

Abduljalil al-Singace Hunger Strike

<http://bahrainalyoum.uk/?p=31780>



This is what Dr. Abduljalil al-Singace has said about his hunger strike, which he started more than 100 days ago:

This week's events:

Saturday, 4 July 2015:

1. I requested to write a letter addressed to the prison administration regarding my son Husain's visit which is on the same day as my visit, 9 July 2015.
2. The nurses refused to provide me with pen and paper, which is a new order. However, other prisoners have notebooks, pens, and some also have radios.
3. After some quibbles, they gave me a small piece of paper and a pen to write the letter which was sent on the same day.

Sunday, 5 July 2015:

I received a call from the Jordanian Captain Samer telling me that my request was granted and that my visit will be rescheduled to Tuesday based on my request which is not correct. The visitation unit, which is headed by Lieutenant Hamad al-Thawadi, set visits every two weeks or more, choosing days not according to what is suitable for me. I was even deprived from funeral visits for the same reasons.

Anyways, I talked to Captain Samer about the hunger strike and number of days – as if he did not know – and I told him it has been more than 100 days. He asked if it was because of the uniforms, handcuffs, and searches to which I replied yes. He said that this is the procedure in all prisons and neither he nor the head of the prison can make a decision on this matter. I told him that Hasan Mushaima and I have not worn the uniform or the handcuffs and have not been subjected to humiliating searches since being detained in

this prison in November 2011 and that this was agreed with the administration. He then said that the situation has changed and took note of the stuff I need (shampoo, pens, notebook, Mafateeh al-Jenan, two books) and said that he will arrange for them to be provided. He also asked through a policeman to allow me to write a letter. I haven't been allowed any of these items yet, though I have sent more than 5 letters on the matter for which I received no response.

On the same day, I was seen by an Egyptian female dermatologist to check my hair loss problem which was caused by the hunger strike as well as the failure to provide me with shampoo for more than two months. She prescribed omega 3, vitamin E, and an anti-hair loss shampoo. I started using the shampoo and taking the pills.

Monday, 6 July 2015:

I was woken up in the morning and told that a medical escort had come from Jau Prison to take me to the Bahrain Defense Force Hospital (BDF) for a consultation with a haematologist, who would run tests to find the reason for my decrease in white blood cells and immune deficiency. I had to wear the prison uniform so I told them that I wanted to go to the hospital but I would go the way I had always been going with civilian clothes. They rejected that and did not take me to the BDF, in spite of it being an urgent appointment requested by my doctor at al-Qala'a hospital.

Tuesday, 7 July 2015:

A nurse came with a policeman to tell me that I have an appointment in the BDF hospital but that I have to wear a prison uniform and handcuffs. I told them that my answer was the same as yesterday. I don't refuse treatment or going to the BDF but I will go with my clothes like the previous times. They again refused to take me for treatment.

On the same day, I was visited by Ombudsman employee Khalid Elias, who is a very decent person. He greeted me and addressed me as Doctor. I initiated the following dialogue:

"I see the ombudsman as a dependent entity that works to cover up the flaws in the ministry and prisons' administrations."

"We know and respect your viewpoint."

"I did not contact you nor did my family, who did?"

"Yes, you didn't nor your family and we were not approached by anyone from abroad either, but we want to see how you're doing for humanitarian reasons."

"It has been more than 100 days of hunger strike and in the hospital and you've just come."

"We're very busy and there are a big number of prisoners."

He then asked, *"Do you have a wheelchair? Does your family visit? Do they provide you with treatment? Do you have sanitary items?"*

Then he went to the bathroom and said there was soap, toothpaste, a towel, and lighting. Then he came out of the bathroom and began measuring the window. He kept asking. I told him my condition was stable. He said they just wanted to assure I'm well with a doctor. He said: *"Shall I meet the doctor?"* He left and every time he came back he'd go into the bathroom and inspected the place. He sat with Dr. Elian but I don't know what he told him.

I told him that they are not addressing the broader matter. He asked how? I told him that I've been on hunger strike for more than 100 days and they're focusing on this stuff but not asking about the reason for my strike. He said they will in the future. I said they know why we, Mushaima and I, didn't go out for visits for more than 10 months. I'm a respectable person, many officials in this country were taught by me. I'm being punished and humiliated further by making me look like a criminal. I refuse humiliation and insults. I'd rather die here than accept this. He said that things will change. I told him the prison administration is not fixable; the mentality of the management should be changed. He said everything will be fixed. He then promised and left.

I think they're preparing a response for officials, international organizations, or media.

General Health:

Blood sugar: 4 to 5, sometimes less than 4.

Blood pressure: 100-110 over 60-70.

HB: 12 – 13

White blood cell count: 3400, should be 3800

Temperature: 37