



Mr. President,

Alsalam Foundation, together with Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, and the Bahrain Center for Human Rights would like to highlight the ongoing practice of arbitrary detention. This critical violation of human rights, as noted by the Working Group, must be urgently addressed.

For example, in Bahrain, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention recently joined with other Special Procedures in expressing grave concern regarding allegations that “39 minors... were arbitrarily arrested,” noting particular concern in “cases where violence was used, including the shooting and beating of minors.” The Mandates also raised concerns over “a systematic practice of beating minors... on their arrest and initial detention.” Since 2011, Bahrain has arbitrarily detained thousands of individuals.

We are also concerned with treatment of persons once detained in Bahrain. I myself spent over three years in arbitrary detention for giving medical aid to protestors in 2011. In Jau Prison, I witnessed unsanitary conditions, humiliating and degrading treatment, collective punishment, beatings and torture.

The Working Group recently reminded Bahrain that “The duty to comply with international human rights rests not only with the Government, but with all officials, including judges, police and security officers.”

We therefore call on all states, including Bahrain, to immediately end the use of arbitrary detention, to transparently pursue accountability and redress, and to urgently grant country visits to the Special Procedures to address these grave human rights abuses.

Thank you