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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.

[04 February 2016]

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



Bahrain 2015: The increase of oppression, restriction of freedoms and seeking the assistance of Jordan in torture, the National Institution of Human Rights ignores the claims of torture

Human rights situation continued to decline in 2015, and the violation cases within the period between January and September are as follows: 1422 cases of arbitrary detention including 28 women, 241 children, while 264 citizens were exposed to torture and ill-treatment and degrading treatment, including 97 cases of short-term enforced disappearance, and 52 cases of deprivation of treatment, while the number of political judgments against 667 persons who are convicted in political cases with a total of 5628 years, including six death sentences, 47 of life imprisonment, and 128 cases of nationality deprivation. 232 citizens were deprived of nationality including politicians and human rights activists and media activists. Bahrain also witnessed the 5495 cases of peaceful protests, 1789 people were exposed to tear gas and ammunition of firearms (shotgun) that resulted in the injury of 630 citizens as a result of the use of unjustified force, and this is not subject to the principles of internationally-accredited necessity and proportionality as per the international law. Despite the UN statement issued from 33 member state in the Human Rights Council last September, directed to Bahrain, which tackled the harassment and imprisonment of those who exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression, including human rights defenders who have been arrested or tried or summoned and several opposing political figures including Ibrahim Sharif, Khalil al-Marzouq, Mr. Jameel Kazim, Mageed Milad, Fadil Abbas, Mr. Mohamed Algriffi, Sheikh Maytham Salman. The Second Criminal Grand Court upheld the first degree imprisonment sentence against the former MP Khaled Abdel Aal because of Tweets on Twitter. The authority did not respond until this moment to 7 applications by the special rapporteurs to visit Bahrain, including the private UN Special Rapporteur on torture Méndez Brothers. They did not speed up the full implementation of the recommendations of the Bassiouni and Geneva, with the prohibition of the right to peaceful demonstrations in Bahrain which continued this year; where we have received reports stating that the authority refused to receive notice of more than 130 peaceful rallies since January 1, 2015.

Instead of the Bahraini authorities respond to the demands of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct an impartial rapid investigation about the events of Joe Prison in March 2015 prison and the victims of torture and ill-treatment, the Fourth High Criminal Court issued in January 25, 2016, a ruling of a 15 year-sentence in prison for 57 detainees for in "Joe prison ", where the total sentences reached 855 years, while they do not make the involved security officials accountable in this incident.

It is worth mentioning that the security authorities have used nearly 500 officials of the Ministry of Interior officers who surrounded the prisoners of Joe Prison in March 2015 and used tear gas in closed places, causing bottlenecks, a crime described in the law "attempted murder", in addition to the lead fission "shotgun" and severe beatings of a large number of prisoners. The leaked images show the forms of torture in prisons which is incriminated by the domestic and international criminal law. Information is also received about the use of the Jordanian security authorities elements in the torture of detainees in this incident, and this is contrary to the local and international law where Bahraini law does not permit the use of foreign elements in the punishment of the citizens, including the forms of torture. We still receive complaints of some detainees about the denial of the right to medical treatment.

The Bahraini Ministry of Education politicizes the academic scholarship as 2015 witnessed the highest levels of sectarian discrimination against major national component which is the Shiites. 34% of the Shiites highest outstanding students were deprived of the missions while 146 cases have been studied. 127 students out of the total number of students (630) have been deprived of scholarships of in the last five years, which violates four international humanitarian principles, namely: the principle of investing in the human element, the principle of citizenship rights, the principle of transparency that achieve tranquillity, and the principle of care.

The Bahraini Minister of Interior Rashid Abdulla Al Khalifa announced at a news conference in August 2015 the intention issue a license for the imams of mosques and dissemination of sermons in an attempt to violate the internationally- guaranteed right to autonomy of religious affairs, which is inseparable from what has already been recorded from the appalling violations of the right to freedom of belief. The report of the US Commission on Freedom

of Religion confirmed that there is much to be done to implement the recommendations of the Bahraini Independent Commission of Fact Finding to address abuses against Shiite Muslims who have reached about 65% of the citizens and to continue to improve the conditions of freedom of religion in the country.

On the other hand, the report issued by the National institution for Human Rights about the year 2014 did not reflect the reality of the human rights crisis, and was providing illogical justification for the non-implementation of the authority to the recommendations of its report in 2013, while they failed to discuss the policy of impunity in the report, and ignored claims of torture and restriction of freedoms , and has been busy proving the approval of the statute of the principles of Paris while the institution did not meet the first point of the item "composition and guarantees of independence and pluralism."

(This statement was prepared by Bahrain Forum For Human Rights)
