

19 Sept. 2012

**21st Session Human Rights Council
UPR- Bahrain**

Sudwind welcomes the beginning of the second UPR Process.

Many human rights violations were reported during the period between this and the last UPR of Bahrain. These include prosecution of human rights defenders, the ban of civil society organizations as well as impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations.

We deeply regret Bahrain's rejection of the recommendation 115.16 on ratify and fully align it's national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The freedom of peaceful assembly and associations are one of the basic human rights that Bahrain is obliged to implement.

The situation of foreign workers is still very critical. They are not allowed to leave the country freely as their passports are held by the employers.

Many foreign workers live in very precarious and dehumanizing conditions.

Recommendations:

1-All states including Bahrain must implement their obligations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Convention against Torture (CAT) and The Convention on Elimination of all kinds of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

2- Abolishing death penalty and before that officially sign a moratorium on death penalty

3-Providing access to independent monitors as well as civil society organizations to visit and inspect all places of detention without prior notice;

4- Changing the labor code in order to provide foreign and domestic workers with stronger legal protection, and to give a stronger role to civil society in fighting trafficking in persons and in promoting and protecting the rights of trafficked persons.