

## **Migrant workers returning home without salary and justice from Qatar: Amnesty International**

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**Byline:** Chandan Kumar Mandal

### **Body**

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Last June, an investigative report by Westdeutscher Rundfunk Köln (WDR), a German public broadcaster, exposed the dreadful conditions of Nepali **migrants** working on the construction of numerous stadiums for the 2022 FIFA World Cup to be held in Qatar. Nepali **workers** were [reported to be living without money or food](#), in cramped spaces and prison-like conditions.

In August, Nepali **workers** also [joined in a rare protest in Qatar](#) where thousands of construction **workers** protested against the continued inhuman treatment in the gas-rich nation. Media reports showed that **migrant workers** were protesting on the streets for delayed and unpaid salaries and poor facilities.

In August again, hundreds of Nepali **workers** went on strike after [their employers did not issue them a valid ID card](#) for months.

These instances show how exploitation of **migrant workers**, including Nepali **workers**, have continued in the gas-rich nation, which is also the thesis of the latest research by Amnesty International released on Thursday.

According to the new research, thousands of **migrant workers** are still waiting in vain for unpaid wages and compensation, despite Qatar's promises to improve **workers'** rights.

The report called '[All Work, No Pay: The Struggle Of Qatar's Migrant Workers For Justice](#)' revealed how hundreds of **migrant workers** working for three construction and cleaning companies have given up on **justice** and returned home penniless since March 2018, according to the [press statement](#) issued by the human rights organisation.

The statement said that these instances of exploitation have taken place despite the Qatari authorities having established new committees intended to rapidly resolve labour disputes, as part of reforms agreed ahead of the 2022 World Cup.

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“Despite the significant promises of reform which Qatar has made ahead of the 2022 World Cup, it remains a playground for unscrupulous employers,” said Amnesty International’s Deputy Director of Global Issues, Stephen Cockburn, in the press statement. “**Migrant workers** often go to Qatar in the hope of giving their families a better life; instead many people return home penniless after spending months chasing their wages, with too little help from the systems that are supposed to protect them.”

During the research, Amnesty International followed the search for **justice** of more than 2,000 **migrant workers** working for Hamton International, Hamad bin Khaled bin Hamad (HKH) and United Cleaning, after the companies had stopped paying their salaries for several months, citing financial difficulties, before ceasing operations and ending their contracts.

“**Migrant workers** in Qatar too often face an impossible choice between long and often fruitless efforts to seek **justice** or returning to their families without the money needed to support them. We are urging the Qatari authorities to fully deliver what has been promised and end the shameful reality of labour exploitation,” said Cockburn.

Qatar hosts about two million **migrant workers**, but it does not meet international labour standards, said the human rights body.

“The two million **migrant workers** that form the backbone of Qatar’s economy have the right to be treated fairly at work, and to obtain **justice** when they are not,” Cockburn said. “If Qatar is serious about meeting its promises to improve **workers**’ rights, it must provide more judges to ensure cases are heard rapidly, fully finance the compensation fund, and ensure companies that break the rules face **justice**.”

**Source:** The Kathmandu Post (Nepal)

## Graphic

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