



## Cooperation with Special Procedures: Statement at the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council (27 May – 14 June 2013)

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Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

General debate

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the growing number of states that are extending standing invitations to the Special Procedures and facilitating visits. We regret that many others do not cooperate with the Special Procedures or engage in selective cooperation.

The Bahraini government's decision of 24 April 2013 to again postpone the visit of the Special Rapporteur on Torture is a striking example of the lack of true government commitment to human rights reform. It is a cynically regressive step for the Bahraini authorities to withdraw from international cooperation after vocally welcoming it.

Bahrain accepted key UPR recommendations on investigation of allegations of torture and prosecution of torture. However, Amnesty International continues to receive reports of torture and other ill-treatment in Bahrain carried out in a prevailing climate of impunity.

Bahrain must demonstrate sincere commitment to cooperate with the United Nations in pursuit of real national human rights reforms.

Despite its Human Rights Council election pledge to fully cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms, Indonesia has postponed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion to Indonesia.

Among the many human rights concerns surrounding freedom of expression are restrictions on access to the Provinces of Papua and West Papua for international observers, including human rights organizations and foreign journalists. The lack of free access in the context of suppression of peaceful political activism and entrenched impunity limits the flow of accurate and independent reporting on the human rights situation. It also puts human rights defenders at further risk.

Amnesty International welcomes the visit of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing to Indonesia. However, that that visit has been given precedence over the previously agreed visit of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion raises questions about the depth of Indonesia's

commitment to cooperation with the Special Procedures. Indonesia is not alone in practising such questionable selective and partial cooperation with the Special Procedures.

Thank you Mr. President.