



مَكْتَبُ الْإِتِّصَالِ الْحُكُومِيِّ  
Government Communications Office

1 August 2018

Minky Worden  
Director of Global Initiatives  
Human Rights Watch  
350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor  
New York, NY 10118-3299

Ms. Worden,

Thank you for reaching out and providing us with the opportunity to respond to your query on the matter of certain newspaper publications in the State of Qatar.

The government of the State of Qatar does not directly oversee, control, or limit the publication of The New York Times International Edition in Qatar. As you correctly note, the printing and distribution of international media is done by an independent company in Qatar. While their work is done with no input from the government, all media distributors are expected to comply with the local cultural standards and expectations of their readers and the community. The government is currently examining the issues recently raised around this local distributor, and we will inform you of necessary actions that are taken.

Qatar takes seriously the existence of a free press both in Qatar and the region. That is why we work proactively to support local, regional, and international media. It is this mission that inspired the creation of the Al Jazeera Media Network over two decades ago. As you are aware, this stands in sharp contrast to others in the region who regularly limit press, and promote propaganda over news. Qatar remains committed to further development of media in our country and our region.

As those who have visited, lived, and worked in Qatar can attest, we are a welcoming and hospitable country. Qatar views the 2022 FIFA World Cup as an opportunity to bridge cultural divides and to serve as a unique platform for bringing people together. We look forward to people of different ethnicities, languages, religions, and cultures converging in Qatar and uniting through a shared passion for football.

Thank you again for your query. If we can answer anything additional, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Government Communications Office, State of Qatar