

URGENT ACTION

PREGNANT WOMAN HELD WITHOUT CHARGE

A 37-year-old pregnant woman, Nadia 'Ali Yousef Saleh, has been detained without charge or trial in Bahrain since 30 May, and was reportedly beaten upon her arrest. She is now eight-months pregnant, and was admitted to al-Salmaniya Medical Complex on 15 September.

Nadia 'Ali Yousef Saleh was travelling in a car with her husband and her mother on 29 May 2013 when they were stopped at a checkpoint near Beni Jamra village, north-west of Bahrain. The police arrested her husband, and when she asked for the reasons of his arrest, one of the policemen reportedly started insulting her. According to information received by Amnesty International, the police took her identity card and asked her to go to al-Budaya' Police Station in Manama, the capital, the following day. She went to the police station, where three policewomen tied her hands behind her back, took her to the bathroom and beat her. She was later transferred to a women's detention center in 'Issa Town in central Bahrain. She has been brought before the Public Prosecution three times, and each time she had her detention renewed for a month pending further investigation.

Nadia 'Ali Yousef Saleh has a three-year old son and is eight-months pregnant. On 15 September she was admitted to al-Salmaniya Medical Complex in Manama, under police surveillance. According to her family, she suffers from psychological problems and prior to her detention she had been receiving treatment in the Psychological Medicine Hospital in Manama. This treatment stopped following her arrest. Nadia 'Ali Yousef Saleh also suffers from dizziness and fainting. Her husband 'Abd 'Ali Ibrahim Yousef Saleh is in Jaw Prison serving a six-month prison term reportedly for financial irregularities.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the Bahraini authorities to release Nadia 'Ali Yousef Saleh unless she is charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence. The peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression should not be criminalized and no-one should be held for peacefully expressing their views.
- Urging them to order an immediate and independent investigation into Nadia 'Ali Yousef Saleh's allegation of torture or other ill-treatment and hold anyone found responsible for abuses to account;
- Urging the Bahraini authorities to provide Nadia 'Ali Yousef Saleh with any medical care she requires.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 OCTOBER 2013 TO:

King

Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace, al-Manama,
BAHRAIN
Fax: 011 973 1766 4587
Salutation: Your Majesty

Minister of Interior

Shaikh Rashid bin 'Abdullah Al Khalifa
Ministry of Interior
P.O. Box 13, al-Manama,
BAHRAIN
Fax: 011 973 1723 2661
Twitter: @moi_Bahrain
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa
Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs
P. O. Box 450, al-Manama,
BAHRAIN
Fax: 011 973 1753 1284
Email: minister@justice.gov.bh
Twitter: @Khaled_Bin_Ali

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Houda Ezra Ebrahim Nonoo, Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain
3502 International Dr. NW, Washington DC 20008
Fax: 1 202 362 2192 | Email: ambsecretary@bahrainembassy.org

Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if sending appeals after the above date.

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Two and a half years after the popular uprising in Bahrain, and beneath the fanfare of reform, prisoners of conscience, including some arrested during the protests, remain behind bars and the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly continue to be suppressed. In recent months, not only have prisoners of conscience not been released, but more people have been jailed simply for daring to express their views, whether via Twitter or on peaceful marches. A number of women activists have been detained too. Bahraini courts have appeared more concerned with toeing the government's line than offering effective remedy to Bahrainis and upholding the rule of law.

The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI), appointed by Royal Order on 29 June 2011, was charged with investigating and reporting on human rights violations committed in connection with the 2011 protests. At the launch of the BICI report in November 2011, the government publicly committed itself to implementing the recommendations set out in the report. The report recounted the government's response to the mass protests and documented wide-ranging human rights abuses. Among its key recommendations, the report called on the government to bring to account those responsible for human rights violations, including torture and excessive use of force, and carry out independent investigations into allegations of torture.

However, many of the government's pledges remain unfulfilled. The establishment of BICI and its report was considered to be a groundbreaking initiative, but, almost two years on, the promise of meaningful reform has been betrayed by the government's unwillingness to implement key recommendations around accountability; this includes its failure to carry out independent, effective and transparent investigations into allegations of torture and other ill-treatment and excessive use of force, and to prosecute all those who gave the orders to commit human rights abuses. For further information see the report *Reform shelved, repression unleashed* (Index: MDE 11/062/2012), November 2012, <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/062/2012/en>.

On 28 July 2013 Bahrain's parliament held an extraordinary session and then submitted 22 recommendations to Shaikh Hamad Bin 'Issa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain. The recommendations toughen punishments laid out in the 2006 anti-terrorism law. A few days later the King issued several decrees curtailing the right to freedom of expression further, including banning all protests, sit-ins and public gatherings in Manama indefinitely and giving the security forces additional sweeping powers.

On 9 September 2013 a joint statement on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights situation in Bahrain, signed by 47 countries, expressed serious concerns about the ongoing human rights violations in the country. The statement added: "...We are also particularly concerned by the ongoing violation of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and the repression of demonstrations. We expect officials and protestors to refrain from any violence. Furthermore, we continue to be concerned about the continued harassment and imprisonment of persons exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, including of human rights defenders. We are also concerned about the cases of revocation of nationality without due process, some of which might lead to statelessness. Lastly, we are concerned that those alleged to have committed human rights violations are often not held accountable..."

Name: Nadia 'Ali Yousef Saleh (f)
Issue(s): Arbitrary detention, Unjust imprisonment

UA: 251/13
Issue Date: 17 September 2013
Country: Bahrain