



CAIRO INSTITUTE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES  
Institut du Caire pour Les études des droits de l'homme  
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

**United Nations Human Rights Council: 21<sup>st</sup> Session**  
**UPR- Bahrain- Oral Intervention**  
**Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies**  
**19 September, 2012**

**Delivered by: Maryam Al Khawaja**

Thank you Madam President,

My name is Maryam Al-khawaja, and I am the Acting President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. Between the last session and this current session of addressing the UPR on Bahrain, the human rights organizations have continued to document the deteriorating human rights situation in the country.

The government of Bahrain continues to commit widespread violations while failing to implement many of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI). The security forces still use excessive force to repress daily protests, resulting at times in fatalities. Also, arbitrary arrests, home raids, the beating and insulting of detainees are also ongoing. Many detainees are held in inhumane conditions in the prisons and subjected to torture in both official and unofficial torture centers.

The attitude of the government toward civil society has been demonstrated over the last two days at this Council with Bahrain human rights defenders having been subjected to reprisals for their engagement- including death threats, intimidation and harassment and incitement to hate and violence within state affiliated media.

In fact the targeting of human rights defenders and the use of reprisals has dramatically escalated. Human rights defenders have systematically been arrested, mistreated and the government continues to use the judiciary system as a tool to imprison defenders and protestors with no due process. Such charges are based on freedom of expression.

During the last UPR session, the government of Bahrain continued to deny that there are ongoing human rights violations, and stated that there are no political prisoners when today there are approximately 1400, 50 of whom are under 18. The lack of international consequences has emboldened the government of Bahrain.

We urge the human rights council and member countries to begin to address this lack of political will by ensuring meaningful discussion within this Council concerning the ongoing violations within the country.

Thank you Madame President