

Updates on the Crackdown on Human Rights in Bahrain



- Bahraini Authorities Persecute the Shiite Citizens
- Detainee Death Following Allegations of Torture
- Bahraini Authorities Systematically Target the Activists
- The Bahraini Government 'internet curfew' for Duraz
- International Calls to Put an End to the Sectarian Persecution in Bahrain

Bahraini Authorities Persecute the Shiite Citizens

On Monday (August 2016 ,1), the Bahraini authorities [summoned](#) 7 clerics: Sheikh Ali Al-Sadadi, Sheikh Bashar Al-A'ali, Sheikh Ali Humaidan, Sheikh Ali Al-Jaafari, Sheikh Sadiq Al-A'afiya, Sayyed Amin Al-Mosawi and Sayed Ali Al-Shaghl; as well as Al-Wefaq Shura Council head Sayed Jameel Kadhem; and 2 reciters: Jaafar Al-Qashmi and Mohammad Jaber Al-Diraz; in addition to Zahraa Al-Sayed Bashir. The Bahraini authorities are also targeting the families of the martyrs; they summoned Sayed Saeed Shames (father of martyr Ahmad Shames) for interrogation at a time they arrest Sayed Saeed Isa (father of martyr Hachem Saeed), Jawad Al-Sheikh (father of martyr Ali Al-Sheikh) and activist Yaser Nasser.



Moreover, Bahrain's Public Prosecution [decided to detain](#) the head of the dissolved Ulama Islamic Council, Sayyed Majeed Al-Mashaal for 15 days, and [launched his trial](#) without a prior notice on Monday (August 2016 ,8).

On Thursday (August 2016 ,4) the Bahraini authorities arrested the prominent Shiite cleric [Mohammad Jawad al-Shihabi](#).

The authorities intensified its campaign of summonings of Shia clerics since last June, after revoking the Bahrain's Shia spiritual leader Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim, who was referred to court over arbitrary charges; and summoned the Assistant Secretary General of the Al-Wefaq Society, [Khalil Al-Marzouq](#) along with 11 other people, among them prominent Shiite clerics.

Human rights organizations said that the authorities have stepped up their campaign against Shiites since mid-June, while arresting a number of them. The [Bahraini authorities](#) have banned performing prayers in the Imam Al-Sadiq Mosque, the largest mosque in Diraz, amid escalation of the security attack against Shia.

The authorities have prevented, for consecutive weeks, Imam of the mosque, Sheikh Mohammad Sanqour, and worshippers from reaching the mosque. They also arrested a number of citizens.



Detainee Death Following Allegations of Torture

Hassan Al-Hayiki, a 35- year-old detainee has [died](#) in prison, allegedly following severe torture. His family [says](#) he was a victim to regular torture and beatings, including being hung from chains for several days and beaten in order to sign confessions. Al-Hayiki suffered a heart attack, although received slow treatment, languishing in the prisons clinic before eventually being transferred to hospital. The Ministry of Interior [claim](#) the detainee died from natural causes, although his family affirms that he suffered from no previous bad health. Al-Hayiki was arrested over what's known as the «Al-Ekr Blast» in which a woman lost her life and her 2 sons were injured. The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry attributed a number of deaths in police custody and prisons to torture and recommended the end of this practice, with Bahrain agreeing to sign up to those recommendations. However in the subsequent 5 years complaints of torture and mistreatment have continued.



Hassan Al-Hayiki

Bahraini Authorities Systematically Target the Activists

Bahraini authorities have intensified their targeting of human rights activists and Shiite clerics, in the most widespread and harshest campaign launched against the opposition since the pro-democracy protests were crushed in March 2011; as the 33rd session of the UN Human Rights Council to be held in Geneva.

Reports stated that the Bahraini authorities arrested prominent human rights activist [Ghada Jamsheer](#), while she was at the Bahrain airport leaving the country.

On Monday (August 2016 ,22) the security authorities in Bahrain's International Airport prevented the head of the monitoring and documentation unit at the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) and human rights activist [Enas Oun](#) from leaving Bahrain.

The authorities prevented on Tuesday (August 2016 ,23) the prominent lawyer and human rights defender [Mohammad Al-Tajer](#) from leaving the country, while he was heading to Turkey with his family in a private trip. On the same day, the member of Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) activist [Hussein Radhi](#) said that Bahraini security authorities didn't allow him to leave the country, based on an order issued by the Criminal Investigations Directorate.

On Wednesday (August 2016 ,24) the security authorities in Bahrain's International Airport prevented the director of Lualua Center for Human Rights activist [Isa Al-Ghaib](#) from leaving Bahrain. Information revealed that the authorities told Al-Ghaib that he is denied leaving Bahrain based on an order issued by the security apparatuses. It is to note that Al-Ghaib was heading to Georgia.

On Saturday (August 2016 ,27) Bahraini authorities [prevented](#) the member of the European-Bahraini Organisation for Human Rights, activist Ahmad Al-Saffar, and activist Siham Al-Sayegh from leaving the country via the King Fahd Causeway that links Bahrain to Saudi Arabia; noting that the ban was issued by the Public Prosecution, according to a passports department employee.

On Tuesday (August 2016 ,2), a Bahraini court denied bail for prominent human rights activist [Nabeel Rajab](#) despite a new request to free him on health grounds, a judicial source said. He attended Tuesday's hearing during which the judge rejected his defence team's request to free Rajab because of his "health situation," the source said. Rajab has had recurring health problems and was briefly hospitalized late in June. But the court ordered that he remain in custody throughout the trial and set the next hearing for September 5. The criminal court had also denied bail for Rajab during the first court hearing on July 12.



The Bahraini Government 'internet curfew' for Duraz

On July 23rd, people in the village of Duraz, Bahrain began having [serious internet problems](#) — mobile networks ground to a halt and landline connections were unusable. The outages continued for nearly three weeks, occurring from 7PM to 1AM every night, and they began just three days after residents took to the streets of Duraz in peaceful

protest against the government. Bahrain's three telecoms offered no explanation for the localized blackout, saying only that they were working to fix it, but a new report suggests that it was ordered by the government, in what researchers call "a new form of information control." Bahrain Watch called a new report on Wednesday (August ,3 2016) to investigate the disruption to Batelco's fixed-line services, as well as the disruption to Batelco's and Zain's mobile data services in Duraz. They conclude that Batelco and Zain are likely deliberately disrupting both fixed-line and mobile data services in Duraz. Furthermore, Batelco appears to have changed its disruption on July 12, the same day as the first major Bahraini media coverage of the Internet problems in Duraz. The new disruption appears to be more precisely targeted at users in Duraz, while affecting fewer users outside of Duraz.

International Calls to Put an End to the Sectarian Persecution in Bahrain

Director of Press Office Elizabeth Trudeau [said](#) in a press conference held in the US State Department building on Monday (August 2016 ,8) that "Rajab's next court date has now been scheduled for September 5th. We call on the Government of Bahrain to release Nabeel Rajab." On Tuesday (August 2016 ,16) David Saperstein, Ambassador for International Religious Freedom,

[expressed](#) concern by illegal gathering charge against Sheikh Maytham Al-Salman and Dr Taha Al-Dirazi on his personal Twitter account. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, Tom Malinowski, [stressed](#) that treating prominent Shiite cleric Sheikh Maytham al-Salman as a criminal makes moderation a crime in Bahrain in a tweet posted on Wednesday (August 2016 ,17) on his official Twitter account. In a letter to the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, MP Margaret Ferrier, the Scottish National Party politician, [said](#) that "the United Kingdom should use its influence to call for Mr Rajab's release."

Bahrain in NGO's

- [Why is Nabeel Rajab a repeated target of the Bahraini authorities?](#)
- [Bahrain: Authorities Targeting Shia Clerics Prosecutions Fanning Sectarianism](#)
- [Bahrain Detains Leading Neurosurgeon](#)
- [BAHRAIN: FURTHER INFORMATION: NABEEL RAJAB'S TRIAL POSTPONED TO 5 SEPTEMBER](#)

- [UN rights experts urge Bahrain to end the persecution of Shias](#)
- [Bahrain Continues Harassment and Imprisonment of Human Rights Defenders](#)
- [Bahrain must end reprisals and harassment of human rights defender Sheikh Maytham Al-Salman](#)
- [Bahrain Escalates Arrests of Protesters at Duraz Sit-in, Continues to Criminalize and Threaten Freedom of Assembly](#)

Bahrain in Media

- The Huffington Post:**
 - [Bahrain's Money Talk Bahrain's Truth Will Out Bahrain Targets Clerics In New Wave Of Attacks](#)
- The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington:**
 - [Bahrain's New Order](#)
- Al-Bab.com:**
 - [Bahrain's Ministry of Silly Laws](#)

- The American Interest:**
 - [MIDDLE EAST MONARCHY Bahrain Slides Back](#)
- New York Times:**
 - [Tortured and trapped, Bahraini journalist Nazeera Saeed continues her fight for press freedom](#)
- The New Arab:**
 - [Britain must listen to Bahraini human rights defenders](#)
- The Guardian:**
 - [Boris Johnson urged to question Bahrain ambassador about press freedom](#)