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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 August 2013]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

The campaign and legal sanctions to restrict freedom of expression

Crackdown against activists has escalated and has pushed human rights into a dark way. Khiam Rehabilitation Center For Victims of Torture, with great concern has continued monitoring the escalation of the crackdown by the Bahraini authorities in all villages that have witness's demonstrations and it has recorded nearly 77 arrest cases and raiding of over 310 houses of citizens between the date 10 to 25 July, 2013.

Recently, Authorities have also targeted activists and bloggers widely and have prosecution or defamation through the media, which raises fears of an increasing number of violations against freedoms. Early morning on Wednesday July 31, 2013 the blogger Mohamed Hassan Sdeaf has been arrested by masked men in civilian clothes and numbers of police men after raiding his house in Sitra village at the same time, MOI has also arrested the Al-Wasat newspaper award-winning, the photographer Hussain Hubail when he was in the airport and since his last call: "I am surrounded with police" he disappeared and no one knows his place.

Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, has followed the emergency meeting of the National Council, which was held on July 28, 2013 last Sunday, and decrypted it as; publicly documented confessions to exercise verbal violence through insults, threat and intimidation, and configuration to exercise more and constitute violations that also of this meeting and compelling document to guide the Bahraini authorities to impose further restrictions and sanctions on people who exercise their rights.

All these violations against freedom seekers are pushing Bahrain towards more complexity and division between citizens.

- 1) Therefore Khiam Center demands the Bahraini authorities to show restraint and to refrain from media crackdown, and stay away from taking any measures that deepen the rift in Bahraini society and maintain the social fabric and national unity.
- 2) Work on the commitment to constitutional and international texts start from protecting the right of freedom of expression and the right of peaceful demonstration in accordance with international norms.
- 3) Work for a serious dialogue and to put all issues on the table of the political dialogue to take the country out of its political crisis and the subsequent flagrant violations of human rights as documented by the Bahraini Committee for Truth and the Human Rights Council and international organizations.