United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

OCT 14 2011

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter of October 12 regarding a possible Foreign Military Sale to Bahrain that was notified to Congress on September 14, 2011. We share your concern about the Government of Bahrain's actions against protesters and others and the need for reform in the country. The President and Secretary Clinton have spoken publicly about our shared concerns and we continue to urge the Government of Bahrain to hold accountable those who have committed human rights violations, implement needed reforms, and engage its citizens and be responsive to their aspirations.

On June 29, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa convened a Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged human rights violations committed since February. The Commission is chaired by Cherif Bassiouni, an internationally-renowned jurist. The Commission has a broad mandate to investigate abuses and offer recommendations. We understand the Commission has conducted over 5,000 interviews and will deliver its report to the King on October 30. We expect the report to be made public shortly thereafter.

The Department will review the Commission's findings carefully and assess the Government of Bahrain's efforts to implement the recommendations and make needed reforms. We will weigh these factors and confer with Congress before proceeding with additional steps related to the recently notified arms sale.

We hope this is helpful in addressing your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us on any matter of concern.

Sincerely,

David S. Adams
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Robert P. Casey, Jr.,
United States Senate.