

To Mrs. Lama Fakih

Deputy Director - Middle East Division – Human Rights Watch

18 June 2019

Subject: Human Rights Watch Letter to HE Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Al-Thani

In reference to your email received on 4/29/2019 (attached), regarding the abovementioned topic, our response is as follows:

- Cases of revocation and withdrawal of nationality are limited to articles 11 and 12 of "Law No. 38 of 2005 on the acquisition of Qatari nationality", wherein the measure is considered permissible. If grounds for revocation or withdrawal have been established, the State may nevertheless opt to preserve nationality if it deems it necessary for the public interest, or it may revoke Qatari nationality or withdraw it by an Emiri decision.
- Pursuant to Article 1 of the Qatari Nationality Law, persons to whom Qatari nationality has been reinstated in accordance with the provisions of law are considered Qatari Nationals, and not naturalized Qataris.
- Article 18 of the law prohibits any person to hold in addition to the Qatari nationality, any other nationality except by a decision of the Emir. Article 6 of the law provides for an exception for the provisions of Articles 2 and 18 of the law, allowing for Qatari nationality to be granted by an Emiri decision to specific categories of people who rendered great services to the country, or who have particular skills the country need, or students who excel by showing promising scientific ability, in which case, based on the requirements of the public interest, Qatari nationality may be granted in such cases to the persons concerned, who may also retain their original nationality.
- The Permanent Committee for Naturalization is tasked with reviewing requests submitted to grant, revoke or reinstate Qatari nationality, and determining whether the conditions stipulated for such by the Qatari Nationality Law have been met.
- As regards clarifying the process for some individuals of the Al Ghufra clan, Qatari nationality was reinstated to most of those who settled in the country and from whom Qatari nationality had been withdrawn after they violated the Qatari Nationality Law, specifically Articles 11 and 12. Nationality was reinstated to those who regularized their situation in the country and renounced other nationalities they held.

As to the claims that those from whom nationality was withdrawn or revoked are deprived of their rights, these claims are unfounded since coordination among relevant State agencies about this matter are ongoing and continuous in order to allow these persons to benefit from education and healthcare services and to travel for humanitarian purposes.

- As to the withdrawal of Qatari nationality from Taleb Mohammad Ali Shafia, his nationality was withdrawn in accordance with the Qatari Nationality Law which prohibits the holding of dual nationalities, and as to Mohammad Fetais Al-Mari he still holds Qatari nationality.

Kindly submitted for your review and information