Dozens of citizens continued on Saturday, 31 August 2013, as in every week, praying in the sites of the mosques demolished during the martial law period, demanding from the appropriate official authorities that they resolve this situation and rebuild the mosques.

Furthermore, the head of the religious freedom department at Bahrain Observatory for Human Rights, Maitham al-Salman, said that this week saw negative developments and events as demonstrated by the ongoing and systematic targeting of mosques registered under Jaffari waqfs (religious endowments) by officials. The Imam al-Sadeq mosque in Salmabad was targeted again on Thursday, 29 August, by unknown individuals.” He pointed out that “this targeting is not the first; the mosque had been similarly targeted at dawn on 18 July by being shot at by unknown individuals.”

Commenting on the repeated targeting of Imam al-Sadeq mosque in Salmabad, al-Salman said that, “those who target the mosque want not only to vandalize the mosque’s buildings or demolish the mosque, but their fundamental aim is to vandalize the social fabric, disrupt the national unity, ignite sectarian strife, and demolish bridges of trust, understanding and affinity between the community components.”

Al-Salman added that “in another attack, Shaikh Safwan mosque in JidAli was subjected to vandalism, breaking [of property] and robbery by unknown individuals at dawn on Friday, 20 August 2013.”

Al-Salman wondered “when the attack on mosques would come to an end?” pointing out that this behavior is alien to the people of Bahrain, that the targeting of mosques and places of worship hadn’t been witnessed in the history of the nation, and that it only happened during the martial law period in 2011, when 38 mosques were demolished illegally. Thus, the official authorities must take all moral and legal responsibility to end these practices.

Shaikh Maitham also noted that some officials had attempted to seize 94 percent of the land of Imam Hadi mosque and ma’atam (cemetery) in Hamad Town, considering such actions a clear violation of the mosques lands and the social and religious rights of citizens.

Al-Salman said that “the official bodies illegally demolished Imam Hadi mosque on 14 April 2011, and instead of settling the case by rebuilding the mosque, ma’atam and its facilities, they are attempting to seize 94 percent of the land, although there are official documents that prove the land dedicated to the mosque is 13,082 square meters.”