

250 Political Detainee Children in Bahrain

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Left: Sayed Fadhel Sayed Saeed Shams, Right: Sayed Mohammed Hashim Sharaf

According to local reports, including reports from the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), at least 250 children languish in Bahraini prisons over politically motivated charges. International human rights groups continue to reiterate calls for an end to the detention and interrogation of children for terrorism charges for participating in “daily protests that have been ongoing for years now.”

Under an ongoing campaign targeting Bahraini children, on 19 January 2016, the criminal court sentence Ali al-Arab, a 17-year-old, to an additional ten years in prison over terrorism-related charges. Al-Arab has now been sentenced to a total of 130 years in prison. An activist stated that his case “tells the story of how Bahraini authorities treat children,” and added “this regime wants to bury children in these prisons and deny them life.”

Additionally, a juvenile court remanded Sayed Mohammed Hashim Sharaf, a 13-year-old, to five days in detention after summoning him last Tuesday. Activist Husain Radhi from BCHR stated that authorities have kept Sayed Mohammed in solitary confinement during the days following his arrest. Similarly, the same court remanded Sayed Fadhel Saeed Shams, another 13-year-old, to six days in detention pending investigation. Sayed Fadhel is the brother of Sayed Ahmed Shams, a 15-year-old victim of an extra-judicial killing in May 2011.