



Federation Internationale de  
l'Automobile

---

**Report G. P. of Bahrain  
World Motor Sport Council**

Carlos Gracia - FIA Commissioner  
Carlos Abella - Assistant

---

**Monday May 30**

- Arrival to Manama Airport
- Reception at the airport hosted by President of Bahrain Motor Federation, Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al-Khalifa
- Meeting to examine proposed agenda and schedule of recommended meetings, with unfettered flexibility to modify at our discretion

**Tuesday May 31**

Meeting at the hotel with Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al-Khalifa, President of ASN.  
10,00 am.

We were provided with a briefing on the actual political situation in Bahrain along with an overview of Bahrain's system of government and governmental institutions.

Meeting at Bahrain Ministry of Culture and Tourism. 11.00 am.

Minister of Culture. **Mde. H.E. Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa**, Assistant Undersecretary for Tourism. **Nada Ahmed Yaseen**, the appointed UNESCO delegate in Bahrain.

After explaining the purpose of our visit, the Minister expressed her appreciation of the FIA's decision to visit Bahrain and conduct a first-hand evaluation.

From a Cultural point of view, nothing has changed in Bahrain and the Ministry continues to progress its international cultural programme and, in particular, is currently making arrangements for July's Summer Festival - "Victory of Joy" - which will attract a significant number of foreign visitors. See attached programme.

---



Federation Internationale de  
l'Automobile

---

From a tourism perspective, visitor figures have returned to the same level – and are even increasing – when compared against figures in previous years.

During the meeting we were joined by the appointed UNESCO delegate in Bahrain, which involved an in-depth explanation of the initially peaceful demonstrations and their change into increasingly violent protest. As an international representative, he felt that the portrayal of the protests in the international media had been inaccurate, especially where Bahrain had been compared alongside the likes of Libya, Egypt or even Syria, which is not the case.

As an example of the actual situation, UNESCO - which has very strict security protocols for its members - ordered his family (wife and daughter) to relocate outside of the country when the disturbances began. His family has been back in Bahrain for over a month and now carry on a totally normal life without issue. The meeting finished with repeated thanks to the FIA from the Minister.

#### Meeting with Bahrain's Ministry of Interior. 12.30 am

Minister of Interior - **Lt. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa**  
Chief Public Security – **Major-General Tariq bin Daina**

After a very warm reception and introduction, the Minister spoke openly about the situation that took place in March and also about the actual events that occurred.

With obvious sincerity, the Minister explained that initially peaceful protests turned quickly into a very aggressive situation by those involved, which saw brutal attacks on the police, resulting in four policemen being killed and 180 injured and with significant damage on Bahrain's streets. Members of the public were injured. A hospital was also targeted by protesters, which impeded the admittance of injured people, as well as regular emergency patients not caught up in the protests, resulted in yet further casualties.

This situation pushed police to act forcibly in order to restore security but, in his view, with hindsight, perhaps overreacted in response to the mounting aggression of the protestors. After five days, stability was restored and the situation returned to a normal.

---



Federation Internationale de  
l'Automobile

---

More than 70% of those arrested have now been released. Prosecutions, under the applicable law, still go ahead, but he feels the remainder will also be progressively released.

Allegations of human rights abuses are also under investigations.

On balance, the Minister truly believes that mistakes have been made on both sides and lessons have been learnt.

Opposition protestors, he hopes, will now continue to put forwards proposals to address their concerns in a peaceful manner and via the correct democratic institutions in order to ensure stability and address issues in a constructive manner.

Police and security forces will act responsibly, respecting all citizens and their human rights, to help the implementation of the further reforms already announced by Bahrain.

We finished the meeting with heartfelt thanks to FIA.

Later, the Ministry produced a press release relating to our visit, free of any prejudicial comment.

Meeting with Bahrain International Circuit Principals. 13.30 PM.

Chairman. **Zayed R. Alzayani**  
CEO. **Shaikh Salman bin Essa Al-Khalifa.**

We had lunch with the board members of Bahrain International Circuit to clarify information relating to reports that 25% of the circuit's workforce had been dismissed for political or religious reasons.

The information was completely denied. The circuit employs 108 personnel in various departments. They had dismissed 15 people - none of them from key areas - due to unjustified labour absences. The personnel were absent for 15-days without supplying any reason and tried to justify this retrospectively by claiming holiday leave, which is a process that requires advance notice to the company and pre-approved.

For additional confirmation, we consulted a specialist, who explained that Bahrain Labour Law is very strict, with any infringement by companies punished severely.

---



Federation Internationale de  
l'Automobile

---

At the same time, in order to keep a job, workers must have contracts for a minimum of 10 consecutive days or 20 alternative days, otherwise the company can release them from their employment.

Additionally, they indicated that none of the workforce of the circuit has been involved in the recent incidents or has any prosecutions related to the incidents. Moreover, the entire workforce is both professional and passionate. The circuit continues organising races and activities otherwise in-line with their normal schedule.

We include a letter from the Bahrain Circuit.

#### Meeting at Bahrain International Circuit. 17,30 pm.

Circuit personnel.

Having received the information from the circuit and to confirm certain points, we requested a site visit to the circuit to allow direct interviews to be carried out with some of their personnel.

They agreed and we received all necessary assistance and facilities in order to carry out the interviews. We choose six staff from various areas of the workforce and spoke to them in private.

As an observation, I was pleasantly surprised to meet such passionate people involved with the circuit, with a clear desire to see major events developed at the highest level. It was also a surprise to see that they where from different religions, ethnic backgrounds and even countries; one being an Egyptian. They were all unanimous in indicating that motor-racing helped cement relationships in Bahrain and aimed to work for a better country.

Finally, all were grateful for the opportunity afforded to speak freely and provide us with their opinions. They felt important.

#### Visit to the City. 19.45 pm.

Afterwards, I asked to see the situation in the city during the State of Emergency, as it was still in force in our visit from 18.00 pm to 4.00 am.

---



Federation Internationale de  
l'Automobile

---

Visit to Shopping Centre. 20.00 pm.

We went to the biggest Shopping Centre in town. What we witnessed were citizens going about their daily lives, with many people shopping without any signs of being preoccupied recent events. Life as usual.

Bahrain's Formula 1 Campaign.

During my visit to the Shopping Centre, I was surprised to find a group of young people who were petitioning for a call of the return of F1 to Bahrain. They had started their campaign via the Internet in mid-May and had moved to the centre in order to connect with more people with the same aim. Up until that time, they had collected more than 13.000 signatures along with their personal identification number by way of certification.

I was invited to sign and did so solely as a gesture of goodwill in recognition of their initiative and efforts.

Meeting with member of National Institute of Human Rights. 21.00 pm.

**Mr. Tariq Al Saffar**

Having requested his opinion about the incidents and situation in Bahrain, he spoke very clearly and was consistent with the views previously expressed by the Minister of Interior.

He commented on the political and religious situation of the country. In his opinion, while no human rights were violated during the process of the incidents, things could have been done better by both sides; protestors went too far and police overacted in response.

In his opinion, recent events had proved a useful lesson for all and will help draw positions more closely together in the near future.

He also commented on the current state of calm in the country and the need to demonstrate to external world that Bahrain has returned to a normal situation. He said "inaccurate information has been very bad for the country and does not help to improve the situation"... "they should come to the country as you have done and see the situation for themselves".

---



Federation Internationale de  
l'Automobile

---

Meeting with International Business Companies in Bahrain. 22.00 pm.

[REDACTED]

We asked Shaikh Abdulla to organise a meeting for us with foreign businessmen and company representatives in Bahrain. We met over dinner and I was pleased to see join us people from Italy, England and Ireland who had lived in Bahrain for many years and who see the political situation from a different point of view. Less passionate and more realistic.

As a general comment, they see conditions in the country as back to normal, as it was five days before the recent incidents took place. They commented, significantly, that their companies were back to same volume of trade as before - or even better during April and May - and without any conflict amongst their respective workforces.

They also confirmed that their companies are continuing to make significant investment in the country and, if the situation were not to have returned to a stable condition, they would not be doing so. The investment decision process is dispassionate and based purely on business considerations, especially as the ultimate decision making itself is largely carried out externally, in countries like Germany and the UK.

**Conclusions.**

At the date of issuing this report, having evaluated all the information received from all the interviews conducted and from both what we had seen in the city and the impressions gained from Bahrain's people, it is my view that **there is NO indication of any problems or reason why Bahrain's F1 Grand Prix should not return to the 2011 Calendar.**

My opinion, is based on the following points:

- The announcement of the King of Bahrain yesterday, establishing a political dialogue and reconciliation process
  - The State of Emergency lifted as of June 1st
  - Military forces have returned to barracks
  - National Police will carry on security as normal
  - Atmosphere of total calm and stability
-



Federation Internationale de  
l'Automobile

---

- Election will take place on September 24<sup>th</sup> and are open to all political parties to participate
- Life in Bahrain is completely normal again
- Security is guaranteed, including readiness for unforeseen events both inside and outside the Circuit.
- GP organisation is one hundred percent committed and ready

#### Notes.

This Commission report was compiled on an unhindered basis, free from pressure or interference.

The President of Bahrain Motor Federation, Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al-Khalifa, provided all necessary facilities and requirements requested, again without external interference.

The treatment and respect for FIA and this commission has been exemplary and approached with great respect.

Throughout the visit, we did not require special security and none were assigned to us.

The presence of military forces was limited to a few, certain, strategic points; no more than a normal GP in this country.

With this report concluded and presented, the final decision on this issue now rests with the FIA World Motorsport Council.

Barcelona 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gracia', written over a horizontal line.

Carlos Gracia  
FIA Vice President

---