



Mr. Chair-Rapporteur and Madame Rapporteur,

Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, applaud your perseverance in addressing arbitrary detention and modern forms of slavery worldwide. We would like to raise our concern regarding ongoing issues of arbitrary detention and contemporary slavery in Gulf Cooperation Council states.

We welcome the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's recent adoption of several opinions on Bahrain that declared seven individuals and an unnamed minor to be arbitrarily detained. To date, four individuals addressed in these opinions remain detained. We additionally join the Working Group in expressing grave concern over the arbitrary detention of 39 minors in Bahrain. Given the high number of arbitrary detentions in the country, we ask the Working Group if it has assessed these issues of arbitrary detention to be systematic in Bahrain?

We also welcome the Working Group raising the issue of the arbitrary detention of 94 individuals in the UAE. Your mandate expressed deep concern at allegations of torture during the pre-trial detention of these individuals and declared the continued detention of the 61 individuals convicted in the trial to be arbitrary. We would also like to express concern at the recent detention of the academic Dr. Nasser bin Ghaith, who has been held in secret detention since 18 August 2015. We would like to ask if the Working Group has received an adequate response from the Government of the UAE related to these individuals' continued detention?

With regard to contemporary forms of slavery, we are concerned that the State of Qatar has systematically abused the rights of its migrant laborer population in the lead-up to the 2022 World Cup. The abusive *kafala* sponsorship system enables employers to revoke workers' passports and force them to work long hours, sometimes withholding their pay or paying them less than their contractual wage. We would like to ask the Rapporteur if Qatar has indicated any intention to formally recognize and address the *kafala* system as an effective form of contemporary slavery?

Thank you.