

Indian Council of South America

OCAPROCE International

Shahsavand Baghdadi

International Human Rights Association of America Minorities

Charitable institute for protecting social victims

Institute for Women's Studies and Research

September 19, 2012

UPR Bahrain

Item 6

Ambassador Ronald Barnes

Thank you Madame Chair,

Our Organizations warmly welcome H. E. Sheik Khalid al Khalifa and the distinguished Members of the delegation of Bahrain and congratulate on your successful completion of the 2nd round of the UPR process. I had the opportunity to meet with some Bahraini Members of Civil Society Organizations and namely, the Karma Society for Human Rights, the Bahrain Jurist Society, the Mabadea Society for Human Rights and the representative of the Nations Human Rights institution.

We congratulate Bahrain for accepting the vast majority of recommendation, including for reform for media laws, in particular to reform the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure for Bahrain's obligations to international human rights convention, including the Convention Against Torture. This reform will improve the laws to be used to prosecute individuals and will grant more rights on the freedom of expression. In this regard we call upon you to drop charges and harsh sentences in accordance with your reform and we commend you for already agreeing to drop all charges to individuals who were charged with freedom of speech and expression.

We realize that this will also take judicial reform, but we continue to align national legislation and laws to allow for freedom of expression, enforced disappearances and access to internet and for defamation and slander crimes.

Call for the expeditious implementation of the Bahrain Independent Commission for Inquiry (BICI) and to review cases concerning so they are in line with international human rights standards.

Although Bahrain did not accept all the recommendations pertaining to the death penalty, we call upon you to reconsider to reform these laws in accordance with international norms and standards. I thank you Madame Chair