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Written statement* submitted by the Centre Independent de Recherches et d'Initiatives pour le Dialogue (CIRID), 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.

[08 February 2017]

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

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The Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Kingdom of Bahrain

CIRID (Centre Independent de Recherches et d'Initiatives pour le Dialogue) welcomes the continuous efforts of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders and commends the role of the Human Rights Council in cementing key terms and practice in the foundation of a sustainable multilateral approach in addressing this significant issue.

CIRID calls on the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders to reassess the issue of some activists in Bahrain. The selective approach of a number of NGOs and individuals calls for reflection on its conformity with the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

CIRID has closely followed that there is a significant number of NGOs and individuals who do not fit the criteria stated in the aforementioned instrument, due to the clear rejection of some universal human rights values echoed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.

CIRID has also witnessed that such NGOs and individuals apply a selective methodology based on the rights of certain sects, which is inconsistent with the principle of *human rights for all*. Therefore, CIRID urges the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders to reexamine the situation in Bahrain, through the redefinition of concepts in light of international legal benchmarks.

Thank you,
Joël Hakizimana, Secretary-General