

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Item 6: General Debate

Item 6: General debate on Universal Periodic Review



Mr. president,

Despite the repeated promises of the Bahraini authorities to implement the recommendations related to the universal periodic review, they did not take the initiative to implement the basic recommendations that would stop the violations, release all prisoners of conscience unconditionally, allow the return of freedom of political action to opposition societies and bring about Constitutional compatibility consistent with the International Bill of Human Rights.

While requests to visit the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other international monitoring mechanisms have not yet been responded to, complaints of torture and ill-treatment are still ongoing. Since mid-January this year, hundreds of prisoners in Jaw Central Prison have spoken of the deterioration of prison conditions in successive statements.

While the government of Bahrain claims that it will carry out human rights reforms through the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan, it is noticeable that it did not consult the independent civil society in it and did not include it in the recommendations of the universal periodic review. In conjunction with the preparation of the plan, campaigns of arbitrary arrests and unfair trials continued, as well as the application of the isolation law. More than 100,000 Bahraini citizens have been subjected to political indictment for their affiliation with the political opposition. While the policy of impunity continues, 20,246 cases of arbitrary arrest were monitored (2011-2023), including 1,738 children and 229 women, including thousands of victims of torture and ill-treatment, and death sentences were executed against 5 victims of torture and ill-treatment, The death sentence has been carried out against five prisoners since 2017, while 26 people are currently awaiting execution in Bahrain. Also, 985 citizens were subjected to arbitrary revocation of nationalities since 2012, and there are still 430 stateless Bahrainis to this day since their nationalities were revoked due to participation in the 2011 protests, in addition to the exposure of 199 Bahrainis, including 18 children (according to international law), 20 Bahrainis and 4 foreigners to extrajudicial killing due to violations of the security services.

We call on the Bahraini authorities to release more than 1,500 prisoners of conscience, including opposition figures, such as Sheikh Ali Salman, Secretary-General of Al-Wefaq and head of the largest parliamentary bloc in the 2006 elections; whose association also won the largest number of votes in the 2010 elections, before the start of the political crisis.