

Bahrain MPs Call for Human Rights Delegation to be Blocked from Attending HRC

<http://www.alwasatnews.com/4666/news/read/1000725/1.html>



Abdulhalim Murad, Vice President of Bahrain's parliament, demanded that a delegation of civil society members be prevented from traveling to Geneva. The delegation, represented by the Bahrain Observatory for Human Rights (BOHR), purportedly "have special passports."

Murad's remark occurred after the parliament released a statement condemning OHCHR interference in Bahraini affairs.

Murad commented, "I speak for the people of Bahrain. We are surprised that the OHCHR seemingly has nothing but Bahrain [to talk about]. The OHCHR did not condemn the human rights situation in Iran, but since Rouhani became the president in 2013, 1200 people have been executed. Where has the OHCHR been? Which human rights abuses should it be talking about?"

He continued, "Why doesn't the [Bahraini] State take measures against those abroad who have special passports and are defaming Bahrain without consequences or punishment? There are 40 people in Geneva. Who paid their tickets, allowances, transportation, and accommodation expenses?"

Murad added, "Yesterday, when the HRC began, the BOHR, which belongs to Al-Wefaq, Wa'ad, GFBTU, and Bahrain Transparency, organized an event titled 'Hell in Bahrain's Prisons.' After their participation [in Geneva], they're coming back to Bahrain. Why doesn't the State punish them? Why does it ignore them, and for how long?"

He went on, “cases are being politicized. We have not reached or achieved perfection, but we have the Ombudsman, NIHR, and a prisoners and detainees rights commission.”

Murad inquired, “Why is the OHCHR concerned with Bahrain, but overlooks Iran and Syria? We learned our human rights from the Prophet, not from the OHCHR.”

Member of Parliament (MP) Abdulrahman Bu-Majeed asked, “Why doesn’t the government play its role in responding to Al-Wefaq’s latest report about the human rights situation, which it (Al-Wefaq) is also promoting in Geneva?”

Bu-Majeed added, “We demand increasing the presence of media consultants in our embassies. We informed our ambassadors several times that they do not have access to the right information, the truth, from the government of Bahrain.”

He continued “if the High Commissioner discusses human rights, our response to him is that we completely reject interference in Bahraini matters of the judiciary. There should be no confusion between human rights and the judiciary, which must be respected.”

He said, “There are people living in Europe, Geneva, London, and Norway, whose jobs are to defame and discredit Bahrain. How much do they spend? How much do they spend when traveling to Geneva? This confirms that they receive support from international organizations.”

Bu-Majeed concluded “the OHCHR should have communicated with Bahrain’s parliament and government, whose doors are always open. Bahrain has taken very big steps in the area of human rights. These statements should not concern us, but should make us more committed to reform.”

MP Jamal Abu-Hasan expressed his surprise by the vicious attack on Bahrain’s human rights record and claimed, “behind this systematic attack are countries with whom we have historic relations. The U.S. is behind this attack. It pays for these organizations [to work] against Bahrain. We are an ally of the U.S., but this is an attack on Bahrain by American and European organizations.”

In his intervention, MP Mohammed al-Jowder said “Jews and Christians will never be pleased with you until you follow their religion. They won’t be pleased with Bahrain regardless of what it does. I’m surprised by the appeals of these international organizations; they have double standards. Where are their criticisms toward Syria and Iran? When an Iraqi parliament delegation visited Bahrain, they were surprised by the situation here.”

He asked “Do those who obstruct citizens have rights? Where are the rights of other citizens who are being affected?”

Finally, the head of parliament, Ahmed al-Mulla, commented, “in addition to releasing a statement, I suggest you send a letter to the High Commissioner in response to [his] fallacies about Bahrain.”