



ADHRB Weekly Report – 30 to 6 December

Arrests:

Last week, security forces arrested 10 individuals; two were later released.

Trials:

Bahraini criminal and appeal courts altered, upheld convictions and sentenced 10 individuals to more than 34 years in prison. 5 individuals had their trials postponed.

The public prosecution [renewed](#) the pretrial detention of the former MP Sheikh Hasan Isa to an additional 30 days. This is the sixth time that Sheikh Hasan's detention is renewed since his arrest on 19 August 2015 from Bahrain airport.

Similarly, the public prosecution again renewed the detention of Ebrahim Karimi, who had his citizenship revoked in 2012, to 30 days in detention. Ebrahim stands accused of “misuse” of social media.

The court of appeal [upheld](#) a sentence of one year and four months in prison against activist Zainab al-Khawaja because she did not attend the hearing. Al-Khawaja was previously convicted and sentenced for “insulting” a public official, and “insulting” the king for tearing up his photo.

The criminal court [postponed](#) the trial of an individual accused of misuse of social media to 17 January 2016. The public prosecution accused him of dissemination of false news during wartime and incitement of hatred against a sect over social media websites.

The Special Investigation Unit [stated](#) that the criminal court sentenced a policeman to two years in prison for assaulting a detainee. The incident was caught on video which showed the policeman beating the victim earlier this year.

Protests:

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



[Duraz](#)



[Abu Saiba](#)

Collective Punishment/ Use of force:

Security forces continue the use of force and excessive use of tear gas and shotgun pellets to suppress peaceful protests.



[Use of tear gas and shotgun pellets against protesters in Abu Saiba](#)

New Laws:

On 1 December 2015, the Bahraini parliament [approved](#) an amendment to the anti-terrorism law expanding police officers' arrest authority. New authorities include the ability to extend pre-trial detention from 5 days to 28 days without bringing specific charges, bringing terrorism charges against individuals who "help" train others on use of weapons or explosives with a maximum sentence of life in prison, and given the police the authority to cut electricity and water on an entire town or village if there are terrorism acts "in the area." The Ministry of Interior stated that since 2011 162 cases have been tried under Bahraini anti-terrorism law, which was previously expanded in 2014.

In a statement to a local newspaper, the Minister of Cabinet Affairs [said](#) that political societies law should be amended to include language preventing any political society from being established on a sectarian or territorial basis. The Shura Council also [approved](#) amendments to the political societies law that prevents clerics, who are members in a political society, from preaching or delivering speeches. These amendments are now being discussed by the lower parliament.

In 2014, the king issued a decree to [cancel](#) the elected Capital Municipal Council and replace it with an unelected Council of Secretariat. This resulted in citizens in 10 electoral districts, encompassing more than 90,000 voters, without elected representatives for the municipality of Manama. For the two past years, the Council of Secretariat refused to assign each member responsibility for a single district, as was the case under the elected municipal council. Instead, the appointed Council members decide on residents' requests and complaints through an unelected committee.