

Mr. President,

IDO and ADHRB would like to raise concerns about use of torture against persons with disabilities, in particular regarding the case of Mahdi Kuwaid in Bahrain.

Husain, Hasan, Khalil, Jaafar, and Mahdi Kuwaid are five brothers from Bahrain who have been subjected to various rights abuses, including torture to extract false confessions, denial of medical care, and convictions in unfair trials. Mahdi, the youngest brother has a developmental disability, but he too was subjected to these abuses, despite his disability.

In July 2015, Bahraini riot police and plainclothes officers arrested Hasan and Jaafar at their sister's house without a warrant on spurious charges. They were tortured and forced to confess. Later, in March 2017, Bahraini security forces in unmarked cars and civilian clothing stopped Khalil, Jaafar, and Mahdi. They beat Jaafar in the middle of the street although Jaafar had a pre-existing ribcage injury.

The officers also seized Mahdi. Although they were told he has a developmental disability, the officers ignored this and beat him in the street. They beat him so badly they re-opened stitches in his stomach from a previous surgery. After detaining him, they abused him psychologically, forcing him to watch as security forces assaulted his brothers Khalil and Jaafar. As a result, Mahdi confessed to a serious of crimes he did not commit. A court later sentenced the brothers to prison, with Mahdi receiving a sentence of two years and nine months in prison. He is still in prison.

Mr President, Madame Rapporteur, what steps and good practices can you recommend to ensure that persons with disabilities are not subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment?

Thank you