



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

ICSFT URGES FORMULA 1 TO ADOPT HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN BAHRAIN



As Bahrain is doubling down on its zero tolerance policy for freedom of expression and association, this week formula One returns to Bahrain for the Grand Prix, high-octane auto race. Bahraini authorities welcome this distraction because it helps them wash away the human rights reality on the ground- punishment of peaceful dissidents and members of the opposition.

Independent political opinion and peaceful dissent equate crime in the kingdom. Of substance despite ongoing crackdown on dissent, Bahrain's allies have failed to use their influence to reform Bahrain's human rights record. Bahrain's human rights situation has continued to deteriorate, increased repression by the

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authorities, notably the targeting and suppression of free expression, remains to be the norm.

It is in this context that we urge the Formula One Group to adopt the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights that helps ensure proper assessment of the human rights risks of the grand prix operations, and do not further fuel abuses in host countries. ICSFT is concerned about the rights abuses in Bahrain, in particular abuses relating to the race. The Grand Prix is taking place as a sport extravaganza in the midst of repression, human rights violation and penalized right to freedom of expression.

Bahraini security forces have arbitrarily arrested many protestors and prominent opposition figures in the lead up to the annual race in Bahrain. For example, Salah Abbas Habib was shot dead by security forces while protesting the Grand Prix in 2012. Journalists are continually targeted and harassed for their coverage of protests surrounding the race. Journalist Ahmed Ismail Hassan was critically shot by Bahraini security forces while covering protests at the margin of the Grand Prix. Nazeeha Saeed was denied of renewing her press credentials for exposing police brutality during protests. As well in 2018 Najah Yusuf, human rights activist, was arbitrarily detained, tortured, and sentenced to three years in prison under fabricated charges, including for her social media activity and posts opposing Formula One because of the government's use of the race to whitewash repression. All in all during the Grand Prix several human rights abuses occur including the use of tear gas against protesters.

Ever since the uprising in February 2011, the Bahraini authorities have continually denied any responsibility of committing human rights violations.

Businesses have the responsibility to ensure sports events don't contribute to human rights abuses in host countries, hence we urge formula one to adopt and implement a human rights policy and pressure Bahrain to engage in a real and

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meaningful human rights and political reform- STOP ENDORSING REPRESSIVE REGIMES LIKE BAHRAIN.

We urge the government of Bahrain to stop all violations against human rights defenders and political oppositions and to investigate crimes of torture, extrajudicial killings and sexual harassment. Moreover we call on the government to implement the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council and other United Nations bodies relating to human rights.