



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2017)	Not Available
Detained asylum seekers (2017)	Not Available
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
Immigration detention capacity (2017)	Not Available
Persons expelled (2017)	Not Available
International migrants (2019)	2,229,688
New asylum applications (2019)	22
Number of immigration detainees on a given day (2017)	1,300

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/middle-east/qatar>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2017	Number of immigration detainees on a given day	1,300	2017
Top nationalities of detainees	Not Available	2017	Number of persons granted alternatives to immigration detention	Not Available	2017
Number of detained asylum seekers	Not Available	2017	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
Number of detained unaccompanied minors	Not Available	2017	Number of detained accompanied minors	Not Available	2017
Number of detained stateless persons	Not Available	2017	Number of apprehensions of non-citizens	Not Available	2017
Immigration detainees as a percentage of total international migrant population	Not Available	2017	Estimated total immigration detention capacity	Not Available	2017
Number of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres	1	2019	Estimated capacity of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres	Not Available	2017
	Not Available	2017			
Number of dedicated medium-term immigration detention centres	Not Available	2017	Number of immigration offices	Not Available	2017
Number of transit facilities	Not Available	2017	Number of criminal facilities	Not Available	2017
Number of ad hoc facilities	Not Available	2017	Number of persons removed/returned (voluntary returns and deportations)	Not Available	2017
Number of deportations/forced returns only	Not Available	2017	Percentage of persons removed in relation to total number of people placed in removal procedures	Not Available	2017
Criminal prison population	1,150	2013	Percentage of foreign prisoners	73.3	2008
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	53	2013			

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	2,900,000	2020	International migrants	2,229,688	2019
	2,235,000	2015		1,721,400	2017
				1,687,600	2015
International migrants as a percentage of the population	65.2	2017	Estimated number of undocumented migrants	Not Available	2018
	75.5	2015		Not Available	2017

Refugees	202	2019	Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	0.08	2016
	190	2018		0.06	2014
	188	2017			
	176	2016			
	120	2015			
	133	2014			
Total number of new asylum applications	22	2019	Refugee recognition rate	100	2017
	125	2017		77.8	2014
	83	2016			
	86	2014			
Stateless persons	1,200	2018			
	1,200	2016			
	1,200	2015			

DOMESTIC LAW				
LEGAL TRADITION				
Legal tradition	Name		Observation Date	
	Muslim law			
	Civil law			
	Common law			
	Customary law			
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Constitutional guarantees?	Yes/No	Constitution and Articles	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Yes	Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar, Article 36.	2004	2004
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Core pieces of national legislation	Name		Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Law No. 21 of 2015 regulating the entry and exit of expatriates and their residence.		2015	2018
	Law No. 4 of 2009 Regulating the Entry and Exit of Expatriates in Qatar and their Residence and Sponsorship.		2009	
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Additional legislation	Name		Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Law No. 15 for the year 2011 on Combating Trafficking in Persons.		2011	

GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION					
Immigration-status-related grounds	Name		Observation Date		
	Detention to effect removal		2015		
	Detention for unauthorised entry or stay		2015		
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION					
Non-immigration-status-related grounds providing for administrative detention in immigration legislation.	Name		Observation Date		
	Detention on health-related grounds		2015		
	Detention on public order, threats or security grounds		2015		
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES					
Does the country provide specific criminal penalties for immigration-related violations?	Fines	Incarceration	Observation Date		
	Yes	Yes	2015		
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES					
Grounds for criminal immigration-related detention/incarceration and maximum potential duration of incarceration	Grounds for Incarceration	Maximum Number of Days of Incarceration		Observation Date	
	Unauthorized entry	1095		2015	
	Unauthorised stay	1095		2015	
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES					
Has the country decriminalized immigration-related violations?	Has the country decriminalized immigration-related violations?			Observation Date	
	No			2015	
LENGTH OF DETENTION					
Maximum length for administrative immigration detention in law.	Number of Days		Observation Date		
	No Limit		2015		
PROCEDURAL STANDARDS					
Provision of basic procedural standards	Name		In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Information to detainees			No	2013
	Access to free interpretation services			infrequently	2013
	Access to consular assistance			infrequently	2013
	Right to appeal the lawfulness of detention			No	2013
	Complaints mechanism regarding detention conditions			No	2013

NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)

Types of non-custodial measures	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Supervised release and/or reporting	Yes		2015
	Designated non-secure housing	Yes		2015

VULNERABLE PERSONS

Is the detention of vulnerable persons provided in law? Are they detained in practice?	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Pregnant women		Yes	2014
	Accompanied minors		Yes	2014
	Victims of trafficking	Prohibited		2011

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
<p>Latest Update</p>	<p>As reported previously on this platform (Qatar 7 May), migrant workers in Qatar, who make up the majority of the country's workforce, appear to have been disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, which reported 1,595 new cases on 7 June. Qatar's overcrowded labor camps are a "fertile ground for transmission of COVID-19," according to a health expert with the World Bank (CBS 15 May). In Doha's central prison, detention conditions have deteriorated, according to detainees interviewed by Human Rights Watch (HRW). Reports denounce the lack of antiseptic gel and the limited access to soap and water. Due to the overcrowding in the buildings, the social distancing is impossible to maintain. HRW called out the government on the outbreak in the central prison, to which Qatar's communications office responded shortly after. They declared that the report of an outbreak was false, and that "prisoners were being provided with health services 'equal' to the rest of the country's residents." On 17 May, Qatar announced that individuals not wearing a protection mask in public spaces would be arrested and jailed for up to 3 months. On 8 June, 250 Bangladeshi were released from prisons or detention camps in Qatar and taken to Bangladesh on a special flight.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>With more than 17,000 cases of Covid-19, Qatar has the highest infection rate in the Gulf. Most cases concern migrant workers, who make up 95 percent of the country's workforce. Since 2010, in preparation for the 2022 World Cup, there has been an important increase in the numbers of migrant workers, in particular in sectors such as construction, hotel, and domestic work. Most of these workers reside in a work camp near Doha, an industrial zone that was placed under quarantine. There were reportedly shortages of food during the first days of the confinement. The NGO Qatar Charity distributed meals to some 4,000 migrant workers, but the total number of residents in the camp is estimated to be several tens of thousands. The conditions in the work camp are particularly worrying because migrants do not have the space to socially distance and most of them do not have access to health care or proper sanitation. Many migrant workers were arrested and deported to Nepal, according to Amnesty International. They were told that they were being taken to screening centres, and that they would return to their accommodation later. Instead, they were taken to detention centres, where "they were kept in abominable conditions for several days", as reported by Amnesty International. On 1 April, a coalition of rights groups, including Migrant-Rights.org and Amnesty International, issued a joint letter "urging Qatar to take adequate steps to protect migrant workers amid the COVID-19 crisis." The letter, which was also sent to the other Gulf countries, made the following recommendations: 1. Ensure that all workers, quarantined or otherwise, whose living conditions leave them particularly vulnerable to infection, are tested and provided with appropriate medical treatment, and that undocumented worker can seek medical treatment without fear of detention. All workers should have access to adequate housing facilities, including a facility to isolate themselves if necessary, as well as water and sanitation, so they can effectively protect themselves; 2. No one, including migrant workers, is detained for violating quarantine; 3. Migrant workers who are unable to work, either due to preventive quarantine or testing positive for COVID-19, continue to receive their full wages; 4. Provide the public with information to ensure that migrant workers, including domestic workers, do not face discrimination or stigma in relation to the COVID-19 virus; 5. Ensure domestic workers are provided with access to timely and adequate protective measures and healthcare and receive sick pay if they are unable to work due to illness.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>Riots have broken out in Qatar's prisons. In the central prison in Doha, prisoners attacked a guard and burnt several cells. It has also been reported that the administration is refusing to release prisoners even though Covid-19 is spreading within its penal institutions. Rioters are being placed in isolation, without water, food or cigarettes. Some have been transferred to a prison at the centre of an industrial estate despite the quarantine measures in place in that facility. Qatar is the member of the Gulf Cooperation Council with most Covid-19 cases. 483 cases have been confirmed on 22 March 2020. Reports have also indicated that the country's largest labour camp for migrant workers has become a virtual prison, with police guarding the perimeter, leaving thousands of workers trapped in squalid, overcrowded camps, where the virus can spread rapidly. A Nepali worker who lives inside the area commented: "we are not allowed to walk in groups or eat in a tea shop. But you can still buy food and take it home. I'm worried about my family back home. There won't be anyone to take care of them if anything happens to me". The GDP has been unable to find any reports indicating that authorities have taken measures to assist migrants and asylum seekers, including those in detention.</p>	<p>2020</p>

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaties	Name	Ratification Year	
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	2018	
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	2018	
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	2009	
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2009	
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2008	
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2000	
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1998	
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1995	
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1976	
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	9/19		
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaty reservations	Name	Reservation Year	Observation Date
	CEDAW Article 2	2009	2009
	CTOCTP Article 6	2009	2009
	CTOCTP Article 7	2009	2009
	CAT Article 1	2000	2000
	CAT Article 16	2000	2000
	VC Article 36	1998	1998
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date	
	0/5		
	0/5		

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
<p>Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies</p>	<p>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women</p>	<p>§26. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(b) Collect data and establish appropriate mechanisms aimed at early identification and referral of, and assistance and support for, victims of trafficking, especially women migrant workers arrested for “ absconding ” and other breaches of the sponsorship law, violations of the immigration law or prostitution;</p>	<p>2014</p>
	<p>Committee against Torture</p>	<p>§10. The State party should promptly take effective measures to ensure that all detainees, including non-citizens, are afforded, in practice, all fundamental legal safeguards from the very outset of detention, including the rights to promptly receive independent legal assistance and a medical examination by an independent doctor, contact relatives, and appear before a judge within a time limit in accordance with international standards. The State party should also take steps to ensure effective monitoring of the adherence of all personnel to the laws governing safeguards, and discipline or prosecute those who fail to provide them to persons deprived of their liberty as required by law. The State party should ensure that all detainees, including minors, are included on a central register. The State party is encouraged to introduce systematic video and audio monitoring and recording of all interrogations, in all places where torture and ill-treatment are likely to occur, and provide the necessary resources to that end.</p> <p>§ 15. The State party should ensure that fully independent monitoring of all places used for deprivation of liberty, including the Deportation Detention Centre , psychiatric facilities and the State security prison, takes place on a regular basis, as well as including unannounced visits, and should follow up effectively on the outcome of such systematic monitoring in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The State party should strengthen the mandate and resources of the National Human Rights Committee and other national monitoring mechanisms to that end. The State party is encouraged to accept monitoring of places of detention by non-governmental organizations and relevant international mechanisms and to consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention as soon as possible.</p> <p>§20. The State party should take all necessary measures to :</p> <p>...(b) Ensure systematic procedures to identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable groups, such as those arrested for immigration violations or prostitution, and provide protection for victims and access for them to medical, social rehabilitative and legal services, including counselling services, as appropriate...</p>	<p>2013</p>
	<p>Committee against Torture</p>	<p>§42. The State party should: (a) Refrain from detaining undocumented migrants for prolonged periods, use detention as a measure of last resort only and for as short a period as possible and promote alternatives to detention; (b) Ensure that detained foreigners, including undocumented migrants, have the right to contact the consular services of their respective country and are entitled to receive legal aid; (c) Continue its efforts to improve the conditions of detention and alleviate the overcrowding of deportation detention facilities, including through the application of non-custodial measures. In doing so, the Committee draws the State party ’ s attention to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).</p>	<p>2018</p>
	<p>Committee on the Rights of the Child</p>	<p>§34: (...) the Committee urges the State party to: (a) Refrain from holding children and families with children in immigration detention facilities in line with the principles of the best interests of the child and of family unity; systematically employ non-custodial measures rather than detention; and establish shelters for those categories of migrant;</p>	<p>2017</p>

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

Regional legal instruments	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
	AC, Arab Charter on Human Rights	2009

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Name	Year of Visit	Observation Date
	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	2013	2015
	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children	2006	2015

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
<p>Relevant recommendations by UN Special Procedures</p>	<p>Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants</p>	<p>§86. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a national preventive mechanism with a mandate to undertake unannounced visits to all places where migrants are deprived of their liberty.</p> <p>...</p> <p>§121. Refrain from detaining individuals for the sole reason of having absconded from their employer. End the systematic detention of migrants awaiting deportation and always explore alternatives to detention. Detention should be a measure of last resort, limited to those cases where there is a risk of a migrant absconding from future proceedings, or when the person poses a threat to his or her own or public security, and its duration should be limited to the minimum time necessary. A maximum time limit should be established by law.</p> <p>§122. Significantly improve detention conditions and procedural safeguards, in line with international human rights standards, and develop appropriate regulations on the detention of migrants in line with international human rights standards. In particular, ensure that all detained migrants have easy access to:</p> <p>(a) Adequate medical care, interpreters, adequate food and clothes, a bed and clean sheets, hygienic conditions, adequate space to move around and access to outdoor exercise;</p> <p>(b) Information in a language they understand as to the reason for their detention, its duration and the right and means to challenge the detention;</p> <p>(c) Means of contacting their family and consular services, as well as those of an interpreter and a lawyer, which should be free of charge if necessary, in order to be able to exercise their rights.</p> <p>§123. Seek guidance from the report of the Special Rapporteur on the detention of migrants in an irregular situation (A/HRC/20/24).</p> <p>§124. Refrain from detaining pregnant women.</p> <p>§125. Refrain from detaining children and families with children, in conformity with the principles of the best interests of the child and of family unity. Shelters should be established, particularly for those categories of migrants.</p> <p>§126. Ensure full access to all detention facilities for lawyers and international and local civil society organizations and implement systematic independent monitoring of detention centres.</p> <p>§127. Seek technical assistance from OHCHR in relation to the detention of migrants, including on how to determine the criteria for detention, and on procedural safeguards and detention conditions.</p> <p>...</p> <p>§131. Ensure that single mothers are not imprisoned with their babies. Instead, those who wish to return to their countries should be assisted in returning home with their babies, with help from their consular authorities. In the meantime, they should be housed in shelters, whenever required. Measures should</p>	<p>2014</p>	<p>2014</p>
	<p>Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children</p>	<p>95. The Special Rapporteur recommends that:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(m) Screening and identification procedures of trafficked persons in detention centres be systematic. Alternative arrangements, other than deportation or detention centres, should be considered to safely house identified trafficked persons;</p> <p>...</p> <p>(q) Authorities ensure that embassies are systematically informed when their nationals are being detained, and visits by the relevant consular officials be facilitated. Sending countries should ensure that their embassies in the receiving States have the necessary resources to carry out such visits, follow up on the cases and provide any necessary assistance;</p> <p>...</p> <p>(u) Migrant workers in detention centres be informed of the reasons of their arrest in a language they understand, be provided with legal assistance if requested, be allowed to make a local or international phone call and have access to their embassies</p>	<p>2007</p>	<p>2007</p>

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2010	2017
	Yes	2014	

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

Governing structures

Federal or centralized governing system	Federal or centralized governing system	Observation Date
	Centralized system	2018

Governing structures

Centralized or decentralized immigration authority	Centralized or decentralized immigration authority	Observation Date
	Centralized immigration authority	2018

Institutions responsible for immigration detention

Custodial authority	Agency	Ministry	Ministry Typology	Observation Date
	Search and Follow Up Department	Ministry of Interior	Interior or Home Affairs	2014
	Search and Follow up Department	Ministry of Interior	Interior or Home Affairs	2014
		Ministry of Interior	Interior or Home Affairs	2005

Institutions responsible for immigration detention

Detention Facility Management	Entity Name	Entity Type	Observation Date
	Search and Follow-up Department (Ministry of Interior)	Governmental	2014

Detention monitoring institutions

Is the national human rights institution (NHRI) recognized as independent?	Is the NHRI recognized as independent by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions?	Observation Date
	Yes	2018

Detention monitoring institutions

Does NHRI carry out visits?	Does NHRI carry out visits in practice?	Observation Date
	Yes	2017

Detention monitoring institutions

Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?	Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?	Observation Date
	No	2018

Detention monitoring institutions

Does national preventive mechanism (NPM) carry out visits?	Does NPM carry out visits in practice?	Observation Date
	No	2018

Detention monitoring institutions

Do NGOs carry out visits?	Do NGOs regularly carry our visits?	Observation Date
	Infrequently	2017

More information about immigration detention in Qatar is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)