

*(Translated from Arabic)*

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

**Reply from the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the questions raised in communication No. AL SAU 6/2018, dated 17 August 2018, concerning the case of**

**1. With regard to the request to provide additional information or comments on the allegations in question:**

The decision to sever diplomatic and consular relations with the State of Qatar was taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in line with its sovereign right, guaranteed by international law, to protect its national security against threats of terrorism and extremism. The Kingdom took the decision in response to the flagrant violations perpetrated by the Doha authorities in recent years, both covertly and openly, with a view to provoking discord in Saudi society, inciting rebellion against the State and undermining its sovereignty by harbouring numerous terrorist and sectarian groups that seek to destabilize the region. However, the Kingdom will remain a staunch ally of the fraternal Qatari people and will continue to support their security and stability, regardless of the hostile acts committed by the Doha authorities.

We wish to emphasize that the Kingdom has taken the requisite measures to address humanitarian cases by, in particular, issuing a Royal Decree to establish a committee for the purpose following the adoption of the decision. Work has begun on reports of cases submitted through various channels. For instance, the Ministry of the Interior has announced the establishment of official hotline telephone numbers to receive reports so that they can be duly addressed.

The Committee on Humanitarian Cases shows due regard for persons whose attested health condition requires that they either enter or leave the Kingdom for ongoing treatment. Qataris residing in the Kingdom enjoy the same right to health as Saudi nationals.

It was established, on reviewing requests submitted to the Committee on Humanitarian Cases, that no request for permission to enter the Kingdom for completion of treatment was received from the father of the child in question either directly, through the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, which serves as the Embassy of the State of Qatar in the Kingdom, or through the round-the-clock humanitarian phone line. Accordingly, the person concerned was not prevented from entering the Kingdom, and his family could apply through the aforementioned channels for permission to enter the Kingdom to complete his treatment.

**2. With regard to the request to provide information about the legal framework and policies to address discrimination against persons with disabilities in connection with their right to life:**

All laws and regulations in force in the Kingdom and all legal and judicial procedures are based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination on any ground, including on the ground of disability. None of the laws or regulations in force refers directly or indirectly to discrimination on the ground of disability, and none of them denies access for persons with disabilities to the rights and benefits that the Kingdom guarantees to all its citizens.


The Kingdom has adopted a number of measures, such as affirmative action, on behalf of persons with disabilities so that they can exercise their rights on an equal footing with persons without disabilities. To that end, the Kingdom has issued several affirmative action decrees on behalf of persons with disabilities. The right to life is guaranteed to every human being as an inherent right of the utmost importance. As it must be protected against all forms of assault, the Kingdom has taken vigorous action to safeguard the right to life

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and to provide means of survival and safety for all persons on an equal basis, including persons with disabilities.

Many legislative and procedural measures have been adopted to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including the promulgation of the Care for Persons with Disabilities Act, which includes provisions that promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and are in line with relevant international standards. The Kingdom has also ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has thus become an integral part of national legislation and enjoys the same legal status as the Kingdom's other legislation. The instrument of accession to or ratification of a convention is promulgated in accordance with the same legal procedures as the laws of the Kingdom, in accordance with article 70 of the Basic Law of Governance, which stipulates that: "Laws, international conventions and treaties, and concession agreements shall be promulgated and amended by royal decree." The Kingdom's recent report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities clarified all its efforts and obligations in that regard. The report has been published on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

**3. With regard to the request to provide information about the legal remedies available to persons with disabilities when their rights are violated:**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has recognized equality as an integral component of the principles on which it is based. Article 8 of the Basic Law on Governance stipulates that: "Governance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is based on justice, consultation and equality, in accordance with the Islamic sharia." Hence all the Kingdom's legislation pertaining to human rights is based on the principle of justice and equality, and all competent State bodies are required to protect and promote human rights without discrimination on grounds of religion, race, gender or nationality. If any such body or its representative violates any right, the person whose right was violated is entitled to have recourse to any of the following mechanisms:

- Judicial authorities represented in the courts at all levels of the judicial system, administrative courts at all levels of the Board of Grievances (the administrative judiciary), and the Public Prosecution Service;
- Competent government agencies;
- Governmental and non-governmental human rights institutions;
- The Royal Council and the Council of the Crown Prince: article 43 of the Basic Law of Governance stipulates that: "The Royal Council and the Council of the Crown Prince shall be open to all citizens and to anyone with a complaint or grievance. All persons shall have the right to contact the public authorities regarding matters affecting them";
- Provincial governors: article 7 (c) of the Provinces Act, which was promulgated by Royal Decree No. A/92 of A.H. 27 Sha'ban 1412 (2 March 1992), stipulates that provincial governors are responsible for guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of individuals and must refrain from taking any action that would violate those rights and freedoms, save within the limits prescribed by the Islamic sharia and the law.