



Mr. President,

Alsalam Foundation, together with Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD) and the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), would like to voice our concern regarding the ongoing human rights crisis in Bahrain.

Bahrain systematically abuses the human rights of its citizens and residents. Prominent human rights defenders like Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, Abduljalil Singace and Naji Fateel have suffered torture, unfair trials, and arbitrary detention. Further human rights defenders have faced further reprisals for their work throughout 2015, including Maryam al-Khawaja and Mohamed Jawad Parweez. Nabeel Rajab has faced arrest, detention and a travel ban in relation to his work and his participation here at the HRC. I, myself, had my citizenship stripped earlier this year with 71 others, rendering me and my newborn son stateless.

Leading political opposition figures like Sheikh Ali Salman, Ebrahim Sharif and Fadel Abbas, representing the main leading political opposition societies in Bahrain, faced new prison sentences this year. Many of their deputies also faced arrest and arbitrary detention, rendering much of Bahrain's opposition leadership behind bars.

Human rights defenders, political opposition figures, and youth on the street equally face extreme restrictions on their peaceful expression, assembly and association. They are tried in unfair courts and offer coerced confessions to unknown crimes. Prison conditions, overcrowding, and physical abuse further compound these problems, Meanwhile, Bahrain's national human rights mechanisms continue to lack any form of credibility, transparency, or efficacy.

Because of the systematic nature of these violations, we call on the Council to condemn the widespread abuses of the Bahraini government, and seriously consider creating a new Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Bahrain.

Thank you.