

PRESS RELEASE

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JUSTICE FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL (JPTi) URGES IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND JUDICIAL ABUSES TARGETING WHISTLEBLOWERS IN QATAR

Geneva, Switzerland – Justice pour Tous Internationale (JPTi) calls upon the international community to urgently address escalating human rights violations and judicial abuses by the State of Qatar. The egregious persecution of Mr Tayeb Benabderrahmane, a French-Algerian entrepreneur, geopolitical analyst, and human rights advocate, underscores Qatar's systemic misuse of national security laws to silence whistleblowers and obstruct international justice.

Mr Benabderrahmane's case exemplifies Qatar's attempts to suppress international accountability relating to allegations of corruption linked to Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup. At the time of his arrest, Mr Benabderrahmane reportedly possessed crucial information concerning ongoing international investigations by judicial authorities in France, Switzerland, and the United States into financial irregularities connected to Qatar's World Cup bid. His subsequent ordeal involves grave allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, financial asset seizure, extraterritorial persecution, and a politically motivated death sentence delivered in absentia—violations that collectively demonstrate Qatar's stark disregard for international law and fundamental human rights.

On 13 January 2020, Qatari State Security forces arrested Mr Benabderrahmane without warrant or due legal process, resulting in his enforced disappearance for 19 days. This period involved complete isolation from family, legal counsel, and diplomatic representatives, exacerbating profound psychological distress. Mr Benabderrahmane was subsequently deprived of his liberty without formal charges for a total of 307 days, during which he was subjected to severe torture, coercive interrogations, and persistent psychological abuse intended to extract forced confessions and suppress his legitimate disclosures.

Throughout his detention, Mr Benabderrahmane endured systematic physical abuse, prolonged solitary confinement, sleep deprivation, and threats against his life and family. The deployment of mock executions as psychological torture further inflicted irreversible trauma, leaving long-lasting psychological injuries. These actions reflect deliberate attempts by Qatari authorities to dismantle his mental and emotional resilience, a practice unequivocally prohibited under international human rights law.

Prior to his forced expulsion to France in November 2020, Qatari authorities unlawfully confiscated Mr Benabderrahmane's financial assets, personal documents, and business holdings. This deliberate financial persecution was designed to incapacitate him economically, further preventing any legal recourse against the violations committed against him. Such

extrajudicial economic reprisals demonstrate Qatar's intention to permanently undermine the victim's capacity for self-sufficiency and advocacy.

Following his expulsion, Qatar continued to persecute Mr Benabderrahmane through secretive judicial proceedings culminating in a death sentence imposed in absentia on 31 May 2023, later upheld on appeal in a closed hearing on 26 October. Independent international examinations, notably by French judicial experts, have confirmed substantial procedural irregularities, including falsified documents and forged signatures. This judicial weaponisation exemplifies Qatar's abuse of national security frameworks to target political dissidents beyond its territorial jurisdiction.

Qatar's actions constitute flagrant violations of international human rights treaties, specifically the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). Violations include arbitrary detention (Article 9 ICCPR), torture and ill-treatment (Article 7 ICCPR), unfair trial proceedings (Article 14 ICCPR), unlawful interference with privacy (Article 17 ICCPR), and forced disappearance—each significantly breaching Qatar's international obligations.

The extraterritorial dimension of Qatar's persecution further highlights the critical international concern of transnational repression, demonstrating how authoritarian regimes may exploit national security justifications to suppress dissent beyond national borders. The international community must respond decisively to these threats against global standards of human rights protection.

JPTi calls for urgent, unified international action to halt the continuing human rights violations and transnational persecution of whistleblowers perpetrated by the State of Qatar. The grave case of Mr Benabderrahmane necessitates immediate international intervention to secure his safety, reverse his unjust sentence, and ensure comprehensive accountability for the severe violations committed against him.

As a current member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Qatar is explicitly obligated to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights, as mandated by General Assembly Resolution 60/251. In particular, the Council's current President, H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber of Switzerland, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Volker Türk, hold critical responsibilities in ensuring that Council members comply rigorously with their international human rights obligations. Thus, Justice pour Tous Internationale urgently appeals to Ambassador Lauber and High Commissioner Türk to exercise their respective authorities and publicly demand that Qatar immediately cease all forms of judicial persecution and transnational repression against whistleblowers, including Mr Benabderrahmane.

Further, JPTi respectfully reminds the Special Procedures mandate holders—particularly the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, and the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders—that formal communication must promptly be directed to the Government of Qatar. Such communication should explicitly demand Qatar to annul Mr Benabderrahmane's unjust death sentence, cease all extraterritorial harassment, provide appropriate reparations, and restore all unlawfully confiscated assets and property. The United Nations Special Procedures are expected to jointly

address Qatar with the urgency warranted by this matter, firmly calling upon its authorities to transparently respond to these allegations and immediately halt all further human rights abuses.

Moreover, Qatar's National Human Rights Committee (NHRC)—accredited with 'A' status under the Paris Principles and chaired by Maryam bint Abdullah Al Attiyah, who concurrently chairs the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)—has an unequivocal duty to uphold its independence and accountability obligations. The NHRC must not neglect the severe allegations detailed in the formal complaint and public statements by JPTi. It is imperative that the NHRC promptly initiates an independent investigation into Mr Benabderrahmane's case, addressing judicial manipulation, falsification of evidence, enforced disappearance, torture, and arbitrary detention, in strict accordance with the Paris Principles. Failure to do so risks undermining its international credibility and jeopardising its current accreditation status.

In addition, Justice pour Tous Internationale urges diplomatic actors—particularly France, Switzerland, and other European states—to proactively engage with the State of Qatar to secure the revocation of Mr Benabderrahmane's politically compromised death sentence. The international community must decisively convey to Qatar that economic and diplomatic relationships cannot supersede fundamental human rights principles or be used to shield states from accountability for serious human rights abuses. Qatar must provide full accountability, restore unlawfully seized assets, and offer appropriate reparations to Mr Benabderrahmane. Additionally, Qatar must unequivocally guarantee non-recurrence and cease all extraterritorial harassment.

The failure to comprehensively address these violations will establish a dangerous precedent, threatening the core foundations of international human rights protection and potentially encouraging further state-sponsored repression and transnational abuses. Justice pour Tous Internationale remains steadfastly committed to ensuring that Qatar is held accountable for these grave violations, that international human rights law is rigorously upheld, and that comprehensive justice is delivered for Mr Benabderrahmane and all other individuals subjected to similar acts of persecution.

Justice pour Tous Internationale remains steadfastly committed to pursuing justice for Mr Benabderrahmane, demanding accountability from Qatar, and reinforcing the international rule of law against transnational repression and judicial abuses.

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Further details regarding these allegations and their legal basis can be found in the full complaint submitted to the United Nations Special Procedures Mandate Holders.

- To:**
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 - Mr. George Katrougalos, Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (hrc-ie-internationalorder@un.org)
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 - Secretariat of the Bureau of the Human Rights Council (hrcouncil@un.org)
 - Mr. Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (ohchr-registry@un.org)

07 March 2025

Dear Special Procedures Mandate Holders,

Justice pour Tous Internationale (JPTi) respectfully submits the enclosed urgent complaint concerning severe human rights violations committed by the State of Qatar against Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane, a French-Algerian national, entrepreneur, and human rights defender. This complaint specifically addresses allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, politically motivated prosecution, judicial manipulation, and transnational repression perpetrated by Qatari authorities.

Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane, a distinguished geopolitical and economic consultant and human rights defender, faces an imminent risk of execution following a judicial process that was

fundamentally compromised by procedural irregularities, judicial interference, coercive interrogations, and credible allegations of torture. His case highlights the misuse of national security legislation to silence whistleblowers and suppress evidence of high-level corruption, financial irregularities, and human rights abuses within Qatari institutions.

Given the gravity and urgency of these allegations—including violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)—immediate intervention by your esteemed offices is essential to safeguard Mr. Benabderrahmane's fundamental rights and prevent irreparable harm.

It is particularly concerning that Qatar is set to host the 11th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) from 15 to 19 December 2025 in Doha. Given the serious allegations of judicial corruption, document falsification, and systemic human rights violations detailed in this complaint, Qatar's hosting of this critical international anti-corruption forum raises fundamental questions regarding the integrity and appropriateness of its role as host. Justice pour Tous Internationale is particularly alarmed by the apparent inadequacies in the UNCAC review mechanism, notably Qatar's review conducted by the State of Palestine, whose substantial financial dependence on Qatar creates a significant conflict of interest. JPTi urges careful consideration of these issues, as they bear directly upon the credibility and effectiveness of international anti-corruption oversight.

We respectfully urge the Special Procedures Mandate Holders to promptly address these urgent concerns by:

- Issuing formal communication to the Government of Qatar, demanding immediate suspension of any attempt at execution and annulment of the death sentence.
- Initiating an independent and transparent international investigation into the allegations of torture, enforced disappearance, judicial corruption, falsification of judicial records, and the systematic denial of fair trial guarantees.
- Requesting detailed and timely responses from the State of Qatar concerning the alleged human rights violations and procedural irregularities outlined in the attached complaint.
- Demand the immediate cessation of Qatar's extraterritorial reprisals, including the transnational persecution and surveillance faced by Mr. Benabderrahmane.
- Ensuring protective measures are in place to prevent further reprisals against Mr. Benabderrahmane and to guarantee his safety while residing in France.
- Calling upon diplomatic actors, including France and the European Union, to engage proactively with the Government of Qatar to secure the annulment of this politically motivated conviction.

- Request that Qatar fully restore Mr. Benabderrahmane's unlawfully confiscated assets and property, provide appropriate reparations for all damages suffered, and ensure guarantees of non-repetition.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this serious matter and respectfully request confirmation of receipt of the enclosed complaint. JPTi stands ready to provide any additional information, documentation, or cooperation required for further proceedings.

We look forward to your swift response and remain hopeful for a resolution that upholds fundamental human rights, justice, and international accountability.

Sincerely,



Sharof Azizov
Founder and Executive Director
Justice pour Tous Internationale

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COMPLAINT to UNITED NATIONS

Tayeb Benabderrahmane vs Qatar

07 March 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Justice pour Tous Internationale (JPTi) submits this urgent complaint to the United Nations Special Procedures Mandate Holders, specifically addressing the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, and guarantees of non-repetition; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

This complaint seeks immediate international intervention concerning the severe human rights violations committed by the State of Qatar against Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane, a French-Algerian national, entrepreneur, and geopolitical consultant. Mr. Benabderrahmane currently faces an imminent risk of execution following judicial proceedings in Qatar that were severely compromised by procedural irregularities, judicial interference, and credible allegations of torture. His case exemplifies systemic concerns regarding Qatar's use of national security legislation to unjustly target individuals engaged in uncovering corruption, financial irregularities, and human rights abuses, thus violating fundamental principles of due process and judicial independence.

As a consultant, Mr. Benabderrahmane advised Qatar's National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) from 2017 to 2020, providing insights into governance, human rights compliance, and financial oversight frameworks. During this tenure, he had access to sensitive information concerning financial practices, regulatory compliance, and international engagement strategies, particularly regarding Qatar's hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup. His advisory work brought him into contact with evidence suggesting potential financial misconduct involving senior Qatari officials, particularly regarding governance structures and financial transactions linked to global sports diplomacy.

On 13 January 2020, Qatari State Security agents arrested Mr. Benabderrahmane without warrant or charge, forcibly disappeared him for 19 days, and subjected him to prolonged arbitrary detention. Throughout his detention, he endured severe physical and psychological mistreatment, including sleep deprivation, prolonged solitary confinement, coercive interrogations, and threats of execution. These actions violate the absolute prohibition against torture under the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

After 307 days of detention, under extreme duress, Mr. Benabderrahmane was compelled to sign undisclosed documents, including a coercive non-disclosure agreement with a €5 million penalty clause, before being forcibly expelled to France on 1 November 2020. His

expulsion was preceded by the unlawful confiscation of all his personal and professional records and the arbitrary seizure of his financial assets and business investments in Qatar. This forced expulsion did not mark the end of Qatar's persecution but rather transitioned into a broader strategy of transnational repression, surveillance, and intimidation to maintain control and silence him permanently.

Despite being expelled, Qatar continued its judicial persecution, initiating secret criminal proceedings against him in early 2023. On 31 May 2023, the Court of First Instance of Qatar sentenced him to death in absentia under Articles 107 and 128 of the Qatar Penal Code, accusing him of engaging with a foreign state in ways allegedly harming Qatar's economic and political interests. The proceedings were held secretly, denying Mr. Benabderrahmane any form of notification, legal representation, or opportunity for defense. On 26 October 2023, the Court of Appeal upheld the death sentence, similarly without his knowledge or legal representation, raising further profound concerns about judicial impartiality and independence.

Independent forensic experts, including French forensic specialist Céline Lauro, have identified substantial irregularities in the judicial documents related to his case. This analysis confirmed forged signatures, falsified judicial records, and procedural irregularities, significantly undermining the legitimacy of the entire judicial process. These findings strongly indicate that Qatar's judiciary acted under direct influence from its State Security Bureau rather than as an independent judicial entity, representing a severe breach of Article 14 of the ICCPR, which guarantees the right to a fair trial.

Furthermore, a letter dated 18 July 2023 from Qatar's Prime Minister explicitly stated the intent of the Qatari authorities to pursue execution, thereby confirming the immediate risk of execution or forced rendition. Given Qatar's documented practices of extraterritorial repression, surveillance, and targeting of individuals residing abroad, there remains an urgent and credible threat to Mr. Benabderrahmane's life and personal security, necessitating immediate protective measures and international accountability.

These grave human rights violations directly contradict Qatar's international obligations under the ICCPR, the UNCAT, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Qatar's ongoing actions against Mr. Benabderrahmane demonstrate systemic failures in its judicial system, undermining international standards for due process, judicial impartiality, and transparency.

JPTi respectfully urges the Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the United Nations Human Rights Council to issue an urgent formal communication to the Government of Qatar demanding immediate suspension of any attempt at execution, an annulment of the death sentence, and a comprehensive, impartial review of the judicial proceedings conducted against Mr. Benabderrahmane. Moreover, JPTi requests that an independent and transparent

investigation, monitored internationally, be conducted into allegations of torture, judicial corruption, and violations of due process to ensure accountability.

Furthermore, coordinated diplomatic engagement from France and the European Union is critical to compel Qatar to overturn this politically compromised conviction and safeguard Mr. Benabderrahmane against continued persecution.

The failure of international mechanisms, Qatar's NHRC and diplomatic actors to intervene decisively in this case would not only risk the unlawful execution of an individual deprived of fair trial guarantees but would also reinforce the dangerous precedent of exploiting judicial frameworks as instruments of political repression, emboldening further abuses globally. The international community must act promptly and effectively to uphold the rule of law, human rights standards, and protections for whistleblowers, ensuring accountability for all violations committed in this serious matter.

I. INTRODUCTION

Justice pour Tous Internationale (JPTi) submits this urgent complaint to the United Nations regarding the serious and escalating human rights violations committed by the State of Qatar against Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane, a French-Algerian national, entrepreneur, investor, consultant in geopolitics and social justice, and human rights defender. The urgency of this case is paramount, as Mr. Benabderrahmane faces an imminent risk of execution following a judicial process marred by significant due process violations and political interference. His case exemplifies a broader pattern in which Qatari authorities exploit the judicial and security apparatus to suppress individuals who uncover corruption, expose human rights violations, or challenge the political, financial, and geopolitical interests of those in power.

Mr. Benabderrahmane's prosecution appears to be directly linked to his professional activities, including his access to sensitive information related to financial transactions and governance issues within Qatari institutions. His work involved examining financial dealings, influence networks, and lobbying activities associated with Qatar's preparations to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup. As a result, he became the subject of state security measures that ultimately led to his arbitrary detention, prosecution under national security laws, and conviction in absentia.

Recently obtained documents and forensic assessments raise serious concerns regarding the integrity of the judicial process, including the reliability of evidence used against him. These findings suggest that his prosecution was tainted by procedural irregularities, raising significant questions about due process and judicial independence.

Following his prolonged and arbitrary detention, Mr. Benabderrahmane was subjected to coercive treatment, including prolonged isolation and pressure to sign undisclosed documents under duress, before being forcibly expelled from Qatar. He was subsequently tried in absentia, without legal representation, notice of proceedings, or the opportunity to challenge the charges against him. The secrecy surrounding his trial and appeal, along with the absence of due process safeguards, raises grave concerns about the fairness and legitimacy of the proceedings. His conviction and death sentence in absentia reflect broader concerns regarding the use of national security laws to restrict fundamental rights, including access to a fair trial and judicial transparency.

The timing of Mr. Benabderrahmane's detention, from January to October 2020, coincided with key phases of multiple international investigations into allegations of corruption, including in Switzerland, France, and the United States, regarding FIFA's selection of Qatar as the host of the 2022 World Cup. During this period, Swiss prosecutors were actively conducting investigations into financial transactions and governance issues linked to FIFA broadcasting rights and Qatar's role in international sports diplomacy.

Publicly available reports indicate that investigative authorities in Europe were examining matters involving high-profile figures associated with Qatar's sports governance structures.

Mr. Benabderrahmane is reported to have had access to documents containing information relevant to these investigations. His prolonged incommunicado detention and total isolation from legal representatives and consular assistance prevented him from engaging with investigative bodies at a critical juncture. This raises concerns regarding the potential impact of his detention on international legal cooperation and access to witnesses in ongoing legal proceedings.

During his 307-day detention, Mr. Benabderrahmane was subjected to severe physical and psychological mistreatment, including incommunicado detention, coercive interrogations, and the confiscation of his personal and professional files. His detention began on 13 January 2020, coinciding with critical phases of ongoing international investigations into allegations of corruption related to FIFA's bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

At the time of his arrest, the Swiss Attorney General's Office was intensifying its examination of financial transactions linked to FIFA's decision to award the 2022 World Cup to Qatar, focusing on whether illicit payments had influenced the selection process. Simultaneously, French judicial authorities were investigating high-level meetings held in 2010 at the Élysée Palace, where discussions involving key political and sports figures, including former French President Nicolas Sarkozy and then-FIFA Vice President Michel Platini, took place in the presence of senior Qatari officials, including the Emir of Qatar. Public reports have raised concerns that these discussions may have played a role in shaping FIFA's final decision in favor of Qatar.

The circumstances surrounding Mr. Benabderrahmane's detention, particularly its timing in relation to these investigations, raise questions about its potential impact on international legal cooperation and access to key witnesses. His prolonged isolation and lack of access to independent legal representation may have had consequences for the ability of Swiss and French authorities to obtain relevant testimony or documentary evidence during a critical stage of their inquiries.

The international implications of Mr. Benabderrahmane's enforced disappearance are significant. His inaccessibility to international investigative bodies during this critical period may have had substantial consequences for ongoing inquiries into allegations of corruption surrounding FIFA's 2022 World Cup selection process. In particular, it raises concerns about the potential impact on cases involving high-profile figures, including investigations into financial transactions linked to broadcasting rights and international sports governance.

Publicly available reports indicate that Swiss authorities had been conducting investigations into alleged financial misconduct, including illicit payments and gifts, in connection with broadcasting rights. However, new expert analyses suggest that certain documents presented in legal proceedings against Mr. Benabderrahmane may have been falsified or manipulated, raising serious concerns regarding procedural fairness and judicial integrity.

Furthermore, Mr. Benabderrahmane's prolonged detention under coercive conditions, including allegations of torture and incommunicado detention, raises serious concerns about the true motives behind his prosecution. Reports indicate that he was pressured to surrender confidential information, which raises further questions about whether his detention was genuinely based on national security considerations or was part of a broader effort to shield senior Qatari officials from scrutiny.

After sustained efforts by Mr. Benabderrahmane's family to secure his release, Qatari authorities expelled him to France in November 2020, under circumstances that effectively sought to prevent him from speaking publicly about his detention and treatment. However, his return to France did not mark the end of his persecution.

In 2023, Qatari authorities initiated new legal proceedings against him, resulting in a conviction and a death sentence in absentia on 31 May 2023. Reports indicate that these proceedings were conducted in secrecy and lacked fundamental due process safeguards. On 26 October 2023, the Court of Appeal upheld the sentence, without his presence or legal representation, raising serious concerns about procedural fairness and judicial impartiality.

The circumstances surrounding his prosecution, the absence of transparency in judicial proceedings, and the lack of an opportunity for meaningful defense suggest that the case against Mr. Benabderrahmane may have been influenced by extrajudicial factors rather than an independent legal process.

The prosecution and sentencing of Mr. Benabderrahmane raise serious concerns regarding the broader use of Qatar's legal system to suppress dissent, restrict transparency, and deter exposure of sensitive political and financial matters. Reports from independent forensic and legal experts indicate that irregularities in evidence, procedural deficiencies, and the absence of due process safeguards played a significant role in the legal proceedings against him.

The non-transparent nature of his trial, the alleged use of falsified documents, and the denial of fundamental legal protections contravene Qatar's international legal obligations. These concerns are particularly relevant under the ICCPR, the UNCAT, and the UNCAC. The findings from expert analyses suggest that the judicial measures taken against Mr. Benabderrahmane appear to serve political objectives rather than adhere to established principles of legal justice.

Beyond the serious and ongoing human rights concerns surrounding Mr. Benabderrahmane's case, the legal and procedural actions taken by Qatari authorities raise concerns regarding transnational judicial interference and potential obstruction of international legal cooperation. The circumstances of his detention, particularly his reported possession of documents relevant to ongoing global anti-corruption efforts, underscore the broader implications for international accountability mechanisms.

The timing of his detention coincided with key investigative phases of multiple international inquiries into financial misconduct and governance in global sports institutions, including FIFA's selection process for the 2022 World Cup. Given the allegations that he was denied the ability to provide testimony or share information with foreign investigative bodies, there is a credible concern that legal measures taken against him may have contributed to obstructing international judicial cooperation and accountability efforts. This underscores the need for an independent review of the impact of his prosecution on broader anti-corruption and transparency efforts.

The ongoing legal actions and extrajudicial risks facing Mr. Benabderrahmane underscore broader concerns about the misuse of judicial systems to suppress dissent and target individuals with politically sensitive information. The circumstances of his prosecution, coupled with the lack of transparency in the legal proceedings, raise serious questions about due process and the increasing reliance on national security justifications to silence whistleblowers.

His case illustrates growing concerns about the use of judicial mechanisms, restrictive legal frameworks, and transnational measures to deter investigative journalists, human rights defenders, and individuals exposing financial misconduct from engaging in accountability efforts. If unaddressed, the normalization of such practices could set a dangerous precedent, emboldening other states to use politically motivated trials and harsh sentences as tools to suppress dissent and obstruct legitimate anti-corruption efforts. The implications extend beyond this individual case, as they contribute to a chilling effect on global transparency, investigative journalism, and the protection of those working to uphold accountability and human rights standards.

The case of Mr. Benabderrahmane extends beyond an individual human rights violation; it raises serious concerns about the integrity of judicial processes, international legal cooperation, and the protection of whistleblowers in the context of global anti-corruption efforts. His prosecution under national security laws, combined with procedural irregularities and a lack of transparency, underscores the urgent need for international scrutiny and intervention.

The circumstances of his case highlight the potential misuse of judicial and security mechanisms to restrict access to key evidence, deter future disclosures, and create a chilling effect on individuals engaged in exposing financial misconduct. Given the broader implications for rule of law and accountability frameworks, this case warrants immediate and decisive international engagement to safeguard fundamental rights, ensure due process, and uphold protections for whistleblowers under international legal standards.

II. THE FACTS OF THE CASE

Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane is a French-Algerian national, entrepreneur, and consultant specializing in geopolitical and economic research, international regulatory compliance, and financial intelligence. His professional expertise has focused on analyzing global corruption networks, illicit financial flows, and corporate governance challenges, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa. Over the years, he has provided advisory services on state-level economic strategies, risk assessments, and diplomatic negotiations, working with various institutions to promote financial transparency and regulatory compliance.

His expertise led to his recruitment by Qatar's NHRC between 2017 and 2020, where he served as an advisor to the Chairman, Dr. Ali bin Samikh Al-Marri, who later became Qatar's Minister of Labour. In this role, he contributed to research and advisory work on governance, financial compliance frameworks, and international human rights policies. His position provided insight into Qatar's foreign policy strategies, economic initiatives, and legal responses to increasing international scrutiny. Through this work, he developed a comprehensive understanding of Qatar's governance model, which sought to balance international advocacy for human rights and transparency with internal policy considerations.

During his tenure at the NHRC, Mr. Benabderrahmane conducted research, analysis, and advisory work on financial compliance, governance frameworks, and human rights policies within Qatari institutions. His work included assessing Qatar's international reputation in response to growing scrutiny over governance and financial transparency. His responsibilities also intersected with international discussions on financial regulatory frameworks, particularly in the context of Qatar's selection as host of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

His research examined financial transactions, regulatory practices, and governance structures linked to international partnerships, identifying potential risks related to financial oversight and accountability. In this context, he documented financial operations involving Qatari institutions, international stakeholders, and sports governance bodies, analyzing vulnerabilities in financial compliance mechanisms and their potential exposure to financial misconduct.

As Qatar faced increasing global scrutiny over its human rights practices, labor policies, and financial transactions, Mr. Benabderrahmane's advisory role became increasingly sensitive and politically exposed. His work on governance frameworks, regulatory compliance, and financial oversight mechanisms placed him in direct access to confidential economic strategies, sovereign investment initiatives, and diplomatic engagements. His growing knowledge of financial compliance risks, governance concerns, and potential legal vulnerabilities ultimately subjected him to heightened scrutiny by Qatar's State Security Bureau.

His position became even more precarious in the context of Qatar's diplomatic crisis with neighboring Gulf states—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt—which began in June 2017. The regional blockade was imposed amid allegations that Qatar engaged

in illicit financial activities, including the financing of terrorism and interference in the internal affairs of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

In response, Qatar launched extensive financial and diplomatic initiatives to counter its isolation, a strategy in which Mr. Benabderrahmane's advisory expertise was actively utilized. His role included assessing legal vulnerabilities, advising on international regulatory risks, and analyzing financial strategies to safeguard Qatar's economic and diplomatic standing.

However, his access to sensitive financial data, confidential legal assessments, and high-level state strategies placed him at increasing risk. As his analytical work uncovered potential financial irregularities and legal vulnerabilities within Qatar's governance and economic structures, he faced growing pressure and surveillance by Qatari authorities.

His growing awareness of systemic financial and legal distortions led state authorities to perceive him as a potential liability, heightening concerns over his access to sensitive information. As a result, he faced increasing surveillance and pressure, culminating in direct security measures against him.

Despite his commitment to his professional duties, Mr. Benabderrahmane's analytical work reportedly identified potential financial inconsistencies, irregularities in sovereign wealth fund allocations, and governance concerns linked to Qatar's international financial operations. His findings suggested interconnections between Qatar's foreign policy, global investments, and financial transactions that warranted further scrutiny.

His research highlighted how financial strategies, diplomatic engagements, and investment decisions appeared to be aligned with efforts to secure influence in key international sectors, including sports governance, strategic lobbying in Western capitals, and high-level financial negotiations.

As his findings became increasingly aligned with ongoing investigations in Switzerland and France, his position at the NHRC became untenable. By November 2019, after encountering institutional resistance and a lack of cooperation from Qatari authorities regarding his concerns over governance and financial integrity, he resigned from his advisory role and transitioned into private business and investment consultancy.

However, his resignation did not shield him from state scrutiny. Shortly after leaving his position, Qatari authorities subjected him to increased surveillance, monitoring his communications and movements. His international affiliations and potential role as a whistleblower, particularly regarding financial misconduct and governance issues, made him a liability in the eyes of Qatari authorities.

By the end of 2019, Qatari state security officials had reportedly escalated their surveillance and countermeasures against him, fearing that he could disclose critical information to European prosecutors. Internal intelligence assessments allegedly categorized him as a national security concern, leading to an escalation of efforts to monitor and restrict his activities.

His subsequent arrest and prolonged detention were not driven by legitimate national security concerns, as later claimed by Qatari authorities. Instead, his detention appears to have been a preemptive measure aimed at silencing a potential whistleblower whose access to sensitive information could expose governance and financial misconduct within high-level Qatari institutions. His imprisonment aligned with strategic objectives that served the interests of the Qatari authorities, including:

- Preventing him from sharing crucial evidence with European judicial bodies during critical stages of their investigations.
- Isolating him from potential contacts in Switzerland and France who could corroborate his findings.
- Exerting psychological and physical pressure to coerce compliance or extract sensitive information under duress.

His case exemplifies how certain governments leverage judicial systems, intelligence agencies, and transnational repression to suppress individuals perceived as political threats and restrict access to sensitive information. The coordinated actions of Qatar's legal and security apparatus suggest an effort to obstruct justice, fabricate criminal charges, and silence Mr. Benabderrahmane through extrajudicial means.

The measures taken against him reflect a broader pattern in which state security agencies extend their reach beyond national borders to intimidate, deter, and neutralize individuals who may possess information exposing misconduct or corruption. His situation is not merely an individual case of persecution but rather a serious violation of international human rights norms, underscoring the urgent need for robust international accountability mechanisms.

Ultimately, his arrest, reported mistreatment, and prosecution did not occur in isolation but rather formed part of a coordinated strategy by Qatari authorities to restrict access to potentially incriminating information, impede international investigations, and shield high-ranking officials from legal and political scrutiny.

Allegations of Arbitrary Arrest and Enforced Disappearance in Violation of International Law

On 13 January 2020, Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane was allegedly subjected to arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance by the State Security Bureau of Qatar. His detention was carried out without a warrant, formal charges, or legal justification, in apparent violation of Qatar's obligations under international human rights law. According to reports, Qatari security agents forcibly entered his residence, confiscated his personal and professional belongings—including confidential documents, electronic devices, and materials related to his investigative work—and took him into custody without providing any explanation.

For an extended period, neither his family nor the French and Algerian consular authorities were informed of his whereabouts or legal status. His prolonged incommunicado

detention deprived him of fundamental legal safeguards, including access to legal representation and the ability to challenge his detention before a competent judicial authority. These actions raise serious concerns under international law, particularly under Article 9 of the ICCPR and Article 2 of the ICPPED.

For 19 days, Mr. Benabderrahmane was allegedly held incommunicado, completely isolated from the outside world and deprived of any contact with his family, legal representatives, or French diplomatic authorities. This deliberate concealment of his whereabouts and denial of due process mirrors practices internationally condemned as serious human rights violations. The lack of judicial oversight, legal transparency, or access to legal representation during this period is not only inconsistent with fundamental principles of due process but also places Qatar in direct violation of its obligations under ICCPR and ICPPED, which explicitly prohibit enforced disappearances.

Qatar's decision to resort to such measures is particularly troubling for a state that publicly asserts its commitment to human rights, the rule of law, and international cooperation. Enforced disappearance is recognized as a crime under international law due to its irreversible impact on victims and their families. The use of practices widely condemned on the world stage raises serious concerns about the credibility of Qatar's judicial and security institutions, as well as its adherence to its international legal commitments.

During this time, Qatari state security agents allegedly subjected him to coercive interrogations in an undisclosed detention facility, exerting intense pressure to force him to disclose privileged information and surrender key documents that implicated senior Qatari officials in corruption, illegal lobbying, and financial misconduct related to the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Despite the absence of formal charges, he was denied access to legal representation, effectively stripping him of any means to challenge his detention or seek legal redress.

His prolonged incommunicado detention raises serious concerns under Article 9 of ICCPR, which guarantees the right to liberty and protection from arbitrary detention, as well as Article 14, which upholds the right to due process and fair trial guarantees. Furthermore, Qatar's refusal to disclose his whereabouts during this period constitutes a direct violation of its obligations under ICPPED, which prohibits enforced disappearances under all circumstances. The deliberate obstruction of legal recourse further undermines Qatar's credibility in upholding due process and judicial integrity.

The unlawful nature of Mr. Benabderrahmane's detention and the manner in which it obstructed international investigations suggest that his case was not merely an isolated legal matter but part of a broader strategy of state retaliation and suppression. His enforced disappearance allegedly served a dual purpose: to silence a key witness in corruption investigations and to obstruct legal proceedings in Switzerland, France, and the United States concerning high-level corruption in FIFA. By preventing him from cooperating with international judicial authorities, Qatari authorities effectively impeded efforts to hold officials

accountable for large-scale financial misconduct and illicit transactions. This calculated suppression raises serious concerns regarding Qatar's use of its security and legal apparatus to shield influential figures from scrutiny, in clear violation of its obligations under international human rights and anti-corruption treaties.

Beyond the violation of Mr. Benabderrahmane's individual rights, his case highlights a broader pattern of state-led repression. The systemic misuse of national security mechanisms to insulate high-ranking officials from judicial scrutiny demonstrates an alarming disregard for Qatar's legal commitments. His arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and obstruction of justice in ongoing international investigations illustrate a larger pattern of state repression that demands urgent international attention. Ensuring accountability for these violations is imperative not only to uphold fundamental human rights but also to safeguard the integrity of international legal mechanisms against corruption and impunity.

Allegations of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment in Violation of International Law

During his prolonged detention, Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane was subjected to severe physical and psychological mistreatment, allegedly intended to break his will, coerce compliance, and extract forced confessions. His treatment appears to be consistent with documented patterns of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial punishments inflicted upon individuals deemed threats to Qatar's national security. The mistreatment he endured constitutes a grave violation of fundamental human rights and falls within the definition of torture under the UNCAT, to which Qatar is a State Party. These allegations, if confirmed, would indicate a clear failure by the Qatari authorities to uphold their binding international obligations to prevent, investigate, and prosecute acts of torture and ill-treatment within their jurisdiction.

Mr. Benabderrahmane was systematically deprived of sleep for extended periods, forcibly restrained in stress positions, and subjected to prolonged isolation in a dark, airless cell. These conditions resulted in severe psychological distress, cognitive disorientation, and physical deterioration. These measures, if verified, would demonstrate an intention to instill fear, compel submission, and cause long-term psychological harm, rendering him vulnerable to coercion. Such treatment would not only be contrary to Qatar's international obligations under Article 7 of the ICCPR and Article 2 of UNCAT, but also amount to prolonged incommunicado detention, a practice widely condemned by the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture as a serious violation of international human rights law.

His interrogators allegedly subjected him to physical assault and violent coercion, inflicting serious bodily harm while pressuring him to sign a pre-prepared confession in Arabic, a language he does not fully understand. The use of both physical and psychological pressure to obtain confessions is unequivocally prohibited under international law, including Article 15 of UNCAT, which explicitly states that any statement extracted under torture must not be used

as evidence in legal proceedings. Despite these clear prohibitions, Qatari authorities reportedly employed these unlawful tactics, raising concerns regarding systemic practices that violate due process guarantees and fundamental human rights protections.

Further exacerbating his suffering, Mr. Benabderrahmane was subjected to mock executions, a method known to inflict extreme psychological trauma. His interrogators allegedly threatened to execute him, instilling imminent fear for his life, while warning that his family would suffer severe repercussions if he failed to comply with their demands. These coercive tactics, in combination with sustained physical abuse, amount to psychological torture, as recognized under General Comment No. 20 of the UN Human Rights Committee and the jurisprudence of the Committee Against Torture (CAT). The use of threats, intimidation, and psychological terror to extract compliance or silence individuals constitutes an aggravated form of inhumane treatment and would represent a direct breach of Qatar's obligations under Articles 1 and 16 of UNCAT.

Despite reportedly suffering serious physical injuries and experiencing rapid mental health deterioration, Mr. Benabderrahmane was allegedly denied access to medical care and legal representation throughout his detention. His prolonged isolation in Salwa Road Prison—a facility reportedly associated with inhumane detention conditions and psychological mistreatment—further reinforced his complete disconnection from the outside world. The conditions of his detention, as described, would amount to prolonged psychological torture, intentionally designed to degrade his dignity and break his will. If verified, this would constitute a flagrant violation of Article 10 of ICCPR, which requires that all persons deprived of liberty be treated with dignity, and of Article 12 of UNCAT, which obliges states to investigate any allegations of torture promptly and impartially.

After nearly six months in total isolation, Mr. Benabderrahmane was transferred to de facto house arrest at the Intercontinental Hotel in Doha, where he remained under constant surveillance by Qatari State Security agents. His movements were reportedly strictly controlled, and he was prohibited from freely communicating with the outside world. This arrangement was not a step towards release but rather an extension of arbitrary detention, ensuring continued state control over him while creating a misleading appearance of leniency. The continued deprivation of his liberty outside a recognized detention facility raises serious concerns regarding the arbitrary nature of his detention and whether this measure was imposed without judicial oversight.

The restriction of his movements and communications amounted to an extension of arbitrary detention under international human rights law. The enforced surveillance and social isolation were allegedly designed to maintain psychological pressure, obstruct access to legal and diplomatic assistance, and prevent disclosure of the abuses he had suffered. These measures, if confirmed, would be in direct violation of Article 9 of ICCPR, which prohibits arbitrary detention, and of Article 16 of UNCAT, which prohibits acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

The allegations of torture, inhuman treatment, and extrajudicial sanctions inflicted on Mr. Benabderrahmane by Qatari authorities constitute serious breaches of international law and necessitate urgent accountability. His case exemplifies a broader pattern of repression, in which state security forces are reportedly used to intimidate, silence, and eliminate individuals who expose corruption and misconduct within Qatar's institutions.

The severity of the physical and psychological abuse he endured, including prolonged isolation, forced confessions, and mock executions, if verified, would constitute clear violations of Qatar's obligations under UNCAT and ICCPR. These international instruments categorically prohibit torture and any form of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, underscoring the gravity of Qatar's alleged misconduct.

His case further reflects broader patterns of state-led repression in Qatar, where national security laws and counterterrorism measures are misused to justify arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and judicial harassment of individuals perceived as threats to the ruling elite. The systemic abuse of power and denial of fundamental rights raise urgent concerns requiring international scrutiny and immediate intervention to hold Qatari authorities accountable and to ensure justice for Mr. Benabderrahmane.

Coerced Expulsion, Asset Seizure, and Transnational Repression

After enduring 307 days of inhumane detention, Mr. Benabderrahmane was coerced into signing undisclosed documents under extreme duress, including a non-disclosure agreement explicitly prohibiting him from revealing the details of his arbitrary detention and ill-treatment. This agreement was not signed voluntarily but was imposed as a condition of his release, further demonstrating the Qatari authorities' deliberate attempt to suppress evidence of their human rights violations and prevent international scrutiny.

On 1 November 2020, following sustained pressure from his family, Qatari authorities forcibly expelled him from the country. Before his deportation, they confiscated all his personal and professional documents, ensuring that he had no records or materials that could substantiate his claims of unlawful detention and mistreatment. In addition to stripping him of vital documents, Qatari authorities unlawfully seized his property and financial investments in the Qatari market and economy. This targeted economic dispossession compounded the severe professional and financial devastation inflicted upon him, preventing him from resuming his career and effectively silencing him through financial coercion.

The forced expulsion of Mr. Benabderrahmane did not signify the end of his persecution but rather marked the continuation of Qatar's transnational repression. Despite removing him from the country, Qatari authorities persisted in their campaign of retaliation, ensuring that he remained under threat, financially ruined, and unable to expose the corruption and abuses he had uncovered. This pattern of persecution highlights Qatar's systematic use of legal and extralegal measures to silence critics, suppress whistleblowers, and shield high-ranking officials from accountability.

Upon his return to France, Mr. Benabderrahmane demonstrated remarkable resilience by taking decisive legal action to challenge the grave human rights violations he had endured. His efforts were aimed not only at seeking justice for himself but also at exposing the broader patterns of state-led repression, judicial manipulation, and transnational persecution orchestrated by Qatari authorities. Despite the severe restrictions imposed on him through coercive agreements and the looming threat of continued reprisals, he initiated a series of legal proceedings to hold the State of Qatar and its officials accountable.

On 16 December 2020, he filed a formal complaint with the Attorney General of Qatar and the Chairman of Qatar's NHRC, detailing the abuses he suffered, the violations of due process, and the illegal confiscation of his personal and professional assets. His efforts to seek redress were met with obstruction, necessitating repeated follow-ups on various dates between February and April 2021. As his case continued to gain international attention, he escalated his legal actions by filing a lawsuit against the State of Qatar before the Paris Court of First Instance on 16 March 2021. In a further attempt to seek diplomatic intervention, he formally lodged a complaint with the Qatari Ambassador to France on 4 April 2021, followed by a separate submission to the Qatari Ministry of the Interior on 30 April 2021.

Recognizing the high-level involvement of Qatari officials in his persecution, Mr. Benabderrahmane pursued legal action against Mr. Nasser Ghanim Al-Khelaïfi, serving a summons before the Paris Court of First Instance on 16 August 2021. His quest for justice extended beyond national borders, as he submitted a series of complaints on 15 November 2021, including formal communications to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and senior officials within the Qatari government, including the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Given the flagrant breaches of international law and the economic retaliation he suffered through the unlawful seizure of his assets, he also initiated an ad hoc arbitration procedure under the 1996 Franco-Qatari Bilateral Investment Treaty in Washington.

His pursuit of justice intensified on 18 August 2022, when he filed two separate complaints before the Doyen des Juges d'Instruction (Senior Investigating Judge) in France. These complaints detailed allegations of torture, acts of barbarism, arbitrary detention, and coercion under threat, as well as organized extortion and witness tampering. The severity of the charges reflected not only the personal injustices he endured but also the wider implications of his case as a stark example of how Qatar weaponized its judicial and security apparatus to silence dissent and obstruct international accountability.

Despite facing systemic barriers to justice, Mr. Benabderrahmane's legal actions underscore the urgent need for international oversight and accountability. His case exemplifies the alarming trend of authoritarian states employing judicial harassment, transnational repression, and economic coercion to suppress those who expose corruption and human rights violations. The international community must recognize the far-reaching consequences of Qatar's actions, not only in relation to Mr. Benabderrahmane's personal ordeal but also in the

broad context of the rule of law, freedom of expression, and the protection of whistleblowers globally.

The persecution of Mr. Benabderrahmane did not end with his expulsion from Qatar; rather, it transformed into a broader campaign of transnational repression. His forced removal was not a measure of legal resolution but a strategic shift in tactics, designed to maintain pressure, surveillance, and intimidation, even beyond Qatar's borders. Despite residing in France, he continues to face threats to his security and freedom, illustrating the extraterritorial reach of Qatar's state security apparatus and its persistent efforts to silence him and obstruct justice.

Following his expulsion, Mr. Benabderrahmane was blacklisted, placed under systematic surveillance, and subjected to persistent intimidation by individuals acting on behalf of the Qatari government. His movements and activities in France were closely monitored, and diplomatic channels were discreetly leveraged to suppress his ability to speak out about the abuses he endured. Qatar's security apparatus continued to exert influence over his professional and personal engagements, actively seeking to obstruct any efforts to provide evidence related to FIFA corruption, high-level financial misconduct, and Qatar's alleged influence-peddling within global sports governance. This ongoing campaign of intimidation and obstruction demonstrates a concerted effort by Qatari authorities to control the narrative, silence a key witness, and protect state officials from legal and reputational consequences.

His forced expulsion marked a decisive shift in Qatar's strategy, transitioning from direct physical imprisonment to a broader campaign of transnational repression. The State Security Bureau of Qatar remained resolute in its efforts to silence him, employing intelligence operations, legal intimidation, and diplomatic influence to neutralize him as a perceived threat.

Even outside Qatar, he continued to face the risk of legal reprisals and extrajudicial actions, demonstrating that the prosecutions against him were never a pursuit of justice but rather a calculated effort to eliminate a politically inconvenient whistleblower. His case exemplifies Qatar's broader pattern of targeting dissidents beyond its borders, utilizing judicial manipulation, state-sponsored intimidation, and transnational coercion to suppress individuals who expose corruption within its ruling elite.

Allegations of Politically Motivated Prosecution and Abuse of National Security Legislation

The prosecution and conviction of Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane were conducted in absentia through a judicial process that lacked fundamental fair trial guarantees, raising serious concerns about due process violations and judicial impartiality. On 31 May 2023, the Qatar Court of First Instance sentenced him to death in Case No. 653/2023 under Articles 107 and 128 of Qatar's Penal Code. These provisions, which address crimes against state security, were invoked in a trial conducted without his knowledge, legal representation, or the opportunity to challenge the evidence presented against him. The application of these provisions in politically

sensitive cases raises serious concerns regarding their use to prosecute individuals for possessing information of public interest rather than actual threats to state security.

On 26 October 2023, the Court of Appeal upheld the death sentence in a non-public hearing, reinforcing concerns that the Qatari authorities intend to carry out the execution, whether through judicial enforcement or extrajudicial means. The absence of legal representation, public scrutiny, and independent judicial review raises serious questions about the integrity of the proceedings and the use of judicial mechanisms to target whistleblowers.

In 2024, a Qatari whistleblower provided Mr. Benabderrahmane with internal documents related to his criminal case, shedding light on the irregularities that led to his death sentence. Analysis of these documents revealed the presence of falsified records, exposing offenses of forgery, the use of forged documents, falsification of public records, and fraudulent misrepresentation. These findings were further corroborated by forensic evidence from an independent handwriting and document analysis conducted by certified French forensic expert Céline Lauro. The analysis confirmed that key documents from the proceedings—including interrogation transcripts, court orders, and alleged confessions—contained significant irregularities, inauthentic signatures, and clear indications of deliberate forgery.

These procedural violations and inconsistencies directly compromise the legitimacy of the trial, demonstrating that the charges were manufactured and lacked genuine legal basis. An independent legal review identified further irregularities, including backdated indictments, contradictory witness statements, and the absence of verifiable forensic evidence linking Mr. Benabderrahmane to the alleged offenses. These findings indicate that his prosecution was not a legitimate judicial process but rather a politically motivated action intended to eliminate him under the appearance of legal authority.

The continued judicial actions against Mr. Benabderrahmane after his expulsion from Qatar highlight the persistence of judicial measures as a tool of political repression. Instead of allowing him to resume his life in France, the Qatari authorities pursued retaliatory legal proceedings, resulting in a death sentence issued in a non-public trial. This escalation was not an independent judicial matter but rather an extension of state-led efforts to silence him and prevent the disclosure of sensitive information.

By sentencing him to death in absentia and upholding the sentence through a closed appeal process, Qatar has signaled its intent to continue legal and extrajudicial measures against him. The pattern of intimidation, transnational pressure, and politically motivated prosecution constitutes not only a serious breach of international law but also a concerning precedent for the targeting of whistleblowers and individuals exposing government misconduct. The case underscores the potential misuse of state security frameworks to silence dissent, raising significant concerns for the protection of human rights defenders worldwide.

A leaked letter from the Prime Minister of Qatar, dated 18 July 2023, indicates that Qatari authorities are actively pursuing the enforcement of Mr. Benabderrahmane's death

sentence, underscoring the imminent risk of execution or forced rendition. The involvement of high-ranking Qatari officials in the continuation of legal actions against him raises serious concerns and necessitates urgent international scrutiny and intervention.

The intent of the Qatari authorities to locate and execute Mr. Benabderrahmane—whether through judicial procedures, forced repatriation, or other extrajudicial means—raises critical concerns about the potential misuse of state power to suppress dissent and silence whistleblowers. His case reflects broader implications for human rights, freedom of expression, and adherence to international legal obligations, particularly as states increasingly invoke national security justifications to target political dissidents and whistleblowers.

The international community must not allow Qatar to establish a precedent where judicial systems are weaponized against those who expose corruption and governmental misconduct. The ongoing legal and extrajudicial actions against Mr. Benabderrahmane must be examined within the wider framework of transnational repression, in which state security mechanisms and diplomatic influence are leveraged to suppress dissent beyond national borders.

The global response to this case will set a significant precedent regarding the accountability of states that misuse their legal frameworks to target individuals engaged in anti-corruption efforts and human rights advocacy. Failure to intervene risks not only allowing the execution of an individual who has been denied due process but also legitimizing the use of judicial systems as instruments of political persecution and repression.

III. ALLEGATIONS OF JUDICIAL CORRUPTION AND MANIPULATION OF COURT DOCUMENTS IN QATAR

The case of Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane is not only a grave example of arbitrary detention, torture, and judicial harassment, but also a clear illustration of the vulnerabilities within Qatar's judicial system, particularly concerning judicial independence, due process, and legal integrity. His prosecution reveals serious concerns about the manipulation of legal documents, undue interference by state security agencies, and the absence of procedural safeguards, all of which raise questions about the fairness and impartiality of judicial proceedings in Qatar.

Independent forensic experts and legal analysts have identified irregularities in key judicial documents, including forged signatures, inconsistencies in official records, and procedural anomalies that suggest pre-determined legal outcomes. Forensic analysis has confirmed that critical court records, interrogation transcripts, and legal orders exhibit signs of manipulation, casting doubt on the authenticity of the proceedings that led to his conviction. These findings raise significant concerns regarding Qatar's compliance with its international legal obligations, particularly under the UNCAC and the ICCPR, both of which mandate judicial independence, due process, and protections against legal arbitrariness.

The interference of Qatar's State Security Bureau in judicial processes further undermines the principle of separation of powers and raises concerns about the judiciary's ability to function as an independent institution. The circumstances of Mr. Benabderrahmane's trial—including the use of in absentia proceedings, the absence of legal representation, and the alleged fabrication of evidence—strongly suggest that his conviction was not the result of an impartial legal process, but rather a politically motivated decision orchestrated to silence him.

The deliberate falsification of judicial records and procedural irregularities do not merely constitute individual miscarriages of justice but point to a broader pattern of legal manipulation in cases involving whistleblowers, dissidents, and individuals perceived as threats to state interests. The international legal community must closely examine the systemic weaknesses that enable such practices, ensuring that judicial institutions are not weaponized to suppress those who expose corruption or wrongdoing.

Allegations of Falsification of Legal Documents and Forged Signatures

The prosecution and conviction of Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane were fundamentally compromised by the systematic falsification of judicial records, the fabrication of procedural justifications, and the manipulation of official documents. Independent forensic analyses have confirmed that official court records in his case were altered, and key signatures on legal rulings were forged, raising serious concerns regarding the authenticity of the entire judicial process. These procedural irregularities not only undermined his right to due process but also ensured that he was arbitrarily detained and subsequently sentenced to death in absentia.

From the moment of his arbitrary detention on 13 January 2020, Qatari authorities reportedly produced falsified judicial records in an effort to justify his continued imprisonment. No legitimate court ruling authorized these extensions, yet legal documents were systematically backdated and tampered with to create procedural justifications for his detention. This manipulation deprived him of any legal recourse to challenge his imprisonment and denied him the fundamental protections guaranteed under international human rights law.

Several independent handwriting and document authentication experts, including Céline Lauro and Nathalie Devichi, have provided substantial forensic evidence that critical legal documents in Mr. Benabderrahmane's case were falsified. The forensic assessment uncovered numerous procedural irregularities that call into question the legitimacy of the entire judicial process.

The forensic examination of court records confirmed several anomalies, including forged signatures, manipulated judicial orders, and copy-paste forgeries. A forensic analysis of judicial rulings extending Mr. Benabderrahmane's detention revealed that the signatures of multiple judicial officers were fraudulent. Signatures that were purportedly from different clerks and judges exhibited identical handwriting, demonstrating that they were not independently reviewed. Similarly, procedural orders extending his detention contained nearly identical handwriting, despite being attributed to five different clerks—Mohamed AlSharshiti, Tāriq Shālābi, Hassani Mohamed, Naouf Aljamidi, and Ḥusām Hamad 'Aṭīf. The forensic analysis concluded that these orders were issued without proper judicial oversight and instead were fabricated to provide a veneer of legal legitimacy to what was effectively an arbitrary detention.

The arrest report, dated 13 January 2020, was also deemed fraudulent, raising additional concerns about procedural integrity. The document was written on plain A4 paper, lacked an official letterhead, and had no official stamps or barcodes, which would be expected in legally binding arrest records. Furthermore, a forensic handwriting analysis confirmed that 17 signatures on key court documents had been forged, as they did not match the handwriting of either Mr. Benabderrahmane or the purported signatories.

Further forensic investigations revealed that hearing minutes from 10 and 13 February 2020 had been manipulated and tampered with. The minutes from 13 February 2020 were missing seven pages, which allegedly contained testimony implicating senior Qatari officials in corruption. The forensic report found clear indications that handwritten modifications had been inserted after the fact, altering the original text. Additionally, official signatures in these records do not match those of the judicial officials they were attributed to, further reinforcing concerns of document tampering.

It was also revealed that the Public Prosecutor, Jassim Mahmoud Al Mahmoud, fraudulently affixed his signature on multiple judicial documents, replacing the signatures of other prosecutors, such as Fahd Rashad Al Kaabi and Rashed Mohamed Al Hajiri. These irregularities raise serious concerns about procedural integrity, as they indicate that

prosecutorial authority was misused to create falsified legal justifications for Mr. Benabderrahmane's continued detention and prosecution.

In addition to document forgery and the suppression of key evidence, the court records in Mr. Benabderrahmane's case contained a fabricated residential address. The judicial records falsely attributed the address Region 30, Street 523, Site 32, Unit 0 to him, despite his having no known link to this location. This false address was systematically used in court notifications, effectively ensuring that he never received legal summons or correspondence related to his case. As a result, he was deprived of his fundamental right to be notified of proceedings against him and to mount a legal defense.

Alarming, the same fictitious address was also used in another politically sensitive case against Hicham Karmoussi, a former associate of Nasser Al-Khelaifi, suggesting that this practice was not an isolated administrative error but a deliberate tactic employed by Qatari authorities to obstruct legal rights in politically motivated cases.

The deliberate falsification of judicial records in this case constitutes a serious violation of Qatar's obligations under international law, particularly with respect to judicial independence, fair trial guarantees, and the prohibition of obstruction of justice. The following international legal provisions are particularly relevant:

- Article 11 of the UNCAC, which mandates judicial independence and prohibits political interference in judicial proceedings.
- Article 14 of the ICCPR, which guarantees the right to a fair trial, due process, and the ability to challenge legal accusations before an impartial tribunal.
- Article 25 of the UNCAC, which explicitly criminalizes obstruction of justice, including falsification of legal records and coercion of judicial officers.

The forensic evidence overwhelmingly confirms that the prosecution of Mr. Benabderrahmane was based entirely on fabricated judicial records. His conviction, therefore, cannot be considered legally valid under any recognized legal system. The extensive manipulation of court rulings, backdated orders, and forged signatures reveals a complete breakdown of judicial integrity in Qatar, further confirming that its judiciary has been weaponized as an instrument of political persecution rather than legal justice.

Given the scale of document falsification and procedural irregularities in this case, it is imperative that an independent international review be conducted to assess the legitimacy of the judicial process and to ensure that Mr. Benabderrahmane is afforded his fundamental legal rights under international law.

Violations of the UNCAC and the ICCPR

The prosecution and conviction of Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane constitute a serious violation of Qatar's obligations under international law, particularly the UNCAC and the

ICCPR. As a State Party to the UNCAC since 2007, Qatar is legally bound to uphold judicial integrity, transparency, and due process. However, instead of adhering to these commitments, Qatar's judicial system was reportedly instrumentalized to suppress whistleblowers, silence dissent, and protect high-ranking officials implicated in corruption scandals.

Independent forensic analyses have confirmed that court records in Mr. Benabderrahmane's case were falsified, raising serious concerns regarding the legitimacy of the proceedings. These irregularities directly violate Article 11 of the UNCAC, which requires States Parties to ensure judicial independence and impartiality. Rather than acting as an independent adjudicative body, Qatar's courts appear to have functioned as an extension of the State Security Bureau, issuing politically motivated convictions that reflect security directives rather than impartial legal determinations.

Furthermore, Qatar's actions violate Article 25 of the UNCAC, which explicitly criminalizes obstruction of justice, including the use of coercion, threats, or intimidation to manipulate judicial proceedings. Mr. Benabderrahmane's secret trial and conviction, conducted without legal representation, without access to a defense, and without an opportunity to challenge fabricated evidence, illustrate a deliberate obstruction of justice at multiple levels. His appeal proceedings, held in complete secrecy on 26 October 2023, further highlight Qatar's disregard for fundamental fair trial guarantees under international law.

In addition to violating its obligations under the UNCAC, Qatar's actions also constitute a serious breach of the ICCPR, particularly Article 14, which guarantees the right to a fair trial before an independent and impartial tribunal. Throughout the proceedings, Mr. Benabderrahmane was denied fundamental procedural protections:

- He was arrested without a warrant and detained without judicial oversight.
- His prolonged detention was justified on the basis of fabricated legal documents.
- His trial was conducted entirely in absentia, depriving him of his right to meaningfully participate in his own defense.
- His death sentence was upheld in a closed appellate hearing, without a reasoned judgment or legal justification.

These procedural violations confirm that his conviction was not the result of a legitimate judicial process, but rather a politically motivated effort to eliminate a whistleblower through the manipulation of Qatar's legal system.

Manipulation of the UNCAC Review Mechanism

Despite these clear violations, Qatar has managed to project an image of compliance with UNCAC provisions by leveraging the UNODC's Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM)—a process designed to assess national anti-corruption frameworks and judicial integrity. However, this review system has not adequately reflected the reality of widespread judicial corruption and political interference in Qatar. Instead of serving as a mechanism for

accountability, the UNCAC review process has been misused to obscure serious legal deficiencies and shield state actors from scrutiny.

During the first review cycle, Qatar's compliance was assessed by Micronesia and Dominica, with the review focusing on criminalization, law enforcement, and international cooperation. The executive summary of this review offered an overly favorable assessment of Qatar's anti-corruption efforts, failing to acknowledge structural weaknesses that enable the judiciary to function as an extension of state security rather than an independent institution. The report failed to address critical issues, including:

- The widespread falsification of legal documents and the fabrication of procedural justifications to maintain arbitrary detentions.
- The systematic intimidation of judges and legal professionals, raising concerns about the judiciary's independence.
- The use of secret trials and politically motivated prosecutions to silence whistleblowers, in violation of fair trial standards under international law.

These deliberate omissions raise serious concerns about the reliability of the UNCAC review process and its ability to effectively assess Qatar's compliance with anti-corruption and judicial independence standards.

Conflicts of Interest in the Second UNCAC Review Cycle

The second UNCAC review cycle, launched in 2020, focused on preventive measures and asset recovery, with Qatar's compliance reviewed by the State of Palestine and Guinea. This process included a hybrid country visit in March 2023, which coincided with Qatar's secret prosecution and sentencing of Mr. Benabderrahmane. However, critical issues remained unaddressed:

- The review failed to acknowledge the existence of secret trials and politically motivated prosecutions.
- It ignored the role of the State Security Bureau in influencing judicial decisions, raising concerns about Qatar's compliance with UNCAC Article 11 on judicial independence.
- It did not document the use of fabricated court records to justify arbitrary detentions, despite compelling forensic evidence confirming such practices.

Furthermore, concerns arise regarding the impartiality of the review process due to Qatar's extensive financial and political influence over one of its primary examiners—the State of Palestine. Qatar has provided billions of dollars in direct financial aid and infrastructure projects to Gaza, maintaining a strong diplomatic and political relationship with the Palestinian authorities. This raises legitimate questions about whether Palestine's review of Qatar's compliance with UNCAC provisions was conducted independently:

- Given its financial dependence on Qatar, it is unlikely that the Palestinian leadership would conduct a critical review of Qatar's anti-corruption measures.

- Qatar's substantial funding of Palestinian political factions, including Hamas, creates an inherent conflict of interest in assessing Qatar's internal corruption issues.

The March 2023 hybrid visit conducted by Palestinian and Guinean reviewers failed to document systemic judicial corruption in Qatar, reinforcing concerns that the UNCAC review process has been politically compromised rather than functioning as an independent accountability mechanism.

The Need for Stronger Oversight and Accountability

The glaring discrepancy between Qatar's self-reported compliance with UNCAC and the documented evidence of judicial corruption and repression underscores a fundamental flaw in the UNCAC review system. Instead of serving as a credible oversight mechanism, the process has been leveraged by Qatar to reinforce impunity while shielding state actors from scrutiny.

The UNCAC review process cannot be allowed to function as a diplomatic shield for states that manipulate their judicial systems to suppress whistleblowers, obstruct justice, and violate fundamental human rights. The failure to document the abuses in Mr. Benabderrahmane's case reinforces the urgent need for independent oversight and stronger accountability measures under the UNCAC framework.

The international legal community must take decisive action to prevent Qatar from continuing to weaponize its judiciary while evading international scrutiny. If Qatar is allowed to continue suppressing judicial transparency while benefiting from UNCAC legitimacy, the convention itself risks becoming an enabler of corruption rather than a safeguard against it.

Qatar's Hosting of the 11th Session of the UNCAC CoSP and Implications for Judicial Integrity

In a concerning paradox, Qatar is scheduled to host the 11th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) from 15 to 19 December 2025 in Doha, an event considered the premier international forum addressing corruption, transparency, and integrity in governance and judicial processes. The UNCAC, as the only legally binding global anti-corruption instrument, explicitly requires its States Parties to uphold principles of judicial independence, due process, transparency, and accountability.

However, the circumstances surrounding Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane's prosecution starkly contradict these principles and raise critical questions about the appropriateness of Qatar's role as host. The allegations documented extensively in this complaint illustrate profound systemic weaknesses in Qatar's judicial system, including judicial manipulation, political interference, and widespread corruption. These findings, corroborated by forensic

analyses of judicial records, strongly challenge Qatar's stated commitment to the principles underpinning the UNCAC.

Given the gravity of these concerns, Qatar's hosting of the 11th Session of the UNCAC CoSP risks undermining the credibility and legitimacy of this critical international forum. As a platform that emphasizes judicial integrity, governmental accountability, and transparency, the CoSP must ensure that its host country embodies these standards in practice. The stark contrast between Qatar's international anti-corruption commitments and its domestic judicial practices—highlighted vividly by the case of Mr. Benabderrahmane—cannot be overlooked.

The upcoming CoSP Session in Doha thus presents an essential opportunity for international scrutiny and constructive engagement with Qatar on these critical issues. It is imperative for the States Parties, civil society organizations, and international bodies participating in CoSP11 to rigorously assess Qatar's compliance with UNCAC obligations, particularly regarding judicial independence, procedural integrity, and safeguards against judicial corruption and document falsification. Robust dialogue, rigorous peer review, and transparent accountability mechanisms must be central to discussions at CoSP11 to ensure that Qatar adheres to the very standards it publicly champions.

If the international community fails to address these documented violations in a meaningful and transparent manner, the UNCAC review process risks being perceived as compromised, granting legitimacy to states that use judicial systems as political instruments of repression rather than tools of justice. Consequently, the international community and civil society must call upon Qatar to address these critical governance shortcomings and take concrete measures to restore judicial integrity and procedural fairness. Only through genuine accountability and transparent reforms can Qatar credibly uphold the UNCAC values it is set to champion in December 2025.

IV. DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AND RETALIATORY MEASURES

The case of Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane exemplifies serious concerns regarding Qatar's treatment of foreign nationals, whistleblowers, and individuals who expose financial misconduct within its institutions. His arbitrary detention, judicial prosecution, and death sentence in absentia are not isolated anomalies, but rather indicative of a broader state strategy aimed at suppressing individuals deemed politically inconvenient.

As a foreign entrepreneur and former adviser to the NHRC, Mr. Benabderrahmane had access to sensitive information allegedly implicating senior Qatari officials in financial irregularities and misconduct. His refusal to suppress this information reportedly led to a series of retaliatory actions orchestrated by the SSB, an entity that has been criticized for its role in controlling politically sensitive narratives and suppressing dissent.

Qatar's wider practice of using state security legislation to repress whistleblowers and foreign nationals has been the subject of international scrutiny, particularly in the context of the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Investigations by independent human rights organizations have documented serious violations related to migrant workers' rights, labor exploitation, and suppression of dissent:

- Exploitative working conditions, wage theft, and forced labor affecting migrant workers across multiple sectors.
- A high number of unexplained worker fatalities, with thousands of affected families unable to seek justice or receive compensation.
- State-controlled narratives aimed at minimizing criticism, often silencing those who attempt to expose these abuses.

Despite public commitments to reform labor conditions and improve transparency, institutionalized discrimination persists. While much of the international focus has been on low-wage migrant workers, cases such as that of Mr. Benabderrahmane highlight that Qatar's retaliatory measures also extend to foreign professionals, investors, and whistleblowers who expose corruption and financial misconduct.

His case illustrates the extent to which Qatar employs severe measures to suppress those who challenge entrenched political and economic interests. Beyond his arbitrary detention, the SSB allegedly orchestrated the total confiscation of his assets and investments, effectively erasing his financial and professional presence in Qatar. His forced expulsion and subsequent death sentence in absentia demonstrate how state security legislation and judicial mechanisms have been used to impose punitive measures against perceived threats.

Independent forensic analyses have confirmed that key judicial records—including arrest warrants and court decisions—were allegedly falsified, and forged signatures were used to create procedural justifications for his detention and prosecution. Such deliberate

manipulation of legal documents constitutes a serious violation of Qatar's obligations under international law, particularly the UNCAC and the UNCAT. These findings raise serious concerns regarding the integrity of the legal process in his case.

Moreover, Mr. Benabderrahmane's persecution did not cease with his expulsion from Qatar. His case reflects a wider trend of transnational repression, where authoritarian states extend punitive measures beyond their borders to silence individuals in exile. Reports indicate that he has faced continued monitoring, surveillance, and intimidation even while residing in France, further illustrating the extraterritorial reach of Qatar's state security apparatus.

The targeting of whistleblowers and foreign nationals who expose financial misconduct suggests an entrenched culture of impunity, in which legal mechanisms appear to serve as tools of political retaliation rather than instruments of justice. While senior officials implicated in corruption allegations remain shielded from scrutiny, those who seek transparency and accountability face extreme repercussions.

The international community must recognize that Mr. Benabderrahmane's case is not an isolated incident, but rather part of a broader pattern where whistleblowers and dissenters face systematic reprisals. This raises serious questions about the rule of law, due process, and human rights protections within Qatar. Without decisive international intervention, there is a risk that these practices will continue, further undermining principles of justice, accountability, and fundamental freedoms.

V. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Qatar's election to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in October 2024 raises serious concerns about the credibility of membership standards within the Council. Despite its formal commitments to uphold the highest principles of human rights, Qatar continues to engage in state-led repression, extrajudicial detentions, and judicial practices that lack independence and due process. Reports submitted during Qatar's 47th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) have highlighted serious human rights concerns, including enforced disappearances, restrictions on freedom of expression, and the systematic targeting of dissidents. The fact that Qatar retains a seat on the Human Rights Council despite these documented violations underscores the urgent need to strengthen accountability mechanisms within international human rights bodies.

As a member of the Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 term, Qatar has pledged to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights, in line with General Assembly Resolution 60/251. In its voluntary pledges submitted on 10 October 2023, Qatar committed to fostering accountability, ensuring justice, and upholding the rule of law. However, the case of Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane directly contradicts these commitments, demonstrating that Qatar's promises remain largely rhetorical and unfulfilled in practice.

During Qatar's review by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 17 April 2024, the Qatari delegation, led by Judge Ali Abdulla Al-Jusaiman—who also presided over Mr. Benabderrahmane's trial in absentia—denied any knowledge of the case. Under sustained questioning from CERD members, the delegation failed to provide clear answers, offering only vague and non-committal responses, which further exposed concerns regarding Qatar's transparency, judicial independence, and institutional accountability.

Qatar's NHRC, despite holding accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) with status "A", has not demonstrated independence or effectiveness in addressing serious human rights violations. The Chairperson of NHRC, Maryam bint Abdullah Al Attiyah, simultaneously serves as the Chairperson of GANHRI, reinforcing Qatar's influence over international human rights frameworks. However, the NHRC's failure to intervene in the case of Mr. Benabderrahmane raises serious concerns regarding its credibility and impartiality. Rather than functioning as an independent human rights watchdog, the NHRC has not taken substantive action to hold Qatar accountable for systemic human rights violations.

Despite receiving an official complaint regarding Mr. Benabderrahmane's arbitrary detention and the confiscation of his assets, the NHRC failed to take meaningful action. This inaction reflects either a lack of capacity or a lack of willingness to challenge the powerful SSB. It operates under the direct authority of the Emir of Qatar and is responsible for national security investigations, but its broad powers—exercised without judicial oversight—have led

to widespread concerns about prolonged arbitrary detentions, forced confessions, and the absence of due process.

The case of Mr. Benabderrahmane provides a clear example of Qatar's failure to uphold its human rights obligations, despite its prominent role on the Human Rights Council. The lack of judicial independence, the use of state security forces to target foreign nationals, and the fabrication of legal justifications for arbitrary imprisonment reflect deep flaws within Qatar's judicial system. These fundamental failures undermine fairness, accountability, and the principles of human rights, which Qatar has formally committed to uphold as a member of the UNHRC.

Qatar's continued membership in the Human Rights Council, despite documented violations, seriously undermines the credibility of the Council itself. The actions taken against Mr. Benabderrahmane not only violate international human rights standards, but they also set a troubling precedent of state-led judicial repression against whistleblowers, political dissidents, and foreign nationals. If international institutions fail to hold Qatar accountable, this could encourage other states to adopt similar tactics—weaponizing judicial systems to silence critics and eliminate perceived threats under the guise of legal proceedings.

The Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights must take immediate action to scrutinize Qatar's record and demand substantive reforms, particularly concerning arbitrary detentions, politically motivated prosecutions, and transnational repression. If Qatar intends to maintain its status as a member of the UNHRC, it must be held to the same standards it has pledged to uphold—including commitments to justice, transparency, and the rule of law.

Failure to act will not only embolden Qatar to continue these practices but will also undermine the credibility of the Human Rights Council itself. The Council's legitimacy depends on its ability to ensure that its members meet the fundamental human rights obligations they have voluntarily pledged to uphold. If systematic human rights violations continue without consequences, the Council risks being perceived as ineffective in its mandate to promote and protect global human rights standards.

VI. LIST OF QUESTIONS

Justice pour Tous Internationale (JPTi) respectfully requests the UN Special Procedures mandate holders to seek full and detailed responses from the Government of Qatar regarding the systematic human rights violations committed against Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane. These questions aim to ensure transparency, accountability, and Qatar's compliance with its international human rights obligations under the ICCPR, the UNCAT, the ICPPED, and the UNCAC.

Given the serious allegations of arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearance, judicial manipulation, and politically motivated prosecution, the following questions must be answered by the Qatari authorities to establish whether due process, human rights protections, and legal safeguards were respected in the case of Mr. Benabderrahmane:

Allegations of Arbitrary Detention, Enforced Disappearance, and Judicial Harassment

- On what legal grounds did Qatari authorities justify the arrest and prolonged incommunicado detention of Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane from 13 January 2020, particularly in the absence of a judicial warrant or formal charges?
- Why was Mr. Benabderrahmane denied access to legal representation and consular assistance throughout his detention, in violation of Article 9 of the ICCPR and Qatar's international legal obligations?
- How does the Government of Qatar justify detaining Mr. Benabderrahmane without formal charges, due process, or judicial oversight, contrary to its obligations under the ICCPR and the ICPPED?
- Enforced disappearance is recognized as a crime under international law. What measures has Qatar implemented to ensure that all detainees are brought promptly before an independent judicial authority and afforded their rights under ICPPED and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families?
- What legal framework and oversight mechanisms govern detentions carried out by the State Security Bureau, and how does Qatar ensure that security services do not engage in arbitrary detentions, forced confessions, or prolonged incommunicado detention in violation of international human rights law?

Allegations of Use of Torture and Coercion to Obtain Forced Confessions

- How does the Government of Qatar respond to allegations that Mr. Benabderrahmane was subjected to sleep deprivation, prolonged isolation, physical assaults, mock executions, and psychological coercion during his detention?
- As a State Party to the UNCAT, how does Qatar reconcile its legal obligation to prohibit all forms of torture with allegations that its authorities used coercion against detainees, particularly whistleblowers?
- What investigations, if any, have been conducted into allegations of torture, inhuman treatment, and coercion suffered by Mr. Benabderrahmane? Have any responsible

officials been identified, investigated, or held accountable for potential violations of UNCAT and Qatar's own domestic laws prohibiting torture?

- Why was Mr. Benabderrahmane compelled to sign a non-disclosure agreement and a settlement agreement under duress, which allegedly included a €5 million penalty clause prohibiting him from disclosing the inhuman and degrading treatment he endured?
- Can Qatar confirm whether other detainees have been subjected to similar coercive agreements aimed at silencing victims of arbitrary detention and torture? What legal safeguards exist to prevent the use of non-disclosure agreements in cases involving allegations of torture and ill-treatment?

Allegations of Judicial Corruption, Falsification of Evidence, and Denial of Defense Rights

- What steps has Qatar taken to ensure the integrity and independence of judicial proceedings, given the allegations that court documents in Mr. Benabderrahmane's case were falsified, backdated, and manipulated to justify his detention and conviction?
- Forensic experts have identified inconsistencies in procedural documents, including forged judicial signatures and fabricated trial records. Has the Qatari judiciary conducted any internal investigations into these findings? If not, why?
- How does Qatar explain the procedural irregularities in Mr. Benabderrahmane's trial, including the absence of a formal indictment, denial of legal representation, and lack of access to an independent defense? How does Qatar justify this under Article 14 of the ICCPR?
- Why was Mr. Benabderrahmane tried and convicted in absentia without being informed of the proceedings, without an opportunity to defend himself, and without access to an effective remedy? How does Qatar ensure compliance with international fair trial standards in such cases?
- The use of falsified legal records and manipulated procedural rulings in Mr. Benabderrahmane's case raises concerns about judicial interference by Qatar's State Security Bureau. What measures does Qatar have in place to ensure that state security authorities do not influence judicial outcomes?
- How does Qatar reconcile its obligations under Article 11 of the UNCAC, which mandates judicial integrity, with the evidence of judicial misconduct and fabricated evidence in this case?
- Given that Mr. Benabderrahmane's case involved the use of anonymous witnesses and secret hearings, what safeguards exist in Qatar's judicial system to prevent the misuse of anonymous testimony and ensure transparency in politically sensitive cases?
- Why did the Qatar Court of Appeal confirm his death sentence on 26 October 2023 in a closed-door proceeding, without his knowledge, legal representation, or access to an effective remedy? What justification does Qatar provide for the secrecy surrounding this process?
- Does Qatar intend to re-examine the legal irregularities in Mr. Benabderrahmane's case, including the allegations of falsified evidence and procedural violations? If not, what mechanisms exist for independent judicial review in cases where due process violations are alleged?
- How does Qatar respond to concerns that its national security and counterterrorism legal frameworks are being misused to criminalize individuals based on fabricated evidence, rather than addressing genuine threats to public safety?

Allegations of Politically Motivated Prosecutions and Transnational Repression

- Given that Mr. Benabderrahmane's legal troubles began only after he obtained documents allegedly exposing high-level corruption, financial mismanagement, and bribery linked to FIFA, how does Qatar respond to concerns that his detention and prosecution were politically motivated rather than based on genuine legal grounds?
- What is Qatar's position regarding evidence suggesting that officials from the SSB were directly involved in fabricating charges against Mr. Benabderrahmane as a means to suppress corruption investigations? Has Qatar conducted any internal review into these allegations?
- What measures does Qatar have in place to ensure that national security laws and counterterrorism frameworks are not misused to criminalize individuals who possess politically sensitive information? How does Qatar distinguish between legitimate state security concerns and politically motivated prosecutions?
- How does Qatar justify the ongoing harassment, blacklisting, surveillance, and intimidation of Mr. Benabderrahmane in France after his forced expulsion? What legal or diplomatic rationale does Qatar provide for continuing to monitor and pressure him outside its jurisdiction?
- Given concerns that Qatar has previously been implicated in targeting dissidents and whistleblowers beyond its borders, what guarantees can the Qatari government provide that Mr. Benabderrahmane will not face further transnational repression, forced rendition, or extrajudicial actions against him?
- What official communications, if any, have taken place between the Qatari authorities and French intelligence or law enforcement agencies regarding Mr. Benabderrahmane? Has Qatar formally or informally sought his extradition, requested legal action against him in France, or raised concerns about his activities with French authorities?
- Can Qatar confirm whether its diplomatic or security services have made any direct or indirect threats to Mr. Benabderrahmane's safety while he resides in France? What steps has Qatar taken to ensure that its foreign policy and security agencies do not engage in extraterritorial targeting of individuals?

Allegations of the Imposition of the Death Penalty in Violation of International Law

- On what legal basis did Qatar sentence Mr. Benabderrahmane to death in absentia, given that he was denied legal representation and access to judicial remedies? How does Qatar reconcile this with its obligations under international human rights law?
- How does Qatar justify imposing the death penalty following a secret trial, in clear violation of Article 6 of the ICCPR, which prohibits the execution of individuals who have not had a fair trial with full due process guarantees?
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions has consistently stated that where the rights of the defense are violated, any resulting death sentence constitutes an extrajudicial execution. How does Qatar respond to this assessment in light of the documented fair trial violations in Mr. Benabderrahmane's case?
- A leaked letter from the Prime Minister of Qatar, dated 18 July 2023, explicitly indicates that Qatari authorities are actively seeking to carry out Mr. Benabderrahmane's execution. Can Qatar confirm or deny the authenticity of this letter,

and what measures, if any, has Qatar taken to ensure his safety and prevent extrajudicial actions against him?

- Why does Qatar refuse to grant an automatic retrial for individuals sentenced to death in absentia, as required by international human rights law? Given that retrials are a fundamental safeguard to prevent wrongful executions, how does Qatar justify its position on this issue?

International Legal Obligations and Qatar's Membership in the Human Rights Council

- On what legal basis did Qatar sentence Mr. Benabderrahmane to death in absentia, given that he was denied legal representation and access to judicial remedies? How does Qatar reconcile this with its obligations under international human rights law?
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- A leaked letter from the Prime Minister of Qatar, dated 18 July 2023, explicitly indicates that Qatari authorities are actively seeking to carry out Mr. Benabderrahmane's execution. Can Qatar confirm or deny the authenticity of this letter, and what measures, if any, has Qatar taken to ensure his safety and prevent extrajudicial actions against him?
- Why does Qatar refuse to grant an automatic retrial for individuals sentenced to death in absentia, as required by international human rights law? Given that retrials are a fundamental safeguard to prevent wrongful executions, how does Qatar justify its position on this issue?

Ensuring the Protection of Mr. Benabderrahmane and Preventing Further Reprisals

- Given the well-documented risk of forced rendition and transnational repression, what guarantees can Qatar provide that it will not attempt to abduct, extradite, or engage in extrajudicial actions against Mr. Benabderrahmane while he resides outside Qatari jurisdiction?
- Does Qatar recognize its obligation to provide reparations to victims of arbitrary detention and torture, in accordance with its commitments under the ICCPR and the UNCAT?
- Will Qatar allow an independent United Nations fact-finding mission to investigate the human rights violations committed against Mr. Benabderrahmane and other whistleblowers who have faced politically motivated prosecutions and arbitrary detention?
- What concrete measures is Qatar taking to prevent arbitrary detentions, torture, and politically motivated prosecutions in the future? How does Qatar ensure compliance

with its international obligations to uphold due process and prevent the misuse of state security legislation?

- What steps, if any, have been taken to ensure that those responsible for the enforced disappearance, torture, and arbitrary conviction of Mr. Benabderrahmane are held accountable? Has Qatar conducted any independent investigations into these allegations, and if not, why?

JPTi requests that UN Special Procedures mandate holders formally request responses from the Government of Qatar on the above-mentioned human rights concerns.

VII. APPLICABLE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS AND STANDARDS

The violations committed by the Qatari authorities against Mr. Tayeb Benabderrahmane constitute grave breaches of international human rights law, specifically under the ICCPR, the UNCAT, the ICPPED, and the UNCAC. As a State Party to these treaties, Qatar is legally obligated to uphold fundamental human rights protections. However, its actions—including arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, judicial corruption, and the imposition of the death penalty in absentia—demonstrate a systemic misuse of state power, necessitating urgent accountability from the international community.

The right to liberty is enshrined in Article 9 of the ICCPR, which guarantees that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention and that individuals deprived of their liberty have the right to challenge the legality of their detention before a competent judicial authority. The United Nations Human Rights Committee's General Comment No. 35 further clarifies that detention must be lawful, necessary, proportionate, and subject to judicial oversight.

On 13 January 2020, Qatari state security agents detained Mr. Benabderrahmane without a warrant, without formal charges, and without legal justification. He was denied access to legal representation and consular assistance, and his place of detention was deliberately concealed from his family and the French and Algerian authorities for 19 days.

Under Article 2 of the ICPPED, enforced disappearance is defined as the deprivation of liberty by state agents, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the detention or concealment of the fate of the detainee. The refusal of Qatari authorities to confirm Mr. Benabderrahmane's whereabouts during this period constitutes a direct violation of the absolute prohibition of enforced disappearance.

The absence of any judicial review, notification, or legal recourse renders his detention unlawful under international law. The use of incommunicado detention as a means of silencing whistleblowers and political detainees exemplifies systemic state repression and constitutes a direct violation of both the ICCPR and the ICPPED.

The prohibition of torture is codified in Article 7 of the ICCPR and Article 2 of the UNCAT, both of which stipulate that no exceptional circumstances may be invoked to justify the use of torture. Additionally, Article 10 of the ICCPR mandates that all persons deprived of their liberty must be treated with dignity and respect.

Qatar ratified the UNCAT in 2000, committing itself to preventing, investigating, and prosecuting acts of torture by state agents. However, the systemic and deliberate abuse inflicted on Mr. Benabderrahmane, including prolonged solitary confinement, sleep deprivation, physical beatings, mock executions, and psychological coercion, constitutes a serious violation of Articles 1 and 2 of the UNCAT.

Moreover, Article 15 of the UNCAT explicitly prohibits the use of confessions obtained through torture in judicial proceedings. Despite this prohibition, Qatari authorities coerced Mr. Benabderrahmane into signing undisclosed legal agreements under duress, further demonstrating Qatar's disregard for its treaty obligations.

The right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal is a fundamental safeguard under Article 14 of the ICCPR. This provision guarantees access to legal representation, the right to challenge evidence, and protection against politically motivated prosecutions.

However, the legal proceedings against Mr. Benabderrahmane were marked by secrecy, judicial interference, and a complete absence of due process. His trial was conducted without his presence, without prior notification, without access to a lawyer, and without the opportunity to challenge fabricated evidence. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), in *Sejdovic v. Italy* (2006), ruled that a conviction in absentia is only lawful if the accused has been duly informed of the trial and retains an absolute right to retrial. However, Qatar's Code of Criminal Procedure (Law No. 23 of 2004, Article 276) does not provide for automatic retrials, making his conviction a violation of internationally recognized defense rights.

Furthermore, forensic analysis has confirmed that court records, legal signatures, and procedural documents in his case were falsified. This breach of judicial independence constitutes a violation of Article 11 of the UNCAC, which requires states to uphold judicial integrity and prevent undue political influence over legal proceedings.

Article 6 of the ICCPR guarantees the right to life and strictly prohibits arbitrary deprivation of life. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions has consistently held that where systemic human rights violations and judicial manipulation occur, the imposition of the death penalty constitutes an extrajudicial execution.

On 31 May 2023, Qatari authorities sentenced Mr. Benabderrahmane to death in absentia, without affording him legal representation or the opportunity to defend himself. His death sentence was upheld on 26 October 2023 in a secret appellate proceeding, conducted without his knowledge or participation. The absence of an automatic retrial for a death sentence imposed in absentia is inconsistent with international standards of due process, rendering his execution unlawful under Article 6 of the ICCPR.

A leaked letter from the Prime Minister of Qatar, dated 18 July 2023, explicitly confirms that Qatari authorities are actively seeking to execute Mr. Benabderrahmane. This raises serious concerns about Qatar's potential engagement in state-sponsored extrajudicial executions or forced renditions, further increasing the imminent risk of unlawful state action.

In light of reports and concerns raised by international human rights organizations regarding restrictions on dissent, surveillance, and legal actions against individuals critical of

the Qatari authorities, there is a credible risk that Mr. Benabderrahmane may face unlawful reprisals beyond Qatar's jurisdiction. The principle of non-refoulement, set out in the UNCAT, strictly prohibits the return of individuals to a country where they face a real risk of torture or execution. This further reinforces the international obligation to intervene and prevent Qatar from unlawfully carrying out a death sentence.

Qatari authorities unlawfully seized Mr. Benabderrahmane's assets, financial investments, and business holdings, depriving him of his property without due process. This act of economic retaliation constitutes a direct violation of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which explicitly protects individuals from arbitrary expropriation of property.

While Article 17 of the ICCPR primarily protects against arbitrary interference with an individual's privacy, home, and correspondence, the UN Human Rights Committee has, in certain cases, interpreted this provision to extend to the unlawful deprivation of property by state authorities. The complete confiscation of Mr. Benabderrahmane's business assets, without legal justification or procedural remedy, represents a gross abuse of state power.

Furthermore, these financial reprisals violate Qatar's obligations under the UNCAC. Article 5 of the UNCAC requires states to implement anti-corruption measures to prevent the misuse of state power. However, Qatar's confiscation of Mr. Benabderrahmane's financial assets, as part of a broader campaign of repression, directly contradicts these commitments.

The politically motivated economic retaliation against him underscores Qatar's use of legal and financial mechanisms to suppress whistleblowers. The international community must recognize that such state-led economic persecution is part of a broader pattern of transnational repression. The targeted seizure of assets belonging to whistleblowers and political dissidents raises serious concerns about the abuse of judicial and financial systems for political retaliation and calls for urgent international scrutiny.

The alleged violations committed by Qatar against Mr. Benabderrahmane highlight systemic breaches of multiple international treaties and human rights protections. These actions demonstrate the urgent need for independent oversight, accountability mechanisms, and decisive intervention by the international community to ensure justice and prevent further human rights abuses.