

Bahrain's human rights report ready for UN

Bahrain Tribune - 07 January, 2008

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has prepared the first national report on human rights for review by the United Nations Human Right Council.

Bahrain is among the first batch of 16 countries to be under the scanner next month. Human rights records of all 192 UN members will be under scrutiny by council. Fortyeight countries in three batches of 16 each will be reviewed each year in what is said to be an unprecedented and crucial process implemented by the council.

The other countries due for review in the two-week session in February are Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Britain, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, India, Indonesia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Philippines, Poland South Africa and Tunisia. Each year, 48 countries will be subjected to the procedure which requires governments to deliver a self-assessment of the human rights situation in their countries but also takes into account views of independent experts and non-governmental groups.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Nizar bin Sadeq Al Baharna held a meeting lawmakers, civil society organisations and legal experts on Wednesday who presented their views on the report. Dr Al Baharna said the report reflected the Kingdom's commitment to promote human rights through best practices. A timetable for the review of all 192 members was prepared on Friday through a selection by drawing lots. The review is slated to be complete by 2011.