

Contents

Abstract.....	5
Acknowledgements.....	7
Contents.....	9
Table of Oman's Royal Decrees.....	13
Table of Oman's Court Decisions, Legal Opinions, and Ministerial Resolutions.....	17
Table of International Standards and Norms.....	19
List of Tables.....	20
Abbreviations.....	21
1 General Introduction.....	23
1.1 Introduction.....	23
1.2 National Safeguards.....	26
1.3 Background of the Legal History and Rights in the Gulf Constitutions	28
1.4 Oman and Constitutional Law.....	31
1.5 Research Question.....	33
1.6 Research Structure.....	37
Part I: Basic Statute and Human Rights	
2 Introduction to Oman's Basic Statute.....	41
2.1 Oman before the Constitution: 'A Historical and Political Overview'	41
2.1.1 Introduction	41
2.1.2 Historical Development before the Constitution (until 1996)	42
2.1.3 Factors Influencing the Omani Society.....	46
2.2 Basic Statute and Constitutionalism.....	54
2.2.1 Introduction	54
2.2.2 Adopting the Constitution.....	56
2.2.3 The Basic Statute Structure.....	59
2.3 The Characteristics of the Basic Statute:.....	63
2.3.1 Arabic Character.....	63
2.3.2 Islamic Character.....	65

2.3.3	The Succession System.....	68
2.3.4	The Oman Council.....	70
2.4	'Basic Statute' in Practice.....	71
2.5	Conclusion.....	76
3	Human Rights Protections and Safeguards under the Omani System.....	80
3.1	Introduction.....	80
3.2	Constitutional References to Basic Human Rights.....	81
3.2.1	Human Rights Restrictions and Guarantees under the Basic Statute.....	81
3.2.2	Human Rights and Freedoms under the Basic Statute.....	84
3.3	Separation of Powers.....	100
3.3.1	The Sultan's Rule.....	103
3.3.2	The Power of Parliament.....	105
3.3.3	Judicial Independence.....	107
3.3.4	Impacts of the Executive Branch	108
3.3.5	The Defence Council.....	110
3.3.6	The Ruling Family Council.....	112
3.3.7	Other Councils.....	113
3.4	The Rule of Law	113
3.4.1	Historical Background of the Judicial System in Oman.....	116
3.4.2	The Legal System after the Basic Statute.....	118
3.4.3	The Court System in Oman.....	120
3.4.4	The Constitutional Court.....	122
3.4.5	The Administrative Court.....	129
3.5	Human Rights Treaties and Reports.....	134
3.5.1	Human Rights Treaties.....	135
3.5.2	Human Rights Reports.....	140
3.6	Human Rights Developments.....	144
3.6.1	Women's Rights.....	144
3.6.2	Human Rights Commission.....	146
3.6.3	Anti-trafficking Law	148
3.6.4	Abolishing the State Security Court	150
3.6.5	The independence of the Public Prosecutor.....	151

3.6.6	Legislative and Audit Powers for the Council of Oman.....	153
3.7	Conclusion.....	154

Part II: Human Rights Case Studies:

Nationality, Shura, and Freedom of Association

4	Omani Nationality and Human Rights.....	159
4.1	Introduction.....	159
4.2	Nationality under the Basic Statute.....	163
4.3	Obtaining and Losing of Nationality.....	170
4.3.1	Obtaining Nationality	170
4.3.2	Loss of Nationality.....	176
4.4	Women's and Children's Rights under the Nationality Law....	180
4.4.1	Gender Discrimination.....	185
4.4.2	Adoption and Nationality.....	189
4.4.3	Nationality and Mixed Marriage.....	191
4.5	Statelessness and Multiple Nationalities.....	193
4.6	Conclusion.....	200
5	Democracy, Shura, and Public Participation.....	203
5.1	Introduction.....	206
5.2	Shura and Democracy.....	207
5.3	Basic Statute and Shura in Oman.....	214
5.3.1	Shura as Part of the Omani System.....	215
5.3.2	The Term 'Shura' Under the Basic Statute.....	217
5.3.3	The Development of 'Public Participation'	221
5.3.4	Basic Statute and Bicameral Council.....	223
5.3.5	Democratic Elections and the Shura Practice.....	226
5.4	The Council of Oman and Human Rights.....	228
5.4.1	The Power of the Elected House (Majlis Ash-Shura).....	230
5.4.2	The Limitations of the Council of Oman	234
5.5	Omani Basic Statute and Political Parties.....	238
5.5.1	The Role of the Omani Civil Societies and Trade Unions in the Election Process.....	247
5.5.2	The Political Role of Women.....	249
5.6	Conclusion.....	252

6	Freedom of Association.....	255
6.1	Introduction.....	255
6.2	Freedom of Association in the Gulf States.....	258
6.2.1	Gulf States Constitutions.....	259
6.2.2	The Statutes Regulate the Freedom in Gulf States.....	262
6.3	The Law of Association in Oman and the Freedom.....	265
6.3.1	The Role of Labour Unions as Associations in Oman.....	267
6.3.2	The Right to Establish an Association.....	269
6.3.3	The Right to Join (or Not to Join) an Organisation.....	278
6.3.4	The Right to Affiliate with International Organisations.....	279
6.3.5	Financial Matters.....	280
6.3.6	Independent Judicial Review.....	281
6.3.7	The Right to Operate Freely without Unreasonable Governmental Interference.....	283
6.3.8	Sanctions and Penalties	286
6.4	Conclusion.....	287
7	General Conclusion.....	294
	Bibliography.....	302
	Appendix.....	315
A 1	The Basic Statute of the State.....	315
A 2	Royal Decree 99/2011 (amends Basic Statute of the State)	331
A 3	Human Rights Developments in Oman from August 2011 to early 2012.....	341