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Hassan Mushaimaa: "if I were to choose between a humiliating and conditional freedom or staying in prison, I would definitely prefer prison."



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Prisons Continue to Host **Miserable Conditions & Rights Violations**

Denial of medical care in the Bahraini prisons has been a systematic approach used as a punishment. In early September, the leader of the Haq Movement, Mr. Hasan Mushaima, issued a statement in which he confirmed the continuous denial of adequate healthcare despite his deteriorating health. Moreover, Mushaima said that "it is this hope that gives us the energy to endure and be patient."

In one of the more egregious instances, detained Dr Abduljalil Al-Singace has been on hunger strike since 8 July. However, authorities are still refusing to return his confiscated research, which is one of the conditions to end his

strike.

Moreover, detainee Mohammad Al-Singace, who announced starting a hunger strike earlier in September, said that his health situation is deteriorating. Al-Singace demands a fair and transparent investigation into the torture and ill-treatment he is subjected to and international guarantees to fair trials.

Another detainee joined the ranks of hunger-striking prisoners on 5 September. Sayyed Mohammed Anwar started his hunger strike due to denial of medical treatment. In his voice message Anwar claims he's "on the verge of going blind."

The jailed religious leader Sheikh Mirza Al-Mahroos started a hunger

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strike to protest denial of medical care and other forms of ill-treatment. Sheikh Al-Mahroos has suffered from colon disease for years, but the authorities refuse to provide him with adequate medical treatment.

On the other hand, detainee Abdullah Al-Haddad was assaulted by guards at Jaw Prison on 1 September. Al-Haddad was beaten and pepper-sprayed while he was in solitary confinement. The reasons for the assault remain unknown.

Moreover, the detainee Abdulaziz AbdulRedha Isa was transferred to solitary confinement for requesting routine medical check-ups and a video call with his family.

From its side, Al-Jazeera Channel revealed documents and data on multiple aspects of serious violations

against Bahraini children, who are being held in Dry Dock Prison over various charges, such as inciting the overthrow of the regime and terrorism.

According to data collected by the "Zero Distance" team from case files and reports of local and international human rights organizations between February 2011 and August 2021, at least 607 children were subjected to various types of violence, 259 of whom were tortured. Besides, 124 were medically neglected in prisons and police stations. 116 cases of enforced disappearances were recorded. The other cases were divided between arbitrary legal proceedings, violence during detention, sexual violence, torture outside prison and denial of education.



Do Bahrain's Non-Custodial Sentences Comply with Int'l Human Rights Law?

Amnesty International said that the recent releases do not inspire confidence that Bahrain's "alternative sentencing" program is being applied in compliance with human rights law.

The organization further added "In an act of "generosity" for which Ministry of Interior officials are pressuring the family to thank the King and Crown Prince, Kameel Juma is now free on condition he does not go to any political, religious or cultural gathering, speak to media (except to thank the King), or write

on social media."

From his side, Mr Hassan Mushaima, who was sentenced to life imprisonment, said that he rejects conditional release from prison. Mushaima stressed that "if I were to choose between a humiliating and conditional freedom or staying in prison, I would definitely prefer prison." He further considered his return to home weak-kneed under restrictions of alternative penalty is like another prison and an admission of slavery.



Arrests & Summons: Routine Measures to Target Citizens

During September, the Bahraini authorities continued to violate human rights by summoning or arbitrarily arresting citizens based on their peaceful practice of their right to freedom of opinion.

On 7 September, the well-known pro-democracy protester Haji Abdulmajeed Abdulla Hasan was summoned to appear for questioning by security forces at Qudaibiya Police Station. Haji Abdulmajeed has been jailed and interrogated multiple times for taking part in peaceful anti-government protests.

On 11 September after midnight, the security forces raided the house of Ali Ahmad Mubarak and arrested his son Hasan. The 15-old minor has not been permitted to contact or meet with an attorney or any of his family members and he hasn't been brought before the designated prosecutor's office for minors (till the moment of writing this report). He had his detention extended on 16 September by a further 60 days pending an investigation.

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At dawn of 13 September, a campaign of arrests in more than one village took place. At least eight youths from Smaheej and Buri were arrested after raiding their houses.

The arrested youths are Mostafa Hussein, Jassim Al-Ekla, Yousif Al-Jufairi, Mohammad Mahmoud, Hasan Ali Ahmad, Ali Abdulmohsen, Mahmoud Saber, and Ali Ahmad Abu Taki.

On 20 September, Kumail Ibrahim Al-Khabbaz, Hussein Ali Khediri, and Sayyed Mustafa Al-Talbi were ordered to appear for interrogation before detaining them. The three then had their detention extended by another week.

On 24 September, the two brothers, Mohammed and Jaafar Jassim Habib Al-Fardan, were arrested after raiding their home in the town of Saar.

The father of three political prisoners was slapped with a hefty fine for taking part in a peaceful protest calling for the release of his children. Hajj Ali Badaw was ordered to pay a fine of more than \$2500 after being summoned for interrogation by police.



Int'l Calls to Enhance **Human Rights Situation** in Bahrain

International outrage over Bahrain's human rights record, while the British government asked Bahrain to send a delegation to the London arms fair. However, the British Foreign Office considers Bahrain a human rights concern.

Two French MPs drew the attention of the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Yves Le Drian, to the deteriorating human rights situation in Bahrain. In his statement, MP Éric Girardin referred to the arbitrary deprivation of civil liberties in Bahrain, particularly with

2018 during a wave of arrests by Saudi authorities on a group of long-term Palestinian and Jordanian residents in the kingdom on alleged links with an unnamed "terrorist" group.

They were first brought before the SCC on 8 March 2020, in a mass trial of opposition leaders, journalists, and trade unionists. He denounced the repression of these important civil society actors for having demanded respect for human rights in the country, and the continued risk for the families of those who continue

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their activism in exile.

While MP Sandra Marsaud referred specifically to the rising number of reports issued by international observers about the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the continued restricted access to human rights organizations into the country. She condemned the repression of political activists and human rights defenders, as well as the attacks on freedom of movement, deprivation of citizenship, and torture in detention. Explicit attention was drawn to the lack of access to essential healthcare, despite the outbreak of COVID-19 in Bahrain's prisons.

From their side, US Senators sent a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressing concern over the government of Bahrain's terrible human rights record. The Senators said: "They are concerned that the government of Bahrain's violent, systemic repression will breed resentment and instability, and could ultimately threaten the long-term presence of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet."

Navy's Fifth Fleet."Moreover, Freedom House Organization said in its 2021 annual report that "internet freedom in Bahrain remains restricted. Authorities continued to block websites and forced the removal of online content, particularly social media posts criticizing the government."

The report further said that social media users were interrogated by security forces for their posts, and citizens were arrested and jailed for content posted online. The Ministry of the Interior continued to dissuade internet users from discussing sensitive topics online.

In the same context, the Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) along with Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR) and SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights expressed their concern about the Bahraini government's exploitation of the Covid-19 pandemic to restrict the religious freedoms of Shia citizens during 2021 Ashura season.

50 Executions were Held in 9 Months of 2021 in Saudi Arabia

Despite all calls to stop execution in Saudi Arabia, Saudi authorities continue to execute citizens following convictions in grossly unfair trials, marred by claims of torture during pre-trial detention leading to forced confessions which the

prosecution systematically failed to investigate.

On 6 September, Saudi authorities executed a young man from Qatif region over trumped-up allegations of terrorist activities, as a crackdown led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin

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Salman against pro-democracy campaigners continues in the country.

The execution of Adnan Bin Mustafa Al-Sharfa is the 50th death sentence since the beginning of 2021. This execution confirms the falsity and deceit of Saudi statements about reforms, especially Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's promises on several occasions to reduce the number of executions and limit them to issues related to legitimate borders.

This execution took place about a

month before the third anniversary of Khashoggi's murder. On this anniversary, the US Congressman Gerry Connolly has urged fellow lawmakers to approve an amendment to the annual defence spending bill, stating it was the only way to guarantee "justice" over the 2018 murder of Middle East Eye columnist Jamal Khashoggi.

Connolly further said that "we are not going to allow the memory of Jamal Khashoggi to fade, and we're going to insist on justice."



Medical Negligence Against Political Prisoners is a Serious Concern:

Serious concern about the deliberate medical negligence against political opponents and opposition figures kept in detention centers across Saudi Arabia. Saudi prison authorities deliberately deprive inmates of medical treatment as part of their policy of abusing and killing them silently.

While all governments are obliged under the international law to protect human beings against rights

violations and ensure their freedom and dignity, the repressive policy of Saudi officials against jailed activists has significantly undermined such principle.

Many jailed Saudi activists, including Salman al-Ouda and Abdulrahman al-Sadhan, are suffering from lack of medical services as four years since the Saudi authorities' crackdown on dissent in September 2017 have been marked.



Thousands of Yemeni Lives Were Lost in 2021 Due to War

United Nations estimated more than 1,200 civilians have been killed or injured in Yemen this year. This is on top of the more than 20,000 civilians who have been killed or injured since the war began in 2015.

Additionally, the U.N. humanitarian office reported about 233,000 people have died of causes related to hunger, disease, lack of health care, a collapsed economy, and other indirect causes.

From his side, the UN Humanitarian Affairs chief, Martin Griffiths, warned that millions of Yemenis are

“a step away from starvation. Griffiths further said that women and girls are more likely to be hungry, sick, or exposed to gender-based violence because of the crisis in Yemen.

Meanwhile, the chairwoman of the Security Council in September, Ireland's ambassador to the United Nations, Geraldine Byrne Nason, said that “We know that there are not only hungry people in Yemen, but people who are starving, and we want an end to that.”

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US Groups Urge Congress to Stop Supporting Saudi Arabia Military

Anti-war groups in the United States urged the US Congress to prevent a human catastrophe in Yemen by ending military support for Saudi Arabia's aggression on the war-ravaged country. The 56 organizations in their letter said that "By suspending the sale of arms and

ending US participation in the Saudi coalition's war and blockade, Congress can prevent a humanitarian catastrophe from spiraling further out of control as it reasserts its constitutional authority on matters of war and peace."

Airport Closure Increases the Yemeni Humanitarian Crisis

The United Nations envoy Hans Grundberg stressed Friday, 10th September, the need to open Sanaa International Airport and resume work in the port of Hodeidah. The call came up after years of Yemenis suffering due to the closure of Sanaa Airport, where this closure prevents the movement of humanitarian and commercial goods to Yemen.

According to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), thousands of Yemenis suffering from chronic diseases died while waiting for urgent treatment because of the Saudi restrictions on the Airport.

The organization further indicated that the closure of Sanaa airport for the fifth year in a row has hindered the travel of at least 32,000 Yemeni patients in critical condition who need life-saving treatment abroad since the first and last medical flight happened in February of last year.

Moreover, in late September, the Director of the Health Office in Sanaa, Dr Mutahar Al-Maroni confirmed that a conjoined twins died because of the failure to be transferred abroad to receive the necessary medical care to save their lives. Yemen lacks specialized medical devices and cadres.

In this regard, the Ministry of Health indicated that more than 120 medical brands needed by people with chronic diseases were permanently prevented from entering Yemen. 50 other international pharmaceutical companies were prevented from working in Yemen due to the Saudi-Emarati coalition's restriction. In addition, the medical facilities are unable to import more than 360 medications due to the inability to fulfill their special transport conditions.



On the other hand, the closure of Sanaa Airport forces Yemenis who seek to come back to their home country, to enter through crossings which may put them at risk. This what happened with Abdul Malik Al-Sanabani who had returned to his

hometown to visit his family in Sanaa after years of studying in the US. Abdul Malik was then kidnapped, tortured, and killed as he was crossing at a checkpoint in southwestern Lahij province.