

Shia Rights Watch.org

**Action
Required**

Shia Target of Inhumane Treatment

Defending Justice and Rights

BAHRAIN

 Shia Rights Watch

Bahrain Report **2011**



Shia in Bahrain

Target of Inhumane Treatment



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Shia in Bahrain: Target of Inhumane Treatment

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Shia Rights Watch

About Shia Rights Watch

Established in 2011, Shia Rights Watch (S.R.W.) is the world's first independent organization dedicated to define and protect the rights of Shia Muslims around the world. SRW is a non-governmental, not-for-profit research entity and advocacy group headquartered in Washington D.C., U.S.A. Shia Rights Watch aims to draw international attention where Shia rights are violated; the aim is to give a voice to the oppressed and hold oppressors accountable for their crimes. S.R.W. achieves its objectives through strategic investigations supported with targeted advocacy in order to bring about informed action.

Mission Statement

Shia Rights Watch is dedicated to protecting the rights of Shia Muslims worldwide. We investigate violations against Shia communities in order to raise awareness against injustice. We promote change through research and publications. Our reports and articles are submitted to government and international organizations, and we continually monitor media outlets to ensure coverage of Shia rights violations. Shia Rights Watch stands with victims of prejudice, and supports activism in order to prevent discrimination, support political freedom, and protect people from inhumane conduct. We enlist the local public and international community to support the cause of human rights for all.

The Purpose of SRW

Shia Muslims face constant oppression throughout the world based solely on their faith. In some areas, Shia Muslims have been the target of repeated persecution for centuries as evidenced in the well-documented and increasing extremism of the Wahhabi movement. We believe underrepresented Shia Muslims need a human rights organization that highlights the violations against them while giving their call for help a louder voice.

Funding

Shia Rights Watch is a non-profit organization that holds no government affiliation. SRW is an independent organization that does not seek financial support from governments or related entities. We operate thanks to the generosity of private foundations, and activists who care deeply about human rights and the status of Shia Muslims.

Staff Organization

The organization began with the collaborative efforts of volunteers with a common interest in advocating international human rights. Momentum from increased volunteering and activism allowed for a formal development of the foundation of Shia Rights Watch. Currently the organization has more than 100 active members working in various locations worldwide. The responsibilities of members range from gathering news and information to publishing reports and articles in order to advocate change. We are proud of the religiously and ethnically diverse group of activists who are working together towards a common goal.

Methodology of SRW

We believe information to be the most valuable resource in the investigative process. From the organization's inception, we have focused on gathering information through various media: interviewing witnesses, family members of victims, and victims themselves; on-site collecting of resources; analysing reports from various national and international organizations; meeting with non-governmental and religious organizations, leaders, and journalists; and creating information networks in a wide range of social sectors.

Based on the information collected from above sources, different types of human rights violation have been identified. These violations include but are certainly not limited to:

- Violation of right to life;
- Unfair trial, arbitrary arrest, and illegal detention;
- Psychical & psychological abuse: torture, rape, and sexual assault;
- Illegal seizure of private property;
- Demolition of religious structures and sites;
- Employment discrimination;
- Education discrimination;

Reports, Publication, and Distribution

SRW intends to publish its findings in a manner that reaches the widest audience, and thus follows a multifaceted approach to report distribution. We distribute our reports primarily to national committees and human rights organizations, government agencies, and United Nation human right bodies, both nationally and internationally. Additionally, we contact the offices of highest Shia Muslim clergies to strengthen communication among Shia Muslims abroad and their surrounding communities. Our reports are available online at: www.shiarightswatch.org.

Bahrain History

Demographics of Bahrain

The Kingdom of Bahrain is an archipelago of 33 islands¹ near the western shores of the Persian Gulf. It is ruled by the Al Khalifa royal family. The territory of Bahrain is divided for administrative purposes into five governorates: Manama; Janubiyah; Muharraq; Shamaliyah; and Al Wusta. As of 2010, 42% of the population resides in the two largest cities: Manama and Muharraq. According to the 2010 census, the total number of persons residing in Bahrain is 1,234,571², the majority of which are Shia Muslims.³ Of these, 568,399 are Bahraini citizens (46%) and 666,172 are expatriates (54%). Of the total population of Bahrain, 70% are Muslim, while the remaining 30% are Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish or followers of other faiths.⁴

Shia Population in Bahrain

Bahrain is one of the five countries in the world whose population is majority Shia Muslims, though it is the only country where Shia majority is led exclusively by the Sunni minority. Ethnically, Bahraini Shia's are composed of two main groups:⁵ The majority are descendants of Arab tribes originally from the Arabian Peninsula while the remainder are a minority referred to as '*Ajam* of Persian descent.⁶ While most Shia in Bahrain belong to the *Ithna-Ashari*—or Twelver—sect of Shia Islam and follow the *Ja'fari* School of jurisprudence, they adhere to the teachings of a broad range of religious guides of Grand Ayatollahs who provide guidance and leadership on theological matters.⁷

Shia in Bahrain have grown increasingly dissatisfied with the government for failure to live to its promise of democracy and freedom. Furthermore, they are severely underrepresented and mistreated solely on account of their faith, being the frequent targets of discrimination.⁸

2011 BAHRAIN UPRISING

In the midst of the Arab Spring of 2011, Bahraini protestors seeking government reform poured into the Pearl Roundabout. The protestors selected February 14th as a day of protest to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the National Action Charter.⁹ On February 18th, a police raid at the site of the protests led to

¹) Ibid.

²) Government of Bahrain 2010 Census, http://www.census2010.gov.bh/results_en.php.

³) CIA World Fact book: Bahrain, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ba.html>.

⁴) Ibid.

⁵) For a general overview of Shia communities in the Arabian Gulf, see Juan Cole's Shi'ism and Social Protest.

⁶) Mojtabah-Zadeh, Pirouz, Security and Territoriality in the Persian Gulf: A Maritime Political Geography, 119.

⁷) For a general introduction to Shia history, thought, and jurisprudence, see: Cyril Glassé, The Concise Encyclopaedia of Islam...

⁸) US Department of State 2010 Human Rights Report: Bahrain, <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/nea/154459.htm>.

⁹) Bahrain Center for Human Rights, "In Fear of Transmitting the Tunisian and Egyptian Demonstrations to Bahrain: Blocking a Facebook Group that Calls People to go Down the Streets and Demonstrate against the Authority's Policy." <http://www.bahrainrights.org/en/node/3721>. 6 February 2011.

the death of five activists.¹⁰ Within a week, Bahrain's troops retreated, and allowed protestors to remain in the Pearl Roundabout. Bahrain's Crown Prince, Salman bin Hamad promised to hold a dialogue with the protestors. Meanwhile, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates visited the country to discuss the situation along with a visit to the UAE for an arms deal. Since the departure of the British army in 1971, Bahrain has historically used the Saudi National Guard as a second line of defence against the Shia majority. While Bahraini protestors were blocking the Financial Harbour in Manama, Saudi and Emirati troops (along with other Gulf Cooperation Council member states) invaded Bahrain under the Peninsula Shield forces.¹¹

On March 14th, troops from Saudi Arabia and the UAE entered Bahrain under the pretence of protecting essential facilities: oil and gas installations and financial institutions. On March 15th, the government began a retaliatory crackdown.¹² The following month was filled with arrests, tortures, and deaths.¹³ Most of the protesters are Shia who make up the majority of Bahrain's population but are disproportionately underrepresented in the Sunni led government.

¹⁰) Siddique, Haroon, "The Day the Earth Stood Still." London: Guardian.

¹¹) Kuwait declined taking part in this ground operation initially, but later sent naval aid.

¹²) Hawley, Caroline, "Gulf States Send Forces to Bahrain Following Protests." <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12729786>. 14 March 2011.

¹³) Chick, Kristine, "Saudi Troops Arrive in Bahrain as Protests Escalate." <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2011/0314/Saudi-troops-arrive-in-Bahrain-as-protests-escalate>. 14 March 2011.

Shia Targets of Inhumane Treatment

Since the 2011 demonstrations calling for more rights, Shia Muslim became the target for inhumane treatment in Bahrain. Many reports reveal tortures; mistreatment and discrimination faced by Shia in Bahrain.

The following chapter contains as an overview of Bahrain and international law, as well as narratives of allegations of human rights violations.

Violation of the “Right to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly”

Article 21 of the Arab Charter of Human Rights, concerning the right to assembly, provides:

*The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.*¹⁴

Bahrainis have the rights to peaceful assembly. The protests in Bahrain started peacefully; there were no weapons involved, and no violence or vandalism was witnessed. Many protestors carried flowers as a symbol of their peaceful intent; however, Bahraini forces used violence to deter the protesters. In some incidents, Bahraini police used live ammunition on peaceful protestors. Bahraini police also used teargas to break up marches. The uses of toxic teargas led to death of many people. In fact, more than 70 people were killed due to suffocation of toxic teargas, and use of ammunition (examples in next section).¹⁵

Nabeel Rajab, the leading human rights activist told, the BBC news, "We are using the streets peacefully. We are marching for our rights." Bahrainis wanted to use their right to peaceful assembly, but the government used teargas to stop protests. Police used violence, teargas, rubber bullets and other tools to break-down these peaceful gatherings, which clearly violated human's Right of Peaceful Assembly". Rajab himself was arrested May 5th after returning from Lebanon.

¹⁴) Bassiouni, Mahmoud, Nigel Rodley, Badria Al-Awadhi, Philippe Kirsch, and MahnouchArsanjani."REPORT OF THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY."US Department of State 112011. 203. Web. 05 Jan 2012.

¹⁵)Bassiouni, Mahmoud, Nigel Rodley, Badria Al-Awadhi, Philippe Kirsch, and MahnouchArsanjani."REPORT OF THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY."US Department of State 112011. 102. Web. 05 Jan 2012.

Violation of “Rights to Life” by Security Forces

According to the International Law, every person has the Right to Life. The Law states:

The obligation to protect life includes the obligation to investigate plausible allegations of unlawful deprivation of life, to carry out a prompt, effective and impartial investigation of arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life and to bring to justice those who may be responsible for such deprivation. It also requires the relevant agencies to ensure that their personnel are sufficiently trained and their operations sufficiently planned such that they can ensure compliance with the prohibition on arbitrary deprivation of life.¹⁶

The right to life is the most basic right of all human beings. Many Bahraini Shia lost their beings in their home country at the hand of their own government. Article 6(10) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) provides:

“Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life”.

Bahraini forces violated many citizens’ right to life. The majority of deaths of protestors identified in following pages are attributable to the excessive use of force, according to the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry completed by Mahmoud Bassiouni and his team.

The following pages contain only five examples out of hundreds of violations of the right to life.

¹⁶) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966, entered into force 23 March 1976) See ECHR McCann and Others v United Kingdom Series A, No 324, Application No. 18984/91(1995); Human Rights Committee Amirov v Russian Federation UN Doc. CCPR/C/95/D/1447/2006 2 April 2006)

**The following pages include
graphic content and pictures**

Right to Life violation in Bahrain

Case No. 1 - Ali Abdul-Hadi Saleh Jaafar Almeshaima(Shia Muslim)

Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry states:

Mr.Ali Abdul Hadi Saleh Jaafar Almeshaima was pronounced dead on February 14, 2011, at the age of 21. The death certificate states that the cause of death was shotgun injuries to the back. A forensic report determined the cause of death to be from a single shot which was fired from behind. The shotgun round penetrated the left side of the chest area damaging the left lung and the heart, which resulted in bleeding within the chest. The commission received information that Mr.Almeshaima left his home in Daih, at approximately 19:00. At that time, the police had already dispersed all of the protests in the area. He was seen walking with security officers who were pointing their guns at him. He turned around to leave and was shot in the back. He ran home, collapsing several times before he arrived. He died on the way to the hospital. It was alleged that the deceased's medical file, which was held at Salmaniya Medical Complex, disappeared when the hospital was taken over by the military. Al Wefaq National Islamic Society (Al Wefaq) submitted a report to the Commission, which supported the account provided above. The Ministry of Interior conducted an investigation into this case. The death of Almeshaima can be attributed to the use of excessive force by police officers.¹⁷



Case No. 2 - Fadhel Salman Ali Salman Ali Matrook(Shia Muslim)

According to the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, Mr.Fadhel Salman Ali Salman Ali Matrook was pronounced dead on February 15th, 2011, at the age of 31. The death certificate states that the cause of death was shotgun injuries to vital organs resulting in internal bleeding. A forensic report determined the cause of death to be gunshot wounds to the back, chest, and right armpit. The injuries suggested that the shotgun was fired from a distance that was greater than one meter. The shotgun round caused severe damage to the deceased's vital organs and resulted in internal bleeding. The Commission received information that Mr.Matrook died during the funeral of



¹⁷Bassiouni, Mahmoud, Nigel Rodley, Badria Al-Awadhi, Philippe Kirsch, and Mahnoush Arsanjani. "REPORT OF THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY." US Department of State 112011. 78. Web. 05 Jan 2012.



Almeshaima. He was shot in the chest and back, and died approximately ten minutes later. A relative of the deceased believes that Fadhel was shot from a distance of less than two meters. Another relative informed the investigator that the police were firing teargas at the funeral procession and that this caused the collapse of one

person. The deceased went to help this person and was shot in the back as he leaned down. The nearby people attempted to take him to Salmaniya Medical Complex, but he died almost instantly.¹⁸

Case No. 3 - Ali Mansoor Ahmed Ahmed Khudair(Shia Muslim)

The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry reports that Mr. Ali Mansoor Ahmed Khudair, was pronounced dead on February 16, 2011, at the age of 53. The death certificate states that the cause of death was shotgun injuries to the back and chest, which caused broken ribs and internal bleeding. A forensic report confirmed the cause of death and concluded that the shots were fired from a distance of five to ten meters. The number of shots was not determined. The Commission received information that at approximately 03:00 on February 17, 2011, the police force conducted an operation to clear the Roundabout. The deceased was asleep at the time of the operation. He woke up and went to help women and children. As he was doing this, he was shot in the chest. He died at approximately 03:45 while being transported to Salmaniya Medical Complex. The death of Mr. Khudair can be attributed to the use of excessive force by police officers. The Commission has not seen any evidence to suggest that the demonstrators were armed with weapons. Furthermore, the fact that the deceased was shot in the back at close range indicates that there was no justification for the use of lethal force.¹⁹



Case No. 4 - Isa Abdulhasan Ali Hussain(Shia Muslim)



Mr. Isa Abdulhasan Ali Hussain was pronounced dead on February 17, 2011 at the age of 60 according to the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. The death certificate states that the cause of death was a shotgun injury to the head causing a fractured skull and laceration of the brain. A forensic report confirmed the cause of death and concluded that the deceased

¹⁸Bassiouni, Mahmoud, Nigel Rodley, Badria Al-Awadhi, Philippe Kirsch, and Mahnouch Arsanjani. "REPORT OF THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY." US Department of State 112011. 180. Web. 05 Jan 2012.

¹⁹Bassiouni, Mahmoud, Nigel Rodley, Badria Al-Awadhi, Philippe Kirsch, and Mahnouch Arsanjani. "REPORT OF THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY." US Department of State 112011. 238. Web. 05 Jan 2012

was standing when he was shot and that the shot was fired from a very close distance - possibly as close as a few centimetres. The Commission received information from a witness that at 07:30 on February 17, 2011, she was driving from Salmaniya Medical Complex to her home and that the roads around the Roundabout were closed.

She was on a side street when she saw youths coming out of an area behind parked cars. She stated that the youths were involved in a protest and that police officers were firing rubber bullets and teargas at them. The witness stated that she was afraid of being hit by stray bullets and she ducked down in the car. She saw a youth and an older man in front of two police officers. The youth fell to the ground and the second policeman pointed his gun at the older man from a distance of less than a meter. She heard a loud shot and saw the man's head explode. Another witness reported that the police did not allow a nearby ambulance to assist him. The relatives of the deceased were not permitted to see him in the morgue, as the injury was too extensive.²⁰

Case No. 5 - Ahmed Farhan Ali Farhan(Shia Muslim)

Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry states: Mr. Ahmed Farhan Al Farhan was pronounced dead on March 15, 2011 at the age of 30. The death certificate states that the cause of death was a shotgun injury to the head causing a fracture of the skull. A forensic report confirmed the cause of death and concluded that the fatal shot was fired from a distance of less than four meters. There were also numerous shotgun pellet wounds along the right side of the back and the back of the right leg. The shots that caused these wounds were fired from a distance. The Commission received information that on March 15, 2011, there was a peaceful protest in Sitra. Witnesses reported that the police officers started to attack the demonstrators. The deceased was hit by shotgun pellets in his right leg. He attempted to escape but was shot in the head from point blank range while he was lying on the ground. The fact that the deceased was unarmed and had already been shot in the right leg before being shot at close range in the head indicates that there was no justification for the use of lethal force.²¹



²⁰Bassiouni, Mahmoud, Nigel Rodley, Badria Al-Awadhi, Philippe Kirsch, and Mahnoush Arsanjani. "REPORT OF THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY." US Department of State 112011.238. Web. 05 Jan 2012

²¹Bassiouni, Mahmoud, Nigel Rodley, Badria Al-Awadhi, Philippe Kirsch, and Mahnoush Arsanjani. "REPORT OF THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY." US Department of State 112011.240. Web. 05 Jan 2012

Conclusion

As previously stated, all humans have the right of life, but in Bahrain, Shia men and women lose their loved ones every day due to political beliefs and religious differences. The aforementioned cases are only a small portion of hundreds of Shia people who lost their Right to Life in Bahrain. The reports clearly state that most of the deaths occurred when the victims were not armed, most deaths occurred at close distances, and most of the shootings were from the back. In many cases family members did not have access to bodies for days. In none of the cases were there any justifications for the use of lethal force. The Bahraini government has failed so far to address all the killings perpetrated by its forces.

Unlawful Arrest

Unlawful Arrest /Arbitrary Arrest or Detention

Bahraini constitution prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention. However, local human rights activists and attorneys stated that police and National Guard units arbitrarily arrested or abducted Shia men and youth. According to Bahrain Center for Human Rights' (BCHR) latest report, there are 4000 estimated cases of arrest since February 2011. 40% of them are under 18 years old.²²

On Monday November 14, 2011, a girl's school bus, with its 40 passengers, was taken directly to the police station, because some of the girls were chanting "dawn with Hamad" inside the bus while driving home after school. The girls were detained for a few hours while their parents stood outside the police station, and they were released after their parents signed a pledge to bring the girls back to the police station if summoned at any time.²³

BCHR states "the protests in Bahrain have been on going on almost a nightly basis, with use of excessive force by the security forces. There are also cases of arrests, beatings, and raids on people's home almost every night. At the dawn of Thursday November 17, 2011, many houses in Manama were raided, and at least 14 young men were arrested. Later that night of November 17,2011, Mahdi AlJallaw was forced by "armed civilians" to drive to the police station where he was arrested. He is a previous detainee and was recently active in exposing the case of kidnapping his sister from the University of Bahrain. Following the Friday protest organized in Daih, reports were received of mass arrests in Daih, Sanabic and other villages. According to the BCHR's report, 17 men were arrested in AbuSaiba and another 9 were arrested in Sanbis. Another report states 3 young boys were arrested and were later found dumped by security forces on the streets. One of them needs several stitches to the head and another had severe beating marks on his body."²⁴

²²⁾ <http://bahrainrights.hopto.org/BCHR/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/PostBICreview-1.pdf>

²³⁾ Alrayed , Hamel . "Bahrain: Mass arbitrary arrests and attacks on protesters continue." Bahrain Center for Human Rights [Bahrain] 19 11 2011, n. Print. <<http://www.bahrainrights.org/en/node/4844>>.

²⁴⁾ BCHR.com

Torture

Torture and Mistreatment toward Prisoners

The Arab Charter on Human Rights prohibits torture.²⁵ Other relevant international instruments include the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials,²⁶ the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials,²⁷ the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions,²⁸ and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Bahraini constitution prohibits torture, inhumane, or degrading treatment, or punishment practices. However, there are many cases where security forces used these prohibited practices.

United Nations Development Program reports that in June 2010 Bahrain “re-confirmed” its commitment to the protection of human rights by hosting workshops.²⁹ The two-day workshop intended to increase the understanding of safeguards against torture and ill treatment. However, the US Department of State reports that in the year 2010, when workshops were held, there were multiple allegations of mistreatment and torture, especially of Shia activists associated with opposition groups. Local human rights activists and attorneys alleged that many of the 23 Shia activists arrested in August and September and charged pursuant to counterterrorism legislation, including a prominent blogger, were beaten, subjected to electric shocks, hung upside down, and beaten on their feet (falaqa).

During court sessions in October, November, and December all detainees stated they were beaten by National Security Agency officers, with some claiming they were subjected to electric shocks, made to stand for long periods of time, and made to sign confessions during or after mistreatment or torture.³⁰

²⁵ Arab Charter on Human Rights 2004, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 22 May 2004, UN Doc. CHR/NONE/2004/40/Rev.1, entered into force 15 March 2008)

²⁶ Adopted by the Eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990)

²⁷ Footnote, Adopted by GA res 34/169 (1979), 17 December 1979.)

²⁸ Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, E.S.C. res. 1989/65, Annex, 1989 UN ESCOR Supp. (No. 1) at 52, UN Doc. E/1989/89 (1989).)

²⁹ United Nations Development Program, Kingdom of Bahrain, <http://www.undp.org.bh/>

³⁰ 2010 Human Rights Report: Bahrain." US. Department of State 08 04 2008, Print. <<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/nea/154459.htm>>.

Example of cases that involving torture

Case No.1- A Bahraini human rights campaigner says political activists detained by the Manama regime undergo torture in the prisons of the small Persian Gulf kingdom. In an interview with an investigator, Maryam al-Khawaja, of the Bahrain Human Rights Center called on the Bahraini authorities to stop their crackdown on anti-government protesters and opposition figures. "Within only a number of ten days we saw four people were declared dead by the Ministry of Interior and the first one they said was from sickle cell anaemia, the second one they said had caused a problem inside the prison and thus, had to be subdued and then he died from complications, the third one again they said sickle cell anaemia, the fourth one they said had kidney failure," al-Khawaja said. "But then what we saw actually when the bodies were handed over to their families, wasn't just they had torture marks on them, their bodies had bruising and even marks of lashings, so we believe that it's more likely that they have died due to torture rather than the reasons stated by the government of Bahrain."³¹

Case No.2- Karim Al-Fakharawi, 49 year old, a Shia businessman and a member of the Bahraini opposition group Wefaq, was killed in police custody on Tuesday April 12, 2011, due to severe torture by Al Khalifa forces.³²

*Case No.3-*One of the jailed prisoners, Munir Al-Sheikh, said that he was subjected to torture by Khalid, a Pakistani policeman because of his Surname Al-Sheikh. BCHR has expressed grave concerns about the increased use of torture against the political detainees in the country. There is no doubt about the government's official approval of torture; some members of the ruling family personally take part in torturing detainees. Now it has also been revealed that Bahraini authorities use Pakistani police force to conduct torture the prisoners. Pakistanis are unfamiliar with the Arabic language, and would not understand the need of the prisoners. Some detainees have been killed under torture. Torture cells beatings and electronic shocks are the most common torture methods in Bahrain's prisoners.³³

Case No.4- On May 3, 2011 Human Rights Watch received credible reports that a human rights and opposition activist, Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, who was arrested on April 9, 2009 and had been admitted to Bahrain Defence Force hospital for six days for treatment of injuries, including to his jaw and head. One person who saw him said he was unrecognizable as a result of apparent beatings in detention.³⁴

³¹"Activists Undergo Torture In The Prisons." Ahlulbayt News Agency 16 04 2011, n. <<http://www.abna.ir/data.asp?lang=3&Id=236827>>.

³²"Journalist killed." COJ 2011, <http://cpj.org/killed/2011/karim-fakhravi.php>.

³³Admin, . "Pakistani Police Torturing Prisoners in Bahrain Jails ."Bahrain Freedom 8 9 2011, n. Web. 27 Jan. 2012.

<<http://bahrainfreedom.org/NEWS/NewsContent/tabid/69/ArticleId>

³⁴Human Rights Watch, Bahrain: Arbitrary Arrests Escalate , 4 May 2011, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4dc796bd1e.html> [accessed 27 January 2012]

Case No.5- 14-year-old Ali Jaffar Abdul Hussein was arrested by security forces and subjected to torture and sexual molestation. He was then taken to the central police station where the officer Turki Al-Majed slapped him on the ears, tortured him and cursed him, making him "confess" that he stole a camera. The child "confessed" after he was threatened by Al-Majid that he would be raped again and killed if he says anything different at the public prosecution. His family was then contacted to get him and were threatened to not post any pictures of torture marks on the internet. Ali was taken to the military hospital where he was mocked by members of the army and cursed.³⁵

³⁵Bahrain: ARTICLE 19's Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review . "Article 19 11 22 2011, n. Web. 27 Jan. 2012.
<<http://www.article19.org/resources.php/resource/2861/en/bahrain:-article->

Sexual and psychological abuses

There are many reports that Shia in Bahrain are being abused sexually and psychologically.

Fatima Khawaj shares her heart-breaking story with the world. After returning from one of the recent protests against the monarchy, dozens of heavily armed men, forcefully entered her house and took her husband. Fatima was scared and did not know what soldiers could want with her husband. Mr.Khawaji had only participated in a peaceful protest! As usual armed men were all masked, only their eyes were visible. They pointed guns towards the family members and asked them to show them where Mr.Khawaji was. They told them “If you don’t say where your men are, we will shoot you”. One of the younger sons, who could not tolerate his mother and sisters’ death, told them that dad is upstairs. After taking the father, five of the soldiers whose faces, identity, and nationality were unknown, went back to the house and sexually assaulted Fatima. She reported feeling so terrified and scared for her honour. They hurled threats and obscenities at her. Ashamed, she could not describe what they did to her, but she only mentioned that one of the soldiers put his genitals on her face. Finally, they left the house after beating her up and leaving marks all over her body.³⁶

³⁶“One Bahraini’s story.”SRWPress [Washington DC] 04.29.2011,<http://www.srwpress.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72:bahrain-shia-women-sexually-assulted&catid=57:bahrain&Itemid=68>.

Violation of “Freedom of Religion”

Freedom of Religion is one of the human rights. The US Department of State reports that a Shia cleric aligned with an opposition group was temporarily banned from giving Friday sermons in October. The Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs and Endowments considered some of the cleric's sermons to "threaten civil peace."³⁷

Another example includes the demolition of Shia mosques by government forces. McClatchy newspapers reported that the Bahraini government demolished or seriously damaged forty-three Shia mosques or religious structures during its crackdown on anti-government demonstrations, according to an official tally compiled by the state-supported endowment that oversees Shia worship centers.³⁸

Thirty-five mosques were completely levelled,³⁹ ten of which had been historic structures, according to the list which the Awaqf endowment posted last week on its website. Another seven, two of which were historic, were seriously damaged. The endowment, which the government helps fund and which reports directly to Bahrain's Minister of Justice and Islamic affairs, also said that two Shia cemeteries had been vandalized and that eight Islamic centers (Husseiniyachs) had been damaged. All religious structures had been properly registered with the government, according to the list. Among the structures listed as damaged was the Sasa'a bin Sawhan Mosque in the city of Askar, a mosque dating back to shortly after the death of the Prophet Mohammad (s). McClatchy first reported on the systematic destruction of Shia mosques on May 8, 2008. The destroyed mosques included the 400-year-old Amir Mohammed Barbaghi mosque in Aali and all 10 mosques in the village of Nwaidrat, including the historic Mo'men mosque.

³⁷2010 International Religious Freedom Report." US. Department of State 2011, 5. www.state.gov/g/drl/irf/rpt.

³⁸Gutman, Roy. "Bahrain's official tally shows cost to Shiites of mosques crackdown Read more here:<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/05/30/114980/bahrains-official-tally-shows.html>

³⁹<http://bahrainrights.hopto.org/BCHR/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/PostBICreview-1.pdf>

Other Violations

Denial of Right to a Fair Public Trial

Fair Public Trial is one of the human rights in the International Bill of Human Rights. Therefore Bahrain's Constitution provides for a fair public trial for all. However, the US Department of State reports the trial of 25 Shia activists charged pursuant to the counterterrorism law, two of which were based in the United Kingdom and tried in their absence, commenced on October 28, 2010. In some cases, a number of journalists and human rights activists were denied access to the court. The defendants' lawyers, together with local non-government organizations asserted that security personnel subjected the men to mistreatment and torture while in pre-trial detention, deprived them of adequate access to legal counsel, and prevented them from meeting with family members for several weeks. They withdrew from the case on December 9, 2010 to protest the presiding judge's failure to rule on several requests they had made in the first four sessions of the trial, such as an impartial investigation into torture allegations. The Bahraini Government denied the right of fair public trial of these Shia activists, which is against its own constitution.⁴⁰

Arbitrary Interference with Privacy, Family, and Home

The constitution of Bahrain prohibits arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence. According to the law, the government is required to obtain a court order before monitoring telephone calls, e-mail, and personal correspondence. However, many Shia citizens believed there were extensive police informer networks. Even though according to the law, citizens may bring civil suits before the court seeking cessation of or damages for, some types of human rights violations; however, in many such situations, the law prevents citizens from filing civil suits against security agencies. The history of discrimination against Shia community prevents citizens from complaining and asking for their legal rights.⁴¹

Violation of "Visitation Right"

According to the US Department of State report on Bahrain, prisoners usually have access to visitors and religious observances. Recently the government suspended visitation rights for some inmates. The government did not permit family members to visit dozens of detainees arrested on security-related charges for at least several weeks.⁴²

⁴⁰)"2010 Human Rights Report: Bahrain." US. Department of State 2011, 26.Print. <<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/nea/154459.htm>

⁴¹)"2010 Human Rights Report: Bahrain." US. Department of State 2011, 7.Print. <<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/nea/154459.htm>

⁴²)"2010 Human Rights Report: Bahrain." US. Department of State 2011, n. page .Print. <<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/nea/154459.htm>

Violation to “Right to Citizenship”

Opposition groups claimed the government regularly ignored naturalization rules to manipulate demographics for voting and to maintain Sunni minority’s domination of police and defence forces over the Shia majority. According to these opposition groups, the government was more lenient with naturalization requests from foreign residents in the security forces, while Shia and other applicants experienced delays in processing of their cases. According to this report, the government intentionally delays or denies Shia applicant’s naturalization applications in order to limit the non-Sunni population.⁴³

Furthermore, the law grants citizenship to Arab applicants who have resided in the country for 15 years and non-Arab applicants who have resided in the country for 25 years. There was a lack of transparency in the naturalization process, and there were numerous reports that the citizenship law was not applied uniformly. For example, there were many allegations that the government allowed foreign Sunni employees in the security services that had lived in the country for less than 15 years to apply for citizenship. There were also reports of Arab Shia who had resided in the country for more than 15 years and non-Arab foreign residents who had resided more than 25 years, who had not been granted citizenship.

Violation to Right to Equal Employment for All

The Bahraini law provides that Shia and Sunni citizens have equal rights before the law; however, the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry’s report clearly states that Sunnis dominate political life. According to the US Department of State, government and societal discrimination against the Shia population remains a problem. Sunnis receives preference for employment in sensitive government positions and in the managerial ranks of the civil service. The defence and internal security forces are also predominantly Sunni, and few Shia members attained high-ranking positions. The Shia are not represented in civil service, police, and security forces.⁴⁴

⁴³) "2010 International Religious Freedom Report." US. Department of State 2011, www.state.gov/g/drl/irf/rpt.

⁴⁴) "2010 International Religious Freedom Report." US. Department of State 2011, www.state.gov/g/drl/irf/rpt.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This report mentions many incidents of discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, nationality, and sect, especially against the Shia majority population. This report reviewed eleven types of violations that the Bahraini government committed according to investigators, media news, human rights organizations, and investigations done by Shia Rights Watch. This report has only highlighted a small portion of the overwhelming number of incidents of human rights violations towards people of Shia Muslim faith in Bahrain.

The US Department of State's 2010 report clearly states that Shia are being mistreated in Bahrain due to their faith. According to the report, Shia families do not have security; their lives are in danger, they do not have equal opportunities to employment, they are being arrested and tortured in prisons, and they are either losing or not accessing their right to citizenship. The Bahraini government intends to marginalize Shia and to continue ignoring their human rights.

It is up to human rights activists, international organizations, lawmakers, and all who care for humanity, to question and challenge the Bahraini government over its actions and to put their efforts to ending this discrimination and inhumanity.

The Bahrain Government should be held responsible for its inhumane actions towards the people of Bahrain. Shia Rights Watch believes life is a right for all creations; therefore all humans have the right to life.

Shia Rights Watch asks all human right organizations and anti-terrorist groups to speak up and defend the oppressed Shia majority of Bahrain.

We believe Bahrain must take serious and immediate action toward reforming peace and security for Shia Muslims in Bahrain. We demand that the Bahraini government cease the systematic discrimination and slaughter of the Shia and non-Shia people, protesters and bystanders, and to end the destruction of places of worship. Shia's of Bahrain must have their human rights and they must enjoy living in a peaceful environment.

Followings are Shia Right Watch recommendations in order to bring peace in Bahrain and defend the rights of Shia in this country.

Recommendations

The government of Bahrain must:

1. Allow international human right organizations to send in prominent monitors to investigate and monitor the situation in Bahrain;
2. The observers must be non-Arab specialists who are not dependent on any Middle Eastern governments;
3. Send the names of murderers and violent officers to the International Criminal Court (ICC);
4. Expel Saudi forces from Bahrain;
5. Pay financial compensation to the family of victims;
6. Stop violence against peaceful protesters everywhere;
7. Call for an end to detention of political prisoners in Bahrain. All detainees, even if accused of serious security offenses, should have access to their family members, lawyers, and necessary medical offenses;
8. The government should protect Shia places of worship and religious buildings from attack or destruction and respect the religious freedom of all Bahrainis;
9. Rebuild all destroyed mosques and Islamic centers;
10. Engage in a respectful and peaceful dialogue to set up and institutionalize mechanisms to respect fundamental human rights of Bahraini teachers and to end the violations which include arbitrary arrests, detentions, unjust sentencing and dismissals;
11. The government should rework laws on naturalization and citizenship;

Shia Rights Watch asks for help from all human rights and anti-terrorist organizations who wish to put end to this inhumane treatments toward Shia in Bahrain. As organizations who care for the civil and human rights of people, we should come together and question Bahrain's government for their unjust acts. Shia Rights Watch aims to end this unfair situation in Bahrain and anywhere in the world where Shia is mistreated.

Children's Rights Violations in Bahrain

Overview of the International Convention for the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the most comprehensive document on the rights of children. Based purely on the number of substantive rights it sets forth, as distinct from implementation measures, it is the longest U.N. human rights treaty in force and unusual in that it not only addresses the granting and implementation of rights in peacetime, but also the treatment of children in situations of armed conflict. The CRC is also significant because it enshrines, “for the first time in binding international law, the principles upon which adoption is based, viewed from the child’s perspective”. The CRC is primarily concerned with four aspects of children’s rights: participation by children in decisions affecting them, protection of children against discrimination and all forms of neglect and exploitation, prevention of harm to them, and provision of assistance to children for their basic needs.

The Convention sets out children’s rights in 54 articles and two Optional Protocols.

For the purposes of the CRC, a child is defined as

*“Every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (article 1).*⁴⁵

Convention on the Rights of the Child and Bahrain

Bahrain acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) in February 1992. The government of Bahrain has established organizations such as the National Committee on Childhood to further the rights of children. In 2002, the Bahraini government, along with the local telecommunications network, set up Bahrain's first helpline for children. This helpline, called “Be Free,” aims to promote awareness of child rights among children and to protect them from abuse.⁴⁶

According to the CRC law, countries that approved the Convention on the Rights of Child are held responsible to take action and protect children within their governments. Bahrain has been a member of the CRC since 1992, approximately three years after the establishment of the CRC. However, the actions of the Bahraini government have not been in line with its agreement with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This has never been more apparent than in the events following the Bahraini uprising of February 14, 2011. Bahraini children have suffered from heavy discrimination as their basic human rights were violated by government forces. This report highlights some of the violations to the CRC’s agreement. The aim of this report is to generate attention from child’s right organizations such as UNICEF, and ask them to take action towards protecting the children in Bahrain.

⁴⁵)Library of Congress. *Children’s Rights: International Laws*. 2011. Print. <<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/international-law.php>>.

⁴⁶)Bahrain .RCW. Representing Children Worldwide .2006. Print. <<http://www.law.yale.edu/rcw/rcw/jurisdictions/asw/bahrain/frontpage.htm>>.

Overview of Violations

The Bahrain Center for Human Rights reports, since the review of Bahrain record by the committee of the child rights in June 2011, the death toll among children has risen and hundreds of children were subjected to excessive force, arbitrary arrests, and torture at detention, prosecution by Bahraini policemen and Saudi soldiers, as well as sentencing by military court. Criminal trials are still on going in the military court for children being charged for “crimes” related to freedom of expression and assembly.

Children (under 18 years old) were among those sentenced by military court to up to 15 years in jail.⁴⁷

The Bahraini government is a signatory to the International Convention for the Rights of Child (ICRC); however, while its ministry of human rights prides itself of abiding by the rules and regulations of the convention, basic rights of children in Bahrain are being brutally violated by security forces without any action from the authorities to end these violations.

There are laws designed to protect children, according to ICRC Law that this report found to be violated are as follows:

ICRC provides:⁴⁸

Article 2- states “Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child’s parents, legal guardians, or family members.

Article 6- states “Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life. States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child

Article 15- states “Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly”

Article 19- states “ Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child”

Article 37-states “Parties shall ensure that: (a) No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age; (b) No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time; (c) Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age. In particular, every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child’s best interest not to do so and shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances; (d) Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority, and to a prompt decision on any such action.”

⁴⁷)<http://bahrainrights.hopto.org/BCHR/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/PostBICireview-1.pdf>

⁴⁸)<http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

Article 28- States *"Parties recognize the rights of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this rights progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity"*

According to the six laws, children must be protected against arbitrary arrest and torture. They have a right of life, freedom, of peaceful assembly, and also freedom of expression. Equally as important, the right to education is among the protected laws that are meant to help children acquire a better living in any society. In many cases, Shia children in Bahrain do not have access to these laws and rights. Their rights are being violated by their government and no action is being taken by any international organization to put a stop to these violations and to protect the children.

The following pages present specific cases of violations of children's rights in Bahrain:

Cases of Violation of Child's Right to Life

LAW Review:

Article 1 of the International Convention for the Rights of the Child states "Every child has the inherent right to life".

Article 6- states "Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life. States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child"



Case No.1- Sayed Ahmed Shams was a **15-year-old** from Saar village. He was a student in Al Duraz Secondary school. Sayed Ahmed was shot in the face by security forces, resulting in his death on March 30, 2011 while on his way to the American Mission hospital in Saar. He was attacked while playing outside his house.⁴⁹

Case No.2 -Mohammed Farhan, a 6-year-old boy is among the youngest to die. On Friday April 29, 2011 police fired teargas into his house in Sitra. The young boy suffocated and was taken to Salmaniya Hospital to be submitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). He passed away the following day.⁵⁰



Case No. 3- On 63th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 'Sajida Faisal



Jawad', a 5-day old infant girl, has been killed by the Al Khalifa's military who fired teargas into her family's house. Sajida's father was part of the military and was imprisoned by the Al Khalifa's regime because he refused to shoot the Bahraini protesters. He became aware of the news about his child as soon as he got out of the jail. The child's family declared that she has not still gotten her birth certificate.

⁴⁹⁾ <http://news.yahoo.com/photos/mourners-gather-cemetery-burial-sayed-ahmed-shams-15-photo-20110331-084101-164.html>

⁵⁰⁾ Child's Right International Network (<http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?ID=26686>)



Case No.4- 14-year-old, Ali Al Shaikh, was killed by riot police after being hit by a teargas canister from a close range. Many international and local human rights organizations condemned Ali's murder. Philip Luther, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa, said "The police have a duty to uphold the law, but it is completely unacceptable to throw heavy gas canisters at children. The authorities must investigate 'Ali Jawad Ahmad al-Shaikh's death immediately in a thorough, independent and impartial manner and those responsible must be held to account [3]." The ministry of interior claimed that Ali was dead before reaching the hospital and denied any police action in the area. However, no further explanation was given.⁵¹



Case No.5 -About a month later on October 6, 2011 a **16-year-old** boy, *Ahmed Al Qattan*, was killed by a shotgun. Security forces aimed at him at a very close range, causing the pellets to penetrate into his lung resulting in his death. Ahmed was immediately taken to the nearby hospital, Bahrain International Hospital. The ministry of Interior "attributed the death to injury by birdshot and the report of Bahrain International Hospital reasoned the death to severe drop in the blood circulation that led to the heart to stop". As with the previous killings, it was said that "legal procedures would be taken according to the results of the investigation"⁵² but no action was taken.



Case No.6 - A day before the Universal children's day, November 19, 2011, Ali Yousif Baddah, **16- years-old**, was purposely run over by Bahrain security force while they were suppressing a peaceful protest in Juffair. The ministry of Interior confirmed the cause of death. Photos of Ali after being hit are very graphic because of the severity of injuries. Ali's funeral procession and mourners were attacked by rubber bullets and teargas, and more injuries were caused.⁵³

⁵¹The Crooked Bough (<http://www.crookedbough.com/?p=2946>)

⁵²Global Voice Online (<http://globalvoicesonline.org/2011/10/08/bahrain-teen-protester-shot-dead/>)

⁵³Bahrain Center for Human Rights (<http://www.bahrainrights.org/en/node/4845>)



Case No. 7- Ali Jawad Ahmad, 14, killed on August 30, 2011 when Saudi-backed Bahraini riot police fired a teargas canister at the youth from close range. He was among a crowd of youths who had gathered in a peaceful demonstration following morning prayers in the mainly Shia village of Sitra.⁵⁴

TO DATE, NO ONE WAS HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DEATH OF ANY OF THESE CHILDREN, ALTHOUGH AN INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED, NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AGAINST THE RESPONSIBLE PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENT.

⁵⁴) Center on Research for Globalization (<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=26324>)

Children's Arrest and Torture

Article 37- International Convention for the Rights of the Child states:

"No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment" and "Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age"

Article 19- International Convention for the Rights of the Child states

Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

BCHR has received many reports of children being arrested during home raids and daily crackdowns on villages. There have been **188 cases** documented of children being arrested, although numbers are believed to be much higher. Many cases have been reported of parents having no access to their children for a long period of time while in detention. It should be emphasized that the detention of these children is unlawful, and in many cases these detentions fall under kidnapping or abduction.

Case No.1- 15-year-old Ali Khamis from the village of Daih, was hit on the night of October 7, 2011 with a rubber bullet in the head by riot police. After being hit, covered in blood, riot police took him to a fort and beat him severely. Ali says "I asked the riot police for water; they poured the water in my face and beat me. Then I woke up in hospital" Ali was taken to the military hospital where he had to have surgery for his head injury. Ali was considered a detainee while in hospital, his family was not allowed to see him and he was escorted by police and interrogated three times. The case of Ali Khamis shows how the Bahraini regime deals with injured children. It is not surprising that many other children who were not arrested at the time of the injury choose to remain anonymous and not be exposed.⁵⁵



Case No.2-Zahir [not his real name] is a **16-year-old** protester who was hit with a teargas canister in his eye and has lost it after this injury. A human rights activist witnessed his wound as he was carried into the house for treatment. Fearing the hospital, many of the injured protesters choose to get any kind of treatment at

⁵⁵⁾ Bahrain Center for Human Right

home. For protesters in Bahrain, going to a hospital could lead to arrest and detention, even for children under the age of 18.⁵⁶

Case No.3- Ahmed Mushaima, **15-years-old**, was arrested from Daih on 22 October, 2011. Although Ahmed was not injured or hurt at the time of the arrest, soon afterwards, he was admitted into the military hospital with injuries. For the first five days, Ahmed's family was told nothing about their sons' whereabouts and was denied visits. Ahmed's mother was finally permitted a visit when she went to the police station crying that she will not leave without knowing that her son is alive. When Ahmed's family saw him they say he looked very scared and would not give details of his detention or injury, but they said they noticed cigarette burns on his body. Unfortunately that is not surprising considering that the BCHR has documented cases of other detained children who were tortured in a similar manner.⁵⁷

Case No.4- Ali Al Hayki, 16, who was arrested during a crackdown on a peaceful protest in his village on September 11. His parents went looking for him at NabihSaleh police station and they were told that his case will be taken to the Public Prosecutor the following day. When they asked to see him, the police gave them his shirt which was stained with blood, telling them that Ali has a head injury and had to be taken to the hospital.⁵⁸



Case No.5- Aziz Jaffer, 14, was arrested on September 1, 2011. He was taken to a horse stable where he was beaten and sexually harassed by security forces, who touched his private parts. He was released a few hours later and summoned by the public prosecutor on September 16, 2010. He was held in detention for a week of interrogation, on charges that included inciting against the regime, and the court extended his detention for another week to be released at the end of September.⁵⁹

Case No. 6- On September 22, *Hussain Salman*, a **15-year-old** from BaniJamra, got arrested and was tortured by being beaten violently with a gun on his head and neck. He was released after three and a half hours of torture and beatings. A family member of Hussain said that Hussain was arrested during a home raid in Sanabis village. While trying to run away out of fear, he hit into a wall and fell unconscious. Riot police dragged him into their bus which caused injuries to his face. He adds that he was then tortured both inside the bus and at the police station afterwards. When his family visited him, they could see bruises on both his eyes.

⁵⁶⁾ Bahrain Center for Human Right

⁵⁷⁾ Bahrain Center for Human Right

⁵⁸⁾ Bahrain Center for Human Right

⁵⁹⁾ Bahrain Center for Human Right

His knees were so swollen he could not bend them and he had a bulge on his arm. The police management asked his family for new clothes as his old ones which he was still wearing were covered in blood.⁶⁰



Case No.7- On 8 September 2011, Kumail, 16, was out buying dinner when riot police started attacking his village. He quickly hid in a house when he heard shooting. However riot police raided that house and managed to find him hiding on the roof. One of the police officers threw Kumail and his friend from the roof, which gave him a broken nose. They stabbed him with barbeque skewers and kicked him continuously. He was beaten constantly along with other prisoners even after being taken to jail, as he reported to family.⁶¹

Case No. 8- Mohammed Aqeel, 17, has been detained since April 21, 2011. According to his family, he has been subjected to severe torture which includes being hit by electric wires and hoses while hanging from the ceiling with his hands tied, removing his toe nails and threatening to use knives and shot guns against him. All this was to force Mohammed to confess to a crime he did not commit. He told his family that the Jordanian officer, Isa Al Majali, tortured him and insulted his religious beliefs, and when he realized Mohammed was not going to confess, he took him to what the prison management call "The Black Room". In that room, they beat him with electric cables and hoses while hanging him handcuffed. They cursed and humiliated him and the Ahlulbait (Holy Household of the Prophet Mohammad), which holds a great deal of significance in the Shia faith. Mohammed was beaten and tortured continuously for two days at Adliya police station.⁶²



Case No. 9- Maryam Isa, 14, was going to her grandfather's house on September 12, 2010 when security forces fired a toxic teargas canister at her which lit her clothes on fire and burnt her leg and foot. After



her family reported it to the police, she was transferred to the hospital for treatment. The police however refused to give copies of medical and police reports to her family in attempt to hide the truth.⁶³

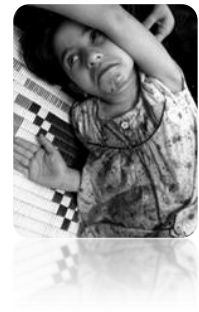
⁶⁰) Bahrain Center for Human Right

⁶¹) Bahrain Center for Human Right

⁶²) Bahrain Center for Human Right

⁶³) Bahrain Center for Human Right

Case No. 10- Khadija Sayed Mohamed, lost her consciousness and started to vomit blood due to teargas inhalation, which was thrown with excessive amounts in the village of Saar on 23 Sep, 2011.⁶⁴



Case No. 11- Ashwaq AlMagabi, 17, is one of seven minors and 38 women arrested in the City



Centre mall case following a peaceful protest. Ashwaq suffers from a severe degree of sickle cell disease which worsened due to prison condition and ill-treatment. She has been hospitalized more than once to then be admitted to Salmaniya hospital for weeks before the doctor ordered her release. Today she was re-arrested from the hospital by the police to start her 6 months imprisonment sentence.

Ashwaq was first arrested on 23 September, 2011, along with another 45 women and girls after participating in a march at the shopping mall City Center. They were apprehended without arrest warrants, interrogated without the presence of lawyers, and some of them reportedly tortured and mistreated. Since her detention, Ashwaq was admitted several times to the hospital to get treatment for her sickle cell disorder, and for the past month she was staying at hospital. She was sentenced to a six month imprisonment on 19 October, 2011 by the criminal court along with another eleven women and two men. Her lawyer has requested an appeal, which is due for hearing on 14 November, 2011 and has also requested the release of Ashwaq for health condition.

The BCHR believes that Ashwaq and the other persons in the same case were sentenced for practicing freedom of expression, and the harsh imprisonment sentences they have received are a result of an unfair political judgment. The aforementioned eleven cases are just a small portion of hundreds of children who are held as detainees, abused, or have lost their right to life.

⁶⁴) Bahrain Center for Human Right

List of Children Detained in Bahrain

The following list contains the name of 76 more children, all under the age of 18 who are detained in Bahrain.⁶⁵

- 1 Jihad AqeelAlSari(10 years) Date of Arrest 19/08/2010
- 2 AymanJaffar(12 years) Date of Arrest 13/08/2010
- 3 Mohammed Ali (12 years) Date of Arrest 31/08/2010
- 4 Munther Ahmed Mahdi (11 years) Date of Arrest 02/11/2010
- 5 Ahmed AbdelMahdiHassan (13 years) Date of Arrest 25/05/2010
- 6 Mohammed AmeenAbdulHakeem(13 years) Date of Arrest 25/05/2010
- 7 Mohammed Ahmed AlJubailat(13 years) Date of Arrest 27/08/2010
- 8 Sayed Mohammed SayedJaffar(13 years) Date of Arrest 15/10/2010
- 9 Ali Juma'aEbrahimSalman (14 years) Date of Arrest 14/05/2010
- 10 Abdulla Altaranha(14 years) Date of Arrest 17/05/2010
- 11 KumailAlHalwachi (14 years) Date of Arrest 19/05/2010
- 12Sadiq Ahmed AlSaeed(14 years) Date of Arrest 18/06/2010
- 13 SayedNuri(14 years) Date of Arrest 27/08/2010
- 14 Ali Badah(14 years) Date of Arrest 30/08/2010
- 15 SayedHussainSayedMustafa (14 years) Date of Arrest 10/10/2010
- 16 Ammar Hassan Ali AlSitri(14 years) Date of Arrest 20/10/2010
- 17 Sayed Ali HadiAlAbbar(15 years) Date of Arrest 15/04/2010
- 18 SayedHussainSayedHaidar(15 years) Date of Arrest 20/05/2010
- 19 Ali Mohammed Jaffar(15 years) Date of Arrest 18/06/2010
- 20 Taleb Ahmed Mahdi (15 years) Date of Arrest 04/09/2010
- 21 Sayed Yasser Sayed Khalil (15 years) Date of Arrest 19/09/2010
- 22 MahmoodRadhiMarhoon(15 years) Date of Arrest 17/10/2010
- 23 Ebrahim Ahmed Ebrahim(16 years) Date of Arrest 17/03/2010
- 24 Mun'em Ahmed AlSadadi(16 years) Date of Arrest 17/05/2010
- 25 Ali Abbas Zuhair (16 years) Date of Arrest 17/05/2010
- 26 Hassan Ali Alshaikh(16 years) Date of Arrest 03/06/2010
- 27 Mohammed Ali Abdullah (16 years) Date of Arrest 18/06/2010
- 28 Sayed Mohammed SayedJuma'a(16 years) Date of Arrest 18/07/2010
- 29 Mohammed Ali Yousif(16 years) Date of Arrest 18/07/2010
- 30 Hussain Ali Nusaif(16 years) Date of Arrest 19/07/2010
- 31 Mahmood Abdullah Jaffar(16 years old) Date of Arrest 21/07/2010
- 32 Hassan AqeelAlMajed(16 years old) Date of Arrest 25/08/2010
- 33 Jassim Abdullah Yousif(16 years old) Date of Arrest 27/08/2010
- 34 Mohammed Ali Mahdi Ramadhan(16 years old) Date of Arrest 29/08/2010
- 35 AlaaAbdulElah Kamal Marhoon(16 years old) Date of Arrest 02/09/2010
- 36 Adel Faisal (16 years old) Date of Arrest 07/09/2010
- 37 Mohammed AshourAltaqi(16 years old) Date of Arrest 16/09/2010
- 38 Ali Saad Mohammed (16 years old) Date of Arrest 01/10/2010
- 39 SadiqKhalil AlHaiki(16 years old) Date of Arrest 04/10/2010

⁶⁵) BCHR (<http://www.bahrainrights.org/en/node/3619>)

40 HussainEbrahimAlmuqdad(16 years old) Date of Arrest 04/10/2010
 41 Abdullah Ali Salman (16 years old) Date of Arrest 08/10/2010
 42 Mujtaba(16 years old) Date of Arrest 08/10/2010
 43 KararNabeelAlHaiki(16 years old) Date of Arrest 10/10/2010
 44 SayedQasimSayeed Mustafa (16 years old) Date of Arrest 10/10/2010
 45 HussainAlqattan(16 years old) Date of Arrest 13/10/2010
 46 Isa Ali Isa Sarhan (17 years old) Date of Arrest 16/03/2009
 47SayedSadiqSayeed Ali (17 years old) Date of Arrest 23/11/2009
 48 Maytham Ahmed Abdullah (17 years old) Date of Arrest 08/05/2010
 49 Ali Abbas Ali (17 years old) Date of Arrest 26/05/2010
 50 Abdulla AbdulMahdi Hassan (17 years old) Date of Arrest 22/07/2010
 51 Sayed Mohammed SayedEbrahim(17 years old) Date of Arrest 22/08/2010
 52 Abdullah AbdulkareemMilad(17 years old) Date of Arrest 23/08/2010
 53 Sadiq Abdulla AlAlwani(17 years old) Date of Arrest 29/08/2010
 54 Mohammed Alsakran (17 years old) Date of Arrest 29/08/2010
 55 AmmarAbdulghani(17 years old) Date of Arrest 04/09/2010
 56 Mohammed Radhi(17 years old) Date of Arrest 04/09/2010
 57 Mohammed Hameed(17 years old) Date of Arrest 05/09/2010
 58 Mohammed Adel AlHamar(17 years old) Date of Arrest 07/09/2010
 59 Mustafa Alghunami(17 years old) Date of Arrest 07/09/2010
 60 Ali Jassim Ahmed (17 years old) Date of Arrest 08/09/2010
 61 Isa Mohammed Isa (17 years old) Date of Arrest 09/09/2010
 62 MahmoodAbdulmohsen(17 years old) Date of Arrest 11/09/2010
 63 Ali JaffarAshour(17 years old) Date of Arrest 16/09/2010
 64 Mahmood Abbas AlAradi(17 years old) Date of Arrest 16/09/2010
 65 Mohammed JaffarYahya(17 years old) Date of Arrest 17/09/2010
 66 Ahmed Ali AlOnaisi(17 years old) Date of Arrest 18/09/2010
 67 MahmoodFadhelAlOraibi (17 years old) Date of Arrest 21/09/2010
 68 Mohammed FadhelJuma'a(17 years old) Date of Arrest 21/09/2010
 69 Hassan AbdulGhani(17 years old) Date of Arrest 26/09/2010
 70 Hakeem AlOraibi(17 years old) Date of Arrest 30/09/2010
 71 Mohammed Khalil Alhamad(17 years old) Date of Arrest 04/10/2010
 72 Ali Hassan AlSaeed(17 years old) Date of Arrest 10/10/2010
 73 Ali Jawad(17 years old) Date of Arrest 15/10/2010
 74 HussainKhalil Marhoon(17 years old) Date of Arrest 18/10/2010
 75 Mahmood Mohammed Hassan (17 years old) Date of Arrest 18/10/2010
 76 Ahmed Abdulaziz(17 years old) Date of Arrest 15/11/2010

Violation to the Right to Basic Education

Article 28 of the International Convention for the Rights of the Child states:

“Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity”

Deprivation of Basic Education:⁶⁶

The authorities also deprived several children of their right of getting an education. They dismissed many students, including children from Al-Dair Elementary School for Boys, who are less than 11 years old, because they were accused of shouting “Down with the King”. Female students who are less than 15 years old were also dismissed from Yathrib Middle School for Girls, and were not allowed to take final exams.



⁶⁶ World Education Forum (http://www.unesco.org/education/wef/countryreports/bahrain/rapport_2_1.html)

Specific Laws and Violations

The abuse cases against children in Bahrain are ongoing, every day there are victims of the brutal and violent crackdown of Bahrain's security forces and their use of illegal weaponry against peaceful protesters for exercising their rights. All articles of Bahrain international convention of the rights of children were violated and many other international laws that Bahrain's authority is the signatory. Some articles of the ICRC which were violated are as follows:

Violation to Article 2 of International Convention of the Rights of Children:

Children in Bahrain are being targeted and discriminated against for being members in pro-democracy families and from Shia sect.

Violation to Article 6 of International Convention of the Rights of Children:

Children's lives are at risk and danger at all time, whether they are playing in their neighborhoods, at their homes or even schools.

Violation to Article 9 of International Convention of the Rights of Children:

Parents are prevented, for long periods of time, from knowing anything about their children, despite their efforts of asking. Police stations deny having them while they have been there all along

Violation to Article 15 of International Convention of the Rights of Children:

Children are being targeted (arrested, injured or killed) during peaceful protests whether for participating in those protests or for being around them.

Violation to Article 19 of International Convention of the Rights of Children:

Dozens of children were subjected to physical, mental, injury and abuse from the security forces in Bahrain.

Violation to Article 37 of International Convention of the Rights of Children:

Torture and abuse is the way the Bahrain government treats its opposition, even children. More than 100 cases have been documented and more are believed to have been committed.

Conclusion:

Many children around the world are blessed with the protection of UNICEF, and other children's right organizations. Meanwhile, the children of Bahrain are subjected to arrests, are detained, tortured, and killed; and no organization offered to protect them from unlawful acts of Bahrain government. International child's rights organizations should take actions to protect and save these children.

The children of Bahrain need help accessing their basic rights. The Bahraini government, as a member of the ICRC must follow the rules and protect children in this country; however, the government itself is the one that is violating children's rights in this country. Since the Bahraini government is refusing to protect its citizens, it is up to us, as human rights organizations, to speak up and protect the Bahraini children's rights.

Recommendations:

1. The United Nations must appoint a special representative for Bahrain to investigate human rights abuses;
2. An international/ non-Arab/ committee must be assigned to investigate the cases of abuse of minors;
3. The government of Bahrain must free all detained children;
4. Children must be reunited with their families immediately;
5. The government must stop torturing, arresting, and abusing children;
6. The government must provide full care for the victims of all these violation. The government must pay all the expenses of treatment of these children;
7. Bahrain must open its borders to international Child Rights organizations and allow them to help minors;
8. Following the Convention on the Rights of the Child and implementation of all the recommendations of the Committee of Child Rights issued in 2002 and 2011;
9. The government must make sure to create safe environment for children to have access to their right to education;

Shia Women in Bahrain

Introduction

Uprising of Bahrain resulted in many violations to the international, Bahrain laws human rights law. Women are among groups whose rights are being violated in Bahrain under the Al-Khalifa monarchy. This government system has so little, if any, respect to the female gender. Women have always been suppressed in Bahrain because of their gender, and now Bahraini women have to suffer even more because of their faith. This situation gets worse if the woman is a family member of an activist or anti-government protester. Many human right organizations, news reporters and investigators reported and witnessed violations toward women in Bahrain but very little actions has been taken.

Many Women's Rights activists, such as Medea Benjamin, the co-founder of Code Pink, reports that women in Bahrain are suppressed and are living in very difficult situations. Medea is a member of the Witness Bahrain Group, which entered Bahrain as tourist and witnessed the situation of Bahraini people. She was arrested and deported to the US for participating in peaceful women protest in Bahrain.⁶⁷

The following report intends to highlight some of the stories and violations that women in Bahrain report daily.

Overview of Women International Law

International Women's Human Rights Foundations⁶⁸

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." (Article 2)

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women states that "violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." (Article 1) It further asserts that states have an obligation to "exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons." (Article 4-c)

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), defines discrimination against women as any "distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on the basis of equality between men and women, of human rights or fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." (Article 1)

⁶⁷ <http://codepink.org/blog/2012/02/police-chief-timoney-meet-bahraini-mothers/>

⁶⁸ <http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/violence-against-women/violence-against-women-information>

Cases of Arrest of Women and Young Girls

The Al-Khalifa monarchy government of Bahrain has arrested scores of Shia women in Bahrain. Teachers and schoolgirls were taken and held for days in prison and subjected to physical and verbal abuse, according to victims and human rights advocates. Of all arrests, 11% were women from all ages and professions. Reportedly, most women arrested were seized from their workplace, which included schools and hospitals, while some were taken from their bedrooms. The majority of female detainees who documented their cases were subjected to both physical and psychological torture.

In the fast-expanding catalogue of widespread and systematic mistreatment of Shia females in Bahrain, some observers say the red line will be the sexual abuse of women detainees, a step that if taken could provoke violence on part of the protester. The security forces appear to be at the brink of crossing it. At least 150 women have been arrested, and at least 17 remain in custody, according to al Wefaq, the moderate Shia political organization. Nabeel Rajab, president of the independent BCHR, thinks the number is higher.

Case No. 1- "Yasmeen, 16 — McClatchy newspaper is withholding her real name to protect her from retribution — was ordered from her school on April 26, 2011 and held three days along with four other teenage girls. She told McClatchy newspaper that on the drive to police headquarters, police threatened to rape them and insulted them as not being true Muslims. At the stationhouse, "they beat me on the head with a black rubber hose," she said. "They threw me against the wall. The policeman ordered me to remove my headscarf. He took my head and pulled my hair, pushed me against the wall, injuring my head," she said. They asked her if she'd been at the anti-government rallies at Bahrain's Pearl Roundabout. She had been, but said she didn't take an active part in the demonstrations. They "played with our emotion," Yasmeen said. She said that they threatened to turn the girls over to the Saudi military, which now has 1,500 troops on the island. "They will manage your case," she recalled her captors saying. "We were under stress. I fainted," she recounted.



Case No. 2- Jaleela Al Salman, Deputy President of Bahrain Teachers Association, was first arrested on March 29, 2011 after a house raid by more than 40 masked security forces that broke into her house



and terrorized her family. She was beaten, threatened with rape and denied access to her family and lawyer. In an interview about her detention Jaleela said “I was in solitary confinement, it was very, very dirty. The walls were covered in dried blood. There was a hook hanging off the ceiling. There were no windows. I was forced to stand for almost all of the time. Every five minutes someone would come inside my cell. I was not allowed to lie down or even to go to the toilet or to have water. Because of that I had to be treated for kidney problems. The food they gave me was full of hairs, sand and dirt. I am on medication for high blood pressure and they only allowed me to take it on the fifth day. By that time I was in a really bad state and I was fainting during questioning. Still, I was never allowed to sit down.” Jaleela was sentenced to 3 year imprisonment in the military court. She was released on August 21, 2011 only to be re-arrested the same way on 18 October.⁶⁹

Case No. 3- Dr. Fatima Haji, 33, is one of the doctors who were arrested for treating protesters and witnessing the atrocities of the regime. She was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in the military court. Masked men accompanied with a female policewoman broke into her house. In an interrogation center, she was “punched and kicked while blindfolded. Then she was kept standing for several days without food and water, and sexually molested”. Like Dr. Fatima Haji, Dr. Nada Dhaif, 38, was subjected to ill-treatment and torture in detention. Dr. Dhaif says that "It was 03:00 a.m. when they broke into my house. I was taken away, blindfolded and handcuffed. I didn't know that they were security forces. They were in civilians clothes, so I thought I was actually kidnapped. Immediately after I was taken away, I was treated with beating and cursing", She added that she was also electrified and threatened to be raped. She added in an interview, "I was crying and I lost consciousness two or three times during this time in the military clinic”. Dr. Dhaif was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by a military court.⁷⁰



⁶⁹ Bahrain Center for Human Rights

⁷⁰ Bahrain Center for Human Rights



Case No. 4-Fadhila Al Mubarak, 38, mother of an 8 year old boy, was arrested. She was driving her car with her son and nephew in the back seat when she was stopped at a checkpoint because of an audio recording of a revolutionary song that was playing in her car. The officer pulled her out of her car and sat in the driver seat. Fearing for the safety of her son and nephew who were in the car, she tried to pull him out. Fadhila was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment in the military court to be then reduced to 18 months. She is serving an unfair sentence in jail under bad conditions and concerns are being raised over her health condition.

Violation to the Right of Life

Case No. 1-BahiyaAbdulrasool Al Aradi, 51, is the first female victim in Bahrain's uprising. She was driving in Budaiya road when she went missing. Her last phone call was to her younger sister, when she heard gunshots near Al Qadam roundabout and tried to get off the road. Her family contacted all hospitals however they could not find her. On 19 March 2011, they received a call from the authorities informing them that Bahiya is in Bahrain Defence Hospital on life support. Her brother was allowed a visit lasting a few minutes. The next day she died due to her serious injuries. The authorities stated in her death certificate that she died of "Brain Injury", however the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) report recently published a confirmation that the cause of death was a sniper gunshot from behind from a range of 50 to 75 meters. No one was held accountable Bahiya's death.⁷¹

Case No. 2:-Zainab Al Juma and Zainab Al Tajer both died of suffocation due to teargas that was used by security forces as collective punishment on villages.⁷²

Visit to the Woman Prison by BCHR

According to the latest published information by the BCHR after their visit to the women's prison, there is no permanent nurse, and no visiting doctor to check on the inmates. Some cells do not have windows, so neither light nor natural ventilation enter the room. The report also observed that there were no chairs in the cells. The inmates had to use their bed to sit on. Also, there were only six toilets and six showers for all the inmates to share, and one of the toilets was broken, which could be dangerous for the inmates. They can use it as a means of self-harm, especially when suffering from depression due to torture. The public toilets can transmit infections, not to mention that there is no soap for washing hands after the use of the toilets and no toilet paper. Moreover, adolescents and young girls are rounded up with people convicted in criminal cases of various nationalities and some with criminal records. Prisoners are not separated according to their offenses and nature of the charges against them. Since no other visit was granted to any independent organization since the B HR visit, there is no confirmation that these conditions have been improved.

⁷¹<http://www.bahrainrights.org/en/node/4861>

⁷²<http://bahrainrights.hopto.org/en/node/3864>

Cases of Assault and Abuse

Mrs. Fatima Al-Khawaja - wife of activist Mr Salah Al-Khawaja, was sexually assaulted and threatened with rape on March 21, 2011. She talked to CBS about her torture and assault.

Zainab Al-Khawaja, daughter of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja (activist and brother of Salah Al-Khawaja) has also been subjected to multiple arrested, threats and unlawful detention by police. She remains in jail at the time of this report's release.

Wife of Yasser Al-Saleh, activist and member of the Islamic Action Society (AMAL), 7 of May 2011. At around 11:15pm, she was tortured and threatened by security force.

Conclusion

Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah and his family's governments, have violated most of the basic women rights guaranteed under international law. Women in Bahrain are discriminated against not only because of their gender, but also because of their faith. Human rights organizations must take action and defend women in this country. As human rights organizations, we must help stop rape, violent, arrest, and abuse toward women in this country.

Recommendations:

The government of Bahrain must:

1. The UN should send its Special Reporters to investigate the Bahraini Monarchy's crimes against women.
2. The observers must be among non-Arab specialists who are not dependent on any Middle Eastern governments;
3. Recognize all women who were killed in the uprising as national victims;
4. Compensate the family of victims for their loss, especially those with children;
5. Free all women prisoners;
6. Stop violence against peaceful women protestors;
7. Call for an end to detention of political prisoners in Bahrain;
8. End systematic discrimination against all women;
9. Respect women and give them the freedom that they deserve under International Law;
10. Investigate all cases of women prisoners or detainees;

Shia in Bahrain: Target of Inhumane Treatment

In the midst of the Arab Spring of 2011, Bahraini protestors seeking government reform poured into the Pearl Roundabout. The protestors selected February 14th as a day of protest to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the National Action Charter. On February 18th, a police raid at the site of the protests led to the death of many activists. Within a week, Bahrain's troops retreated, and allowed protestors to remain in the Pearl Roundabout. Bahrain's Crown Prince, Salman bin Hamad promised to hold a dialogue with the protestors. Meanwhile, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates visited the country to discuss the situation along with a visit to the UAE for an arms deal. Since the departure of the British army in 1971, Bahrain has historically used the Saudi National Guard as a second line of defence against the Shia majority. While Bahraini protestors were blocking the Financial Harbour in Manama, Saudi and Emirati troops (along with other Gulf Cooperation Council member states) invaded Bahrain under the Peninsula Shield forces.

On March 14th, troops from Saudi Arabia and the UAE entered Bahrain under the pretence of protecting essential facilities: oil and gas installations and financial institutions. On March 15th, the government began a retaliatory crackdown. The assault was carried out under the supervision of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The following month was filled with arrests, tortures, and deaths. Most of the protestors are Shia who make up the majority of Bahrain's population but are disproportionately underrepresented in the Sunni led government.

