

THE CRIME

of Sexual Harassment of Detainees

Sexual torture in Bahrain is systematic and widespread it must be considered a crime against humanity

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Who we are

SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights (SALAM DHR) is a non-governmental organisation that endeavours to promote and protect fundamental human rights standards; respect for human dignity and democracy.

In the pursuit of this vision, SALAM DHR aims to influence British and other European Union and United Nations representatives to improve the situation in the Middle East and foster awareness of human rights and democracy.

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Introduction

Torture is a heinous, criminal practice that rips through the survivor's wellbeing long after it has stopped; whose impact tears the fabric of society.

International law bans it. The government of Bahrain, too, has ratified an international treaty, committing it to uphold this prohibition and to hold to account those who are alleged to have committed it.

Yet, Bahraini security officials have tortured human rights activists, lawyers, and politicians since independence in 1971, up to the mass protests in 2011, and through to today. Its Bahraini practitioners refine its purpose and practice: to coerce and extract information, change a person's - or another's - conduct; as an ersatz punishment, yet leaving as few physical marks as possible. Inevitably, the psychological ones remain. Its practice is now routine, systematic.

Torture of a sexual nature is a particularly depraved practice. Torturers use the most intimate and personal parts of a person in order to inflict suffering. Because of its very nature, in many societies - Bahrain included - it is difficult to discuss with anyone else, let alone in public.

Not just politically active men, Bahraini officials have tortured women and children too. They have committed it in public, not just behind closed doors. And they get away with it.

The absence of accountability threatens the security of the entire community. It signals to society that perpetrators are safe and that

the political and judicial system, rather, is intended to act against those who speak out or act in a way that the authorities do not approve. In Bahrain, when the torturer says “no one can protect you”, it is a statement of fact.

Courageous Bahraini torture survivors have, over the years, nevertheless provided testimony to investigators. International human rights organizations have set out testimony and accounts before the United Nations’ Human Rights Council have amplified calls for an end to the systemic practice of torture in Bahrain and for the government to hold perpetrators to account.

This briefing echoes and advances those calls for justice and accountability. It features five, very summary cases in which Bahraini officials carried out torture of a sexual nature, with impunity.


These cases - which Salam DHR’s research indicates are a tiny sample of hundreds more - call out to Bahrainis and survivors of torture of a sexual character throughout the world that they should feel no shame in speaking out about their experiences; that the shame is only ever on the perpetrators, and that their voice will help put an end to this depraved practice and move us all towards holding perpetrators to account.

The report starts with the legal framework regarding torture. It then sets out the summary cases and other sources of evidence regarding the practice of torture in Bahrain, It concludes with summary recommendations.

Initials are used in the testimony provided below in order to protect the identity of persons still detained in Bahrain and therefore vulnerable.



International Legal Framework



Article 5 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In 1984, the international community gave this aspiration a binding legal character when the United Nations' General Assembly adopted the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. With the 20th state party ratification in June 1987, it entered into force. Prohibition of torture is now part of customary international law. That is, even in the absence of a relevant law or commitment, it is prohibited.

The Kingdom of Bahrain signed and ratified the Convention against Torture (the Convention, or CAT) in 1998. Bahraini legislation, both the Constitution and the Penal Code, affirmed the criminalization of torture and ill-treatment to comply with international law. In 2002, Bahrain ratified the Convention on the Elimination of

All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which provides for specific protection in relation to women.

Article 1 of the Convention states that torture is any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed.

As the term «any act» indicates, all forms of torture in mental and physical patterns are a crime, absolutely and unequivocally, regardless of their degree. States are skilled in a variety of torture techniques, especially those do not leave traces of the crime. In this vein, Bahrain's - like many others' - security agencies have relied on sexual torture because it usually does not leave a longstanding physical trace on victims, while leaving long-term and deep psychological impact in order to intimidate and terrorise people.

Commitments to the standards are welcome. But failure to implement the provisions of the treaty means that the authorities have, effectively, facilitated torture. The authorities have made its practice immune from prosecution and, in so doing, they have left swathes of Bahraini society feeling that they do not have any legal protection but rather, that they are in danger.

Bahraini Legal Context

Article 19 (d) of the Bahraini Constitution stipulates that: “No one shall be subjected to physical or mental torture, inducement or undignified treatment, and the penalty for so doing shall be specified by law”. Any statement or confession proved to have been made under torture, inducement, or such treatment, or the threat thereof, shall be null and void.

According to Article 208 of the Bahraini Penal Code, as amended by Law 52 of 2012, a prison sentence shall be the penalty for any public official or person entrusted with a public service who intentionally inflicts severe pain or suffering, whether physically or mentally, either personally or through a third party, to a person who is detained or under his control for the purpose of obtaining from him or another person information or confession, or to penalise him for something he has committed or he is accused of having committed, intimidated or coerced by him or another person, or for

any other reason based on discrimination of any kind.

Any public official or person in charge of a public service who threatened a person detained or under his control shall be punished by imprisonment with any of the acts set forth in paragraph 1 of this article or if such acts are committed by another party at the instigation, with his consent or with his acceptance. The penalty is life imprisonment when torture leads to the death of the victim.

This Article shall not apply to cases of pain or suffering arising out of or in connection with legal proceedings or penalties. The limitation period for the offences of torture provided for in this article shall not apply.

Article 232 of the same law reads as follows:

“A prison sentence shall be the penalty for anyone who intentionally inflicts severe pain or suffering, whether physically or mentally, on a person who is detained or under his control for the purpose of obtaining information or confession, [whether] from him or another person, or punishing him for an act committed by him or suspected of having committed, intimidated or coerced him or another person, or for any other reason based on discrimination of any kind.”

Moreover, any person who threatens or detains another person detained or under his control shall be punished by imprisonment for any of the acts set out in paragraph 1 of this article or if such acts are committed by another party at the instigation of, or with his consent or acquiescence. The penalty is life imprisonment when torture leads to the death of the victim. The limitation period for the offenses of torture provided for in this article shall not apply.

These constitutional and legal articles are in conformity with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which was signed by the Kingdom of Bahrain in 1998. It is the case that Bahraini legislation prescribes imprisonment for the perpetrator of the crime of torture, all of which fall outside the statute of limitations.

In addition to the penalties stipulated in the Bahraini Penal Code, the Bahraini Criminal Procedure Law of 2002 contains a specific article for investigating cases of torture by Decree Law No. 53 of 2012, which reads as follows:


“The Public Prosecution shall exercise its jurisdiction to consider allegations of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or death when the accused, witness, or expert is signed during the identification, investigation or proceedings before the court.”

In other cases, the Public Prosecution shall exercise its jurisdiction for the General Security Forces on the basis of what is referred to it by the General Secretariat Ombudsman or the office of the Ombudsman.

In sum, Bahrain has the legal instruments that force the Public Prosecution to examine torture allegations and refer the criminal case of torture to the criminal courts to apply the punishment prescribed in the Penal Code according to the Code of Criminal Procedure. Why, then, are such provisions not used?



Conduct of State Employees



Decree No. 14 of 2012 issued by the Minister of the Interior on January 30, 2012 on the Code of Conduct for Policemen, and the Prime Minister's Decision No. 31 of 2012 on June 14, 2012 on the Code of Conduct of the National Security Apparatus, stipulate that all conduct and behaviour contravene these decisions shall be a crime punishable by law.

These decisions and laws represent a legal framework that holds the state responsible for the conduct of all security authorities, including the intelligence services such as the National Security Service and others.

This means that crimes committed by security forces are state responsibilities: they fall to officials and extend to subordinates.

The legal responsibility here is termed administrative or criminal. When an official knows of the crime and covers it up, it moves from an administrative to a criminal

matter, to be determined by Bahraini criminal laws. Moreover, the perpetrator will carry direct criminal liability for the and it covers collaborators, participants, and subordinates.

All of these laws; this legislation should be sufficient to stop torture and ill-treatment by the security authorities.

But if there appears that the Bahrain government has no genuine intention to apply these provisions or a will to hold perpetrators to account for the allegations of torture.

Torture of a sexual nature is one of the common and systematic forms of torture that have been recorded by a variety of researchers, set out in numerous human rights reports, carried out against detainees such as activists and human rights defenders or citizens, because of their activities related to political opinion.

Some Characteristics of Torture, Including of a Sexual Nature

Sexual torture is a crime that is not often reported by the majority of victims who have been subjected to it. In the traditional, socially conservative society that is Bahrain, it remains very difficult to discuss openly and it continues to carry a social stigma.

Security authorities in Bahrain often commit sexual torture during the pre-trial detention period. The Code of Criminal Procedure and the Law for Protecting Society from Terrorist Acts, provides for between 28 days and a maximum of six months for pre-trial detention and it is in this grey period that it occurs. The UN's Human Rights Committee has noted that pre-trial detention should not last more than 48 hours, after which the risk of torture and ill treatment rises.

During this period, Bahraini authorities often subject the detainee to enforced disappearance - when no one knows where the person is held. It is in this abyss that

officials deny the detainee access to lawyers and family; it is when the detainee is at most risk of torture in the closed rooms where no one can save him, her or them.

Human rights abusers often prefer torture of a sexual character since - as shown by the past eight years of practice of systematic torture - the perpetrators remain free from judicial accountability, domestically and internationally.

The torturers' perception that they are safe from punishment encourages them even more to continue this type of torture. In this regard, we find that the methods adopted by the security authorities in sexual torture often have the following patterns:

- 1-** Examination of the detainee following forced, total, stripping and after having been photographed.
- 2-** Keeping the detainee completely naked while officials manipulate and abuse the anus, penis, and testicles (male); the breasts and vagina (female); manipulation and abuse of all sexual organs, including, in respect to males, the anus.
- 3-** Stripping detainee of clothes and forcing him to sit on a bottle, or instrumental rape (male).
- 4-** Electric shock to the genitals.
- 5-** Kicking the genitals.
- 6-** Threat of rape and actually committing it (male and female).
- 7-** The use of sharp devices (such as knives) to injure the penis.
- 8-** Verbal harassment and insulting statements against the detainee (male and female).



Some Legal Characteristics Regarding the Crime of Torture of a Sexual Character

There are three, broad categories in order to situate the place of torture in a given society:

- criminalization of the moral element, or the intent to inflict suffering or harm;
- criminalization of the physical act of committing torture as a causal source for the result; and
- the process through which an allegation of torture is conveyed, and, as needed, investigated and/or prosecuted.

In the case of Bahrain, Salam DHR's research suggests that the government pays lip service to the values represented by these points. It undertakes a minimum of action in order to minimise international opprobrium.

In respect to the first two points, Bahrain fulfils - on paper alone - the criteria required for a government



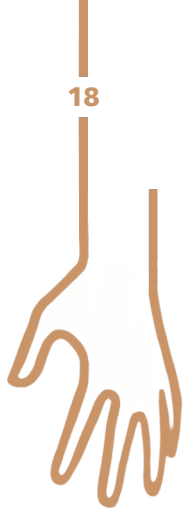
to effectively end torture. In practice, it has accepted that the systematic infliction of suffering on detainees is a useful political and social practice.

At the time of writing, the authorities typically do not act on credible allegations of torture. They claim, including to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, that its investigative mechanism could not find evidence of the claim or that the survivor made no claim. The latter is now, sadly, often true: survivors now rarely make such claims since they know they will be dismissed out of hand.

In addition, criminal liability is imposed on the officials who commit this crime due to public duty. In this instance, the crime is facilitated by the official's control over and authority to restrict the autonomy of a detainee in the name of the law and in the eyes of the judiciary.



Sample Cases of Torture of a Sexual Nature in Bahrain



Since the massive social upheaval in 2011, members of the security authorities have carried out acts of torture of a sexual nature in places of detention many now call torture chambers.

As noted above, it leaves few enduring physical marks, but deep psychological scars.

Officials use sexual harassment because it is often less documented: survivors feel dread and shame and fear how family, friends and society will view their reputation and honour if they do reveal their experiences.

On the contrary, Salam DHR issues this report in order to break through the self-imposed silence of the victims: the shame is not on them but on the perpetrators. The rights of the survivors must not be lost amidst the belligerent arrogance of the state. The cases set out below and this report aims at reducing the authorities' abilities to pervert the course of justice.

• **EbtisamAlSaegh (also: al-Sayegh)**

Ebtisam AlSaegh, a human rights defender of long standing¹, told Salam DHR:

“When I received a phone call from the National Security Agency on May 25, 2017, the caller asked me to come to the NSA building. When I arrived at the building in Muharraq, they blindfolded me, interrogated me because of my human rights activities. During the interrogation, they used the worst forms of physical torture. They told me some harsh words, threatened me and sexually abused me in a way that made me hit a sequential collapse. They repeatedly chanted that no one can protect you”.

International human rights organizations have repeatedly raised her case². Following two earlier interventions in July 2017, Special Procedures of the UN’s High Commissioner for Human Rights once again drew attention to the abuse she faced³.

In August 2017, the government responded to assert politically-motivated charges, including that she was working for ‘terrorists’, and stated that no allegation of ill treatment had been filed⁴. They did not address the substantive allegations as they were dismissed, out of hand.

1- See, for example: Amnesty International - Bahrain: Woman human rights defender at high risk of torture, including sexual assault, 4 July 2017: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/201707//bahrain-woman-human-rights-defender-at-high-risk-of-torture-including-sexual-assault/>.

2- See, amongst others, Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/search/?q=Ebtisam+al-Saegh> and Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/sitesearch/Ebtisam%20al-Saegh%2C%20Ebtisam%20al-Sayegh>.

3- See: <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=23218>.

4- See: <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gId=33623>.

Nevertheless, the case against Ebtisam AlSaegh exemplifies concerns expressed by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In its 10 March 2014 Concluding Observations on the third report submitted to it, as required by the treaty, it expressed concern “about allegations that, in the aftermath of the political events of February/March 2011, some women experienced ill-treatment and intimidation by law enforcement officials [...]”⁵.

The Committee called on Bahrain to:

“30.b. Ensure that any sanctions against women who peacefully participated in or appeared to support the events since February 2011 are immediately discontinued and that women do not suffer the impact of their political affiliations and are immediately reinstated in the posts that they occupied and are compensated and rehabilitated; (c) Ensure that women activists are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and association and that the July 2013 revision of the Law on the Protection of Society from Acts of Terrorism (2006) does not have a negative impact in this regard [...]”

The government has not taken any action to engage or implement these recommendations.

- **Ibrahim Sarhan**

Ibrahim Sarhan, a lawyer and human rights defender, told Salam DHR that:

5- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Bahrain, 10 March 2014, UN Index: CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, paragraph 29.

“On May 24, 2017, when I was summoned for an interrogation - that lasted more than seven hours - in the building of the National Security Agency in Muharraq, the executioners tortured me, opening my legs with force and kicking on the genitals. During the torture, they took me to a small room with three executioners. As I did not admit what they had asked me and did not respond to their requests, the dark-skinned executioner touched me from the back, made his penis touch my body from the back, and held me from my head and said: “we will rape you”.

He repeated the questions but did not get a satisfactory answer. He asked his assistant to bring a glass bottle (7Up) and condom, showed to me and said «If you do not confess you will sit on this. He also brought a muscular person and put him in front of me, and said: ‘This is the person who will rape you’. He repeated this method using a second person.”

On 31 October 2017, Special Procedures of the UN’s High Commissioner for Human Rights raised his case with the government of Bahrain⁶. The government replied to say that no complaint had been raised by Ibrahim Sarhan but that the relevant authorities - under government control - investigated his treatment and concluded that the government had no case to answer⁷. Out of fear for his safety, Ebrahim Sarhan deleted all of his tweets between February and May 2017 following interrogation, denying him, retrospectively, of his right to peaceful expression.

6- See: <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=23422>.

7- See: <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gld=33814>.

- **Younis Sultan**

Younis Ahmed Sultan was detained and tortured being brother of Mohamed Sultan, a human rights defender. Younis Sultan told Salam DHR:

“I received a call on 26 November 2017 from the police station in roundabout number 17 in Hamad Town. They asked me to come immediately to meet Officer Tahir Al-Alawi. During the interrogation session, Al-Alawi ordered two of his assistants to pull me and do everything to me. And then the two and the officer Tahir Al-Alawi directed me towards the wall and stripped me by force. I tried to prevent them but couldn't. Then one of them put my head between his legs and squeezed with force while the other managed to strip me of all my clothes. Then they spat in my bottom and inserted a wooden rod into the anus and hit my bottom with sticks and kicking.

After they finished their crime, Al-Alawi ordered his assistants to leave the room and take all my clothes with them. Al-Alawi continued interrogating me while I was completely naked. He accused me of carrying out terrorist activities and gave me an offer that he would drop the charges if I accept to provide them with private information related to my brothers activism with the mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council. I was asked to work as a spy and think again. They gave me back my clothes and later I discovered that the underwear was not mine, which indicated that there was another person being tortured and assaulted, and these clothes belonged to him.”

• Najah Yusuf

Najah Yusuf, a female civil servant currently jailed in Isa Town prison, wrote to The Guardian that:

“For four days, I was relentlessly interrogated because of Facebook posts, including those that called for the [Formula One] race to be cancelled and for the release of others imprisoned for criticising [it]. [...] They threatened to kill me, they tried to bribe me, they beat me.

But worst of all, officers tore off my hijab and attempted to strip me of my clothes, before an officer sexually assaulted me in custody. The pain and humiliation of that week will haunt me for the rest of my life. All this because I took a stand against state repression and the Grand Prix»

On the fifth day, I could take it no more. I was physically, mentally and emotionally exhausted. I wanted it to an end. Officers presented me with a prepared confession to sign. While I was reading it, the officers beat me again and threatened to rape me. So I signed it”⁸.

Since the government arrested Najah Yusuf in 2017, human rights groups have repeatedly condemned the Bahraini authorities, and have demanded the Federation Internationale de l’Automobile and Formula One to conduct full investigations into her case. In November 2018, Formula One for the first time expressed concerns on the human rights violation in Bahrain⁹, but only to a limited

8- Najah Yusuf, “Every Moment I Spend in Prison in Bahrain Stains the Reputation of F1”, The Guardian, 27 March 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2019/mar/27/najah-yusuf-prison-f1-bahrain-grand-prix>.

9- See: <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2018/nov/14/f1-woman-jailed-bahrain-grand-prix-protests>.

extent to put pressure on Bahrain.

Najah Yusuf told Salam DHR: "During interrogation at the National Security Agency building in Muharraq, I was subjected to sexual harassment, the threat of rape to myself and my family members".

- **Z.A.**

Z.A. (female) has stated that:

"When my house was raided at night without a warrant, they took me with a civilian intelligence vehicle to a yard near the Coast Guard headquarter in Sitra. They were all men, even though I was a woman, and they did not take this into account. They threatened to rape me. They told me: 'Have you ever had a broken marriage? How many people had that pleasure with you?' And they kept calling me something means in English 'Slut'".



Selected Samples of Documentation on Torture of a Sexual Nature

The crime of sexual harassment is one of the most gross and frequent violations committed by Bahraini security authorities since 2011. Yet, Bahraini and international human rights reports have documented the practice. These include:

- Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry:

The report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) documented the crime of sexual harassment in all forms and on all age groups, both women and men. Paragraphs 1190, 1191, 1134, 1186, 1257, 1696 clearly state that these practices go beyond individual practices but are a systematic crime. The BICI report especially contains statements examined by the Committee's forensic pathologists. These testimonies are added in Annex B (Summary of Torture Allegations)

from pages 432 to 478, covering 60 cases.

For more information, please see the report in Arabic and English in the following links: (Arabic) <http://www.bici.org.bh/BICIreportAR.pdf> or (English) <http://www.bici.org.bh/BICIreportEN.pdf>

- **Bahrain Rehabilitation & Anti-Violence Organisation (Bravo):**

In February 2013, Bravo issued a report entitled «Bahrain: Sexual Violence ... An Old Methodology for the Torture of Detainees.» This report reviewed torture methods by members of the security authorities in Bahraini prisons. For more information, please see the report in Arabic: «Report».

- **Amnesty International:**

In its 2017/2018/ report, the organization documented the case of Ebtisam AlSaegh, who was subjected to sexual harassment in the National Security Agency building.

- **Human Rights Watch:**

Its 2012 report on Bahrain indicated that activists were subjected to sexual harassment during interrogation in the detention period.

Although these reports document the crime of torture by way of sexual harassment, or physical and sexual abuse, the practice of sexual torture is still ongoing, and the judicial bodies have failed in their legal role in investigation or prosecution.

In a 2014 article, the human rights defender, **Maryam al-Khawaja** set out the challenge of state violence facing committed nonviolent Bahraini rights activists. Observing that the international community might have taken more action had it become a violent conflict, she nevertheless concludes that:

“The reason human rights defenders in Bahrain continue to promote nonviolence as the only strategy for change in Bahrain is not only for moral reasons, but also because the activists recognize that the use of violence begets violence; violence creates more damage, takes longer to resolve, and makes a positive outcome more difficult to achieve. When a situation turns into an armed conflict, it creates capacity for extremist groups, the targeting of minorities, and in some cases even genocide”¹⁰.

The activists noted above, who have faced torture of a sexual nature, steadfastly maintained a non-violent conduct, yet faced violence that abused the most sensitive parts of their bodies, leaving lasting psychological wounds. Worse still, in the aftermath, the state belittled and downplayed the experience, providing immunity to the perpetrators. However much it may seem to bring peace and security in the short run, history has shown that sooner or later, such brutality will be addressed.

10- Maryam Al-Khawaja: Crackdown: The Harsh Realities of Nonviolent Protests in the Bahraini Civil Conflict; *Journal of International Affairs*, Fall/Winter 2014, Vol. 68, No. 1., pp 189-200.

Recommendations

To the Government of Bahrain:

- 1-** As a member of the Human Rights Council, issue an immediate, unconditional and open invitation to all Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, in order to show a true willingness to engage with international human rights mechanisms;
- 2-** Implement the recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture, such as Recommendation No. 41, that Bahrain “promptly accept the request of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to visit the country.”¹¹ and those set out in the 2017, Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture¹²;
- 3-** Hold perpetrators of torture accountable for the crime of sexual violence and prosecute them;
- 4-** Make compensation and reparation to victims of sexual torture in an equitable manner;
- 5-** Train members of the security authorities in accordance with the code of conduct for law enforcement officers; and
- 6-** Grant a relevant operating license to any private initiative established to treat victims of torture; grant any such body

11- Committee against Torture, Sixty-fourth session, 23 July–10 August 2018, Item 3 of the provisional agenda, Submission of reports by States parties under article 19 of the Convention; Concluding observations on the second and third reports of Bahrain - Addendum: Information received from Bahrain on follow-up to the concluding observations, 7 June 2018, UN Reference: CAT/C/BHR/CO/23-/Add.1.

12- Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the second and third periodic reports of Bahrain, 29 May 2017, UN Index: CAT/C/BHR/CO/2-3.

unfettered access to private care within prisons or detention centres and/or facilitate the treatment outside the country of those at liberty who believe they faced ill treatment, irrespective of legal status.



To the international community:

- 1-** Publicly urge the Government of Bahrain to halt the use of torture, including by way of sexual torture;
- 2-** Make any sale of military, security or police equipment or supplies subject to written guarantees that they will not be used in instances which could be construed as violations of international human rights or humanitarian law;
- 3-** End the practice of having state officials appear in photographs, such as those used in social media, alongside Bahraini officials credibly accused of or implicated in acts amounting to human rights violations; and
- 4-** To current members of the UN Human Rights Council, publicly call on the government of Bahrain to engage with international human rights mechanisms, including by issuing an immediate, unconditional and open invitation to UN Special Procedures to visit the country.




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