



Mr. President,

Alsalam Foundation and ADHRB welcome the report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, in particular the connection drawn between arbitrary detention and torture. This connection is clearly evident in Bahrain, where political prisoners and other arbitrarily held detainees regularly face torture in custody.

Enforced disappearance, *incommunicado* detention, torture-induced confessions, and due process violations are frequently documented in Bahrain, such as in case of the so-called “Zulfiqar Brigades,” a mass terrorism trial in which 115 Bahrainis were convicted and denaturalized.

We also note with appreciation the recent opinion issued concerning Bahraini citizen Nabeel Rajab, in which the Working Group determined that he is being arbitrarily detained in violation of his rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and that his detention is discriminatory and based upon his status as a human rights defender. Significantly, one of the Tweets that was used to convict him criticized the Bahraini government for failing to address widespread torture in Jau Prison.

We wish to bring to the Working Group’s attention another individual arbitrarily detained on discriminatory grounds: political opposition leader Hassan Mushaima. 70 years-old, Mushaima is serving a life sentence in Jau Prison on the charge of “attempting to overthrow the government,” for his pro-democracy activism. He has been subjected to ill treatment in Jau Prison, including the continued denial of healthcare and confiscation of books.

We echo the comments of the Working Group that widespread or systematic imprisonment and deprivation of liberty may constitute crimes against humanity, and we submit that widespread and systematic arbitrary detention imposed by the Al Khalifa government in Bahrain has reached this level.

We ask, will the Working Group comment on the use of mass trials to unfairly imprison and denaturalize individuals, particularly in the context of Bahrain?

Thank you.