



**Universal Periodic Review of BAHRAIN, 21 May, 2012  
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of Bahrain to the UPR's 13<sup>th</sup> session. We thank Bahrain for their work in preparing the report presented earlier and also for the additional information provided in the opening speech.

We remain concerned about the actual human rights situation on the ground. The past eighteen months have seen crackdowns on the protest movement, violence against peaceful protests, and arbitrary arrests and detentions. The prevalence of impunity, lack of investigations, and application of the death penalty violate the most basic human rights such as the right to life, liberty and security. While we welcome the establishment of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate the events of early 2011, we encourage the government of Bahrain to make further efforts in meeting its commitments with respect to the international human rights law. We recommend Bahrain to accede to ICCPR Operational Protocols 1 and 2 and OP-CAT and to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC.

We would also like to briefly touch upon two specific aspects. First, in our view the current press law contains disproportionate restrictive measures, and we are concerned about the intent to introduce further restrictions in the new law. Bahrain's Penal Code is equally problematic, as it settles imprisonments and fines for activities labelled as "harmful to national interest." We recommend Bahrain to bring both of those legal acts in line with art. 19 of ICCPR.

Secondly, we are concerned that women are subject to discrimination in law and practice. There is no specific definition of discrimination in the domestic legislation. The law contains discriminatory provisions on marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody. We note positively that some progress has been made regarding equality in education, but observe with concern that some education is still only available to boys. We encourage Bahrain to make further efforts in this regard.

Thank you.