



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 underline States' failure to engage with the UN Special Procedures.

For example, the Government of Bahrain continues to reject constructive engagement with the Special Procedures. In July 2015, the Working Group on Arbitrary detention released decisions declaring that Bahraini authorities had arbitrarily detained 9 individuals, eight of whom were identified by name. Prior to their arrest, several men, including Mohammed Hassan and Ebrahim al-Sharqi, had previously engaged in peaceful opposition organizing and human rights activism. The Bahrain government has not acted upon information provided to them by the Working Group, despite being the subject of the highest number of Working Group decisions within the international community.

Furthermore, the government continues to imprison others identified by the Working Group as arbitrarily detained, including Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, Abduljalil al-Singace, and Naji Fateel.

In addition to the Working Group, the Bahrain government has neglected the allegations brought forward by the Special Procedures in the most recent Joint Communications Report that detailed the arbitrary detention and mistreatment of 39 minors. Officials denied these minors their due process rights, subjecting them to unfair trials, solitary confinement, and even torture.

This failure to engage is exacerbated by Bahrain's continued refusal to allow members of the Special Procedures access to the kingdom. Since 2006, the Bahrain government has not allowed visits by any of the UN Special Procedure, despite standing requests for country visits from seven mandates, including the Special Rapporteurs on Torture and on Freedom of Expression.

We therefore urge all states, including Bahrain, to actively engage with the UN Special Procedures, to act constructively upon case information supplied to them by procedures to correct ongoing abuses. We finally call on all states to maintain open invitations to any member of the Special Procedures, to further enable a constructive relationship with the mechanisms of this Council.

Thank you.