

8

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
13TH SESSION
COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: BAHRAIN

Intervention by Turkey

Thank you Madam President,

Dr. Salah Bin Ali Mohamed ABDULRAHMAN

- We would like to welcome H.E. and his delegation. We thank them for their presentation and their comprehensive National Report.
- The events that occurred during the course of February-March 2011 had been a serious source of concern for Turkey as well as international community.
- Turkey attaches importance to the advancement of the reform process undertaken under the leadership of King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- We welcomed the establishment and work of the Bahrain International Commission of Inquiry (BICI) regarding the events that occurred in 2011.
- We recommend the implementation of the recommendations of this report in such a way to foster a spirit of national unity and consensus conducive to the advancement of the reform process in line with the legitimate aspirations of the people.
- We commend the reforms that have been carried out so far in the fields of security, judiciary, media and education in line with the Commission's report.
- The steps taken so far by the Bahraini Government that deserve mentioning are:
 - Conducting investigations in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol;
 - Legal reforms towards transformation to a complete civilian legal order, (such as abolishment of National Safety Tribunal and transfer of highly critical cases with regard to the Bahrain's domestic politics to civilian courts);
 - Reforms that empower the defendants to appeal to civilian courts and delegation of power to the Supreme Court of Appeals to review and analyze the allegations of torture, mistreatment and abuses;
 - Institutionalizing of an independent Ombudsman's Office;
 - Setting up an autonomous Office of Chief of Inspection, that is independent from the Ministry of Interior;
 - Establishing an independent body to review the applications of the victims and their relatives with regard to their allegations of torture;
 - Adoption of a new 10 Point Code of Conduct for police.
- On the other hand, we are concerned about the recent terror attacks in Bahrain. We strongly condemn these terror attacks and urge all parties to refrain from violence.
- We invite all segments of the Bahraini society to give meaningful support to the reform process, take necessary lessons from the past, refrain from actions that will further increase tension, engage in a constructive dialogue and build a better future for Bahrain.

I thank you Madam President