



**United Nations Human Rights Council  
13th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 21 May 2012**

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**German questions and recommendations to  
Bahrain**

**by**

**H.E. Ambassador Hanns H. Schumacher  
Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations**

*Rednerplatz: 37; Redezeit: 1:49min*

Madam President,

In the past year, Germany has closely followed the developments in Bahrain. We commend the engagement that H.M. the King has taken by establishing the so-called Bassiouni-Commission and take note of the implementation of a certain number of the recommendations issued by this commission. Germany has taken the view that the Bassiouni-report must be the basis for a way forward in Bahrain and we have supported the Government of Bahrain in this regard. However, overall implementation remains, up to this date, insufficient and it must be taken forward urgently. This is particularly true regarding the issue of accountability. We therefore strongly urge the government of Bahrain to fully, promptly and wholeheartedly implement all recommendations of the Commission. This is crucial for the resolution of the political crisis and would be in line with Bahrain's tradition regarding openness and tolerance.

Germany has continuously expressed its concern regarding ongoing violence, human rights violations and the lack of a thorough, political approach in order to resolve the crisis. We have repeatedly approached and called upon all actors to refrain from violence and to engage in a meaningful dialogue. At the same time we remain concerned regarding reports about violent protests and targeted attacks against police officers which we firmly condemn.

Germany therefore recommends

- To hold officials of all ranks accountable for their actions, especially regarding allegations of killings, torture, and other ill-treatments. This remains particularly urgent regarding human rights violations connected to the events of spring 2011 that were well-documented by the Bassiouni-Commission,
- To ensure that security forces respond proportionally and with the utmost restraint to non-peaceful protests. Violence against peaceful protesters has to be stopped immediately,
- To release immediately all persons solely convicted or detained for offences connected to peaceful assembly and free speech,
- To repeal all sentences by the National Safety Court, to refer these cases to criminal courts with recognizable charges of criminal offence, and to ensure that all of these trials are conducted in a fair, swift, and transparent manner,
- To establish a moratorium on the execution of the death penalty,
- To undertake all efforts to relax censorship and to grant oppositional groups the possibility to establish their own media outlets.

Thank you, Madame President.

