



## STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SPIRITUAL APPEAL OF GENEVA ON BAHREIN

Following events and political developments in several countries of the Middle East and North Africa, the real progress towards democracy in some nations is strongly overshadowed by setbacks with serious violations of human rights, there where civil society is advocating progress in the path of democratization.

The [SPIRITUAL APPEAL OF GENEVA](#) has already expressed publicly its preoccupation for developments in Libya and other countries of the region.

Today, the [EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE](#) of the [SPIRITUAL APPEAL OF GENEVA](#) wishes to draw attention to the very serious situation in [BAHREIN](#), where there was hope for a true and genuine dialogue between the Government and the intercultural opposition, that could have led to reforms in the political system. On the contrary, resorting to violence and heavy use of force against peaceful demonstrators, with outside military and non-military interference, has very seriously exacerbated the situation. [The violation of basic rules of human rights by Government forces has to be strongly condemned.](#)

The [SPIRITUAL APPEAL OF GENEVA](#), which has the objective to work in interreligious cooperation with civil society to enhance the respect of human rights, [calls all the parties concerned to return to a peaceful dialogue and to respect human dignity of all inhabitants of the Kingdom.](#)

The [SPIRITUAL APPEAL](#) also recalls the [RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT](#), agreed in 2005 by the UN Summit, which commits each individual Government to protect its own population; if this is not the case, the international community has the responsibility to act. [In this respect, consistency is required; double standards have to be rejected.](#)