

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Issued by Miss Lura Boldrini MP (Liberi e Uguali) on 13 June 2019

To the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Given that:

- on 4 February 2019 the European Parliament has approved a resolution which stated that “the Bahraini security forces reportedly continue to torture detainees” and that it “expresses its concern and disappointment over Bahrain’s return to the practice of capital punishment”;
- Amnesty International has stated in its 2017/2018 annual report that “There continued to be reports of torture and other ill-treatment in custody, in particular of those interrogated about terrorism-related offences”;
- on 9 February 2017, Ahmed Isa AlMalali, 23, has been arrested together with many other members of the Bahraini Coast Guard;
- during the first two months of detention, he has been held in isolation under the custody of the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID);
- according to the information provided by human rights groups, AlMalali was not allowed to communicate with his family;
- during this period, the officers of the CID have interrogated and tortured him and throughout the entire detention he was not allowed to speak to his lawyer;
- on 31 January 2018, during the trial, AlMalali and his family could not take part in the hearing, whereas his lawyer was not authorised to speak;
- on 9 February 2017, Ali Mohamed Hakeem AlArab, 24, has been arrested by the agents of the Ministry of the Interior. He has been detained at the CID until 7 March 2017;
- during this period, he has been tortured by officials, until he signed a forced confession;
- he has been transferred to the Dry Dock Detention Center, where he could not speak to his lawyer;
- on 31 January 2018, the authorities have transferred AlArab to court for the trial, however he was not allowed to take part in it and the court has denied the access to his family and the possibility to witness the issuance of the sentence. His lawyer has taken part in the trial, even if he could not exercise his right to speak;
- AlMalali and AlArab have been sentenced to death;
- on 6 May 2019, Bahrain’s Court of Cassation has rejected their final appeal, they have been sentenced to death for terrorism-related offences;

- the organisation Americans for Democracy and Human Rights (ADHRB) has declared: "With this decision, they join six others on death row, all of whom were also sentenced under fundamentally unfair conditions and after torture by security forces";

- the United Nations (UN) have stated to be "extremely concerned" about the torture allegations and the forced confessions endured by AlMalali and AlArab;

Which initiatives does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation intend to adopt towards the government of Bahrain and in the international arena, so that AlArabi and AlMalali avoid capital punishment?