

Bahrain Takes Iran to the UN Over Drone Attack on GPIC

Kingdom files 13th official letter to UN Security Council over April drone attack



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Bahrain has formally notified both the UN Secretary-General and the Security Council President over Iran's April 5, 2026 drone attack on the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) — its 13th official letter on Iranian aggression.

The letter condemns the strike as a direct violation of Bahrain's sovereignty, international law, and UN Security Council Resolution 2817, which had already demanded Iran halt all such attacks.

The drone struck GPIC's am-

monia tank. Bahrain warned the attack could have caused a catastrophic chemical disaster spreading across several kilometres, threatening thousands of residents. A disaster was averted only through swift precautionary measures, including emptying the tank in advance.

As a safety precaution, residents within two kilometres of the facility were temporarily evacuated and later returned home after full repairs were completed on May 14.

Bahrain holds Iran fully responsible for all resulting damage — covering material losses, production disruption, and broader economic harm — and

The letter further stated that the attack is a clear violation of international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution as set out in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

reserves its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter, along with the right to seek full compensation through all available legal channels.

15 arrested in link to IRGC proxies in Iran



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The Ministry of Interior arrested 15 individuals identified as field operatives working on behalf of Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) in a major security operation announced yesterday.

Targeting Youth, Sowing Discord

The suspects are accused

of carrying out incitement directives aimed at influencing citizens—particularly young people—pushing them toward illegal activities. Authorities say the network operated through social infiltration tactics, planting cells to execute the agendas of unlawful organisations.

Under Surveillance All Along

The Ministry confirmed the suspects had been under continuous monitoring prior to

their arrest. Legal proceedings are now underway, while investigations continue to identify all individuals connected to the network.

Zero Tolerance Pledge

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to protecting national security and social stability, stressing it will confront anyone attempting to undermine civil peace or sow division within Bahraini society.

Bahraini Hiring Priority Before Parliament

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Mohammed Darwish

Three major constitutional amendments — focusing on employment priority, free healthcare, and housing — are set to be reviewed in the next parliamentary session in Bahrain.

One key proposal, submitted by MP Abdulwahid Qarata and backed by 23 MPs, seeks to amend Article 13 of the Constitution to give Bahrainis priority in job opportunities. The change would also link employment and fair working conditions to citizens' academic and professional qualifications.

The proposal, approved by the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee and referred to Parliament's Bureau, aims to strengthen the state's responsibility in addressing labour market challenges, including unemployment and job competition.

Mr Qarata said the amendment is designed to ensure fairer access to work for citizens and reinforce social and economic stability.

A second proposal would guarantee free healthcare for all citizens by revising Article 8. It would place a constitutional duty on the state to provide comprehensive



Abdulwahid Qarata, MP

healthcare services, including prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. The amendment has already cleared committee-level approval.

The explanatory note argues that universal free healthcare would improve public health outcomes and reduce long-term costs on the state by encouraging early treatment and prevention.

The third amendment concerns housing. It would revise Article 9 to state that the state shall work to provide housing for citizens, strengthening constitutional protections for the right to housing. The proposal is still under review by the parliamentary committee.

Together, the three amendments aim to expand constitutional guarantees related to employment, health, and housing for Bahraini citizens.

Government Urges Rethink of Renewable Energy Bill



Shura Council

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Mohammed Darwish

The government has asked the Shura Council to rethink a draft renewable energy law, saying its main rules already exist and that a new stand-alone law could muddy the running of Bahrain's power sector.

The bill, drawn from a Shura Council proposal, would regulate power produced from renewable sources, link generation units to the electricity distribution network, widen the use of clean energy, cut consumption and curb carbon emissions.

In its memorandum, the government said the proposal overlaps with a 2017 ministerial decision regulating the connection of renewable energy units to the Electricity and Water Authority's distribution network.

That decision, it said, already deals with connection procedures, technical and adminis-

trative rules, the duties of each side, service charges, network safety, measuring output and exporting surplus power to the grid.

The government said renewable energy was a fast-moving field better handled through flexible decisions and by-laws, rather than a separate statute that might have to be changed again and again as technology, network rules and pricing methods shift.

It also pointed to another bill before Parliament on the electricity and water sector, including power production, warning that a separate renewable energy law could create parallel rules and blur powers.

A proposed customs exemption also drew concern. The bill would exempt all renewable energy systems, devices, equipment and inputs from customs duties. The government said this may clash with the GCC customs union, which applies a common tariff and does not allow each member state to grant exemptions on its own.

Feed-in tariffs and any duty

to buy renewable electricity could also carry costs for the power system and the state budget, the memorandum said. Such steps, it added, should be tested through economic and technical studies before being written into law.

The government also said the draft blurs the split between the ministry and the authority. The ministry would handle policy, strategy, yearly connection limits and technical rules, while the authority would manage connection terms, agreements and oversight of producers.

That split, the memorandum said, could lead in practice to doubled decision-making or uncertainty over who is answerable for what.

It also said the draft does not spell out enough rules on who can qualify or be licensed as a producer. Without clear technical and financial tests, the government warned, unfit operators could enter the field, with possible risks to the electricity network and consumers.

CONCERNS RAISED OVER DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY LAW

- Unclear funding for grid upgrades as producer capacity increases
- Weak provisions on data governance and digital platform protection
- The bill includes 21 articles on the renewable energy framework and grid rules
- Establishes electronic platform and requires prior connection approval
- Defines producer duties, complaints system, and fines up to BD10,000
- Government supports renewable energy goals under Bahrain Vision 2030
- Calls for stronger legal alignment and avoidance of duplication
- Shura Council asked to review and revise the draft law