

2013-2014 Docket of the Arab Court of Justice

PLEASE NOTE: The Arab Court of Justice is only held at select models.

1. **The League of Arab States (Represented by the State of Qatar) vs. The Egyptian Arab Republic: Regarding intimidation and incarceration of journalists**

This case stems, generally, from reports of widespread pressure on the press in Egypt since the military takeover in July 2013. Journalists were among the 43 foreign NGO workers sentenced to prison time (almost all in absentia), and several other journalists have been detained without charge. The League is bringing this case because of the broad nature of the crackdown, both on foreign journalists operating in Egypt, and the companies and news agencies they represent. Iranian and Turkish news outlets have been raided (Al-Alam on 20 July and Ihlas News Agency (IHA) on 20 August), and Al Jazeera's offices were raided before their entire operation was shut down. This is the basis for Qatar representing the League in this case.

2. **The Muslim Brotherhood vs. The Egyptian Arab Republic: Regarding the removal of President Mohamed Morsi and his government from office**

In July 2013, after days of anti-Morsi protests (and pro-Morsi counter-protests) the Egyptian military forcibly removed democratically elected President Mohamed Morsi from office. Mr. Morsi was promptly jailed, as well as most of the Muslim Brotherhood's senior leadership. In the wake of these events, violence between demonstrators and with military forces erupted, and has continued in spates in the ensuing months. The military said it was acting to protect the interests of the Egyptian people and has proposed future elections; the Muslim Brotherhood views the situation as a blatant military coup against a democratically elected government. This is a unique case in that it deals with Article 11 of the ACJ Statute, which stipulates that only member states may bring cases before the Court. In this case, however, both the Muslim Brotherhood and the current military-led government claim to be the rightful and legal government.

3. **The United Arab Emirates vs. The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia: Regarding the continued piracy off the Horn of Africa**

This is a rather straight-forward case in which one government, the UAE, is accusing another, Somalia, of failing to fulfill its international obligations. Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea has been a consistent problem for years, much of which emanated from the long and ungoverned Somali coastline. Somalia itself has been fractious and largely ungoverned since the early 1990s civil war, and the current government, the defendants in this case, have only been in power since 2012. While great strides have been made recently to combat both piracy and insurgents led by the Al-Shabab group, major structural and security issues remain.

4. **The Islamic Republic of Algeria vs. The State of Libya: Regarding border disputes and lack of security between national borders**

While Algeria and Libya have maintained fairly good relations in the wake of the 2011 ouster of long-time Libyan President Gadhafi, border security and smuggling have been persistent concerns. Instability in Libya, and indeed across throughout many parts of Saharan North Africa, has fostered a situation where the free flow of arms, people, and goods across international borders has become easier and more widespread. Though various agreements have been made, and nearly all countries in the region have been increasing their border restrictions and security forces, Algeria claims in this case that the Libyan government has not fulfilled its international obligations to reduce threats to border security originating from within its territory.

5. **National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces vs. The Republic of Lebanon: Regarding Lebanese groups' participation in military activities on Syrian territory**

The ongoing conflict in Syria has, to some extent, become a regional competition pitting Shi'ite Iran, Assad's forces, and Lebanon's Hezbollah against the largely Sunni rebels backed by Turkey, the Arab Gulf states, and somewhat the West. Hezbollah entered the fighting in Syria directly this past June, helping Assad's forces retake the strategic town of Qusair in southwest Syria, and are now involved in fighting across the country. The Syrian opposition forces, however, have been recognized by the Arab League in favor of Assad's government. Thus, they are asserting in this case that Lebanon's failure to stop Hezbollah from entering the war – or perhaps entered the war themselves considering Hezbollah's leading role in the Lebanese government – is a breach of their international obligations.