

The legal status of the maritime boundaries of the Qatar Peninsula

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Abstract

The present study aimed to identify the legal status of the maritime boundaries of the Qatar Peninsula, especially, the maritime boundaries dispute between the state of Qatar and the kingdom of Bahrain, and its historical and legal origins. In addition, discuss the role of the international law and international justice represented by the international court of justice in ending this boundary dispute. To this end, the descriptive approach was used through describing the concepts of maritime dispute and maritime boundaries demarcation, and their development in light of the ongoing attempts to set international legal rules regulating them. The analytical approach was also used through analyzing the provisions issued by the international court of justice regarding issues and disputes related to the maritime boundaries of Qatar and the other similar disputes. The study found, most importantly, that referring the issue of maritime boundaries dispute between Qatar and Bahrain to the international court of justice for adjudication and identify their controversial maritime boundaries, are among the main developments concerning the legal status of the Qatar maritime boundaries. Principles of the international law regarding the maritime boundaries and the international court of justice decisions had the prominent role in identifying the legal status of the maritime boundaries of Qatar and ending the maritime boundary disputes. The study recommended establishing an Arab court specializing in settling maritime boundaries disputes between the Arab countries that belongs to the league of Arab states, to which disputes between Arab countries related to maritime boundaries demarcation can be brought.

Key words: Legal status, Maritime boundaries, The Qatar Peninsula.