

UPR13/Bahrain/Statement by Slovakia
21 May, 2012

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mme. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain, led by H.E. Dr. Salah Bin Ali Mohamed Abdulrahman, Minister of State for Human Rights Affairs, for the presentation of the country report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia commends Bahrain for being a party to major international HR instruments, as a follow-up to the previous review we acknowledge notably Bahrain's ratification of CRPD last year. However, Slovakia noted with concern the reported excessive use of force by the security personnel during and after the peaceful protests in February-March 2011.

Slovakia would like to present Bahrain the following recommendations:

1. To ensure that all allegations of human rights violations during and after the February-March 2011 protests by the security forces are independently, promptly and thoroughly investigated, bringing perpetrators to justice, providing victims with due redress and rehabilitation.
2. To release, immediately and unconditionally, all detainees, who have participated in peaceful protests lacking credible criminal charges.
3. To align the national legislation on freedom of expression, association and assembly with country's international HR obligations, notably under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
3. To prohibit torture and other ill-treatment, in national legislation and in practice in line with its obligations under CAT, ensuring that all allegations of torture or other ill-treatment are independently, promptly and thoroughly investigated, and perpetrators are brought to justice in accordance to international fair trial standards.
4. Last, but not least, Slovakia recommends Bahrain to ratify the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court, including its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities.

I thank you, Mme. President.