

Human Rights Watch :

14th HRC session - 11 June 2010

“Human Rights Watch welcomes the update to the HRC given by Bahrain during the 11 session on 11 of June 2010 on the follow-up process established at the national level for the implementation of its UPR recommendations. Bahrain had announced that reforms had been launched on the labour market. The revision of Bahrain’s restrictive sponsorship system beginning in August 2009 improved the status of some migrant workers by allowing them to change employers more freely. But the protection should be extended to migrant domestic workers who are especially vulnerable to employer abuse. Bahrain should also pass a new labour law, with a monitoring mechanism that effectively safeguards domestic workers from exploitive practices and abuse. Bahrain has also included the fight against torture in its voluntary pledges stating that “there are no cases of torture in the Kingdom”. However Human Rights Watch documented in a report released in February 2010 that between late 2007 and mid 2009, security officials again have used torture and ill-treatment particularly during the interrogation of security suspects. To date, Bahrain has failed to conduct credible investigations into these allegations or prosecute those responsible. Human Rights Watch calls the government of Bahrain to report on cases of torture or ill-treatment in light of its statement during its UPR. Human Rights Watch is also concerned about restrictions on civil society organizations, including those working on human rights issues.”