

42

Bahrain UPR – Oral Recommendations

IRELAND
Ambassador
CORR

Thank you, Mr. President

Ireland notes the steps already taken by the Bahraini authorities to implement the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry report and encourages Bahrain to make further progress in this regard.

Ireland remains ~~very~~ ^{gravely} concerned about the grave allegations of mistreatment amounting to torture of detainees that were documented in the BICI report. Ireland recommends that Bahrain follow-up on the recommendations of the BICI report to conduct effective investigations by an independent and impartial body of all allegations of torture in detention. In any case where such allegations are confirmed, the Bahraini authorities should also take steps to ensure that those responsible are held accountable and brought to justice.

Ireland also remains concerned that detainees were coerced by physical mistreatment to sign confessions, which were used in subsequent criminal proceedings sometimes in military courts.

Madame President, Ireland shares the strong concern expressed by others regarding Abdulhadi Al Khawaja.

Ireland recommends that all decisions of the National Security Courts should be subject to review in ordinary courts, and that laws should be enacted that would prohibit civilians being tried in military courts in the future.

Ireland also notes that aspects of Bahrain's penal code governing freedom of expression, assembly and association are ambiguous. Ireland recommends that Bahrain amend any articles of its Penal Code, in particular Article 165, 168, 169, 179 and 180, that can be used to prosecute individuals for the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly or association, and bring its law in line with international standards established by the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights.