



Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain

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ADHRB Condemns Bahrain's Decision to Postpone Visit of UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

WASHINGTON, DC – April 23, 2013 – Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) strongly condemns the [decision](#) by the Bahrain government to postpone a visit by United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez, originally [scheduled](#) to take place May 8-16. This is the second time Mr. Mendez's trip has been [pushed back](#) by the Government of Bahrain. His [request](#) to visit Bahrain has been pending since 2011.

“This marks the second time since February 2012 that the Government of Bahrain has asked the special rapporteur to postpone his visit to Bahrain,” said ADHRB Director Husain Abdulla. “These ongoing attempts to keep UN officials, international human rights organizations, and journalists out of Bahrain lends to the growing suspicion that the government has something to hide.”

The delay closely follows the [release](#) of the US State Department's 2012 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Bahrain, which provides an assessment of ongoing human rights violations in Bahrain, including the use of torture against detainees.

“If the government has nothing to hide, it should allow Mr. Mendez immediate and unobstructed access to Bahrain,” said Abdulla. “Likewise, it should also allow representatives from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit Bahrain later this year, [as planned](#). Continued obfuscation of the truth will only confirm suspicions that the Bahrain government does indeed have something to hide.”

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