

ADHRB Weekly Report – 18 to 24 January

Arrests:

Last week, security forces [arrested](#) 31 individuals, including four children.

Human rights activists on the ground published a video showing security forces violently arresting a man, apparently following a house raid (watch the video [here](#)).

Trials:

Bahraini criminal and appeal courts altered, upheld convictions and sentenced 13 individuals to more than 240 years in prison. Meanwhile, 59 individuals have had their trials postponed.

The public prosecution [interrogated](#) Al Wefaq's Secretary-General Sheikh Ali Salman regarding the content posted on his Twitter account, despite being in detention. The Ministry of Interior [stated](#) that the Sheikh Ali was interrogated because his tweets were publicly inciting hatred against the country's constitutional system, inciting civil disobedience of the law, and calling for unpermitted protests. The case is being further investigated before being referred to court.

The high court of appeal [upheld](#) the two month prison sentence and BHD100 bail for women activist Ghada Jamsheer. In a second case, the court amended her sentence to two months in prison. Ghada was convicted for posting critical tweets about alleged corruption in a government hospital by its head, who is a member of Al Khalifa ruling family.

The Court of Cassation [scheduled](#) the first appeal hearing of Sheikh Mohammed Ali al-Mahfoodh to 1 February 2016. Sheikh Mohammed was previously sentenced to ten years in prison, and later had his sentence reduced to five years in prison, for leading the Al Amal Political Society.

The head of correctional facilities [denied](#) Dr. Ali Isa al-Ekri's lawyer request for conditional release based on Article 349 of the Penal Code, which allows for parole after three-quarters of a prison term has been served. The lawyer submitted two letters of request to the judge, including Dr. al-Ekri's case file, but only one received a response.

Protests:

Dozens of protests and sit-ins took place in different areas of Bahrain. Security forces used teargas and shotgun pellets against protesters which resulted in several injuries.



[Abu Saiba](#)

Collective Punishment/Use of Force:

Security forces continued the use of force via the excessive use of tear gas and shotgun pellets to suppress peaceful protests. Human rights activists on the ground documented several injuries.



[Sitra](#)



[House raids in Eker](#)



[Abu Saiba](#)

More from the Ground:

Detainees:

The Bahrain Center for Human Rights [stated](#) that at least 250 children are detained over politically motivated charges. Bahraini authorities have escalated its targeting of Bahraini children, increasing the number of children arrested and increasing prison sentences for those detained.

Last week, the criminal court sentenced Ahmed al-Arab, a 17-year-old, to an additional ten years in prison, increasing his sentence to a total of 130 years in prison. The juvenile court also remanded Sayed Mohammed Sharaf, a 13-year-old, to five days in detention. Sayed Mohammed was reportedly kept in solitary confinement. The same court remanded Sayed Fadhel Sayed Saeed Shams, a 13-year-old, to six days in detention.

Detained political activist Hisham al-Sabagh [started](#) a hunger strike one week ago in protest of authorities depriving him of his medication in prison. According to Hisham, the prison justified the decision stating that there wasn't budget to provide it. He was taken to the prison's clinic.

Mohammed and Ali al-Fakhrawi were recently [charged](#) in a politically motivated case announced by the Ministry of Interior. They were both accused of establishing a terror cell allegedly linked to Hezbollah. Mohammed and Ali were arrested when Bahraini security forces raided their house to arrest another member of the family. When Mohammed asked the detaining officer for a warrant, the officer beat Mohammed prior to arresting him with the rest of the men in the house, including his brother Ali. At the CID, the brothers were severely tortured, including being prevented from drinking water, going to the toilet, or taking shower. They were also sexually harassed and kept in solitary confinement while being handcuffed for 70 days. Mohammed and Ali are the nephews of Karim Fakhrawi, who was tortured to death in an extra-judicial killing by authorities in 2011.