



GULF INSTITUTE
for Democracy and Human Rights

UPDATES ON THE CRACKDOWN ON
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GULF

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SHEIKH QASSIM'S HEALTH DETERIORATED AFTER MEDICAL CARE DENIAL



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OPENING STATEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS BY UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ZEID RA'AD AL HUSSEIN AT 38TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Colleagues and Friends,

... You will also receive the report on Yemen prepared by the eminent international experts. In that context, I emphasize my grave worry regarding the Saudi and Emirati-led coalition's on-going attacks in Hodeida – which could result in enormous civilian casualties, and have a disastrous impact on life-saving humanitarian aid to millions of people which comes through the port.

Unconditional access to Bahrain continues to be refused to my Office and the Special Procedures, amid continued crackdowns on civil society and additional legislation which further restricts the people's fundamental rights. I encourage the Kingdom to reverse these profoundly damaging trends and to facilitate effective engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. My Office stands ready to provide technical and legal expertise.

BAHRAINI DETAINEES STILL DEPRIVED FROM THEIR RIGHTS

Bahraini activists revealed that the detainee **Ibrahim Al-Muhafdah**, who is serving a 13-year prison sentence over politically motivated charges, placed a call from the Central Prison of Jaw. Al-Muhafdah revealed during his call that living conditions in the aforementioned prison are continuing to deteriorate. He pointed out during his call to overcrowding at the facility where many detainees require medical attention. Al-Muhafdah also confirmed earlier information reporting inadequate food quantities being served for prisoners.

On 1 June 2018, the **families of two detained** Bahraini youths (Hussein Fouad Al-Hany and Hussein Mohammed Amin) were demanding information about the whereabouts and wellbeing of their sons. Both Al-Hany and Amin were arrested in the second week of May 2018, they called their families once informing they were being held at the Criminal Investigation Directorate, and have not been granted any visitation rights.

In the same context, on June 2 2018, the **parents of two Bahraini detainees** (Hassan Abbas Al-Mowali and Mohammed Khalil Ibrahim) reported not receiving any information

about the whereabouts and wellbeing of their sons following their sudden transfer from Dry Dock Detention Centre. Both of them were taken to an unknown location and no reasons behind their transfer were revealed.

Moreover, activists reported (on 7 June 2018), **growing concern** among the family of detainee Jaafar Eid who had been cut-off from the outside world. According to his family, they last heard from him on 25 May 2018 when he complained about inadequate food and ill-treatment at the detention centre.

On 23 June 2018, reports have surfaced online alleging that the recently arrested Bahraini photo-journalist **Hassan Qambar** was transferred to a military hospital after being subjected to what appears to be severe beatings. According to an eyewitness account, Qambar was spotted on crutches and had injuries to his face. Hassan Qambar, who was arrested earlier this month, was sentenced in absentia to more than 120 years in prison and his citizenship was revoked.

Furthermore, prisons' authorities are increasingly subjecting political detainees to incommunicado detention. According to activists dedicated to tracking detainees' news, the **death row inmates** Moosa Abdallah Moosa and Maher Al-Khabaz have been held in solitary confinement for more than a month. During that time, the two have reportedly been "assaulted, treated in a derogatory manner, and even deprived of their right to practice their own religion." Activists reported that detainee **Hassan Al-Moallem** was being subjected to solitary confinement, and growing concern over his well-being. Another detained youth, **Haidar Al-Mulla**,

went on hunger strike after spending weeks in solitary confinement in an attempt to force him sign false confessions. Shortly after his hunger strike, his detained brother, **Mohammed Al-Mulla**, was transferred to solitary confinement as well.

On 26 June 2018, activist Ebtisam Al-Saegh reported that detainee **Elyas Al-Mulla** was forced to halt his therapy after being transferred to a different building with the Jaw Prison complex. According to the activist, the lack of proper care has given way to severe pain in the prisoner's abdomen and stomach as well as his joints.



BAHRAINI AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO TIGHTEN THE GRIP AGAINST THE ACTIVISTS

A Bahrain appeals court, on 5 June 2018, upheld a **five-year prison sentence** for human rights activist Nabeel Rajab amid the island kingdom's clampdown on all dissent, a verdict that has been widely criticised internationally. Rajab is already serving a two-year prison sentence for television interviews he gave that included criticism of Bahrain.

Family of opposition leader and detainee **Hassan Mushaima** said he has been banned from receiving his chronic diseases medications since over 92 days. The family expressed on Twitter that Mushaima has been also prevented from undergoing cancer-specific tests since 994 days, indicating that he, along with other figures, have been banned from visitations since more than 467 days.

According to Bahrain Mirror, number of opposition activists received **threatening messages** from an instagram account claiming he is a lieutenant in the interior ministry named Truki Al-Majed. The messages that Bahrain Mirror saw included threats to target families of activists in case they don't stop their activism and shut down their accounts on social media outlets within 24 hours and send an apology letter to king Hamad bin Isa Al

Khalifa. "Sayed Yousif Al-Muhadfa, Hassan Abdulnabi, Mousa Abedali and Ibtisam Al-Saegh" were among those who received threats. Meanwhile, other activists received the same messages but they refused to reveal their names, fearing retaliation from the authorities.

On 21 June 2018, a Bahraini court **acquitted** three senior leaders (Sheikh Ali Salman, Sheikh Hassan Sultan, and Ali Al-Aswad) of the country's main opposition group of spying for Qatar, a rare win for opposition figures who say they have been targeted by prosecutors for their political views. However, Bahrain's public prosecutor has **appealed the court ruling**. Bahrain's official news agency (BNA) quoted a statement from the prosecutor's office saying that the court ruling had many legal flaws.

On 21 June 2018, Adam Rajab, son of prominent human rights defender Nabeel Rajab, **said** that the family visited Nabeel for 30 minutes in jail and found that he suffers from back problems and difficulty in moving. He explained that this is due to keeping Nabeel in his prison cell for 23 hours a day.



HOUSE RAIDS, ARRESTS & HARSH SENTENCES IN BAHRAIN

Bahraini security forces arrested **Ali Murtada Mahmoud** on 12 June 2018 after he returned from his studies in India. The arrest of Ali Murtada Mahmoud was confirmed by Al-Wahdawi Society, but the reasons for his arrest or where he was detained are not yet revealed, as he was taken from the airport to an unknown destination.

On 12 June 2018, Security forces of the Bahraini Ministry of the Interior launched a large-scale "security" campaign and raided dozens of houses in several villages without showing any search warrants. The campaign resulted in arresting at least 6 citizens within 48 hours.

Another security campaign was carried out on 25 June 2018 arresting 3

citizens, including a child and a student returning from studying abroad. Two other children were arrested on the early hours of 26 June 2018 from their houses, and taken to an unknown place.

A Bahraini court **sentenced** a woman and a man to three years in jail over social media use. Bahraini activists said the woman is the political activist Najah Ahmad Youssef who had been targeted on "politically motivated charges" after criticising the kingdom's hosting of the 2017 Bahrain Grand Prix.

Five more Bahrainis were arbitrarily stripped of their citizenships over political based charges, bringing the number of citizenship revocations up to more than 735.

TARGETING BAHRAINI WOMEN

Bahrain's Public Prosecution rejected a request by a lawyer to meet 2 women detained since 17 May 2018 after raiding their houses. Fatima Dawood Hassan (who was released later this month) and Zakiya Al-Barbouri were allowed to call their families only once. Both of them were prevented of rights to visit until mid-June. According to activist Ebtisam Al-Saegh, their families said that the two detainees were skinny due to weight loss and that the visit duration didn't exceed half an hour, noting that they were not given privacy.

Al-Saegh also warned, on her twitter account, of health complication detainee Fawziya Mashala is suffering from. She said on her Twitter account that Mashala is on a heart monitoring device and that she is suffering from complications, as she reported on 13 June 2018 and that she has been using the machine that monitors complications since 3 days. Al-Saegh warned that the symptoms Mashala (55 years) is suffering are concerning.



> Bahrain



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS UNDER ATTACK

The Bahraini security authorities summoned on 14 June 2018 a number of Shiite citizens and took DNA samples from them, without a judicial order, activists stressed. Lawyer Abdulla Al-Shamlawi confirmed the circulated news, saying that the Criminal Investigation Department summoned the prominent Shiite cleric Hani Al-Bana'a "without investigating him. However, the CID took DNA samples from him and from others of different ages and countries". Al-Shamlawi concluded saying that "exposing a human for medical examination without his consent is an affront to humanity."

Activists reported that detained Bahraini Shiite cleric and human rights campaigner Sheikh **Mohammed Habib Al-Miqdad** health has deteriorated and was not able to continue Ramadan fast. In 2013, doctors were allowed to examine Al-Miqdad and confirmed that he had difficulty ingesting food as a result of injuries that he sustained to his abdomen during severe torture.

Moreover, detained Shiite cleric Sheikh **Zuhair Ashour** has reportedly been placed in solitary confinement for practicing his own religion during the holy month of Ramadan.

SHEIKH ISA QASSIM'S HEALTH DETERIORATED DUE TO PREVENTING HIM FROM ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE

On Sunday 24 June 2018, Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim, the highest religious authority in Bahrain, was transferred to a hospital in an ambulance after suffering hip and legs problems that are making it difficult for him to walk. Three days later, sheikh Qassim underwent a surgery due to "fractures and bruises that caused him disability in moving". Sheikh Qassim has been under house arrest for almost 400 days and is denied his right to medical care except with government permission and under strict security measures.

PROMINENT HR ACTIVIST WAS GRANTED HONORARY FRENCH CITIZENSHIP

A celebration was held on 18 June 2018 in Paris on the occasion of granting the prominent Bahraini human rights defender Nabeel Rajab honorary citizenship of the city.

Nabeel Rajab said in an audio speech from the prison that "he has a generation of human rights defenders after him (...). Even I am held in a solitary confinement, I am not alone. I will continue to defend the issue until my last breath."

Paris mayor said that this title aims at shedding the light on Rajab's situation and that of every imprisoned or oppressed in the world due to authorities' lack of respect of freedom of expression.



INTERNATIONAL CALLS TO FREE HR ACTIVISTS AND LAUNCH NATIONAL DIALOGUE

The European Union warned Manama that its recent legislation banning Bahrain's opposition members from holding parliamentary seats is "not a step in the right direction". The EU delegation told the 38th session of the UN Human Rights Council currently underway in Geneva that the law "narrows further the political space" in the Gulf kingdom. "The EU is concerned about the continuing deterioration of the human rights situation and the shrinking of political space in the Kingdom of Bahrain," the delegate added. "The EU calls upon the authorities to respect freedom of opinion and expression, including for human rights defenders, as well as the freedom of peaceful assembly and the right to a fair trial."

Denmark reiterated its call for the "release of all arbitrarily detained persons in Bahrain" at the 38th session of the UN Human Rights Council currently underway in Geneva. In a statement read out during an Item 4 General Debate, the Danish delegate also demanded the release of "Danish-Bahraini citizen Mr. Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja; A victim of torture who needs treatment and rehabilitation."

UK Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa, **Alistair Burt**, said that the UK government raised the case of opposition leader Sheikh Ali Salman at a senior level with the Government of Bahrain, on the eve of the verdict issuance against him over claims of colluding with Qatar. "We have raised this case at a senior level with the Government of Bahrain. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our Embassy in Bahrain continue to monitor Sheikh Ali Salman's case closely," said Burt. He further stated "Embassy officials have regularly attended trial hearings. We continue to encourage the Government of Bahrain to deliver on its international and domestic human rights commitments."

Senior British Labour MP John McDonnell has called on the UK's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson to help secure the release of Bahraini human rights defender Nabeel Rajab.

McDonnell, who serves as the Shadow Chancellor to Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, tweeted on Monday that he had "written to the Foreign Secretary and called on him to urgently mount firm pressure on the Bahraini authorities to secure Nabeel Rajab's immediate and unconditional release."

Washington is urging state prosecutors in Manama "not to pursue an appeal" against Thursday's court ruling, which cleared Bahrain's opposition leader Sheikh Ali Salman of espionage charges.

During a press briefing, the U.S. State Department's Spokesperson Heather Nauert said that the "acquittal removes a potential barrier to political reconciliation in Bahrain."

U.S. Republican Senator Marco Rubio has called on Manama to immediately release Bahraini human rights defender Nabeel Rajab. Bahrain's court of appeals upheld Rajab's 5-year prison sentence.

In a Twitter post on 6 June 2018, Rubio wrote that Rajab was "exercising his right to freedom of expression".

One day after a Bahraini court upheld 5-year jail term against Nabeel Rajab over tweets he posted on Twitter, the **European Union** called on the Bahraini government to release him.

The European Union said in a statement after the verdict that there are reasons to believe that Rajab's right to a fair trial was not respected, as with previous rulings in January and February 2018.

"Once again, the European Union expects all parties in Bahrain to engage in a genuine dialogue with a view to relaunching a process of national reconciliation in a peaceful and constructive manner," the statement further stated.

France's ambassador to Bahrain Cécile Longé **said** "France, which is closely following the situation of Mr Nabil Rajab, notes with great concern the confirmation of the five-year prison sentence against human rights activist and opposition member in Bahrain for publishing tweets."

She further stated in a **tweet** posted on her official Twitter account that France expresses its deep concern about the treatment of human rights defenders and political opponents in the country.



BAHRAINI HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR) launched its **monthly indicator**, it said the human rights situation in Bahrain continued to deteriorate in May 2018. 1272 serious human rights violations were observed between the 1st and 31st of May 2018, including arbitrary arrests, house raids, unfair trials, crackdown on peaceful protests, restrictions on freedom of movement, prohibition of Friday prayers, media materials that incite hate speech, torture, ill-treatment, injuries, destruction or confiscation of property and violation of freedom of religion and belief.

The total violations were distributed as follows: 56 cases of arbitrary arrests, including 11 children and 2 women; 262 citizens received arbitrary sentences, which amounted in total to 2145 years and 6 months in prison and BD 8200, equivalent to approximately US \$21808, of total fines and bails; 51 cases of torture and ill-treatment, including 4 cases of deprivation of treatment; 330 media materials that incite hate speech; 88 illegal raids on houses and residential facilities; 72 crackdowns on peaceful gatherings and protests; 344 individuals who were arrested or accused were referred to court because of trials that violate freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; violation of freedom of movement by the continuation of the siege on Duraz area for

709 days and the imposition of house arrest on the highest religious authority for the Shiite Muslims in Bahrain, Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim, for 372 days without a judicial order or administrative decision; violation of freedom of religion and belief by prohibiting Friday prayer in Duraz 4 times in May, bringing the number of prohibitions to 98 times since 2016; 2 case of illegal confiscation of property; and 2 cases of destruction of property.

In May, Bahrain witnessed 252 protests, while since the beginning of the year the number of protests has reached 1692 even though there has been a complete ban on peaceful assembly for 1338 days. The number of arbitrary arrests since the beginning of the year has reached 423, including 66 children. Since 2012, the nationalities of 741 citizens have been revoked for political reasons. Moreover, since the beginning of the year, 526 illegal raids on houses and residential facilities have been conducted; 707 Bahraini citizens, including 5 women and 5 children, have been arbitrarily convicted; total sentences have amounted to 5034 years and 15 months in prison, in addition to a suspended 3-year jail term



total fines imposed on the arbitrarily convicted have amounted to US\$ 1,041,084; and 135 sentences of revocation of nationalities at several levels of litigation, 10 sentences of arbitrary deportation and 14 death sentences have been issued. The total number of human rights violations that occurred in January, February, March, April and May are 6788.

Bahrain Centre for Human Rights issued a **report** "No Right To Rights" summarising the human rights violations documented over the course of 2017. BCHR said that a number of other violations were reported, but it has not been possible to verify them due to fear on the part of victims, who have been unwilling to share their testimonies. The volume of violations reported during 2017 also meant that it was beyond the capacity of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights to investigate all of them.

SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights issued a **report** explaining the persecution against Sheikh Ali Salman. SALAM explained the arbitrary arrest and interrogations, and unfair and arbitrary trials against Sheikh Salman; contraventions of international law and responses of his trial, the dissolution of Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, and the targeted abuse against Sheikh Salman's family members.

Activists from Bahrain held an event in the German capital, Berlin, marking International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Activists published photos of a photography exhibition held on 26 June 2018 in Berlin's Alexanderplatz square, that included photos of a number of activists and citizens who were tortured in Bahrain.

GIDHR ACTIVISM

Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) lodged a complaint on 16 June 2018 to the **Fédération Internationale de Football Association** (FIFA) regarding its president's visit to Bahrain.

GIDHR explained in its complaint that Bahrain is trying to whitewash its profile in front of the international community using sports. "It seems pretty clear that the Bahraini authorities have stepped up efforts to associate the country with major sporting events as glitzy cover for an ever-worsening human rights crackdown," Amnesty International UK's head of policy and government affairs, Allan Hogarth, says.

GIDHR President, Yahya Alhadid said: "we have lodged the complaint today through FIFA's new mechanism to receive the complaints related to human rights issues." "We hope FIFA's President Gianni Infantino had addressed the human rights violations against soccer players in Bahrain, whilst some of them are still detained over expressing their political opinions and personal beliefs as Husien Mahdi," he continued.

Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) addressed U.S President **Donald Trump**, in a letter issued yesterday (Monday 18 June 2018), on the eve of Sheikh Ali Salman's trial on 21st of June 2018. "Sheikh Salman is well-known for

his peaceful and moderate political speech throughout all his political life. He has been described as a symbol for non-violence and peace," the letter said.

GIDHR concluded its letter calling upon the American administration to exert pressure on the Government of Bahrain to release Sheikh Salman and all the political prisoners unconditionally; drop all the charges against him; halt all human rights violations, hold perpetrators accountable, and compensate the victims; and end all forms of discrimination; set a national dialogue with all the opposition parties."

From his side, Yahya Alhadid, GIDHR President, said: "Sheikh Ali Salman's trial is a political trial lacking all the international standards of fair trial and reveals Bahrain judicial system unfair."

"The international cover provided by U.S administration, along with other allies, to the Government of Bahrain encourages its continuous pursuit of targeting the opponents, oppressing freedoms, and violating the people of Bahrain's rights," he added.

Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) called upon the authorities in Bahrain to reveal the whereabouts of 2 detained women, and insisted to allow them contact their families.

GIDHR said on its twitter account that the 2 women forcibly disappeared for more than 19 days, and no one could communicate with them. Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, Bahrain Forum for Human Rights and SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights thanked, in a statement, the high commissioner and the working team on their stances with respect to human rights situations in Bahrain, especially that Prince Zeid bin Ra'ad Al-Hussein is serving his last term in the Human Rights Council, calling on the Bahraini authorities to meet to the high commissioner's demands in receiving technical expertise offered by the UN in order to ameliorate the human rights situation in the Kingdom. The organisations noted that the high and continuous applause that was heard after the high commissioner finished his speech in the opening session is a proof of appreciation to his work by the international human rights society and organisations, although many countries don't show cooperation with him, and on top Bahrain. The organisations wished him success in his upcoming human rights tasks. The organisations stressed that the high commissioner's criticism to the Bahraini government are right, because the authorities totally closed the democratic horizon and stressed on spreading the security first and entered Bahrain in a conclusive human rights crisis that coincided with judicial pursuit to activists and human rights defenders, in addition to passing laws that restrict freedom of expression.





CRACKDOWN ON SAUDI WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS SETS OFF ALARMS OVER 30 HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS CALL FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

According to **FIDH**, human Rights Groups know at least 12 named Saudi human rights defenders who were arrested by the Saudi authorities between 15 May 2018 and 6 June 2018. The groups said that the detainees' whereabouts are unknown and they have no access to their families and lawyers of their choice. In addition there is a great fear regarding the investigations' transparency and fulfilment of the fair trial international legal standards. The human rights groups expressed their concern that some of those arrested could be sentenced to prison for their peaceful and legitimate human rights work.

State media outlets have publicly declared seven women's rights defenders and supporters of the women's rights movement as traitors, including Loujain Al-Hathloul, a well-known women's rights defender on social media who was arrested on 15 May; Dr Eman Al-Nafjan, founder and author of the Saudi woman's Weblog, who had previously protested the driving ban; Aziza Al-Yousef, a prominent campaigner for women's rights; D. Ibrahim Al-Modaimegh, a lawyer and human rights defender; writer Mohammad Al-Rabea; Abdulaziz

Al-Mesha'al, businessman and board member of a women's rights NGO; and an unnamed man. The state media also announced the arrest of Ibrahim Fahad Al-Nafjan. Saudi human rights defenders also confirmed the arrest of four other women's rights defenders who have since been released, including Dr Aisha Al-Manae; Dr Hessa Al-Sheikh and Dr Madeha Al-Ajroush, who had taken part in the first women's protest movement demanding the right to drive in 1990. At the time, 47 women had been arrested for driving and had lost their passports and their jobs. The arrests and subsequent release also included that of Walaa Al-Shubbar, a young activist well-known for her campaigning against the guardianship system. They are all academics and professionals who supported women's rights and provided assistance to survivors of gender-based violence. Saudi authorities has also detained women's rights activist Hatoon Al-Fassi. Fassi is an associate professor at King Saud University and a regular contributor to Saudi Arabia's al-Riyadh newspaper. She has long been a champion for women's rights, including the right to drive.

ATTACK ON HODEIDA THREATENS CIVILIAN LIVES AND LIFESAVING HUMANITARIAN AID

Amnesty International's Middle East Research Director Lynn Maalouf said: "The assault on Hodeida could have a devastating impact for hundreds of thousands of civilians – not just in the city but throughout Yemen."

"With an estimated 600,000 people living in and around Hodeida, all sides to the conflict must take all feasible precautions to ensure that the civilian population is protected," she continued.

"Hodeida's port is crucial to a country that is 80% dependent on imports to meet basic necessities. Cutting off this crucial supply line would further exacerbate what is already the world's worst humanitarian crisis," she added.

The Saudi-led coalition launched an assault on Yemen's main port city of Hodeida. Hodeida port is the chief entry point for aid in the country and a lifeline for the majority of Yemen's population. About 70 percent of Yemen's aid and commercial imports enter through Hodeida and the nearby Saleef port, providing food, fuel, and medicine that the population needs for survival.

SAUDI-LED COALITION TARGETED A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

On 26 June 2018, the Saudi-led coalition attacked a residential neighbourhood in Omran. The attack killed 9 civilians, 8 of which are of the same family including 2 women and 4 children; and injured 25 others. In addition, a number of houses and vehicles were demolished.

On 26 June 2018, Saudi-led coalition bombed a bus carrying 22 civilians including women and children in addition to the bus driver. The attack resulted in the death of 9 civilians including 2 children, 3 of whom were not known due to severe burns; and the injury of 12 others including 4 children and a woman. Most of whom suffer from serious injuries.



UAE CONTINUES TO FLOUT INTERNATIONAL LAW

HRW: State after state called upon the UAE to better protect the right to free expression and to ensure that torture stopped during this year's UPR review, yet the UAE continued its sustained assault on expression, speech and association, and directed proxy forces that have arbitrarily detained, disappeared and tortured men and boys in Yemen.

The UAE's treatment of Ahmed Mansoor is a stark reminder that the UAE remains more committed to repression than reform. Just a month ago, Mansoor, an award-winning Emirati rights defender, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for charges related to his activism. United Nations Special Procedures described, Mansoor's arrest as "a direct attack on the legitimate work of human rights defenders in the UAE."

Others in the UAE who speak out about human rights abuses remain at serious risk of arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and torture, and many are serving long prison terms or have felt compelled to leave the country. The UAE's repressive cybercrime law remains on the books, despite numerous UPR recommendations calling for its amendment.

During the UPR review, the UAE

emphasized efforts made to provide "humanitarian assistance" and "protect civilians." Yet, since 2015, the UAE has played a leading role in the Saudi-led coalition that has indiscriminately bombed schools, homes and markets in Yemen, blocked aid, and used widely banned weapons like cluster munitions. The UAE funds, trains and directs proxy forces which have arbitrarily detained, disappeared and brutally mistreated men and boys in Yemen. They run prisons where many have been disappeared and reported horrific abuse. Now, as this Council meets, the UAE is pushing forward the coalition's offensive on Hodeida, Yemen's key port, with reports of civilians killed just this week in additional coalition airstrikes. Activists in Yemen who have criticized the UAE's actions in their country have been subject to slander campaigns, threatened, harassed and detained. The UAE has not only failed to implement states' recommendations, but continues to brazenly flout international rules, and to detain, threaten, harass and condemn those activists—at home and abroad—who call for real reform and rights protection.

> UAE

Bahrain in NGOs



Bahrain: Exonerate, Free Nabeel Rajab

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/06/03/bahrain-exonerate-free-nabeel-rajab>



Bahrain: Nabeel Rajab unfair conviction for Twitter posts upheld

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/06/bahrain-nabeel-rajab-unfair-conviction-for-twitter-posts-upheld/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde11/8552/2018/en/>

Bahrain: 'outrageous' five-year jail sentence against Nabeel Rajab upheld

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/bahrain-outrageous-five-year-jail-sentence-against-nabeel-rajab-upheld>



Bahrain court acquits leading opposition leader

<https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2018/06/bahrain-court-acquits-leading-opposition-leader/>

Bahrain in the Media



European Parliament Calls For Sanctions Against Bahrain

<https://lobelog.com/european-parliament-calls-for-sanctions-against-bahrain/>



Bill Law: Is the acquittal of Ali Salman a breakthrough in Bahrain?

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/acquittal-ali-salman-breakthrough-bahrain-180624094005626.html>



Bahrain upholds five-year jail term against Nabeel Rajab for anti-Saudi tweets

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/bahrain-maintains-five-year-sentence-against-activist-nabeel-rajab-anti-saudi-tweets-766115947>



Bahrain rights activist loses appeal of conviction over Tweets

<https://www.jurist.org/news/2018/06/bahrain-rights-activist-loses-appeal-of-conviction-over-tweets/>



Nabeel Rajab: a true patriot of Bahrain

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180607-nabeel-rajab-a-true-patriot-of-bahrain/>

US calls on Bahrain to release Shia opposition leader

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180623-us-calls-on-bahrain-to-release-shia-opposition-leader/>



GULF INSTITUTE
for Democracy and Human Rights



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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