

Intervention by Denmark

Madame President,

Denmark welcomes the Bahraini delegation to Geneva and would like to thank them for their comprehensive presentation given here today.

The establishment of the Bahraini Independent Commission of Inquiry was an important move by the authorities. This said, only few of the recommendations made by the Commission have been implemented. The little progress made in this regard could undermine the fragile process towards national reconciliation.

Denmark strongly recommends that the Government of Bahrain swiftly and resolutely implement all the recommendations made by the Commission, including the investigation of documented human rights abuses during recent protests, with a view to ensuring full accountability, justice and reparations for the victims.

The Commission's report documented concrete cases of torture and ill-treatment of people held in custody, including the case of the Danish citizen Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja. We are deeply concerned by the continued lack of accountability for such violations.

We would like to ask whether the Government of Bahrain intends to criminalise the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in accordance with Bahrain's obligations under the UN Torture Convention.

We note with great concern that 13 activists, including Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, remain imprisoned for exercising their right to demonstrate peacefully.

Denmark recommends that Abdulhadi Al Khawaja be transferred to the Danish authorities for medical treatment, in line with the agreement reached on March 14th.

Thank you, Madame President.