

Postponement of Majeed Milad's Trial to 29 September

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A Bahraini court postponed the trial of Majeed Milad, one of al-Wefaq Society's leaders, to 29 September in order to listen to the witnesses for the defense.

The judge refused Milad's lawyer's request for him to be released, and Milad's legal team had several complaints about the trial procedures.

Their complaints included that the trial was held at the end of the working day and that the judge ordered that the courtroom be vacated before Milad's entrance, a violation of public trial law.

During the session, the judge did not allow the prosecution's witness (a lieutenant in the Ministry of the Interior) to answer questions, ostensibly to protect the secrecy of his sources.

Some human rights sources said that Milad's family was also banned from the courtroom and was forced to remain outside for the entirety of the trial.

Milad is being tried on charges related to freedom of expression. He delivered a speech at a public event about human rights abuses in Bahrain.

Bahraini authorities have arrested several members of al-Wefaq, including Secretary-General Sheikh Ali Salman, who was sentenced to four years in prison, and Sheikh Hasan Isa, who is facing serious charges of funding terrorism, which he has denied. Sheikh Hasan's lawyers said that he was ill-treated and threatened with torture during interrogation.