

Weekly Report – 13 to 19 July

Arrests:

Last week, security forces [arrested](#) 29 individuals, including six children. Several were later released.

On 15 July 2015, security forces in civilian clothes [raided](#) a mosque in the Dair area where a group was worshipping on the last days of Ramadan. Security forces asked the group if three people had come into the mosque to hide. Although the group denied the claim and told security forces that they were the only people worshipping, security forces raided the mosque, arrested one of worshippers, and interrogated another.

The prominent human rights defender Nabeel Rajab was released by authorities for health reasons. Nabeel was arrested and tried based on charges relating to exercising freedom of expression on Twitter.



Zahraa al-Shaikh and her son

Zahraa al-Shaikh [completed](#) her one year sentence after being charged with illegal assembly. She was released with her son, who had been detained with her.

Trials:

The Bahraini court of appeals upheld the sentence of an individual to three months in prison, and postponed the trials of 45 others. Moreover, three individuals were remanded to more than 60 days.

On 2 July 2015, Majeed Milad, a member of Al-Wefaq's Secretariat council, was [summoned](#) and interrogated over charges of incitement of hatred and non-compliance to the law. The public prosecution [extended](#) his pretrial detention for an additional 15 days and referred him to court. Milad's trial [began](#) on 13 July 2015, during which he denied all charges. The trial was held in the judge's private chamber rather than the courtroom, and the judge rejected his lawyer's request to release Milad on bail.

The public prosecution [renewed](#) the detention of political activist Ebrahim Sherif to 15 days, pending investigation. Sherif was charged with incitement against the regime by promoting the change of the constitution system with force. On 12 July 2015, security forces [re-arrested](#) Sherif from his home. Sherif was taken to Muharraq police station and then to Hala'a police station where he was remanded for 48 hours, pending investigation. The authorities stated that Sherif [violated](#) the law by inciting hatred against and insulting the regime during a speech he delivered at an event. Sherif was released three weeks ago after serving four years of his five-year sentence.

The authorities [renewed](#), for the fifth time, the pre-trial detention of Taiba Darwish, who was accused of harboring fugitives.

Protests:

Dozens of protests and sit-ins took place across Bahrain. Security forces reportedly used excessive force in assaulting several individuals.



[Protest in Duraz](#)

Collective Punishment/ Use of force:

Security forces continued the use of force and excessive use of tear gas in residential areas as well as in suppressing peaceful protests. Several shotgun [injuries](#) were also documented.



[Shotgun injury in Sitra](#)



[Suppressing protests in Karbabad](#)

Others:

The Bahrain Human Rights Society [said](#) in its weekly report that during the first week of July, security forces arrested 29 individuals, including one woman and three children, and raided

26 homes. The organization documented 45 protests and said that authorities used excessive force, tear gas, and shotgun pellets to suppress protests in 11 different areas, resulting in several injuries among protesters. The organization also documented a raid on the Imam al-Baqer mosque by security forces, as well as the breaking of a mosque's door in A'ali, and vandalism of a citizen's car in Duraz. Moreover, in the aforementioned period, courts handed down 38 years and six months in prison sentences to 22 citizens.

Former parliament and Al-Wefaq member Abduljaleel Khalil [demanded](#) that the government and the Mumtakat Holding Co., which manages lands owned by the country, provide an explanation regarding the selling of a portion of government owned land, which is estimated at hundreds of thousands of square meters. Abduljaleel questioned the basis on which this land was sold, as it was previously allocated to be turned into a public park. In 2006, the Ministry of Finance established a company that entered into a partnership with an investment company. Later, the government's share was transferred to Mumtakat, and today, this land is owned by an investor. Abduljaleel wondered how and for how much this land was sold, and said that it seems Mumtakat entered a partnership through which it sells state owned properties and lands.

Bahraini doctors, who have been unemployed for two years following their graduation, [said](#) that the Ministry of Health refused to hire 50 Bahrainis. Instead, the Ministry asked the doctors to sign temporary internship contracts for 5 years, during which they would have to take the Arabic Board test every year with no guarantees they would be hired. Member of Parliament Jalal Khadem wondered why the Ministry would not hire the doctors, despite several vacancies, and why instead they hire dozens of non-Bahraini doctors.

Bahrain's Ministry of Interior announced on its Twitter account that there were three explosions in the last week, [two](#) in Eker and one in [Karanah](#). Based on the Mol's statement, the explosions killed one citizen and wounded two policemen. The family of the deceased citizen [said](#) that their son was not a member of any group, and demanded an immediate independent investigation into his death.

Bahraini authorities blocked the website of the news channel LuaLua TV. The channel management stated that this is an example of the regime's suppression of free expression.

