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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[16 August 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Violations in the Education field*

It is no secret that since March 2011 till now, Bahraini people are facing dozens of violations in all life aspects. Lots were documented and some got attention. Only Education field did not get the attention it deserve since the effects of those violations in the field have no fast results. It will be shown in the near future. Most of the violations are based on discrimination to the sect. This report will focus on the ongoing violations in Education field from in points:

1. Discrimination in higher positions: Ministry of education has 2 undersecretaries and 7 assistant undersecretaries. Only one of the assistant undersecretaries is Shitte. Among 28 directorates in the ministry only one is Shitte. As you go to the lower management – School Management- less than 20% are Shitte.
2. Bahraini graduates with degrees in Education are not being employed by ministry of education and instead Arab expatriates from all Arab Countries are imported to work in the education field. This is a continuous policy despite having an unemployment list of at least 1800 graduates in different specialities. All of them are Shitte. It should be noted that the acceptance of the job requirements are not applied to expatriates. They are applied only on citizens. Creative obstacles are planted in their way to prevent them from joining the profession. With the continuous policy of employing Arab expats, different back grounds and ideologies are presented in our schools even those who disbelieve others and thousands on Shitte Bahrainis are jobless as they are being described in the official media as non loyalists or traitors.
As a sample of how Bahraini graduates are being treated in comparison with Arab expatriates, it is very important to focus on Bahrain Teachers college graduates who are treated as teachers from the first day of entering the college as they sign the contract with them ministry of education which states that. Number of Shitte graduates are not yet employed based on their sector were accused in 2011 in joining the protests. Joining the profession needs "higher authorization".
3. Number of employees in MOE lost their jobs because they tweet their opinions.
4. Demoted teachers are still struggling to return back to their original jobs that were in back in 2011 with no vision that the ministry is going to do that. Demoted teachers had been replaced by Arab expatriates. Few cases are still in court.
5. Students are still being attacked on their way or way back to schools with no relevant reasons. This happens mostly on examination days where they have to leave schools early as they finished their exams. They are being attacked and arrested as soon as they left their schools. Cases have been reported within the month of January. Few schools were attacked with no reasons during schooling days.
6. Numbers of students in Bahraini prisons are increasing day by day. The authorities used to have two buildings to imprison them in Jaw prison (3 & 4). Now, a new building is added #6 which reflects the increased number of students who must continue their studies. Most of those students are denied from having their education despite what the law states. Obstacles are built in front of them depriving them from their right to education. All of them are suffering from the ill treatment in general and during the exams days in particular. In addition, large number of them is from vocational studies, and they are not allowed at all to have their studies or exams under any condition. What is really happening to our students in prison reflects the way that the authorities is using education as a punishment tool against students and not following its international obligations. In the near future we will be having hundreds of uneducated students because of the authority's policies.
7. In 2015, Nasser Rehabilitation Center was found. Families though their suffering to have their kids to study will end. Unfortunately, at the time of opening only 47 students were accepted out of 400. Now it is used as a punishment place after students complains of ill treatment.
8. The senior officials in ministry of education are using the accreditation of the universities as another tool for punishment. Since they have the right to cancel the accreditation at anytime without giving causes or alternatives for the students who are at the universities. The universities certificates facing this kind of punishment have mostly students studying on their own expenses. It should be clear that those students are

Shiitte. This was applicable to Ponna University in India and to medical students who are studying in China. Bahrain had already stopped the recognition of Lebanese universities certificates in addition to stop the recognition of all qualifications and certificates awarded through distance learning. Those measures will make tens of graduates to be without their degrees.

9. 73 employees from various specialists at Bahrain Training Institute were arbitrary transferred to different jobs and functions. All of them were demoted. More than half of them were transferred without any considerations even to special needs employees (Salma ALAsfoor & Hameed Al-Alwani). Tens of high school graduates (volunteers) were employed in MOE and was assigned later to work in BTI as employers in various administrative departments where they were gathered in suspended staff offices, which form a burden on the budget of the Institute and incline of the services provided by the Institute for job seekers. BTI became repellent to national and even foreign competencies because of ill-treatment. Many of BTI excellent staff resigned and returned to home countries others has been dispensed after accusing them of sympathizing with the x-administration. Head resigned of mechanics & cars as well as head of precision instruments & chemical engineering department. All Shiitte's from Safety and Security Department has been transferred MOE schools replaced by non-qualified and untrained ones to do this job. Head of safety and security has been stripped from his post and transferred to work as a security guard in one of MOE schools. In addition to terminating the Shiitte nurse in BTU clinic replaced by a Sunni retired nurse. Recently, the x-head of BTI is awarded to be an undersecretary.
10. Since June 2011 till now, MOE introduced an illegal move known as the law 40-60, which deprived large number of students from their right to get a scholarship they want as a result of questioning them to measure how loyal they are. The questions based on the ideology and sectarian composition. This move was introduced to deny Shia students with high grades of their right to choose specialties they deserve or want.
11. Nationalization of scholarships which still exists that only applies to civil institutions. MOE cannot nationalize the scholarships offered by The Crown Prince and put her hand them, for example. By this action they prevent any shia student who was subjected MOE injustice to get a scholarship from another source. The decision was issued by the Presidency of Ministers Council and states that MOE has the top power and control of all scholarships provided by all civil society parties, and are free to distribute them as they want without reference to donor institution forgetting that they deny students their legal rights.
12. In order to make the scholarship distribution fair with no discrimination and deal with all students equally, Ministry of Education should: cancel the new mechanism of scholarships distribution, scholarship should be distributed based only on students' merits or marks. Students' interviews have to be stopped, stop the secret system and make the scholarship distribution process completely transparent. Student name, his\her marks and the scholarship given must be published in local newspapers if MOE has nothing to hide, stop all decisions taken within 2011-Now that affects the excel students to get their right in scholarships, form new independent national committee to supervise the scholarship distribution process and receive students complains and investigate and take actions against all officials whom were found responsible for their discriminative actions.

*Salam For Democracy and Human Rights, NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.