



**CAIRO INSTITUTE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**

Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme

مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

- Human Rights Council: 54<sup>th</sup> Session
- Item 5-Interactive Dialogue on the Secretary General's Report on Alleged Reprisals Against those Who Seek to Cooperate or Have Cooperated with the United Nations, its Representatives and Mechanisms.
- Oral Intervention
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

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### **Bahrain has become a graveyard for human rights defenders, where is the Human Rights Council?**

Mr. President,

I am Ebtisam Al-Saegh, a Bahraini citizen and a human rights activist. I have been subjected to unlawful arrest due to my human rights work, which obliges me to be present in every field related to human rights. I live in a country that boasts about human rights, but unfortunately, due to my human rights activities, I have been targeted by the Bahraini regime since the events of 2011 until now.

I have faced harassment, sexual assault, torture, and numerous moral, material, psychological, and even health-related violations and losses. Instead of the nation taking pride in its human rights activists who defend the humanity and rights of individuals, we are tortured and arrested simply because our work does not align with the interests of the relevant authorities who seek those who work without conscience, credibility, or justice. They twist the truth, applaud falsehood, bury justice, and mislead public opinion, rather than those who portray the true human rights image as it exists in reality!

Today, I find myself in everything that human rights activists like al-Khawaja, Al-Singace, and Fateel go through. Images of torture, degradation, crushing of humanity and dignity, sexual harassment, insults, and revenge in the cruelest ways pass before me, simply because we advocate for human rights with a living conscience, credibility, and fairness!

This month, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders called for the immediate release Al-Khawaja, Al-Singace, and Fateel and to address their deliberate medical neglect.

I say to you, their place is not in prison. Where is your council regarding what human rights defenders in Bahrain endure? Bahrain has become their graveyard!!

Thank you