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人权理事会
第六届会议
议程项目 3

增进和保护所有人权、公民、政治、经济、
社会和文化权利，包括发展权

2007 年 9 月 18 日卡塔尔国常驻联合国日内瓦
办事处代表团致人权理事会秘书处的信函

卡塔尔国常驻联合国日内瓦办事处代表团向人权理事会秘书处致意，并就贩运人口、尤其是妇女和儿童行为受害者的人权问题特别报告员西格马·胡达女士关于对巴林·阿曼和卡塔尔的访问报告(A/HRC/4/23/Add.2 和 Corr.1)，¹ 谨随函附上对上述报告中关于访问卡塔尔的部份作出的答复。*

¹ 关于该报告的审议将延迟到理事会以后一届会议。

* 除英文本外附件不译，原文照发。

Annex

COMMENTS OF THE STATE OF QATAR BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

At the outset the State of Qatar should like sincerely to thank the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Sigma Huda, for visiting Qatar on 8-12 November 2006 in pursuance of her mandate for trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The State of Qatar regards the visit as a historical one, since it was the first of its kind to be carried out under the mandates of the special rapporteurs.

We should like to express our thanks and appreciation firstly for the transparency, openness and cooperation that you showed to the Qatari Government during your visit to the State and for commending the State for allowing you to visit all the institutions and facilities that you wanted to see and, secondly, for your appreciation of the positive aspects of the State's efforts in the legislative, institutional and regulatory domains to combat the phenomenon of human trafficking. We share your view that the visit was a positive prologue to a constructive dialogue with the Government on ways to reinforce measures at the international level to eliminate the phenomenon of trafficking in persons.

Allow us to inform Your Excellency of the most recent legislative developments pertaining to the elimination of trafficking in persons. Thus, in addition to the legislative framework to which you refer in detail in your report, ongoing efforts are being made to secure approval of a draft law on trafficking in persons and a draft law on *kafala* with a view to strengthening and reinforcing the legislative framework. The State of Qatar recently ratified the ILO Convention concerning forced labour.

The mechanisms which you refer to in your report can be categorized as follows:

(a) Governmental mechanisms, including the Office of the National Coordinator for the Elimination of Trafficking in Persons, the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of the Interior, the Human Rights Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Labour;

(b) Non-governmental mechanisms (civil society): here, mention may be made of the National Human Rights Committee and the Qatari Foundation for the Protection of Children and Women, which also play an important role in combating human trafficking.

Allow us to make the following comments on the report, which we acknowledge and appreciate as a positive report:

With regard to the statement in paragraph 78 of the report that women who have been forced into prostitution in Qatar are brought in to the country through Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates, we should like to point out that entry into Qatar can be effected only with a valid visa (a work visa or a tourist visa). The allegation that women are brought in through the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is astonishing, since the Kingdom and its people are very religious and

conservative and the laws in force in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia do not allow women to travel without being escorted by a close male relative. It is therefore not possible for women to be brought in through Saudi Arabia. As for the United Arab Emirates, there are no material or other grounds to support such allegations.

Paragraph 42 refers to “reports that despite repatriation of a large number of children, some were retained as farm workers living in difficult conditions”. On this point, we should like to make the following comments:

After Act No. 22 of 2005, prohibiting the employment, training and involvement of children in camel racing, was approved, and as indicated in the report, all child jockeys were repatriated and robots were introduced for use as racing jockeys.

As indicated in the report, the State, through Qatar Charity, has carried out economic, educational and cultural programmes for the rehabilitation of these children in their home countries.

The follow-up committee on the implementation of Act No. 22 of 2005 paid several visits to camel racing tracks before and after the Special Rapporteur’s visit and did not discover any breaches of the Act. Checks were carried out to ensure that there were no children at or in the vicinity of the track.

There are other committees in the Department of Labour which follow up on the implementation of the Act. They have been given police powers and operate as labour inspectors, carrying out regular follow-up and inspections. No breaches have been recorded or observed.

The reports that children are being employed as agricultural workers are therefore totally unfounded. Moreover, no reports have been received from non-governmental organizations in this regard.

In conclusion, allow us to emphasize the importance of the special rapporteurs’ mandates and the commitment of the State to cooperating with them fully. We should also like to confirm that the political will is there to make progress towards strengthening and reinforcing measures not only at the domestic level but also at the international level in order to eliminate the phenomenon of trafficking in persons.

For Your Excellency’s kind perusal and for transmission.

Accept, Madam, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed): Khalid bin Jasim Al Thani
Director
Human Rights Bureau
