations towards the Ministry and the expatriate, in accordance with the controls issued by a decision of the Minister. The Ministry may also, if the recruiter is a public employee and breaches his obligations towards the expatriate for work, his deportation expenses will be met from his salary and entitlements, in coordination with his employer.”

The Qatari legislator was also keen on the freedom of movement guaranteed by international charters and treaties in this regard, as Article (34) of the previous law stipulates that “the person authorized to reside may leave the country during its validity period, without obtaining permission or a permit.”

12.2: Facilitating the procedures for the worker's departure

The right to movement is one of the basic rights of humans, as they are by nature mobile beings. This right is stipulated in Article (13) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states:

- Every individual has the right to freedom of movement and to choose his place of residence within the borders of the state.
- Every individual has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Therefore, the right of the expatriate worker to leave Qatar is considered a human right guaranteed by international conventions, and the worker may not be deprived of this right except in accordance with the law. In this regard, the Qatari Constitution stipulates in Article (36) that “Personal freedom is guaranteed, no person may be arrested, imprisoned, searched, his place of residence determined, or his freedom of residence or movement restricted except in accordance with the provisions of the law, no person may be subjected to torture or degrading treatment, torture is considered a crime punishable by law.”

Law (21) of 2015 includes provisions that preserve the worker's right to movement by preventing the employer from retaining the worker's passport and seizing it, and by regulating the worker's exit from the country in a way that prevents the employer from arbitrarily exercising his right to grant the worker permission to leave. Regarding prohibiting the confiscation of a worker's passport, Article (8) stipulates that: “Every expatriate to reside in the country for any purpose must obtain a license to do so from the competent authority. The recruiter is obligated to carry out the licensing procedures and renew it within a period not exceeding (90) days

from the date of its expiration. The employer must hand the expatriate to work his passport or travel document after completing licensing procedures or renewal, unless the expatriate requests the employer in writing to keep it for him, provided that he delivers it to him upon request.”

From this text, it is clear that it is not permissible for the employer to keep the worker’s passport or travel document except for the purpose of finalizing the residency permit procedures and renewing this residency and within a period not exceeding (90) days from the date of expiration of the license, in other than these two cases, the employer may not keep a passport or document of the worker travels unless the latter requests it in writing, with the employer’s obligation to deliver it to the worker whenever he requests it. If the employer violates these provisions, he is exposed to a penalty stipulated in Article (39) of the previous law, where he is punished with a fine not exceeding 25,000 riyals, without prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated by another law.

It is clear from the above that Qatari law has developed regarding regulating the exit of the expatriate worker from the country, as this exit was previously conditional on obtaining a permit from the employer. The legislator, in Article (7), regulated the worker’s exit, allowing the exit to not be an absolute authority in the hands of the employer to practice it without supervision, as international conventions grant a person the right to movement due to any personal circumstances that may arise in his life, such as going on vacation, the death of one of the worker’s relatives, or other reasons that do not prevent him from obtaining approval from the employer.

12.3: Reconciliation in some violations committed by the worker and exemption from deportation expenses

In Article No. (42) of Law No. (21) of 2015, the legislator specified some violations that could be reconciled and attached to it a table showing the violation that could be reconciled and the amount of the reconciliation amount. However, the legislator added in Article (45) of the same law that it was allocated to the minister or whoever he appoints, in accordance with the requirements of the public interest or humanitarian considerations, may exempt the accused from the settlement amount decided for any of the crimes stipulated in this law or reduce it to the extent he deems appropriate.

It is clear here that reconciliation in some crimes arising from violations of the law regulating the entry and exit of expatriates reflects a humanitarian dimension in the Qatari legislator, as an expatriate who commits a violation prefers to pay a sum for reconciliation instead of imprisonment. However, consideration of human

rights appears clearly in what is included in Article (45) of the previous law, where the Minister or his representative may, “In accordance with the requirements of the public interest, or for humanitarian considerations, the accused may be exempted from the settlement amount decided for any of the crimes stipulated in this law, or reduced to the extent he deems appropriate.” In this way, the Qatari legislator did well to develop legislation that contributes to preserving human dignity and protecting the worker’s rights and freedoms guaranteed by international human rights conventions and treaties.

13. Conclusion

The current research monitors the concept of human rights as stated in international agreements and treaties in this regard, in an attempt to determine a general framework through which the possibility of human rights violations can be identified, and the mechanisms for protecting and safeguarding these rights.

The current research also addresses the reality of human rights in the State of Qatar since the beginning of the modern state’s journey in the reform process in various aspects of life, including the legislative aspect, specifically the aspect related to protecting migrant workers, their rights and freedoms, and preserving their dignity in line with international conventions in this regard.

The current research also addresses the most prominent legislative reforms undertaken by the State of Qatar in the context of its victory in hosting the 2022 World Cup, and the extent to which these reforms reflect on Qatar’s international position before human rights organizations and the international community in general, and how these reforms affected the various legislation and laws related to migrant workers, and regulating their entry, exit and residence, ensuring their protection and protecting their financial entitlements to employers, in addition to protecting their right to leave the country unconditionally by the recruiter, as these legislative reforms have strengthened Qatar’s international image in terms of the reality of the human rights file in the country, in addition to the dimensions of benefit from the experience of hosting the World Cup by Qatar on the one hand, and by human rights organizations and the international community on the other hand.

14. Results

Based on what was presented in the study, and the implications it addressed regarding the reality of human rights in Qatar and the legislative reforms in the country, the study reached the following results:

1. The State of Qatar's keenness to develop legislation to protect human rights came prior to it winning the bid to host the 2022 World Cup, as the state began before 2010 a series of radical reforms in its legislative, legal and administrative system, in order to provide the appropriate legal environment for the establishment and modernization of human rights as part of the permanent constitution of the State of Qatar 2004.
2. Qatar has made unremitting efforts to improve its status in the international community with regard to human rights, and winning the bid to host the World Cup served as an encouraging incentive to accelerate the legislative reforms that the country had already begun.
3. Qatar has adopted a series of pioneering legislative, administrative and educational reforms in the field of human rights protection. These reforms have contributed to the abolition of the sponsorship system, which has received many international criticisms over the past decades. The state has also been keen to improve working conditions and decent living for all workers and create a safe and balanced working environment, in accordance with international labor standards.
4. The human rights situation in Qatar witnessed a significant and tangible improvement that was praised by many parties of the international community, and led to the election of the State of Qatar by the United Nations General Assembly at its 67th session to membership in the United Nations Human Rights Council with a majority of 182 votes.
5. Qatar has provided a great opportunity for international human rights organizations to become part of the monitoring operations of international sporting events, through the great openness that the state has provided to these organizations in order to involve them in the various stages of preparation and implementation of the World Cup.

15. Recommendations

Based on the results reached and what was presented previously in the research, the following recommendations were reached:

1. The process of legislative reform is an ongoing, renewable and permanent process, and the completion of the World Cup does not mean the end of legislative reform processes related to human rights. Despite the remarkable achievement the state has achieved in this field, the Qatari legislator needs to continue the process of legislative reforms to ensure absolute protection of human rights.

2. Developing educational curricula in schools and universities alike, and creating university majors related to human rights in order to fill the state's need for specialists in this regard, which is in line with the state's ambitions and aspirations to become an attraction spot for international events.
3. The participation of Qatar in any future global sporting event as an observer in the field of human rights is considered a necessity for the state that seeks to occupy a distinguished position in this field, as previous experiences in the 2022 World Cup can be used to contribute to monitoring human rights in various international events.
4. Conducting studies and research related to human rights in the State of Qatar, due to the existence of a research gap in the Qatari library on the reality of human rights in Qatar and legislative reforms in this regard, and linking this variable with new variables other than those addressed in the current study, in order to enrich the national library with more studies related to the Qatari environment.

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