**The Case of Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa in Bahrain**

**Introduction**

Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa are two Bahraini citizens who became internationally known due to their controversial legal cases in Bahrain. Both men were arrested in February 2014 and subsequently sentenced to death, sparking widespread criticism from human rights organisations worldwide. The circumstances surrounding their arrests, interrogations, and trials have been widely [condemned](https://www.adhrb.org/2018/02/profiles-in-persecution-mohamed-ramadan-husain-ali-moosa/), particularly due to allegations of severe torture used to extract confessions. Mohammed Ramadan, a former airport security officer, and Hussain Moosa, a hotel employee, were accused of participating in a bomb attack in Al-Dair that resulted in the death of a police officer. Despite retracting their confessions and asserting that they were obtained under duress, both men were sentenced to death in December 2014. Their cases have undergone several appeals and retrials, with ongoing international advocacy highlighting serious concerns about human rights violations and the fairness of their legal proceedings.

The death penalty situation in Bahrain has significantly deteriorated since 2011, marked by a sharp increase in executions and death sentences. The Bahraini government, which had previously observed a de facto moratorium on executions, resumed them in 2017. This resurgence has seen courts frequently handing down death sentences, particularly for crimes associated with terrorism. However, many of these trials are marred by serious allegations of due process violations, including torture, forced confessions, and denial of legal representation.

The scope of the death penalty in Bahrain extends beyond the most serious crimes to encompass drug-related offenses and vaguely defined acts of terrorism, often used as a pretext to target political opponents. Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa's case exemplify these issues, as both men were sentenced to death following allegations of torture and forced confessions during their trials for their purported involvement in a bombing. Reports indicate that the use of torture and ill-treatment to obtain confessions is widespread, with detainees often being subjected to severe physical and psychological abuse. The judiciary’s lack of independence from the executive branch exacerbates these issues, as courts frequently rely on coerced confessions and fail to investigate allegations of torture adequately. Despite international inquiries and appeals highlighting the lack of fair trial standards and the use of torture, their sentences have been upheld, reflecting broader systemic issues within Bahrain's judicial framework regarding capital punishment​.

**Death Penalty in Bahrain**

Throughout 2011, in response to largely peaceful pro-democracy protests, the Bahraini government carried out “*a punitive and vindictive campaign of violent repression against its own citizens*.” Following international criticism of the government’s abuses, including the use of arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, ill treatment and unfair trials, King Hamad established the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) in order to look into allegations of human rights abuses that took place during the same year. The BICI, which held a credible and independent membership, published its report on 23 November 2011. Its observations concluded that many detainees were tortured to extract confessions, therefore violating both Bahraini and international law.

In the decade following these commitments, Bahrain’s use of the death penalty has drastically increased. Data reveals a clear link between this escalation and the Bahraini authorities’ failure to implement promised reforms on the criminalisation of torture. Many executions and a substantial number of death sentences since 2011 in Bahrain yet involve allegations of torture. Moreover, according to a report by the [Bahraini Institute for Rights and Democracy](https://reprieve.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/01/Reprieve_BahrainDeathPenalty_28.01.2022_Pages-1.pdf), there has been a troubling rise in the use of the death penalty for non-lethal offences, which is explicitly prohibited by international law. For instance, in 2018, Bahrain introduced the death penalty for non-lethal drug offences, marking a serious regression in human rights protection. Currently, 12% (3 out of 26) of individuals on death row in Bahrain face such accusations, though no executions have yet occurred for non-lethal drug offences, the increasing number of executions suggests this could change. Additionally, 29% (9 out of 31) of those sentenced to death for 'terrorism-related' offences were convicted of non-lethal crimes. The broad and vague definitions of terrorism under Bahraini law allow for the prosecution of individuals on questionable grounds, often targeting political dissidents and activists. The use of the death penalty in these cases underscores the repressive tactics employed by the Bahraini government to silence dissent and maintain control. During the review period, 32% (12 out of 37) of Bahraini nationals sentenced to death were accused of non-lethal offences. Despite the government's assertion that the death penalty is imposed in accordance with international law, the data clearly indicates violations of these standards.

The issue of unsafe capital convictions is also significant. At least 54% (14 out of 26) of those on death row were convicted based on questionable evidence and sentences. Eleven of these individuals allege they were subjected to torture, yet none of their cases have been investigated in line with minimum international standards. This systemic failure to address torture allegations stresses broader issues within Bahrain’s judicial system to uphold international legal standards and human rights commitments.

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BIRD Report – From uprising to executions: death penalty in Bahrain, ten years on from the Arab Spring.

**Overview of the case**

On 18 February 2014, Mohammed Ramadan was arrested at Bahrain International Airport, where he worked as a member of the security staff. He was then taken to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), where he alleges, he was tortured, including severe beatings and electrocution. Despite the ill-treatment, he refused to sign a confession. Hussain Moosa was arrested a few days later, on 21 February 2014, and also taken to the CID. He reported being tortured, including being suspended by his limbs and beaten for several days, which coerced him into confessing and incriminating Mohammed Ramadan.

On 29 December 2014, a criminal court sentenced both Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa to death for their alleged roles in the bomb attack in Al-Dair on 14 February 2014, which resulted in the death of a policeman. The court’s decision was largely based on the confessions obtained during the interrogations, despite the defendants' retraction of these confessions and their allegations of torture. On 27 March 2015, The High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld their convictions and death sentences. On 16 November 2015, the Court of Cassation, Bahrain’s highest court, then confirmed the same sentences.

In March 2018, the SIU presented medical reports prepared by doctors affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, indicating that both men had been tortured. Based on these findings, the SIU recommended a review of their trials. On 22 October 2018, the Court of Cassation suspended the death sentences and ordered the High Criminal Court of Appeal to re-examine the cases under a new panel of judges. Despite the new medical evidence and recommendations from the SIU, on 8 January 2020, Bahrain’s High Criminal Court of Appeal reinstated the death sentences for Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa.

**Evidence of Torture and Investigation of the SIU**

The cases of Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa in Bahrain [highlight](https://salam-dhr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EN-DP-Report.pdf) the systemic issues surrounding the use of torture and the failure of judicial and investigative bodies to uphold human rights. The evidence of torture and the subsequent investigation by Bahrain's SIU reveal critical flaws that undermine the integrity of the justice system and violate both Bahraini and international laws.

As already mentioned above, Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa were arrested in February 2014 for a bomb attack that killed a police officer and both reported being severely tortured, with Ramadan enduring beatings and electrocution while Moosa was suspended and beaten into confessing and implicating Ramadan.

The allegations of torture are supported by medical reports and testimonies. In March 2018, the SIU presented medical reports from doctors affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, which indicated signs of torture. These reports were part of the evidence that led the Court of Cassation to suspend the death sentences and order a retrial in October 2018. However, despite these medical findings and the SIU's recommendation to review the cases, the High Criminal Court of Appeal reinstated the death sentences in January 2020. Further evidence of torture was documented in incidents within the prison system. On 14 May 2023, political prisoners, including Ramadan and Moosa, were subjected to physical assault by prison guards. Testimonies from prisoners detailed injuries, burns, and beatings. Ramadan was reportedly restrained in a crucifixion-like position, pepper-sprayed, beaten, and placed in solitary confinement under harsh conditions. His family lost contact with him for a period of time, raising concerns about his treatment and well-being.

The SIU's investigation into the torture allegations against Ramadan and Moosa has faced widespread criticism for its inadequacies and lack of impartiality. Established in 2012 as a part of Bahrain's purported reforms to investigate human rights abuses, the SIU has been largely ineffective in holding perpetrators accountable and conducting thorough investigations. In 2017, the UN Committee Against Torture reviewed Bahrain’s compliance with the Convention Against Torture and found the SIU incapable of conducting effective torture related investigations. The SIU's structural flaws and dependence on the Ministry of Interior, which is supposed to oversee, compromise its autonomy and effectiveness. The committee further noted the frequent acceptance of forced confessions by Bahraini judges and recommended a thorough review of convictions based solely on such confessions.

Several critical shortcomings marred the SIU's investigation into the cases of Ramadan and Moosa. Medical examinations were conducted in the presence of police officers and without legal representation, therefore lacking impartiality and failing to thoroughly document the injuries or consider their causes. An independent assessment by the [International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims](https://irct.org/media-and-resources/latest-news/article/1091) (IRCT) concluded that the SIU's investigation did not meet the legal and professional standards required for forensic investigations of torture. The SIU's reliance on medical reports from doctors associated with the Ministry of Interior further compromised the investigation's credibility. The IRCT deemed the SIU investigation critically flawed and recommended the convictions based on its findings be vacated.

Human rights organisations, including the [Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy](https://birdbh.org/2021/03/from-uprising-to-executions-death-penalty-in-bahrain-ten-years-on-from-the-arab-spring/) (BIRD) and [Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain](https://www.adhrb.org/2021/03/bahrains-continued-use-of-torture-and-capital-punishment/) (ADHRB), have condemned the SIU for its failure to conduct impartial investigations, arguing that its role appears to protect the perpetrators of torture rather than ensure justice for the victims. This failure is emblematic of the broader systemic issues within Bahrain's judicial and law enforcement institutions.

Similarly, the Office of the Ombudsman in Bahrain, tasked with addressing grievances and ensuring accountability within the Ministry of Interior and its affiliates, has also been criticised. While it purportedly receives and investigates complaints of misconduct and human rights violations, its efficacy and independence are highly questionable. Operating under the shadow of the very entity it claims to oversee, the Ombudsman's supposed independence is a facade, rendering its investigations susceptible to bias and manipulation. Despite its mandate to address grievances, the office often fails to deliver justice or hold perpetrators accountable.

**Broader Implications**

It is important to underline that the cases of Ramadan and Moosa are not isolated incidents but part of a broader pattern of human rights abuses in Bahrain. The government’s use of torture to extract confessions and the judiciary’s acceptance of these confessions, despite credible allegations of coercion, highlight serious violations of both Bahraini and international laws. Article 19 of Bahrain's Constitution and Article 253 of the Criminal Procedure Code explicitly state that forced confessions are "null and void" and should be disregarded by judges. Despite these legal safeguards, Bahrain's courts continue to rely on coerced confessions, undermining the rule of law and eroding trust in the judicial system. The lack of accountability for torture and the SIU's ineffectiveness in conducting impartial investigations further perpetuate this culture of impunity.

International human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch and the United Nations, have repeatedly called on Bahrain to halt executions and conduct thorough investigations into torture allegations. The persistent failure to address these issues not only violates the rights of individuals like Ramadan and Moosa but also casts a shadow over Bahrain’s commitment to human rights and the rule of law.

**Legal and Human Rights Violations**

The sentencing to death of Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa in Bahrain represents a profound undoing of justice, encompassing a range of violations that breach both Bahraini and international legal standards. According to the [OHCHR’s Opinion adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention](https://www.ohchr.org/en/opinions-adopted-working-group-arbitrary-detention-its-90th-session)at its ninetieth session, several violations have been committed by Bahraini authorities concerning this case. They distinguished 3 categories: lack of evidence and legal basis for arrest, political retaliation and discrimination, and denial of fair trial and due process.

1. **Lack of Evidence and Legal Basis**

The initial arrest of Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa was marked by significant procedural failings. Neither individual was presented with a duly issued warrant, and the evidence used to justify their detention was insufficient and unreliable. Arresting officers misled the detainees about their identities and failed to secure a warrant, blatantly disregarding Bahrain's legal requirements and severely undermining the legal basis of the arrests. Additionally, both men were held incommunicado, subjected to torture, and denied the opportunity to challenge the legality of their detention. These actions violate both Bahrain’s domestic laws and international legal standards, which mandate clear, transparent, and justified legal procedures for arrests and detentions. More specifically, Article 19 of Bahrain's Constitution and international human rights conventions, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), require that arrests be conducted lawfully and detainees be promptly informed of the charges against them and allowed to contest their detention.

1. **Political Retaliation and Discrimination**

The detentions of Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa appear to be politically motivated, stemming from their involvement in pro-democracy protests. The charges against them were framed under Bahrain's broad and vaguely defined terrorism laws, which are frequently employed to suppress political dissent and human rights activism. This misuse of anti-terrorism legislation to target political opponents and activists exemplifies the government’s strategy to stifle dissent and reveals a systematic pattern of political retaliation and discrimination based on political opinion. Such actions not only violate fundamental human rights but also undermine Bahrain's obligations under international law, which protect freedom of expression and assembly.

1. **Denial of Fair Trial and Due Process**

The trial and sentencing of Ramadan and Moosa were plagued by severe due process violations. Authorities failed to promptly inform the men of the charges against them, denied them adequate time and facilities to prepare their defence, and restricted their communication with legal counsels. The most egregious violation, however, was the reliance on confessions extracted under torture. Both individuals reported enduring severe physical abuse aimed at extracting confessions, which were then used as the primary evidence to convict and sentence them to death. This approach starkly contradicts international law, including the Convention Against Torture, to which Bahrain is a signatory, explicitly prohibiting the use of evidence obtained through torture. Despite credible medical reports and recommendations from the SIU indicating torture, Bahraini courts reinstated their death sentences, showcasing a blatant disregard for international human rights norms and the principle of fair trial. This underscores a troubling pattern where Bahrain's judicial system fails to uphold due process and instead perpetuates systemic human rights abuses, particularly in cases involving political dissent.

**Ineffective Investigations and Systemic Impunity**

The allegations of torture were not subjected to thorough, independent investigations. The initial medical examinations did not meet international standards, and the SIU's investigations were criticized for their lack of impartiality and effectiveness. This systemic failure to address torture allegations perpetuates a culture of impunity within Bahrain’s judicial and law enforcement systems, further eroding the rule of law and undermining human rights protections.

These cases highlight critical flaws in Bahrain’s judicial system and its adherence to international human rights standards. The violations in their arrest, detention, and trial processes reflect broader systemic issues within Bahrain, where torture, coerced confessions, and politically motivated prosecutions are alarmingly prevalent. The international community has repeatedly called on Bahrain to halt executions, investigate torture allegations, and uphold the principles of fair trial and due process. The persistent failure to address these concerns underscores the need for substantial judicial reforms and enhanced protections for human rights in Bahrain.

The [Working Group on Arbitrary Detention](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-arbitrary-detention/opinions-adopted-working-group-arbitrary-detention) (WGAD) has determined that the detentions of Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa are arbitrary, based on several key findings. Both men were arrested without warrants on 18 and 21 February 2014, violating the ICCPR. The government failed to rebut allegations that their arrests lacked sufficient evidence and legal basis. Additionally, Ramadan and Moosa were not informed of the reasons for their arrests at the time and the government did not provide a timely response to counter these allegations. Neither individual was brought promptly before a judge. Moreover, Ramadan and Moosa were denied access to legal consultation before their trial, depriving them of the possibility to challenge the legality of their detention.

Moreover, they concluded that Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa were detained for exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly, and participation in government. The government accused Ramadan and Moosa of being involved in a fatal bombing, but the source contended that there was no physical evidence linking them to the crime and that their convictions relied heavily on coerced confessions. Despite multiple sources of evidence presented by the government, none definitively implicated Ramadan or Moosa in the bombing. The WGAD found the source's allegations credible and unrebutted by the government, indicating that the men were targeted for their participation in a peaceful pro-democracy protest.

Furthermore, the WGAD identified multiple violations of their right to a fair trial, including being denied access to legal counsel before trial and the Court of Cassation not allowing defence witnesses. The WGAD also highlighted credible allegations of torture and ill-treatment used to extract confessions, which the government did not adequately refute. These confessions, obtained without legal counsel and under duress, turned the entire proceedings unfair. Additionally, the WGAD criticized the failure of the courts and prosecutors to investigate the torture allegations, contributing to the arbitrariness of their detention.

**International Advocacy and Campaigns for Justice**

The international community has played a crucial role in advocating for the rights of Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa. As already mentioned above, various human rights organizations, international bodies, and foreign governments have condemned the actions of the Bahraini authorities and called for justice. [Human Rights Watch](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/07/23/letter-king-bahrain-cases-ramadan-and-moosa), [Amnesty International](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/bahrain-two-men-facing-execution-lose-last-court-appeal-despite-torture-extracted-confessions/), and the BIRD have been vocal in condemning the Bahraini authorities for their alleged use of torture and due process violations. These organizations have issued statements, published reports, and organized campaigns to raise awareness about the injustices faced by Ramadan and Moosa. For instance, Amnesty International [launched](https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/death-penalty/) urgent action appeals, calling on supporters worldwide to pressure the Bahraini government to halt the executions and investigate the torture allegations thoroughly. The [UN](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/11/bahrain-experts-condemn-torture-and-death-sentences-two-men) has also played a crucial role, with various UN human rights experts, including the [Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/torture/srtorture/pages/srtortureindex.aspx), publicly condemning the treatment of Ramadan and Moosa. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has declared their detentions arbitrary and in violation of international law, urging Bahrain to release them immediately and provide them with compensation.

Foreign governments and international bodies have exerted diplomatic pressure on Bahrain. The European Parliament [has passed](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0321_EN.html) resolutions condemning the human rights violations and calling for the immediate release of Ramadan and Moosa. Diplomatic efforts have also included raising these cases in bilateral talks and international forums, emphasizing the need for Bahrain to adhere to its human rights obligations.

Local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been pivotal in advocating for justice. BIRD, along with other advocacy centres, has continuously highlighted the procedural flaws and human rights abuses in the cases of Ramadan and Moosa. These organizations have worked tirelessly to maintain international focus on these cases through lobbying efforts, legal assistance, and public awareness campaigns. They have coordinated with other human rights defenders to apply diplomatic pressure on Bahrain, urging international governments and institutions to take a firm stance against Bahrain’s human rights violations.

Additionally, the role of the media has been instrumental in bringing global attention to the plight of Ramadan and Moosa. International news newspapers such as [Al Jazeera](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/10/bahrain-handing-death-sentences-after-sham-trials-report) and [The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/13/bahrain-to-execute-two-activists-despite-concerns-over-torture) have reported extensively on their cases, shedding light on the broader context of human rights abuses in Bahrain. Investigative journalism has uncovered detailed accounts of torture, judicial misconduct, and the lack of accountability, which have significantly influenced public opinion.

Public opinion has played a crucial role in the advocacy efforts. The widespread media coverage and the campaigns organized by human rights organizations have mobilized global outrage, resulting in petitions, social media campaigns, and public demonstrations. This public pressure has, in turn, impacted political leaders and international bodies, prompting them to issue condemnations and take diplomatic actions against Bahrain. It is only fair to say that the collective efforts of NGOs, international bodies, and the media have kept the cases of Ramadan and Moosa in the global spotlight, ensuring sustained pressure on the Bahraini government to address the serious human rights concerns.

Overall, the combined efforts of international human rights organizations, advocacy groups, the media, and public opinion have created a powerful movement advocating for justice for Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa. These campaigns have not only highlighted the specific injustices faced by the two men but have also brought broader attention to the systemic issues within Bahrain’s judicial system, contributing to a global call for reforms and accountability in the country’s human rights practices.

**Recommendations**

Considering the serious human rights violations highlighted in the cases of Mohammed Ramadan and Hussain Moosa, it is imperative to address these systemic issues to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law in Bahrain. The following recommendations are proposed to mitigate these violations, enhance the integrity of the judicial process, and align Bahrain’s practices with international human rights standards. Implementing these recommendations will help prevent future abuses, support victims, and restore confidence in Bahrain’s commitment to human rights.

1. **Immediate Moratorium on Executions:** The Bahraini government should impose an immediate moratorium on all executions, particularly those involving cases with allegations of torture and forced confessions. This moratorium is crucial to prevent further miscarriages of justice and to allow for a thorough review of death penalty cases. By halting executions, Bahrain can take a significant step towards protecting human life and ensuring that any potential errors in the judicial process do not result in irreversible consequences. This action would demonstrate Bahrain’s commitment to human rights and signal to the international community its willingness to rectify past injustices.
2. **Independent Investigations into Torture Allegations:** Establish an independent, international commission to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment in the cases of Mohammed Ramadan, Hussain Moosa, and other similar cases. This commission should operate transparently and include international human rights experts to ensure impartiality and credibility. The commission’s findings should be made public, and its recommendations should be implemented promptly. By involving international experts, Bahrain can enhance the credibility of its investigations and reassure both domestic and international stakeholders that justice is being pursued without bias.
3. **Review and Retrial of Cases:** All death penalty cases, especially those involving allegations of torture, should be reviewed by independent courts. Retrials should be conducted in compliance with international fair trial standards, without the use of coerced confessions. This process should include a thorough examination of all evidence and witness testimonies, ensuring that any evidence obtained through torture or other illegal means is excluded. Independent reviews and retrials will help to rectify any past injustices and ensure that the legal process is fair and transparent, thereby restoring public confidence in the judiciary.
4. **Strengthening the Judiciary System:** Reforms are needed to ensure the independence of the judiciary from the executive branch. Judges must be empowered to dismiss cases where evidence is obtained through torture or other illegal means. Judicial independence is a cornerstone of a fair legal system and is essential for protecting human rights. Reforms should include measures to protect judges from political pressure and to ensure that their decisions are based solely on the law and the evidence presented in court. Strengthening judicial independence will help to ensure that justice is administered fairly and without undue influence.
5. **Capacity Building for Law Enforcement:** Implement comprehensive training programs for law enforcement and judicial personnel on international human rights standards, focusing on the prohibition of torture and the right to a fair trial. Training should include practical exercises and case studies to help participants understand the real-world implications of their actions. By equipping law enforcement and judicial personnel with the knowledge and skills to uphold human rights, Bahrain can help to prevent future abuses and ensure that its legal system operates in accordance with international standards.
6. **Enhanced Oversight Mechanisms:** Strengthen the roles and independence of oversight bodies such as the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) and the Office of the Ombudsman to ensure they can operate without political influence and effectively hold perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable. These bodies should be given the authority and resources they need to conduct thorough and impartial investigations, and their findings should be made public. Strengthening oversight mechanisms will help to ensure accountability and prevent future human rights abuses.
7. **International Cooperation:** The Bahraini government should cooperate fully with international human rights mechanisms, including UN special rapporteurs, to facilitate independent monitoring and reporting on human rights conditions within the country. This cooperation should include granting access to international observers and providing them with the information and support they need to carry out their work. By engaging with international human rights mechanisms, Bahrain can demonstrate its commitment to transparency and accountability and benefit from the expertise and support of the international community.
8. **Victim Support and Compensation:** Establish a comprehensive support system for victims of torture and their families, including medical, psychological, and legal assistance. Victims should be compensated adequately for their suffering and losses, and their rehabilitation should be a priority. Support services should be accessible and provided in a timely manner to ensure that victims receive the help they need to recover. By supporting victims, Bahrain can help to address the harm caused by past abuses and promote healing and reconciliation.
9. **Public Awareness and Education:** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about their rights and the importance of due process and the prohibition of torture. This should include efforts to foster a culture of human rights within Bahraini society, using various media and outreach strategies to reach a wide audience. Education and awareness are crucial for preventing human rights abuses and for empowering citizens to assert their rights. By promoting human rights education, Bahrain can help to build a society that respects and upholds the rights of all individuals.
10. **Legislative Reforms:** Amend national legislation to align with international human rights treaties to which Bahrain is a party, particularly regarding the definitions of terrorism and the scope of the death penalty. Ensure that laws explicitly prohibit the use of torture and mandate independent investigations into any allegations of such abuse. Legislative reforms are necessary to create a legal framework that protects human rights and ensures accountability for abuses. By aligning its laws with international standards, Bahrain can demonstrate its commitment to human rights and provide a solid legal foundation for the protection of individual rights.

Implementing these recommendations will require concerted effort and commitment from all levels of government and society in Bahrain. However, by taking these steps, Bahrain can make significant progress in addressing systemic human rights issues, ensuring justice for victims, and restoring confidence in its commitment to human rights.