
Kingdom of Bahrain

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HRCtte 135th session (27 June to 29 July 2022)

The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms (ICSRF) prepared this report on the extent to which the Kingdom of Bahrain applies the international standards of human rights in the framework of the recommendation no 31 (death penalty) and no 53 (freedom of expression).

ICSRF's profile:

The International Center for supporting Rights and Freedoms (ICSRF) is an international organization, and includes a number of human rights defenders around the world.

The International Center for supporting Rights and Freedoms (ICSRF) is registered as A Swiss association based in Geneva established in 2016 ICSRF. worked from the beginning on the defense of human rights activists in the Arab region. The statements and campaigns of the ICSRF have broad influence in the response of governments, . For more information on the efforts of Center, please visit our website www.icsrf-gcc.org.

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Report Summary / Stakeholders / Bahrain 2022

The Bahraini Constitution provides that the Kingdom of Bahrain adopts a democratic system. It approves that the citizens enjoy many rights and freedoms. Bahrain acceded to six of the main seven United Nations conventions on human rights, namely: the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" (1990), the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (2002), the "Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment" (1998), the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" (1992), the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" (2006), and the "International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" (2007). It also acceded to the "Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2004).

But the last few years, , were characterized by dramatic violations of the rights and freedoms of activists, opposition members and human rights defenders in the country. For in the right to freedom of opinion and expression

1-The death penalty still exists in Bahrain despite its many international pledges

2-Bahrain committed a crime Reprisals against ICSRF for submission of the previous UPR report on Bahrain 2017 This is in contravention of the freedom of expression By using its position on the NGO Committee.

1-The Right to Life and Combating the Death Penalty:

6. The previous recommendations were not implemented in this regard and there are many criminalized punishable offenses with death penalty under the Bahraini Penal Code; Articles 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 121, 122, 126, 142, 147, 152, 153, 175, 349 and 359. This violates Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Recommendations:

Abolishing the death penalty utterly and replacing it with any other punishment.

2-Freedom of Opinion and Expression:

Weakness of the legislation on the freedom of opinion and expression and non-application in this regard of previous recommendations and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Therefore, a large number of bloggers, activists, opposition members and human rights defenders experienced judicial and security prosecutions such as arrest on charges of humiliation and insult, dissemination of false news, revocation of nationality, and restriction of the right to freedom of movement. A lot of bloggers and activists were referred to trial and imprisonment for long periods. and Human rights defenders experience retaliation and intimidation because of their legitimate work in defense of human rights. In fact, there is no actual accusation for practicing a work related to human rights but the Bahraini authorities undermines such work in different ways Finally, in January 2019, Bahrain began to exploit its membership in the NGO Committee in retaliation against human rights organizations that submitted reports to the United Nations regarding Bahrain's continued violations of human rights.

-The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms submitted the UPR report on Bahrain in 2017.

-In 2019, Bahrain became a member of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee that reviews the file of the International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms to obtain consultative status.

-The State of Bahrain retaliates against the International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms in every session and prevents it from obtaining consultative status by asking repeated and illegal questions.

Recommendations:

- A. Amend legislation in a way that provides freedom of opinion and expression..
- B. Implement Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- C. A.implementation, within the national judiciary, of both the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights, and Fundamental Freedoms and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- D. Urging Bahrain not to use its membership in the NGO Committee to harm human rights defenders and human rights organizations and to retaliate against them by preventing them from obtaining consultative status Because of their expression of opinion and expression

International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms