

**KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN:
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

Interim Report



September 2014

Introduction

1. Promoting and protecting human rights at the national level is a vital Government priority in the Kingdom of Bahrain (*Bahrain*). Having had the distinction of being the first state to be reviewed in 2008, Bahrain values the Universal Periodic Review (*UPR*) as an important mechanism contributing to its achievement of this national priority. Bahrain's policy is to fully support the work of the Human Rights Council (*HRC*).
2. At the end of Bahrain's second UPR in September 2012, Bahrain endorsed 90% of all recommendations made to it.¹ Regarding Bahrain's support for the recommendations:
 - "Support of a given recommendation means that it has either been implemented or is in the process of being implemented. Certain recommendations require action by the legislature, a process which the executive may encourage but not control."²
 - "Partial support of a given recommendation means that we support a part and note the other part, which may conflict with the application of Shari'a' law, require amendment to the Constitution and national legislation, or require further examination."³
3. In its remarks to the HRC at this time,⁴ Bahrain declared its intention to submit, prior to its next UPR, a voluntary interim report on its implementation of the recommendations supported and pledges made. In keeping with the high importance placed on promoting and protecting human rights at the national level, and its high regard for the UPR and the HRC, Bahrain is pleased to hereby submit its voluntary interim report.
4. This report was prepared following consultations with the National Institution for Human Rights (*NIHR*) and Civil Society Organizations (*CSOs*).
5. Bahrain views its UPR work as ongoing. Accordingly, this report covers the period 2012-2014, since the adoption of Bahrain's second national report.⁵ Being interim, it is a snapshot of the present position with regard to the recommendations and pledges. It is not intended to be a comprehensive document, as would be a final national report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to HRC resolution 16/21.

¹ A/HRC/21/6/Add.1/Rev.1 (12 October 2012). Of the total 176 recommendations, Bahrain supported 145, partially supported 13, and did not support 18 (for reasons, see paragraphs 4, 19, 25, 30-31). In addition, Bahrain made three voluntary pledges.

² A/HRC/21/6/Add.1/Rev.1, paragraph 2 (12 October 2012).

³ A/HRC/21/6/Add.1/Rev.1, paragraph 3 (12 October 2012).

⁴ A/HRC/21/22, paragraphs 253-266 (26 August 2013, advance unedited version).

⁵ A/HRC/WG.6/13/BHR/1 (30 March 2012, reissued for technical reasons on 30 April 2012). Prior periods are referenced in this interim report where the context so requires.

Overview of the Update on Progress on the Recommendations

6. The Annex below provides an update on Bahrain's progress on the UPR recommendations since 2012. For ease of reference, Bahrain's response from September 2012 is also included. To avoid repeating the same information, references to other Bahraini reports are included as appropriate.
7. The main other Bahraini reports cited in this interim report are:
 - Moving Beyond 2011: A Report Detailing the Government of Bahrain's Implementations of the BICI Recommendations published by the BICI Follow Up Unit, dated: February 2014. This is available at: http://www.bna.bh/pdf/BICI_Implementation_report_ENGLISH.pdf.
 - Bahrain's Replies to the CEDAW Committee in Relation to the Third Periodic Review of Bahrain, Doc: CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, dated: 7 November 2013. This is available at: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2FC%2FBHR%2FQ%2F3%2FAdd.1&Lang=en.
 - The Ministry of Interior's Independent Ombudsman's: Annual Report 2013-2014; Report on the visit of Correction and Rehabilitation Centre (Jau Prison); and the Standards for Visiting Prisons and Places of Detention. These are available at: <http://ombudsman.bh/en/periodic-public-reports/>.
8. Citations to additional reports referred to are provided in the appropriate places.
9. In some cases, the Bahraini position has not changed since September 2012 on account of the recommendation having already been implemented or put into implementation motion by that stage, but, where available, further information is provided in order to complement, update or clarify what was previously stated.
10. It is hoped that this interim report contains sufficient information to clarify Bahrain's position regarding the UPR implementation.

Abbreviations

Bahrain	Kingdom of Bahrain
BCCI	Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry
BICI	Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry
CAT	Convention Against Torture
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Commission on the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees
CSB	Civil Service Bureau
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GFBTU	General Federation of Bahraini Trade Unions
GoB	Government of Bahrain
HRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
IBE	International Bureau of Education
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICNL	International Centre for Non Profit Law
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICPPED	International Convention on the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LMRA	Labour Market Regulatory Authority
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoL	Ministry of Labour
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIHR	National Institution for Human Rights

OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights
OP	Optional Protocol
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture
SCW	Supreme Council for Women
SIU	Special Investigation Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United National Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

Ref.	Recommendation	Bahrain's Position (Sep. 2012)	Update (Sept. 2014)
115.1	Ratify OP-CAT (Czech Republic)	<p>The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Bahrain has acceded to the UN Convention Against Torture, which is what is considered essential and important. There are domestic guarantees in the independent judicial system of Bahrain that makes it possible for any individuals to bring grievances to the public prosecution (Special Investigations Unit). Meanwhile, improving existing institutions is an internal continuing process in the Kingdom.</p>	<p>The recommendation does not enjoy support.</p> <p>At this stage, Bahrain has committed to consider ratifying OPCAT. Please see response on recommendation 115.2 below.</p>
115.2	Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Brazil)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>Relevant government departments continue to consider the matter.</p> <p>In order to build national institutions and capacities in line with OPCAT standards, Bahrain has consulted with a wide range of international experts such as the UK Inspectorate of Prisons and the Association for Prevention of Torture.</p> <p>In September 2013, <i>vide</i> Royal Decree No. 61 of 2013, the independent and impartial CRPD was established. It was welcomed by international actors including the Association for Prevention of Torture</p>

			<p>and the UK government.</p> <p>In addition to the CRPD, the following independent bodies monitor (or have monitored in 2013/2014) places of detention in order to prevent torture and ill treatment through unsupervised visits made without prior notice: (i) the judiciary and public prosecution; (ii) the ICRC; (iii) the MoI Ombudsman; (iv) the NIHR; and (v) international NGOs.</p> <p>Further detail is in the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report of Feb. 2014 (pp. 34-35).</p>
115.3	<p>Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the First and Second Optional Protocols to the ICCPR; the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance (Spain)</p>	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support, In regards to the ICPPED.</p> <p>In addition to executive branch action, by Article 37 of the Constitution, treaties affecting the public or private rights of citizens or which entail amendment of existing laws also require legislative adoption. Work towards acceding to ICPPED is continuing.</p> <p>Although the treaty is not yet applicable, the BICI examined allegations of enforced disappearances in 2011 (including the period of the State of National Safety) against its standards. All allegations were dismissed and no cases of enforced disappearance were found. (BICI Report, ¶ 1304).</p> <p>In regards to the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, there is no change in position. Adequate safeguards for the imposition and carrying out of the death penalty exist in Bahraini law. It is only available for a small, limited number of criminal offences. Further, it is not a mandatory penalty for any crime. The Penal Code provides that a death sentence can be reduced to life and/or specific period of imprisonment if committed under extenuating circumstances including:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individuals below the age of 18 at the time of the crime, • pregnant women would have their sentence suspended until three months after childbirth, • and mentally ill persons at the time of the offense are to be sent to a mental health facility. <p>Courts exercise independent discretion in this regard. Since the 1970s, 10 persons have received death sentences, all of whom were convicted of murder. Four death sentences were imposed in April 2011 against individuals accused of killing policemen. The Court of Cassation later overturned all death sentences. In the period 2011-2014, no death penalties were carried out.</p>
115.4	Accede to ICCPR OPI, ICCPR OP2, OP-CAT and ratify Rome Statute of the ICC (Estonia)	<p>The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support.</p> <p>In regards to OPCAT, please see responses on recommendations 115.1 and 115.2. In regards to ICCPR OPI, please see response on recommendation 115.3. In regards to ICCPR OP2, please see response on recommendation 115.5. In regards to the Rome State, please see response on recommendation 115.11.</p>	<p>The recommendation does not enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to OPCAT, please see responses to recommendations 115.1 and 115.2. In regards to ICCPR OPI, please see response on recommendation 115.3. In regards to ICCPR OP2, please see response to recommendation 115.3. In regards to the Rome Statute, please see response to recommendation 115.11.</p>
115.5	Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons against	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.</p> <p>Bahrain accepts Part 1 of the</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support, In regards to the ICCPED.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.3.</p>

	Enforced Disappearance and the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR for the elimination of the death penalty (Uruguay)	Recommendation, and is currently working on completing the process of acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). Part 2 conflicts with the Constitution and Penal Code providing for the death penalty with adequate safeguards to ensure its just application of this penalty for serious crimes. Further, Bahrain complies with the ICCPR in this respect.	
115.6	Continue to intensify efforts to ratify the ICPPED (Argentina)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.3.
115.7	Withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women and ratify its Optional Protocol (Uruguay)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part. Relevant government departments are reviewing the possibility of withdrawing certain reservations on, or the amendment of certain provisions of the Convention, without prejudice to the Constitution.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support, in part. Bahrain's reservations to articles of CEDAW that are not in accordance with Sharia do not affect the substance of the principle of equality between men and women enshrined in the Constitution and in Bahrain's national laws. The reservations are limited to issues affecting personal status and the family. An update is contained in Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 4-5).

	<p>The reservation on Article 2 is currently under reconsideration as it relates in its narrow interpretation to the woman's position in the family. As to the reservation on Article 9, Paragraph 2 of the Convention pertaining to nationality, a proposed amendment of the Nationality Act is currently under discussion with departments concerned with allowing the children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men to receive Bahraini nationality. Concerned departments are working in collaboration with the legislature to accelerate consideration of the Nationality Act Draft Amendment. As to Article 15, Paragraph 4 of the Convention, it is noted that the Constitution grants women equal rights of freedom of movement without restriction. A husband may not withhold the travel documents of the wife to prevent her free movement and travel. Therefore, the Kingdom's reservation is</p>	<p>On 12 January 2014, the Government transmitted to Parliament a draft law aimed at amending the Nationality Act, 1963, which would enable children of Bahraini mothers and non-Bahraini fathers to obtain nationality. On 19 January 2014, the Cabinet decided to redraft and lift some of Bahrain's reservations to the extent compatible with Sharia. Accordingly, Bahrain's reservations to Articles 2, 9(2), 15(4) and 16 will be maintained until the necessary legislative and constitutional measures are completed.</p> <p>In March 2014, the CEDAW Committee welcomed Bahrain's "willingness to review some of its reservations to [CEDAW] with a view to withdrawing them or amending their content and the fact that a bill on the matter has been referred to the parliament." (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, 10 Mar. 2014, ¶ 4(7)).</p>
--	--	--

		practically limited to the marital abode, which satisfies all the conditions required by Law and Shari'a to ensure the freedom, dignity and independence of women.	
115.8	Withdraw reservations to Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.	The recommendation enjoys support, in part. Please see response on recommendation 115.7.
115.9	Withdraw reservations to CEDAW as well as to other conventions and ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and other outstanding core human rights instruments (Slovenia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.	The recommendation enjoys support, in part. Please see response on recommendation 115.7.
115.10	Withdraw its reservations to CEDAW as soon as possible (Republic of Korea)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.	The recommendation enjoys support, in part. Please see response on recommendation 115.7.
115.11	Ratify the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court, including its Agreement on Privileges and	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support. As for the Rome Statute, Bahrain is a signatory country to ICC.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Bahrain is actively engaged as an observer to the Assembly of States Parties to the ICC and has attended all ASP conferences since the Kampala Review Conference in June 2010.

	Immunities (Slovakia)		
115.12	Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and fully align its legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, including incorporating the Rome Statute's definition of crimes and general principles, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court (Latvia)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.11.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.11.
115.13	Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.11.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.11.
115.14	Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance (France)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.5.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.5.
115.15	Ratify the Rome Statute and take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support. Please see response on	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.11.

	the Statute in its national legislation (Switzerland)	recommendation 115.11.	
115.16	Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (sic.) of International Criminal Court, including incorporating the Statute (sic.) definition of crimes and general principles, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court, and to accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Finland)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.11.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.11.
115.17	The ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the full alignment of Bahrain's national legislation with its provisions (Hungary)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.11.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.11.

115.18	Bring in line the definition of the crime of torture with the Convention against Torture and accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Uruguay)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.</p> <p>Bahrain accepts Part I as the crime of torture is punishable under Articles 208 and 232 of the Bahraini Penal Code. A draft law amending the two aforementioned articles has been passed, so as to include in the penal code a definition of the crime of torture, in accordance with the provisions of Article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which was ratified in 1998.</p> <p>In regards to OPCAT, please see response on recommendations 115.1 and 115.2.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to defining the crime of torture in Bahraini law in line with CAT.</p> <p>Law No. 52 of 2012 amended Articles 208 and 232 of the Penal Code on 9 October 2012. Prior to this, the Constitution and Penal Code, in some respects, provided broader protections to victims than those required under international instruments. For example, Bahraini law extends the crime of torture to a broader category of non-officials than stated in CAT.</p> <p>In order to fully give effect to the definition in CAT, and to avoid ambiguity, the Penal Code was amended in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded definition of the crime based on purpose of the act. Now, "coercing a confession" is only one of the prohibited purposes that may give rise to a charge of torture. The amendment broadens the definition to also include acts "for the purpose of punishing that person for an act he/she or any other person had committed or is suspected to have committed, or to intimidate or coerce that person or any other person, for any reason whatsoever, based on any form of discrimination." This language is drawn directly from the text of Article 1 of CAT. • Expanded definition of crime based on the definition of victim. Now, the restriction to "an accused person, witness or expert" as categories of persons who can be victims of the crime has been removed. • No time limit for prosecutions. The earlier law's 10-year statute of limitations on the crime has been lifted even though CAT itself does
--------	--	--	---

			<p>not require this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stricter sentences. In accordance with Article 4(2) of CAT, the amendments ensure that appropriate penalties will be given to those who commit acts of torture. Now, the maximum sentence is life imprisonment. <p>For additional legislative changes on this subject, please see response on recommendation 115.22.</p> <p>For the practical application of Bahrain's program to prevent and eradicate torture, see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report of Feb. 2014 (pp. 31-37).</p> <p>In regards to OPCAT, please see response on recommendations 115.1 and 15.2.</p>
115.19	Commute all death sentences to prison terms and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a view to definitively abolishing the death penalty (France)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support. Please see response under recommendation 115.3.	The recommendation does not enjoy support.. Please see response on recommendation 1153.
115.20	Consider joining other states in ratifying the International Convention on the	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. There is no change of position.

	Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, as it progressively marches towards institutionalizing protective mechanisms for migrant workers (Philippines)		
115.21	Incorporate into national law Bahrain's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Belgium)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. The Government is currently reconciling national laws against international covenants ratified by Bahrain. They will be referred to the legislature for approval.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Bahrain has amended a number of existing laws and enacted a number of new ones in order to ensure that Bahrain's international human rights obligations are incorporated into national law. Since 2012, legislative activity in this regard has been primarily in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteeing the observance of ICCPR obligations at all times including times of national emergency (please see response on recommendation 115.119); • Deepening freedom of expression (amendments have been made to the Penal Code please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 42-46)); • Ensuring torture is comprehensively criminalized with adequate penalties and victim safeguards (please see responses on

			<p>recommendations 115.18 and 115.22 and the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 31-37));</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that any restrictions on civil and political rights are necessary, minimal and comply with ICCPR standards (please see response on recommendation 115.25 In regards to restrictions on freedom of expression and 115.26 on freedom of assembly); and • Ensuring children have the right to nationality (please see response on recommendation 115.95 and Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 17-18).
115.22	Explicitly criminalize torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment (Spain)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) was established by the Attorney General's Resolution No. 8/2012. This unit investigates incidents of death, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment cases in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol. SIU is independent and published monthly reports.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.18.</p> <p>Additionally, the Code of Criminal Procedure was amended in October 2012 to provide guarantees of safety to victims making complaints against any form of retaliation. Similar guarantees are provided to involved witnesses or experts.</p> <p>Also in October 2012, Article 81 of the Law on Public Security Forces was amended to exclude the crime of torture from the ambit of military crimes and jurisdiction of military courts, thereby making all allegations justiciable solely before ordinary courts.</p> <p>A number of transformative steps have been taken to ensure this legislative framework operates effectively in practice. Please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 31-37).</p>

115.23	To reflect in domestic law-in particular the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure-Bahrain's obligations under international human rights laws and conventions (United Kingdom)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.21 and 115.22.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.21 and 115.22.
115.24	Align the national legislation on freedom of expression, association and assembly with country's international HR obligations (Slovakia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendations 115.21 and 115.25.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendations 115.21 and 115.25.
115.25	Adopt as soon as possible a legislative framework on freedom of expression, including access to internet, to decriminalize defamation and slander as crimes (Mexico)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. The Government has reviewed the draft media law which is in its final stages of debate. This law is designed to ensure freedom of expression and reduce restrictions on the media, including websites, as well as the proper treatment of journalists and publishers, in compliance with international obligations.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. A comprehensive legislative framework in this respect comprises two parts: (i) eliminating and reducing restrictions on speech-related activity; and (ii) enacting a new Media Law. In regards to eliminating and reducing restrictions, amendments and additions were to the Penal Code in October 2012 (Articles 134, 174, 168, and 69 bis). Please see response on recommendation 115.18. In regards to the draft Media Law, please see response on recommendation 115.149. In regards to additional non-legislative initiatives aimed at strengthening freedom of expression, please see the BICI Follow Up

			Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 42-46).
115.26	The revision and amendment of relevant legislation, in particular Decree 32 of 2006, in order to bring it into full compliance with Bahrain's human rights obligations under the ICCPR (Hungary)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.21.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.21.</p> <p>In regards to Law No. 32 of 2006, Bahrain affirms its commitment to the right to peaceful assembly and confirms that any restrictions are in accordance with Article 21 of the ICCPR. The law protects the right of the public to assemble peacefully. Bahrain adheres to the internationally accepted rule of prior notification to relevant authorities (not prior permission). Peaceful assemblies are routinely held in Bahrain (on average, more than one per week in 2013) and are facilitated and protected by the authorities especially the police.</p> <p>A particularly acute challenge for Bahrain at the present time is that the police face deadly attacks from certain anti-social elements. In addition, assemblies intending to be peaceful frequently deteriorate into violence. Organizers of peaceful assemblies are often unable to assure public safety and the unimpeded freedom of the wider public to go about its business. Despite the deadly violence directed at them, the police respond with great restraint and are committed to (and in fact do) upholding the right of peaceful assembly. For details on this issue, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 53-56 and 37-40) and response on recommendation 115.89.</p> <p>In July 2013, Parliament passed a resolution demanding, as a measure of last resort, that demonstrations in Manama and in front of diplomatic missions be banned.</p>
115.27	Amend any article of its	The recommendation enjoys	The recommendation continues to enjoy support.

	Penal Code that can be used to prosecute individuals for the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly or association, and bring its laws into line with international standards established by the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (Ireland)	Bahrain's support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.21 and 115.25.	Please see responses on recommendations 115.21 and 115.25.
115.28	Established proper timelines for the implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (Norway)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. The Government has set up a specialized unit headed by the Minister of Justice to follow up on the implementation of the BICI recommendations. The detailed enumeration of concrete steps would require a far lengthier document.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Bahrain's implementation of the BICI recommendations have been the subject of regular reporting by the National Commission on Implementation in April 2012 and by the BICI Follow Up Unit in June 2012, November 2012, December 2013, and February 2014. The last report is available at: http://www.bna.bh/pdf/BICI_Implementation_report_ENGLISH.pdf . Since February 2014, there have been a number of further achievements. These will be reported in due course. Key updates contained in this interim report are at responses on recommendations 115.145 (increase in number of places of worship rebuilt); 115.42 (increase in the number of prosecutions of police personnel); and 115.102 and 115.113 (increase in training of police and SIU).

115.29	Enhance the protection for child rights by issuing the child law (Sudan)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Bahrain ratified without reservation the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1992. The Child Law was passed by Parliament in May 2012 (Law 37/2012), in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The act ensures children's right to education, healthcare and play while providing protection against all forms of abuse.</p>	<p>This recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Following the enactment of the Child Law in May 2012, the MoSD formulated a 5-year National Childhood Strategy for the period 2013-2017. This strategy was developed following two years of bottom-up consultations with stakeholders including parents, experts and academics in cooperation with UNDP, UNICEF and the National Childhood Committee. The Cabinet approved the Strategy document in September 2013 and allocated a budget of \$13.2million to achieve its objectives.</p> <p>The Strategy has four key components: children's rights to health; education and capacity development; protection and participation; and non-discrimination. Programs developed within each component are guided by the following principles: respect of human rights; equal opportunities between the two sexes; and integration of those with disabilities. The programs include: establishing more child protection centers; organizing conferences and lectures to increase awareness; and including children's rights in national school curricula. Progress is monitored at Cabinet-level.</p> <p>In regards to changes to the education system, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 46-48). In regards to children's right to a nationality, please see responses on recommendation 115.95. In regards to children and the criminal justice system, please see response on recommendation 115.32.</p>
115.30	Speed up the adoption of legislative amendments relevant to the specialized laws on freedom of expression	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.25.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.25.</p>

	in the Bahraini Criminal law (Egypt)		
115.31	Follow up on the appreciated initiative of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the creation of the Arab Court for human rights, as reflected in the commitment of Bahrain in the promotion and protection of human rights (Jordan)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. The King of Bahrain's call to establish the Arab Court of Human Rights demonstrates the Kingdom's firm commitment to human rights. The Arab League favors Bahrain's proposal and a work conference will be held in 2012.	On 1 September 2013, Bahrain was chosen by the foreign ministers of the Arab League as the permanent headquarters of the Arab Court for Human Rights. On 26-27 May 2014, Bahrain convened an international conference of experts to discuss the establishment of the Court. The NIHR took the lead in setting the conference agenda and receiving the delegations. The conference was organized with the help of the Arab League, the Arab Parliament, the Arabic Network for Human Rights and Qatar's National Committee for Human Rights. Several leading figures took part including senior officials of the Arab League, the GCC, OHCHR, the Arab Parliament, and the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions. The Court's statute was adopted by the Arab League Ministerial Conference in September 2014.
115.32	Speed up the adoption of amendments to all national legislation in particular for the penal code and relevant legislation (Mauritania)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to amendments to the Penal Code, please see responses on recommendations 115.18 and 115.22 (the crime of torture) and 115.25 (speech activity). In regards to amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, please see response on recommendation 115.119. In regards to the establishment and operationalization of new, independent and effective systems of oversight over law enforcement, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 22-31).
115.33	Accelerate legislative	The recommendation enjoys	The recommendation continues to enjoy support.

	amendments [with regards to forced disappearance] in order to include provisions on enforced disappearance in the penal code (Morocco)	Bahrain's support.	. Please see response on recommendation 115.5.
115.34	Facilitate the work and function of the national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Royal Order 28/2012, amending provisions of Royal Decree 46/2009 on the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), as an independent entity compliant with the Paris Principles.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Following extensive consultations, including with international legal counsel, in July 2014, Law No. 26 of 2014 was enacted that overhauls the NIHR structure and makes it fully compliant with Paris Principles. Reflecting these principles, among other things, the reformed NIHR has: a broad mandate; power to visit detention facilities; reinforced structural independence; broad access to information; and a platform for cooperation with NGOs and international actors. Since 2012, the NIHR has developed a Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan for the Years 2013-2016 comprising five themes: human rights protection efforts; legislative review and development; preparing an extended national program for human rights education; preparing a specialized program of promotion of citizenship rights and supporting its values; and strengthening cooperation at the national, regional and international levels. On 7 September 2014, the NIHR published its 190-page Annual Report for work done in 2013, available in Arabic at http://www.nihr.org.bh/Media/pdf/NIHR_ANNUAL_REPORT_2013.pdf and in English at http://www.nihr.org.bh/Media/pdf/NIHR_ANNUAL_REPORT_2013

			(ENG).pdf.
115.35	Ensure that the work of the NHRI is aligned with the Paris Principles (Maldives)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.34.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.34.
115.36	Establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Poland)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.34.
115.37	Continue its efforts to build up capacities and knowledge of human rights in its public sector (Singapore)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	This recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to capacity building through a program of OHCHR Technical Assistance, please see response on recommendation 115.57. In regards to wider capacity building through cooperation with international expert bodies, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 7-8). In regards to changes to the legislative framework, please see responses on recommendations 115.21, 22, 25 and 26. In regards to training, please see responses on recommendations 115.102 (police) and 115.113 (prosecutors). In regards to the NIHR, please see response on recommendation 115.34. In regards to women in public life, please see responses on recommendations 115.48 and 115.71.

115.38	Adopt a national policy on children with disabilities (Chile)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Following the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, the Action Plan of the National Strategy for Persons with Disability was put into effect. A Children's Act has been enacted in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Following enactment of Law No. 22 of 2011 incorporating the UN Convention into national law, the Cabinet formed the Supreme Committee for the Affairs of the Disabled by Resolution 1 of 2012. In September 2013, the Cabinet endorsed the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities. The MoSD in cooperation with UNDP formulated this Strategy Document. To ensure non-discrimination and equal participation of persons with disabilities, it sets out action plans in the following areas: legislation; education; healthcare; social integration; economic empowerment; awareness; and accessibility.</p> <p>In regards to children with disabilities, Chapter 5 of the Child Law, contains specific provisions in this regard which relate to the rights of children with disabilities and their families to access all state services such as education, health and social support.</p> <p>In December 2013, the Parliament proposed an Early Intervention Strategy aimed at children and the elderly to complement the National Strategies for Children and Persons with Disabilities. This would integrate all approaches and provide early action.</p> <p>In regards to caregivers, the Parliament is currently considering a legislative bill that would enable women caring for persons with disabilities to work reduced hours in order to provide better care..</p>
115.39	Continue progress in the implementation of policies designed for the advancement of women and ensuring quality social services	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>These recommendations constitute the essence of Bahrain's national plan for empowering women. The plan is</p>	<p>This recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to the economic rights and opportunities of women, please see response on recommendation 115.48. In regards to the National Plan for the Advancement of Women, please see response on recommendation 115.71. In regards to the Family Law, please see response on recommendation 115.139. In regards to the status of</p>

	that are universal in coverage and benefit the whole of the population (Cuba)	implemented through the National Model for Integrating Women's Needs in Development. The Government's program for the legislative term 2010-2014 expressly includes for the first time initiatives aimed at continuing the efforts of empowering women economically, politically and socially through a number of mechanisms and processes, including the adoption of equal opportunity units at ministries and government departments.	women in the family and in public life, please see Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 10-11). In regards to Bahrain and CEDAW, please see response on recommendation 115.7. In regards to nationality of children born to Bahraini mothers and non-Bahraini fathers, please see response on recommendation 115.95. In regards to the protection of women from domestic violence, please see response on recommendation 115.48 and Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 12-13). In regards to efforts to combat human trafficking, please see response on recommendation 115.94.
115.40	Include opposition parliamentary groups and invite civil society in the implementation of the National Consensus Dialogue (Mexico)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. There is full commitment by His Majesty the King to stable political development representative of all segments of society. This is the only way to advance the national interest. The National Dialogue is aimed at fostering consensus among the various political groups and actors. It is currently in a third, new phase, with discussions occurring directly between the Royal Court and various political groups to harmonize views on the agenda items agreed upon in January 2014. Please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (p. 61).
115.41	Take immediate actions	The recommendation enjoys	The recommendation continues to enjoy support.

	to restore peace and the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms (Slovenia)	Bahrain's support.	Specific actions taken or being taken to implement this general recommendation are contained throughout this interim report.
15.42	Take actions to provide accountability for human rights violations (Slovenia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>The SIU is a new organization which began work in early 2012.</p> <p>As of September 2012, the SIU had started court prosecutions of 23 police personnel. In February 2014, the figure of police personnel facing court charges stood at 51. As of August 2014, court prosecutions have been brought against 56 police personnel. These include high-level officers. In cases where the defendant is acquitted or where the SIU believes a more severe penalty is warranted, it can appeal all judgments. Currently, 11 verdicts have been appealed.</p> <p>For further information about the SIU, its work, future outlook, and challenges, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 17-18, 32-33, 58-60).</p> <p>A second key element of the accountability framework is the MoI Ombudsman. It is independent from MOI. It was established in February 2012 and the Ombudsman was appointed in August 2012. Its constitutive law was amended in 2013 to significantly expand the scope of the Ombudsman's powers. The Ombudsman released its first annual report in April 2014 (available at: http://www.ombudsman.bh).</p> <p>During the period July 2013-April 2014, the Ombudsman received 242 complaints from members of the public and those in places of detention. As of April 2014, investigations were complete in 203 cases and were pending in 39. Of the 203 completed investigations, 29 were referred to the SIU for criminal prosecution, 15 to the Security</p>

			<p>Prosecution service, and 1 to the Public Prosecution. 49 cases resulted in recommendations for action made to various establishments where the complaints originated. The Ombudsman found 109 cases to have been ineligible. As a result of the Ombudsman's work, during this period, 12 members of the MoI were referred to the criminal courts. The Ombudsman monitors the progress of all cases referred by it to other government bodies.</p> <p>For further detail on the work and outlook for the Ombudsman, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 25-29).</p>
115.43	<p>Establish an adequate time frame and a transparent follow-up mechanism for an accelerated implementation of the recommendations by the Independent Commission of Inquiry (Sweden)</p>	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.28.</p>
115.44	<p>Reconsider the restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Social Development and take appropriate measures to ensure that civil society organizations can take an active part in the public debate on human</p>	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Law No. 21/1989 concerns the activities of non-governmental organisations and is applied uniformly; a draft law for non-governmental organizations has been passed by the government to Parliament. The law was</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Article 27 of the Constitution protects the right to form associations and the rights of NGOs are also provided for by law. Whereas there were 376 such organisations in 2004, there were 425 in 2006, 460 in 2007 and the number currently exceeds 500.</p> <p>To further enable avenues for collective civil action, the MoSD has solicited the expertise of the ICNL to prepare the new draft Law on</p>

	rights (Sweden)	drafted taking into consideration all contemporary trends of applicable international laws in this field.	Civil Associations and Organisations. This draft was adopted by the Cabinet and referred to Parliament on 7 January 2013. Please see response on recommendation 115.34.
115.45	Implement the recommendations of the report of the Bahrain International Commission of Inquiry in such a way to foster a spirit of national unity and consensus conducive to the advancement of the reform process in line with the legitimate aspirations of the people (Turkey)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.28.
115.46	Make continuous efforts in its economic and social development, improve its legal system and ensure equal enjoyment of human rights by its people (China)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. . Please see further the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014.

115.47	Intensify its efforts in addressing the welfare of expected levels (Bangladesh)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>The Ministry of Social Development is currently working on the implementation of a full and comprehensive program aimed at supporting eligible low-income families. This is based on the findings of a study conducted by the Ministry in collaboration with the World Bank. There are also many laws to guarantee protection, and Bahrain has enacted a wide range of social protection net including the Children's Act, the Senior Citizens Act, and the Rehabilitation and Employment of the Disabled Act.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response to recommendation 115.144 below. .</p>
115.48	Continue its efforts to strengthen the policies, programs and mechanism for enhancing women rights (Bangladesh)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.39.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to the National Plan for the Advancement of Women, please see response on recommendation 115.71.</p> <p>In regards to women's economic rights and opportunities, several legislations have been passed. In July 2012, the new Labor Law was enacted with significant provisions concerning the rights and benefits</p>

		<p>of women employed by the private sector (please see response on recommendation 115.164 and Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 19-20)).</p> <p>In the public sector, Cabinet Order No.77 of 2013 provides female public sector employees with children will receive a social allowance equal to that received by their male counterparts. This positively impacts 15,000 women. In September 2013, the CSB created a permanent Equal Opportunity Unit in government departments falling within the purview of the central civil service. This Unit is required to ensure equality between the sexes and integrate women's needs into management policies and budgets. These Units were operationalized across the Government starting from June 2014. To date, 19 ministries and departments have pledged their participation. Units have been established in the key Ministries of Municipalities and Urban Planning, Labor, and Interior. The Labor Fund (Tamkeen) and the Bahrain Airport Company have also created Units.</p> <p>In regards to protection of women from domestic violence, ordinary criminal courts frequently convict individuals for this crime. . In 2012, there were 14 such judgments. Between January and August 2013, there were an additional four. While these cases are normally brought under Bahraini criminal law prohibiting violent assault, the law also considers violence committed by spouses against spouses and by employers against domestic workers as aggravating circumstances. Only after the criminal court has adjudicated the matter can Sharia courts (where relevant) be asked to give a judgment dissolving the marriage for her protection or to bar the perpetrator from custody of the children should there be any.</p> <p>In addition, the Government submitted to Parliament a draft law on</p>
--	--	--

		<p>domestic violence. This has passed the House of Representatives and is under consideration by the Shura Council (second House of a bicameral legislature). This draft law imposes harsher penalties for crimes against women and clarifies aspects of the law that are ambiguous (such as the governmental departments tasked with receiving and following up on complaints by women). Additionally, rights to sue for civil compensation will be provided and criminal conviction will be considered grounds for immediate divorce.</p> <p>In 2012, the MoI launched a hot line (8008008) in connection with the Women’s Support Centre, to receive complaints around the clock. This supplements the existing methods through which the authorities received complaints. In all cases, the complainant is invited to give evidence confidentially in person and investigations are launched. The Women’s Support Centre assists the victim in appointing legal counsel and submitting a complaint to the police, as well as provides counseling. There are also currently two shelters specifically for domestic female workers – one run by the Embassy of the Philippines and one by the Expatriate Workers Protection Society, a local NGO.</p> <p>Please also see Bahrain’s replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 12-13).</p> <p>In regards to the Family Law, please see response on recommendation 115.139. In regards to the status of women in the family and in public life, please see Bahrain’s replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 10-11). In regards to Bahrain and CEDAW, please see response on recommendation 115.7. In regards to nationality of children born to Bahraini mothers and non-Bahraini fathers, please see response on recommendation 115.95. In regards to efforts to combat human trafficking, please see response on</p>
--	--	--

			recommendation 115.94.
115.49	Continue the enactment of laws and the strengthen of policies aimed at safe guarding the position of women and strengthening their roles in society (Egypt)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support and will be applied in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and national laws.</p> <p>The legislature ratified the first part of the comprehensive Family Law in 2009 pertaining to the Sunni Sect, but did not ratify the second part of the Law related to the Jaafari Sect. The Government and the Supreme Council for Women continue to promote awareness of the importance of this Law and the objective of protecting Bahraini women.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response to recommendation 115.48 and Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013).</p>
115.50	Modernize the national plan for the development of Bahraini women in line with the anti-discrimination programs and to	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.39.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response to recommendation 115.48 and Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013).</p>

	evaluate the effects of those programs and projects on the development of them and the society at large (Oman)		
115.51	Continue the efforts in favour of the promotion of women's rights (Senegal)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response to recommendation 115.48 and Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013).
115.52	Pursuing policies and programs in the education of citizenship and human rights as best practices (United Arab Emirates)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Educational curricula have been developed in collaboration with international experts/organizations (UNESCO) to disseminate human rights and citizenship values.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In January 2013, the MoE and UNESCO's IBE agreed on a Technical Assistance Project (2012-2017). Several meetings, consultations and workshops under this Project have taken place, generating a series of outputs that integrates citizenship and human rights education in the national curriculum. In October 2013, the second phase of the Project got underway with a capacity development workshop. In March 2014, MoE and UNESCO's IBE were discussing a third phase. For details on this and other initiatives, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 46-48).
115.53	Implement the constitutional reforms in the elections of 2014 (Qatar)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In 2012, a number of constitutional amendments came into force that significantly enhance the power of Parliament over the Government and decisively increase the power of the elected House of Parliament in the bicameral system. These include control of the legislative agenda,

			budgetary powers, questioning prerogatives, among others. For further detail, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 60-61).
115.54	Invite the Council to adopt the National Report of the Kingdom of Bahrain and to present the comprehensive support needed for the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to handle related challenges (Qatar)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	At its 19th Meeting on 19 September 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted Decision 21/101 adopting Bahrain's UPR. (A/HRC/DEC/21/101, 15 Oct. 2012).
115.55	Continuation of cooperation between governmental and non-governmental institutions, considering the dialogue and cooperation among them (Jordan)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to the NIHR, please see response on recommendations 115.4. In regards to CSOs and NGOs, please see response on recommendation 115.44.
115.56	Operationalize the fund establishment for compensation of victims of the unfortunate events recently faced Bahrain, in accordance with	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. The National Victims' Compensation Fund created in January 2012 is modeled on international best practices for victim funds around the world and the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to Redress and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law. The Fund offers relief to, among

	<p>relevant best practices (Palestine)</p>		<p>others, any person who has suffered material, psychological or physical damage as a result of the violent events of February-March 2011 in Bahrain, or as a result of violent events of a similar nature that have occurred after that time, provided there is a final judgment rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction.</p> <p>At the end of 2013, all deaths identified by BICI (and additional ones) have been awarded compensation (approximately US\$159,000 on average to the families of each victim). The Fund has received 421 applications for compensation by individuals who were injured during the events of February and March 2011. 193 of these are now under consideration by the Medical Examiner in order to establish the degree of disability (and therefore the degree of compensation).</p> <p>Two further mechanisms have been established to expedite access to compensation: (i) the Special Compensation Courts; and (ii) the Civil Settlement Initiative.</p> <p>The Supreme Judicial Council announced on 27 February 2012 the establishment of Special Compensation. Given that the Fund requires a judgment against an individual or a government agency (where no one individual is identified) and that could take considerable time under normal judicial channels, the Special Compensation Courts are meant to expedite such claims against the state by providing fast-track courts dedicated to pursuing civil claims for compensation against the state.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs also launched the Civil Settlement Initiative which permits the quick and consensual settlement of claims without the precondition of having to obtain a civil or criminal judgment. It aims to settle claims within months.</p>
--	--	--	--

			<p>Through these initiatives, as of January 2014, the Government paid over US\$6 million to victims and their families.</p> <p>For further detail, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 16-17).</p>
115.57	<p>Continue efforts made by the State and to increase international cooperation, in order to be exposed to all relevant international experiences (Saudi Arabia)</p>	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In January 2014, Bahrain and OHCHR agreed to Terms of Reference enabling a two-month visit to Bahrain by a technical team from OHCHR. The aim of this visit was to engage in wide-ranging consultations and draw up a Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program.</p> <p>A technical team of the OHCHR visited Bahrain in February 2014 to hold meetings with government agencies, human rights organizations and civil society organizations to design future technical cooperation programs in the fields of technical, capacity building and training for the development of human rights work in Bahrain.</p> <p>In 2014, Bahrain will propose the text of a Memorandum of Understanding enshrining the terms of the Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program.</p> <p>For additional initiatives, please see response on recommendation 115.37.</p>
115.58	<p>Continue its active engagement with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations for the</p>	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see responses on recommendations 115.37 and 115.57.</p>

	protection and promotion of human rights (Azerbaijan)		
115.59	Allow the Special Rapporteur on torture to visit before the end of 2012 (Austria)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In the context of ongoing cooperation with international organizations and bodies, in 2011-2013 consultations with the Special Rapporteur were held on the framework, details and timing of the visit. In one instance the visit was delayed due to the Special Rapporteur's request stemming from academic commitments; in the second it was delayed by the Government in April 2013, due to the ongoing National Dialogue.</p> <p>In March 2013, the Foreign Minister met with the Special Rapporteur on the sidelines of the Human Rights Council. A date has not yet been agreed upon for the visit.</p>
115.60	Step up its cooperation with special procedures' mandate holders by responding positively to the visit request of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and facilitating, in a timely manner, a visit by the Special Rapporteur on	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support, in part.</p> <p>The Government is keen on cooperating with Special Procedures' mandate holders and the question of invitations to Special Rapporteurs is under review.</p> <p>Please see also response on recommendation 115.59.</p>

	torture (Latvia)		
115.61	Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Latvia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support, in part. Please see response on recommendation 115.60.
115.62	Extend an open invitation to all of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Uruguay)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support, in part. Please see response on recommendation 115.60.
115.63	Accept the visit of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of assembly and association (France)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support, in part. Please see response on recommendation 115.60.
115.64	That the country visit by the Special Rapporteur on Torture is realized in the near future (Republic of Korea)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support, in part. Please see response on recommendation 115.59.
115.65	Respond favorably to the requests for visit of the country and also facilitate the visits of the Special Rapporteur on migrants, Special	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support, in part.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support, in part. Please see response on recommendation 115.60.

	Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (Slovenia)		
115.66	Continue and strengthen cooperation with the UN Human Rights Mechanisms and its various efforts made for human rights capacity-building (Republic of Korea)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.37 and 115.57.
115.67	Take additional efforts in order to improve its reporting to the treaty bodies on human rights (Belarus)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Bahrain will be submitting some of its treaty body reports for review.
115.68	Take further measures, including legislative, in order to expand rights and opportunities of women and promote gender equality (Belarus)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.39.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to economic rights and opportunities of women, please see response on recommendation 115.48. In regards to the National Plan for the Advancement of Women, please see response on recommendation 115.71. In regards to the Family Law, please see response on recommendation 115.139. In regards to the status of women in the family and in public life, please see Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee

			(CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 10-11). In regards to Bahrain and CEDAW, please see response on recommendation 115.7. In regards to nationality of children born to Bahraini mothers and non-Bahraini fathers, please see response on recommendation 115.95. In regards to the protection of women from domestic violence, please see response on recommendation 115.48 and Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 12-13). In regards to efforts to combat human trafficking, please see response on recommendation 115.94.
115.69	Take all necessary measures to combat all forms of discrimination against women and enhance their participation in State institution (Jordan)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.39	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.68.
115.70	Meet the aspirations of groups that are the victim of discrimination (Belgium)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.39	This recommendation continues to enjoy Bahrain's support. Bahrain is committed to the principle of equal opportunity for all. In regards to the most vulnerable groups in society, please see response on recommendation 115.29 (children); 115.38 (persons with disabilities); and 115.48 (women); 115.76 (expatriate workers); and 115.144 (low income families).
115.71	Continue its efforts to empower women economically, politically and socially, and to take all necessary measures to eliminate	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.39.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. His Majesty the King has approved the SCW's updated National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022). A strategic work program to implement this Plan has begun comprising initiatives aimed at enabling women to independently advance their participation

	<p>all forms of discrimination against women (Morocco)</p>	<p>in society. The Plan and work program have four components: economic empowerment; political empowerment; integration of women's needs (equal opportunity); and family stability.</p> <p>The Cabinet is also currently working with the SCW on incorporating the National Plan for the advancement of Bahraini Women in the overall Government's program for the period 2015-2018.</p> <p>In collaboration with the SCW and Bahrain Development Bank, a \$7.68million business incubator for women, called the Women's Development Center (or <i>Riyadatin</i> Arabic), was established in 2013. The center currently houses 29 businesses owned and run by women. Women own 29% of commercial registrations in Bahrain, and constituted 47% of the public sector workforce as of second quarter 2013.</p> <p>In September 2013, SCW and the Bahrain Institute for Public Administration signed an agreement to carry out specialized training programs and exchange expertise on integrating women's needs and ensuring equal opportunities.</p> <p>In January 2014, the Cabinet approved a proposal by Parliament to establish a dedicated sports center for women.</p> <p>In regards to political advancement, the SCW has announced that it will support the 15 women who have announced their candidacy to run for the 2014 Parliamentary elections through capacity building courses and workshops. The SCW is also engaging in electoral awareness campaigns designed to challenge and rectify stereotypical images of women in politics.</p> <p>In regards to economic rights and opportunities of women, please see response on recommendation 115.48. In regards to the Family Law,</p>
--	--	---

			<p>please see response on recommendation 115.139. In regards to the status of women in the family and in public life, please see Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 10-11). In regards to Bahrain and CEDAW, please see response on recommendation 115.7. In regards to nationality of children born to Bahraini mothers and non-Bahraini fathers, please see response on recommendation 115.95. In regards to the protection of women from domestic violence, please see response on recommendation 115.48 and Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 12-13). In regards to efforts to combat human trafficking, please see response on recommendation 115.94.</p>
115.72	Strengthen its efforts to promote gender equality (Republic of Korea)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.39</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.68.</p>
115.73	Continue promoting initiatives aimed at empowering women of the country in their economic, political and social level (Chile)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.39</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.68.</p>
115.74	Continue to pay attention to promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination against	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Please see response on recommendation 115.39</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.68.</p>

	women (Singapore)		
115.75	Continue taking temporary measures for granting citizenship to children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis until the draft law amending the Nationality Law comes into effect (India)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Citizenship was conferred on 335 children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis by Royal Order issued in December 2011. Law No. 35/2009 exempted children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis from fees for public, health and education services, and permanent residency.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.95.
115.76	Take necessary measures to address issues relating to foreign workers, such as their facing travel bans and sometimes loss of rights to residence and work while being investigated for financial irregularity, so that the principles of natural justice are adhered to scrupulously (India)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In September 2012, Bahrain amended the Labour Law (Law No. 36 of 2012), making extensive additional improvements to the situation of workers. These provisions apply equally to foreign and Bahraini workers. For further details on the new labour law, please see response on recommendation 115.164. In regards to travel bans, these are legal prohibitions imposed by courts to prevent persons involved in disputes from fleeing the jurisdiction. They are available in civil and criminal disputes and for immigration violations. Where travel bans are imposed in civil cases over financial disputes, it is possible to get the ban lifted by depositing with the court a sum of money equal to the amount in dispute pending final outcome of the case. While the Public Prosecution may impose travel bans during criminal investigations, it may be possible to get a letter from the

			judge involved in the case granting permission to work. In addition, the authorities frequently cooperate with Embassies to facilitate travel of foreign nationals. Finally, NGOs and civil society organizations often assist by negotiating a reduction of debt to facilitate departure.
155.77	Continue supporting national initiatives that promote the full respect for human rights in particular the field of the rights of women (Nicaragua)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>These recommendations constitute the essence of Bahrain's national plan for empowering women. The plan is implemented through the National Model for Integrating Women's Needs in Development.</p> <p>The Government's program for the legislative term 2010-2014 expressly includes for the first time initiatives aimed at continuing the efforts of empowering women economically, politically and socially through a number of mechanisms and processes, including the adoption of equal opportunity units at ministries and government departments.</p>	<p>This recommendation continues to enjoy Bahrain's support.</p> <p>With regards to national initiatives to promote respect of human rights, see responses on recommendations 115.37 and 115.47.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.68.</p>

115.78	Abolish the death penalty, introducing in the meantime a formal moratorium (Austria)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support.	The recommendation does not enjoy support, but Bahrain will keep the matter under review. Please see response on recommendation 115.5.
115.79	Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Austria)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support.	The recommendation does not enjoy support, but Bahrain will keep the matter under review. Please see response on recommendation 115.5.
115.80	Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Spain)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.5.
115.81	Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.5.
115.82	Establish a moratorium on the execution of the death penalty (Germany)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.5.
115.83	Consider the possibility of repealing the death penalty from its legal system (Argentina)	The recommendation does not enjoy Bahrain's support.	The recommendation does not enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.5.
115.84	Investigate the deaths in government custody	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support.

	(Czech Republic)		Please see response on recommendation 115.42.
115.85	Investigate properly all alleged cases of mistreatment and torture and establish accountability of those responsible (Italy)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.42.
115.86	Prosecute effectively all security agents that have allegedly tortured or otherwise abused protestors (Austria)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.42.
115.87	Investigate and prosecute all those responsible for torture and ill-treatment, unlawful killings and widespread arbitrary arrests (Czech Republic)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.42.
115.88	Incorporate an explicit prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, as well as a clear definition of torture, into national legislation in order to comply with	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to the prohibition on torture, please see responses on recommendations 115.18 and 115.22. In regards to investigations of allegations of torture, please see response on recommendation 115.42. In regards to redress for victims, please see response on

	the obligations derived from CAT and facilitate independent, timely and thorough investigations of all allegations of torture to facilitate appropriate redress for victims (Maldives)		recommendation 115.56.
115.89	Ensure that security forces respond proportionally and with the utmost restraint to non-peaceful protests (Germany)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>The principles of proportionality and necessity, enshrined in the new Police Code of Conduct, are taught at the Royal Police Academy and form the basis of disciplinary hearings regarding excessive use of force. However, in Bahrain, police often use less-than-proportionate force when confronting rioters armed with lethal weapons such as Molotov cocktails and homemade guns.</p> <p>This is supported by the fact that rioters and extremists killed more police officers in 2013 and to date in 2014, than there were protesters who died in clashes with police. Since 2011, rioters who conducted unprovoked Molotov cocktail and IED attacks, and ambushes in which a variety of lethal weapons were used against the police, injured over 2,800 police officers. Several police officers received life-changing injuries.</p> <p>In regards to the new Police Code of Conduct that governs the use of force and human rights training of the police, please see response on recommendation 115.102. Please see also the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014.</p>
115.90	Clearly prohibit torture	The recommendation enjoys	The recommendation continues to enjoy support.

	and ill-treatment along with effective enforcement of relevant legislations (Republic of Korea)	Bahrain's support.	In regards to the prohibition of torture, please see responses on recommendations 115.18 and 115.22. In regards to enforcement, please see responses on recommendations 115.42 and 115.113.
115.91	Release, immediately and unconditionally, all detainees, who have participated in peaceful protests lacking credible criminal charges (Slovakia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.98.
115.92	Prohibit torture and other ill-treatment, in national legislation and in practice in line with its obligations under CAT, ensuring that all allegations of torture or other ill-treatment are independently, promptly and thoroughly investigated, and perpetrators are brought to justice in accordance to international fair trial standards (Slovakia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to the prohibition of torture, please see responses on recommendations 115.18 and 115.22. In regards to enforcement, please see responses on recommendations 115.42 and 115.113.

115.93	Prevent incidents of violence against members of ethnic and religious communities (Canada)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Violence and hatred against any ethnic or religious community is a violation of Bahraini law and when such cases are brought to the attention of the authorities, a complete and thorough investigation is conducted. When the complaint is substantiated, legal procedures are taken against the offender. This includes hate and discriminatory language on social media.</p> <p>In regards to reducing hate speech and promoting tolerant speech, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 42-46, 56-57). In regards to preventing violent acts, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 22-42). In regards to education, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 46-48). In regards to promoting national reconciliation, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 48-52).</p>
115.94	Continue its efforts with a view to the prevention and elimination of trafficking in human beings (Azerbaijan)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Bahrain provided an update in its replies to the list of issues contained in CEDAW/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 November 2013, pages 14-15. Observations were received in CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, 10 March 2014, paragraphs 25-26.</p> <p>At the national level, the following laws address human trafficking: the Constitution of Bahrain; the Law on Combatting Human Trafficking (No. 1 of 2008); the Penal Code (Decree the Law No. 15 of 1976); the Law on Regulation of the Labour Market (No. 19 of 2006); the Law on Combatting Begging and Homelessness (No. 5 of 2007); and Law of the Child (No. 37 of 2012).</p> <p>In September 2012, the new labour law came into force. The new law provides all domestic workers legal protection. Such employees are</p>

		<p>now be employed under clear contractual terms in line with all private-sector employees. This is seen as a major component of preventing human trafficking in Bahrain.</p> <p>As of September 2014, the following national mechanisms exist to prevent, eliminate and combat trafficking in human beings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking; • Human Trafficking Victims Evaluation Committee; • Committee to Follow up on Foreign Victims of Trafficking; • MoL’s inspectors; and • Ministry of Interior’s Anti-Human Trafficking Division. <p>Moreover, in January 2014, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) announced the creation of an Anti-Trafficking Team. The team convened its first meeting on 6 January, and has received training on detecting and addressing human trafficking.</p> <p>In mid-August 2014, the LMRA launched a multilingual hotline for workers in case of physical, sexual or any other form of abuse.</p> <p>In September 2014, the LMRA took over the MoL task of overseeing and issuing permits for domestic workers. The LMRA will soon start a campaign to promote awareness of the rights of domestic workers among the general public.</p> <p>Between 2012 and 2014, a number of capacity building training programs were carried out for government and law enforcement officials. In addition, the Labor Market Regulatory Authority, the Bahrain News Agency and Bahrain Television publicized a number of information programs targeted at the public and victims of human</p>
--	--	--

			<p>trafficking.</p> <p>In regards to protecting women – including domestic workers – from domestic violence, please see response on recommendation 115.48.</p>
115.95	<p>Adopt legislation that allows children of Bahraini mothers and non-Bahraini fathers to obtain Bahraini nationality (Uruguay)</p>	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Citizenship was granted to 335 children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis by Royal Order issued in December 2011. Law No. 35/2009 exempted children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis from fees for public, health and education services, and permanent residency.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In January 2014, Cabinet drafted and approved a legislative bill amending the Nationality Law, 1963 which enables children born to Bahraini mothers and non-Bahraini fathers to obtain Bahraini nationality. This amendment was then passed to Parliament and is awaiting passage.</p>
115.96	<p>Take the necessary measures in order to eliminate all discriminatory treatment of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis (Argentina)</p>	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Citizenship was granted to 335 children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis by Royal Order issued in December 2011. Law No. 35/2009 exempted children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis from fees for public, health and education services, and permanent residency.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.68.</p>

115.97	Increase its further efforts in the area of combating human trafficking, including considering the possibility to develop a state program or a plan of actions aimed at strengthening the Government's measures to prevent and eliminate sexual exploitation and trafficking of children (Belarus)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.94.
115.98	Review convictions, commute sentences, or drop charges for all persons who engaged in non-violent political expression (United States of America)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	As of November 2011, there were "300 other individuals still facing charges" under articles of the Penal Code that impinged on freedom of political expression (BICI report, ¶¶ 1670-1671). The BICI report recommended that the government "review convictions and commute sentences of all persons charged with offences involving political expression, not consisting of advocacy of violence, or, as the case may be, to drop outstanding charges against them." (BICI report, ¶ 1722 (h)). Thus, this BICI recommendation itself related to 334 defendants who had been charged with crimes under (the unamended) articles 165, 168, 169 and 179 of the Penal Code. On 24 December 2011, the Attorney General announced that all charges under the aforementioned articles of the Penal Code have been dropped against all 334 defendants. For further details, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb.

			2014 (pp. 18-19).
115.99	Reinstate all employees and students dismissed following the events of February and March 2011 whose political activities were consistent with the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and amend Law 21/1989 and Law 32/2006 on public gathering to bring their provisions into compliance with article 21 and 22 of ICCPR, and develop an enabling legal environment for civil society to flourish (Canada)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to implementation of the BICI recommendations, please see response on recommendation 115.28. In regards to reinstatement of all students and nearly all workers, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 10-14).</p> <p>In regards to reinstatement of workers, due to the success of the tripartite committee comprising the MoL, GFBTU, and the BCCI, in March 2014, the three parties jointly withdrew the Article 26 case pending the ILO on the basis that an overwhelming number of the dismissed workers cases were resolved with some remaining. At this time, a list was prepared comprising 165 workers whose cases the parties agreed to work on. As of August 2014, the parties had agreed that 91 workers cases were resolved. Further developments are expected in the near future. The MoL remains committed to reaching agreement with GFBTU and BCCI confirming that the remaining 71 cases have also been resolved.</p> <p>In regards to legislative compliance with the ICCPR, please see responses on recommendations 115.21, 115.25 and 115.26. In regards to civil society, please see responses on recommendations 115.34 and 115.44.</p>
115.100	Release immediately and unconditionally all persons convicted for merely exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.98.</p>

	and assembly, especially during anti-government protests that began in February 2011 (Czech Republic)		
115.101	Release immediately all persons solely convicted or detained for offences connected to peaceful assembly and free speech (Germany)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.98.
115.102	Continue the process of reform of the security forces to provide them with better capacity and training on human rights and moderate the use of force (Spain)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>There are two essential aspects here: (i) the new Police Code of Conduct that sets forth the standards for policing activity; and (ii) training.</p> <p>As noted in the response on recommendation 115.89, the Code enshrines the principles of necessity and proportionality when using force. It also expressly prohibits the use of torture or ill treatment. The Code is taught at the Royal Police Academy, used in all MoI departments, and forms the basis of disciplinary hearings involving police misconduct.</p> <p>In regards to training, human rights training of the police is a core part of the Royal Police Academy curriculum, is a top priority among the command staff, and failure to observe this training forms the basis of disciplinary hearings and investigations of police misconduct.</p> <p>In 2012, the Ministry of Interior updated the training curriculum at the</p>

		<p>Royal Police Academy to focus on an integrated program concerning human and victims rights for all new recruits and cadets. All recruits and cadets receive training on the new Police Code of Conduct and several United Nations documents such as The UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials; the CAT; the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials; the UN Declaration of Human Rights; the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions; the Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty; and the ICPPED. The training also includes components such as, 'Human Rights', 'Managing Conflict', 'Provide Initial Support to Victims, Survivors and Witnesses', 'Interviewing Victims and Witnesses', 'Arrest and Detain or Report Individuals' and 'Interview Suspects'. In addition, the Ministry consistently holds in-service human rights training programs throughout the country.</p> <p>Additionally, professional development courses focusing on human rights continue to be given to senior command staff, supervisory personnel, trainers at the Royal Police Academy and non-commissioned officers throughout the Ministry.</p> <p>In 2012, 1,534 police officers and personnel received training on human rights. In 2013, that figure rose to 3,926. In 2014, 575 have so far received training, bringing the total figure of those trained to 6,035 (as of September 2014).</p> <p>The Royal Police Academy also hosts international legal experts to lecture on human rights. For instance, in March 2012, the Ministry solicited New York City Supreme Court Judge John Walsh to teach a course titled, "Human Rights and International Law for Law Enforcement Officers" to 185 officers and 600 non-commissioned</p>
--	--	---

			<p>officers – the course was attended by the Chief of Public Security and his senior staff.</p> <p>Please see also the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 37-40).</p>
115.103	Create a more diverse, inclusive police force, reflective of society (United States of America)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In 2011, MoI initiated an annual plan to hire 500 community police recruits from all segments of the community. The inaugural class of 577 recruits, which entered the Royal Police Academy in 2012 and graduated in June 2013, exceeded expectation.</p> <p>The second class of 494 community police recruits started classes in the Fall of 2013 and graduated in 2014 (an additional 11 attended but did not graduate).</p> <p>The third class of 568 community police recruits began classes at the Royal Police Academy in early September 2014 and will graduate in early 2015.</p> <p>The graduates have been assigned to front-line positions in the governorate in which they reside, the aim being to ensure that the police force reflects the community it serves. These new policemen and women have all of the authority of security force personnel stipulated under the law, covering law enforcement including public order policing and judicial authority such as the power to investigate crime, search for perpetrators, gather evidence etc.</p> <p>Please also see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (p. 42).</p>
115.104	Continuing of institutional and capacity building of the	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see responses on recommendations 115.89, 115.102, 115.103.</p>

	Bahraini police forces in a way that positively reflects effective respect to human rights (Palestine)		
115.105	Enhance the efforts for capacity building for police and law enforcement officers (Saudi Arabia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.89, 115.102, 115.103.
115.106	Ensure that all allegation of human rights violations during and after the February – March 2011 protests by the security forces are independently, promptly and thoroughly investigated, bringing perpetrators to justice and providing victims with due redress and rehabilitation (Slovakia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to investigations and prosecutions, please see response on recommendation 115.42. In regards to redress and compensation, please see response on recommendation 115.56.
115.107	Fully implement the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry's (BICI)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.28.

	recommendations that cover a broad range of tasks, including the ensuring of accountability, prevention of the recurrence of human rights violations through law reform and training of law enforcement personnel, and respect of due process (Republic of Korea)		
115.108	Hold officials of all ranks accountable for their actions, especially regarding allegations of killings, torture and other ill-treatment (Germany)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response to recommendation 115.42.
115.109	Take steps to develop new legislation and policies for law enforcement officials to guarantee accountability of security forces and	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to accountability, please see response on recommendation 115.42. In regards to police policies and training, please see responses on recommendations 115.89, 115.102 and 115.103.

	respect for human rights (Canada)		
115.110	Implement fully all recommendations made to Bahrain by the United Nations mandate holders including the immediate end of violence and release of all political prisoners and ending impunity thus bringing perpetrators to justice (Iran (Islamic Republic of))	The recommendation was not accepted by Bahrain as being outside the scope of the UPR.	The recommendation continues to be not accepted.
115.111	Without delay, carry out an in-depth inquiry into past and present allegations of torture as well as all allegations of excessive and illegal use of force and bring those responsible to justice (Switzerland)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to investigations and prosecutions for torture and excessive use of force, please see response on recommendation 115.42.
115.112	Continue the reform process and ensure accountability by investigating all	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to investigations and prosecutions for torture and excessive use of force, please see response on recommendation 115.42.

	allegations of torture and mistreatment and by prosecuting any individuals found responsible, including senior government officials (Norway)		
115.113	Develop procedures for accountability and compensation in place in accordance with best practices and related international standards (Kuwait)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to the work of SIU, please see response on recommendation 115.42. In regards to the continuous training of SIU members, especially in the Istanbul Protocol, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 32-34). This training is conducted through the ISISC in Italy. As of August 2013, a total of 40 prosecutors in the Public Prosecution were trained in human rights and criminal justice in Bahrain while 36 were trained in the subject abroad. In addition, the SIU receives advice from a senior independent investigations counselor, an international expert, appointed by the Supreme Judicial Council. The current appointee is highly experienced in investigating and prosecuting crimes and was integral to the BICI investigations process in 2011. The SIU also receives regular advice from international lawyers specialized in the subject. The SIU team includes forensic experts and psychiatric specialists as well.</p> <p>In regards to compensation for victims, please see response on recommendation 115.56.</p>
115.114	Make subject to review in civilian courts all convictions and sentences rendered by	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>This has been achieved. By the end of 2012, every case at the National Safety Court had been transferred to civilian courts and reviewed by</p>

	the National Security Courts (Austria)		civilian judges. Since the dissolution of the National Safety Courts in October 2011, all civilian trials have been held before the ordinary courts. Please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 19-22).
115.115.	Ensure that all detainees are charged with an offense established under the law and receive a fair trial before the ordinary criminal courts, in conformity with international standards (Belgium)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.114 and 115.119.
115.116	Repeal all sentences by the National Safety Court, to refer these cases to criminal courts in order that all these trials are conducted in a fair, swift and transparent manner (Germany)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.114.
115.117	Ensure that all the cases of civilians, in trials before the National	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.114.

	Safety Court for crimes allegedly committed during protests in 2011, are referred to civilian courts (Poland)		
115.118	All decisions of the National Safety Courts should be subject to review in ordinary courts (Ireland)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.114.
115.119	Laws should be enacted that would prohibit civilians being tried in military courts in the future (Ireland)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.114. Further, in March 2012, the Criminal Procedure Code was amended to add Article 64 <i>bis</i> . according to which ordinary procedures will be applied at all times in Bahrain including during times of emergency. Please see also response on recommendation 115.21.
115.120	That Abdulhadi Al Khawaja be transferred to the Danish authorities for medical treatment, in line with the agreement reached on March 14th (Denmark)	The recommendation was not accepted by Bahrain as being outside the scope of the UPR.	The recommendation continues to not be accepted.
115.121	Establish, in line with international standards, a standing independent	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.42 and 115.113.

	body to carry out investigations of all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, deaths in custody and unlawful killings (Finland)		
115.122	Release unconditionally the individuals who were convicted by special courts, or are awaiting trial, for merely exercising their fundamental rights of expression and assembly (Norway)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to the National Safety Courts, please see response on recommendation 115.114. In regards to the dropping of charges for speech and assembly activity, please see response on recommendation 115.98.
115.123	Adopt standards on trials in criminal cases and also to guarantee the rights of detainees and prisoners, in keeping with best practices and relevant international standards (Mauritania)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to rights of detainees, please see responses on recommendations 115.2, 115.21, 115.34, 115.102 and 115.130. In regards to fair trial rights, please see response on recommendation 115.114 and the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 19-22).
115.124	Implement swiftly and resolutely all the recommendations made	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to implementation of the BICI recommendations, please see response on recommendation 115.28. In regards to accountability,

	by the BICI, including the investigation of documented human rights abuses during recent protests, with a view to ensuring full accountability, justice and reparations for the victims (Denmark)		please see response on recommendation 115.42. In regards to reparations, please see response on recommendation 115.56.
115.125	Urgently conduct new trials of all defendants who have been convicted in national safety courts (United Kingdom)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.114.
115.126	A speedy conclusion to these cases (of human rights violations against peaceful protestors), such as the ongoing case of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja (Australia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.114.
115.127	Implement fully the recommendations of the BICI report (Thailand)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.28.
115.128	Implement the recommendations	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to the implementation of the BICI recommendations, please

	contained in the Commission's report which were all accepted by the Government, particularly the one regarding the establishment of a programme of national reconciliation (Belgium)		see response on recommendation 115.28. In regards to national reconciliation, please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 48-52).
115.129	Establish an open, genuine, all-inclusive and effective national dialogue among different concerned parties with the aim of effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations and concerns of all the population in a democratic manner (Iran (Islamic Republic of))	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.40.
115.130	Entrench in the standard procedures that every person arrested be given a copy of the arrest warrant and no person	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Unless a suspect is caught <i>in flagrante</i> or in immediate flight a warrant must be obtained from the Public Prosecutor prior to any arrest being made. That warrant is presented to the person at the time of arrest.

	<p>should be held incommunicado. In any event, all detention should be subject to effective monitoring by an independent body (Netherlands)</p>		<p>Article 61 of the Code of Criminal Procedure states that any person subject to arrest or deprivation of liberty shall "have the right to contact any of his relatives to inform him of what has happened and to seek the aid of a lawyer". Article 146 further provides that any restrictions on contacts with other detainees or visits are "without prejudice to the accused's right to always contact the attorney defending him without the presence of a third party". The Police Code of Conduct specifies that: "All detainees must be allowed to contact family and others with whom they are allowed contact by law immediately upon being arrested, in addition to being allowed any medical help they might need. Further, no person in Bahrain is subjected to enforced disappearance and no person is held incommunicado.</p> <p>The first major area of reform is guaranteeing the rights of the accused from the moment of arrest to custody. These rights must be guaranteed not just on paper but also in practice.</p> <p>The MoI has posted large posters, stickers, and pamphlets describing the guarantees, rights and obligations of the accused in multiple languages, at jails and detention centers. The accused is informed of them before incarceration, and is asked to complete the form related to his/her processing, which includes a declaration acknowledging these guarantees, including the right to contact lawyers and the outside world.</p> <p>The MoI has installed audiovisual recording in interview rooms at police stations. Following recommendations by the independent MoI Ombudsman, the MoI is also installing CCTV cameras in public areas of prison facilities including buildings, cellblocks and hallways.</p> <p>The MoI uses a computerized prisoner monitoring system that tracks the time, location and movement of every detainee throughout the</p>
--	---	--	--

			<p>detention process and throughout his or her court appearances. The electronic database – called the Unified Criminal Justice System, or <i>Najm</i> in Arabic – is cryptographically protected, and is used by the Ministry of Interior as well as by the Public Prosecutor and the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>The system is tamper-proof and incorporates a double-confirmation procedure following arrest. In the first instance, a manual processing form documents that an arrested person has been given his or her rights, the date and time of his/her call to a lawyer (and embassy for foreigners) and any illness that he or she reports. This manual form is then input into the computerized database system. The detainee's form cannot be submitted into the system unless all questions on it are answered, and a person cannot be detained unless the form has been submitted. Further, as described below, once a person is detained, <i>Najm</i> contains a full record, which includes a record of all external visitors received by the detainee. An alarm automatically sounds after 48 hours following arrest if the detainee has not yet been presented before the Public Prosecution and charged.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Please see also the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 22-25).</p> <p>In regards to independent and effective monitoring of all detention centers, please see responses on recommendations 115.2, 115.34 and 115.42. Please see also the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 25-31).</p>
--	--	--	---

115.131	Trust be generated, through in-depth democratic reforms and promoting national social and political dialogue, that is inclusive and representative, to address the country's central issues (Uruguay)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to national reconciliation, please see response on recommendation 115.128. In regards to the dialogue, please see response on recommendation 115.40.
115.132	My country's delegation welcomes the way in which Bahrain has managed the regrettable events of February and March 2011. We would ask Bahrain to ensure that there is follow-up of the recommendations of the BICI (Qatar)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.28.
115.133	Implements as quickly as possible recommendations drawn up by BICI (Egypt)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.28.
115.134	Finalize working on the implementation of the	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support.

	recommendations of the BICI and to implement the outcome of the national conciliation dialogue (Jordan)		Please see response on recommendation 115.28.
115.135	Follow up on implementation of recommendations made by the BICI, in order to overcome the effects of unfortunate events (Kuwait)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.28.
115.136	Continue implementing the recommendations of the BICI (Oman)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.28.
115.137	Continue the implementation of all the recommendations of the BICI (Saudi Arabia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.28.
115.138	Carry-out awareness raising campaigns on the importance of adopting a unified law on the family and increasing the minimum age for marriage (Chile)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support and will be applied in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and national laws. The legislature ratified the first part of the comprehensive Family Law in 2009 pertaining	The recommendation continues to enjoy support .. In regards to the Family Law, please see response on recommendation 115.139 below. In regards to raising the minimum age for marriage, please see Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 24-25).

		to the Sunni Sect, but did not ratify the second part of the Law related to the Jaafari Sect. The Government and the Supreme Council for Women continue to promote awareness of the importance of this Law and the objective of protecting Bahraini women.	
115.139	Consider passing legislation on family law containing clear and non-discriminatory provisions on marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody (Brazil)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support and will be applied in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and national laws.</p> <p>The legislature ratified the first part of the comprehensive Family Law in 2009 pertaining to the Sunni Sect, but did not ratify the second part of the Law related to the Jaafari Sect. The Government and the Supreme Council for Women continue to promote awareness of the importance of this Law and the objective of protecting Bahraini</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support .</p> <p>In September 2014, Law No. 47 of 2014 was promulgated. This law provides supervisory and appellate jurisdiction to the Court of Cassation over judgments rendered by a Sharia court, except in cases involving divorce.</p> <p>The issue of a uniform family law has been on Bahrain's agenda for nearly a decade but has faced consistent opposition from certain groups within the population. A partial application of the law has been in effect since 2009. The executive branch and the Supreme Council for Women continue to promote awareness of the importance of a uniform Family Law and advocate its enactment.</p> <p>Please see also Bahrain's replies to the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3/Add.1, 7 Nov. 2013, pp. 24-25).</p>

		women.	
115.140	Continue to take the vital steps to grant citizenship to children of Bahraini mothers in the same fashion as children of Bahraini fathers as CEDAW and the CRC have pointed out (Japan)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Citizenship was conferred on 335 children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis by Royal Order issued in December 2011. Law No. 35/2009 exempted children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis from fees for public, health and education services, and permanent residency.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.95 above.
115.141	Enact law providing for full citizenship rights for the children of Bahrain mothers and non-Bahrain fathers (Norway)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Citizenship was conferred on 335 children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis by Royal Order issued in December 2011. Law No. 35/2009 exempted children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis from fees for public, health and education services, and permanent residency.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.95 above.
115.142	Complete by making the amendment to the	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support.

	proposed amendment to the nationality law that guarantees the Bahraini nationality for children from a Bahraini mother and a non-Bahraini father law (Sudan)	Citizenship was conferred on 335 children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis by Royal Order issued in December 2011. Law No. 35/2009 exempted children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis from fees for public, health and education services, and permanent residency.	Please see response on recommendation 115.95 above.
115.143	Speed up the reforms on the legislation for citizenship for children of Bahraini mother and non-Bahraini father (Algeria)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Citizenship was conferred on 335 children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis by Royal Order issued in December 2011. Law No. 35/2009 exempted children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis from fees for public, health and education services, and permanent residency.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.95 above.

115.144	Continue to support efforts, programs and initiatives aimed at providing protection for all family members (Saudi Arabia)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>The Ministry of Social Development is currently working on the implementation of a full and comprehensive program aimed at directing support to eligible low-income families. This is based on the findings of a study conducted by the Ministry in collaboration with the World Bank. There are also many laws to guarantee protection, and Bahrain has enacted a wide range of social protection net including the Children's Act, the Senior Citizens Act, and the Rehabilitation and Employment of the Disabled Act.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>The MoSD has worked on providing legislative, institutional and financial support and protection to vulnerable members of society. In 2013, Bahrain paid out more than \$25m in disability allowance to 8,811 persons; this follows 2010 legislation doubling the disability allowance. Low-income families continue to benefit from various programs aimed at assisting and empowering their members.</p> <p>In December 2013, HM the King of Bahrain issued a directive to build 40,000 social housing units to benefit eligible Bahrainis. In addition, the Ministry of Housing launched in October 2013 a Social Housing Financing Scheme in which subsidizes the purchase of housing from private developers.</p> <p>In regards to the most vulnerable groups in society, please see response on recommendation 115.29 (children); 115.38 (persons with disabilities); 115.48 (women); and 115.76 (expatriate workers).</p>
115.145	Implement the commitment to rebuild	The recommendation enjoys	The recommendation continues to enjoy support.

	the Shi'a places of worship destroyed (Austria)	Bahrain's support.	<p>The work on rebuilding the places of worship began in May 2011, before the BICI Report was issued in November 2011. The Government has allocated a budget of USD 8 million to build 30 places of worship.</p> <p>In 2013, the Government accelerated the completion date for reconstruction from 2018 to the end of 2014. In December 2013, oversight of the construction was transferred from the Government to the Jaafari Endowments, an autonomous public entity responsible for all Shiite places of worship in Bahrain.</p> <p>To date, 12 places of worship have been fully rebuilt, while construction on the remainder is underway. This is an update from the number contained in the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 14-16). Please see that document for further detail on this issue.</p>
115.146	Release all political prisoners and bring its national legislation into compliance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which guarantees freedom of expression (France)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see responses on recommendations 115.21 and 115.98.</p>
115.147	That human rights defenders must be protected and allowed to conduct their work without hindrance, intimidation or	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see responses on recommendations 115.34, 115.44 and 115.56.</p> <p>Bahraini law protects freedom of opinion and expression and assembly (Articles 23 and 28 of the Bahraini Constitution). As explained elsewhere in this interim report, the laws on freedom of opinion and</p>

	harassment (Norway)		<p>expression are currently undergoing review and reform with a view to their further liberalisation.</p> <p>Bahrain does not engage in abuse, intimidation or harassment of NGO representatives, including those in the human rights community, nor does the Public Prosecution bring charges against individuals for political reasons. Moreover, the Public Prosecution and the MOI have not received any complaints of intimidation or harassment by human rights NGOs regarding their representatives in Bahrain or elsewhere.</p>
115.148	Strengthen the right to freedom of expression in its new Press Law, as well as allowing foreign media to enter the country and report freely (Norway)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to the new Media Law, please see response on recommendation 115.149. In regards to foreign media, please see response on recommendation 115.156.</p>
115.149	With respect to the draft law on the press currently under exam, repeal restrictions to freedom of expression and ensure that it comply with international norms (Chile)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>The draft Media Law has been drafted with the assistance of international experts in the field. It is drawn keeping in mind relevant provisions of international law including the ICCPR.</p> <p>On 30 June 2013, Decree No. 47 of 2013 established the High Authority for Information and Communication. This body is independent of the executive branch. Its role is to formulate public policy on information and the media, and to ensure its implementation. It also receives complaints regarding media content and the political use of radio and television especially during electoral campaigns.</p> <p>In February 2014, Cabinet approved the new draft Media Law and transmitted it to Parliament. Once enacted, the new law will provide</p>

			<p>additional protections to journalists. Journalists would fall under the jurisdiction of the High Authority. The new law abolishes criminal penalties on journalists for violations related to their work and gives them immunity from revealing their sources.</p> <p>Please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 43-46) for detail on the Media Law.</p>
115.150	Abandon any restriction or obstacle to the work of persons and institutions engaged in the protection and promotion of human rights (Switzerland)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.147.
115.151	Repeal or amend the 2002 Press Law eliminating all restrictions upon the freedom of the press not in line with relevant provisions of the ICCPR (Austria)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.149.
115.152	Enact a progressive, substantive Freedom of Information law (Austria)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.149.
115.153	Amend the Penal Code to remove all criminal	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to the Penal Code, please see response on recommendation

	penalties for alleged libel offences and the press law to bring its provisions into compliance with article 19 of ICCPR (Canada)		115.25. In regards to the Media Law, please see response on recommendation 115.149.
115.154	Bring both the Press law and Penal Code in line with article 19 of ICCPR (Estonia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to the Penal Code, please see response on recommendation 115.25. In regards to the Media Law, please see response on recommendation 115.149.
115.155	Undertake all efforts to relax censorship and to grant oppositional groups the possibility to establish their own media outlets (Germany)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to the Media Law, please see response on recommendation 115.149. In regards to the opposition's ability to establish their own media outlets, the media sector in Bahrain is open. The Government does not own any newspaper and state-owned media is restricted to television and radio broadcasting. There is private ownership of media outlets – print, television and radio – and, in addition, foreign media outlets of all types and political persuasions freely broadcast into the territory. Furthermore, Bahrain has one of the highest internet penetration rates in the region, as well as very large numbers of social media users. As such, there is a relatively spirited public debate in Bahrain, often with animated points of view. Moreover, the Government is committed to guaranteeing fair access to the media. Media access is largely unrestricted. Groups representing diverse

			<p>political and social viewpoints publish newsletters, newspapers, host websites, and own social media video and textual channels – including those hosted in, and published from, both Bahrain and abroad – with little Governmental input or control.</p> <p>However, a major problem is that non-governmental voices often broadcast extremist and incendiary content and adopt inflammatory tones. Please see the BICI Follow Up Unit's Report, Feb. 2014 (pp. 56-57) for further detail about this challenge.</p> <p>All viewpoints are provided access to state-owned media. For example, television talk shows regularly air grievances, make demands, and criticize the Government. A weekly television program reporting on Parliament hosts a large cross-section of Parliamentarians representing every point of view. The television coverage of the National Dialogue broadcast – unfettered and unrestricted – the points of view of all participants with no voice left unheard.</p>
115.156	Lift all restrictions on movements of foreign journalists and international organizations defending human rights (Belgium)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to NGO visits, Bahrain routinely welcomes visits by NGO representatives, including those working in the field of human rights. In 2012 alone, approximately 20 separate visits by human rights related NGOs took place. In 2012 visits were conducted by Project on Justice in Times of Transition; Social Science Research Council; Arab Lawyers Group; Human Rights First; Human Rights Watch; Physicians for Human Rights; Amnesty International. In addition, Bahrain has welcomed lengthy visits and inquiries by the OHCHR in 2013 and 2014.</p> <p>In regards to foreign journalists, the facts speak for themselves. Of 800 journalists visa applications received in 2012, 747 were granted.</p>

115.157	Abolish legal provisions unduly restricting peaceful demonstrations, remove restrictions on freedom of expression contained in Law 32 of 2006, and allow the opposition greater access to television broadcasts, radio broadcasts and print media (Netherlands)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.21, 115.25, 115.26, and 115.155.
115.158	Cease all intimidation or repression against human rights defenders, journalists and Non-Governmental Organizations (Spain)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.147 and 115.156.
115.159	Release persons imprisoned as required by freedom of expression and repeal all legislation that criminalizes the exercise of this right (Switzerland)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to releasing persons, please see response to recommendation 115.98. In regards to repealing and amending legislation, please see responses on recommendations 115.21 and 115.25.
115.160	Revise the Public	The recommendation enjoys	The recommendation continues to enjoy support.

	Gathering Law (32/2006), so that peaceful demonstrations can be held as established by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Costa Rica)	Bahrain's support.	Please see responses on recommendations 115.21 and 115.26.
115.161	Respect the legitimate rights of all its citizens to freedom of assembly and expression, and maintain its commitment to achieving concrete political reform based on respect for the legitimate rights and aspirations of all its citizens (Australia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.21, 115.25, 115.26, and 115.40.
115.162	That further progress be made toward concrete and visible reform, including through implementation of the follow-up committee's report, in a way which guarantees transparency and freedom of speech	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.28.

	(Japan)		
115.163	That the necessary measures are implemented to guarantee freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Japan)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see responses on recommendations 115.21, 115.25, and 115.26.
115.164	Speed up as far as possible the adoption of the draft labour law including the section on domestic workers (Ecuador)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In September 2012, the new labour law came into force. For the first time the law provides legal protection for domestic workers (including gardeners, drivers and cooks), previously not under the law. Such employees will now be employed under clear contractual terms in line with all private-sector employees. Also for the first time, employment discriminatory practices of whatever nature are explicitly outlawed. Employers cannot discriminate, whether in hiring, compensation, or firing, on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, language or religion. Further, companies cannot dismiss workers because they participate in trade unions, get married, or, in the case of female employees, become pregnant. Enhanced protections for women workers were included, including augmented maternity benefits; improved work place protections with regard to wages, hours, overtime and leave; better protections for child workers; and an increase in the minimum working age. The revision also included detailed provisions on collective bargaining and new labour justice and administration elements. To expedite the

			<p>resolution of labour disputes, the new law overhauled the old system by providing a more efficient and cost-effective civil procedure. It entailed the creation of a case management office at the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs, presided over by a judge from the High Civil Court. All labour cases are now raised before this office and the judge has two months within which he attempts an amicable resolution of the dispute. Failing amicable resolution, the judge refers the case to the High Civil Court which is meant to decide the dispute within 30 days, after which the judgment will be final and may only be challenged before the Supreme Court of Cassation (eliminating one intermediate level of appeal).</p> <p>An additional feature of is that employers are now liable to compensate employees for any delays in payment of monthly salaries at the rate of 6% per year for wages that are delayed for six months or less. This rate is increased at the rate of 1% for each month's delay thereafter up to a maximum of 12% per year.</p> <p>Employers face tougher penalties if they fail to comply with the law which may include monetary fines and/or imprisonment.</p>
115.165	Continue its efforts in ensuring that the housing conditions of workers to be continuously inspected and monitored (Malaysia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>The Labour Relations Directorate and Inspections Department of the MoL are concerned with ensuring the conditions of foreign workers are in full compliance with Bahraini law.</p> <p>Information campaigns setting forward workers rights and duties are regularly conducted in various languages including English, Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, Sinhala and Turkish.</p> <p>In 2013, the MoL conducted 74 inspection visits to accommodation used by 11,060 workers to ensure the application of safety and health</p>

			<p>regulations.</p> <p>Also in 2013, under the framework of the new Labour Law, the MoL issued a number of resolutions implemented comprehensively covering the safety of facilities for workers (Resolution No. 3 on working hours, No. 6 on protection from fire hazards, No. 8 on occupational safety, No. 12 on reporting injuries and diseases, No. 31 on prevention of electricity dangers).</p>
115.166	Step up efforts to strengthen public education, awareness programme and skill training, particularly aimed at increasing awareness on human rights in Bahrain (Malaysia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to education curricula, please see response on recommendation 115.52.</p> <p>In regards to awareness programs on the human rights of children and persons with disabilities, please see responses on recommendations 115.37 and 115.38.</p>
115.167	Strengthen education and awareness of human rights at the national level (Senegal)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>In regards to education curricula, please see response on recommendation 115.52 above.</p> <p>The NIHR regularly holds lectures and training programs as part of its mandate to promote human rights awareness on a national level. The NHRI has drawn up a strategy and action plan for its activities in 2013-2016. Please see response on recommendation 115.34 above.</p> <p>In regards to the visit of a technical team from OHCHR, please see response on recommendation 115.57</p>

			A training session on International Humanitarian Law for new lawyers was conducted in April 2014 in collaboration with the ICRC.
115.168	Review national legislation and develop awareness and training programmes in order to eliminate legal and de facto discrimination against boys and girls with disabilities and as well as with respect to those children living in the poorest areas of the country (Uruguay)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Following ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, the Action Plan of the National Strategy for Persons with Disability was put into effect. The Child's Law has been enacted in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. In regards to children with disabilities, please see response on recommendation 115.38. In regards to low-income children, please see response on recommendation 115.144.
115.169	Continue taking necessary efforts and action to provide appropriate educational opportunities for persons with disabilities (Ecuador)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Following ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, the Action Plan of the National Strategy for Persons with Disability was put into effect. The Child's Law has been enacted in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.38.

115.170	Continue strengthening efforts to guarantee access to adequate education for persons with disabilities (United Arab Emirates)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Following ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, the Action Plan of the National Strategy for Persons with Disability was put into effect. The Child's Law has been enacted in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.38 above.</p>
115.171	Efforts should continue to be perused in order to provide opportunities of adequate education for persons with disabilities (Yemen)	<p>The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.</p> <p>Following ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, the Action Plan of the National Strategy for Persons with Disability was put into effect. The Child's Law has been enacted in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring the right of children with disabilities to</p>	<p>The recommendation continues to enjoy support.</p> <p>Please see response on recommendation 115.38.</p>

		education.	
115.172	Provide adequate education opportunities for the persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support. Following ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, the Action Plan of the National Strategy for Persons with Disability was put into effect. The Child's Law has been enacted in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring the right of children with disabilities to education.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.38.
115.173	Step up its efforts in promoting and protecting migrant workers (Indonesia)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.76.
115.174	Continue efforts to ensure a larger and more inclusive protection for foreign workers (Algeria)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.76.

115.175	Implements both procedural and legislative measures to protect to the utmost extent possible migrant workers in the country (Egypt)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.76.
115.176	Intensify efforts and measures to enhance and expand protection for migrant workers in Bahrain (Lebanon)	The recommendation enjoys Bahrain's support.	The recommendation continues to enjoy support. Please see response on recommendation 115.76.