

## **UPR Working Group Checklist BAHRAIN**

**Reviewed on 7 April 2008**

### **Main issues raised by NGOs in their submissions but not raised during the Working Group<sup>1</sup>**

- Torture
- Human rights defenders
- Religious discrimination
- Political rights: right to vote, participation in political life, fair elections
- Sexual discrimination
- Detention and prison conditions

### **Main issues/questions raised by States during the Working Group on which Bahrain did not provide a specific answer<sup>2</sup>**

#### International human rights instruments

- Saudi Arabia wanted to know more about the cooperation of the country with relevant organizations such as ILO.
- Egypt noted difficulties faced by countries to ensure that legislation complies with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and requested information on this issue.
- Sudan asked about efforts undertaken to implement CRC and its protocols to achieve human development.

#### Women's rights

- Slovenia asked the following questions which could lead to recommendations had Bahrain tried to achieve a gender perspective in consultations for the preparation of the national report; and what was being planned for the next stage, including the outcome of the review.

#### Cooperation with Special Procedures

- The Netherlands asked whether the Minister could indicate which Special Procedures would be the first to enjoy such an invitation.

#### Freedom of opinion and expression

- Sweden asked what measures are taken to ensure that the draft press law, which prohibits certain expressions of opinion and allows prison sentences to be extended in certain cases, is not unduly restrictive on freedom of expression.
- The United Kingdom asked whether Bahrain was willing to set a deadline to introduce its press law.

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<sup>1</sup> The analysis is based on issues contained in the official documents (the additional information is not taken into account) NGOs submitted to the OHCHR and posted on the OHCHR website compared to ones contained in the Report of the Working Group document A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/4. Please note that, although great care was taken to cover everything, the list may not be exhaustive.

<sup>2</sup> The analysis is based on the Report of the Working Group document A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/4. Some issues might have been raised by Bahrain in its national report or during its presentation, but Bahrain did not answer/comment specific questions on the issues listed during the interactive dialogue. Please note that, although great care was taken to cover everything, the list may not be exhaustive.

- Jordan requested more information on the way in which it has proceeded to guarantee monotheism and freedom of expression.

#### General

- Morocco asked Bahrain to provide statistics on coordination of the management of complaints between the Ministry of Interior and the royal *diwan*.
- The United Kingdom requested further information on equalizing parliamentary constituencies.

#### Human rights while countering terrorism

- The United Kingdom requested details on steps taken to ensure that counter-terrorism legislation complies with the ICCPR

#### Religious Discrimination

- The United States hoped to hear more in the future on the integration of the Shia in society,

#### Expatriate workers

- The United States hoped to hear more in the future the situation of expatriate workers.

### **Recommendations made to Bahrain during the Working Group**

#### Recommendations that enjoyed the support of Bahrain:

1. A gender perspective be included in the planning of the next stages, including the outcome of the review (Slovenia).
2. Initiating a public campaign with the view to removing reservations to CEDAW, ratifying the Optional Protocol and harmonizing national legislation with the Convention. Bahrain was invited to inform about plans in this regard (Slovenia).
3. With regard to the recommendation of Switzerland reflected in paragraph 35 above, Bahrain can conduct wide consultations between different partners, in particular the legislative authority, with the view of adopting a family law.
4. Bahrain could consider signing the Convention on the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearances (France).
5. The draft law on the provision of citizenship to children where the father is not a Bahraini citizen would be considered a priority (Russian Federation).
6. With regard to the recommendation of Netherlands reflected in paragraph 40, Bahrain would inform the Human Rights Council in the next review of Bahrain that will be held after 4 years on the status of adoption of new legislation on female domestic workers.
7. The draft press law ought not to be unduly restrictive on freedom of expression (Sweden).
8. Bahrain could consider inviting the United Nations to a workshop on follow-up to the UPR (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).
9. The positive dynamism of the information sector of Bahrain be recorded. (Tunisia)

#### Recommendations which did not enjoyed the support of Bahrain and which were not singled out

- Switzerland further recommended that an extensive information campaign be undertaken once the code was adopted. (on the family code)
- France recommended taking measures to strengthen the independence of the judiciary
- France recommended more information on reforms with respect to forced marriage, particularly on providing assistance to victims of forced marriage.
- Sweden recommended taking measures to ensure equality before the courts, including with respect to family law.