

GULF INSTITUTE
for Democracy and Human Rights

UPDATES ON THE CRACKDOWN ON **HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GULF**

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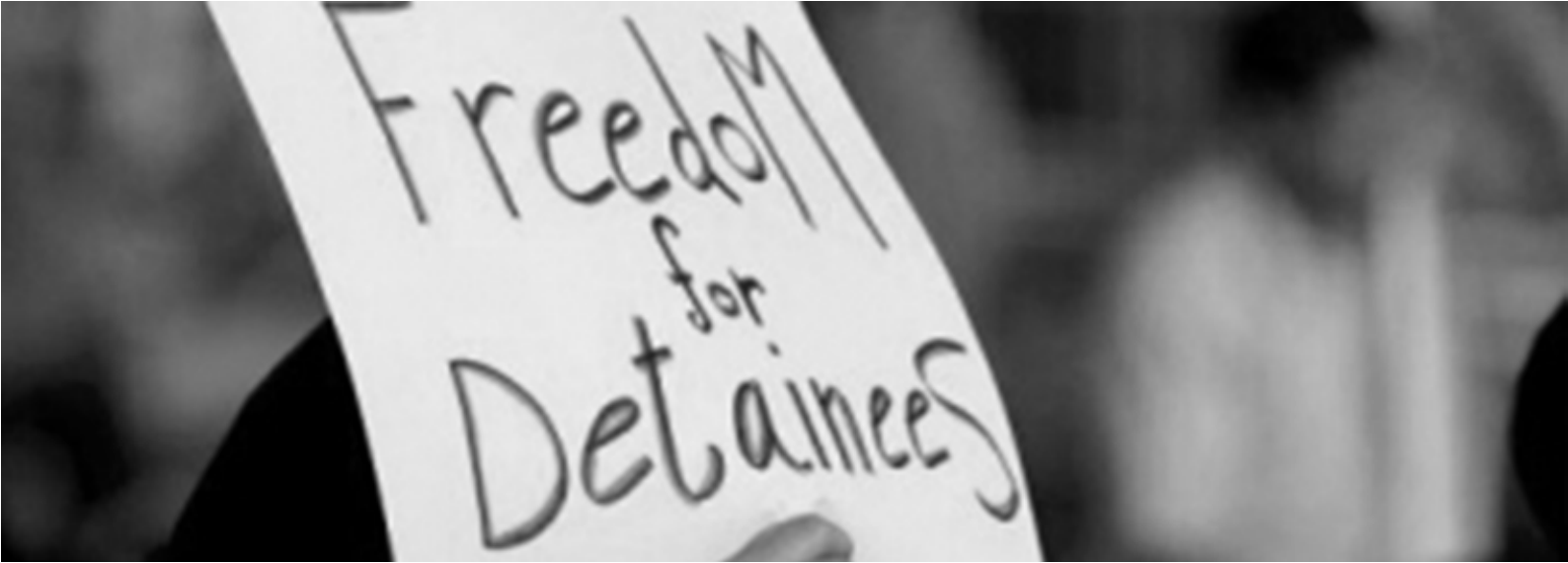
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BAHRAINI DETAINEES STILL DEPRIVED FROM THEIR RIGHTS

Prominent rights campaigner Ebtisam al-Saegh is demanding a more urgent response to **early signs of cancer** among Bahraini detainees, calling on authorities to grant prisoners access to routine medical check-ups “before it is too late”. In posts on her social media accounts, Al-Saegh accused the authorities of “negligence and procrastination”, pointing to the growing number of cancer patients in Bahraini detention centres.

“[This] should be of concern to everyone, and the cases should be addressed in advance as soon as the symptoms appear,” she wrote. Al-Saegh highlighted the cases of **Sayed Kadhem Abbas**, who recently had a cancerous brain tumour discovered, and that of **Elias Al-Mulla** who suffers from cancer as well. Sayed Kadhem Abbas totally lost his sight and his life is in danger due to the prison administration delay in allowing him to receive treatment.

Activists revealed serious concerns about the bad conditions and medical negligence, which target the political prisoners, in Jaw prisons and lead to health deterioration.

Reports from prison revealed dozens of political detainees are being denied their right to medical care and deprived from medications and pain killers as a part of political retaliation.

Vice president of SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights Yousif Al-Muhafda said that some inmates in Jaw Central Prison suffer from skin diseases, indicating that the prison authorities are preventing them from their right to treatment.

The father of the detainee Hussein Mohammed Hussein, issued a voice message saying that his son's health is deteriorating; he lost half his weight, while the Jaw Prison administration continues stalls taking him to the hospital for diagnosis. He said that he contacted

> Bahrain

the Ombudsman General Secretariat and the National Institute for Human Rights regarding his condition and sent three letters to the Jaw Prison head demanding that he be allowed to receive treatment in a major hospital, such as Salmaniya Medical Complex or the military hospital. All his attempts; however, failed. The voice recording shows one of the phone conversations with his son in which he says "I'm dying."

Elderly political prisoners, who suffer from chronic diseases, are being denied adequate medical care and their medications.

Mr Hassan Mushaima (70 years old) has been deprived from his medication for over four months, and is suffering from high blood sugar. Mushaima has been deprived from visits for more than 500 days. Moreover, an unspecified number of detainees at Bahrain's Jaw Prison are reportedly suffering from dehydration as authorities

continue to deprive inmates of drinking water. Information stated that water is cut off 23 hours a day, and air conditioners are halted most of the times, despite the extreme hot weather. Amid severe overcrowding where the number of prisoner reached 14 in a cell and closing of prison cells for 23 hours per day, except for the "sports hours".

In the same context, minors jailed in Bahrain's Dry Dock Detention Centre have reportedly had no running water or air conditioning for days.

Furthermore, the political detainees are still subjected to solitary confinement, and denied their right to freedom of religion. Many detainees say that they are punished for practicing their faith and marking their religious occasions. Information from the prison report continual restrictions including call ban and confiscation of detainees' belongings by the prison guards.



> Bahrain



WOMEN DETAINEES ARE SUBJECTED TO COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

Family of detainee Amira Al-Qa-shaami said that their daughter was severely harassed in prison, where she is serving a 5-year jail term over political background. She was subjected to a thorough search and her private clothes and memoirs were confiscated. A new punishment was imposed on her because of her possession of a pen, which she had previously requested.

Other female prisoners arrested over political background were also oppressed, subjected to collective punishment and thorough search, which led to depriving them of their personal belongings. Hajar Mansour, for example, the authorities confiscated her children's photos. While detainee Madina Ali is still without a bed and sleeps on

cell's floor, despite promises to provide her with a bed that maintains her right and dignity

Information reported that prisoner of conscience Hajar Mansoor Hassan was hospitalised (on 8 July 2018) for exhaustion and psychological trauma resulting from acts of retribution by the prison's administration. However, she was not transferred to the hospital despite symptoms of blood clots appeared on her body.

In the same context, detainee Fawzia Mashallah (55 years old) is reportedly being forced to sign a document absolving authorities at the Isa Town Women's Detention Centre from any responsibility for her well-being. Mashallah is worried about the motives behind the request.

> Bahrain

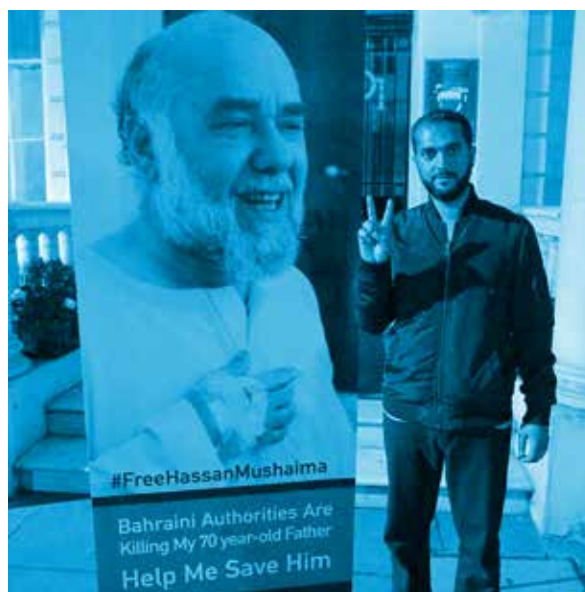
BAHRAINI ACTIVIST IS ON HUNGER STRIKE DEMANDING MEDICAL CARE TO HIS DETAINED FATHER

Bahraini political activist Ali Mushima started a hunger strike, on 1 August 2018, in front of the Bahraini Embassy in London. Mushima said that his prominent dissident father Hassan Mushaima (70 years old) is dying slowly as a result of being deprived from treatment. Ali Mushima demanded to provide his father with adequate medical care and treatment, allow him to meet his family who have been denied his visit for one and a half year, return his books, and stop the ongoing harassment and violations against him.

Activists from around the world are continuing to “stand in solidarity” with Hassan Mushaima and to support his son’s demands.

During a phone call with his son Ali, the detained leader Hassan Mushaima stated that he now suffers from high sugar levels and that he needs to take 2-3 insulin shots every day to keep sugar level under control. He continued that the issue wasn't like that before with sports and movement and that he reached this situation after being prevented from medications.

He considered that being denied medications by the prison administration is negatively affecting his health.



He also said that he has not been seen by a specialist for diabetes who could prescribe him an adequate follow-up treatment. This is the case with the other complications arising from the other illnesses I suffer from.

The well-known political dissident, who is sentenced to life in jail over his role in 2011 protests, expressed his fear that cancer has returned to him.

He also said that "the treatment which I started in London years ago did not continue in Bahrain, where I was only treated twice". Mushaima mentioned that he hasn't have his scans done since over a year, although it was decided to have them done every six months. He stressed that he doesn't know whether cancer has returned or no.

> Bahrain



INTERNATIONAL CALLS URGING BAHRAIN TO HALT VIOLATIONS AGAINST POLITICAL DETAINEES AND ACTIVISTS

Scottish National Party MP Ian Blackford is calling on the UK's new Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt to put pressure on Manama over the deteriorating health of jailed Bahraini opposition leader Hassan Mushaima. "The Bahraini government's illegal restrictions on healthcare violate international detention standards," the paper quoted the MP as saying. UK MP Jim Cunningham sent a **letter** responding to a citizen who asked him to raise the case of the detained dissident Hassan Mushaima in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Cunningham said in his letter "Hasan Mushaima's role in the Arab Spring protests showed bravery and courage," considering that "his treatment in Bahrain, and the treatment of other political prisoners, is worrying." He stressed that "reports of torture, denial of medical treatment, and other degrading actions towards the political prisoners should be condemned by all."

The Green Party urged the UK's Foreign Office to intervene in Bahrain on behalf of prisoner of conscience Hassan Mushaima and ensure that his "fundamental human rights are unconditionally granted as a matter of priority." In a letter to the UK's Minister for the Middle East Alister Burt, the party's co-leaders Caroline Lucas and Jonathan Bartley expressed "serious concern" about Mushaima's treatment in detention.

Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs of political Irish party Sinn Féin said he is "deeply concerned" and "alarmed" by reports that Bahraini opposition leader Hasan Mushaima is being mistreated in prison. **Seán Crowe** said "I am alarmed by reports that the seventy year-old Hasan Mushaima has been restricted from visiting medical specialists and from receiving his necessary medicines."

The **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention** in the UN considered the deprivation of liberty of Nabeel Rajab, in contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and due to discrimination based on political or other opinion and on his position as a leading human rights defender. It also considered it a clear ignorance to the equality of human beings. The working group called on Bahrain, in a special report about Nabeel Rajab, to take appropriate measure to address this violation, immediately release Nabeel Rajab and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law.

> Bahrain

A United Nations committee sent a **letter** to the government of Bahrain in which it demanded to lift restrictions imposed on activist Nidal Al-Salman, including travel ban. The committee demanded Bahrain to reconsider the travel ban imposed on number of human rights defenders, including Nidal Al-Salman, in an act of reprisal for their cooperation with the United Nations.

The United Nations committee sent a **letter** to Bahrain demanding to reconsider the death sentence issued against Maher Al-Khabbaz. The committee expressed its grave concern regarding the re-sentencing to death of Maher Abbas Al-Khabbaz, following a collective trial that did not meet fair trial and due process guarantees, in particular the use of confession obtained under torture as the main evidence. The Court of Cassation confirmed the death sentence, without questioning the evidence, in its decision of 29 January 2018.

BAHRAINI HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights issued a **report** entitled "Bahraini Law to Protect Society from Terrorist Acts: Legitimizing State Terrorism against Citizens". In its introduction, Salam stated that, through legal review, all the articles of criminalization in this law are found in the Bahraini Penal Code already where there was no need for a new law.

GIDHR ACTIVISM

Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) visited Senator Lee Rhiannon on 30 July 2018. They also discussed the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen due to the ongoing war. They also discussed the continuous restrictions on the religious freedoms in Bahrain.

Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) launched, on Wednesday (1st of August 2018), its report "**Yemen: #Children_Under_Fire**". The report documents the violations committed in Yemen especially which target the children.

On Wednesday (8th August 2018), Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) organised a gathering in solidarity with the Bahrainis political prisoners who are prevented from their right to proper medical care, in front of the British Consulate-General in Melbourne, Australia. The protesters demanded to allow the detained patients access to treatment and adequate medical care.



> Bahrain

AMNESTY: SAUDI ARABIA: 2 MORE WOMEN HRA ARRESTED IN UNRELENTING CRACKDOWN

Amnesty International said on Wednesday (1st of August 2018), that the two human rights female activists Samar Badawi and Nassima al-Sada, who were detained during the last week of July 2018, have been repeatedly targeted, harassed and placed under travel bans for their human rights activism.

"These brave women represented the last vestiges of the human rights community in the country, and now they too have been detained. Saudi Arabia's new leadership under Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman has crushed any space for the existence of human rights defenders in the country," said Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International's Middle East research director.

"The international community

must push Saudi Arabian authorities to end this draconian crackdown and targeted repression of human rights activists in the country. States such as the USA, UK or France, which can use their leverage with Saudi Arabia, have remained silent for far too long. Their silence is deafening," Maalouf added.

According to Front Line Defenders, more than 15 Saudi human rights defenders have been arrested, detained and interrogated in recent weeks with some being accused of undermining "state security."

"Saudi's Western allies and trading partners need to ask themselves what sort of security is 'undermined' by women's rights," said the group's Executive Director Andrew Anderson.





HRW: SAUDI PROSECUTION SEEKS DEATH PENALTY FOR FEMALE ACTIVIST

Human Rights Watch said on 21st August 2018 that Saudi Arabia's Public Prosecution is seeking the death penalty against five Eastern Province activists, including female human rights activist Israa al-Ghomgham, Human Rights Watch said today. The activists, along with one other person not facing execution, are being tried in the country's terrorism tribunal on charges solely related to their peaceful activism.

The Public Prosecution, which reports directly to the king, accused the detained activists of several charges that do not resemble recognizable crimes, including "participating in protests in the Qatif region," "incitement to protest," "chanting slogans hostile to the regime," "attempting to inflame public opinion," "filming protests and publishing on social media," and "providing moral support to rioters." It called for their execution based on the Islamic law principle of ta'zir, in which the judge has discretion over the definition of what constitutes a crime and over the sentence. Authorities have held all six activists in pretrial detention and without legal representation for over two years. Their next court date has been scheduled for October 28, 2018.

Any execution is appalling, but seeking the death penalty for activists like Israa al-Ghomgham, who are not even accused of violent behavior, is monstrous," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. "Every day, the Saudi monarchy's unrestrained despotism makes it harder for its public relations teams to spin the fairy tale of 'reform' to allies and international business."

Al-Ghomgham is an activist well known for participating in and documenting mass demonstrations in the Eastern Province that began in early 2011, calling for an end to the systematic discrimination that Saudi Shia citizens face in the country. Authorities arrested al-Ghomgham and her husband in a night raid on their home on December 6, 2015 and have held them in Dammam's al-Mabahith prison ever since.

> Saudi Arabia

SAUDI-LED COALITION STRIKES ON YEMEN'S HODEIDAH FISHING PORT KILLED 26

A horrific massacre was committed, on Thursday (2nd August 2018), in Hodeidah. Two air raids hit the entrance to Hodeidah's main Al-Thawra hospital, one of the busiest medical facilities in Yemen, and a busy fish market in the city.

The air strikes killed at least 55 people and wounded at least 150 others, including children and women.

HRW: YEMEN BUS ATTACK SHOULD BE POINT OF NO RETURN

Stephanie Hanock, HRW senior media officer, said "we have documented scores of unlawful airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition that have killed hundreds of civilians in Yemen." We have shown that the coalition's blockade makes it harder to get vital humanitarian aid into the country."

"But then came last week's deadly airstrike on a bus filled with children," she added.

On Thursday (9th August 2018), a bus carrying children, most of which under the age of 10, was targeted by Saudi-led coalition's warplanes in a crowded market in the governorate of Sa'ada. The Yemeni Health Minis-

try said a total of 50 people were killed and 77 others were injured. According to Johannes Bruwer, head of ICRC delegation to Yemen, most of the victims were under the age of 10.

U.N. SAYS SAUDI-LED AIRSTRIKE KILLED AT LEAST 22 YEMENI CHILDREN

The United Nations said on Friday (24th August 2018) that a Saudi-led airstrike had killed at least 22 children and four women in Yemen as they fled a fighting zone — the second mass killing of Yemeni civilians by Saudi Arabia and its military partners in two weeks.

Mark Lowcock, the top United Nations relief official, asserted without qualification that the Saudi-led coalition warring with Yemen's Houthi rebels was responsible for the attack, which happened on Thursday in a pro-Houthi district near the Red Sea port of Al Hodeidah. He said an additional airstrike in the area had killed four more children.



> Yemen

YEMEN: UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS POINT TO POSSIBLE WAR CRIMES BY PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT

Information documented by the Group of Regional and International Eminent Experts on Yemen strongly suggests that parties to the armed conflict have perpetrated, and continue to perpetrate, violations and crimes under international law.

The findings are detailed in a 41-page report published on Tuesday (28th August 2018) by the Group Experts, which was mandated by the United Nations Human Rights Council to carry out a comprehensive examination of the human rights situation in the country.

Among their conclusions, the experts say individuals in the Government of Yemen and the coalition, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and in the de facto authorities have committed acts that may, subject to determination by an independent and competent court, amount to international crimes.

The report notes that coalition air strikes have caused most direct civilian casualties. The airstrikes have hit residential areas, markets, funerals, weddings, detention facilities, civilian boats and even medical facilities. Based on the incidents they examined, the Group of Experts have reasonable grounds to believe that individuals in the Government of Yemen and the coalition may have conducted attacks in violation of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution that may amount to war crimes.



> Yemen

Bahrain in NGOs



Recently named honorary citizen of Paris, Nabeel Rajab faces new persecutions

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/north-africa-middle-east/bahrain/recently-named-honorary-citizen-of-paris-nabeel-rajab-faces-new-23397>



Bahrain must allow medical care for all prisoners of conscience

<https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2018/08/bahrain-must-allow-medical-care-for-all-prisoners-of-conscience/>

Bahrain in the Media



Meet the Londoner on hunger strike for his dad in Bahraini prison

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk/andrew-smith-ali-mushaima/meet-londoner-on-hunger-strike-for-his-dad-in-bahraini-prison>



Bahraini authorities are killing my father, I'm on hunger strike to save him

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/03/torture-bahrain-killing-my-father-hassan-mushaima-arms-sales-repression>



INDEPENDENT

Man on hunger strike outside Bahrain embassy asks Queen to help save his father

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/queen-protest-hunger-strike-ali-mushaima-hassan-mushaima-bahrain-embassy-a8503351.html>



Brian Dooley: On The King's Threshold—Ali Mushaima's Fast Shames Bahrain's Ruling Family

<https://medium.com/@dooleyhumanrights/on-the-kings-threshold-ali-mushaima-s-fast-shames-bahrain-s-ruling-family-74e20c6df8b1>



BuzzFeed

This Baby Was Born Stateless Because Of "Avoidable" Home Office Delays

https://www.buzzfeed.com/emilydugan/this-baby-was-born-stateless?utm_term=.hsR1BwqOR#.wxZkdanAY



GULF INSTITUTE
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Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR), is a civil non-governmental and non-profit organization aiming to promote the respect for democratic principles, as well as establishing the human rights and social justice principles, and stopping the human rights violations in the Gulf Region in general and in Bahrain in particular. Headquartered in Sydney, Australia GIDHR has the right to open branches in other regions, has legal character and independent financial disclosure. GIDHR is seeking to be in the ranks of the major organizations defending democratic and human rights principles and values through contributing to achieve peace and justice for all in the Gulf States.

معهد الخليج للديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان
منظمة غير ربحية وغير حكومية، تم تأسيسه في أستراليا ويهدف إلى تعزيز ونشر ثقافة الديمقراطية، كما يسعى لتحقيق مبادئ حقوق الإنسان والعدالة الاجتماعية وإيقاف الانتهاكات في دول الخليج. وله الحق في فتح فروع أخرى في مناطق أخرى، ويكون له شخصية اعتبارية وذمة مالية مستقلة ولا يستهدف من نشاطه جني الربح التجاري. يسعى معهد الخليج للديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان لأن يكون في مصاف كبرى المنظمات المدافعة عن حقوق الإنسان عبر المساهمة في تحقيق السلام والعدالة في دول الخليج.

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