



Brussels, 6 March 2020

High Representative/Vice President
Josep Borrell Fontelles

Dear High Representative Borrell,

As Members of the European Parliament, we are writing to express our deepest concern over the [cases](#) of death row inmates Mohamed Ramadhan Issa Ali Hussain and Hussain Ali Moosa Mohamed. We consider the death sentences of Mr. Ramadhan and Mr. Moosa extremely worrying. They were arrested and tortured, their human rights violated.

Mr. Ramadhan, an airport security officer and father of three, was arrested in February 2014. He was blindfolded, stripped and cuffed, beaten with iron rods, and threatened with the rape of his family members. Mr. Moosa, a hotel employee and Mr. Ramadhan's co-defendant, was arrested in March 2014, after which he was hung from the ceiling by his wrists for three days and beaten until he signed a prepared confession. Despite consistently maintaining their innocence, the two men were convicted in December 2014 on the basis of Mr. Moosa's forced confession. For years, their allegations went uninvestigated by Bahrain's oversight bodies.

It was only after a sustained campaign by human rights groups that evidence documenting their allegations of torture came to light, including medical reports by a doctor for the Public Prosecution which had not been considered by the court in the original trial. This evidence caused the Court of Cassation to overturn their death sentences in October 2018, referring their cases back to the High Criminal Court of Appeals.

After their re-trial due to the allegations of torture, which produced the most relevant evidence used to prosecute Mr. Ramadhan and Mr. Moosa, Bahrain's High Criminal Court of Appeals upheld Mohamed Ramadhan's and Hussain Moosa's death sentences on January 8, 2020.

Bahrain, after a 6-years *de facto* [moratorium](#), returned to the implementation of death sentences in 2017. On January 15, 2017, three people were [executed](#): Ali Al-Singace, Abbas Al-Samea, and Sami Mushaima. On July 27, 2019, Bahrain executed Ali Al-Arab and Ahmed Al-Malali. Since January 8, Mr. Ramadhan and Mr. Moosa have been on death row without the possibility to appeal. According to leading independent NGO experts on Bahrain like Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) and the European center for Democracy and Human Rights (ECDHR) their unfair trial, torture, and the lack of oversight due to the Kingdom's culture of impunity, are appalling human rights violations.



Since their arrest in 2014, the [European Parliament](#), the [Special Rapporteur](#) on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the [Special Rapporteur](#) on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, the [Special Rapporteur](#) on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the [Working Group](#) on arbitrary detention, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association, the [Special Rapporteur](#) on the independence of judges and lawyers, and [international](#) and local human rights organisations have denounced serious violations of their right to a fair trial.

Last month, due to the verdict being postponed to December 25, we sent a [letter](#) to the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowment in Bahrain, requesting a delay in the date, a moratorium on executions, and a fair trial that adheres to the Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol).

We, therefore, urge you to:

- Stand firm in our opposition to the usage of the death penalty, especially in the case of Mr. Ramadhan and Mr. Moosa who were subjected to unfair trial and torture;
- Remind the Kingdom of Bahrain of its obligations under international law and the treaties it has signed, especially in regards to the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([CAT](#)) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ([ICCPR](#));
- Remain vigilant in regards to developments in the country and in the Gulf region in general, and to use all means of influence at its disposal;
- Insist on the establishment of a formal human rights dialogue with Bahraini authorities, in accordance with the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Dialogues;
- Call for a systematic raising of awareness of human rights violations in Bahrain, and to consider the introduction of targeted measures against those responsible for grave human rights violations.
- Apply public and private pressure on the Bahraini authorities to hold officers from the Ministry of Interior who committed the heinous crimes of torture responsible for their actions by removing them from their posts and prosecuting their cases;
- Publically call for the release of all political prisoners and start a comprehensive dialogue with the political opposition led by the leader of the political opposition in Bahrain Mr. Hassan Mushaima and the King directly, which would establish trust-building measures and lay the ground for an end to security force violence and constant protests and set the foundation for future economic sustainability.

As Members of the European Parliament, we remain committed to the protection, promotion, and fulfilment of all human rights in Bahrain.

Sincerely,

Brando Benifei MEP



Alex Agius Saliba MEP

Attila Ara-Kovács MEP

Milan Brglez MEP

Andrea Cozzolino MEP

Miriam Dalli MEP

Raphaël Glucksmann MEP

Dietmar Köster MEP

Hannes Heide MEP

Javi López MEP

Tonino Picula MEP

Inma Rodríguez-Piñero MEP

Alfred Sant MEP

Isabel Santos MEP

Marc Tarabella MEP

Margrete Auken MEP

Benoît Biteau MEP

Reinhard Hans Bütikofer MEP

Damien Carême MEP

Ciaran Cuffe MEP

Katrin Langensiepen MEP

Erik Marquardt MEP

Grace O'Sullivan MEP

Petra de Sutter MEP

Kira Peter-Hansen MEP

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