



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

13th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's questions and recommendations to Bahrain 21 May 2012

Madam President,

Finland wishes to thank Bahrain for the national report and its presentation today.

The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) was asked to determine whether the events since February 2011 involved violations of international human rights law and norms, and to make recommendations that it deemed appropriate. The report concluded that grave human rights violations had been committed by the Government security forces.

What steps is the Government taking to ensure a prompt and impartial investigation of the alleged human rights violations, and that those responsible are brought to justice?

Finland recommends Bahrain to ensure accountability for human rights violations by establishing, in line with international standards, a standing independent body to carry out investigations of all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, deaths in custody and unlawful killings, and by ensuring that everyone suspected of human rights violations is held accountable and guaranteed a fair trial consistent with international standards, without recourse to the death penalty.

Finland also recommends Bahrain to ratify and fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court, including incorporating the Statute definition of crimes and general principles, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court, and to accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court.

Thank you.