

GULF INSTITUTE  
for Democracy and Human Rights

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

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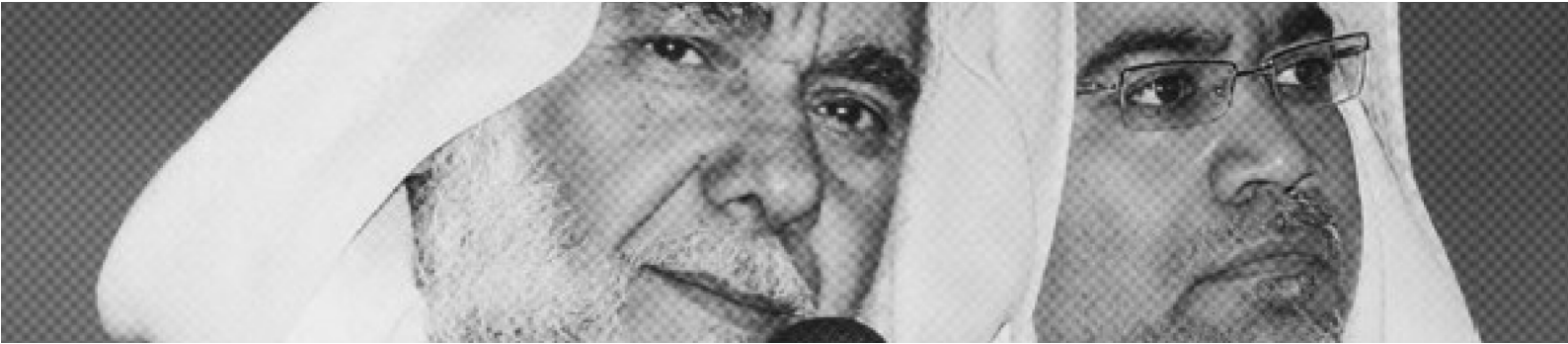
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## DETAINED OPPOSITION FIGURES ARE DENIED MEDICAL CARE INTENTIONALLY

Medical negligence at Bahraini prisons claimed the life of another prisoner following Hussein Barakat and Abbas Malallah. On 26 July, the Ministry of Interior announced the death of a 35-year-old prisoner after suffering from sickle cell complications.

Hassan Abdulnabi Mansour who was serving a three months sentence suffered medical negligence in the Dry Dock Prison until he died. Mansour was groaning and crying in pain, which prompted his cell mates to knock heavily on the doors until he was transferred to the prison clinic and then to Al-Salmaniya Medical Complex, where he passed away.

Upon detention, the health of Hassan Abdulnabi Mansour deteriorated but the prison's administration didn't take serious measures. Moreover, there was a procrastination in giving him his medications and delay in transferring him to the prison clinic.

Meanwhile, earlier July, the 73-years-old political prisoner, Hassan Mushaima, told his son the activist Ali that his lack of treatment

is causing him "a slow death". Mushaima suffers from cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and gout, for which he receives medication only sporadically. His cancer is in remission, but he requires regular screenings every six months. After days of diplomats, rights groups & media calling for Mushaima's medical treatment, he was finally taken to a military hospital on 6 July.

According to Ali Mushaima, the preliminary results of tests conducted on his father showed a serious deterioration in his health. Some of the results after one week of Mr Hassan Mushaima being hospitalized: High level of blood sugar reached 23Mmol/l, high blood pressure reached 180/70, some negative effect on his heart muscles.

He has been told that his kidney has been affected but they have not yet clarified the extent of the level. Ali Mushaima also indicated that his father suffers a sharp pain in his knees forcing him to spend most of his day in bed. Ali further explained that "as a family we don't know the doctor, and we don't have access to his health file. We only get oral and

succinct information."

Another prominent detainee suffered from medical negligence and ill treatment at Jaw Prison. The jailed dr Abduljalil Al-Singace announced, on 8 July, launching an open hunger strike and stopping receiving medication and making calls due to the humiliating and degrading treatment by a police officer. The officer has consistently denied all Al-Singace's requests and had confiscated his research more than four months ago, instead of handing it over to his family. Moreover, Al-Singace has repeatedly protested poor medical care and the denial of rubber stoppers for his crutches, which he needs to walk due to post-polio syndrome.

Prison's administration tried to end Al-Singace's hunger strike by transferring him to the hospital, but without taking any serious measures regarding other demands, however he refused to end his hunger strike until the moment of writing. As Abduljalil Al-Singace continues his hunger strike for more than 3 weeks, his health is deteriorating. Al-Singace is experiencing a loss of balance and spinning sensations. He has also lost 10kg during the last three weeks.

Amnesty International demanded the immediate release of the two

detained activists Hassan Mushaima and Abduljalil Al-Singace. "Two Bahraini opposition activists Abduljalil Al-Singace and Hassan Mushaima have both been in hospital since 18 July. Both men are vulnerable and suffer from underlying health conditions. They are prisoners of conscience and must be released immediately and unconditionally," said the organization.

In addition, detainee Ibrahim Al-Momin started a hunger strike on 18 July over being transferred to an overcrowded cell, housing prisoners convicted criminals, many of whom are foreign nationals. Al-Momin's health is deteriorating as he continues his hunger strike. After 10 days of his strike, Ibrahim Al-Momin started throwing up blood from his mouth.

Detainee Qassem Abbas Salman was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis following months of medical negligence. He was rushed on 12 July to hospital following a protest by his cellmates. However, despite recommendations from medical professionals for further treatment, Salman was returned to prison.

Detainee Sadeq Al-Mkhawder was also deprived of adequate medical treatment. Al-Mkhawder said he needs two tons but instead he is being given the wrong therapy for his many illnesses.



## **AUTHORITIES SUMMONED & ARRESTED CITIZENS OVER PRACTICING THEIR FREEDOMS**

Bahraini security forces have launched a wave of summons during the month of July over citizens participation in peaceful protests demanding the release of prisoners or in religious ceremonies. On 11 July, well-known pro-democracy protester Haji Abdulmajeed Abdulla Hasan was ordered to appear for another round of questioning in Hamad Town police station. Haji Abdulmajeed was jailed and interrogated multiple times for taking part in peaceful anti-government protests.

On 12 July, two minors Faris Hussein Habib (17 years old) and Hussain Abdul-Rasoul al-Manami (16 years old) were interrogated for hours over undisclosed reasons.

On 13 July, a group of Shiite religious worshipers from Diraz were summoned for questioning by police over their participation in religious rites. The group was given a choice between jail time or a fine of more than USD 2,500.

On 14 July, Ali Badaw, the father of three political prisoners, was

detained for taking part in peaceful protests demanding the release of his sons. He has been ordered to pay a fine before being released.

On 15 July, the television director Yasser Nasser was summoned for interrogation. Nasser spent hours being interrogated over his participation in the funeral procession of the late political prisoner Hussein Barakat.

On 16 July, security forces raided a number of homes in Sanabis and handed out summonses in the area.

On 27 July, the journalist Jaafar Al-Jamri was summoned for questioning by the Cyber Security Directorate. The reasons for the summons are unknown, but Al-Jamri faced harassment from authorities in the past over social media posts.

On 29 July, Bahraini security forces arrested Ahmed Al Rayes, Ahmed Al Sabaa, and Jaafar Al Sabaa. The three men were arrested after being summoned for questioning, however, the reasons behind the arrest were kept unknown.

> Bahrain



# INTERNATIONAL CALLS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Member of the French National Assembly Aina Kuric is warning that Bahraini political prisoners are in serious danger following a surge in Covid infections that claimed the life of Hussein Barakat in June. In a written question to her country's Foreign Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian asked about Paris' position on the issue and whether the government had any exchanges with Manama concerning the plight of Bahraini political prisoners.

Moreover, a growing number of European lawmakers are inquiring about actions taken by their respec-

tive governments following the death of the political prisoner Hussein Barakat. The latest to add his name to that list is Belgian MP Hugues Bayet. In a question tabled in parliament, Bayet wanted to know if Belgium's Foreign Minister Sophie Wilmes had been informed about Barakat's death.

Meanwhile, British MPs are worried that their government's secretive funding programs to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia put the United Kingdom at risk of being complicit in Human Rights abuses.



> Bahrain



## NEW EVIDENCE OF INHUMAN DETENTION CIRCUMSTANCES IN SAUDI PRISONS

Despite all Saudi authorities' effort to whitewash its rights' record, Saudi Arabia is still being described as Kingdom of Torture due to the continuous human rights violations.

On 11 July, Human Rights Watch (HRW) revealed a series of anonymous text messages which they received in January 2021 from an individual identifying themselves as a Saudi prison guard.

The messages provide descriptions of the torture and ill-treatment they and other prison guards witnessed Saudi interrogators commit against high-profile detainees between mid-2016 to late 2018.

According to HRW, one of the messages talked about sexual harassment that Saudi interrogators inflicted upon Loujain Al-Hathloul. "Loujain al-Hathloul was subjected to sexual harassment unprecedented to me from what I've witnessed," the guard wrote. "They were relish-

ing insulting her. They were mocking her that she is liberated and would not mind the harassment such as sticking their hands into her underwear or touching her thighs or spouting degrading words at her."

Moreover, ALQST organization surveyed through its report, "Shrouded in Secrecy: Prisons and Detention Centres in Saudi Arabia", a group of current and recent prisoners and people close to them.

The majority of the prisoners surveyed, both male and female, were unlawfully arrested, and three-quarters of them were held without charge or release beyond the statutory time limit. Half developed health problems as a result of their conditions of detention, and nearly all reported torture or other forms of ill-treatment including threats, beatings, solitary confinement, sleep deprivation and denial of family contact.

> Saudi Arabia

# ARBITRARY DETENTION IN THE KINGDOM

Despite all sham reforms Saudi authorities claim to carry out, they continue to arrest citizens over exercising their rights of freedom of expression.

On 8 June, a Saudi court sentenced a Sudanese journalist to four years in prison over charges based on tweets and media interviews he shared to Twitter in which he discussed and expressed support for Sudan's 2018-19 revolution and criticized Saudi actions in Sudan and Yemen.

Saudi authorities arrested Abdelkader when he arrived at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah on April 19 and detained him in a police station in Jeddah for 20 days and then transferred him to al-Shumaisi detention center near Mecca. He has been denied access to a lawyer, including legal representation at his trial.

According to Human Rights Watch, his trial consisted of only two short sessions. In the first, the charges were read out to him, and the judge denied him the chance to defend himself. In the second, the judge immediately read out Abdelkader's

sentence.

Moreover, Saudi authorities continue detaining the children of a former Saudi official following an unfair trial that took place in an apparent effort to coerce him to return to Saudi Arabia. Omar Al-Jabri and Sarah Al-Jabri were arrested in March 2020 and held incommunicado until January 2021.

According to Human Rights Watch, Saudi authorities brought charges against the siblings in September 2020, a month after their father sued Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in US Federal Court under the Torture Victim Protection Act, alleging that the crown prince had sent a hit squad to murder him in Canada in 2018. Following their arrests and during their trial Saudi authorities held the siblings incommunicado, preventing them from meeting with their lawyer or speaking with family members.

Their family said that the siblings had been targeted by Saudi authorities since 2017, when Sarah was 17 and Omar 18, to coerce their father to return to Saudi Arabia from exile.



> Saudi Arabia <





## ITALY LIFTS THE SUSPENSION OF ARMS SALES TO UAE & SAUDI ARABIA

As Italy has eased the restrictions on the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in an apparent attempt to soothe diplomatic tensions with the kingdoms, the two countries continue committing war crimes in Yemen.

In July 2019, the Italian government temporarily suspended arms sales to KSA and UAE, amid a public outcry over the two kingdoms' leading role in the war, which the United Nations says has brought about the world's worst humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

In January this year, Italy's Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio made the ban permanent and announced that "the government has revoked the authorizations underway for the export of missiles and aircraft bombs to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates."

Lifting the suspension of arms sales took place as the two kingdoms continued their war on Yemen for more than 2300 days. The Saudi & Emirati

led war on Yemen claimed the lives of 17176 civilians, including 3842 children, 2400 women, and 10934 men, while 26715 others were injured, including 4225 children, 2832 women, and 19658 men.

Moreover, during the war on Yemen 15 airports, 16 seaports, 308 enclosures and generators, 575353 homes, 179 university facilities, 1446 mosques, 369 tourist facilities, and 391 hospitals and health facilities were destroyed.

Lifting the suspension of arms sales took place as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warns that more than six million children in the impoverished country are at risk of losing education.

Moreover, the report released by UNICEF earlier this month confirmed that over 2 million school-age Yemeni children have already dropped out of school as poverty, conflict and lack of opportunities disrupted their education.

The agency warned that the com-

> Yemen



bined effects of the prolonged conflict, in addition to the recent disruption of education activities in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic would lead to "devastating and

long-lasting" effects on the educational process, including learning as well as the mental and physical well-being of children and adolescents in Yemen.

## CONTINUOUS SIEGE ON YEMEN

On 12 July, the General Authority for Regulating Land Transport Affairs in Sanaa warned of a humanitarian catastrophe as a result of the continued detention of fuel ships by the Saudi-led aggression, which threatens to stop all commercial, agricultural and service activities and paralyze the movement of transport.

He indicated that more than 150,000 means of transporting passengers and goods were affected as a result of the lack of fuel, which affected the rest of the sectors. Moreover, 5,224 roads and bridges, 7,945 means of transportation and 858 cargo trucks were targeted, according to the statement issued by the General Authority for Regulating Land Transport

Affairs in Sanaa.

Meanwhile, the head of the inventory department at the Supreme Authority for Medicines, Ibrahim Yahya, confirmed that the continuous blockade on Yemen is causing a health disaster which is a crime against humanity.

Yahya said that the medicines' import to Yemen decreased to 40% until the end of 2020, with an increase in the average need to 200% and sometimes to 500% for some medicines.

In addition, on 15 July, officials of the Electricity and Water Corporations warned that electricity, water and sewage services in Al-Hodeidah Governorate are threatened with a permanent halt due to the continuous holding of oil tankers.



> Yemen



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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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