



BICI Follow-Up Report

Follow-Up Report
December 2013

Executive Summary

- On 23 November 2011, Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) submitted its final report to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, containing its recommendations on necessary reforms needed to remedy the effects of the events witnessed by Bahrain in the first quarter of 2011. The political leadership of the Kingdom recognized the importance of this process, striving for what is better and avoiding the shortcomings of the past. Upon issue of the BICI Report, the Government of Bahrain started taking all necessary actions to fully implement all the recommendations. His Majesty The King issued Royal Orders No. (45) and No. (48) of 2011 on establishing and the composition of the national commission to implement the recommendations, “*The National Commission on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI)*”, chaired by H.E. Chairman of the Shura Council, and comprised of 18 members including legal and legislative experts and representatives of political parties and civil society organizations. The Commission commenced its mandate immediately, and in record time, was able to follow up the implementation of all the recommendations, expending relentless effort with daily follow up of each recommendation separately with all relevant government departments.
- In the Government’s commitment to continue active follow up of the implementation of the recommendations, the Cabinet issued a decision on 29th April 2012 charging The Minister of Justice to continue follow up implementation of the recommendations, and ordered the formation of a Unit of experts acting under his direct supervision to liaise with all relevant ministries and government departments concerned with the recommendations. The Unit commenced its mandate. It issued two full reports in July and November 2012 covering the progress of implementation through their dates of issue. This report is issued to describe actual implementation in respect of each recommendation separately.

- Before addressing the implemented recommendations, it should be pointed out that this report straightforwardly and candidly addresses all segments of the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain, describing actions taken to implement each recommendation with utmost sincerity and transparency. Therefore, and in order to ensure continued popular support of the Government's efforts aimed at implementing all the recommendations, the Follow Up Unit decided to issue this report as an update on all developments, focusing on the roles and efforts of each government department, institution and ministry in the implementation of each recommendation, and action taken over the period from beginning of December 2011 to date.
- This Report, as aforementioned, is a continuation of the reports issued in 2012. It therefore contains detailed information on material and genuine reforms which the Government had implemented.
- Overall, the Follow Up Unit affirms that the Government of Bahrain is fully committed to the implementation of the BICI recommendations based on an agenda prepared in advance to ensure full and proper implementation. The Unit has found that some of Government departments have clearly excelled beyond the reform process recommended in the BICI Report. For example, the Ministry of Interior commenced in 2012 the implementation of a plan with the objective of increasing awareness of its personnel of the basic guarantees for persons at the time of arrest or during incarceration. That plan included actions which were actually implemented, but not included in the BICI Report, such as intensive training of all employees, including officers and personnel, on international standards of human rights and criminal justice, international standards of the rights of persons during collection of evidence and at the time of arrest, as well as the rights of prisoners and detainees. The plan also provided for the improvement of all detention centers, jails and prisons by improving living conditions, equipping them all with audiovisual capabilities to ensure proper procedures at those places, in addition to the design of electronic systems to record all action taken, starting from the arrest of a person, up to the time the person is released. The Ministry of Interior has to date appointed 577 community police officers, which is in excess of the previously announced number.

- In terms of enhancing the respect and compliance with human rights principles, a number of resolutions and royal decrees were issued creating many national mechanisms concerned with human rights that are not provided for in the BICI Report. Those mechanisms were established out of the political leadership's desire to enhance the respect of human rights of the Bahraini citizen, and emphasize that the Government is serious in its efforts to overcome the events of 2011. One of the most important achievements was the establishment of a Special Investigations Unit, as part of Public Prosecution, by Attorney General's Resolution No. 8 of 2012 dated 27th February 2012. The mandate of the Special Investigations Unit is the determination of criminal liability of public officials who were accused of committing illegal acts which caused deaths, torture, injury or mistreatment, including individuals in leadership positions, under the principle of superior responsibility. The Ombudsman's Office was also created in accordance with Royal Decree N. 27 of 2012, which is completely independent from the Ministry of Interior, administratively and financially. It receives and examines complaints related to the commitment of any human rights violations by any Ministry of Interior personnel – civil or military. It may commence performing its functions before receiving a complaint from the injured person. It was also charged with the responsibility of overseeing correction, detention and juvenile centers. In addition, an independent Inspector General Office and Professional Standards Office were created at the National Security Agency. The National Institution for Human Rights was reorganized by Royal Order No. 28 of 2012 to ensure that the Institutions perform its roles in accordance with the Paris Standards.
- To emphasize that the Government's efforts to ensure observance of human rights extends beyond the mere creation of such mechanism, and is in actual fact a complete and comprehensive reform endeavor, the Government commenced a broad review of penal codes to ensure that the provisions related to the rights of persons are in compliance with international standards, and to guarantee that perpetrators of all crimes do not escape justice. Law No. 52 of 2012 was issued on 9th October 2012 amending the definition of torture as contained in the provisions of Articles 208 and 232 of the Penal Code, with the new provision of Article 208

criminalizing the infliction of severe pain or suffering, whether physical or psychological, on a detained person by or under the control of a public servant in order to obtain information, extract confession, punish, intimidate, or coerce him or another person. The amendment also emphasized that the statute of limitation does not apply to crimes of torture. As for Article 232, the amendment including punishment of each person who inflicts severe pain or severe suffering, whether physical or psychological, on a detained person by or under the control of a public servant in order to obtain information, extract confession, punish, intimidate, or coerce him or another person. The amendment also emphasized that the statute of limitation does not apply to crimes of torture. Law No. 50 of 2012 was issued on 9 October 2012 adding Article 22 bis to the Law of Criminal Procedure, which allows a person who alleges that an act of vengeance was committed against him because of a previous allegation he/she had made for being subjected to torture or another form of harsh, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to civil litigation against the accused while evidence is being gathered, during investigation, or while the criminal case is being tried, whatever the case may be until a decision is made to close arguments, if such vengeance constitutes a crime. If the vengeance takes a form which does not constitute a punishable crime, civil courts shall have jurisdiction.

- To further emphasize the necessity of providing full protection of freedom of expression, a new Article (69 bis) was added to the Penal Code emphasizing that the interpretation of restrictions on the right of free expression in the Penal Code or in any other code remains within the necessary framework of a democratic society. It also emphasized that exercising the right of the freedom of expression within this framework is exempt from punishment.
- On hearing and protecting witnesses, experts and victims, Law No. 53 of 2012 was issued on 9 October 2012 providing for amendment of the provisions of Articles 115, 214 and 234, and to add Articles 81 bis, 82 Paragraph 3, 127 bis, 223 bis, and 223 bis (a). These amendments provide appropriate procedures and guarantees to protect witnesses, experts and victims and ensure their safety and that they are not influenced whether during or after investigations and trials.

- On compensating the victims, all deaths cases which were cited in the BICI report, as well as 4 other cases which were not cited in the report were actually compensated 60.000 Bahraini Dinars equal to US \$ 159.000 to each case. Further, on cases of injuries, the Committee reviewed 421 applications. A total of 193 cases were selected as first phase, and the Committee has referred them to the medical examiner to show the percentage of disability resulting from the injury, if any, for the purpose of estimating the value of civil settlement payable in each case.
- On reestablishing places of worship, and as the Government is keen to expedite the implementation of Royal Directives; therefore it has approved and allocated a total budget of BD 3,004,715 (Three Million Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Bahraini Dinars), equivalent to US \$ 7,948,980 (Seven Million Nine Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eight United States Dollars) to build places of worship legally after correcting their legal status. The final completion of all projects will be in December 2014, not 2018.
- The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) continues its work towards conclusion of all investigations. In total, SIU has referred 39 cases to courts of law including 95 defendants; 13 of them been convicted while 15 have been acquitted. A total of 25 cases are still before the courts. On another hand, the Attorney General issued the SIU Internal Directives consisting of 65 articles addressing the Unit's nature, objectives, powers, jurisdiction, formation, departmental functions, duties and qualifications of its members and staff. Moreover, an MoU was signed between SIU and the Ombudsman on handling complaints related to allegations of torture, harsh, degrading and inhuman treatment.
- In an effort towards the elimination of all forms of torture and ill-treatment in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the government recently finalized a draft Royal Decree to establish a national preventive mechanism to be responsible for the supervision and monitoring of all places of detention to make sure it complies with the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. The draft Decree was

prepared in consultation with the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

- This report addresses the BICI recommendations in chronological order. It shows that 19 recommendations were fully implemented, while work is in progress to complete the implementation of the 7 remaining recommendations, with significant achievements in their implementation, as follows:

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1715. To establish an independent and impartial national commission consisting of personalities of high standing representing both the GoB, opposition political parties and civil society to follow up and implement the recommendations of this Commission. The newly established national commission should examine the laws and procedures that were applied in the aftermath of the events of February/March 2011 with a view to making recommendations to the legislature for appropriate amendments to existing law and the development of new legislation, in particular with respect to legislative reform as contained in this recommendation.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- Upon receipt of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) Report, Royal Order No. (45) of 2011 was issued to establish the National Commission Charged with the Implementation of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) Recommendations, followed by Royal Order No. (48) of 2011 on the composition of the Commission which includes 19 prominent personalities representing all segments of society.
- In addition, and with the Cabinet's recognition of the importance of compliance with the implementation of all recommendations, the Cabinet formed a ministerial working group chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister to coordinate between various ministries towards the full implementation of the recommendations.
- The Cabinet also established a special unit to follow up the implementation of the recommendations under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice. This Unit, the Follow Up Unit, is charged with follow up with all ministries and local authorities to ensure the full implementation of all recommendations.

1716. To establish a national independent and impartial mechanism to determine the accountability of those in government who have committed unlawful or negligent acts resulting in the deaths, torture and mistreatment of civilians with a view to bringing legal and disciplinary action against such individuals, including those in

the chain of command, military and civilian, who are found to be responsible under international standards of “superior responsibility”.

This recommendation was implemented in full. The Unit is performing its functions and investigating all claims with full transparency and impartiality.

- On 27th February 2012, Attorney General’s Resolution No. 8 of 2012 was issued to form a special investigations unit. This Resolution was taken after close consultation with many experts from the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as the Chairman of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry for the full implementation of Recommendations 1719 and 1722 (a) and (b) of the BICI Report. The mandate of the Unit was specified in Articles 4 and 5 of the aforementioned Resolution, where Article 4 stated that (the Special Investigations Unit shall be charged with the determination of criminal liability against public officials who committed illegal acts which caused deaths, torture, injury or mistreatment, including individuals in leadership positions, under the principle of superior responsibility). Article 5 provided that the (Special Investigations Unit shall be charged with all cases arising from the 2011 events which are contained in the BICI Report, in addition to any other case as the Attorney General deems necessary to refer to the Unit for investigation for any reason whatsoever).
- To ensure the complete independence and total neutrality of the Unit in the performance of its functions, all members of the Unit act with total independence and do not take any instructions from any entity or person within the Government hierarchy. Moreover, two International legal advisors were hired for the Unit in order to provide legal advice to the Unit.
- In accordance with Article 2 of the said Resolution, two experienced Ministry of Interior criminal investigations officers and four investigations specialists were assigned under the title of (judicial police). They are currently working under the supervision and direction of the Head of the Unit. They investigate all allegations of death, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment which are filed with the Unit in order to determine perpetrators and responsibility for such acts. The Judicial Police also follows up the implementation of decisions issued by Unit members with all

security agencies, departments and other entities to ensure prompt and accurate implementation and realize the purpose for which those decisions were issued.

- A male medical examiner and a female medical examiner were assigned to perform required medical examinations of cases referred to them in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.
- In Public Prosecution's efforts to implement the Istanbul Protocol Principles, a highly qualified psychiatrist was assigned to examine cases referred to him by the Special Investigations Unit, and to perform psychiatric evaluations as required and prepare reports showing the psychological effects of alleged mistreatment or torture, as the case may be, and to administer psychiatric therapy of victims, with repeated sessions and follow up of therapy. The psychiatrist started his assignment at the Unit and examined many of the cases.
- As part of the continued efforts to support SIU and improve its capabilities, the Attorney General issued the SIU Internal Directives which were prepared by a Spanish expert – a leading United Nations expert and international lecturer on human rights and international criminal law. The directives consist of 65 Articles in 6 Chapters addressing in detail the Unit's nature, objectives, powers, jurisdiction, formation, departmental functions, duties and qualifications of its members and staff. The directives thoroughly describe in detail the methods and means of collecting verbal, physical and technical evidence, and the procedures to be followed in this respect.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the SIU and the Secretariat General of the Ombudsman on how to handle complaints related to allegations of torture, harsh, degrading and inhuman treatment, with the aim of facilitating the process of filing complaints and inspire confidence for those who suffer such acts, ensure effective and productive investigations, avoid obstacles which in any way impede revealing facts and determining perpetrators, collect sufficient evidence for punitive or disciplinary action, and ensure payment of compensation to victims. The

memorandum adequately provides for venues of cooperation between the Unit and the Secretarial General in respect of investigations carried out by each of them in this respect, and for the exchange of information to show and safeguard evidence, as well as to ensure that each of them carries out its mandate without any possible interference or conflict of jurisdiction.

1717. To place the office of the Inspector General in MoI as a separate entity independent of the Ministry's hierarchical control, whose tasks should include those of an internal "ombudsman's office", such as that which exists in many other countries. The new Inspector's General's office should be able to receive individual or organizational complaints, protect the safety and privacy of the complainants, carry out independent investigations and have the authority to conduct disciplinary and criminal proceedings as required by CAT, the ICCPR and the Bahrain Criminal Code to the Prosecutor General. The office should also promulgate and enforce police professional standards and carry out legal and sensitivity training for police officers.

The recommendation was implemented in full. The Ministry of Interior enlisted the aid of a number of international security experts who contributed to the development of police performance in general, and the following was actually carried out:

- Reorganization of the Inspector General's staff commensurate with current requirements.
- Creation of the Security Readiness Directorate in accordance with Royal Decree No. 93 of 2011, the mandate of which includes observing human rights.
- Ratification of the Police Code of Conduct in accordance with Ministerial Order No. 14 of 2012.
- Creation of the Ombudsman's Office in accordance with Royal Decree No. 27 of 2012, which is completely independent from the Ministry of Interior, administratively and financially. It receives and examines complaints related to the commitment of any human rights violations by any Ministry of Interior personnel –

civil or military. It may commence performing its functions before receiving a complaint from the injured person. It was also charged with the responsibility of overseeing correction, detention and juvenile centers. The required administrative staff was appointed by Royal Decree, and the Ombudsman's Secretariat General was official inaugurated on 2nd July 2013 and effectively commenced performance of its functions as of that date.

1718. To amend the decree establishing the NSA to ensure that the organization is an intelligence gathering agency without law enforcement and arrest authorities. The NSA should also have an independent office of inspector general to carry out the same internal "ombudsman" functions mentioned above with respect to the MoI. Legislation should be adopted to provide that even during the application of a State of National Safety the arrest of persons should be in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- Legislative Decree No. 115 of 2011 was issued to amend certain provisions of Law No. 14 of 2002 to establish the National Security Agency (NSA). The NSA's functions were limited to intelligence and information gathering only, without any arrest authority.
- Royal Decree No. 28 of 2012 was issued to establish an independent Inspector General's Office and Professional Standards Office at the NSA.

1719. To adopt legislative measures requiring the Attorney-General to investigate claims of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to use independent forensic experts. Such procedures should guarantee the safety of those raising such claims. Furthermore, the legislation should provide for remedies for any person claiming retribution for having raised a claim of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- As an immediate response to this recommendation, the Cabinet, in its session of 8th January 2012, approved legislative amendments giving the Attorney General exclusive authority to investigate allegations of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and to protect individuals against any acts of vengeance caused by the filing of the case of torture, cruel or inhuman treatment.
- In the Government of Bahrain's efforts to ensure that the perpetrators of all forms of torture do not escape justice, Law No. 52 of 2012 was issued on 9th October 2012 amending the definition of torture as contained in the provisions of Articles 208 and 232 of the Penal Code, with the new provision of Article 208 making it a crime to inflict severe pain or severe suffering, whether physical or psychological, on a detained person by or under the control of a public servant in order to obtain information, extract confession, punish, intimidate, or coerce him or another person. The amendment also emphasized that the statute of limitation does not apply to crimes of torture. As for Article 232, the amendment including punishment of each person who inflicts severe pain or severe suffering, whether physical or psychological, on a detained person by or under the control of a public servant in order to obtain information, extract confession, punish, intimidate, or coerce him or another person. The amendment also emphasized that the statute of limitation does not apply to crimes of torture.
- The draft amendment of the last paragraph of Article 273 makes the threat accompanied by a request or assignment to prevent or influence a person's testimony before the investigative authority or courts an aggravating circumstance.
- Law No. 50 of 2012 was issued on 9 October 2012 adding Article 22 bis to the Law of Criminal Procedure, which allows a person who alleges that an act of vengeance was committed against him/her because of a previous allegation he/she had made for being subjected to torture or another form of harsh, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to civil litigation against the accused while evidence is being gathered, during investigation, or while the criminal case is being tried, whatever the case may be until a decision is made to close arguments, if such

vengeance constitutes a crime. If the vengeance takes a form which does not constitute a punishable crime, civil courts shall have jurisdiction.

- On hearing and protecting witnesses, experts and victims, Law No. 53 of 2012 was issued on 9 October 2012 to amend the provisions of Articles 115, 214 and 234, and to add Articles 81 bis, 82 Paragraph 3, 127 bis, 223 bis, and 223 bis (a). These amendments provide appropriate procedures and guarantees to protect witnesses, experts and victims and ensure their safety and that they are not influenced whether during or after investigations and trials.
- At the Public Prosecution, there are already two rooms equipped with the technical equipment needed for audio and visual recording; moreover, an agreement has been signed with a German company to install the needed equipment at 60 more rooms. Such agreement will facilitate the recording of all investigations and using these rooms in providing witness protection as required by the aforementioned amendments in the Code of Criminal Procedures.
- On arrest and detention procedures, the Government requested an amendment of the provisions of Articles 147, 148 and 149 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission prepared a draft law to amend Article 147 by reducing the lower court's right to provisional detention to a period, or successive periods, not exceeding 30 days, while it was previously 45 days, and such that each period of provisional detention does not exceed 15 days. The draft also provided for amending Article 148 by reducing the detention period by the High Criminal Court to a period, or successive periods, not exceeding 30 days each, while it was previously 45 days. On Article 149, a provision was added giving the accused who is provisionally detailed the right to file grievance to the Public Prosecutor, then to the Senior Public Prosecutor, then to the Attorney General if his/her application for release is denied by Public Prosecution.
- In addition, and with the Government of Bahrain's recognition of the importance of enforcing relevant international conventions at the national level, the Kingdom's delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Council, in its session held in

September 2012, emphasized that the Kingdom is seriously considering the signing of the Istanbul Protocol appended to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). In acknowledgment, the Commission of the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees was established to monitor the conditions of detention and ensure that none of the inmates or detainees is subjected to any form of torture, harsh or inhuman treatment.

1720. To make subject to review in ordinary courts all convictions and sentences rendered by the National Security Courts where fundamental principles of a fair trial, including prompt and full access to legal counsel and inadmissibility of coerced testimony, were not respected be subject to full review in the ordinary courts.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- The Supreme Judicial Council formed a judicial committee to review all rulings rendered by the National Safety courts. It should be mentioned that the BICI report provided for the review of rulings only, not all cases. However, this committee reviewed all cases which were considered by the National Safety courts, irrespective of what ruling was rendered or the actual stage of the trial. This resulted in retrials of 135 cases out of 165 actually ruled on by courts.
- Royal Decree No. 62 of 2011 was issued referring outstanding cases from the National Safety Courts to ordinary courts.
- Legislative Decree No. 28 of 2011 was issued in respect of National Safety cases, granting ordinary courts jurisdiction over all misdemeanor cases and their related appeals which were not finally determined by National Safety Courts. Public Prosecution and the convict were also granted the right to appeal sentences issued by National Safety Courts before the High Criminal Court of Appeals. In addition, this Decree gave the National Safety Court of Appeals jurisdiction to decide on appeals of criminal sentences issued by National Safety Courts of First Instance,

where appeals were started before the date on which the provisions of that law went into effect.

1721. The paragraphs below contain recommendations more specific to particular subject matters mentioned therein. However, there are a number of these recommendations that are also relevant to other issues addressed in other paragraphs.

1722. The Commission makes the following recommendations with regard to *the use of force, arrest, treatment of persons in custody, detention and prosecution in connection with the freedom of expression, assembly and association.*

- (a) To conduct effective investigations in accordance with the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions of all the deaths that have been attributed to the security forces. Likewise, all allegations of torture and similar treatment be investigated by an independent and impartial body, following the Istanbul Principles. The investigation of both types of alleged violation should be capable of leading to the prosecution of the implicated individuals, both direct and at all levels of responsibility, with a view to ensuring that punishment be consistent with the gravity of the offence.

Implementation of the recommendation is being carried out. The Special Unit is following up investigations in order to conclude the remaining complaints within the shortest time possible.

- On 27 February 2012, Attorney General's Resolution No. 8 of 2012 was issued to establish the Special Investigations Unit, charged with determining the criminal liability of government officials who committed illegal acts resulting in murder, torture, injury or abuse, including officials in leadership positions, under the standards of superior responsibility. The Special Investigations Unit shall be responsible for all cases arising out of the events of 2011 as contained in the BICI

report, in addition to any other case as the Attorney General may deem appropriate to refer to the Unit for any reason whatsoever.

- Appendix 1 of the BICI Report cites 35 deaths fell under its jurisdiction as well as 11 other cases beyond its jurisdiction in terms of the time of their occurrence. In order to emphasize full commitment to necessary investigation of all death cases which have occurred and determine whether they are or are not related to last year's events, SIU gave significant attention to all 46 death cases, in addition to those which were not reported, or which were described on social media outlets, or deaths of police officers and non-Bahraini residents, which were not mentioned in non-governmental reports.
- SIU commenced investigation of all cases of deaths referred to it, and interviewed individuals who reported the incidents, and witnesses, if any. The judicial police was also assigned to conduct required investigations of the circumstances of the incidents. The medical examiner was also asked to perform forensic examination to determine the causes, circumstances and injuries.
- On allegations of torture and mistreatment, on Feb 2012, SIU received from the Ministry of Interior (118 cases) and the National Security Agency (4 cases), all complaints involving allegations of torture or any forms of abuse made against the personnel of those two agencies. The complainants were interviewed. The Unit also received other complaints, in addition to the aforementioned cases, related to claims subsequent to the date of the BICI Report. The Unit started investigation of all those allegations of torture and mistreatment from the beginning of the events of February 2011 to date, whether those officially reported, or those reported in web sites and social media web sites. The Unit also began on its own, without receiving an official report, to summon all convicts serving prison sentences in the case of the conspiracy to overthrow the government and the medical staff cases, and to ask them whether they were subjected to any form of torture or mistreatment. A number of those convicts refused to give statements, while the others were asked to give statements in this respect.

- To emphasize the importance of punishing offenders in all cases, the Unit also started – on its own – investigating cases known to it, which were referred to in Paragraph 1182 of the BICI report.
- The Unit interrogated the accused in most of the aforementioned complaints, and referred most of the complainants to the medical examiner for examination and determination of injuries, circumstances and causes, and to what extent they match the complaints filed. Many cases were referred to psychological evaluation as required. The Unit also ordered its judicial police unit to conduct investigations to determine the circumstances and conjectures of those incidents.
- In total, SIU has referred 39 cases to courts of law including 95 defendants; 13 of them been convicted while 15 have been acquitted. A total of 25 cases are still before the courts.
- In Public Prosecution’s concern with implementing consistent government methods for full, effective and transparent implementation of the recommendations, Public Prosecution, in the periodic reports issued by the Special Investigations Unit, pleaded with citizens at large that it is necessary to approach the Unit directly at the head office of Public Prosecution or at any district prosecution office, to file any reports of this kind for investigation in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention Against Torture and the Istanbul Protocol.
- To safeguard the rights of detainees and prisoners, SIU investigators periodically visit detention centers and prisons to inspect all facilities, including medical clinics and mess halls. To assess the health conditions of inmates who suffer any medical conditions, investigators meet with inmates, listen to them, record their complaints and discuss them with detention center and prison management, directing the immediate remedy of causes of complaint.
- Periodic reports issued by the Unit show that there were a number of challenges the team is facing, foremost among which is the large number of complaints and reports filed, the inadequate cooperation of some complainants with the Unit, and the

refusal of some complainants to be interviewed by the Unit to give statements. As a result, investigations are hampered. Nevertheless, Public Prosecution, out of full commitment to comply with international and regional standards of human rights and criminal justice, will continue to investigate all cases to reach the truth and punish violators of human rights on Bahraini soil.

- In implementing the BICI Recommendations on superior responsibility for crimes committed, the Unit commenced its investigations in this respect. Investigations included high ranking officials, up to the rank of brigadier general. Investigations are still undergoing, and will be concluded in accordance with applicable Bahraini laws.

(b) To establish a standing independent body to examine all complaints of torture or ill-treatment, excessive use of force or other abuses at the hands of the authorities. The burden of proving that treatment complies with the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment should be on the State.

This recommendation was implemented in full. As pointed out in Recommendations 1716 and 1719, legislative and executive actions were taken to create the Special Investigations Unit at Public Prosecution, and to ensure treatment in compliance with the rules of prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.

(c) To implement an extensive program of public order training for the public security forces, the NSA and the BDF, including their private security companies, in accordance with UN best practices. To ensure future compliance with the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, the security forces should be trained in the human rights dimensions of detention and interrogation, and in particular the obligation to refuse to participate in any actions involving torture and other prohibited ill-treatment.

This recommendation was implemented in full. At this time, several training programs are in progress in light of the fact that enhancing capabilities is a continuous process exceeding what is provided in the BICI report.

- The Ministry of Interior highly emphasizes practical and field training for all officers and personnel. A broad training programme was organized starting January 2012, under which training courses were conducted, mainly:
 - a) Courses in the field of rules of public order, with the participation of 428 officers and 3,027 personnel.
 - b) Courses in Bahrain on guarantees of the rights of the accused, with the participation of 44 officers and 126 personnel.
 - c) Courses in competency development, with the participation of 170 officers and 401 personnel.
 - d) Courses on human rights delivered abroad in coordination with the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (ISISC) in Syracuse, Italy, with the participation of 94 officers.
 - e) Courses on human rights at the Academy with the participation of 140 officers and 618 personnel.

- A draft Ministerial Resolution was prepared by the Ministry on the approval of the rules of use of force and firearms, to be presented to the Cabinet for ratification. It shall be circulated, published and trained on upon ratification by the Cabinet.

- In recognition of the foregoing and the sincere efforts which were expended, the very positive achievements actually made should be commended. All reports show a dramatic decrease in the numbers of deaths and injuries in clashes between police officers and saboteurs who execute daily attacks on police officers and personnel, resulting over the past two years in 8 deaths and 2,300 injuries among police officers. Some of those injuries are very serious and involved amputations in some cases.

- On the second part of the recommendation related to ensuring that the conduct of police officers is in compliance with international best practices, Ministerial Resolution No. (14) Of 2012 was issued to approve the Police Code of Conduct and it was included in training and education curricular. It was also circulated to all Ministry of Interior departments for implementation. All police officers and personnel were trained on it.
- This resulted in receiving many commendations from the international experts whom appointed at the Ministry of Interior. To sum, at this time, police officers in the Kingdom of Bahrain are highly disciplined and abide by international standards and best practices in the use of force without excess when dealing with the events Bahrain is currently witnessing.

(d) To avoid detention without prompt access to lawyers and without access to the outside world for more than two or three days. In any event, all detention should be subject to effective monitoring by an independent body. Moreover, every person arrested should be given a copy of the arrest warrant and no person should be held incommunicado. Arrested persons should have access to their legal counsel and family visits in the same way as any person detained under the Bahrain Code of Criminal Procedure.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- In addition to the role of the Ministry of Interior in protecting the rights of detainees and prisoners, all prisons and detention centers are under effective judicial supervision to ensure the protection of the rights of prisoners and detainees. Members of the Special Investigations Unit of the Public Prosecution visit prisons and detention centers to examine various complaints received by the Unit.
- The Ministry of Interior also collaborates with many international organizations to visit prisons and detention centers and provide feedback. These organizations include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). An ICRC delegation visited prisons and submitted a report to the Ministry of Interior. The ICRC also

collaborates in training Bahraini staff this field in order to enhance competencies and raise the national standards.

- On the efforts being expended by the Ministry of Interior, on 22nd December 2011, the Minister of Interior issued a resolution containing new procedures requiring any detainees (and the arresting officer) to sign a document providing for the following rights of detainees:
 - a) An arrest warrant shall be presented.
 - b) Prompt communication with their attorneys shall be ensured.
 - c) Allowing detainees family visits in accordance with Bahrain's Code of Criminal Procedures.
- This list is electronic and maintained in a central network. It will be examined at any time by officials.
- The Ministry of Interior has developed a unified electronic program named "The Unified Criminal System (Najm) in which all cases, data, detainee visits and information on deposited effects are input. All information contained in the program are protected and cannot be tampered with.
- The Ministry of Interior signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Committee of the Red Cross on 8th December 2011. The International Committee of the Red Cross will visit all detention centers. Advice and assistance will be provided to the Ministry of Interior in its reform and rehabilitation efforts.
- A New detention center was opened in January 2012 at the Dry Dock Prison. This will serve as a center to detain all persons accused of crimes who are yet to be sentenced. The Ministry of Interior's Inspector General will oversee this Center until its management is transferred to an agency outside the Ministry of Interior in due course as recommended by legal experts.

- On 13 September 2012, a Royal Decree was issued to reorganize the National Institution of Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Standards. The functions of the Institution include supervision of detention centers.
- The Ministry of Justice received last January and April a delegation from the Inspectorate of Prisons of the United Kingdom, who visited the prisons and met with the officials concerned at the Ministry of Interior, the Inspector General's Office, the National Institution of Human Rights and the Supreme Judicial Council.

(e) The Commission recommends that the GoB establish urgently, and implement vigorously, a programme for the integration into the security forces of personnel from all the communities in Bahrain.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- In the Ministry's efforts to adopt a policy founded on justice and social partnership, and in order to absorb all citizens without discrimination, in compliance with applicable standards for employment in security jobs, such as health and physical fitness, personal and acceptance testing, and the required educational qualification, the Ministry took the following steps towards implementing this policy:
 - a) An employment plan was developed to absorb all sectors of the Bahraini society;
 - b) Advertisements were run in daily newspapers announcing the requirement for hiring Bahraini citizens at the Ministry from all sectors of the society, and from all governorates;
 - c) 2,324 applications were received from job seekers;
 - d) The Ministry formed two committees, one to interview male applicants, and the other to interview female applicants;

- e) The Ministry hired 577 Bahraini citizens of both sects, chosen from all segments of society and from various governorates (subject to applicable legal conditions).
- Subsequently, 134 female and 443 male recruits, a total of 577, were hired as a first batch towards achieving the target requirement. These persons will be inducted through the training program prepared for this purpose by Ministry experts. They will perform their police work in all Ministry departments, each where assigned. This group will also have all the authority and functions of security officers as stipulated by Law, similar to other public security forces personnel, with duties of law enforcement and keeping public order. They also have the judicial arrest authority, being judicial officers concerned with investigating crimes, searching for perpetrators, gathering evidence as required in the course of the investigation, and acting in cases. They will perform those functions after completing their training program, and they will assist their colleagues in performing police work.
 - In addition, the functions of this group will include strengthening the social partnership in the Bahraini society, with positive effects on reduction of crimes, building confidence between security forces and members of society, promoting the security culture in society to best serve the society, ensure its stability and protect it from the perils of ignorance which lead to crime. This can be achieved by strengthening effective social partnership between the police and society, and by communicating and sharing with all sects of society to closely assess security needs and develop joint efforts to develop the sense of security and protect against crime

(f) To train the judiciary and prosecutorial personnel on the need to ensure that their activities contribute to the prevention and eradication of torture and ill-treatment.

Implementation of this recommendation has started. The training and enhancement of competencies process is ongoing year-round.

- To complement the efforts of the Kingdom to support and develop its judicial authority, the Government of Bahrain continues to give special attention to the

subject. More than half of the judiciary received over the past two years extensive training in subjects of special importance, particularly the protection of human rights in criminal procedure, and international and regional standards of criminal justice and human rights. The Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council, in collaboration with world renowned organizations, such as the Slynn Foundation of the United Kingdom, the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, and the United Kingdom's Inspectorate of Prisons, communicated with the aim of developing and enhancing the competencies of judges and public prosecutors in the field of protection of basic human rights of individuals in criminal procedures. Furthermore, the National School of Government International (NSGI) is providing a resident expert on case management.

- The work process at the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute is currently under review with the aim of developing the institute and training curricula it provides to members of the judiciary and new lawyers.
- In March 2012, the Government also signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the International Institute for Higher studies in Criminal Sciences, of Italy, aimed at providing technical assistance to their members of the judiciary, through a number of training sessions in the fields of protection of human rights, the international and regional mechanisms concerned with criminal justice, human rights and the independence of the judicial authority. The agreement also provided for conducting a number of field visits to international judicial agencies active in the field of protection of human rights in Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany and Austria.
- In implementation of the Agreement, four training courses were provided in collaboration with the Institute in Syracuse, Italy. The first course was conducted over the period from 1 to 21 May 2012, while the second was held during the period from 28 June to 18 July 2012, the third during the period from 3 to 23 October 2012, and the fourth during the period from 22 September to 14 October 2013. Eighty judges and members of Public Prosecution participated in these courses. They all received intensive theoretical training at the headquarters of the Institute for a period of 10 days, during which they met with a select group of Arab and international

experts in the fields of human rights, criminal justice, international human law, and international criminal law. They also visited a number of law enforcement agencies in South Italy. Subsequently, they conducted a field tour of a number of European capitals to visit national and international judicial agencies and meet with their counterparts, including the headquarters of Public Prosecution, Supreme Court, and Crime Detection and Forensic Science Directorate in Rome, Italy, United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, and the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, the European Court of Human Rights and Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the Colmar Court of Appeals in France, the Public Prosecution in Berlin, the Constitutional Court and High Court in the State of Berlin, and the Head Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, Austria.

- On the other hand, and in order to develop judicial inspection and ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of courts, the Director of Judicial Inspections and a female judge in a workshop held at the headquarters of Dubai Courts on 18 and 19 September 2012 under the patronage of Dubai Courts and in coordination of the United Nations Regional Office in Abu Dhabi. Discussions addressed the development of the judicial system in Bahrain. A judicial delegation also participated in a second workshop on the same subject in Cairo in November 2012 in collaboration of the Judicial Inspections Directorate. This was followed by a visit the Director of Judicial Inspection of the Kingdom of Bahrain, with a roundtable meeting held with member judges of the Judicial Inspection Directorate for a period of two days.
- In addition, the Supreme Judicial Council expresses great interest in enhancing the competencies and abilities of judges in all fields of contemporary criminal sciences. Judges are continuously delegated to participate in training seminars abroad. A large number of judges and members of Public Prosecution participated over the past six months in many conferences and symposia held in the United Kingdom, Qatar, Thailand, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

- On in house training in the Kingdom, and in addition to regular training sessions organized by the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute, Public Prosecution, received over the past year, a large group of international experts from Germany, Morocco and Egypt. They met with members of Public Prosecution and judges in a series of extended workshops addressing protection of basic rights of individuals and national and international standards of criminal justice.
- Ministry of Justice also hosts for several years now a team of international experts from the American Bar Association (ABA) Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI). The Ministry has allocated a permanent office for this team of experts at the Ministry's headquarters, and works with them on a daily and ongoing basis on many legal and judicial issues. To further fruitful and effective cooperation with the ABA ROLI initiative, the team of experts submitted a study containing an assessment of the institutional capabilities and greater independence of courts in Bahrain. The report also contained significant recommendations to enhance the capabilities of the judicial system in the Kingdom.
- The initiative was also submitted by a team of legal experts consisting of two members who assessed action taken by the judicial authority in the field of supervision of detention centers and prisons. The two experts filed a report containing recommendations for the development of Public Prosecution's Investigations Unit in this area. An agreement is currently being discussed on the forms of assistance to be provided through this initiative in the training of judges, members of Public Prosecution and the Special Investigations Unit in the field of inspection of detention centers and prisons, in addition to the Special Investigations Unit.
- On the enhancement of the capabilities of defense lawyers, the initiative is currently being implemented with the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute to develop training programs for defense lawyers in the protection of the rights of the accused, and the skills required to guarantee those rights. The initiative will provide assistance in applying these curricula through advanced training seminars delivered by international criminal lawyers. For this purpose, a United Kingdom expert held last

month a series of meetings with entities concerned to obtain information on defense of the rights of the accused.

- On the support and development of the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute, the initiative currently provides support in development training programs covering best international and local practices for judges and members of Public Prosecution, each separately. These programs focus on the fundamentals of a fair trial, and the role of members of Public Prosecution and judges in the protection of the rights of the accused. This program will be mandatory and ongoing for all nominees for judgeship and membership of Public Prosecution. The initiative will also provide assistance in securing international experts to deliver these courses, in addition to local expertise. On May 2013, the former Attorney General of New South Wales, Australia held a series of meetings with departments concerned to assess the needs of Public Prosecution to enable him to design appropriate training programs. The initiative is currently working on arranging for an international judge to visit the Kingdom and design training courses for judges.
- The initiative also sponsored the Conference of GCC Judicial Institutions held on 16 and 17 September 2012. The conference addressed a number of important subjects, mainly the use of new technologies, effective use of training techniques and the management of Institute staff.
- The initiative also organized a roundtable meeting in mid June 2013, with the participation of the Supreme Judicial Council, on the roles and functions of the Council and the Council's General Secretariat in light of the amendments of the judicial authority law granting financial and administrative independence to the judicial authority. The roundtable was attended by judges and members of judicial councils from The Netherlands, Morocco, United States of America, Slovenia and Sweden.
- Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice initiated a plan to expand the judicial and legal training in Bahrain through establishing a new center aiming to provide quality training to all Bahraini professionals working in the judicial and legal fields as well

as other law enforcement agencies operating in the Kingdom. The new center expects to be operating in early 2014

(g) There should be audiovisual recording of all official interviews with detained persons.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- In implementing recommendation No. 1722 (g) on the necessity of providing audiovisual recordings of all official interviews with detainees, the Directorate General of Crime Detection and Forensic Science, police departments and precincts were provided with audiovisual recording rooms. 26 audiovisual recording rooms were provided. In addition, 18 rooms were allocated for detainees to meet with their lawyers with complete privacy. All those rooms are ready for use. In addition, interview rooms were provided at the Royal Police Academy for training and educational purposes.

(h) To review convictions and commute sentences of all persons charged with offences involving political expression, not consisting of advocacy of violence, or, as the case may be, to drop outstanding charges against them.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- To emphasize the necessity of providing full protection for citizens' right of expression, a new article (69 bis) was added to the Penal Code, stipulating that interpretation of restrictions on the right to freedom of expression under the Penal Code, or under any other Law, shall be within the necessary framework of a democratic society. The provision also emphasized that it is a justifiable excuse from punishment to practice the right of freedom of expression within that framework. To acknowledge this action, and before the ratification of the amendments, Public Prosecution dropped all charges involving the right to freedom of expression in 334 cases. As a result, all charges against 334 of the accused were dropped.

- Amendments also included placing restrictions on the application of Article 168 of the Penal Code which provides for punishment for publishing false news, stipulating as a condition that the act must be intentional, and must have undermined national security and public order or caused harm to public health. The new amendment also required that such act must have resulted in harm. On undermining national security, the amendment stipulated that it is necessary that the act is related to inciting violence, or may incite violence, and that there must be a direct link between that act and between the occurrence, or possible occurrence, of that violence.
- In line with the foregoing, Public Prosecution also dropped all charges related to freedom of expression made against members of the medical staff, while the case was being deliberated by the High Criminal Court of Appeals. This was acknowledged by the Court in its ruling on that case, and confirmed by the Court of Cassation.

<p>(i) To commute the death sentence imposed for murder arising out of the events of February/March 2011, in the light of the preference of Article 6 of the ICCPR for the abolition of the death penalty and the concerns regarding the fairness of trials conducted by the National Safety Court.</p>

No final death sentence was issued to date in any of the cases related to the 2011 events.

<p>(j) To compensate and provide remedies for the families of the deceased victims in a manner that is commensurate with the gravity of their loss. In this connection, the Commission welcomes the Royal Decree Law N0. 30 of 2011 for the establishment of the National Fund for the Reparation of Victims on 22 September 2011.</p>
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<p>(k) To compensate and provide remedies for all victims of torture, ill-treatment or prolonged incommunicado detention. In this connection, the Commission welcomes the Royal Decree Law N0. 30 of 2011 for the establishment of the National Fund for the Reparation of Victims on 22 September 2011.</p>
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This recommendation was implemented. All death cases were compensated. The Ministry of Justice has started payment of compensations in cases involving injury.

- As part of national reconciliation, and in implementation of Recommendation 1725 (b) and Recommendation 1722 (j) and (k), and in the efforts of the Government of Bahrain to find settlement alternatives for the claimants with the quickest processes possible, the Civil Settlement Initiative as adopted based on a proposal made by the National Commission which was formed to follow up of implementation of the recommendations, without prejudice to the right of the claimants who do not accept the proposed settlement to file civil litigation, and notwithstanding any criminal liability.
- In light of the foregoing, the Government of Bahrain took several effective measures. Ministry of Justice, on the basis of the resolution of the Cabinet, in its session held on 4 March 2012, to authorize the Ministry to commence civil settlement proceedings in order to compensate claimants injured during the events of February and March 2011, starting receiving civil settlement applications as of 18 March 2012. The Civil Settlement Office received a total of 48 applications for compensation for deaths, in addition to 421 applications for compensation for injuries.
- The concerned committee at the Ministry of Justice reviewed applications for compensation for deaths and injury. The Civil settlement office proceeded to compensate 39 cases, including 35 cases cited in the BICI report, as well as 4 other cases which were not cited in the report, but were, in the Committee's opinion, eligible to compensation. The compensation budget was approved in two phases, with a total of BD 2,340,000, or over US \$ 6,200,000 for the two phases and for all cases which the Committee approved for compensation. Payments were made to eligible recipients who accepted the civil settlement in full.
- On cases of injuries, the Committee commenced review of applications filed with the Civil Settlement Office, totaling 421 applications for compensation, where the applicants alleged are related to the events. The Committee reviewed those applications to determine eligibility for compensations. A total of 193 cases were selected as first phase, and the Committee has referred them to the medical examiner

to show the percentage disability resulting from the injury, if any, and in accordance with applicable procedures followed by the courts of Bahrain in relation to such cases, and for the purpose of estimating the value of civil settlement payable in each case.

- The medical examiners panel, having completed its assignment, filed a detailed medical report on each case it examined, and found as follows:
 1. 38 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 1%
 2. 16 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 2%
 3. 12 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 3%
 4. 13 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 5%
 5. 3 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 6%
 6. 3 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 7%
 7. 1 case resulted in a permanent disability of 9%
 8. 17 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 10%
 9. 1 case resulted in a permanent disability of 13%
 10. 14 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 15%
 11. 10 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 20%
 12. 5 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 25%
 13. 1 case resulted in a permanent disability of 28%
 14. 3 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 30%
 15. 11 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 35%
 16. 2 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 40%
 17. 2 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 45%

18. 1 case resulted in a permanent disability of 48%
 19. 2 cases resulted in a permanent disability of 60%
 20. 1 case resulted in a permanent disability of 90%
 21. 1 case resulted in a permanent disability of 100%
 22. 36 cases did not result in any permanent disability.
- Work is currently nearing completion to assess the value of civil settlement in each case separately based on the aforementioned percentage of permanent disability, subject to the discretion of courts in this respect. These will be offered to the injured to provide required funds for the first phase of the civil settlement related to bodily injuries.

1723. The Commission makes the following recommendations with regard to *demolition of religious structures, termination of employees of public and private sectors, dismissal of students and termination of their scholarships.*

- (a) To ensure that the remaining dismissed employees have not been dismissed because of the exercise of their right to freedom of expression, opinion, association or assembly.
- (b) To use all its powers to ensure that public corporations and other employers who dismissed employees for failure to appear for work at the time of the demonstrations treat them in a way that is at least equal to that provided by the GoB to civil servants.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- In light of recommendation No. 1723 (a) and (b), and as directed by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, to reinstate all dismissed workers to their previous jobs, if not convicted of any criminal acts, or if there are no cases

pending against them with Public Prosecution or in the courts of law. To answer His Majesty's call to spread the spirit of compassion, tolerance and protection of the rights and interests of all workers under the rule of law, the Kingdom of Bahrain successfully and distinctly resolved this issue, and the vast majority of dismissed workers were reinstated to their previous jobs in various sectors and companies.

- The three parties of the production process, including representatives of workers, employers and various stakeholders, contributed to the implementation of the royal directives, and the agreement reached with the International Labor Organization (ILO), and in particular the tripartite agreement signed in the Kingdom of Bahrain on 11 March 2012.
- Joint efforts recently succeeded in minimizing the number of those cases through reconciliatory resolutions, as the majority of entities concerned were able to fully reinstate and reintegrate 100% of their workers.
- ILO delegation who visited Bahrain early October 2012, with the participation and consent of all stakeholders, reported that the percentage reinstatement on the issue of dismissed workers had reached 92% at the time. Following settlement of many outstanding and disputed cases, the percentage reinstatement rose at present to over 98.68%.
- In large companies, dismissal cases totaled 1,765. Percentage reinstatement reached 100% in all entities, with the exception of two companies. Some individual cases, a total of 12, remained outstanding as managements of companies have opted, for administrative and legal reasons, to resolve them through the courts.
- On the 45 cases remaining in a large company due to incompatibility of offered position, some of the workers recently returned to their jobs. As for the remaining workers, an independent consultant was recently engaged to review and resolve incompatibilities between offered and previous jobs which the dismissed workers occupied. The company agreed to comply with the consultant's recommendation, and the Ministry hopes that this will contribute to the resolution of this issue.

- On the subject of dismissed workers from small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which are fully owned by the private sector, although some of those SMEs closed down due to financial difficulties, downsized their businesses, or hired replacements of workers who were absent from work, and could not reinstate them, the Ministry of Labor, in collaboration with stakeholders, succeeded to date in resolving 500 out of 640 cases, by reinstating workers to their previous jobs, or by appointing them to suitable positions. The remaining 140 cases are broken down as follows:

(Table showing details of outstanding cases)

Case	Number
Workers on temporary employment contract who do not wish to be reinstated to their jobs, claiming financial compensation only, and their settlements are in process	9
Workers who obtained commercial registrations and are conducting business activity as “businesspersons”	11
Workers whose terminations, in the opinion of the legal committee concerned, are not related to the events, and their cases are being reviewed in accordance with customary procedures	26
Cases under follow up by the Ministry of Labor to be nominated for, and hired by other enterprises, at their request and with their consent.	94
Total	140

- The overview of actual outstanding or pending dismissed workers cases as aforementioned, shows that this issue was settled, thanks to royal directives, government effort and cooperation of all stakeholders. The Government will continue to expend efforts to remedy any individual cases which remain unsettled to date, taking into consideration that workers and employers should be more flexible and cooperative in order to settle those outstanding cases. If a settlement

cannot be reached, the parties may resort to courts for resolution of disputed affairs and cases which cannot be amicably settled.

(c) To reinstate all students who have not been criminally charged with an act of violence and to put in place a procedure whereby students who were expelled on legitimate grounds may apply for reinstatement after a reasonable period of time, and to adopt clear and fair standards for disciplinary measures against students and to ensure that they are applied in a fair and impartial manner.

This recommendation was implemented in full.

- This recommendation received extreme attention from His Majesty before the issue of the BICI Report. His Majesty ordered the return of all of his children, the students, to educational institutions. In accordance with the Royal Directives, over 80% of the students were returned to schools and universities before the issue of the BICI Report in November 2011. The remaining students were all reinstated without waiting for the results of the investigations or trials of some of them for committing felonies.

(d) To follow up on the statement by HM King Hamad to the effect that the GoB will consider rebuilding, at its expense, some of the demolished religious structures in accordance with administrative regulations.

The implementation of this recommendation has started. Building activities are in progress at all sites as shown in the attached tables.

- In accordance with royal directives, and in order to complete follow up of work on places of worship, and in coordination with all stakeholders as well as the Jaafari Endowments Administration, and subject to applicable laws and regulations and the BICI Report recommendation which specified that there are five sites which were properly allocated, work started on the construction of those five sites. Work has also started to correct the status of all unlicensed sites which were found to be in violation and used as mosques and places of worship, as cited in the BICI report.

- The final phase included amendment of the status of certain mosques overlapping private and public properties by allocated five mosque sites in Tubli, Sitra, Sanad and Nowaidrat, which overlap private properties. Moreover, four alternative mosques were allocated in lieu of the nine mosques in Nowaidrat and Hoorat Sanad, at close proximities from each other. The status of Emir Mohamed Al Barbaghi Mosque on Khalifa bin Salman Main Road in Salmabad and Ain Rastan Mosque in Aali were corrected commensurate with the approved urban plan of the area.
- Although the BICI Report has concluded in Paragraph 1329 that “the Commission has inspected thirty places of worship, and found that Royal orders and building permits were issued for five of them only, and that all of the other places of worship are in violation of Royal Decree No. 19 of 2002”, and in light of Recommendation No. 1723(2) which states “follow up of the statement of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa on the Government’s reconstruction of certain religious installations subject to administrative regulations, at the expense of the state”, and as the Government is keen to expedite the implementation of Royal Directives, it has approved and allocated a total budget of BD 3,004,715 (Three Million Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Bahraini Dinars), equivalent to US \$ 7,948,980 (Seven Million Nine Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eight United States Dollars) to build places of worship legally after correcting their legal status. The final completion of all projects will be in December 2014, not 2018, as shown in the following table:

Sites Listed in the BICI Report				
No.	Mosque	Area	Status as per Report	Action
1	Imam Ali Mosque	Zayed Town	Compliant	Already Built
2	Om Al Baneen Mosque	Hamad Town	Compliant	Already Built
3	Imam Ali Mosque	Sadad	Compliant	Already Built
4	Imam Al Hadi Mosque	Nowaidrat / Hoorat Sanad	In Violation	Already Built

5	Imam Al Baqer Mosque	Nowaiderat / Hoorat Sanad	In Violation	Already Built
6	Imam Al Hussein Mosque	Salmabad	In Violation	Already Built
7	Salman Al Farsi Mosque (installation)	Nowaiderat / Hoorat Sanad	In Violation	Already Built
8	Imam Al Sadeq Mosque (installation)	Nowaiderat / Hoorat Sanad	In Violation	Already Built
9	Sheikh Yousef Mosque (Installation)	Nowaiderat / Hoorat Sanad	In Violation	Already Built
10	Imam Al Jawad Mosque (Installation)	Nowaiderat / Hoorat Sanad	In Violation	Already Built

Sites Listed in the BICI Report				
(Projects with Action in Progress)				
No.	Mosque	Area	Status as per Report	Action
1	Al Rasool Al Aatham Mosque	Hamad Town	In Violation	Under Construction
2	Imam Al Hadi Mosque	Hamad Town	Compliant	Under Construction
3	Imam Al Sadeq Mosque	Salmabad	In Violation	Under Construction
4	Imam Al Jawad Mosque	Hamad Town	In Violation	Under Construction
5	Al Baqee Mosque	Hamad Town	In Violation	Under Construction
6	Imam Al Sajjad Mosque	Hamad Town	In Violation	Under Construction
7	Abu Taleb Mosque	Hamad Town	In Violation	Under Construction

Sites Listed in the BICI Report				
(Tender Board)				
No.	Mosque	Area	Status as per Report	Action
1	Fatimat Al Zahra Mosque	Zayed Town	Compliant	Tender Board
2	Al Abed Mosque	Sitra	In Violation	Tender Board
3	Kowaikebat Mosque	Koora	In Violation	Tender Board
4	Ain Rastan Mosque	Sheikh Zayed Road / Aali	In Violation	Tender Board
5	Fadaq Al Zahra Mosque	Hamad Town	In Violation	Tender Board
6	Salman Al Mohammadi Mosque	Hamad Town	In Violation	Tender Board
7	Al Dowairah Mosque	Nowaiderat / Hoorat Sanad	In Violation	Tender Board
8	Momen Mosque	Nowaiderat / Hoorat Sanad	In Violation	Tender Board
9	Alwatiah Mosque	Moqabah	In Violation	Tender Board
10	Imam Al Askari Mosque	Hamad Town	In Violation	Tender Board
11	Mohamed Al Barbaghi Mosque	Aali	In Violation	Tender Board

Sites Listed in the BICI Report				
(Performed by Jaafari Endowments)				
No.	Mosque	Area	Status as per Report	Action
1	Al Watyah Mosque (Shrine)	Mahooz	In Violation	Jaafari Endowments

Sites Listed in the BICI Report				
(Work in Progress to Modify Status)				
No.	Mosque	Area	Status as per Report	Action
1	Abu Tharr Al Ghaffari Mosque	Nowaiderat / Hoorat Sanad	In Violation	In progress to modify status

1724. The Commission makes the following recommendations with regard to *media incitement issues*:

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| (a) | To consider relaxing censorship and allowing the opposition greater access to television broadcasts, radio broadcasts and print media. The continuing failure to provide opposition groups with an adequate voice in the national media risks further polarising the political and ethnic divide. |
| (b) | To establish professional standards for the media and other forms of publications that contain an ethical code and an enforcement mechanism, designed to uphold ethical and professional standards in order to avoid incitement to hatred, violence and intolerance, without prejudice to internationally protected rights of freedom of expression. |

The implementation of the recommendation has started. Required technical assistance is currently being sought from international organizations and institutions.

- The Government of Bahrain has, since the issuance of the BICI Report, worked on the preparation of a new Media and Communication draft law, expressly based, in addition to the Constitution, on the International Declaration of Human Rights issued by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948, and in particular Article 19 thereof, as well as Law No. 56 of 2006 approving the Kingdom's accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirms the legislature's assiduity on adopting common human values in its regulation of all facets of the freedom of opinion and expression.

- As the prevailing model worldwide has become “the right to communicate”, while it was in the 1970s “the right to media”, the term “media” was previously associated with a tradition concept which supports the idea of the state’s control over this sector. However, the term “communication” supports the philosophy of expanding freedoms and taking the media out of the traditional control of the state and placing it under the umbrella of independent regulators.
- Royal Decree No. 47 of 2013 was issued creating the High Commission for Media and Communication, as an independent agency carrying out its roles with freedom and neutrality. It is concerned with the follow up of all forms of print, audiovisual and electronic media and communication affairs. It is also concerned with guaranteeing the freedom of opinion and expression and compliance with laws, with the independence and neutrality of all information and communication media, as well as compliance with objectivity and pluralism in opinions and ideas.
- The decree also gives the High Commission supervisory and regulatory authority to guarantee the media’s neutrality and objectivity and compliance with ethical rules pertaining to the information content, as well as supervision of the professional activities of journalists and media professional, to ensure compliance with the constitutional principle of freedom of expression. This is in line with the French model in this field (High Council of Audiovisual Media), as well as the Moroccan model (High Commission for Audiovisual Media, and the National Journalism Council draft (a draft currently being discussed by the Moroccan government), and the draft for creation of the Journalism Regulation Authority in the United Kingdom (a draft currently being discussed by the British government).
- The High Commission has the authority to issue required resolutions to regulate the practice of all aspects and branches of media activity. The Decree also provides that the High Commission shall ratify specific rules and regulations for the management of journalism and media organizations, so as to safeguard the sovereign interests of the Kingdom, protect national security and ensure the unity, safety and stability of society.

- The Commission also receives complaints concerning the media content and tries to reconcile the matter between the concerned parties. It also guarantees that media outlets abide by the international treaties and conventions on enhancing the role of women in the society as well as the protection of the right of child.
- Article 2 of the draft law also stipulates that every person has the right to express his/her opinion, and to publish it verbally, in writing or in any other form, subject to the terms and conditions as required by Law without prejudice to the principles of Islamic Shari'ah and the unity of the people, and without inciting differences and sectarianism.
- The draft law also contains detailed provisions to guarantee and ensure all the rights and freedom under the principle of freedom of expression as a basic constitutional right. It also contains provisions as required for proper implementation of this principle in the field of media and communication. In addition, the draft law contains provisions to protect the press, journalists, media and communication. The draft law emphasizes rights and guarantees including the right that the freedom of the press, printing, publishing, audiovisual and electronic media are guaranteed under the law, and the right of criticism is guaranteed under the Law. Journalists are independent and not one has control over their activities except the law. A journalist may not be forced to reveal his sources. Moreover, the journalist is entitled to obtain information, statistics and news which is allowed to be published under the law, from there sources. The journalist shall also be entitled to publish information he/she receives. The draft law also prohibits degrading or assaulting the journalist as a result of his/her job. Offenders are punished by penalties as stipulated in the Penal Code, as the case may be.
- The draft law also provides that the relationship between the journalist and the newspaper is subject to the journalist employment contract, without prejudice to the implementing rules as provided in the private sector. Moreover, it is provided that a journalist may not be terminated except after notifying the Council's professional committee of the justifications of termination. In the event that the professional

committee cannot successfully settle the dispute between the newspaper and the journalist, the provisions of the labor law for the private sector shall apply to the termination of the worker. Moreover, the draft law guarantees legal entities and natural persons the right to apply for the publication of a newspaper or other communication media subject to restrictions as provided by law.

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| (c) To undertake appropriate measures including legislative measures to prevent incitement to violence, hatred, sectarianism and other forms of incitement which lead to the violation of internationally protected human rights, irrespective of whether the source is public or private. |
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The implementation of this recommendation has started. International organizations and institutions are engaged to provide technical assistance in this field.

- The Government of Bahrain gives special and close attention to this recommendation given its extremely important effect on the protection of society and the prevention of any attempts to undermine its cohesion. The Government is therefore sponsoring several programs intended to promote constructive speech instead of the incitement of violence, hatred and sectarianism.
- The Government currently funds several programs and initiatives to promote a culture of love and brotherhood among all segments of society. It also hosts experts from all over the world to lecture and encourage the elimination of incitement of violence, hatred and sectarianism.
- In 2012, the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs issued a statement condemning violence and incitement of violence, and appealed to the public to reject all forms of violence.
- The Ministry of Justice also collaborates with many recognized international organizations, including the Slynn Foundation and the Bingham Center for the Rule of Law, to develop methodology in compliance with international standards aimed at the elimination of incitement of violence, hatred and sectarianism

1725. The Commission makes the following recommendations with respect to better understanding and appreciation of human rights including respect of religious and ethnic diversities:

(a) To develop educational programs at the primary, secondary, high school and university levels to promote religious, political and other forms of tolerance, as well as to promote human rights and the rule of law.

The implementation of this recommendation has started. Required action is being taken.

- The Government of Bahrain believes that education is the cornerstone of social reforms, and is therefore giving education special and great care. Civil rights education is being enhanced in all stages and at all levels of education.
- In the Ministry of Education's efforts to consolidate the values of citizenship, promote the culture of human rights, tolerance and coexistence, the detailed plan to consolidate the values of citizenship, promote the culture of human rights, tolerance and coexistence in schools is currently being implemented, transforming it into decisions, programs, activities and services, as well as allocating the required budget for implementation along with a specific time table to be completed by the end of academic year 2012/2013.
- Commenced development of citizenship curricula to foster the culture of civil peace, and denouncing violence in public and private schools, after completion of studies and research to assess reasons which caused the youth to engage in outlawed activities.
- On the issue of human rights, tolerance and coexistence, the Ministry, as a first step, continued to work with UNESCO experts to include those principles in academic curricula, as well as to review existing curricula and textbooks related to the promotion and development of citizenship education in accordance with the relevant recommendation. The Ministry subsequently started implementing the second step

with the signing of a cooperation agreement with the International Bureau of Education, Geneva, providing for the following:

- Training of curricula specialists to complete the development of education curricula for citizenship and human rights, and organizing in-depth training workshops.
- Practical training in two schools, to train specialist educators as a first step for implementation in all schools.
- Organizing a forum under the supervision of International Bureau of Education experts on the national framework for development of curricula, with emphasis on integration of human rights in curricula.
- The Ministry developed curricula aimed at fostering the values of human rights, tolerance and coexistence, and revisited citizenship and social curricula and issue them in a format that is appropriate for all forms of tolerance and openness to the values of accepting the other in terms of religious and cultural diversity, as well as preparing and enhancing national, regional and international experts to implement the recommendation, and activate the parent-teacher associations.
- Finally, the Board of Higher Education issued a resolution to standardize the human rights curriculum of the University of Bahrain, as an obligatory requirement in private universities.

(b) In general, the Commission recommends to the GoB the development of a national reconciliation programme that addresses the grievances of groups which are, or perceive themselves, to be deprived of equal political, social and economic rights and benefits across all segments of Bahrain's population.

The implementation of the recommendation and design of required programs has started.

- In fostering and consolidating the principle of national reconciliation, and in order to continue with ongoing reconciliation efforts, and in light of the BICI Recommendations 1724 (a) and (c) and 1725 (b), the recommendations of the National Commission, and the plans which were developed, the Government of Bahrain proceeded to implement a number of new programs addressing all political, social, legal and economic aspects, within the scope of national efforts aimed at minimizing the adverse effects of last year's events.
- The Ministry of Social Development continued to implement the national social and economic reconciliation plan (Wi7da Wa7da) in collaboration with ministries and public and private sector associations. The plan is concerned with promoting national unity between the members of the Bahraini society, founded on the consolidation of citizenship and peaceful coexistence of the various segments and sects in Bahrain. The campaign consists of several phases and includes social, cultural and psychological activities and programs aimed at broadening the scope of participation of members of society. Two of the phases were implemented, and the third phase is currently being implemented in partnership with government organizations, Information Affairs Authority, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and Tamkeen. In addition, the Wi7da Wa7da campaign also represents a plan of execution to implement numerous organized activities with initiatives intended to convey messages to promote national unity between the various segments of society. The campaign also focuses on carrying out various and numerous activities to consolidate national unity between all segments of society.
- Therefore, the Ministry of Social Development proceeded in 2012 to allocate a sum of US \$ 300,000 to 20 Non-Governmental Organizations through the NGO Fund for the purpose of developing programs to contribute to national reconciliation and to form an extension of the Wi7da Wa7da campaign.
- Based on BICI findings and recommendations, and to emphasize the Shari'ah responsibilities of religious scholars, and in order to fulfill the national obligation to reject all forms of violence, and the important and direct role this play in reconciliation, building confidence and support of fruitful institutional dialogue, the

Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs adopted a statement presented by a number of scholars and preachers denouncing violence, sabotage, obstructing the interests of the public by blocking roads, attacks on public and private property, and all forms of violations involving use of force, insulting or degrading treatment and other forms of trespasses by any party which are rejected by Shari'ah, law and norms.

- In order to implement the directive of the Council, Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments called in September of last year, all scholars, imams and preachers to sign this statement. This call was widely supported.
- In this respect and in consideration of the pivotal role youth play, and in implementation of Recommendation 1725 (b), a number of special plans and programs were carried out over the period from November 2012 to 1st August 2013, categorized as follows:

I) Initiatives to Foster and Sponsor Creative Youth and Contribute to the Building of Society.

Youth City 2030

- The idea of the Youth City comes as an unprecedented youth initiative in the Kingdom. The City aims at gathering the Youth of Bahrain from all governorates under one roof, providing them with the best care and enabling them to constructively use and direct their capabilities, and availing to them required knowledge to build their skills and leadership abilities.
- The City's centers include the Leadership Preparation Center, the Science Center, the Art Center, the Media Center, and the Information Technology Center. Participants in this program are approximately 1,600 individuals of the 10-25 years age group, from all parts of the Kingdom of Bahrain. They were divided into two categories: 10-14 years age group, and 15-25 age group, taking into consideration educational criteria and the different needs of the participating groups.

Nasser Bin Hamad Youth Creativity Award (GCC Version)

- This award, and the support it provides to talented youth in eight fields (film production, photography, architectural design, graphic design, slang poetry, scientific creativity, musical creativity, painting and plastic art), also presents a support opportunity for reconciliation initiatives, because the fields of the award require the formation of integrated work teams based on skills and competencies, and not based on affiliations. The award – with its nationwide coverage – is a tool to bridge the gap between youth, allow for exchange of ideas and opinions, and thus contribute to the promotion of social development.
- The main objective of this award is to promote youth innovation and creativity in various scientific, literary and art fields, and to provide a suitable atmosphere for creative youth and focus on their creative efforts in various fields. This award is also intended to appreciate outstanding talents and capabilities, bringing them closer together, liberate creative thinking from restrictions, and realize its achievable concepts in order to encourage unique talent and support its contributions for the development of the country and ensuring honest competition among the youth.
- Three age groups were specified to give everyone an opportunity to participate. These age groups are:
 - a) Group 1 (14 – 17)
 - b) Group 2 (18 – 24)
 - c) Group 3 (25 – 30)

Khalid Bin Hamad Youth Centers Soccer League

- The Khalid bin Hamad Youth Centers Soccer League promotes the best interest of youth by providing the proper environment. The League is intended to support members of youth centers throughout the five governorates of the Kingdom, and to encourage them to play soccer positively and safely. It also aims at encouraging youth centers to support youth and foster social and sports interaction between youth center participants, as the league is considered one of the most important programs

intended to promote meeting, interaction and cooperation between all youth in the various governorates, and to give all youth the opportunity to give and excel.

- The main objective of this programme is to interconnect the youth in the centers and promote competition among them, as well as to ensure that they meet, bond together and strengthen their relations, as well as promote cooperation and brotherhood, discover sports capabilities and talents of the members of youth centers, and introduce the youth to the importance of the sport by polishing their soccer talents through the annual league.

- Youth centers participating in the League are:
 - a) East Riffa Youth Center
 - b) Jasra Youth Center
 - c) Bohair Youth Center
 - d) Moharraq Youth Center
 - e) Bahrain Youth Hostels Society
 - f) Central Governorate Youth Center
 - g) Arad Youth Center
 - h) Isa Town Youth Center
 - i) Safira Youth Center
 - j) Salmabad Youth Center
 - k) South Youth Center
 - l) Bsaiteen Youth Center
 - m) Zayed Town Youth Center
 - n) Hamad Town Youth Center
 - o) Shakhoura Youth Center
 - p) Zallaq Youth Center
 - q) Bsaiteen Youth Center

Khalid Bin Hamad Youth Theatre Award

- This award aims at providing support to the youth, and to encourage them their theatrical creativity, as well as to provide incentives to clubs and youth centers in the five governorates of the Kingdom to support youth theatrical activity, promote

social and cultural interaction between club and youth center users, as the theatre is considered to be a sources of group activity, and to integrate the youth in the theatre field given the appropriate opportunity provided by the theatre to present the various issues of the Bahraini society. In addition, these activities promote the spirit of honest competition between all segments of the Kingdom's youth, and provides optimal means for bridging the gap between different views and ideas.

- Youth centers and clubs participating in this award from various governorates are:
 - (a) Zayed Town Youth Center
 - (b) Sanabis Youth Center
 - (c) Karbabad Youth Center
 - (d) Kerranah Youth Center
 - (e) Karzakkan Youth Center
 - (f) Daih Youth Center
 - (g) Naeem Youth Center
 - (h) Damastan Youth Center
 - (i) South Sihla Youth Center
 - (j) Central Governorate Youth Center
 - (k) Arad Youth Center
 - (l) Moharraq Youth Center
 - (m) Tubli Club
 - (n) Isa Town Club
 - (o) Ettihad El-Reef Club
 - (p) Boori Club
 - (q) East Riffa Club
 - (r) Aali Club
 - (s) Om Al Hasam Club
 - (t) Maamir Club
 - (u) Halat Club
 - (v) Ahli Club

Spring Camp (Rabi'ona Ibda' (Our Spring is Creativity))

- Organization of a diversified spring program during the spring break, in February of each year, including several fields such as graphic design, mechanical work, leadership and photography. All such programs are combined under the same roof at the Youth Creativity Center. These activities also contribute to closer ties between participants, as they encourage the spirit of honest competition and promote group activities for excellence and success. They also broaden the horizons of youth through the exchange of new ideas and views.
- The number of participants totaled 114 young males and females from all governorates. Age groups were divided as follows: morning session for the 10 to 14 years old age group; and the evening session for the 15 – 25 years old age group, such that work related to each group proceeds in a manner different from what is adopted for the second group.

Badge of Excellence Camp (Spring and Summer)

- This camp is intended to bring together youth from various governorates of the Kingdom to ensure equal treatment of all participants at one place, and to polish their skills and talents and properly prepare them to proceed with their endeavor to earn the three badges.
- The General Organization for Youth & Sports (GOYS) has opted to develop many programs and activities year round as a whole, and during official holidays in particular to improve and develop youth and prepare them for the future. This camps receives youth from all of the Kingdom's governorates to ensure equal representation at the same location, polish their skills and talents and properly prepare them to proceed with their endeavor to ear the three badges.
- The 250 participants are distributed on the five governorates as follows:
 - (a) Moharraq Governorate: 50 participants
 - (b) Capital Governorate: 65 participants
 - (c) Central Governorate: 50 participants
 - (d) Northern Governorate: 25 participants

(e) Southern Governorate: 30 participants

- The second phase of the camp started during the period from February to August 2013. Activities were focused on art, theatre, reading, Arabic calligraphy, speech, sculpture, pottery, photography and music, with 12 participants from the first batch, and 80 participants from the second batch, with the aim of producing responsible young citizens, and enable the youth with modern life skills and healthy lifestyles, as well as encourage participants to work as a team, and encourage contribution and integration between the youth to achieve the aspired goal.

II) Initiatives of Partnership in Decision Making and Promotion of Freedom of Expression

HH Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Youth Dialogue Initiative (Voice of the Youth)

- In response to the call of HH Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, to open the youth dialogue, and out of belief in the role of the Bahraini youth in calming the streets and in promoting group dialogue, His Highness sponsored the “Voice of the Youth” conference which was organized by a group of Bahraini youth, evening of 8th March 2011 at Muharraq Sports Club, in response to the call made to the youth to submit ideas and proposals to be relayed to the leadership for consideration and implementation, in order to cater to the requirements of the youth. This initiative comes as a form of participation between all the segments of this group of Bahrain’s youth to share in the building and decision making processes.
- Subjects of discussion in this initiative are employment (unemployment), living, the economy, participation in decision making, education and health.

Youth Meeting (Your Voice is Heard)

- The youth meeting (your voice is heard) was held during the period 13-14 April 2012 to promote youth participation in decision making, and to consolidate national unity. This program aims at bringing together public officials in charge of youth welfare programs and the youth themselves in order to organize constructive

dialogue, aimed at ultimately developing ideas and programs to meet the requirements of the youth, commensurate with present day requirements and to cater to the present need to involve the youth in the development of future plans and programs which contribute to building their characters and benefit them and the Kingdom. This meeting is an initiative implemented by the General Organization of Youth and Sports to enable youth groups to air their opinions and submit proposals they want to see materialize over the coming years, as well as to provide for participation of the youth in decision making. Youth were categorized based on two criteria: the first is the age group; and the second is the fields of interest based on subjects selected upon the requests of the youth.

- The General Organization for Youth and Sports (GOYS) was keen to send out an open invitation to all the youth to participate in the meeting. 170 male and female youth from the Kingdom of Bahrain in the 14 – 30 years old age group participated.
- The focus in the second phase of the Youth Meeting (Your Voice is Heard) during February – March 2013, was on subjects selected by the youth, namely leadership skills, media affairs, education affairs, information technology, student activities and technical skills, to adopt meaningful ideas of the youth, enhance constructive dialogue, and discover new youth talent and giving them the opportunity to become active in society, and providing opportunities for officials concerned to meet with the youth, and for the youth to closely interact, and form active youth workgroups from various youth segments in the Kingdom.
- School students were invited to participate. Over 800 young boys and girls from various private and public schools in all governorates participated.

Arab Youth Conference (Arab Identity – Global Culture)

- This conference was held during the period 15-20 September 2012 to coincide with the declaration of Manama as the Capital of Arab Culture for 2012. The conference posed questions and ideas on the subjects of Arab culture. It gave an opportunity to all the youth to express their opinions and contribute with their visions to globalize

the Arab identity. 350 young men and women from Bahrain and other Arab countries participated in this conference.

Gulf Youth Conference (Dialogue and Mutual Understanding)

- Under the banner of the United Nations' International Year of Youth (Dialogue and Mutual Understanding) for this year, the General Organization for Youth and Sports organized the Gulf Youth Conference (Dialogue and Mutual Understanding) during the period 14-18 July 2011, as part of the GCC's strategic initiatives in line with international events, and in order to effectively contribute to the promotion of the spirit of constructive dialogue and mutual understanding between our youth, in a serious attempt to pave the way for dialogue to contribute to national reconciliation. The number of participants from the Kingdom of Bahrain and other GCC countries exceeded 450 young men and women.

International Youth Day

- The General Organization for Youth and Sports celebrates the International Youth Day on August 12th of each year. This celebration contributes to bridging the gap between the youth particularly with the slogan for this year being (Building a better world with the participation of the youth). It is also considered an international participation by the General Organization for Youth and Sports to keep Bahrain youth abreast of developments on the international arena, and to educate the youth in international affairs, as well as to pave the way for youth contribution beyond the domestic scope.

University Model United Nations

- This is a program provided by the General Organization for Youth and Sports for University students by simulating and re-enacting actual United Nations sessions. Participating students from various universities throughout the Kingdom's governorates and abroad are given the opportunity to meet and discuss challenges the world is facing at the present time in various fields, from national security and peace, to economic and social development and human rights. The program aims at consolidating the principle of constructive dialogue and to effectively contribute in political education through the simulation of United Nations sessions. This in

addition to courses the participants undergo before the actual commencement of the session, through which they learn methods of dialogue and constructive discussion, methods of presenting proof and ideas, in a manner that ensures the respect of other parties, acceptance of their opinions and tolerance of their criticism.

Sixth Ship for World Youth Assembly

- During the period 4 to 8 October 2012, the Kingdom hosted the Sixth Ship for World Youth Assembly, which is an opportunity for youth to be introduced to other cultures, and to introduce the youth of the world to the Kingdom, its civilization and identity, as well as to reflect the true image of Bahrain, showing the youth new ideas and deep-rooting the true meaning of communicating with the other. The number of participants from various countries of the world totaled 116.

The Carting Championship (December 2012)

- The Carting Championship was launched with 16 participating youth centers in an exciting and fun filled competitive atmosphere, to introduce the youth to the safe car sports within the proper atmosphere, keeping them away from public roads to save money and life, and promote youth awareness.
- Of the main objectives of this Championship is to extend cooperation and brotherly interaction between youth centers, create a positive competitive atmosphere and introduce the youth to the safe car sports, ensuring they stay off public roads to save life.
- Participating youth centers are:
 1. Bsaiteen Youth Center
 2. Bahrain Youth Hostels Society
 3. Bohair Youth Center
 4. South Youth Center
 5. Hamad Town Youth Center
 6. East Riffa Youth Center
 7. Safira Youth Center
 8. Jasra Youth Center

9. Moharraq Youth Center
10. Zayed Town Youth Center
11. Zallaq Youth Center
12. Central Governorate Youth Center
13. Arad Youth Center
14. Isa Town Youth Center
15. Salmabad Youth Center
16. Shakhoura Youth Center

Brotherhood and Amity Youth Camp (February 2013)

- The concept of the Camp is to emphasize the importance of national unity between all segments and sects of the Bahraini society, and to strengthen bonds and close relations between the youth and their families on the one hand, and between families on the other hand, as well as to embody the principle of social partnership between official entities in organizing joint events and programs and maximizing benefits to the largest possible segment of citizens. In that spirit, Bahrain Political Development Society has cooperated with the General Organization for Youth and Sports to organize this camp.

- The main objective of this concept is to emphasize national unity, rally around the Kingdom's leadership, focusing on the principle of social partnership in organizing youth events, and extending bridges for interaction between the youth and families. The camp also aims at giving the youth an opportunity for recreation and leisure during school breaks, and allowing them to participate in such events to strengthen their acceptance of, and coexistence with, the other in one country.

- Participating centers:
 1. Sanad Youth Center
 2. Naeem Youth Center
 3. Moharraq Youth Center
 4. Safira Youth Center
 5. Isa Town Youth Center

6. Central Governorate Youth Center
7. Bohair Youth Center
8. Zayed Town Youth Center
9. Hamad Town Youth Center
10. Shakhoura Youth Center
11. East Sihla Youth Center
12. Arad Youth Center
13. Sanabis Youth Center
14. Buwgua Youth Center
15. South Sihla Youth Center

World Health Day with the Theme “Control Hypertension” (April 2013)

- An annual event held on World Health Day with the participation of youth associations and centers, organizing health awareness events for youth centers and other segments of society. An awareness festival was organized at Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park near Hidd Bridge, with the participation of all youth centers, in addition to other activities such as the health food exhibition, monitoring blood pressure, an art exhibition in which the youth expressed their views of the causes of hypertension.
- **The objective of participating in the festival is** to contribute to the health awareness of citizens, particularly of the dangers of hypertension, and joining all youth centers in one unified program with the participation of other official entities in Bahrain to hold various events.
- **Participating centers:**
 1. Moharraq
 2. Arad
 3. Abu Saiba
 4. Naeem
 5. Sanad
 6. North Sihla
 7. Shakhoura

8. South Sihla
9. Central
10. Isa Town
11. Bohair
12. Zayed Town
13. Salmabad
14. Jurdab
15. Safira
16. East Riffa

Second Gulf Media Forum (April 2013)

- This forum is held every two years in a GCC state. This is the second forum. The first forum was held in Dubai. The theme (Youth Media Towards Gulf Unity) was selected for this year's event to give the Gulf youth an opportunity to meet, engage in dialogue and exchange ideas, to reach methods and media programs which are capable of strengthening GCC unity, extend GCC integration and reinforce brotherly relations. 71 men and women participated in the event.

Universities' Debate (May 2013)

- This debate is one of the competitions organized by GOYS Directorate of Youth Affairs for university students in Bahrain. Participating students from various Bahrain universities are allowed the opportunity to meet, compete and debate, airing their ideas and providing their contentions on various subjects of interest to the youth. The competition is intended first and foremost to sharpen the sense of leadership, critical thinking skills, scientific research, communication and interaction skills. 55 students from various universities participated in the event.
- **Programme Objectives:**
 1. To gain critical thinking and debate skills
 2. To develop public speaking skills
 3. To develop scientific research skills
 4. To create a competitive environment among participants
 5. To increase awareness of issues of importance to local and international

communities

6. To steer youth towards civilized methods in managing discussion, exchanging views and opinions, and accept other views
7. To strengthen the sense of leadership among participants.

World No Tobacco Day (June 2013)

- The Environment World Day is held under the theme (think, eat, save) with events organized by youth associations and centers. It was held at Al Ramli Shopping Mall, with awareness programs on recycling food and other various items to promote the recycling culture. The concept of recycling was incorporated in the design of the administration corner at Al Ramli Mall, which was completely built by recycling materials, as well as gifts distributed. A study was prepared on recycling food to assess wastage of food and foodstuff . This event was open for all Mall visitors.
- The objectives of this event focus on strengthening the participation of youth in protecting the environment and natural wealth, and to promote awareness of social groups, particularly the youth of the culture of recycling and the necessity to preserve wealth and food resources, as well as encourage such behavior by the youth, stressing the concept of individual and collective responsibility of all members of society to preserve the environment and resources.
- **Participating Centers:**
 1. Hamad Town Youth Center
 2. Naeem Youth Center
 3. Sanad Youth Center
 4. Safira Youth Center
 5. Dumistan Youth Center
 6. Isa Town Youth Center
 7. Moharraq Youth Center

Combatting Breast Cancer Seminar

- The Combatting Breast Cancer Seminar was launched by the GOYS's Women's Committee at the Associations and Youth Centers Directorate in collaboration with

King Abdullah Medical City, under the theme “You Can Beat Cancer and Survive”. The seminar aimed at promoting awareness and educating young women of the importance of the early breast cancer examination for saving the lives of many young women, as well as the importance of living with the disease, its treatment, and the role of genetics, in order to create full awareness and knowledge of this disease.

- **The objectives of the seminar are:**

1. To promote cooperation between women’s committees in all youth centers.
2. To activate the role of women’s committees and attract women to participate in the activities of centers.
3. To strengthen the partnership between GOYS and public and private sector organizations.
4. To promote awareness of women and young girls of the necessity to undergo early breast cancer examination.
5. To provide moral support to cancer patients and deliver a message on the importance of living with the disease.
6. To promote awareness and culture on early examination and its role in saving lives.
7. To promote health awareness in general to improve the health of Bahrain’s youth.

- **Participating Youth Centers:**

1. Naeem Youth Center
2. Sanad Youth Center
3. Dumistan Youth Center
4. Sanabis Youth Center
5. Karzakan Youth Center

Ramadan Cultural Contest (July 2013)

- This is an annual contest intended to gather the youth in a competitive culture atmosphere to enrich youth thinking, invigorate cultural atmospheres, create a spirit of competition and research among the youth, as well as encouraging the youth to

read and learn to build their cultural knowledgebase, all with the aim of promoting and improving the education of Bahrain's youth, scientifically and culturally. The contest included several subjects to develop and build the cultural and informational base of the youth in all fields. We have also endeavored to strengthen the role of women's committees in this contest. The objectives of the contest are to allow for interaction between centers in a positive competitive atmosphere, encouraging the youth to learn, build knowledge, read, and research, and select educated and knowledgeable youth to be employed in future programs, as well as to promote the love of learning and knowledge in all fields.

- Participating Youth Centers:
 1. Hamad Town Youth Center
 2. Isa Town Youth Center
 3. Al Ibda Center
 4. Bahrain Youth Hostels Society
 5. Bu Saiba Youth Center
 6. Naeem Youth Center
 7. Shakhoura Youth Center
 8. Moharraq Youth Center
 9. Safira Youth Center
 10. Kerraneh Youth Center
 11. Sadad Youth Center
 12. Arad Youth Center
 13. Karzakan Youth Center
 14. North Sihla Youth Center
 15. Dimistan Youth Center
 16. Jasra Youth Center

Abu Saiba Youth Center

Youth Centers Third Ramadan Cultural Contest

- Abu Saiba Youth Center organized this contest during the period 12 July to 3 August 2013 in line with the Youth Associations and Centers efforts to encourage centers

to organize joint events involving many centers in one joint event. Abu Saiba Youth Center organized a Ramadan Cultural Contest for youth centers located within close geographic proximity, with the aim of enriching youth cultural knowledgebase and promote interaction and communication between them.

- Iskan Al Shakhoura won first place. Arad came in second, while North Sihla came in third.

- Participating Centers:
 1. Ras Romman
 2. Sanabis
 3. North Sihla
 4. South Sihla
 5. Iskan Al Shakhoura
 6. Karzakan
 7. Abu Saiba or Abu Saiba B
 8. Arad
 9. Kerranah
 10. Dumistan
 11. Sanad
 12. Hamala

Youth City 2030 – Version 4 (August – September 2013)

- The idea of the Youth City comes as an unprecedented youth initiative in the Kingdom. The City aims at gathering the Youth of Bahrain from all governorates under one roof, providing them with the best care and enabling them to constructively use and direct their capabilities, and availing to them required knowledge to build their skills and leadership abilities.

- Youth City 2030 embodies the social integration of all segments of Bahrain's society. Through its programs, it forms integrated workgroups to work on Youth City projects, whether in leadership, scientific, art, media or technology program.

Thus it invites all participating youth to work hand in hand to ensure the success of the project they are assigned to.

- The objectives of the Youth City focus on fostering youth from the various areas of Bahrain, to teach them new skills, develop their talents, enable them to excel and encourage group activity.
- To support reconciliation efforts, and to consolidate the principle of common responsibility and community role, Bahrain Parliamentary Group launched last Ramadan the Code of Honor of Preachers and Imams in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and the Sunni and Jaafari Endowments Administrations. The event was attended by a group of imams, preachers and scholars from both sects, as part of the efforts to reunite and reject division and extremism.
- Bahrain Reconciliation and Civil Dialogue Institution – a private institution, organized many various activities as follows:
 - Lecture on Northern Ireland in June 2012, titled “Lessons in Reconciliation in Northern Ireland”. The speaker was Peter Sheridan, CEO of Cooperation Ireland Organization for Social Reconciliation, a non-governmental organization. The event was attended by approximately 150 persons.
 - General Organization for Youth and Sports hosts a monthly “Dialogue Dinner”, which is a private dinner – away from media lights. Select citizens from various sects are invited, to talk about social issues in Bahrain.

1715	Establishing an independent and impartial national commission to implement	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1716	Establishing a national independent and impartial mechanism to determine the accountability of those who have committed unlawful or negligent acts resulting in the deaths, torture, and mistreatment of civilians	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1717	Placing the office of the Inspector General in the MOI as a separate entity independent of the ministry's hierarchical control	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1718	Amending the decree establishing NSA to ensure the organization is an intelligence gathering agency without law enforcement and arrest authorities	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1719	Adopting legislative measures requiring the attorney general to investigate claims of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, and to use independent forensic experts	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1720	reviewing in ordinary courts all convictions and sentences rendered by the National Security Courts	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1722 a	Conducting effective investigations in accordance with the principles on the effective prevention and investigation of extra-legal, arbitrary and summary executions of all the deaths that have been attributed to the security forces.	<p>This recommendation is being implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 27 February 2012, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was established. • All 35 deaths cases in the BICI report in addition to 11 other cases of death were investigated. • SIU initiated investigations in all allegations of torture and mistreatment. SIU also began on its own, without receiving an official report, to summon all convicts serving prison sentences in the case of the conspiracy to overthrow the government and the medical staff cases, and to ask them whether they were subjected to any form of torture or mistreatment. • As a result of its investigations, SIU referred 39 cases to courts of law including 95 defendants; 13 of them been convicted while 15 have been acquitted. A total of 25 cases are still before the courts.

1722 b	Establishing a standing independent body to examine all complaints of torture or ill treatment, excessive use of force or other abuses at the hands of the authorities	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1722 c	Implementing an extensive program of public order training for the public security forces, the NSA and the Bahrain Defense Force	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1722 d	To avoid detention without prompt access to lawyers and without access to the outside world for more than two or three days	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1722 e	Establish urgently, and implement vigorously, a program for the integration into the security forces of personnel from all the communities in Bahrain	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1722 f	Training the judiciary and prosecutorial personnel	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1722 g	Audiovisual recording of all official interviews with detained persons	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1722 h	Reviewing convictions and commute sentences of all persons charged with offenses involving political expression	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1722 i	Commuting the death sentence imposed for murder arising out of the events of February/March 2011	This recommendation is not yet applicable as there is no final judgment awarding the death sentence. The Court of Cassation overturned two death sentences in January 2012
1722 j	Compensating and providing remedies for the families of the deceased victims in a manner that is commensurate with the gravity of their loss	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1722 k	Compensate and provide remedies for all victims of torture, ill-treatment or prolonged incommunicado detention	<p>This recommendation is being implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GoB took several effective measures. Ministry of Justice established the Civil Settlement Office in order to compensate for deaths cases and injured persons during the events of 2011. The Office also received a total of 48 applications for compensation for deaths, in addition to 421 applications for compensation for injuries. • 46 deaths cases were compensated including 35 cited in the BICI report with a total of BD 2,340,000, or over US \$ 6,200,000.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On cases of injuries, the Committee commenced review of applications. A total of 193 cases were selected as first phase, and the Committee has referred them to the medical examiner to determine the percentage of disability.
1723 a	Ensuring that the remaining dismissed employees have not been dismissed because of the exercise of their right to freedom of expression, opinion, association or assembly	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1723 b	Reinstating of all dismissed workers	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1723 c	Reinstating of all students	This recommendation has been fully implemented
1723 d	Rebuilding worship places	<p>This recommendation is being implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GoB is keen to expedite the implementation of the BICI recommendation in this regard. It has approved and allocated a total budget of BD 3,004,715, equivalent to US \$ 7,948,980 to build places of worship legally after correcting their legal status. Ten sites were allocated and their legal status was corrected. Work also started on correcting the status of all unlicensed sites which were used as mosques and places of worship in violation of legal requirements, as listed in the BICI Report. The remaining projects are scheduled for completion by the end of 2014
1724 a	Relaxing censorship and allowing the opposition greater access to television broadcasts, radio broadcasts and print media	<p>This recommendation is being implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GoB has worked on the preparation of a new Media and Communication draft law, expressly based, in addition to the Constitution, on the International Declaration of Human Rights issued by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948, and in particular Article 19 thereof, as well as Law No. 56 of 2006 approving the Kingdom's accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirms the legislature's assiduity on adopting common

		<p>human values in its regulation of all facets of the freedom of opinion and expression.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Decree No. 47 of 2013 was issued creating the High Commission for Media and Communication, as an independent agency carrying out its roles with freedom and neutrality. It is concerned with the follow up of all forms of print, audiovisual and electronic media and communication affairs. It is also concerned with guaranteeing the freedom of opinion and expression and compliance with laws, with the independence and neutrality of all information and communication media, as well as compliance with objectivity and pluralism in opinions and ideas. • The decree also gives the High Commission supervisory and regulatory authority to guarantee the media's neutrality and objectivity and compliance with ethical rules as well as supervision of the professional activities of journalists and media professional, to ensure compliance with the constitutional principle of freedom of expression.
1724 b	Establishing professional standards for the media and other forms of publications that contain an ethical code and an enforcement mechanism	This recommendation is being implemented
1724 c	Undertaking appropriate measures, including legislative measures to prevent incitement to violence, hatred, sectarianism and other forms of incitement	<p>This recommendation is being implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GoB gives special attention to this recommendation given its extremely important effect on the protection of society and the prevention of any attempts to undermine its cohesion. The Government is therefore sponsoring several programs intended to promote constructive speech instead of the incitement of violence, hatred and sectarianism. • The Government currently funds several programs and initiatives to promote a culture of love and brotherhood among all segments of society. It also hosts experts from all over the world to lecture and encourage the elimination of incitement of violence, hatred and sectarianism.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012, the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs issued a statement condemning violence and incitement of violence, and appealed to the public to reject all forms of violence. • The Ministry of Justice also collaborates with many recognized international organizations, including the Slynn Foundation and the Bingham Center for the Rule of Law, to develop methodology in compliance with international standards aimed at the elimination of incitement of violence, hatred and sectarianism.
1725 a	Developing educational programs at all schools and university levels to promote religious, political, and other forms of tolerance, as well as to promote human rights and the rule of law	<p>This recommendation has been fully implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Education is currently implementing a comprehensive plan to consolidate the values of citizenship, promote the culture of human rights, tolerance and coexistence in schools. • The Ministry also commenced development of citizenship curricula to foster the culture of civil peace, and denouncing violence in public and private schools, after completion of studies and research to assess reasons which caused the youth to engage in outlawed activities. • The Ministry also works with UNESCO experts to include principles of human rights in academic curricula, as well as to review existing curricula and textbooks related to the promotion and development of citizenship education in accordance with the relevant recommendation. The Ministry subsequently started implementing the second step with the signing of cooperation agreements with the International Bureau of Education and Geneva. Moreover, the Board of Higher Education issued a resolution to standardize the human rights curriculum of the University of Bahrain, as an obligatory requirement in private universities.
1725 b	Developing of a national reconciliation program that addresses the grievances of groups which are, or perceive themselves to	This recommendation is being implemented

<p>be, deprived of equal political, social and economic rights, and benefits across all segments of Bahrain's population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GoB commenced implementing a number of new programs addressing all political, social, legal and economic aspects, within the scope of national efforts aimed at minimizing the adverse effects of the 2011 events. • The Ministry of Social Development continued to implement the national social and economic reconciliation plan (Wi7da Wa7da) in collaboration with ministries and public and private sector associations. The plan is concerned with promoting national unity between the members of the Bahraini society, founded on the consolidation of citizenship and peaceful coexistence of the various segments and sects in Bahrain. The campaign consists of several phases and includes social, cultural and psychological activities and programs aimed at broadening the scope of participation of members of society. • Two of the phases were implemented, and the third phase is currently being implemented in partnership with government organizations, Information Affairs Authority, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and Tamkeen. • The campaign also focuses on carrying out various and numerous activities to consolidate national unity between all segments of society. • Therefore, the Ministry of Social Development proceeded in 2012 to allocate a sum of US\$ 300,000 to 20 NGOs for the purpose of developing programs to contribute to national reconciliation and to form an extension of the Wi7da Wa7da campaign.
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