

Updates on the Crackdown on Human Rights in Bahrain

Enclosed a report on the 33rd session of the Human Rights council

400

STUDENTS

Remain Detained
with Launch of
Academic Year

400 Students Remain Detained with Launch of Academic Year

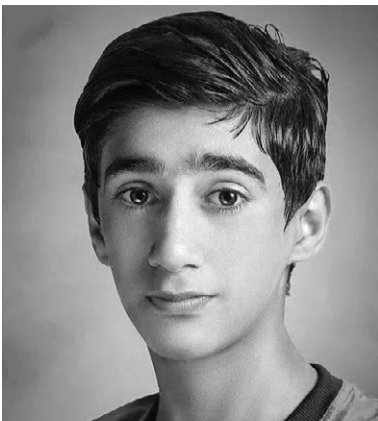
The founder and president of the Bahrain Teachers' Association (BTA), and assistant Secretary General of the Arab Teachers Union, Mahdi Abu Deeb, [said on his Twitter account](#), "while students wear their school costumes, carry their school bags and go to their schools, there are 400 students that are detained and deprived from the right to education."

He, also, confirmed that it is the government's full responsibility to overcome all hardships for the sake of the right to education, rather than create hardships. Therefore, "each detained student is in their protection as long as they are detained."



Mahdi Abu Deeb

A Bahraini Boy Kept in Solitary Confinement



Mostafa al-Motghawi

On Sunday (September 4, 2016) Mostafa al-Motghawi (16 years old), the brother of the activist Ahmad al-Motghawi, [received](#) a summon to be present for interrogation at the Budaiya Police Station where he was arrested and kept in custody in the following day over charges of demonstrating in Duraz. On Wednesday (September 7, 2016),

Mostafa was transferred to the criminal investigations department building, despite the prosecutions' decision to release him. His lawyer and family members were not allowed to visit him.

On Sunday (September 18, 2016), the Bahraini authorities released Mostafa 12 days following his arrest.

In a similar move, the authorities decided to [detain](#) boy Ali Mohammad Al-Moamen for 7 days pending investiga-

tion.

The two boys face charges related to taking part in Duraz protest that has being ongoing since over 90 days against revoking the citizenship of Aya-tollah Sheikh Isa Qassim.



Nabeel Rajab

The Bahraini Regime Intensifies its Measures against the Human Rights Defenders & Journalists

The Public Prosecution **questioned** the prominent human rights activist Nabeel Rajab over publishing an article in the New York Times on Sunday (September 4, 2016) alleging that “in which he deliberately disseminated false news and information and tendentious rumours that undermine the kingdom’s prestige and stature”, the Public Prosecution announced in a statement.

Lately in the same month, Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) **confirmed** that Mr Rajab have been placed in solitary confinement, indicating that he was maltreated, insulted and lashed at by one of the officers in the prison.

On Sunday (September 4, 2016), Bahraini authorities **banned** the head of Bahrain Transparency Association, Sayed Sharaf al-Mousawi from trav-

elling. This is not the first time that al-Moussawi was banned from traveling, as he was also prevented from leaving the country on July 8, 2016.

Moreover, the head of the Monitoring and documentation department at the European-Bahraini Organization for Human Rights (EBOHR), activist Fatima Al-Halwachi, **said** that her father Khalil Halwachi (59 years), who has been in the pre-detention prison since over 2 years, suffered from a new stroke in prison which made him lose the ability to move his body.

On Saturday (September 17, 2016) the journalist Ahmed Radhi was also **prevented** from leaving Bahrain for the second time without giving any legal reason behind this ban.



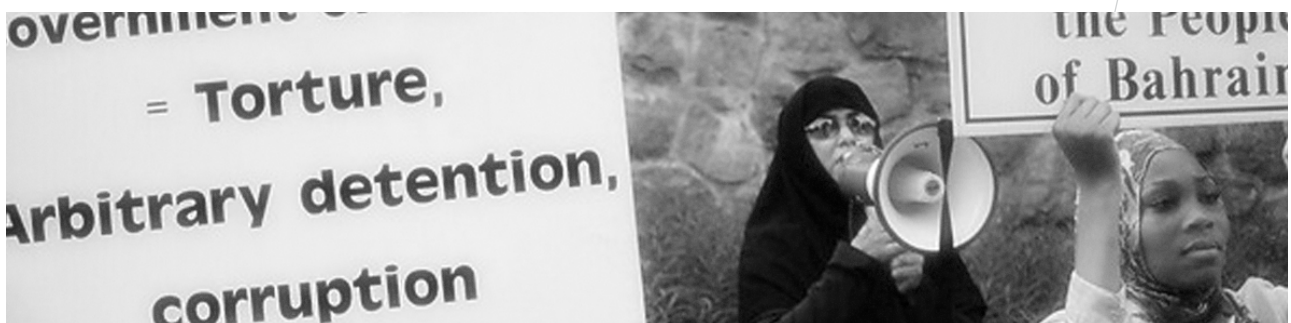
Nasser Al-Ras

Human Rights Activist Nasser Al-Ras Dies in One of Canada's Hospitals

Human Rights activist Nasser Al-Ras **died** on Tuesday (September 20, 2016) after his health deteriorated and entered into a coma in one of Toronto's hospitals.

Al-Ras is one of the Bahraini regime's torture victims. He is also a witness of the death of martyr Abdulkarim Al-Fakhrawi who died under torture in prison.

Close people to Al-Ras say that he suffered from heart problems in after he was released, due to being electrocuted while in prison.



Bahrain SIU Received 26 Torture Complaints in August

Member of the Bahraini Special Investigation Unit, Ibrahim al-Kawari, said that the unit **had received**, during the month of August, 26 complaints that varied between allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and the unit began its investigations in all of those complaints. The unit decided to refer three members of the police force to the fifth Minor Criminal Court over charges of "assaulting the bodily integrity of another person".

The Bahraini Authorities Continue to Target the Shiite Citizens



On Wednesday (August 31, 2016) a number of Bahraini courts [issued](#) prison sentences against Shiite clerics over their participation in the open sit-in protest held outside the Bahraini Shia spiritual leader Sheikh Isa Qassim's house in Diraz.

President of the biggest Shiite religious institution in Bahrain, the Ulama Islamic Council, Sayed Majeed Al-Mashaal was sentenced to two years in prison while Sheikh Aziz Al-Khadran and Sayed Yassin Al-Musawi were both sentenced to one year.

On Monday (August 15, 2016), the prominent Shiite cleric Sheikh Hussein al-Mahrous, the director of Sheikh Isa Qassim's office, was [brought to trial](#) against his will over "gathering money pertaining to the Khums obligatory ritual, while he is accused of raising mon-

ey without a license."

On the same day, the opposition leader and Secretary-General of Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society Sheikh Ali Salman was [referred](#) to the Public Prosecution after questioning him over his address delivered to UNHRC.

On Thursday (September 22, 2016), Sayed Majeed Al-Mashaal was [summoned](#) from prison over taking part in the protest outside the house of Shiite spiritual leader, Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim.

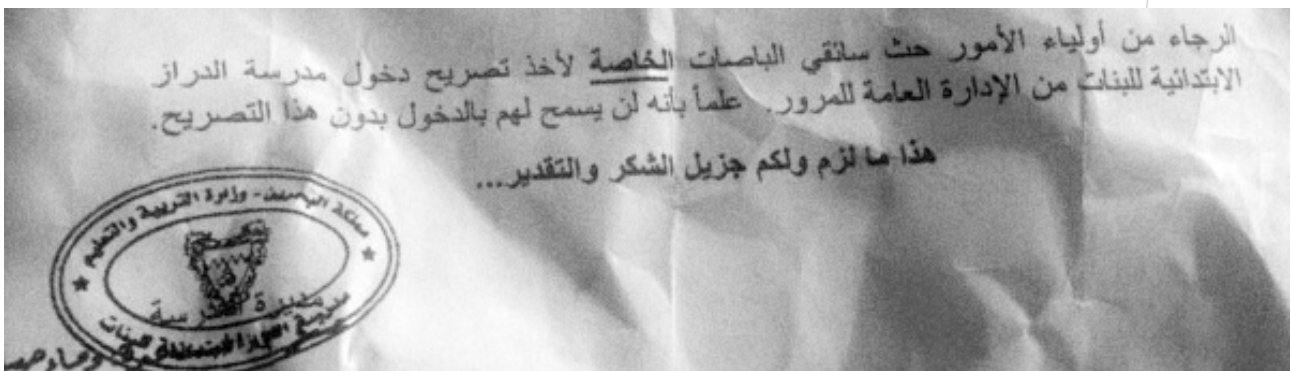
The Bahraini authorities continue to [ban](#) Shiites from performing the largest Friday prayer in the Imam Al-Sadiq mosque, for more than 10 consecutive weeks, by preventing the Imam of the prayer and worshippers from reaching the mosque.

Verdicts

The Bahraini Public Prosecution [announced](#) on Wednesday (September 21, 2016) that it referred 17 suspects to court over charges of “establishing a terrorist group”, and “attempted murder of a police officer”.

The prosecution based its investigations on the victim’s testimony and confessions of the accused suspects, while human rights organizations confirm that Bahrain is resorting to torture to extract confessions from defendants and use them for their conviction in court.

On Thursday (September 22, 2016), a Bahraini appeals court [upheld](#) an order dissolving the country’s main Shiite opposition group despite international criticism of the Sunni-ruled Gulf kingdom’s intensified crackdown on dissent.



Authorities Oblige Private Bus Owners to Attain Permits from GDT to Transport Students inside Duraz

The Bahraini authorities obliged private bus owners to attain permits from the General Directorate of Traffic (GDT) to allow them transport students from and to schools in Duraz.

A [notice](#) sent by the Duraz Primary Schools for Girls to the parents read “We ask the parents to urge drivers of private busses to attain a permit from the General Directorate of Traffic to enter the school, noting that they will not allowed entry without it.”

International Attitudes



Tobias Ellwood

The United States [voiced](#) concern on Tuesday (September 6, 2016) about the detention of leading Bahraini democracy campaigner Nabeel Rajab and called on the Manama government to release him immediately.

The call by the U.S. State Department came just two days after The New York Times published a letter by Rajab that said he was facing prosecution for his work exposing human rights abuses in Bahrain and criticizing the war in Yemen.

In a commentary on the Bahraini Public Prosecution accusing Nabeel Rajab of insulting the state's stature. The US journalist and columnist at the New York Times, Nicholas Kristof, [said on his Twitter account](#) that the repression of King Hamad is what damages the image of Bahrain.

In response to a parliamentary question, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Tobias Ellwood [said](#), "We are concerned about the recent de-

velopments in Bahrain, and we have clearly responded in our public and private meetings.”

“We have issued other statements dated July 15 and 22, 2016, in which we expressed our concern about the nationality revocation of Bahraini religious scholar Sheikh Isa Qassim, the suspension of al-Wefaq, and the prevention of human rights activists from traveling to Geneva, and the re-arrest of Nabil Rajab”, the UK parliamentary official further added.



Jolie Bishop

In its reply to a letter sent by Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Jolie Bishop, [said](#) that “in 2014 and 2015, Australia joined statements of human rights situation in Bahrain at the Human Rights Council. In the most recent Universal Periodic Review of Bahrain (May 2012). Australia recommended that Bahrain respect the legitimate rights of all its citizens to freedom of assembly and expression, and maintain its commitment to achieving concrete political reform based on respect for the legitimate rights and aspirations of all its citizens.”

Furthermore, a delegation from the Gulf Institute [met](#) with deputy President of the Australian Greens, Mr David

Shoebridge, at the New South Wales Parliament. The Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights said that The Australian Greens (Australia’s Green Political Party) has promised to intervene diplomatically to halt the export of advanced monitoring devices to the Bahraini Interior Ministry. These devices are used in the authorities’ repression of pro-democracy peaceful protests.

Twenty-two NGOs, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, [have written](#) to 50 states urging them to call on the Bahraini authorities to release Nabeel Rajab, who is facing up to 15 years’ in jail for comments he made on Twitter.

Bahrain in NGOs



Tom Lantos
Human Rights Commission
United States Congress

Human Rights in Bahrain: Next Steps



BAHRAIN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Defending and promoting human rights in Bahrain

Digital Rights Derailed in Bahrain



Siege of Duraz in Bahrain: Vengeful exploit
to persecute majority section of society

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

Bahrain: Release Rights Activist, Lift Travel Bans

Bahrain in Media

The New York Times

Letter From a Bahraini Jail
Punishing Dissent in Bahrain



The Crime of Writing to The New York Times

openDemocracy 
free thinking for the world

'Democratic' doublespeak in Bahrain:
how the government spins its summer of repression



Meet Bahrain's Awful Judges



Time for Action on Bahrain

GIHR
GULF INSTITUTE
for Democracy and Human Rights

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08

Bahrain in the 33rd session of the Human Rights Council – Geneva:

On September 13, 2016, [Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein](#), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, delivered the opening statement at the 33rd session of the Human Rights Council. Al Hussein expressed his concerns of the human rights situation in Bahrain.

"In Bahrain, I am concerned by harassment and arrests of human rights defenders and political activists, and legislation which enables revocation of citizenship without due process. I urge greater attention to this situation. The past decade has demonstrated repeatedly and with punishing clarity exactly how disastrous the outcomes can be when a Government attempts to smash the voices of its people, instead of serving them. The authorities of Bahrain would be well advised to comply with the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms and UPR, and engage more productively with my Office, as well as with this Council's Special Procedures", he said.

On September 14, 2016, the [United Kingdom](#) delivered a statement in which it urged the Government of Bahrain to protect the human rights:

"The UK is concerned by recent developments in Bahrain. We continue to urge the Government of Bahrain to guarantee and protect human rights and freedoms for all its citizens. We encourage all sides to engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue to promote social cohesion and inclusivity, including political representation, for all Bahrainis. The UK will continue to work with Bahrain on its reform programme, including through strengthening its human rights institutions."

On the same day a statement on behalf of the [European Union](#) was delivered. The EU expressed its concern about dissolving Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, the trial of its Secretary-General Sheikh Ali Salman, targeting the human rights defenders, and revoking citizenships:

"The EU is concerned about the dissolution of the opposition political society Al-Wefaq, the sentencing to 9 years on appeal against its Secretary General Ali Salman and the arrest and travelling bans for human rights activists, including the re-arrest of Mr. Nabeel Rajab. Deprivation of nationality of Bahraini citizens, including prominent figures such as Sheikh Isa Qassim, is also of concern. The EU calls upon all parties

to support a more inclusive dialogue and to work together towards national reconciliation and a sustainable political environment. The EU is also worried about allegations of torture, and welcomes the work of the Special Investigations Unit and Ombudsman to investigate these. The EU calls on Bahraini authorities to extend an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture."

The statement was supported by eight non-EU members: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and the Republic of Macedonia.

Canada's representative at the Human Rights Council criticized the Bahraini government's arbitrary revocation of the nationalities of Bahraini opposition figures. The representative stressed that the process of revoking nationalities makes these people face the danger of becoming stateless. She also expressed her country's concern regarding the measures adopted by Bahrain against dissent, and the arrests of human rights defenders and religious scholars in Bahrain.

The US Representative to the Human Rights Council, Keith Harper, expressed his country's concerns over the Bahraini government's recent measures, which included an imposed travel ban on human rights defenders who wanted to take part in the Human Rights Council's 33rd session.

In a statement delivered by Harper at the council, the US demanded that these measures be put to an end, and stressed that the steps taken by the Bahraini government trigger concerns over the respect of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in the Gulf kingdom.

Australia expressed its concerns by proposals to reintroduce the death penalty in some countries.

Switzerland, also, expressed its concerns over the repression imposed on the civil societies of the opposition in Bahrain, the dissolution of Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society and the trial of its Secretary-General, and the travel ban imposed on the human rights defenders. It urged the Bahraini government to fulfil its international obligations, especially which are related to the freedom of expression and association.

Moreover, the Czech Republic condemned the cases of deprivation of nationality and harassment of human rights defenders in Bahrain.

Norway expressed its concern about the pressure on human rights defenders and the lack of freedom of expression in countries around the Gulf, in addition to France which expressed its concern over the deteriorating situation in Bahrain.