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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.

[22 August 2013]

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

Urgent appeal to the Human Rights Council and the NGO's

The grave HR situation has developed to collective penalty against the majority of Bahraini people especially the Shia as well as belonging to opposition, unionists and independent civil society and HR organizations, groups and activists.

Lately, The National Council which comprises the two chambers House of Deputies and Alshura council, convened on 28 July 2013 for the first time since establishment in 2002, and empowered The King to issue any legislative enactments and acts to eradicate alleged terrorism. In addition to being unconstitutional, there will be no constraint on both King's and government authority in repressing the peaceful protests and practicing civil rights.

Using its resources and its allies influence, the prosecution of the above extended to GCC, bound by security treaty, where banning of entry, dismissal of jobs and educational institutions, non-employment, repatriation, and slandering of religious beliefs and homeland loyalty, has become the norm.

The following are the major features of this situation as follows:

1- **Mass arrests**, where the number of detained exceeded 2000, imprisoned in makeshift detention such as The Dry dockyard prison, plus official Jao Central Prison, CID premise, youth hostels (turned to detention premise) and police stations.

2- **Raids** (usually after midnight) by masked and armed security and breakthrough with sheer force, using cruel assaults against the wanted and members of family, incurring damage to the household and confiscating valuable belongings.

3- **Mass kangaroo trials**, which incriminated more than thousands of political, rights and activists defendants, for merely practicing their rights by peaceful means and at extreme rare cases acts of arson by young and under age persons.

The sentences are based on confessions extracted under torture or duress and evidence or testimony furnished by security and intelligence agents, and not concrete evidences. Sentences disproportionate to the wrong doing in case it happened.

4- **Recurrent torture**, and indignant inhuman treatment against defendants at the moment of arrest, transportation, interrogation and detention in custody awaiting trial. In many cases it continues during trial period for months and even after verdict. Denial of prisoners' rights of access to medication, education, communication, suitable food, bathing, sanitation, proper clothing, etc, is the norm. Political and rights prisoner refused prison garments during family union, thus were denied of visitation by relatives and lawyers for 4.5 months, accompanied by penalty measures, which continued even after giving up. The penalty covers relatives through denial of visitation, communication with the imprisoned relatives, dismissal of jobs, and denial of rights such as employment, scholarships housing, etc.

5- **Sectarianism**: The state inherent policy since independence has been sectarian discrimination against Shia and the opposition, which has been clearly revealed by Albandar Report 2006, which is daily practice with visible evidence of marginalizing the majority and empowering the Ruling Family and allies in politics setup. Economic privileges, control of state institutions (executive, legislative and executive). The Shia and opposition are completely excluded from defense, security and intelligence agencies and institutions since Feb 14, 2013 uprising. The state, considering that the Shia and opposition harbored and supported the 14 Feb. Youth, and bolstered the movement, decided to target both The Shia and the opposition collectively, systematically and comprehensively, to the extent of cleansing the government agencies and public corporate from hundreds belonging

to both, denial in many cases of employment, scholarships, housing, entrepreneurship, contracts, etc.

6- **Impunity:** In the course of era since Feb 2011, several law enforcers belonging to security, intelligence and Public Prosecutor abused the people and defendants' rights, including deadly shooting of fire arms, using poisonous gas, resorting to excessive force and practicing torture, which led to homicide of five and incurring mental and physical wounds to hundreds. But none of the alleged torturers or collaborators was framed. Their trials are facial and ends with acquittance.

7- The state has not implemented sincerely the Bahrain Independent Fact finding Commission recommendations on 23 Nov. 2011, despite its declared commitment. What was implemented is facial.

8- The state has not implemented seriously the UN-HRC 176 recommendations of UPR on 25 Sept 2012, and barred The Sp. Rep on Torture Dr. Juan Mendez visit to Bahrain for the second time without fixing alternative date.

The Human rights crises could develop into human rights catastrophe, if not dealt with seriously.

We recommend that HRC should discuss this situation in special session or at least address it in the statements by the states and NGOs at HRC 24th Session Sept 2011, and urge The Government of Bahrain to take immediate measures to redress the situation of which:

- 1- Release of all prisoners of conscience (political and rights prisoners)
- 2- Stoppage of trials against political and rights defendants
- 3- Stoppage of arrests of political and rights defendants
- 4- Reneging the denaturalization
- 5- Return of all exiled
- 6- Return of all those arbitrarily dismissed
- 7- Legal Amnesty to cover all above
- 8- Termination of all restrictions on civil freedoms
- 9- Initiation of Transitional Justice with UN-OHCHR participation
- 10- Establishing UN-OHCHR monitoring mechanism of implementation
- 11- Review of Bahrain Human Rights Situation in coming sessions of HRC