

**In a ruling that Exemplifies Show Trials: The Qatari Court of Cassation
Rules against Abdullah and Holds to the Coerced Confession which it
Admits is Not Supported by any Material Evidence**

**A Statement from the Family of Abdullah Ibhais, the prisoner of Qatar
FIFA World Cup 2022:**

“After a surprise hearing held by the Qatari Court of Cassation on 7-11-2022 without prior notice, in the absence of Abdullah and his lawyer; the Court of Cassation ruled against Abdullah Ibhais. The decision was published on the Qatari Courts' System on 29-11-2022; 22 days after the hearing.

“By this ruling, Abdullah has exhausted all legal channels in Qatar, which continuously failed to provide him with the minimum requirement of justice.

“We consider Abdullah to be a political prisoner in Qatar. The courts’ proceedings were no more than a legal facade for his imprisonment, intended to silence him on the matter of Migrant Workers during the World Cup.

“We call again on Human Rights Organisations, FIFA, activists, journalists, and everybody heading to Qatar or concerned about the World Cup 2022 to raise their voice for the freedom of Abdullah.”

**Nicholas McGeehan, Director of human rights organisation, FairSquare,
adds:**

“Abdullah Ibhais did the world a huge service by exposing the lies and deceit on which this World Cup was built. He and his family have paid a terrible price for that, and this final appeal decision confirms the politicised nature of his case. FIFA should demand his immediate release.”

Further detail on the ruling of the Court of Cassation from the family of Abdullah Ibhais

- The Ruling was NOT surprising to us, as we have previously declared our COMPLETE DISTRUST in the Qatari Legal System.
- It was clear that the legal developments were driven by a political decision, as the court chose to pick Abdullah's case just before the opening of the World Cup; after 9 months of receiving the appeal. Court proceedings were accompanied by Prison Administration measures against Abdullah; he was banned from visits and phone calls, and was put into solitary confinement.
- **The Decision against Abdullah is a typical example of the show trials we witnessed before by Qatar's Courts:**
 1. The Court admitted that Abdullah's interrogation was in the absence of his lawyer, but blamed Abdullah for not providing himself a lawyer while in custody!
 2. The court held to the coerced confession and rejected Abdullah's plea to retract it despite that it was taken in the absence of a lawyer, and despite the fact that it was taken in a secret investigation conducted by State Security Police for a matter that DOES NOT concern state security.
 3. The Court –in reply to the written defense- admitted that no material evidence did support the confession; but said that it had the full authority to take it into consideration. The court insisted that it was "satisfied with the confession" without giving any credible justification.
 4. As the tender in which Abdullah is accused of bribery WAS NOT awarded to any of the tenderees according to official papers; the court admitted this fact but replied that "The intention to make use of public office is punishable even if the crime DID NOT actually take place".

5. As with previous levels of court, the court insisted on considering the testimonies witnesses gave to police, and overlooked the contrary testimonies by the same persons presented in court.

In conclusion, the court used a coerced confession to prove an alleged "intention" for bribery; and Abdullah is sentenced to THREE YEARS in prison based on this dubious allegation.

- **By this ruling, Abdullah has exhausted all legal channels in Qatar, which continuously failed to provide him the minimum requirement of justice.**
- **Given this, we the family of Abdullah Ibhais, consider Abdullah a POLITICAL PRISONER in Qatar. The courts' proceedings were no more than a legal facade for his imprisonment, that is meant to silence him on the matter of Migrant Workers during the World Cup.**
- We again call upon human rights organizations, activists, journalists, and everybody heading to Qatar or concerned about the World Cup 2022 to raise their voice for the **FREEDOM OF ABDULLAH**, as he is indeed a political prisoner in Qatar, a Prisoner of Qatar FIFA World Cup 2022.

30th Nov 2022