

Country/entity	Bahrain
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Speech by King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifi on Reform, 1 June 2011
Date	1 Jun 2011
Agreement status	Unilateral document
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Bahraini Uprising (2011 -)

Following uprisings across the MENA region in early 2011, protests ensued on February 14, 2011, aimed at generating social reforms and greater social equality for Bahrain's Shi'a majority. Following the deaths of two protesters in the first two days, a sit-in was held at the Pearl Roundabout in Manama on February. The next morning, security forces stormed the camp, killing 4 protesters, marking a turning point in the conflict. Protests picked up momentum and by April 2012, over 80 protesters and security forces had been killed in violence from both sides. In December 2013, there were impromptu 183 protests alone. Sectarian tensions are further heightened by the recruitment of Sunni Muslims into the National Army from abroad, and the deployment of soldiers from the predominantly Sunni GCC Joint Shield Force. There is also an indication of state-sponsored systematic destruction of Shi'a mosques across Bahrain following the protests.

On July 2, 2011, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa instigated the Bahrain National Dialogue as a means to promote reconciliation between the government and Bahrainis. 300 participants were involved with 37% representation dedicated for political organisations, 36% for CSOs, 21% for opinion leaders and 6% for media representation. Opposition parties were only granted 5 seats, and there was much criticism of the un-balanced nature of the National Dialogue. The National Dialogues were suspended by January 2014. Parliamentary Elections later that year boycotted and dismissed by the Shia opposition as a farce, followed by the arrest of the opposition (Al-Wefaq) leader Sheikh Ali Salman, ensuing into protests and clashes between his supporters and security forces. Systemic harassment and prosecution of Shias continue.

Close

Bahraini Uprising (2011 -)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Bahrain: Reform-based peace process

Parties	King Hamad bin Khalifa
Third parties	-
Description	A short statement by King Hamad bin Khalifa on reform in Bahrain, in an attempt to accommodate conflicted groups, emphasizing the role of the media and the issuing of the largest yearly budget in Bahraini history.

Agreement document	BH_110601_Speech by King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifi on Reform.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
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Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
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Disabled persons	No specific mention.
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Elderly/age	No specific mention.
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Migrant workers	No specific mention.
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Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
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Religious groups	No specific mention.
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Indigenous people	No specific mention.
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Other groups	No specific mention.
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Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
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Social class	No specific mention.
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Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
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Men and boys	No specific mention.
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LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) Page 1, Who doesn't want more efficient and effective governmental performance? Or more efficient legislative representation? Or political and civic societies that operate within the framework of national unity and the rule of law?

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections Page 1, Based on the aforementioned, the byelection will come as an essential part of the national dialogue to complete the House of Representatives' membership to enhance the participation of all citizens in the development process, preservation of the national achievements, and sustainability of development and growth. We hope and truly wish the participation of citizens of our beloved homeland in these elections in all vacant constituencies, in order to realise the popular hopes of the 2010 elections.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society Page 1, Who doesn't want more efficient and effective governmental performance? Or more efficient legislative representation? Or political and civic societies that operate within the framework of national unity and the rule of law? Those who resist such aspirations act against the process of evolution, and ultimately, they cannot stop natural progress of people's lives.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 1, Who doesn't want more efficient and effective governmental performance? Or more efficient legislative representation? Or political and civic societies that operate within the framework of national unity and the rule of law? Those who resist such aspirations act against the process of evolution, and ultimately, they cannot stop natural progress of people's lives.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizen, general
Page 1, Based on the aforementioned, the byelection will come as an essential part of the national dialogue to complete the House of Representatives' membership to enhance the participation of all citizens in the development process, preservation of the national achievements, and sustainability of development and growth. We hope and truly wish the participation of citizens of our beloved homeland in these elections in all vacant constituencies, in order to realise the popular hopes of the 2010 elections.

Page 1, Citizenship's connotation of loyalty, patriotism, pride in its identity and allegiance have all placed a great responsibility on journalists and the media in this crucial phase, which needs to heal the social rift, and work on the rationalisation of public opinion, maintenance of national unity, restoration confidence among all, wisdom and balance to generate positive communication on all levels. The press and the media are the identity of the reform project. We will continue our support to you so that you will be able to play your national role.

Democracy Page 1, We have worked throughout our reign to create a democratic life in which everyone could raise their demands freely through institutions furnished by this democracy. In adherence to these measures, and in support of the initiative of the crown prince, backed by the government and the legislative branch, and affirming what came in the National Unity Gathering's last statement that dialogue is a national strategic choice to reach the required and agreed upon solutions, we instruct both the executive and legislative branches to call for a national dialogue for an optimal outcome for the kingdom of Bahrain, and to take all necessary measures to prepare for this comprehensive, serious dialogue – without preconditions to begin early July of this year, in which all people could participate with their vision of the future.

Detention procedures

No specific mention.

Media and communication

Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles

Page 1, It is our pleasure to meet with journalists and media personnel in our beloved kingdom. You are the leaders of public opinion, the enlightened power, the mediators and connectors between society's official and civic bodies. You are essential partners in the process of this country's development.

We would like to take this opportunity to underline our great appreciation for your noble work, as well as our everlasting commitment to upholding freedom of expression within the framework of political, cultural and intellectual pluralism. A free, impartial, and independent press is the backbone of democratic progress, and it plays a positive role in strengthening social cohesion, and in disseminating the spirit of affinity and love.

Page 1, Citizenship's connotation of loyalty, patriotism, pride in its identity and allegiance have all placed a great responsibility on journalists and the media in this crucial phase, which needs to heal the social rift, and work on the rationalisation of public opinion, maintenance of national unity, restoration confidence among all, wisdom and balance to generate positive communication on all levels. The press and the media are the identity of the reform project. We will continue our support to you so that you will be able to play your national role.

Page 1-2, We meet today in a time in which the kingdom is proud of the political, defence, and financial support from our brothers in the GCC states, which reflect mutual respect between the GCC countries, and has also led, praise be to Allah, to the announcement of the largest budget in the history of the kingdom, after being approved by the government and legislature. This will strengthen the national economic process, affirming the importance of your media role, enriched by your analytical criticism and constructive opinions. The goal is to stimulate productivity, boost competitiveness, encourage and attract investments, and enhance human resource efficiency to enable everyone to play their role in the process of construction, development, and to create means to a decent life.

Page 2, In conclusion, despite the fact that what has occurred recently in Bahrain has hurt us deeply, we remain determined to honour our commitments before Allah and our people. Our confidence in journalists and in the media is high, and our hopes in you are higher. The Bahraini people are eager to obtain facts to enable them to shape a comprehensive national opinion without division among its people. We confirm to all journalists and media personnel in the kingdom of Bahrain that their freedom is preserved and their rights are safeguarded. Further, no one shall be harmed due to his peaceful, civilised expression of opinion in this state of law and intuitions. May Allah guide us to the good of the kingdom of Bahrain and its loyal people. Peace, God's mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Mobility/access

No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan Page 1-2, We meet today in a time in which the kingdom is proud of the political, defence, and financial support from our brothers in the GCC states, which reflect mutual respect between the GCC countries, and has also led, praise be to Allah, to the announcement of the largest budget in the history of the kingdom, after being approved by the government and legislature. This will strengthen the national economic process, affirming the importance of your media role, enriched by your analytical criticism and constructive opinions. The goal is to stimulate productivity, boost competitiveness, encourage and attract investments, and enhance human resource efficiency to enable everyone to play their role in the process of construction, development, and to create means to a decent life.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

**Intelligence
services** No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Arab Spring Project
http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/LCIL/documents/arabspring/Bahrain_5_Speech_King_Hamad_Bin_Isa_Al.pdf
