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for Democracy and Human Rights

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MALNUTRITION

A black and white photograph of two young men, likely of Middle Eastern descent, looking directly at the camera. They are wearing light-colored shirts. The background is a solid blue color.

**Fears of Executing Two Young Men Arrested
Over Politically Motivated Cases**



YEARS OF SUFFERING ENDED WITH OFFERING PRISONERS EXPENSIVE OFFERS TO PURSUE THEIR EDUCATION

One of the most basic rights which prisoners of conscience have been deprived from for years was access to education. After years of demands, finally, the Bahraini authorities allowed prisoners to pursue their studies at universities, however, they didn't offer prisoners universities of affordable budgets.

This step, which seems to be a positive one, carries with it the malicious intentions of the prison's administration. A prisoner can't pursue the extravagant fees of private universities offered by the prison administration. They turned a blind eye on other universities, especially the national one, University of Bahrain. The political prisoner Ali Mohammad Al-Salman transferred their sufferings with the administration's offers of private universities as their high registration costs exceed the financial capabilities of prisoners. Al-Salman explained that the cost of registering for one semester in private universities is about 13,000 BD (app 34,500\$). He also blamed the authorities for excluding the University of Bahrain.

PRISONERS AT JAW ARE BEING DENIED ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

The miserable conditions in Bahrain detention facilities continue to be worsening. On 22 November, prisoners housed in Dry Dock prison talked about their sufferings from the spread of illnesses between prisoners. The unhygienic environment in the prison along with medical negligence, resulted in multiple infections of Influenza in the aforementioned prison. Influenza can worsen symptoms of existing chronic diseases. All what prisoners called for is being transferred to the prison clinic, however, they got no response.



On the other side, prisoners housed in Jaw prison complained about the shortage of drinking water. They explained that available water is polluted, not drinkable and smells like sewage, moreover, they are denied access to bottled water too, as they are deprived of purchasing bottled water from the canteen. In addition, death row inmate Mohammad Ramadan told his wife that some detainees are getting sick from contaminated water. Until the moment of publishing, the authorities didn't address the deteriorating infrastructure in the prison.

THIRTY CITIZEN DETAINED FOR PARTICIPATION IN PEACEFUL MARCHES SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH GAZA

As the Bahrainis continue showing their solidarity with Palestinians, the authorities in Bahrain continue to arrest them. Since 7 October, Bahrain people have been organizing peaceful marches/ sit-ins to show their solidarity with Palestinians and calling for their authority to stop normalization. However, the authorities distaste those events, and decide to arrest a group of those participating.

During November, 30 Bahraini citizen were arrested for taking part in pro-Palestine protests and calling for an end to the Gaza genocide, to have a total of 58 since 7th October. Those arrested during November include at least 5 minors. In addition, 3 others were arrested during November over multiple reasons. On 7 November, the wife of the political prisoner Abbas Abed Ali was arrested while she was visiting her husband in Jaw prison. The nature and cause of the arrest have not been disclosed.



On 10 November, the Bahraini authorities arrested the historical researcher Jassim Hussein Al-Abbas after a speech he delivered at a religious gathering on Bahrain's ancient history. His arrest took place after being summoned to the Criminal Investigation Department. Al-Abbas is owner of "Sanawat Al-Jareesh" account and website where he during the last period has been posting videos of crimes committed against Palasteniens in Gaza Strip.

On 14 November, the former political prisoner Ali Hajji was back behind bars. His arrest was after a visit to the Ministry of Interior demanding the restoration of his civil rights, which he lost due to his conviction. As the Ministry of Interior refused to start the procedures for lifting the travel ban, Ali told an employee that he is forced to protest peacefully in front of its building to demand his right, which the employee considered a threat, and therefore, Hajjii was arrested.





SAUDI AUTHORITIES USES SPORT TO HIDE ITS HR ABUSES

The Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MBS) has made investing in sport a key part of his Vision 2030 project. In other words, he is using sports to whitewash the Kingdom's image and hide its poor human rights record. Therefore, MBS tried his best to make the Kingdom a part of global sporting events.

To reach his aim, MBS invested millions across the sporting world, from chess championships to golf and tennis, \$60m alone on the Saudi Cup, and \$650m in a 10-year deal with Formula One, according to circulating reports.

Millions others have been spent in the football domain, including signing deals with star athletes. Those investments resulted in awarding the Kingdom to the bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, after Australia, the only country with a potential competing bid, dropped out.

HRW commented: "When governments without the rule of law, press freedom or protections for workers host these events, the result has been serious human rights abuses, such as arrests of journalists..."

Meanwhile, Abdullah Al-Qahtani, the son of the jailed human defender Mohammad Al-Qahtani who have been forcibly disappeared a month before the end of his sentence, said "Sports have been popular vehicles for governments, including authoritarian regimes, to showcase the country's economic and cultural assets to the global audience. But for Saudi Arabia, the goal is to hide all the human rights abuses they have committed."



FEARS OF EXECUTING TWO YOUNG MEN ARRESTED OVER POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CASES

Saudi Arabia was one of the countries with the highest execution rate in 2022, where 196 were executed. As the kingdom continues with an approximate rate, where it so far executed 131 since the beginning of 2023, fears mount for death row inmates.

The cases of Abdullah Al-Derazi and Jalal Labbad are in the spotlight after Amnesty International reported last month that their sentences had been secretly upheld by the Supreme Court, meaning their deaths could be announced any day.

One of Abdullah's relatives said to AFP that "because Saudi Arabia does not typically notify lawyers and relatives before carrying out executions, we will receive news of his (death) at any moment."

Both Al-Derazi and Labbad were minors at the time of fabricated charges. The two were arrested in connection with anti-government protests that took place during 2011 in the Kingdom.



MORE THAN 4.5 MILLION CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN YEMEN SUFFER FROM MALNUTRITION

Malnutrition places Yemeni children in the midst of the world's worst human suffering as a result of hostility and the siege between life and death, the Supreme Council for Humanitarian Affairs and International Cooperation (SCMCHA) said in its latest report.

SCMCHA's report, which was released on 8 November, highlighted the disastrous situation of Yemeni children who have been bearing the brunt of the blockade, which has resulted in food insecurity, a collapsing health care system. The report's statistics shows that 4,521,727 children and women in Yemen suffer from acute, general and severe malnutrition. In detail, 1,463,633 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition including 313,790 children under five, while 1,777,423 children suffer from General malnutrition. In addition, 966,881 pregnant and breastfeeding women struggle from malnutrition in order to survive in light of the humanitarian disaster caused by the aggression.

Moreover, SCMCHA explained, through the report, that more than 8.5 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance and face the daily threat of food shortages and displacement.

It further indicated the causes of the acute malnutrition to be: violence, blockade, continuous reductions of aid, and the termination of malnutrition preventive programs and treatments.