Mr. President,

We would like to thank the mandates of the Special Procedures for their work and raise concerns about poor conditions in Bahraini prisons as well as ongoing religious discrimination, reprisals, impunity, and police brutality in the prisons. During the High Level Segment at the start of this council, Mr. Abdulatif Alzayani the Foreign Minister of Bahrain only spoke of falsehoods in Bahrain.

I would like to read a letter we recently received from one of the political prisoners in Bahrain, Mohammad Mirza:

Mr. President/members of the Human Rights Council,

I am addressing you today from the notorious Jau prison where thousands of political prisoners are detained their liberty and universal human rights. I was declared detained by the Working Group.

I am not exaggerating when I say I have not met a single prisoner in this prison system who has not been tortured and not been physically abused by the officers and members of the Bahraini Ministry of Interior. I know that I speak for thousands of political prisoners when I say we never received a fair trial. We have repeatedly complained to the seating judge who is a member of the Alkhalifa tribe, that we have been tortured and signed forced confessions, but he did not care and sentenced us to years in prison destroying our lives because we participated in the pro-democracy movement.

Therefore, we call on the Council to hold the Government of Bahrain accountable and suspend its current membership of the Human Rights Council till it has released all political prisoners and end the culture of impunity.

Thank You.