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Bahrain

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner due to word-limit constraints. For the full text, please refer to the document referenced. This report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of OHCHR other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations¹

Universal human rights treaties²

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/ not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1990) ICESCR (2007) ICCPR (2006) CEDAW (2002) CAT (1998) CRC (1990) OP-CRC-AC (2004) OP-CRC-SC (2004)	CRPD (2011)	ICCPR-OP 2 OP-CAT ICRMW CED
<i>Reservations, declarations and/or understandings</i>	ICERD, art. 22 ICESCR, art. 8, para. 1 (d) CEDAW, arts. 2; 9, para. 2; 15, para. 4; 16; and 29 CAT, art. 30, para. 1	-	-
<i>Complaint procedures³</i>	-	-	ICCPR-OP 1 ICERD, art. 14 OP-ICESCR CAT, art. 22 OP-CRPD OP-CEDAW ICCPR, art. 41 ICRMW, art. 77

Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto ⁴ ILO fundamental conventions ⁵ Palermo Protocol ⁶	-	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (signature only, 2000) Refugees and stateless persons ⁷ Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions ⁸ ILO Conventions No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; No. 98 concerning the Application of

<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
		<p>the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries; and No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers.</p> <p>UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education</p>

1. In 2008, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) noted the commitment expressed by Bahrain during its consideration at the UPR to withdraw its reservation to articles 2; 9, paragraph 2; 15, paragraph 4; and 16 of the Convention.⁹ CEDAW encouraged Bahrain to intensify its efforts for the withdrawal of its reservations,¹⁰ and to ratify ICRMW, CRPD and CED.¹¹

2. In 2011, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended that Bahrain ratify CRPD, OP-CRPD, ICRMW, ICCPR-OP 1, ICCPR-OP 2, OP-CEDAW and OP-CAT.¹²

3. UNHCR recommended that Bahrain accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol¹³ and to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.¹⁴

4. UNESCO encouraged ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education.¹⁵

5. In connection with the events of 2011, CRC reminded Bahrain of the continuous nature of international human rights obligations and that the rights under the Convention apply to all children at all times.¹⁶

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

6. On 17 March 2011, in response to the introduction of a three-month state of emergency, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reminded the authorities of Bahrain that a state of emergency was no justification for an arbitrary deprivation of human rights.¹⁷ On 24 June 2011, the High Commissioner noted information that the State of National Safety had been lifted on 1 June 2011.¹⁸

7. UNESCO recommended the elaboration of a Freedom of Information Law. The Press Law needed to be further amended to bring it in line with international standards.¹⁹

8. CRC was concerned at delays in the adoption of the Child Rights and Education Bill, the Law on the Family, the Law on Civil Society and the Law on Personal Status.²⁰ CRC also recommended that Bahrain adopt a national policy on children with disabilities.²¹

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

9. CRC noted that the National Human Rights Commission was not accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and urged Bahrain to establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles.²²

10. CEDAW noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Supreme Council for Women in 2001,²³ and its creation of a centre with offices in all governorates to receive and act on women's complaints.²⁴

11. CEDAW welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women.²⁵

12. CRC encouraged measures to adopt a comprehensive National Plan of Action for Children and better coordination of efforts to implement the Convention among the National Committee on Childhood, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Consultative Council's Human Rights Committee and the Child Protection Unit within the Ministry of Health.²⁶

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies²⁷

1. Status of reporting

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	2005	-	-	Eighth and ninth reports overdue since 2007
CESCR	n/a	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2009
HR Committee	n/a	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2007
CEDAW	n/a	2007	2008	Third report overdue since 2011
CAT	2005	-	-	Second report overdue since 2007
CRC	2002	-	June 2011	Fourth to sixth reports due in 2017 Initial OP-CRC-SC report overdue since 2006 Initial OP-CRC-AC report overdue since 2006
CRPD	n/a	-	-	Initial report due in 2013

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
CEDAW	2010	Adoption of the draft Nationality Law; awareness campaigns on the importance of an unified family law; raising the minimum age of marriage	Overdue

Views

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Number of views</i>	<i>Status</i>
-	-	-

B. Cooperation with special procedures²⁸

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	-	-
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	Special Rapporteur on trafficking (29 October–1 November 2006); Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (19–24 October 2001)	-
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	Special Rapporteur on migrants	Special Rapporteur on torture
<i>Visits requested</i>	-	Special Rapporteur on migrants Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (requested in September 2011)
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	-	During the period under review, 38 communications were sent. The Government replied to 36 of the communications.

C. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

13. The High Commissioner visited Bahrain in April 2010.²⁹ Following the deterioration of the human rights situation in August 2010, she repeatedly requested the Government to allow an OHCHR assessment mission. An OHCHR delegation visited Bahrain from 13 to 17 December 2011 and met with Government officials, members of civil society and victims. On 21 December 2011, the High Commissioner reiterated her Office's

commitment to supporting Bahrain in strengthening its human rights protection system and implementing relevant recommendations by the Commission of Inquiry and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.³⁰

14. The OHCHR Middle East Regional Office provided technical support for the implementation of UPR recommendations in 2009/2010.³¹

15. In July 2008, OHCHR, in cooperation with UNDP, conducted a workshop on national human rights institutions in Bahrain.³²

16. Bahrain contributed financially to OHCHR in 2008, 2009 and 2011.³³

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations

A. Equality and non-discrimination

17. On 21 December 2011, the High Commissioner drew attention to examples of hate speech, including at the level of official media. She noted that it was important to initiate a process of dialogue, including with leaders from different religious and migrant communities.³⁴

18. CEDAW remained concerned at the absence of a specific definition of discrimination against women in domestic legislation.³⁵ It urged Bahrain to promote equal sharing of family responsibilities between women and men.³⁶

19. CEDAW³⁷ and CRC³⁸ welcomed the 2006 royal decree granting citizenship to at least 372 children of Bahraini mothers and non-citizen fathers. CRC also noted with appreciation the endorsement of Law 35/2009, which ensures that children of Bahraini mothers married to non-citizens do not pay higher fees than citizens for government services.³⁹ However, CEDAW remained concerned that the draft Nationality Law allowing the transfer of Bahraini citizenship to the children of Bahraini women and non-citizen fathers on the same basis as children of Bahraini fathers had not yet been passed. It urged Bahrain to take steps to expedite the adoption of the draft Law.⁴⁰ CRC made similar observations.⁴¹ UNHCR noted that the current legislation did not ensure the right of every child to acquire a nationality, which might result in statelessness.⁴²

20. CEDAW expressed concern at the lack of special measures to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality between men and women.⁴³ It urged Bahrain to take all appropriate measures to accelerate the increase of women in the Council of Representatives and Municipal Councils.⁴⁴ A 2011 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament in 2011 was 2.5 per cent.⁴⁵ CEDAW welcomed the institution of the King's Prize aimed at encouraging Bahraini working women.⁴⁶

21. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, noting that the Labour Code was being revised, encouraged the Government to introduce an explicit definition and prohibition of discrimination in respect of all aspects of employment.⁴⁷ It drew the Government's attention to the fact that the absence of discriminatory provisions in the legislation was not sufficient to promote equality of opportunity and treatment in respect of employment.⁴⁸

22. UNESCO noted that, although co-education was not practiced in Government schools, the educational system offered equal opportunities to boys and girls in all its stages, except in technical education, which was provided only for boys.⁴⁹ CRC recommended that Bahrain review national legislation, carry out training and raise

awareness to eliminate discrimination against the girl child, children with disabilities and children living in the poorest areas.⁵⁰

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

23. On 15 February 2011, the High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed alarm at the Bahrain authorities' excessive use of force, including the killing of two peaceful protestors, and urged the authorities to respect the right to demonstrate, as well as to undertake serious investigations into allegations of torture and abuse of detention rights of hundreds of political and human rights activists, and to release all peaceful demonstrators who had been arrested.⁵¹ On 18 February 2011, the High Commissioner condemned the use of military-grade shotguns in Bahrain.⁵²

24. In March 2011, six special procedures mandate holders jointly warned that the Government had ignored its key human rights commitments, and that the authorities had embarked on a path of multiple human rights violations amidst a dramatic deterioration of peace and security in the country.⁵³ The Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment demanded an immediate stop to the violations and noted that the killing and ill-treatment of protestors, including those in hospitals, and the targeting of medical personnel and journalists were unacceptable. He called on the Government to take immediate action to start an investigation and prosecution of those responsible, in line with the international obligations of Bahrain.⁵⁴

25. In March 2011, the High Commissioner for Human Rights drew attention to the escalation of violence by the security forces in Bahrain, highlighting reports of arbitrary arrests, beatings and killings of protesters and medical personnel, and of the takeover of hospitals and medical centres by security forces. The High Commissioner noted reports that police had attacked a number of villages and a protest camp using tear gas, rubber bullets and shotguns, as well as automatic weapons. She urged the Government to refrain from using force against unarmed protesters, to facilitate medical treatment for the injured, to disarm the vigilante groups and security officials wearing plain clothes, and to engage in an immediate dialogue for meaningful reforms.⁵⁵ The Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention called on the authorities to release immediately all those detained in relation to their peaceful activities in the context of the protests.⁵⁶

26. In May 2011, the High Commissioner expressed concern about the sentencing to death of four protestors after a closed-door military trial. Hundreds of individuals reportedly remained in detention for their alleged participation in the protest movement, including teachers, lawyers, journalists, bloggers, medical professionals, artists, activists and members of political bodies. Some had been arrested while undergoing treatment at the Salmaniya Medical Complex for injuries sustained during protests. At least four persons had died in custody. There were also reports of torture of detained human rights defenders.⁵⁷

27. In September 2011, the Secretary-General called for the release of all political detainees.⁵⁸ In December 2011, the High Commissioner called on the Government to urgently take confidence-building measures, including unconditionally releasing those who had been convicted in military tribunals or were still awaiting trial for merely exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and assembly.⁵⁹

28. CRC noted with concern reports according to which torture had been used during the political events in 2011, including against persons under the age of 18. It recommended that Bahrain promptly investigate allegations of torture and prosecute perpetrators.⁶⁰ CRC urged Bahrain to take measures to ensure that no child was subjected to torture, and to prohibit torture in law. Preventive measures needed to include independent monitoring of places of

detention and comprehensive training for security and police personnel.⁶¹ CRC was concerned that the political unrest had had disturbing influences on the children in Bahrain, resulting in breaches of the basic rights of children to survival, health and protection.⁶²

29. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders was concerned about the significant number of allegations received and communications sent between December 2010 and November 2011, and about the physical and psychological integrity of human rights defenders in Bahrain. She was concerned in particular at the reported practice of detention in undisclosed locations and about the treatment of human rights defenders while in detention. The Special Rapporteur also remained very concerned about the situation of six detainees sentenced to life imprisonment on 22 June 2011.⁶³

30. CEDAW commended the enactment of Law No. 1 (2008) on human trafficking and the establishment of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking.⁶⁴ However, it remained concerned at the existence of trafficking in women and girls into Bahrain for the purposes of sexual exploitation.⁶⁵

31. The ILO Committee of Experts requested data on the worst forms of child labour, including child trafficking.⁶⁶ CRC urged Bahrain to take all appropriate steps to eliminate exploitative child labour⁶⁷ and ensure the enforcement of applicable sanctions against persons violating existing legislation.⁶⁸

32. CEDAW was concerned that article 535 of the Penal Code exempts perpetrators of rape from prosecution if they marry their victims,⁶⁹ and CRC was concerned that, as a solution for child sexual abuse cases, marriage between victim and abuser was encouraged.⁷⁰

33. CRC noted the discussion of the bill on domestic violence in the National Assembly, but was concerned at the lack of progress towards adoption of the law.⁷¹

C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

34. On 17 March 2011, the High Commissioner for Human Rights reminded all members of security and armed forces in Bahrain that their actions are governed by international law, which provides for individual criminal responsibility for violations committed.⁷² On 5 May 2011, she urged the Government urgently to conduct an independent, impartial investigation and bring all those responsible for assaulting and killing protestors to justice.⁷³ The High Commissioner also expressed concern at the trial of civilians before military courts, and stated that the application of the death penalty without due process and after a trial held in secrecy was illegal.⁷⁴

35. On 24 June 2011, the High Commissioner expressed concern about the continuing work of the Lower National Safety Court, which reportedly had convicted more than 100 individuals since March, mostly for crimes allegedly committed during the protests. She called for an immediate cessation of trials of civilians in the Court of National Safety, and the release of all peaceful demonstrators arrested in the context of the protest movement in February 2011. The High Commissioner also noted reports of the ill-treatment of some protestors in detention, including severe beating. Reportedly four individuals had died in detention due to injuries resulting from torture.⁷⁵

36. On 30 August 2011, the High Commissioner noted that in the Court of National Safety, which had been established in March and which was headed by a military judge, defendants reportedly had limited access to lawyers. The Court had issued harsh sentences against protestors, including life imprisonment.⁷⁶ On 30 September 2011, the Secretary-General expressed deep concern over harsh sentences imposed on medical professionals, teachers and others by the Court of National Safety, and reiterated his appeal to ensure

respect for international human rights norms.⁷⁷ On 30 September 2011, the High Commissioner welcomed the announcement by the Government that all cases would be referred to civilian courts in October 2011.⁷⁸

37. On 24 November 2011, the Secretary-General welcomed the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, and called on the Government to ensure the implementation of its recommendations, as a step towards an all-inclusive dialogue, reconciliation and reforms.⁷⁹ In February 2012, the Secretary-General reiterated his call on the Bahraini authorities to expedite the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, especially the provisions aimed at effective confidence-building measures.⁸⁰

38. On 21 December 2011, the High Commissioner urged the Government to address the prevailing impunity, including for security forces responsible for excessive use of force and officers who had perpetrated torture, sometimes with fatal consequences, in detention centres. Although some security officers had reportedly been arrested, there had been no prosecutions of security forces for civilian injuries and deaths. She acknowledged the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry as an important first step in the right direction, and welcomed the subsequent acknowledgement by the King of Bahrain that serious human rights violations had occurred and needed to be addressed. The High Commissioner emphasized that concrete steps needed to be taken towards redress, reparation and reconciliation.⁸¹

39. CRC reiterated its recommendation that Bahrain bring the system of juvenile justice fully into line with the Convention.⁸² It urged Bahrain to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings.⁸³ CRC noted as positive the possibility for judges in family cases to hear children concerned by the decisions.⁸⁴

D. Right to marriage and family life

40. CEDAW was concerned at the lack of a codified family law containing clear and non-discriminatory provisions on marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody.⁸⁵ CRC expressed concern at discrimination regarding the minimum age of marriage, which is 15 for girls and 18 for boys, noting that girls could marry even before the age of 15 with the agreement of a judge.⁸⁶ CEDAW urged Bahrain to take all appropriate measures to end the practice of polygamy.⁸⁷ CRC welcomed efforts to codify the Sunni family law, but was concerned at the inconsistency among judgements of the different court systems in Bahrain.⁸⁸

41. CEDAW called upon Bahrain to adopt legislative measures to remedy possible adverse effects on women of existing rules of property distribution in connection with divorce.⁸⁹

42. CRC noted the establishment of a centre specializing in the protection of children, overseen by the Ministry of Social Development, and the creation of a helpline for children.⁹⁰

E. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

43. In February 2011, the High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed that lasting social stability could only be built on the foundations of the freedoms of expression and of peaceful assembly.⁹¹

44. In March 2011, six special procedures mandate holders recalled in a joint statement that, while the imposition of a state of emergency permits temporary derogation of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, it must not be used as a means to prevent the exercise of this right.⁹² In April 2011, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief stated that, reportedly, security forces had demolished the Emir Mohammed Al-Berbegi mosque, a Shia mosque in Manama.⁹³

45. In May 2011, the High Commissioner noted that more than 1,000 workers from various sectors had been dismissed for going on strike or participating in protests. Journalists had reportedly also been dismissed, expelled or arrested.⁹⁴

46. CRC was concerned that the freedom of expression, the freedom of association and peaceful assembly, and access to appropriate information were not always respected, including during the events of 2011, particularly for children.⁹⁵

47. In December 2011, the High Commissioner noted that, as a result of the violent crackdown on protestors, the destruction of mosques, the lack of fair trials and the lack of progress in providing redress for violations, the mistrust towards the Government on the part of civil society had deepened.⁹⁶

48. UNESCO encouraged the training of journalists and media workers to raise professional standards and safety awareness.⁹⁷

F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

49. The High Commissioner for Human Rights called on national authorities to order the immediate reintegration of individuals who had lost their jobs because of their alleged participation in anti-Government protests, and to ensure that they are compensated for their lost income.⁹⁸

50. The ILO Committee of Experts noted the Government's indication that the Labour Law would be amended to provide for the protection of children, and urged measures to prohibit the engagement of persons under 18 in hazardous work.⁹⁹

51. The ILO Committee of Experts observed that self-employed workers, domestic servants, persons employed in temporary and casual work and most persons employed in agricultural work were excluded from the application of the Labour Law.¹⁰⁰

G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

52. CRC noted with appreciation Act No. 18 (2006), concerning social security and providing the basic necessities for a decent life to citizens and their families.¹⁰¹

H. Right to health

53. In March 2011, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health raised concerns about the alleged takeover of Salmaniya hospital in Manama by the army and attacks on medical workers. In May 2011, the Special Rapporteur drew the attention of the Government to information received regarding the detention of 47 medical professionals in connection with alleged crimes committed during the protests held since February 2011. It was reported that they had been charged by the military prosecutor and were awaiting trial before the Court of National Safety.¹⁰² The Special Rapporteur called on the Government to respect the right

to health and not to interfere with the provision of medical treatment or deny or limit access to health facilities.¹⁰³

54. CRC commended Bahrain on the success in reducing child and maternal mortality.¹⁰⁴

I. Right to education

55. While welcoming progress made with regard to equality in education, CEDAW remained concerned that certain areas of education are available mainly to boys.¹⁰⁵ It recommended that Bahrain continue raising awareness of the importance of education for the empowerment of women.¹⁰⁶ CRC called upon Bahrain to adopt the Child Rights and Education Bill.¹⁰⁷

56. UNESCO noted that Bahrain continued to provide free education for all, making basic education compulsory as a minimum education standard, and was improving the quality of education.¹⁰⁸

J. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

57. The ILO Committee of Experts underlined the importance of effective legislative protection to ensure that migrant workers are not subject to discrimination and abuse. Providing for appropriate flexibility for migrant workers to change their workplace would assist in reducing vulnerability to discrimination and abuse.¹⁰⁹ The Government was requested to provide information concerning the abolition of the sponsorship system, and to consider extending the scope of the Labour Code to domestic workers, casual workers and agricultural workers.¹¹⁰

58. CEDAW was concerned at the poor working conditions of female migrant domestic workers, who were not covered by the current Labour Code.¹¹¹ It called upon Bahrain to expedite the adoption of the draft labour code, and to ensure that it covers migrant domestic workers.¹¹²

59. UNHCR provided information that it did not have a country agreement or memorandum of understanding with the Government,¹¹³ and that there were very limited prospects for the naturalization and local integration of the refugees under the UNHCR mandate.¹¹⁴ It recommended that the Government take steps to adopt national asylum legislation and an asylum procedure in accordance with international standards providing effective protection to asylum-seekers and refugees against refoulement.¹¹⁵ UNHCR also recommended that the Government avoid the detention of persons in need of international protection and ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers in detention have access to asylum.¹¹⁶

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments may be found in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 1 April 2009* (ST/LEG/SER.E/26), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/2).

² The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
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ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
CED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

³ In the previous compilation a table contained information on the recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies, namely, Individual complaints: ICERD, art. 14, CAT, art. 22, ICRMW, art. 77, and CED, art. 31; Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, arts. 8 and 9, CAT, art. 20, OP-CRPD, arts. 6 and 7; Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41, ICRMW, art. 76, and CED, art. 32.

⁴ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); and Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.

⁵ International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

⁶ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁷ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

⁸ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III).

⁹ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2), para. 16.

¹⁰ Ibid., paras. 16-17.

¹¹ Ibid., para. 45.

¹² Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3), para. 72.

¹³ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahrain, 2010, p. 2.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 3.

¹⁵ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Bahrain, 2011, para. 30.

¹⁶ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 5.

- ¹⁷ OHCHR, “UN human rights chief alarmed by military takeover of hospitals in Bahrain”, press release, 17 March 2011, p. 1. Available from www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10855&LangID=E.
- ¹⁸ OHCHR, press briefing note, 24 June 2011. Available from www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=11181&LangID=E.
- ¹⁹ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Bahrain, 2011, para. 32.
- ²⁰ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 8.
- ²¹ Ibid., paras. 53 and 54 (a).
- ²² Ibid., paras. 14-15.
- ²³ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 6.
- ²⁴ Ibid., para. 8.
- ²⁵ Ibid., para. 5.
- ²⁶ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, paras. 10, 11 and 13.
- ²⁷ The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
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| CERD | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination |
| CESCR | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| HR Committee | Human Rights Committee |
| CEDAW | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| CAT | Committee against Torture |
| CRC | Committee on the Rights of the Child |
| CRPD | Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
- ²⁸ Abbreviations used follow those contained in the communications report of special procedures (A/HRC/18/51 and Corr.1).
- ²⁹ See OHCHR, “UN Human Rights Chief: Press Conference in Abu Dhabi on Saturday 24 April”, press release, available from www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=9980&LangID=E. See also a press release issued at the end of the visit: “UN human rights chief notes changes under way in Gulf region, highlights key concerns”, available from www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=9972&LangID=E.
- ³⁰ OHCHR, “Pillay: Bahrain Government must take immediate confidence-building measures, release political prisoners”, press release, 21 December 2011. Available from www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=11738&LangID=E.
- ³¹ See www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/MenaRegion/Pages/MiddleEastSummary.aspx.
- ³² OHCHR, “Mark of progress”, 2008, available from www.ohchr.org/EN/NEWSEVENTS/Pages/Markofprogress.aspx.
- ³³ OHCHR, *2008 Report: Activities and Results*, pp. 174, 179, and 183; OHCHR, *2009 Report: Activities and Results*, pp. 190 and 202; OHCHR, *2011 Report: Activities and Results*, forthcoming.
- ³⁴ OHCHR, “Pillay” (note 30 above).
- ³⁵ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 12.
- ³⁶ Ibid., para. 23.
- ³⁷ Ibid., para. 30.
- ³⁸ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 38.
- ³⁹ Ibid.
- ⁴⁰ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, paras. 30-31.
- ⁴¹ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 38.
- ⁴² UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahrain, 2010, p. 2.
- ⁴³ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, paras. 20-21.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid., para. 29.
- ⁴⁵ United Nations Statistics Division coordinated data and analyses, available from <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg>.
- ⁴⁶ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 9.
- ⁴⁷ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning ILO: Equality of Opportunity and Treatment, 1958 (No. 111), 2009, Bahrain, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062009BHR111, first and second paragraphs.
- ⁴⁸ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), 2010, Bahrain, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062010BHR111, second paragraph.

- ⁴⁹ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Bahrain, 2011, para. 3.
- ⁵⁰ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, paras. 30-31
- ⁵¹ OHCHR, “Bahrain: Stop using excessive force against public demonstrations and respect the rule of law, says Pillay”, press release, 15 February 2011, available from www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10727&LangID=E.
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- ⁵³ Press statement on 22 March 2011 by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
- ⁵⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵⁵ OHCHR, “UN human rights chief” (note 17 above).
- ⁵⁶ Press statement by six special procedures (note 53 above).
- ⁵⁷ OHCHR, “Pillay deeply concerned about dire human rights situation in Bahrain”, press release, 5 May 2011. Available from www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10985&LangID=E.
- ⁵⁸ Statement of the Secretary-General (SG/SM/13856), 30 September. Available from www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sgsm13856.doc.htm.
- ⁵⁹ OHCHR, “Pillay” (note 30 above).
- ⁶⁰ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 42.
- ⁶¹ Ibid., paras. 42-43
- ⁶² Ibid., para. 34.
- ⁶³ A/HRC/19/55/Add.2, para. 28.
- ⁶⁴ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, paras. 7 and 26.
- ⁶⁵ Ibid., para. 26.
- ⁶⁶ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2011, Bahrain, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062011BHR182, tenth paragraph.
- ⁶⁷ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 66.
- ⁶⁸ Ibid., para. 66 (b).
- ⁶⁹ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, paras. 24-25.
- ⁷⁰ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 67.
- ⁷¹ Ibid., paras. 51-52.
- ⁷² OHCHR, “UN human rights chief” (note 17 above).
- ⁷³ OHCHR, “Pillay deeply concerned” (note 57 above).
- ⁷⁴ Ibid.
- ⁷⁵ OHCHR, press briefing note, June (note 18 above).
- ⁷⁶ OHCHR, press briefing note, 30 August 2011. Available from www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=11341&LangID=E.
- ⁷⁷ Statement of the Secretary-General (SG/SM/13856).
- ⁷⁸ OHCHR, press briefing note, 30 September 2011. Available from www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=11455&LangID=E.
- ⁷⁹ Statement of the Secretary-General (SG/SM/13969), 24 November 2011. Available from www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sgsm13969.doc.htm.
- ⁸⁰ Statement attributable to the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General, New York, 15 February 2012. Available from www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=5864.
- ⁸¹ OHCHR, “Pillay” (note 30 above).
- ⁸² CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 70.
- ⁸³ Ibid., para. 33.
- ⁸⁴ Ibid., para. 36.
- ⁸⁵ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 38.
- ⁸⁶ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 28. See also CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 38.

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- ⁸⁷ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 39.
- ⁸⁸ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, paras. 47-48.
- ⁸⁹ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, paras. 40-41.
- ⁹⁰ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 51.
- ⁹¹ OHCHR, "Bahrain" (note 51 above).
- ⁹² Press statement by six special procedures (note 53 above).
- ⁹³ A/HRC/18/51 and Corr.1, p. 101.
- ⁹⁴ OHCHR, "Pillay deeply concerned" (note 57 above).
- ⁹⁵ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 40.
- ⁹⁶ OHCHR, "Pillay" (note 30 above).
- ⁹⁷ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Bahrain, 2011, para. 29.
- ⁹⁸ OHCHR, press briefing note, August (note 76 above); and OHCHR, "Pillay" (note 30 above).
- ⁹⁹ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2011, Bahrain, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062011BHR182, fifth and sixth paragraphs.
- ¹⁰⁰ Ibid., seventh paragraph.
- ¹⁰¹ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 3 (c).
- ¹⁰² A/HRC/18/51 and Corr.1, pp. 68 and 116.
- ¹⁰³ Press statement by six special procedures (note 53 above).
- ¹⁰⁴ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 34.
- ¹⁰⁵ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 32. See also CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 61.
- ¹⁰⁶ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 34.
- ¹⁰⁷ CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, para. 9.
- ¹⁰⁸ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Bahrain, 2011, para. 11.
- ¹⁰⁹ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), 2010, Bahrain, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062010BHR111, sixth paragraph.
- ¹¹⁰ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning ILO Equality of Opportunity and Treatment, 1958 (No. 111), 2009, Bahrain, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062009BHR111, third paragraph.
- ¹¹¹ CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 34.
- ¹¹² Ibid., para. 35.
- ¹¹³ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahrain, 2010, p. 1.
- ¹¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹¹⁵ Ibid., p. 3.
- ¹¹⁶ Ibid.
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