

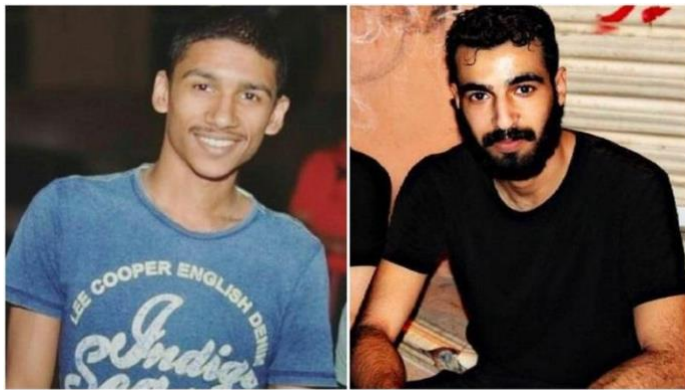
Bahrain and the Death Penalty

In July 2019, Bahrain broke a two-year *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty when the government executed two torture victims. Before 2017, Bahrain's death row population consisted of seven Bahrainis, which more than doubled when 15 Bahrainis were sentenced to death in 2017, four *in absentia*. Four of the death sentences were later commuted to life sentences, but an additional 12 individuals were sentenced to death in 2018, four *in absentia*.

Bahrain has maintained a *de facto* moratorium during several other periods: from 1977 to 1996, from 1997 to 2006 and from 2011 to 2017. In January 2017, Bahrain's Court of Cassation upheld the death sentences against Ali Al-Singace (21), Abbas Al-Samea (27), and Sami Mushaima (42). The men had been sentenced to death in an unfair trial in 2015. All three men were arbitrarily arrested, tortured to confess, and deprived of access to legal counsel. Despite this, the courts dismissed their lawyers' arguments and refused to investigate their allegations of torture. They were executed less than a week after their sentences were upheld, with no prior notification given to the men or their families.

Currently, at least 20 Bahrainis are reportedly on death row, all of them sentenced in political cases.

July 2019 Executions



On Saturday 27 July, the Government of Bahrain executed 25-year-old Ali AlArab and 24-year-old Ahmed AlMalali. Both individuals had been convicted and sentenced to death in a mass trial marred by allegations of torture and due process violations alongside 58 other individuals on 31 January 2018. A third individual from Bangladesh was also executed.

Ongoing Death Penalty Cases

The European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (ECDHR) maintains a sister organisation relationship with Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD). In some cases, these organisations receive consent to represent individuals who have been sentenced to death through the regular practice of submitting information to the United Nations. This list includes only the information for individuals that have consented for ADHRB and BIRD to represent them with their partner organisations, and for their name and information to be transmitted to the Bahraini government and published by the United Nations, including through joint communications, press releases, and other public statements.

Of the 20 cases where individuals have consented for these organisations to represent them, eight are at imminent risk of execution, having exhausted all domestic remedies. The final step in their case



before implementation of the death sentence is ratification of the sentence by the King. Many of them reported fair trial rights violations, including warrantless arrests and searches, not being informed of the charges against them, not being brought before a judge within 24 hours, inability to meet with counsel or prepare a defence, and *in absentia* hearings, among other violations.

Exhausted All Domestic Remedies – At Imminent Risk

These individuals have no legal options left for them to appeal or challenge the death penalties they have been charged with. All that remains is ratification by the King. They are at imminent risk of execution.

Maher Abbas al-Khabbaz, Age 34

Subjected to enforced disappearance, confession coerced under torture

Salman Isa Ali Salman, Age 35/36

Subjected to arbitrary arrest, denied access to legal counsel, confession coerced under torture

Sayed Ahmed Fuad Abbas Isa Ahmed AlAbbar, Age 23

Subjected to arbitrary arrest, confession coerced under torture

Husain Ali Mahdi Jasim Mohamed, Age 22

Subjected to arbitrary arrest

Husain Ebrahim Ali Husain Marzooq, Age 29

Subjected to arbitrary arrest, confession coerced under torture, stripped of his nationality

Husain Abdulla Khalil Ebrahim, Age 31

Convicted *in absentia*, denied access to legal counsel

Mohammad Radhi Abdulla Hassan, Age 27

Subjected to arbitrary arrest and torture, stripped of his nationality

Husain Abdulla Marhoon Rashed, Age 28

Subjected to arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, and torture, denied access to legal counsel, stripped of his nationality