

URGENT ACTION

LAWYER'S BROTHER HELD AND AT RISK OF TORTURE

Ali Isa al-Tajer was arrested on 5 November in Bahrain and has had no access to his family or lawyer since. It is not known where he is held, or whether he has been charged. He is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Ali Isa al-Tajer, a manager at the Al Khunaizi Group construction company, was arrested at around 5pm on 5 November at his family home in the village of al-Dair, by masked police officers in plain clothes. They came into the house through the back door without any warning and searched Ali Isa al-Tajer's room and car, taking his mobile phone and two laptops. They did not present any search or arrest warrants, or say why they were arresting him. They told his family they were taking him to the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID). Ali Isa al-Tajer's arrest and detention may be linked to the work of his brother Mohamed al-Tajer, a well-known human rights lawyer.

Ali Isa al-Tajer called his family about an hour after his arrest and said he was at the CID, but the number he called from was in the al-Qalaa area, where the Ministry of Interior's National Security Agency (NSA) is known to be located, not 'Issa Town, where the CID is. This, together with the lack of information given about the reason for Ali Isa al-Tajer's arrest and place of detention, has led his family to believe he may be held by the NSA. Ali Isa al-Tajer called his family very briefly on 11 November and said the detaining officers had told him he would soon be released. He called again six days later and said only that he would soon be released. He called again on 24 November and said the same thing. Each time he has called his family, it has been from the area of al-Qalaa.

His lawyer, his brother Mohamed al-Tajer, has written to several institutions including the Special Investigations Unit, Inspector General of the NSA and the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior, asking where Ali Isa al-Tajer is detained, what, if any, charges he is being interrogated about and if he has been charged, and asking to be present during Ali Isa al-Tajer's interrogation. He has not received any response, nor has Amnesty International, who wrote to the Bahraini authorities on 13 November.

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

- Urging the Bahraini authorities to disclose Ali Isa al-Tajer's legal status and where he is detained, and give him immediate access to his family and lawyer;
- Urging them to ensure that Ali Isa al-Tajer is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, and is given prompt access to any medical attention he may require;
- Calling on them to release him unless he is charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 JANUARY 2016 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: +973 1766 4587
Salutation: Your Majesty

Ministry of Interior
 Shaikh Rashid bin 'Abdullah Al Khalifa
 P.O. Box 13, al-Manama
 Bahrain
 Fax: +973 1723 2661
 Email via website:
www.interior.gov.bh/contact_en.aspx
 Twitter: @moi_Bahrain
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
 Shaikh Khaled bin Ali bin Abdullah Al Khalifa
 Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs
 P. O. Box 450, al-Manama, Bahrain
 Fax: +973 1753 1284
 Email:
<http://www.moj.gov.bh/en/default76a7.html?action=category&ID=159>
 Twitter: @Khaled_Bin_Ali

Also send copies to:

H.E. Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain
 3502 International Dr. NW, Washington DC 20008
 Fax: 1 202 362 2192 | Email: ambsecretary@bahrainembassy.org

Please let us know if you took action so that we can track our impact! EITHER send a short email to uan@aiusa.org with "UA 267/15" in the subject line, and include in the body of the email the number of letters and/or emails you sent, OR fill out this [short online form](#) to let us know how you took action. Thank you for taking action! Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if taking action after the appeals date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since the February/March 2011 protests in Bahrain, Amnesty International has continued to receive multiple reports of people who are arrested being denied access to their family or lawyer for days, sometimes weeks, with their families given no information as to their whereabouts.

The organization has documented the use of torture and other ill-treatment in pre-trial detention facilities, particularly at the CID. Torture of detainees held on suspicion of involvement in terrorism or other security-related investigations appears to be systematic.

Amnesty International has received a number of allegations of detainees being arrested, interrogated and detained with the participation of the NSA. NSA involvement in these activities breaches Article 4 of Decree 115 of 2011, which limited the NSA's role to intelligence-gathering and uncovering activities damaging to national security, its system and institutions, in accordance with the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) recommendations.

The BICI, which was established by royal decree to investigate abuses during the February/March 2011 protests and other abuses in the following months, presented its findings to the King of Bahrain on 23 November 2011. The BICI recommended the government take a series of steps to address the violations that had occurred and to prevent further human rights violations, including the recommendation to limit the NSA's activities to intelligence-gathering.

Name: Ali Isa al-Tajer
Gender m/f: m

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