

Weekly Report – 20 to 26 July

Arrests:

Last week, security forces [arrested](#) 38 individuals, including six children.

Trials:

The Bahraini court of appeal upheld the sentence of two individuals to 13 months in prison, and postponed the trials of 73 other people. Moreover, six individuals were remanded to 105 days.

The high criminal court [began](#) the trial of 57 of Jau Prison's inmates who were accused with rioting in Jau Prison. In the first hearing, approximately 29 of the defendants denied all charges; only one admitted breaking a window because he was suffocating of tear gas. The defendants told the court that they were the victims and asked to be examined by forensic doctors. One of the defendants removed his shirt to show the court his torture marks.

Protests:

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



[Protests in various villages in Bahrain](#)



[Abu Saiba](#)

Collective Punishment/ Use of force:

Security forces continued the use of force and the excessive use of tear gas in residential areas to suppress peaceful protests. Several shotgun injuries were also documented.





[Tear gas canisters used by security forces](#)

Others:

Shia in Bahrain suffered discrimination in employment to the Ministry of Interior and the Bahrain Defense Force. Also, recent medical school graduates called on the government to resolve their unemployment problem. They said that they were put on temporary contracts for two years with no promises of employment. Similarly, graduates from other disciplines who were seeking employment in the education sector raised the same complaints that despite being qualified, the Ministry of Education refused to employ them.

On the other hand, the Government of Bahrain hired foreigners in vacancies that could have been filled with qualified Bahrainis. A Community Welfare Consultant at the Pakistani Embassy in Bahrain [said](#) that the number of Pakistanis in Bahrain is 100 thousand: at least 20% work in the Ministry of Interior and 60% work in basic jobs in the construction industry. In addition, the Tunisian Ambassador in Bahrain [said](#) that there are at least 1500 Tunisians living in Bahrain, with the majority working in the education sector. He added that the first batch of medics will be arriving to Bahrain from Tunisia to work in King Hamad Hospital. This first batch will consist of 60 people: 12 doctors and 48 medical professionals.

The Pakistani Community Welfare Consultant in Bahrain [added](#) that many Pakistani workers suffer on a daily basis from having their passports held by their sponsors. Sponsors blackmail workers by holding their passports and forcing them to work for more than 12 hours, or by making workers pay money to retrieve their passports. Moreover, sponsors do not abide by the contracts they sign with workers. Recently, a female worker was forced to work for more than ten hours and was not provided with food or drink during her first month at work, even though her contract states no more than 8 hours of work in addition to free food and drink during the first month. He added that workers are also paid less than agreed wages, and that the embassy receives five to ten complaints of the mistreatment of workers on a daily basis.

More than 12,000 tweets were [posted](#) on Twitter under the hashtag “scholarships massacre.” Bahraini high school graduates and their families discussed the unfairness of scholarships distribution by the Ministry of Education. Top students were not [granted](#) their preferences, and many believed that this was another form of the authorities’ discrimination against Shia students. Many Shia top students complained about being deprived from scholarships. The Ministry of Education announced that it would be accepting grievances on 3 August.

Former resigned Parliament and Al-Wefaq member, Ali al-Ashiri, was [prevented](#) from entering Saudi Arabia four times. He learned that the prevention is due to an order by the Government of Bahrain.