

UPR 13 – Statement of the Czech Republic to Bahrain

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of Bahrain and would like to thank for presenting its report. I would like to use the opportunity to make, on behalf of the Czech Republic, several comments and recommendations.

The Czech Republic welcomes the current efforts of Bahrain to ease the tensions and to implement the process of national reconciliation, in particular with the establishment of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry at the end of 2011. The Czech Republic expresses concern about the Bahrain authorities' excessive use of force during the suppression of protests that began in February 2011 and arbitrary arrests and detentions of protesters. We also express our serious concern about the torture and ill-treatment of protesters, including those in hospitals, and the harassment of human rights activists, medical personnel and journalists.

The Czech Republic therefore recommends to Bahrain to:

- i) investigate and prosecute all those responsible for torture and ill-treatment, unlawful killings and widespread arbitrary arrests;
- ii) investigate the deaths in government custody;
- iii) release immediately and unconditionally all persons convicted for merely exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and assembly, especially during anti-government protests that began in February 2011;
- iv) ratify OP-CAT.