

## Hani Marhoon's Complaints

### 1. On 8 August 2018:

August 8, 2018

To His Excellency the Secretary-General of the Ombudsman

Good greetings.

Out of concern for the real interests of the country and based upon for the ideal of social partnership, I am writing to you to request to meet you personally with the presence of the Secretary General of the Ombudsman's and the President of the Prisoners' Commission. And I would like you to note that I have filed in the past an official request to meet with the Ombudsman's Secretary-General or whoever represents him, as well as the director of the National Institute for Human Rights, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. However, I did not receive any response until I started writing this letter, despite my follow-ups concerning the request, on every occasion where I could contact these entities. I also spoke on the phone with the Deputy of the Ombudsman's Secretary-General concerning this issue five months earlier, but it was in vain, despite the fact that the main statute in both entities oblige them responsible for no less than two visits yearly for every prison, in order to work seriously and sincerely for the purpose of resolving systematic violations of human rights in prisons since it is the best way to resolve crises and to create the right environment for political rehabilitation and to achieve social and economic stability. The mere work in improving the Bahraini rights issue in the media and in regional forums does not ensure real results, but it is a waste of public funds. We could all avoid it through sincere and constructive cooperation which puts the national interests above all other considerations. Allow me to bring with me to the planned meeting both Youssef Al Amm and Khalil Al Halawaji who told me about their desire to do this.

In conclusion, please accept my greetings and respect.

Hani Ahmed Isa Al Marhoon  
Jau Central Prison  
Building 13, Cell 2, Room 4

A copy of this is sent to:

The Ombudsman's Secretary -General  
The President of the Prisoners' Commission  
The President of the Loyalty and Citizenship Promotion Committee within the Ministry of Interior  
The Secretary-General of the International Red Cross

2. On 8 August 2018:

August 8, 2018

To Ms. Maria Khoury

President of the National Institute for Human Rights

Good greetings.

Out of concern for the real interests of the country and based upon for the ideal of social partnership, I am writing to you to request to meet you personally with the presence of the Secretary General of the Ombudsman's and the President of the Prisoners' Commission. And I would like you to note that I have filed in the past an official request to meet with the Ombudsman's Secretary-General or whoever represents him, as well as the director of the National Institute for Human Rights, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. However, I did not receive any response until I started writing this letter, despite my follow-ups concerning the request on every occasion where I could contact these entities. I also spoke on the phone with the Deputy of the Ombudsman's Secretary-General concerning this issue five months earlier, but it was in vain, despite the fact that the main statute in both entities oblige them to conduct no less than two visits yearly for every prison, in order to work seriously and sincerely for the purpose of resolving systematic violations of human rights in prisons since it is the best way to resolve crises and to create the right environment for political rehabilitation and to achieve social and economic stability. The mere work in improving the Bahraini rights issue in the media and in regional forums does not ensure real results, but it is a waste of public funds. We could all avoid it through sincere and constructive cooperation which puts the national interests above all other considerations. Allow me to bring with me to the planned meeting both Youssef Al Amm and Khalil Al Halawaji who told me about their desire to do this.

In conclusion, please accept my greetings and respect.

Hani Ahmed Isa Al Marhoon  
Jau Central Prison  
Building 13, Cell 2, Room 4

A copy of this is sent to:

The Ombudsman's Secretary –General

The President of the Prisoners' Commission

The President of the Loyalty and Citizenship Promotion Committee within the Ministry of Interior

The Secretary-General of the International Red Cross

3. On 20 August 2018:

In the name of God, the most Gracious and Merciful

May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

Distinguished Minister of Interior,

Good Greetings.

Several issues lead me to write this letter to you:

My disappointment in all of the parties under the umbrella of the Interior's administration and at its forefront the administration of the Centre of Reform and Rehabilitation and the General Committee of the Ombudsman and the Prisoners' Commission and the Special Investigations Unit of the Public Prosecution, in addition to the National Institute for Human Rights. Despite my diligent follow-ups to these entities, I did not get relevant results.

You are also one of the most vocal figures concerning the principle of social partnership. Not only that, but also, in order to activate this principle, you established the Loyalty and Citizenship Promotion Committee. I address this letter to you because of my keenness to practice this partnership, and because a lot of the offences and arbitrary measures against us at the Center for Reform and Rehabilitation are practiced in order to implement the instructions and orders coming from higher authorities.

Despite that we faced some of the security officers and especially those from the modest ranks with legal arguments that they cannot ignore, they still insist on their position and they face our warnings to complaint about them to the competent authorities, by daring us to do so. As an example of this, the policeman at the time, Sayf Al Din, said: "To what extent would you go to in order to raise your complaints? Go ahead and do it!" What is even more shocking is that this individual was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief two weeks after the event, despite the fact that I have reported him to the manager of the center personally, in addition to the General Ombudsmen' Committee to which I asked it's investigator to hold accountable that officer on the basis of public interest at least, if he don't want to hold him accountable for my own private interest.

The arbitrary measures and legal violations undertaken by individuals belonging to your Ministry and with different military ranks who they claim that these measures and offences are issued by high authorities which we know that it's not, is the main reason of the degrading conditions in the prisons which constitutes a negative point on the Bahrain's Human Rights file in international forums and there should be a serious work in order to put an end to this through the activation of all legal mechanisms to eliminate these offences and hold their perpetrators accountable. Perhaps in the meeting which we have requested to be held between us and the entities mentioned at the beginning of this letter we will be able to achieve what we are all asking for to bring an end to all law violations and to all rights abuses.

It would be nice if you worked towards getting us this meeting which we have requested in an official letter which was directed to the General Director of the Ombudsmen and to the director of the National Institute for Human Rights on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

In conclusion, please accept my sincere greetings and respect.

Issued on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> of August, 2018

Detainee: Hani Ahmed Isa Marhoon [REDACTED]

Center for Reform and Rehabilitation at Jau

4. 15 September 2018

I find myself obliged to write to you after I arrived to a dead-end with all the competent authorities which I contacted, from the Center of Rehabilitation in Jau Prison, to the Mol Ombudsman finishing with the NIHR.

Last month, I and my son, who is 17 years of age were convicted on political charges (named here Security Cases) and for over a year and a half, we are denied from communicating with each other in person or through phone calls! Although I have constantly informed, as I have mentioned at the beginning of my message, all the competent authorities since my son was arrested when he was 15 years old and until present. But I didn't get any result.

Therefore, I urge you, since you are the organization concerned with defending children's rights, to contact the competent authorities in my country, especially those I mentioned in this message and insist on reclaiming the unjustly robbed right of meeting each other. Thank you in advance on your efforts in defending children's rights in the world.

The petitioner: Hani Amed Issa Marhoon

[REDACTED]

(I'm imprisoned at Jau prison)

Issuing date: 15/9/2018

A copy was sent to:

- 1 IRC
- 2 OHCHR
- 3 Save the Children Fund
- 4 Supreme Council for Women
- 5 Child and Family Prosecution
- 6 Mol Ombudsmen
- 7 NIHR
- 8 Amnesty International
- 9 Human Rights Watch
- 10- UNICEF

5. On 8 October 2018:

In His name...

To the following Directors:

1. The Director of the MoI OMBUSDMEN
2. The Director of the NIHR
3. The Director of High Commissioner for Prisoners

I regret to inform you that I exhausted all the legal means in trying to meet with you to discuss all that is in relation to the prisoners and especially the violations and the offences which have become systematic such as torture, ill and degrading treatment and the deprivation of rights and others, which are being committed by the law enforcement entities. In spite of my official request on 23/03/2017 (A year and a half ago) to the aforementioned institutions and my repeated attempts in every communication or opportunity to remind them about this issue, however this have come to no avail. That's why on 1/8/2018 I sent a letter to the Director of the NIHR and to the Director of the MoI OMBUSDMEN to renew my request?! In addition, I sent a private letter to the Minister of Interior in order to pressure them to have this meeting. However, till today I didn't receive any positive response, even though the communication and meeting with the prisoners is the core responsibility of your work as Human Rights institutions, as your regulation requires from you to meet with the detainees at least four times per year! My care and determination comes from my sense of national and social partnership which the Minister of Interior has extensively proclaimed and I am also keen that my country would be able to achieve a leading and a competitive position to the finest countries which put the defense of Human Rights and Freedoms as its first priority.

Therefore, I see myself obliged to take a last step which is to start a hunger strike which maybe will lead to a positive result, and I am ready to cancel this step if I receive a positive response to my request.

You have all my thanks and gratitude.

Hani Ahmed Issa Marhoon

Personal number: [REDACTED]

Issued on: 8/10/2018

Jau Central Prison

Contact me on: [REDACTED]

A copy of this letter was sent to:

1. OHCHR
2. Amnesty International
3. IRC
4. Human Rights Watch
5. Human Rights First

6. On 14 October 2018:

In His name:

I inform you that after I didn't get a clear reply on my request which is still lying in the drawers of the persons in charge of the National Human Rights Organizations for longer than a year and a half?!

I declare from Sunday 14 October 2018, that I will start a hunger strike.

And I am still ready to cooperate positively and cancel this strike if my request was taken into consideration and schedule a meeting with the directors of the:

- 1- NIHR
- 2- Mol Ombudsmen
- 3- Prisoner's Commission

To meet them and discuss about sensitive issues, on top of the list the issue of systematic torture and the uncountable violations of the regulations, agreed upon by the high institutions, committed by law enforcement personnel in different ranks which is in contradiction with the real national interests.

I am hoping that it will be dealt with this issue with more seriousness and responsibility in accordance with the principle community partnership and to ensure that Bahrain is a pioneer and a competitor to the pioneering States in Human Rights.

A copy of this letter was sent to:

- 1- NIHR
- 2- Mol Ombudsmen
- 3- Prisoner's Commission
- 4- Human Rights Watch
- 5- OHCHR
- 6- Amnesty International
- 7- IRC

Hani Ahmed Issa Marhoon

Jau Central Prison

[REDACTED]

7. This letter was sent to ADHRB by his wife on 18 October 2018:

In the name of the merciful God.

God's Prophet says: (those who call for good is equivalent for those who do good)

To all my family, my people and my loved ones.

It's obvious the scale of the suffering and distress and tribulation we are facing as prisoners which clearly violates all earthly, divine, national and international regulations and laws.

There had to be someone to face and stop all these abuses and violations and most of all the systematic torture among other violations or at least to help reduce some of the suffering.

And with the size of responsibility and national partnership lying on everyone I decided to face it alone and confident of my position and without recklessness or hastiness but after thinking patiently and with poise and decided to go with this decision since whoever relies on God won't be defeated.

So I contacted all those concerned in the country and in particular the directors of human rights national institutions and asked them to meet urgently to put an end all the violations occurring inside the prisons, and in spite of using all the official means in communicating with them for over a year and a half I didn't receive any result. And since we are all responsible and partners in building the nation, I ask from every person who feels the size of this responsibility to communicate directly by phone with:

- 1- NIHR 17111666
- 2- Mol Ombudsmen 13304462
- 3- Prisoner's Commission

To move forward with this meeting or I will start a hunger strike from Sunday, October 14, 2018 and continue the strike until the meeting takes place. I hold responsible for any repercussions on my health directors of the above mentioned institutions because I sent them a notice concerning the seriousness of the strike, therefore my argument against them is grave.



8. On 12 November 2018

In the name of God the merciful the compassionate

On this day, I completed a full month hunger strike which I was forced had resorted after the reluctance and the indifference for more than year and half by the national human rights institutions to all my letters and calls for the need to hold a high level meeting to search and discuss all violations and abuses by law enforcement officers at various ranks against the arrested in prisons.

What is surprising and weird is that what I am asking is from core work of these institutions. They committed themselves to four annual visits to the arrested to learn about their conditions and needs and to ensure that they are receiving all their rights. However, it has been nearly two years since my request was sent and I did not witness a single visit to the prison from their part.

The purpose of meeting with the concerned institutions is to strengthen their role and enable them to perform their real work to the fullest and in exchange for this I was faced with rejection, however the idea of the meeting with the directors of these institutions was not my idea as much as it was the idea of the Ombudsman's investigators and the national institute, they were the ones who told me that the cases I am trying to address go beyond their powers, duties, and responsibilities, and fall within the competency and the authority of their managers.

My health is regressing after a month of hunger strike but I am determined to continue. And I have the will to do so despite the weight loss of more than 15 kg and I suffer from dizziness most of the time and numbness in the toes, and pain in the bones, However, the prison's clinic doctor refuses to see me, and to record these negative symptoms in my medical file. I also hold the prison administration responsible for their lack of interest in providing a suitable place for my sleep as I suffer from a disability in the leg because of a previous surgery, and in order to sleep I am sharing a bed with an inmate because of the lack of space, where the number of inmates in the cell is fifteen people and it is made for only eight people! For this reason, complaints have been submitted in this regard to the Ombudsman and the National Institute for Human Rights, but they have done nothing.

I call on all the workers in human rights and other fields, at the level of individuals or institutions, inside and abroad to interact with my case, which is the case of all prisoners, to address the national human rights institutions in Bahrain to proceed with this meeting which is expected to produce positive results for the lives of thousands of the arrested in Bahrain prisons. I thank all who will help achieve the goals of my hunger strike.

Hani Ahmad Issa Marhoun [REDACTED]  
Jau prison (Correction and Rehabilitation)

12/11/2018

A copy of this letter has been sent to:

- 1- The National Institute for Human Rights
2. The Ombudsman
3. The Prisoners' Commission
4. Human rights watch organization
5. High Commissioner for Human Rights
6. Amnesty International
7. International Organization of the Red Cross
8. The Human Rights Committee of the European Parliament
9. The Human Rights Committee of the British Parliament
10. The Human Rights Committee of the American Congress