

Americans for Democracy



& Human Rights in Bahrain

Presentation on Bahrain's 5th Cycle UPR

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4th Cycle Review – What did Bahrain Accomplish?

Accepted 139 of 176 recommendations.

Of those 139 recommendations, 27 saw technical or legal implementation, but no actual perceived progress in improving the real human rights situation.

Of the remaining 112, 108 were not implemented in any capacity, real, legal, technical, or otherwise.

The remaining four recommendations concerned sustainable economic development and disseminating the criminal code.

Key Failures

Bahrain failed to implement meaningful reform on a broad range of subjects, most notably including:

- Due Process Rights
- Freedom from Torture
- Freedom of the Press
- Freedoms of Assembly and Expression
- Freeing Human Rights Defenders
- Freeing Members of the Political Opposition

Free Speech and Assembly

Bahrain accepted 21 of 23 recommendations, notably including:

- Releasing all human rights defenders and members of the political opposition imprisoned on the basis of crimes of expression
- Respecting the right to freedom of assembly
- Protect digital freedoms

None of these recommendations were implemented in any capacity.

Abdulhadi al-Khawaja

Prominent human rights defender, founder of Bahrain Center for Human Rights.

Imprisoned since 2011 on a life sentence.

Hassan Mushaima

Leader of now-criminalized al-Haq movement.

Imprisoned since 2011 on a life sentence.

Sheikh Ali Salman

Leader of the now-criminalized al-Wefaq Political Party.

Imprisoned since 2011 on a life sentence.

Torture

Bahrain received
and supported
nine

recommendations
on torture. It
failed to
implement any of
them in any
meaningful way.

Bahrain has no effective mechanism to prevent torture or to initiate independent investigations into allegations of torture.

The Criminal Investigatory Directorate can be spurred to undertake one-off investigations through immense international pressure, as in the case of Ali Ramadan and Husain Moosa, two death-row inmates. However, the Court ignores their findings.

Criminal prosecutions for mistreatment of inmates are extremely rare, and result in at-most minimal jail terms dwarfed by the sentences of the abused.



Recommendations

With so little changed, ADHRB feels the recommendations themselves should also not change.

We recommend that recommendations concerning important subjects such as **torture, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, human rights defenders, due process rights, and digital freedoms** be resubmitted to Bahrain verbatim, as they were submitted in the last cycle, to demonstrate that the international community sees Bahrain's inaction.