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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered, at its 70<sup>th</sup> session held from the 19 February to the 9 March 2007, the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Bahrain (CERD/C/BHR/CO/7/Add.1) pursuant to rule 65 (1) of its rules of procedure

The Committee welcomed the submission of information as requested, on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12, 13, 15 and 16 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/BHR/CO/7), adopted by the Committee following the consideration at its 66<sup>th</sup> session of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> periodic reports of Bahrain, submitted in one document.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity thus provided to continue its constructive dialogue with the State party. In this spirit, the Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below, and requests that comments and responses on action taken on these issues be included in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document by the Government of Bahrain on 26 April 2007:

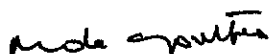
- **Paragraph 12 of the concluding observations:** The Committee notes that a draft law establishing a national human rights institution is under consideration. It wishes to receive additional information on progress in this regard, in particular on the extent to which the national human rights institution, if created, would comply with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles, General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993).

His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Abdullatif Abdulla  
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- **Paragraph 13 of the concluding observations:** The Committee takes note of the information concerning the laws and policies set up in order to encourage the activities of civil society organizations. It wishes to receive additional information on the Political Associations Act (2005) considered by certain civil society organizations as unduly restrictive. Please also provide information on the arrests in February 2007 of human rights activists, notably of Mr. Al-Khawaja, Mr. Hassan Mushaima and Mr. Shaker Mohamed, and on any charges brought against them.
- **Paragraph 15 of the concluding observations:** The Committee commends the State party for the legislative provisions adopted so as to protect immigrant domestic workers, and would welcome information on steps taken to effectively implement these provisions. The Committee also wishes to receive information on specific measures and concrete steps taken to protect female immigrant domestic workers, in particular in relation to debt bondage, passport retention, illegal confinement, rape and physical assault by employers.
- **Paragraph 16 of the concluding observations.** The Committee takes note of the constitutional provisions ensuring that everyone, without distinction based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin, enjoys the rights set out in Article 5 of the Convention, in particular the right to work, to health and social security, to adequate housing, and to education. It wishes, however, to receive information on concrete steps taken to ensure the implementation of these provisions for all persons on the State party's territory.

Please allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue its constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's observations and request for further information are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Régis de Gouttes  
Chairman of the Committee for the  
Elimination of Racial Discrimination