

2018 Arab Court of Justice Docket

The State of Qatar v. the Gulf Cooperation Council: Regarding the blockade of Qatar

On June 5, 2017, many GCC Countries including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and UAE cut diplomatic ties followed by a land, air, and sea embargo on Qatar following accusations of their support of extremists. Saudi Arabia issues a list of 13 stipulations to be met by Qatar in exchange for lifting the blockade. In August of 2017, Qatar filed an official complaint with the WTO against all three countries citing “coercive attempts at economic isolation” of the country. This blockade has caused serious tension within the region and created an extreme possibility of economic decline in Qatar. In this case, the court will consider if the GCC’s actions in regards to the blockade are justified

Sources:

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The State of Kuwait v. The Republic of Iraq: Regarding reparations for the 1990-1991 occupation of Kuwait

Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, from 1990-1991. On August 2, 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait resulting in a victory and subsequent “annexation” of the country. The United States supported Kuwait and launched a military operation to free the country of its occupation. In light of the campaign, 1,000 Kuwaiti citizens and an estimated 30,000 Iraqi troops lost their lives. Additionally, over 250,000 Kuwaitis fled to neighboring Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

At the end of the “Gulf War,” Iraqi forces set fire to over six hundred oil wells causing an estimated \$20 billion in damage. In addition, several government buildings including the

National Assembly, the Foreign Ministry and a number of luxury hotels were set on fire, causing further loss of property. The purpose of this case is straight-forward, to explore whether Iraq is responsible for paying reparations for the damaged caused during the occupation of Kuwait.

Sources:

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The League of Arab States (The Kingdom of Morocco) v. The State of Libya: Regarding human trafficking in Libya

In August of 2017, CNN received footage of young male migrants being auctioned in Libya. Footage released showed the young men being sold as farm laborers for \$400. Over the past four years, Libya has had an influx of migrants and refugees looking for a way to travel to Europe and make a new life. Over 150,000 migrants and refugees have attempted the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. Recently, however, the Libyan coast guard has been capturing more vessels attempting to smuggle people into Europe, leaving an estimated 400,000 to 1 million migrants trapped in Libya. In this case, the court will consider whether Libya has done all it can to protect the rights of refugees, internally displaced persons, and other migrants under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

Sources:

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The State of Palestine v. The Arab Republic of Egypt: Regarding the 2007 blockade of the Gaza Strip

In 2007, Egypt closed its border with Palestine following the land, sea and air blockade imposed by Israel. Egypt imposed the blockade in response to attacks by Islamist militants in the Sinai Peninsula. The blockade has been significant in weakening the economy and population of Gaza. It continues to suffer from an electricity shortage which had led to an inability to run sewage treatment plants and hospitals. Gaza's population suffers from a lack of clean water, food and infrastructure. While much of the situation is controlled by the Israeli blockade of the boarder, Egypt has perpetuated many of the sufferings of the Gaza population by their continued blockade of both goods and people. In this case, the court will consider if Egypt's closure of the border is legally justified.

Sources:

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