



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 4

### Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

## **Written statement\* submitted by International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, 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 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## Human Rights Situation in Bahrain

Bahrain's human rights situation continues to deteriorate as a result of systematic violations committed by Bahraini authorities against citizens. Since 2011, Bahrain has witnessed a state of turmoil and peaceful political mobility, calling on the authorities to launch the process of democratization and the promotion of freedoms and all human rights principles.

However, this movement and protests witnessed a brutal repression by the Bahraini authorities, as well as the use of all means of repression and intimidation against demonstrators. Dozens and hundreds of Bahraini citizens were also imprisoned in order to discourage them from claiming their legitimate human rights.

Among the grave violations committed by the Bahraini authorities, political activist Dr. Abdul Jalil al-Senkis was arrested in 2011 for his political positions and statements calling for political reforms and the strengthening of Bahrain's human rights situation. Although he suffers from a critical health situation, the authorities continue to arrest him despite ongoing international and popular appeals and demands for his release. It should also be noted that Dr. Al-Senkis announced a hunger strike more than a year ago because of the Bahraini authorities' reservation to one of his writings, on whom he had worked for many years in prison. However, the Senkis and dozens of detainees are denied the most basic rights of health care in prisons, resulting in the death of many detainees in prisons, especially during the spread of the coronavirus as a result of medical neglect and disregard of the minimum health standards in place globally.

In the same vein, the Bahraini authorities arrested Sheikh Ali Salman, Secretary-General of the Al-Wifaq Association, one of Bahrain's most important political activists and demands for reform. He was arrested in 2014 and sentenced to life imprisonment for peaceful political activity in advocating a democratic system.

In a related context, evidence of human rights violations in Bahrain has grown, most notably the arbitrary detention of children for allegedly participating in anti-power protests or demonstrations. Furthermore, the authorities are persistently violating them by preventing the families of the children arrested from visiting them in prisons to ascertain their situation. Of course, these violations fall under the Child Rights Violations Clause under the Restorative Justice Act, announced in Bahrain in 2021 and which was supposed to seek to improve some forms of protection for children, but still fall short of Bahrain's rights obligations.

The gross violations of human rights in the prison file do not depend on the Senquis case and the arrest of political activists, children and minors, where dozens of detainees are held in prison without trial and on false charges, most of them centred on demands for freedom of opinion and expression and political reforms. It should also be noted that the Bahraini authorities have revoked the nationality of a large number of political activists and prevented them from returning to Bahrain in a dangerous precedent that goes beyond all the violations committed by the Bahraini authorities over the past decade.

In terms of violations against migrant workers, violations of this group's rights, especially domestic workers, have escalated, particularly during the coronavirus outbreak. The authorities have not made any positive intervention to improve their working conditions and residency and any action to protect their rights.

Over the past years, Bahrain has ignored all international and international demands to improve its human rights realities. For example, Bahrain has not responded to requests for a visit from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders sent in 2012 and 2015. It has also failed to respond to requests for visits in recent years by United Nations special rapporteurs on torture, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights calls upon the Government of Bahrain to refrain from all practices that fall under the heading of human rights violations and to pursue the reform demands that the people of Bahrain have consistently claimed since 2011. The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights also calls upon all States members of the Human Rights Council to exert pressure on the Government of Bahrain to release political detainees and ensure fair trials to ensure that

they are protected from any violation of their rights guaranteed by the Bahraini Constitution and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights.

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