

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BAHRAIN (SECOND BATCH)

BELGIUM

- Belgium has addressed a standing invitation to the UN special rapporteurs for more than 15 years now. To effectively fulfil their mandate, it is of great importance that the UN special rapporteurs can conduct country visits. Is the Government of Bahrain considering issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures? Are any visits planned for the near future?
- What further measures will the Government of Bahrain undertake in order to fully implement the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI)?
- Is the Government of Bahrain considering to re-establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty or to limit the use of the death penalty?
- Which measures is the Government of Bahrain envisaging to bring its citizenship law and its policy of citizenship revocation in line with its international obligations?

CZECHIA

- According to the national report, Bahraini government agencies continue to examine the issue of ratification of the OP-CAT. What are the outcomes of this examination and does the Government plan the OP-CAT ratification?
- What safeguards are in place or being considered to ensure that Anti-terrorism Law cannot be abused as grounds for harassment, detention and prosecution of journalists and human rights activists? What actions are planned to end the practice of revoking the citizenship as a form of punishment?
- What measures has the Government adopted to ensure protection against discrimination in particular for members of religious minorities, and what remedies are available for victims in cases of arbitrary arrests or summons or travel bans?
- What measures are being adopted to strengthen equality of women and men, in particular in family relations, in areas such as marriage, divorce, guardianship, child custody and inheritance?
- What measures are planned to continue with an inclusive political dialogue process? What measures have been taken since the last UPR cycle to promote the enjoyment of the right to participate in public affairs as enshrined in the ICCPR (Article 25)?
- Could the government provide more details on the case of a civil society representative who was prevented to travel to Geneva to take part in the UPR pre-session on Bahrain organized by an NGO as well as details on other allegations of reprisals against Bahrainis participating or seeking participation at human rights fora in Geneva?

MEXICO

- Could you describe what is the status of the legislative framework on freedom of expression? Is defamation and slander criminalized in your national legislation, and if so, what are the penalties for these acts?
- Has Bahrain taken any steps towards establishing an official moratorium on the death penalty as an intermediate step for its abolition? If not, could you describe the major obstacles for the establishment of a moratorium?
- What measures have been taken in order to ensure that human rights defenders are protected and allowed to conduct their work without hindrance, intimidation or harassment, as well as to cease intimidation or repression against human rights defenders, journalists and NGOs?

NETHERLANDS

- Right to Fair Trial

How will the Kingdom of Bahrain ensure that the amendment of law 105b, allowing for civilians to be prosecuted in military courts, upholds the right to a fair trial as laid down in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which the Kingdom is a party?

- OHCHR Special Procedures

Is the Kingdom of Bahrain willing to extend a standing invitation to all special procedures as soon as possible, including an invitation to the Special Rapporteur for Torture, and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment?

NORWAY

- Until January 2017, Bahrain abided by its moratorium on executions. Could the Bahraini delegation cast any light on why the Government of Bahrain chose to discontinue the moratorium in January 2017?
- How does Bahrain work to protect human rights defenders (whom are granted special protection under international human rights law)?
- Has there been consultations with the organisations in the preparation of the UPR report and will civil society be included in the follow-up, and if so, how?