

التقرير السنوي
Annual Report

2012



الصمت: مجرمة حرب



ANNUAL REPORT



Silence Is A War Crime
The Second Annual Report on Media
& Journalism Freedoms in Bahrain
in 2012

**The Bahrain
Press Association**
Incorporated in 2011 in London, The
UK

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Forward



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Forward

The 2012 Annual Report comes to mark the second year running of the coverage started with the incorporation of the Bahrain Press Association (“BPA”) in July 2011 in London, the United Kingdom.

The Report, named ‘Bahrain: Silence Is A War Crime’, represents a testament intended to be comprehensive and impartial in describing and documenting the diverse violations pertaining to the freedom of expression and media in Bahrain in the period spanning January to December 2012. It is the third report issued by the BPA following “Bahrain: Word Leading to Death” issued in October 2011 and “Hunger for Freedom” issued in May 2012.

The bilingual Report is comprised of chapters that summarize the obstacles and challenges that have been, and are, in existence faced by media and press professionals in Bahrain. It also includes, among other things, personal testimonies, a table documenting violations, and some reportage with closer look on the commitment the Bahraini authorities have shown to implement the recommendations set by the Bahrain Independent Commission for Inquiry (“BICI”), and the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council. The Report also highlights very widely the violations and intimidation witnessed by the journalists, photojournalists, reporters, and bloggers in Bahrain as have been largely condemned and documented by leading international human rights advocates and other NGOs concerned with the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press.

The Report further sheds light on the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press in Bahrain by documenting the violations faced by tens of local and foreigner journalists along with several organizations, newspapers, media outlets, and news agencies. The Report also stresses the 2011 inherent dilemma that has more than 145 media and press professionals had been subjected to murder, torture, and mass dismissal.

The murder of Photojournalist Mr. Ahmed Ismail on March 31, 2012 by live ammunition in the village of Salmabad while filming a peaceful protest to mark the top worst moment of the year. Mr. Ismail's murderer, as were the case of the murderers of Publisher Kareem Fakhrawi and Blogger Zakaria Al Asheeri, is still unknown as the Bahraini judicial authority is still temporizing on the trial of those responsible of their murdering.

The major violations reported in 2012 are as follows:

1. Intimidation and direct targeting policy against media professionals was on the rise; it led to the murdering of Photojournalist Mr. Ahmed Ismail and reported incidents of bodily assaults and arbitrary arrests to many Bahraini media professionals. The list of violations also includes either the arrest of foreigner reports or having them deported outside the country.
2. The Bahraini authorities are still temporizing to show adherence to the commitments undertaken before the international community as reflected in the straightforward implementation of the BICI's recommendations and those of the UN Human Rights Council.
3. The Bahraini authorities are still prosecuting media professionals; the judicial authority is being placed to be the ultimate punisher against media professionals.
4. The regime did not fulfill its promises to introduce a new journalism and media law and is enforcing Law 47 for 2002 pertaining to the regulation of journalism, print, and publishing. This has enabled the regime to widen its fist on the media realm of the country and bringing media professionals and human rights advocates before courts in trials labeled by international NGOs as lacking due process and basic human rights.
5. The regime is still monopolize TV and radio broadcasting not allowing opposing voices to appear on the state-run TV and radio channels. While the regime still refuses to give a license to any independent national TV and radio channels, it has granted a license to a TV channel owned by a member of the Saudi royal family.
6. The regime still interferes directly in the content of the national papers. It also censored many opinion columns and media coverage by opposition parties.
7. The judicial authority, headed by the country's king, still temporizes

promoting justice through sham trials. Those military officials responsible for the killings and torturing of media professionals are not brought to justice with employees of lower ranks being tried instead. In most incidents tried, the violators were granted innocence.

8. No media professional was reinstated to their work amid the arbitrary dismissals that came along the way with the brutal crackdown early in 2011. The Information Authority has reinstated some of those arbitrarily dismissed into posts not matching their expertise and qualifications.
9. The state, backed by pro-regime groups, continued the spread of media and press sectarian content. The state-run TV station has gone on to broadcast provoking material with racist connotations against opposition leaders and human rights advocates in the country.
10. The judicial authority, by its supreme cassation court, upheld very severe rulings against cyber bloggers (Dr. A.Jaleel Al Sangice & Mr. Ali Abdulemam).
11. The Bahraini regime continued its crackdown against those media professionals living in exile. It circulated their names in black lists among Arab countries which, in turn, led to the ban of those professionals from entering countries like Egypt, Kuwait, and the Untied Arab Emirates.
12. The Bahraini regime still refuses to grant entry visas international NGOs concerned with the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press including Freedom House, Reporters Without Boarders, & International Federation of Human Rights.

02

Bahrain: State Press...
Predicatory Press

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Bahrain: State Press... Predicatory Press

Today, in the new Millennium, when speaking about securing the freedom of speech in societies has become a luxury, the small Gulf Kingdom is still wrestling with its fate. Many hindrances are lurking the establishment of a free media in Bahrain, even after political project of 2001 launched by the King. Moreover, it appears that in the first decade of this millennium, some of these hindrances are becoming more entrenched and systematic.

1. Nationalization of the Press

Five daily Arabic newspapers are published in Bahrain; these are: "Akhbar al-Khaleej"; "Al-Ayyam"; "Al-Wasat"; "Al-Watan"; "Al-Bilad".

Contrary to what things seem to be, the major obstacle facing the Bahraini media resides in its nationalization by the state. Three of the newspapers currently operating (Akhbar al-Khaleej; Al-Ayyam; Al-Watan) have been established by official decision and using public funds; however, these are presented as private sector companies. While "Al-Bilad" newspaper does not constitute an exception to this practice, this is not the case of "Al-Wasat" newspaper that was established in 2002 by businessmen and politicians. The authorities' objective from (nationalizing) "tribal confiscation" of popular print media is to claim that newspapers are independent and are not affiliated to the government. This claim also suggests that these newspapers publish their news based on their own decisions, expressing the orientation only of those who are responsible of them rather than the official authorities' point of view.

Nationalization of the first newspaper

The "Akhbar al-Khaleej" Newspaper was established in 1976 as an expression for the state's need for a daily newspaper that is a prolocutor of official authorities after independence. This need might have grown after the Parliament dissolution in summer 1975. The government financial support

has converted into an absolute editorial control, transforming thus "Akhbar al-Khaleej" Newspaper to a prolocutor of the government for at least two decades. Until 2000, the editor in chief of "Akhbar al-Khaleej" Newspaper has been appointed by the Ministry of Information. The last one was journalist Hilal al-Shayji who has been appointed by the former Minister of the Cabinet Affairs and Information, Muhammad al-Mtawweh in 1995 when protests against the country were at their height.

In 2000, the chairman of "Akhbar al-Khaleej" Newspaper, Anwar Abdul-Rahman, replaced Al-Shayji as editor in chief. However, the Newspaper remained loyal to the line of the Prime Minister and the ruling family. Moreover, it strengthened its alliances with Islamic currents supporting thus the business class.

Al-Ayyam: An Initiative Fully Governmental

Throughout the eighties and nineties, indicators grew stronger that authorities are getting annoyed with free press. Nationalization policy continued in force, this has been reflected by the rejection by the authorities those demands to establish new newspapers. Instead, authorities established in 1989 "Al-Ayyam" Newspaper as the second "independent" newspaper issued by the private sector. The establishment of the Newspaper has been led by former Minister of Information, Tareq al-Mu'ayyad, who chose a number of media figures to register, in their names, the company that owns the newspaper and its printing press. At the head of these was the King's media advisor, Nabil al-Ahmar, who controls 60% of the Newspaper's shares.

For two decades, the authorities have funded the entire establishment process, current expenditures, project expenditures, including free insurance for its headquarters at Al-Juffair, until it moved to a new headquarter approximately five years ago.

Al-Watan newspaper: Prolocutor of Royal Court Minister

The Royal Court initiated in 2005 "Al-Watan" Newspaper, in the framework of a larger plan to size down the opposition and foment sectarian strife, as has been made clear in the well-known "Al-Bandar" Report.

Despite the fact that the details related to the establishment of "Al-Watan" Newspaper are known by those who are following the press file in Bahrain, especially in what is related to the role of the the Royal Court Follow-up

Advisor, Ahmad Atiyyat-Allah Al-Khalifa, authorities continued, nonetheless, to claim that "Al-Watan" is a private institution.

Effect of Normalization on Journalism

Government control, both financial and administrative, on local media led to a set of results, most notably in the following:

First: Monopoly by authorities of the media, both text and image, in terms of news, analysis, and information flow. This naturally applies to "Al-Bilad" Newspaper that has been established by the Prime Minister's son, Ali ben Khalifa Al-Khalifa, while the editorial board of "Al-Wasat" Newspaper is exerting great efforts to strike a balance between the reader's expectations and the Government's red lines.

Second: Governmental control has limited the media's ability to exercise its role in supervising the executive and legislative authorities, as well as political institutions (parties). The Press has turned into a predatory tool for governmental achievements. At the same time, media coverage varies of different frameworks, reflecting the will of the Executive to slander or to praise MPs, political institutions and religious platforms.

Third: Inability of independent daily newspapers to continue in a market where conditions of competitiveness are lacking. This has been a factor directly pushing "Al-Waqt" and "Al-Mithaq" Newspapers to quit the market and close their doors. This does not deny however the fact that the both Newspapers have faced administrative challenges. However, no doubt that the government's support for a party over the other caused one voice to outweigh the other.

2. Party drawback

The question must be raised about the reasons for the absence of independent partisan and/or weekly media that has an influence, as is the case in Jordan and Morocco where the situation is similar to that of Bahrain.

Partisan and weekly media provide a good opportunity to break the authorities' monopoly of the media text; it might also facilitate the access to red zones.

It is without any doubt that the impact of nationalizing the daily press by the government has contributed in suppressing the development of a partisan press that can be competitive; while restrictions imposed on partisan (newspapers) flyers and their shutting down have limited their development. Originally, partisan Press suffers at the professional level. Consequently, it

did not need any governmental hindrances or a governmental single-minded predatory media for this Press to follow suit.

The absence of a law regulating the Media and establishing freedoms, the financial control by the government over the Media, and the monopoly, in the first place, by the authorities of the general context, all these factors have lead the Press to turn into a government accessory. This fact has eliminated other professional, administrative and commercial challenges that face the Press, in a context where there is a lack of tools to test the ability of Media outlets to independently make their way, challenge the market, and test the reader who is supposed to be the judge in favoring one newspaper over the other.

Radio and television: outside the boundaries of the text

Radio broadcast in Bahrain has been first launched in 1940. The wireless radio building in Bahrain was inaugurated on July 21st, 1955. The first television broadcast took place in 1973. Bahrain News Agency was inaugurated in 1976 under the name of "Al-Khaleej News Agency".

The first governmental authority for information affairs in Bahrain was established on July 26th, 1965, under the name of "Information Department of the Government of Bahrain" and was headed by Muhammad ben Mubarak Al Khalifa; Bahrain Radio station has been annexed to it.

Since then and until the present day, the state continues to hold tightly the reins of audio-visual broadcasting, monopolizing thus the image and the word, both visual and audio. All attempts by the private sector to have access to the media sector have been confronted by rebuff and rejection, even if justifications given by the state (for this practice) varied from time to time.

During 2012, the Information Affairs Authority gave a license to a private satellite channel under the name of "Arabs Channel". This channel belonged to the Saudi businessman, Prince Al-Walid bin Talal Aal Saoud. The license is considered illegal since there is no law to regulate audio-visual media.

Moreover, the Information Affairs Authority continues to refuse to grant political institutions or Bahraini private sector permits to establish television and radio stations. On the other hand, authorities have refused to allow Al-Luluwa satellite television to be present in Bahrain, to open an office or to appoint a reporter there.

The state's monopoly over audio-visual media constitutes a further obstacle to ensure the freedom of the media and the Press in Bahrain, in addition to the negative role of government radio and television media, according to the report of the "International Independent Truth Commission" (Bassiouni Report).

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Documentation Table

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Documentation Table

Time	Journalist	Incident		
January 2nd	Journalist wahid al-Ballushi	The Public Prosecution begins interrogating journalist Wahid al-Ballushi for defaming a glorified and sanctified symbol by Muslims following a malicious lawsuit filed by "Al-Asala Islamic Society" (Salafi Islamist organization)		
January 3rd	Journalist Mazen Mahdi	German Press Agency video photographer , Mazen Mahdi has been hit on the head by riot police while covering a sit in by a group of people in front of Samahij police station near Bahrain International Airport (to the north of Capital Manamah)		
January 5th	Journalist Reem Khalifah	Considering the case of journalist Reem Khalifah, and postponement of the hearing until January 19th The defense said that journalist Reem Khalifah was covering the conference of the Irish delegation who visited Bahrain on 14 July, 2011, to investigate the conditions of the medical staff at the detention center. Some of the conference's attendees launched provocative and harassment statements, after stirring chaos and disrupting the press conference of the Irish delegation who confirmed the incident.		
January 18th	French journalist Stephanie Lamour	A French journalist said to "mir'at Al-Bahrain" Newspaper that she received calls threatening her of dire consequences if she remains in Bahrain. This came after she has been put under surveillance for three days by security authorities. Stephanie Lamour confirmed that she has been followed by a civilian car wherever she went. The car would then stop in front of the hotel where she stays to watch her movements. The journalist said she is in contact with "Reporters without Borders". The Organization expressed its concern and asked her to be cautious, giving that Bahrain is ranked among the ten most dangerous regions in the world for journalists. The Association could not obtain additional information.		
January 24th	Writer Ali al-Dairi	Author Dr. Ali al-Dairi was prevented from entering Egypt and was sent back to Lebanon. Such practices have been considered by the Association to be targeting Bahraini journalists abroad by Bahraini authorities who blacklist their names and send these to certain Arab governments.		
February 1st	Journalist Wahid al-Ballushi	First hearing in the case of journalist Wahid al-Ballushi; case postponed.		

February 2nd	Journalist Reem Khalifah	Considering the trial of journalist Reem Khalifah Journalist Reem Khalifah is considered one of the most eminent independent journalists. The last report issued on January 24 th , 2012, Tunisia/London by the “Writers in Prison Committee” (WiPC) at PEN International/ Index Censors & Controls/Arabic Network for Human Rights Information/IFEX/Gulf Center for Human Rights) and entitled “Denial of Justice in Bahrain: Stifling Freedom of expression and Free Gathering”, demanded, in one of its recommendations, that the Bahraini Government to stop prosecuting and targeting journalist Reem Khalifah.	February 12 th		Robert Naiman, , Journalist, Activist and Policy Director for Just Foreign Policy, Denied Entry to Bahrain https://witnessbahrain.org/2012/02/more-humanitarian-workers-denied-entry-to-bahrain
February 8 th	Foreign reporters	Bahraini authorities refused to grant an entry visa for a number of foreign journalist who wanted to cover the anniversary of the 14 th of February revolution; these include: Los Angeles Newspaper/New York Times/British Broadcasting Corporation/Wall Street Journal/ Christian Science Monitor/Agence France-Presse/Al-Jazeera channel Bahraini authorities also refused to grant Nicholas Christophe, the journalist at the American newspaper, the New York Times an entry visa. Christophe was detained in Sitra in December 2011 while covering protests. Security forces also smashed a camera belonging to his colleague who was accompanying him.	February 13 th	Activists Huwaida Arraf and Radhika Sainath	Bahraini authorities to deport Huwaida Arraf and Radhika Sainath, two American activists who came to Bahrain withing “I Witness Bahrain” to monitor the events on the eve of the first anniversary of protests demanding democratic reforms in Bahrain. Bahrain News Agency quoted an official at the General Directorate of Immigration as saying “Huwaida Arraf and Radhika Sainath have arrived to Bahrain and have been granted tourist visas. They wanted to write a report about protests, but they have been spotted participating in an illegal demonstration in Manamah”. Bahraini government newspapers attacked the two writers after their forced deportation from the country, for having allegedly used religious and human rights reasons to enter the country.
February 8 th	Journalist Muhammad Fadel	Agence France-Presse officially said that Bahraini authorities prevented, last year, “Muhammad Fadel”, a Bahraini national and France-Presse local reporter from working. This came in the framework of a series of measures taken against foreign media, reported the French agency.	February 22 nd	Journalist Nazihah Saïid	Considering the case of those who are charged with torturing journalist Nazihah Saïid. The journalist has been allowed to appear in court accompanied by attorney Hamid al-Mulla. However, her family has been denied entry. On the other hand, the defendant, Lieutenant Sarah Moussa, arrived in company of her attorney Farid Ghazi and three escorts.

February 26 th	Blogger Zakariyya al-Ushairi	<p>High Criminal Court to consider the case of killing the Bahraini blogger, Zakariyya al-Ushairi.</p> <p>Attorney Muhammad al-Tajer confirmed that Military Justice had acquitted the five defendants in the case. He also confirmed that the Military Court of Appeals ruled that the Court had no jurisdiction in this case, and referred it to civil courts that are currently considering it. This indicates that there is likelihood that the court will acquit the defendants (five policemen holding the Pakistani nationality). This also constitutes a clear indication that official authorities manipulate and disrespect Bahraini judiciary. It does not respect its commitment either to the implementation of the Truth Commission (Bassiouni Committee).</p>	April 3 rd	Journalist Muhammad Al-Uthman	<p>Author Muhammad al-Uthman has been banned from writing for the Bahraini newspaper "Al-Biald" that belongs to the Prime Minister's son, upon orders by the Royal Court. Previous articles by the author have been removed from the newspaper's website. The Association has been unable to obtain any further information.</p>
March 4 th	Journalist Naziha Saiid	<p>Further consideration of the case of those who tortured journalist Naziha Saiid.</p> <p>Case transferred to the High Criminal Court</p>	April 8 th	Journalist Ahmad Al-Bosta	<p>The Ministry of Interior's riot police assaulted in the Bahraini Capital Manamah, the journalist Ahmad Al-Bosta.</p> <p>Al-Bosta has been beaten by riot police and exposed to abusive words; he has been kicked and punched several times, and has been detained for half an hour to be released afterwards.</p>
March 21 st	Journalist Reem Khalifah	<p>Lower Criminal Court to consider the case of journalist Reem Khalifah</p> <p>Postponement of the case until April 19th for sentencing hearing.</p>	April 10 th	Director Ali al-Ali	<p>Information Affairs Authority bans director Ali al-Ali from shooting a gulf series in Bahrain entitled "If one night remains", after setting its budget and duration of shooting.</p>
March 31 st	Photographer Ahmad Ismail	<p>Cyber-activist and video photographer Ahmad Ismaeil shot dead in Salmabad while filming a peaceful demonstration in that area. Opposition accuses militias affiliated to the government.</p> <p>The cyber-activist Ahmad Ismaeil is an amateur video photographer who has undertaken to film and document the protests in Bahrain, and then to publish them on social media sites and YouTube. Many news agencies have used these footages in their covering of the events in Bahrain.</p>	April 11 th	International Organizations for the Defense of Freedom of Expression and of Media	<p>Bahrain Denies Entry for International Freedom of Expression Delegation.</p> <p>The Delegation, affiliated with the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), included representatives from Freedom House, the Gulf Centre for Human Rights, Index on Censorship, PEN International, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders and freelance journalist Clare Morgana Gillis.</p> <p>http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/bahrain-denies-entry-international-freedom-expression-delegation</p>
			April 18 th	Journalist Naziha Saiid	<p>Sentencing hearing in the case of persons charged with the torture of journalist Naziha Saiid.</p> <p>Decision: case referred back to the Public Prosecution</p>

April 19 th	Journalist Reem Khalifah	Lower Criminal Court to issue its ruling on the case of journalist Reem Khalifah and imposes a fine of 600BD on the journalist. The journalist appeals	April 22 nd	Agence France-Presse	France-Presse photographer notified of being banned from entering Bahrain AFP photographer, accredited by FIA, was informed by Bahrain's information affairs authority that there has been a "delay to your visa application, so it might not be processed." as reported here: http://uk.news.yahoo.com/bahrain-denies-visas-foreign-journalists-f1-162721343.html 20 Apr 2012
April 20 th	Foreign correspondents	Financial Times correspondent Simeon Kerr, The Times journalist Karin Lee, CNN American journalist Amber Lyon, and Sky News Chief Correspondent Stuart Ramsay, prevented entry to Bahrain. Also two journalists working for the Associated Press have been prevented from entering Bahrain despite the fact that they have a permit from the organizing body (International Automobile Federation) to cover the race. Information Affairs Authorities said their residency applications are still pending. In its report on Bahrain, Reuters said yesterday that non-athlete correspondents as well have been prevented from entering Bahrain. It noted that other media correspondents have not been given entry permits.	April 22 nd	Foreign correspondents	Arrest of three British "Channel 4" correspondents after the end of Formula 1 events; these are journalist Johnathan Miller, Cameraman Joe Sheffer, and producer Dave Fuller. The team's driver has been arrested as well, along with activist Alaa' el-Shehabi while traveling between Bahraini villages. Jonathan Miller described the arrest as barbaric. He also reported that the driver has been violently beaten. The team has been expelled of the country after being subjected to six-hours of investigation. Their camera, along with other electronic devices, has been also confiscated. Arrest of Japanese journalists while covering demonstrations heading to Bahrain International Circuit where Formula 1 was taking place. They have been later released after interrogating them.
April 21 st	Activist Muhammad Hassan	Detention of activist Muhammad Hassan after his appearance in "Dan Rather Reports" the famous American documentary. The activist had received threatening calls by security bodies and has been injured after being directly targeted by security forces. He has also been physically assaulted. The Association's representative in Bahrain confirmed the arrest of activist Muhammad Hassan, who was accompanied by foreign correspondents, after being shot in Albilad al-Qadeem. He has been taken to Al-Salmaniyya Hospital where he was arrested. Hassan was detained for a whole day, then released early the following morning. He was arrested again the following day and released.	May 13 th	Investigations in the killing of publisher Karim Fakhrawi	Invalidity of proceedings in the case of 2 policemen charged with torture leading to the death of the publisher Abdul-Karim Fakhrawi; case has been referred back to Public Prosecution
			May 16 th	Journalist Nabil Rajab	Regime forces arrest the journalist Ahmad Radi for his statements to the BBC related to the Gulf Union.

July 9 th	Nabil Rajab	Bahraini judiciary sentences the head of the “Bahrain Centre for Human Rights” Nabil Rajab for a three-month imprisonment as an enforced sentence, for defamation of the Prime Minister on his Twitter account.	October 12-13 th	Sky News	A Sky News crew in Bahrain filming the protests in Bahrain, report that they were “arrested three times in two days”. The crew had previous tried to report from Bahrain in April 2012, but were denied entry at the airport.
July 14 th	American director Jen Marlowe	Deportation of American director, Jen Marlowe from Bahrain A US filmmaker Jen Marlowe deported from Bahrain for lying about her reason for visiting, but says it was “necessary” to have a cover story. http://www.telegraph.co.uk/expat/expatnews/9405180/Bahrain-deports-US-filmmaker-Jen-Marlowe.html	October 15 th	International Federation for Human Rights	Stephanie David, delegate of “International Federation for Human Rights” (FIDH) has refused entry to Bahrain at the airport to attend Nabil Rajab’s appeal hearing.
August 2 nd	Mazen Mahdi	Assault on the German News Agency correspondent, Mazen Mahdi, who has been beaten by militias – in civilian outfit -- affiliated to the Ministry of Interior while covering protests in the Bani Jamra	October 18 th	Twitterers	Bahraini authorities declare that it detains 4 bloggers for charges of defaming King hamad Al-Khalifa on Twitter. Chief Public Prosecution, Ahmad Boujiri confirmed that the Public Prosecution has interrogated the four and accused them of defaming the King on their social media accounts. A decision has been made to imprison them for one week pending investigations; they will face a summary trial.
August 23 rd	Nabil Rajab	Acquittal of the head of “Bahrain Centre for Human Rights” Nabil Rajab of the charge of defaming the Prime Minister, after serving half of his time.	October 22 nd	Journalist Naziha Saïid	Acquittal of Lieutenant Sarah al-Mousa charged with torturing journalist Naziha Saïd
September 4 th	Political Symbols Trial	The Court of Appeal upholds the sentences of life imprisonment of blogger Abdul-Jalil Al-Sankees, and the sentence of 15-year imprisonment of blogger Ali Abdul-Imam in what is known as the Issue of Political Symbols. The Court also upholds the rest of the sentences on the symbols; among these were charges related to the freedom of opinion and of expression.	November 5 th	Twitterers	Criminal Court sentences a Bahraini citizen one month and another four months for defaming the King of Bahrain on Twitter The lawyers noted that the Court has justified the varying sentences between the defendants by the kind of expressions used by each convict in his defamation of the King on Twitter
September 20 th	Journalist Ahmad Radi	Release of journalist Ahamd Radi who was arrested on May 6 th for his statements made on the BBC concerning the Gulf Union.			

November 13 th	Reem Khalifah	Upholding of the sentence to fine the journalist Reem Khalifah with 100BD ??? ; the convict has been charged with assault by beating and defamation. She has been also sentenced to pay for the first and second plaintiffs an amount of 200BD as a final compensation for material and moral damage; and for the third plaintiff an amount of 100BD as a final compensation for moral damage. This pertains to the fabricated case related to the visit of Irish doctors' delegation. On the other hand the complaint filed by journalist Reem Khalifah of being assaulted by the defendants has been neglected.	December 5 th	Twitterers	Higher Court of Appeal corroborates the sentence on the Twitter blogger who is charged with defamation of King Hamd Bin Issa Al-Khalifa, and sentences him to six months in prison.
November 13 th	Sacked employees	Postponement of the case of 8 employees at the Information Affairs Authority who demand to return to their jobs prior to 28/January/2013 until the State's representative gives his response.	December 5 th	Investigations in the killing of publisher Karim Fakhrawi	Determining December 30 th 2012 to rule on the case of two officers of the National Security Body charged with torturing to death the publisher Abdul-Karim al-Fakhrawi.
November 24 th	German journalist	Rights activist Muhammad al-Muqsiti confirms that security authorities at the Bahrain Airport prevented a German journalist from entering Bahrain, despite the fact that the latter meets all conditions for entry, including visa as a journalist. When he arrived to Bahrain International Airport, a report of Amnesty International has been found in his luggage when inspected. He was deported at 2.30 pm. http://www.alwasatnews.com/3731/news/read/718253/1.html	December 17 th	New York Times columnist Nicholas Christophe	Preventing New York Times columnist from entering Bahrain
November 28 th	Investigations in the killing of blogger Zakariya al-'Usheity	Witnesses confirm before the Higher Court of Appeal that Zakariya al-'Usheity has been subject to torture in prison. 5 Pakistani policemen have been charged with torturing to death the two detainees Zakariya al-'Usheity and Ali Saqr.	December 17 th	Mr. Youssuf al-Muhafatha	Detention of observation officer at the "Bahrain Centre for Human Rights" in Capital Manamah for his tweets on Twitter
			December 19 th	Investigations in the killing of blogger Zakariya al-'Usheiry	Postponement of case until January 8 th , 2013
			December 21 st	Writer Hassan el-Madani	The house of writer Hassan el-Madani burnt. The writer told the Bahraini Press Association that he has received threats on Twitter as well as other cyber threats, some of which were explicit some were veiled. However, the writer did not accuse any person or party. Popular groups from the circle of Sheikh Suleiman al-Madani linked the incident to the writer's position toward certain opposition symbols and his articles in the "Issues and Opinions" page in "Akhbar al-Khaleej" Newspaper. Bahraini Ministry of Interior did not give any details about the incident.

December 25 th	Al-Jazeera - Qatar	Prevention of Al-Jazeera correspondent, Assem el-Ghamdi from covering the Gulf Summit taking place in Manamah. Asem Al Ghamedi, Al Jazeera correspondent http://www.zawya.com/story/Al_Jazeera_journalist_denied_entry_Bahrain_rejects_charge-ZAWYA20121226042149/
December 28 th	Cameraman Ahmad Hmeidan	Bahraini authorities detain cameraman Ahmad Hmeidan – 25 years old – who has won 143 international awards in photography competitions. He is considered to be the 2 nd Arab award-winner in competitions organized by the “International Federation of Photographic Art” and the “American Society for Photogrammetry”.
December 30 th	Naziha Saiid	The Court of Appeal postpones the case of torturing journalist Naziha Saiid until February 24 th , 2013. The Public Prosecution did not present any argument or document in support of the appeal, although it is journalist Naziha Saiid’ s legal representative.
December 30 th	Investigations in the killing of publisher Abdul-Karim el-Fakhrawi	Sentencing of two officers from the National security Apparatus to 7 years imprisonment. These were charged with killing Abdul-Karim el-Fakhrawi. There is an intention to appeal.

04



Bassiouni Recommendations: Ink on Paper

04

Bassiouni Recommendations: Ink on Paper

The “Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry” report on freedoms of Media, Press and expression, that was issued on November 23th, 2011, put forward a number of recommendations that remained ink on paper. Based on the conclusions of Bahrain Press Association through its monitoring body, and the follow-up of daily event throughout 2012, the State has not made any worth-mentioning progress. It continues, daily, to commit more violations and crimes related to the freedom of expression in the country.

While the Bassiouni Report pointed to the need to implement the recommendations it presents, and despite many appeals and demands by international organizations and bodies, political authorities have not taken any serious reform measures concerning abuses and infringements established by the report.

All what the “Information Affairs Authority” did has been to sign training contracts with certain international TV channels for training, intentionally disregarding the fact that abuses and infringements were not of technical nature, nor were they related to employees’ professionalism. Those were rather related to the content of media coverage and to the use of sectarian strife; a policy that journalists have been forced to follow under political pressure. Hence, those responsible of sectarian and seditious official media remain in their positions.

The “Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry” Report mentioned in



paragraph 1640 that “the media in Bahrain is biased toward the GoB (...) the continuing failure to provide opposition groups with an adequate voice in the national media risks further polarizing the political and ethnic divide in Bahrain (...). Hence, the Report recommended in (paragraph 1641) “that the GoB consider “relaxing censorship and allowing the opposition greater access to television broadcasts, radio broadcasts and print media”. However, until this moment, these recommendations are yet to be implemented. Instead, media and Press monopoly continued, as well as targeting all information that is inconsistent with the official media and government’s version and interpretation of events. In this respect, paragraph (1724) of the Report pointed to a recommendation related to media incitement, which calls to relaxing censorship; establish professional standards that would help avoiding incitement to hatred, violence and intolerance. These recommendations come as a response to the conclusions reached by the Commission that most material broadcast on Bahrain TV contained derogatory language and a provocative coverage of events, some of which was defamatory. The Report also addressed the issue of “targeting journalists”, and dismissing them from their positions. It recommended the Government to take what is required to guarantee that no dismissal decision is based on the concerned right to freedom of expression and opinion.

According to the General Federation of Workers Trade Unions in Bahrain, the number of dismissed and detained journalist and media persons whose names and dates of dismissal/detention have been documented reached 60 newspaper journalists and 30 employees at the Information Affairs Authority. It is noteworthy that the percentage of those who have returned to their jobs is 0%. None of the dismissed journalists have been returned to his job. Those who were returned to the Information Affairs Authority were appointed in other positions. In its report of January 1st – July 15th 2011, entitled “Word Equivalent to Death”, and which addressed cases of arbitrary dismissal, Bahrain Press Association has not documented any case of return of anyone of those dismissed from newspapers.

Concerning sporadic violations, figures confirm that more than 135 Bahraini media persons and journalists were targeted in 2011. Some of those violations have been monitored by the Bassiouni Commission, such as the killing of two media persons-- blogger Zakariya al-Usheiry and publisher Abdul-Karim

Fakhrawi-- on the 9th and 12th of April. Not to mention the later violations, on top of which the killing of photographer Ahmad Ismaail on the 31st of March, 2012; the arrest of photo journalist Ahmad Hmeidan on the 28th of December 2012; and the continued harassment of photographers and correspondents, especially foreigners, where some have been deported from Bahrain or have been prevented from entering the country.

Moreover, the Bassiouni Commission addressed the issue of targeting "Al-Wasat" Newspaper, by prosecuting its editor in chief and a number of the journalists who work there. The Commission had proposed in paragraph 1772/h "... to review convictions and commute sentences of all persons charged with offences involving political expression, not consisting of advocacy of violence, or, as the case may be, to drop outstanding charges against them". And according to (paragraph 1723/l) "To drop charges against all those who have been arrested or convicted for exercising their right to freedom of expression, opinion, association or assembly".

It has been also acknowledged that some have been subjected to torture and arrest; others have been summoned for interrogation, which caused the migration of some of them.

According to the Bahrain Press Association's report entitled "Hunger for the Sake of Freedom" on the anniversary of World Press Freedom day, and which documents violations against journalists during the first quarter of 2012, more than 23 new cases have been recorded during the period between January and April 2012.

Bahraini authorities still turn a blind eye to the file of media persons, including journalists, photographers, bloggers, employees at the Information Affairs Authority, and cyber activists. That is, those who committed violations (arrest, torture, humiliating interrogation, killing and dismissal from work) against those persons have not been held accountable yet.

Bahraini authorities are yet to assume their responsibilities in uncovering perpetrators of torture, violations, and crimes against media persons.

That is, until present, the Bahraini judiciary is only considering the cases of torture and killing of blogger Zakariya Al-Usheiry and publisher Abdul-Karim Fakhrawi, and the torture of journalist Nazeha Saïd. The Association, as well as many international rights organizations expressed strong reservations concerning measures taken by the Public Prosecution in investigations and trials. Concerned authorities do not hold accountable the actual perpetrators

of violations; moreover, Bahraini judiciary turned a blind eye to many cases of arbitrary arrest and torture of the rest of media persons from different specializations.

The Bassiouni Commission had stressed on the fact that "the lack of accountability of officials within the security system in Bahrain has led to a culture of impunity".

Official and semi-official media continue to practice the policy of "instigation", sectarian strife and exclusion of opposition figures. Those responsible of different kinds of violations are neither held accountable nor prosecuted; not only that, they remain in their positions.

As a result of all the previous, "Reporters without Borders" listed in December 2011 Bahraini capital Manamah within the ten most dangerous places on the lives of journalists. In another report issued in January 2012, it confirmed that Bahrain has fallen 29 ranks in terms of freedom of the Press; it came in the 173 position according to the "World Press Freedom Index" report launched by "Reporters without Borders". However, authorities continue to exercise control over the media and to ignore violations of the rights of medial persons.

05



PHOTOGRAPHERS IN
BAHRAIN: TARGETS

05

Photographers in Bahrain: Targets

During the security crackdown launched in the country after February 14th events and until 2012, photographers in Bahrain have been subject to various kinds of violations. These were represented by the killing of a photographer, and a number of cases of assault, arrest, and arbitrary dismissal. This comes in the framework of the general repression campaign that different groups of Bahraini society have been facing, notably, those groups concerned with documenting violations of human rights in Bahrain. Repression has not been exclusive to professional photographers, it included amateurs as well.

The most eminent violation case was that of photographer Ahmad Ismaail. He was shot by security services gunmen in civilian clothes, while filming protests in Salmabad on March 31st 2012. He was shot in the upper right thigh, which caused a rupture in the abdominal area and hemorrhage causing his death. Although Bahraini security authorities declared that it has begun investigations in this incident, yet, 10 months have passed since then, and no accusations have been made.

2011 – 2012: Photographers in the heart of suffering

On March 13th, Muhammad al-Mukhreq, a photographer at "Al-Wasat" Newspaper, was beaten, using also batons, kicked, and insulted by security forces and a number of persons in civilian clothes, while filming a protest in front of Bahrain Financial Harbor.

On March 24th 2011, and after the announcement of the State of National Safety, and the launch of a campaign of mass arrest, photographer Hassan Maatouk was arrested. He works as a nurse at Salmaniyya Medical Centre, and practices photography as a hobby.

Maatouk was arrested while at work at Al-Salmaniyya hospital by more than 20 members of the Bahrain Defense Force who began beating, kicking and insulting him. During his arrest, Maatouk has been severely beaten and was hanged by his hands for approximately 8 days. He has been prevented from

sleeping, and has been threatened of raping his wife and sister in front of him. His camera, all films and his wife's car have all been confiscated.

His family did not know his place of arrest until weeks later. They have been prohibited from visiting or seeing him until the beginning of his trial before a military court (National Safety Court), which took place after a month and a half of his arrest. His family was informed of his trial only 24 hours before it was scheduled. This fact made the task of finding a lawyer within a record time a very difficult one. Maatouk attended his first hearing that took place on May 9th 2011 at the military court without a lawyer.

On the second hearing that took place on May 12th 2011, the military court issued its judgment and sentenced him to a 3 year imprisonment for the charges of unlawful assembly, and publishing fabricated pictures of those who were wounded during the crackdown by the authorities on protesters in Bahrain.

Photographer Hassan Maatouk is still serving his prison sentence for his activities as a photographer. The authorities turn the deaf ear to calls for his release.

During the National Safety Campaign, large numbers of photographers were summoned for interrogation, especially those who published pictures of violations that took place between February and March of 2011.

Four photographers were brought before civil courts after having been trialed before military courts. None of those has been entitled to a lawyer whether during their interrogation or during the first hearing. These photographers are Muhammad al-Aradi and Zuheir Aoun Al-Shamma', for covering a demonstration. They have been charged with "inciting hatred against the regime by publishing pictures on the Internet".

In his turn, Mujtaba Salmat has been charged with taking pictures for foreign channels and participating in unauthorized demonstrations.

Photographer Muhammad el-Sheikh has been charged with shooting unauthorized demonstrations and inciting hatred against the regime by publishing pictures that would cause damage to the image of Bahrain on the Internet. In April 2011, Jamil el-Shuweikh, photographer at Wifaq National Islamic Society was arrested. A footage of the arrest showed that he was severely beaten by members of the security forces during his arrest from the street, although he did not show any resistance. He was released four months after his arrest.

In May of the same year, Abdullah Hassan, a photographer at "Al-Watan"

Newspaper suffered a broken leg while shooting events at the “Financial Harbor”, after a security car hit the car that was carrying him. He has been arrested and tortured at Al-Rafa’ police station.

On February 14th 2011, photographer Sadiq Marzouq was arrested from his house. His professional imaging tools and cameras, in addition to some electronic devices were confiscated. He has been dismissed from his job and subjected to interrogation.

At least 4 photographers, who did not want their names revealed to avoid interrogation, gave similar stories, where they were kicked, insulted and spit in the face while being interrogated. Moreover, they were forced to lick the walls and were threatened to be raped; their cameras were also stolen before being released.

Mazen Mahdi, a video photographer at the German Press Agency, has been arrested and interrogated several times. He was summoned for interrogation in May 2011 at a security station in the southern district, and has been subject to physical abuse by his interrogators.

On January 3rd 2012, Mahdi was subject to physical abuse by members of the security forces while covering a gathering in front of Samahieej police station, although he had affirmed to the security forces that he is a correspondent for an international press agency. He was released 15 minutes later.

On April 22nd 2012, security forces surrounded Mahdi while he was covering protests in Al-Bilad al-Qadeem, and was threatened to break his camera.

On April 6th 2012, he was arrested by the police during a demonstration in Al-Nuweidrat, and was driven to a police station, under the pretext that his press pass might be fake. He was released after interrogating him only to be arrested again in the same day along with two of his colleagues while covering nightly protests at Al-Sanabes, to the west of the Capital.

On April 16th 2012 two Associated Press photographers, Hamad Iqbal and Hassan Jamali, were arrested for a short period while covering a demonstration to protest against the shooting to death of a citizen.

On August 2nd 2012, photographer Mazen Mahdi was busy covering a protest near King Fahd Causeway, when a civilian intelligence agent approached him and asked him for his press pass; he then withdrew it and asked him to immediately check with the police. He was then surprised by another policeman approaching him and throwing a powerful punch to his face.

Associated Press photographer, Hassan Jamali, also reported being subject several times to assault by members of the security forces. The worst of these

was when he has been shot by a tear gas weapon, and the shot almost hit his eye. They had first broken his camera lens which he was using to shoot the protests that followed the funeral of the victims.

Some photographers reported that photographer Jassem Darweesh was severely beaten in December 2012 by members of the security forces, which caused him a broken arm. This took place while he was shooting protests at JadHafs.

Two days before the end of 2012, namely on December 29th 2012, civilian agents arrested video photographer Ahmad Hmeidan from a mall in the center of Capital Manamah.

The camera is forbidden

Photographers are either harassed by members of the security forces who prevent them from shooting in areas where tear gas and fissile bullets are used, or by protestors when the latter use Molotov cocktails.

Certain photographers raised their concern about creating any form of declared association or assembly for amateur and professional photographers, lest they become targeted by authorities. This is also the reason why pictures of violations that they take are not documented under their real names.



06



**Testimonies: This is the
journalists lives in the
kingdom of fear**

06

Testimones: This is the journalists lives in the kingdom of fear

Martyr Ahmad Ismail: We know your location... and where you are shooting from!

In March 2012, a video footage was circulated that showed armed civilian militias affiliated to the Bahraini Ministry of Interior, stationed at a checkpoint separating Eskan 'Aali and Rafa', to the south of Capital Manamah. Martyr Ahmad Ismail was behind a wall furtively observing the scene, zooming in and out, trying to record the scene in all its details.

One of the militia men was holding a sword, and three others had rifles. A car came with more support, followed by 3 other Ministry of Interior military vehicles. Another private car bearing the royal emblem and the King's picture arrived, inside which a person was pointing his gun in the air.

Ismaeil would wait hours every day, remaining in his position, to shoot the movement of armed militias or what is known as "Baltajiyya" that authorities used to contain the protests of Februy 14th 2011. He would then do the montage of that day's harvest, as well as that of other days. Eventually, he would publish them as films on "Youtube". And so, he would roam with his camera between places where these militias are stationed.

The last reaction he received to one of those footages he had published was on March 21st, that says: "we know now the location from which you are shooting".



Few weeks later in April, Ismaeil was found killed in Salmabad, an area close to Aali and Rafa'. He was shot; the bullet penetrated his abdomen and right thigh. Message received!

Eye witnesses relate the facts of his killing which they call "assassination" as follows: "he was standing in a square close to the main road when a demonstration was processing in the streets of Salmabad at around 12.30 after midnight. Meanwhile, a civilian Land Cruise was pointing a green laser beam on the protesters. Soon bullets started pouring making protesters run away". None of them was wounded; however, they heard a young man screaming and running before falling to the ground about 20 feet farther. The bullet penetrated the body of Ahmad Ismaeil!

Protesters attempted to rescue him, as he was still alive, but he was too weak to move. They transferred him to a house where he received first aid.

His sister, Nadia Ismaeil says "my father would stress on him not to participate in protests; Ahmad would always answer that he is no better than those who are sacrificing themselves for freedom". Nadia accompanied him in his last trip to hospital. The Intelligence has been tightly controlling hospitals since March 16th 2011. They tried to lure his family into stating that the incident has been the result of a fight or a car accident. However, all doctors who examined his body admitted that the wound was caused by a live bullet. Soon, those attempts of deliberate falsification were translated in the incompatibility of the death certificate and the forensic report in terms of the cause of death.

While the forensic report dated April 1st points to "a recent injury by a single bullet in the pelvic area", the death report attributed the death to "a deep wound by an unknown source".

Ismaeil's family refused to receive the body unless both reports are compatible with each other. His sister Nadia drafted the following letter "we will not receive the martyr's corps unless the forensic report is compatible with the death certificate". The family informed the medical examiner of its reservation and reiterated its insistence to mention that the cause of death was a shot. Finally, his family had what it was demanding. However, Ahmad was dead, while the land Cruiser from which the bullet was shot is still moving about between the streets of the small island ablaze in the middle of the Gulf.

Faysal Hayat: He asked me which hand you use in writing; he was inventive in torturing me!

Free free press... Fawaz go out". This is one of thousands of slogans raised during the sit-in of protesters in the Louloua Roundabout (February/March 2011). But this specific one will be the cause of a journalist's ordeal.

When, during a march for the media on February 20th, he was raising with both his hands a banner that bore this slogan expressly demanding the resignation of Fawaz bin Muhammad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Information Affairs Authority, and member of the ruling family, sports journalist Faysal Hayat did not know that this will cause him to be thrown in prison for 84 days, in addition to a variety of physical and psychological acts of torture. Now, after a bitter experience he came to know this very well!

During the broad crackdown carried out by the authorities (on protesters) in parallel to the announcement of the "State of National Safety", described by lawyers as being "tougher than marital law", and the evacuation of the 2nd roundabout on March 16th, Hayat saw his picture on national TV with his face encircled in red in a way that highlights his facial features.

Similarly to thousands of Bahrainis whose pictures have been published in the same manner in programs described by international judge Mahmoud Sherif Bassiouni as "containing defamatory and degrading language", have been later taken to prison; he knew well what this means.

He said "I received a call on April 7th 2011 evening from the Noaim police station summoning me for interrogation". He added "I was not surprised by that phone call as I have been waiting for it since three days, when my picture and my name appeared on Bahrain TV".

It was not a conventional interrogation. Few minutes only separated the moment he arrived to the police stations entrance, where he introduced himself and presented his smart card and the moment he realized the horrendous situation in which he found himself. He was dumped on his stomach; his



hands and feet were tied up together and raised upwards in what is known as the "shrimp" position.

Hayat says "someone started whipping my feet with a hose, incessantly for no less than 10 minutes. I was hung down, while he was being inventive in torturing me, and took pleasure in hearing me screaming". He added "then I learnt how one minute transforms into an endless hour" he added. "I felt blood freezing in my limbs". Meanwhile, he has been interrogated non-interruptedly about, among others, the banner he was holding during the journalists rally.

Hayat continues "they ordered me to repeat the slogan that was written on that banner; I said 'free free press' and stopped"; but this was not enough. He adds "they beat me even more and said: go on, what after 'free free press'? I did not answer; the beating became more brutal, so I shouted 'Fawaz go out'". "I uttered the name of the senior official which made them double the doze of brutality" he commented. "They said then: now you'll know who will go out". That was the scene from the first day. This scene will repeat, with the same scenario for eight consecutive days. One day, he was taken to the torture room, few minutes after he was taken out from there, they put him under the staircase for several minutes to restore blood circulation in his joints. But soon, he found himself again in the same room.

One inquisitor asked him "which hand do you use to write?" Hayat says "I said to myself I won't sacrifice one hand; let both my hands share the same fate. So I replied 'both hands'; he started beating my hands with the hose until I lost all feeling in them". He continues "meanwhile they were shouting at me the worst insults: son of the roundabout; Rafidi ; mage; Safavid; Iranian son of Mut'a (temporary marriage)".

Hayat stops for a while before continuing "in my way back to the detention room, security agent pulled my pants down and expressed his wild desire to sexually abuse me". This caused him to crack down and to start crying hysterically. "They meant by this to double my humiliation" Hayat says.

Hayat spent 85 days in prison. His case has been added to what was known as "Athletes Case". He was later released along with other athletes under pressure by the FIFA. He still keeps his picture that was published on TV with a red circle around his face on his profile on Twitter. However, the minister which Hayat demanded the expulsion in one of the protests "Fawaz go out", and for which he paid 9 days of brutal torture, has now gone "out". He has been removed from the presidency of the Information Affairs Authority after severe criticism by Bahrain Independent Commission for Inquiry concerning the

Nazeeha Saiid: 10 hours in the confessional chair

On February 17th 2011, a policeman pointed his rifle, at close range not exceeding 10 centimeters, to the head of a sixty year old man, and blew his head. The death certificate, that international judge Mahmoud Sheriff Bassiouni made sure to include in his report, stated that Issa Hassan Abdul-Hassan "was shot in the head which caused skull fractures and brain laceration" (P. 300 – Para. 916) Luckily, journalist Nazeeha Saiid, France 24 and Radio Monte Carlo correspondent, witnessed the whole incident. She was coming out of Salmaniyya Hospital when she noticed a young man standing next to an older one, both confronting two policemen. In her testimony that has been also included in the Independent Commission of Inquiry report, Saiid says "the young man fell to the ground. The other policeman pointed his gun to the older man at a distance of less than a meter. I heard a loud shot and saw the man's head blowing" (P.499 – Para. 1603) But what constituted a good luck, where a live testimony was available to be presented before the international judge about the way one of the victims of February 14th revolution has been killed showing the violence used by the police, became later a reason to open the doors of hell on the witness. Saiid says "on May 22nd 2011, I received a phone call summoning me to Rifa'a police station for interrogation". She adds "the moment I arrived, my head was covered with a black cloth bag before I was introduced to the women police section for interrogation". She was first asked about her presence at Louloua roundabout, so she responded "Yes, I said, I'm a journalist and the nature of my work requires me to cover events". No sooner did she utter these words, than she received strong blows on her face. She continued "an inquisitor held a plastic tube and started beating me violently on different areas of my body, until I passed out



and fell to the ground". "Inquisitors started kicking me and mocking me by saying 'daughter of Mut'a [temporary marriage]' she says. When she regained consciousness, she was tied firmly to a chair facing its back. She adds "they continued beating and cursing me. Then one of them came close to me with a bottle that she approached to my mouth; it was urine".

She says "the foul smell was in my nose; I turned my face away, but the inquisitor threw it in my face and shouted "if you don't like urine there is something else". The torture party continued for around 10 hours. She eventually agreed to sign a pack of papers containing confessions made under torture and beating. She adds "I have been later introduced before a high officer who asked me coldly: what happened to you? He soon asked me not to mention details about her interrogation lest I denigrate the police reputation". His words induced threatening. She has been released after spending 12 hours at the police station. She was then surprised to receive a phone call by the Head of Public Relations at the Ministry of Interior, Muhammad bin Dina asking her how she was. She was devastated. She told him what happened, so he asked her to undergo a medical examination by the very Ministry of Interior's medical examiner.

French Embassy in Manamah sent delegates to meet with her. She was unable to walk; browses covered her face. The French Embassy ordered that she be sent urgently to France for treatment. Months later, and as one of the formal measures that authorities took following violations uncovered by the Bassiouni Report, her tormentor, Officer Sarah al-Mussah was brought before the court for charges of torture. On October 22nd 2012, Sarah al-Mussah was acquitted. The court acquitted as well a policeman that Saiid saw blowing the head of Citizen Issa Hassan Abdul-Hassan.

07



**Portray: Arrested,
clased, & on the hide
in the quest of freedom**

07

Portray: Arrested, clased, & on the hide in the quest of freedom

Mansour el-Jamri: turned into a target!

Like a sugar cane squeezer, Mansour el-Jamri (1961) depleted the entire bet on the King's project and his reform claims that he launched when he came to power (ascended the throne) in the beginning of 2000, until exhaustion. The project that remained a cliché for ten years, occupying headlines and editorial, and transformed into a boring refrain in all hypocrisy campaigns, the former "London oppositionist", who returned to his homeland in 2001 and established a successful newspaper, on both financial and political levels, and continued to regard it as one of the "reform" fruits; even formally. He became a target!

El-Jamri maintained a consistent pattern of discourse for ten years. He was able to present himself through his newspaper, "Al-WAsat", as an example of a special combination that would traditionally scrimmage the authorities, without falling in the trap of neglecting its sensitivities. Hence, he was like someone walking on the edge: He learned all reform "slogans" that characterized the period that followed the advent of the King, which also others learnt for their own reasons, but through those slogans he could pass what he wanted. When for this reason he has been targeted within a comprehensive campaign that targeted thousands of activists, a parallel result (outcome) was taking root (being established): "slogans" that were used to run a full period stretching over decades, were nothing but "slogans"!

El-Jamri himself expressed an aspect of this, commenting on questions of a foreign journalist about the reasons for his prosecution; he said " I am really



very surprised. I have been an integral part of the reform process". During his trial on June 15, 2011, he disclosed a letter that the King had sent him, shortly before he presented his resignation in which "he praised Al-Wasat Newspaper's role in the Bahraini press. He also lauded the role it is playing on the political and the journalistic scene". This caused a surprise to the court who decided to postpone the case.

The moment "Al-Wasat" was closed (April 3rd 2011), and its president along with 4 of the editorial staff were compelled to resign (April 4th 2011) – before he is reinstated in its leadership, but after a surgical intervention that ousted five of the board of directors' members, among whom was the biggest contributor and chairman of the board of directors Farouq el-Muayyad- the level of "exhaustion" that the King's project reached had become obvious. It had vanished!

Al-Jamri later stated on a TV interview that "the army threatened to control (confiscate) the paper if he does not resign".

During the protests that Bahrain witnessed on February 14th, al-Jamri was appealing on protesters in Louloua roundabout to accept the call of the regime to negotiate. He made attempts to convince leaders in the opposition to hold on to "Constitutional Monarchy" as a ceiling, which, at first glance, appeared to some, under the massive tide of events, that it has become outdated. What should have constituted a reason for rewarding him, turned into an incentive to target him.

His newspaper's printing press was put on fire on March 15th, 2011; then "incriminating" letters were slipped to him for publishing (later discovered to be originating from Saudi Arabia), aimed to be used against him, where he, and his newspaper, were both targeted. Months later, the report of Bahrain independent Commission of Inquiry ruled out the existence of any bad intention behind the publishing of these letters "the Commission cannot conclude that there is any bad intention by "Al-Wasat" in publishing false and misleading news".

Only few days following this testimony, he received on November 22nd, 2011 the International Press Freedom Award offered by the Committee to Protect Journalists based in New York. Joel Simon, the executive director of the award's donor, i.e. the Committee to Protect Journalists, described el-jamri by saying "by resisting threats and abuse, (he gives) voice to daily realities in (his country) and (secures) our universal right to receive independent, reliable information."

Nabil Rajab : It is all about... Twitter!

Until the beginning of June 2012, there was a belief that the President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights is protected by a western "Veto", or that a certain party who has can exercise veto on the Government of Bahrain is preventing his arrest. The finger is pointed, in this respect, to the United States. However, this was no longer the case after the 6th of the same month. Authorities arrested him on charges of insulting (defaming) the residents (people) of Muharraq. This was caused by a Tweet that he posted on his Twitter account where he criticized the Prime Minister. Since then, he has been lying in prison.

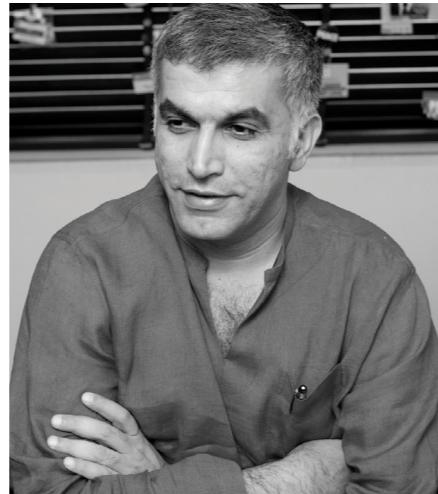
For a year and a half, the authorities have been avoiding (distancing itself from) getting involved with the arrest of Rajab, the human rights (activist) who occupies two prestigious positions in two well-known international organizations; Human Rights Watch, and the International Federation for Human Rights. Moreover, Twitter constitutes one of the most eminent platforms via which he spreads his thoughts that focus on reform and the respect of human rights. He attracts 190 thousand twitterer(follower).

Even during the National Safety Period that followed the seizing by the army of the Louloua Roundabout, which the worst violations of human rights have been witnessed in one of the major security crackdowns in the history of Bahrain, authorities approached Rajab only marginally.

He has been assaulted several times by security agents; tear gas (grenades) have been thrown into his house; he has been subjected, many times, to interrogation for several hours; however, things did not go any further.

On March 20th, 2011, Rajab stated that agents of the Bahraini Ministry of Interior arrested him from his house, beat him, blindfolded his eyes and took him for a two-hour interrogation at the a Ministry of Interior office. On May 21st, 2011, his house was attacked by tear gas. On January 6th, 2012 he was beaten while he was participating in a demonstration in Manamah.

However, the Ministry of Interior denied its responsibility. On April 1st 2012,



he was interrogated for several hours for his participation in protests against the Government, and calling upon others to participate as well. He was taken again for interrogation on April 26th on "insulting statutory bodies". Western reactions with respect to these practices against him were clearly expressed; local newspapers talked about visits of American Embassy representatives to his house, after facing those incidents.

In May, Rajab appeared as a guest on RT's "The World Tomorrow", hosted by the founder of WikiLeaks, where hundreds of thousands of classified documents on the US policies overseas were leaked. In his program, Assange interviewed ten international figures whom he said "their words and theories make the future". Rajab did not say on the show, anything that contradicts with his previous statements. However, since then, things changed. He was arrested the moment he arrived to Bahrain airport in May 2012.

This is the widespread (popular) interpretation for the change in the scene, and for what some think is the reason for the cold reaction of the US administration toward his arrest.

Although he has been imprisoned for two weeks, the authorities released him eventually. However the message was clear. Rajab himself whispered to his lawyer, when the latter visited him in prison, that there is a green light to his arrest, according to people close to him.

This has been the last time he sees the light. That is, it was not three weeks before Rajab found himself again incarcerated; this time endlessly... until now. He has been sentenced to three years that has been later reduced to two years. He was charged with "participating in unauthorized demonstrations", and "calling through social media for the participation in demonstration in Manamah".

Commenting on the judgment, the international judge, Mahmoud Sherif Bassiouni who oversaw the official investigation concerning the incidents (events) of February and March, highly praised, in a statement, the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights presided by Rajab. He noted that Rajab has provided him with thousands of documents. He also added that "the conviction of Nabil Rajab indicates a pattern of continued prosecution of people only for their practicing rights protected by international law for human rights; something which King Hamad promised to end". All this only because of tweets on Twitter.

Zeinab al-Khawaja: “The Angry Arab Woman”; on the same path

American Foreign Policy Magazine included, Zeinab Al-Khawaja and two members of her family, in addition to human rights activist Nabil Rajab, in its list of the “100 most influential personalities in the world” for this year. About the reasons of its choice, the magazine that was established in 1970 by Samuel Huntington, who proposed the “Clash of Civilizations” theory, and one of the most important international relations analysts that “they were keen to activate (promote) the freedom of expression principle as a right for everybody, regardless of the place where people live”.

The “Foreign Policy” list included 4 Bahraini personalities, two of them are women. The four were together ranked in the 48th position.

There might not be a better example that points to the size of acknowledgment of the influence of Bahraini women in the political movement that continues since February 14th 2011, and which constitutes an exceptional phenomenon. Bahrain has not witnessed anything similar by the admission of liberal opponents, not even during the period that was characterized by openness when the leftist movement has been active.

Abdul Hadi Khalaf, a leftist researcher holding the position of chairman at Lund University in Sweden, linked between the speeding by the Government to “graduate women’s teams in the riots police that is in charge of facing demonstrations and protest activities”, which is a phenomenon that happens for the first time. It has become familiar to see riot police women in the streets and when intercepting protests that started since February 14th, to the growing activity amongst women, while it has been monopolized by men in the past.

Zeinab el-Khawaja is one of these women whose role, in this context, is more and more admired. She constitutes one of the pictures that make up the saga in which the role of women has been highlighted. With her intransigence that



led her around eight times to prison, she embodied the image of the Bahraini and Gulf woman, within communities known to be conservative.

Her last arrest on December 10th 2012, caused by her attempt to break the ban on one of those who were injured during the demonstrations by visiting him at hospital, was only an episode of the long series of her arrests. Her repeated detentions became like a routine. As if someone is working in the darkness to spread an implicit feeling, where putting a woman, such as al-Khawaja, in prison, becomes “ordinary” in Bahraini political life. This is at least how authorities acted with her colleague at Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, Nabil Rajab, before deciding to try and imprison him. Both might be paying the price now while sitting in his prison, but one can argue that they contributed to lift the ceiling of speaking and breaking taboos an ordinary thing.

Al-Hkawaja writes on Twitter under the pseudonym of “Angry Arab Woman” through which she would disseminate news during political protests, and later when her father and her husband were arrested on April 9th 2011. On June 15th, 2011 she was arrested for seven hours for protesting with two women in front of the UN headquarter in Manama, to call upon the international community to pressure for the release of “political prisoners”.

She was also arrested several times: on June 15th 2011 for protesting in front of the UN headquarter. On December 15th 2011 she was arrested for seven hours for protesting on a roundabout in Budaiya Highway, to the west of Manama. On February 12th 2012 for participating in a demonstration to Louloua Roundabout. On April 5th 2011 during her participate on in a demonstration to the Ministry of Interior. On April 21st 2012 for participating in protests against Formula 1. On May 24th, the court sentenced her to one month for charges of assembly. On August 6th 2012, after her participating in the self-determination protests. On December 10th 2012, during her visit to Aqeel Abdul Muhssen who has been injured at a hospital in Salmaniya.

Last April, activists circulated a video footage showing Zeinab el-Khawaja crying while in tears: “dad” is in front of “al-Gala’a”; this is where the headquarters of the Ministry of Interior is, and is known since decades to be the centre where political activists are interrogated. “Al-Anbaa” had reported the deterioration of her father’s health, the rights activists Abdul-Hadi el-Khawaj, who went into hunger strike for approximately 80 days. El-Khawaja the daughter is following the same track.

Ali Abdul-Imam: Words Maker in Darkness

In 1999, blogger Ali Abdul-Imam (35 years) established on the Internet "Multaqat al-Bahrain" for dialogue (Bahrain Forum for Dialogue). It is one of the most politicized and popular Bahraini forums, and is also known as "Bahrain Online". Eleven years later, he paid the price. A military court sentenced him to 15 years charging him with "plotting to overthrow the regime". This case was known as Group 21 that encompassed opposition leaders who were on the head of February 14th, 2011 movement.

Fortunately, he did not surrender to fate, and disappeared completely from sight, avoiding thus, so far, arrest and living in dark rooms. So far, and after 21 months since he disappeared, his fate remains unknown. His family says that it does not know anything about him since March 2011 and until this day.

This year, 2012, commemorating one year for his disappearance, 'Reporters without borders and "Global???" launched calls demanding the "elucidation of his fate". His friends as well as other international organizations led symbolic campaigns in the same direction.

Abdul Imam, who is a pioneer blogger and has a blog in his name, contributed to the creation of a space for public chat, free, democratic debate on public issues, at a time when social media tools were not created yet.

It can be claimed that a large number of the youth who constituted the bulk of those who got involved in the February 14th movement, has been politically "codified" by the forum that he established.

Philip ???, a University of California professor, described in a book the role of Bahrain Online by saying that "it constitutes a source of political news in the absence of freedoms".

When the spark of the February 14th first erupted, Abdul Imam was not one among the thousands who made the event.

A month before, i.e. in September 2010, Abdul Imam was about to leave Bahrain Airport when agents of the National Security approached him and



arrested him. He was charged, few days later with being "member of a terrorist group who aims at overthrowing the regime". He has been consequently dismissed from his job at the national airway "Gulf Airways", at which he worked for over than 15 years.

He remained in prison for several months until his release in the framework of the talks between Crown Prince and the opposition. The aim of these talks was to find a common ground for dialogue days after the outbreak of the events in February 2011.

Abdul Imam did not witness the events' first moment. However, his forum constituted its playground, and the main space through which mobilization took place. Upon his release, the first place he wanted to visit was "Loulou Roundabout".

This has been his second experience with prison. He was also arrested, with two of his colleagues who run the forum that attracts thousands of visitors daily, in February 2005 under the pretext of "disseminating false news". Ali Abdul Imam is still in hiding; no one knows anything about him. Calls demanding the elucidation of (reveal) his fate are increasing day after day.

Mazen Mahdi: “I am a correspondent of an international news agency”

Pictures of Mazen Mahdi, the video photojournalist at “D.B.I.” always show him running amid clouds of fire and thick smoke characterizing daily confrontation, holding strongly to his camera.

However, there has been an unpleasant addition to that active scene. The picture also showed the barrel of the gun in the hand of a security agent directed to his face, while he was about to run away of the events theatre. This scene says: you are in Bahrain.

Mahdi does not give much heed to making exciting comments on the events. It has been seldom to read on his active Twitter account opinions that are beyond live broadcast of protests that hit his country since 20 months. However, his pictures tell the whole story.

He is a journalist who is interested in taking risks, and only conveying the truth, as it is, and recording it on his camera's digital chips. When developed through agencies' services or on his personal account, these images would often speak. They do speak indeed in a political “spring”, a great part of which, is said to take place in the “world of image”. It is paying its price.

By the end of 2011, “Reporters without Borders” classified Bahrain among “the 10 most dangerous regions in the world for journalists”. Days later, on January 3rd 2012, Mahdi was tasting of that bitter truth. He was surprised by a security agent who hit him on the head while covering a protest of parents of the detainees at a police station.

While he was raising his hands and shouting “I am a correspondent of an international agency”, a police detachment was surrounding him and dragging him inside Samaheej police station, to the east of Capital Manama, where he has been detained for 15 minutes before being released.

Such stories have become recurrent which tell about the variety of violations to which journalists and photographers are subject since the eruption of the protests. For a photojournalist who likes adventures and being on the first lines



of confrontations in a country that decided not to care for criticism, even by his western allies, these have become a routine.

On August 2nd, Mahdi was busy covering protests called for by an opposition group in BAni Jamra, close to the Bahraini-Saudi borders, when a civilian intelligence agent approached him and asked for his press pass. He then withdrew it from Mahdi and asked him to immediately go to a police station. He was surprised while finishing submitting his pass, by another security agent powerfully punching him to the face.

On April 6th 2012, the police stopped him on the margin of a demonstration in Nuweidrat, to the south of Capital Manama. He was then driven to a police station under the pretext that his press pass might be fake. He was released only to be arrested again later that day with two of his colleagues while covering nightly protest in Sanabes, to the west of the capital. Commenting on this incident, the police said that it arrested them “for their own safety”.

A day later, on April 7th 2012, Mahdi was covering a demonstration that has been organized for the release of rights activist Abdul Hadi el-Khawaja, when a policeman stealthily tucked a tear gas grenade next to him. Although Mahdi confirmed “there were no demonstrators in the nearby then”. On April 16th 2012, he was detained, with the Reuters and Associated Press photographers for a short period while covering a protest against the killing of a citizen who was shot dead.

Mazen el-Mahdi, photojournalist of “D.B.I.” is still running, holding tight to his camera, and carrying all the pictures that store the bitter history of the small island floating in the middle of the Arab Gulf.

08



نقطة

أعمالك

إطلاق سراح المعتقلين السياسيين فوراً

FREE ALL Political Recommendations

08

Recommendations

Recommendations: Enough... this is the Freedom Suppression Kingdom

Bahrain Press Association is highly concerned with the seriousness of the current situation in Bahrain, especially in terms of the safety of journalists, photographers and bloggers who face violations and systematic targeting campaigns.

During 2012, the BoG did not take any measures nor did it make any serious reforms concerning the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (Bassiouni Commission). Instead, suppression policies continued, so did prosecution of journalists and cyber activists. Moreover, the Information Affairs Authority continue to tighten its control on electronic media through many media websites, including the London-based "Al-Quds al-Arabi", and "Bahrain Mirror" websites, in addition to many other social networking websites.

At another level, Bahrain lags behind in terms of audio-visual media that is characterized by State monopoly.

The Bahrain Press Association appealed on the different regional and international organizations, bodies and federations concerned with media and Press rights as well as human rights to intervene in Bahrain to pressure the BoG toward making real reforms and ending the prosecution of journalists and cyber activists. The Association seeks to implement the following measures:

1. Immediate release of all detainees from among journalists, photographers and cyber activists; and dropping all charges related to the freedom of expression.

2. Establishment of an independent investigation committee with an international partnership to investigate the killing of blogger Zakariya Al-Usheiry and publisher Karim Fakhrawi; and bring the perpetrators to a fair trial.
3. Formation of an independent international commission of inquiry to address cases of torture of media persons in detention centers related to the Ministry of Interior, Bahrain Defense Force and the National Security Apparatus.
4. Pledge by BoG to send permanent representatives to international bodies concerned with freedoms of the media and the Press (International Federation of Journalists; Reporters without Borders; Committee to Protect Journalists) to work for two years as permanent monitors. The aim of this is to directly monitor violations, transgressions, and targeting of media persons and journalists in Bahrain.
5. Suspension of Law 47 on the organization of the press, printing and publishing; immediate release of media activists and bloggers detained in Bahraini prisons, whose charges are related to the freedom of expression; stopping all ongoing trials before criminal courts against Bahraini media persons; review prison sentences issued on Bahraini bloggers classified under publishing crimes; and announcement that all outstanding lawsuit at the Bahraini Public Prosecution will be stopped and documented.
6. Reinstating of all journalists, photographers, and bloggers who have been dismissed from their jobs at government and private institutions; and recognition of their right to compensation for all material and moral damage.
7. Separation between the Department of Foreign Media Affairs and the Information Affairs Authority; creation of a temporary committee administered by elected Bahraini journalists to regulate both the press and the media, until the creation of a supreme commission for the regulation of printing and publishing in the country; formation of an independent inquiry committee to investigate the media approach adopted by Bahrain Radio and Television Corporation during the events in Bahrain; and holding accountable the perpetrators of violations established by the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry.
8. Ending all forms of persecution, abuse, and targeting of media professionals, journalists and activists, and stopping security measures.

09



BPA Statements for 2012

09

BPA Statements for 2012

Journalism and media Status in Bahrain over 2011

- More than 135 journalists and media professionals were subject to violations and harassment
- The BICI acknowledges the deaths of two media professionals, torturing of journalists, and vandalizing Al Wasat Daily Newspaper
- The authorities took no initiative to remedy the trespasses and violations as evidenced by the BICI report
- Journalists and photographers lawsuits unknown; Abdul Emam, Al Sangice, and Ma'atook face abusive political sentences

London, 31/12/2011:

The year 2011 was not a cheerful year for journalists and media professionals in Bahrain as they wrap it with great sorrow and grief for the regim-led violations and trespasses. Such wrongdoings resulted into the murdering of two media professionals (Publisher Kareem Fakhrawi and Blogger Zakaria Al Asheeri) while they were kept in custody. Tens of journalists and media professionals were subjected to arrest and dismissal and were abused by torture and cruel treatment in the detention houses managed by the Ministry of Interior, Bahrain Defence Force, or The National Guards.

The Report issued by the Bahrain Independent Commission Inquiry (BICI), established pursuant to a Royal Decree on June 29, 2011 to investigate and report on the events occurred in Bahrain in the months of February and March 2011 and the consequences of such

events, acknowledges, in the chapter pertaining to media violations, the several violations and crimes against media professionals and journalists in Bahrain including, among other things, the killing of Zakariya Al Asheeri on April 9 and Kareem Fakhrawi on April 12; the arrests; the torturing; and the mass dismissals. The Report, publically known as 'Bassiouni's Report', released late in November also acknowledges the violations committed by the state-run media outlets that were biased and incited hatered as per sectarian basis. The Report also made mention to the state attempt to control the daily newspapers and direct them politically towards its agenda. The Report has certified the targeting of Al Wasat Daily Newspaper which is the only independent daily among other papers. Shockingly, the Bahraini judiciary has through its criminal court fined on October 11, 2011 as per the case suited against Al Wasat's editor-in-chief Dr. Mansoor Al Jamri; Waleed Nawihadh, the managing editor; Ali Al Shareefi, the editing secretary; and the local news head, Aqeel Mirza. The BPA then described the fines as an escape of acquittal not to declare the journalists innocence of fabricated accusations.

The BICI Report highlighted the importance of implementing the recommendations contained in it despite the many recommendations and calls by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Reporters Without Boarders, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX). Expectedly, the regime took no corrective measures towards what has been proved by said Report in terms of violations and trespasses against media professionals. The only action the regime applied was to establish a committee to implement the Report's recommendations without engaging the civil society communities as per the Report terms. The newly-established committee yielded no fruits as yet pertaining to the media issue and the violations committed against journalists and media professionals. Another passive reaction is that the Ministry of Interior has not revealed any outcomes pertaining

to its announcement to establish a committee to investigate the torture faced by Journalist Nazeha Saeed after the IFJ so requested. Reem Khalifa, a Journalist, is facing a regime-led trial with of a political nature.

The BPA issued its first bi-lingual report pertaining to the freedom of media and journalism in Bahrain titled “Word Leading to Death” for the period starching from January 1 through July 15, 2011. The BPA Report is believed to be the first of its kind to look into media and journalism in Bahrain in document the harassment faced by media outlets, journalists, bloggers, photographers, Bahrainis and foreigners alike, amid the protests broke out on February 14, 2011. The BPA Report is also the most comprehensive report ever released since Bahrain got its Independence on August 14, 1971 that focuses on the hurdled obstacles that present challenges to the freedom of the press in Bahrain.

The BPA hereby affirms that, based on the violations and trespasses documented in Bahrain, the official toll is 135 violations against media professionals with tens of expat journalists and reporters representing many media outlets like Al Jazeera Satellite Channel; Reuters; and France Press, to name but a few. As per deliberate murder, two media professionals were murdered while in police custody, mass dismissals, arbitrary detention, depriving of basic human rights of a fair trial, and torturing of scores of media professionals. Some of the journalists, a list of which includes Faisal Hayat (Al Bilad Daily Newspaper), Mohamed Hayder (Al Wasat Daily Newspaper), Abdulla Alaawi (Al Bilad Daily Newspaper) were detained, tortured and the course of their trials is still unknown. The Bahraini Public Prosecutor has dropped many charges filled against medial professionals and journalists before the Bahraini criminal courts. It is feared, however, that the Public Prosecution will bring such cases to re-trial or blackmail the defendants eventually. The Public Prosecution has refused thus far

to disclose any information pertaining to such trials.

The Bahraini judicial body, accused by the BICI report of falling short to follow and properly manage legal actions and its violating of defendants rights as granted by the national and international legal standards, handed on 22 June, 2011 three media professionals sentences of a political nature. The defendants were Dr. Abduljaleel Al Sangice, a blogger and a human rights activist; Ali Abdulemam, a blogger and a political forum founder; and Hasan Ma'atooq, a nurse and a photographer. Their sentences range from 3 years to 10 years imprisonment. Both Dr. Al Sangice and Mr. Ma'atooq are serving their sentences while Mr. Abdulemam was sentenced in absentia. Human rights organizations and bodies accompanied by journalists and media professionals defendants such as the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Reporters Without Boarders, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), condemned such sentences as they lacked the semblance of due process of law, were not in accordance with international legal standards, and conflicted with international human rights obligations of which Bahrain is a signatory.

The BPA is set to organize an international convention to shed light on the media and journalism situation in Bahrain and the Arab World in collaboration with media and journalism defending bodies and organizations. The announcement and particulars of this international event will be disclosed later. The event will be held in London. The BPA is also working to prepare its annual bi-lingual report for 2011/2012 that will incorporate testimonies of torture and violations faced by journalists and media professionals in Bahrain.

The BPA is hereby calling upon all organizations, authorities, unions, whether regional or global, concerned with media and journalism along with human rights defenders to intervene into Bahrain and put pressure on the regime to ensure the safety of media personnel in the

country. The BPA wishes to have the following procedures in place:

1. To form an independent international committee to investigate into the murder of Blogger Zakariya Al Asheeri and Publisher Kareem Fakhrawi to bring those involved in the murdering to justice;
2. To form an independent international committee to investigate into the torture faced by media professionals in the detention houses managed by the Ministry of Interior, Bahrain Defence Force, or The National Guards;
3. To call upon the Bahraini regime to ensure the recruitment of a permanent delegate of international organizations concerned with the freedom of the press and media (International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Reporters Without Boarders, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX)), to function as a watchdog for two years to have a direct supervision on what Bahrain is witnessing as per the violations faced by the media professionals;
4. To suspend the applicability of Law No. 47 pertaining to journalism, print, and publication regulation, the unconditional release of media activists and bloggers jailed in Bahrain with immediate effect, stop all on-going trials against media professionals being held in the Court of National Security, a military tribunal, and the Criminal Courts, review all sentences issued against Bahraini bloggers, and to drop all charges kept in the Public Prosecution;
5. To reinstate all journalists, photographers, and bloggers who were arbitrarily dismissed to their public or private posts with compensating them for all corporal and incorporeal damages sustained;
6. To separate the Directorate of Media External Affairs from the state-run Information Authority, form a temporary committee to regulate media and journalism to managed by elected Bahraini journalists until an elected higher commission becomes into existence to regulate the matters of print and publication, and form an

independent inquiry committee to investigate into the media manner adopted by the Ministry of Information during the past events in Bahrain and bring those responsible for the violations as certified by the BICI Report to justice; &

7. To stop all types of intimidation, harassment, and bullying against media professionals and activists and remove all security measures.

Wrapping up a busy year, the BPA would like to extend its thanks to: The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Reporters Without Boarders, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the Bahrain Center for Human Rights for the tremendous work and efforts they all have spent and are spending to monitor and document all violations and stand for media professionals and journalists in Bahrain along with their help.

BPA: Journalist Ahmed Al-Bosta Attacked In Bahrain

- Attacks continue in a media-gagged country

LONDON, April 9, 2012:

Bahrain Press Association "BPA", the London-based association concerned with defending and addressing issues related to Bahrain media and press people, condemns the brutal attack by riot police on Ahmed Al Bosta, a veteran and prominent journalist, this evening in the city of Manama. Kicked, punched, and slapped after being arrested, Mr. Al Bosta was brutally beaten with the fully-armed security forces using abusive language



against him. Al Bosta's story unfolds as he happened to be in Manama concurrent with a peaceful protest. Al Bosta told the BPA that the riot police were dispersing protesters as he was arrested. With a 30-minute arrest, the riot police spared no efforts in humiliating Mr. Al Bosta with words of disdain and abuse. He was released afterwards. The BPA confirms that the regime ongoing attacks on journalists are testimony that the war on press freedom is not yet over. This attack comes in less than a week of murdering a camera-man, Ahmed Ismail, with live ammunition used by regime-led thugs as he was taping a peaceful protest in the village of Salmabad, south-west of the capital, on March 31.

The BPA is highly concerned at the continued and systematic violations by the regime on press professionals, especially with those criminals being granted impunity. This is seen by the temporizing strategy played out by the regime in bringing the perpetrators to justice as the murderers of blogger Zakariay Al Asheeri and publisher Karim Fakhrawi along with those responsible for torturing scores of media people are still free. Added to this a list of media professionals who were arbitrarily dismissed from their jobs despite the regime undertakings to reinstate them all. The toll of those dismissed stood at 90 individuals who worked in the public and private sectors alike. The BPA holds the Bahraini authorities responsible for the safety of those working in the media field; whose stakeholders are performing their functions and social roles in very challenging conditions in a capital ranked by Reporters Without Boarders (RWB) as being one of the top ten cities with the most repressive profile on press freedom worldwide.

BPA: Bahrain is racing F1 cars in persecuting media professionals and freedom of expression

LONDON, April 22, 2012:

Bahrain Press Association ("BPA"), the London-based association concerned with defending and addressing issues related to Bahrain media and press people, condemns the apprehension of Activist Mohamed Hasan for his participation in the famous American Documentary Dan Rather. Mr. Hasan received many threats via telephone by the security forces before being directly hit and brutally abused by security squads.

BPA's representative has affirmed the arrest of Mr. Hasan after being injured in the village of Bilad Al Qadaeem when he was escorting foreign reporters. He was then admitted to the Salmaniya Medical Complex, the country's main medical hospital, where he was arrested and kept in custody for one day. Mr. Hasan was released in the early hours of this Saturday morning.

The BPA is highly concerned about the rolling back of arrests and torture against those participating in media shows on the international scale. Such abuses have been the norm by the regime since February 14, 2011 as the Bahraini authorities have arrested and interrogated scores of media professionals, journalists, and human rights activists who took part in different international shows highlighting the Bahraini cause. The BPA has documented many violations against media professionals including assaults and verbal abuses inside the interrogation rooms and upon arresting.

Along with this, many international media outlets have documented the ban imposed by the Bahraini regime on their correspondents from entering the country. The BPA considers such step to be notorious and complies with the policies practiced by the Information Affairs Authority to tighten all the media coverage of the crisis rocking the country. In a televised interview, the Bahraini Crown Prince, Sheikh

Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, did not deny the ban imposed on foreign correspondents but he simply commented that the responsible body for such a ban is the government!

The list of the banned correspondents to enter Bahrain includes FT's correspondent Siomon Ker, The Times's journalist Karen Lee, CNN's correspondent Amber Lyon, and two reporters from the Associated Press. The Bahraini regime has also denied entry to all non-sport correspondents from Reuters as the prominent news agency reported in a statement.

Concurrent with the knock-out qualifying laps of the F1 Grand Prix, and despite international calls to stop harassing Bahraini journalists in 'fabricated' criminal cases that are related to the freedom of expression in essence, the Bahraini judiciary convicted journalist Reem Khalifa in the case known as "The Irish Physicians Press Conference Case" as the judge decided to fine the journalist BD 600 (around US\$ 1600). The court refused to listen to the defendant's witnesses; an action seen by many observers to be as an implementation of politically-based ruling.

The High Criminal Court sent back the case of those accused of torturing France 24's reporter, Bahraini journalist Nazeeha Saeed, to the public prosecution. This raises many questions as to the seriousness of the Bahraini judiciary to truly implement the recommendations contained in Bassiouni's report, especially in what relates to bringing to justice those responsible for torture as well as the calls released by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Reporters Without Boarders (RWB), and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) pertaining to opening an investigation into the torturing of Nazeeha Saeed and putting the torturers on trial.

It is worth mentioning that the Bahraini media professionals including journalists, photographers, and bloggers were subjected to mass

arrests after the declaration of the martial laws in March 15, 2011. This was followed by the murdering of publisher Kareem Fakrawi and blogger Zakariya Al Asheeri along with the arrest and torture of more than 140 media professionals. Likewise, tens of foreign correspondents were temporarily detained, forcefully deported, or denied entry to Bahrain.

Hunger for Freedom: World Press Freedom day 2012

2 MAY 2012:

In commemoration of the World Press Freedom day 2012, Journalists in Bahrain will celebrate the event by going on a hunger strike called for by the Bahrain Press Association ("BPA"). The hunger strike is a form of protest to the countless violations and abuses exercised by the regime against Press Freedom along with Freedom of Speech ever since the fourteenth of February 2011.

Holding a hunger strike on such a day is but a scream in the face of the authorities and their intimidating practices towards the freedom of speech. Likewise, it is intended to convey a message by the journalists in Bahrain to the international community to urge all those concerned to exert more pressure on the regime to satisfy its obligations and commitments as per the United Nations' human rights covenants and treaties.

Violations ... On-going Nightmare

Journalists in Bahrain still recall with deep sorrow and grief two press professionals who were murdered last year (Publisher Kareem Fakhrawy and blogger Zakariya Rashid AlAshiri) while in the custody of the Bahraini authorities. The dramatic loss of such professionals was coupled by arbitral arrests and dismissals of scores of colleagues who were as well subjected to torture while being kept in the detention houses led by the Ministry of Interior's National Security Agency and

the Bahrain Defense Force.

The media and press realm in Bahrain had hoped to see the recommendations of the Bahrain independent Commission of Inquiry (“BICI”) have effect in correcting the course of government policy as per the freedom of expression and information. Dispreately as it looks, nothing has become effective on the ground. . Abuses continue in a period considered to be the worst in the history of Bahrain since its independence. This bad reputation was further endorsed by Manama being rated among the top ten most repressive states, according to Reporters without Borders.

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The list of media blackouts and suppression of press freedom was not limited to Bahrainis International media correspondents and international news agency journalists have shared the same government hostile polices. Many of these cases have been documented by international organizations for journalists being banned from entering Bahrain on the first anniversary of the protests in the Pearl Roundabout; others were either detained or forced leave the country. (Please refer to the table below).

Witnesses to the Violations

In addition to the reports and statements made by international organizations such as Reporters without Borders, International Federation of Journalists, the Committee to Protect Journalists (USA),

along with other international human rights watchdogs, the Report issued by the Bahrain Independent Commission Inquiry (BICI) on November 23, 2011, acknowledges in the chapter pertaining to media violations, the several violations and crimes committed against media professionals and journalists in Bahrain including, among other things, the murdering of Zakariya Al Asheeri on April 9 and Kareem Fakhrawi on April 12 of 2011; the arrests; the torturing; and the mass dismissals of press professionals working in private and public media outlets alike.

The BICI Report, widely known as Bassiouni report, acknowledges the violations committed by the official media institutions in the country represented by the “Authority of Information Affairs & Bahrain TV” stating that they played a direct sectarian role throughout, and opted to impose a firm fist on the media so as to direct it to their political advantage.

It is worth mentioning that the BICI Report, widely known as Bassiouni Report, neglected to acknowledge that the Bahrain TV played a direct role in the arrest and dismissal of many journalists and its usage of inflammatory words with criminal connotations like “traitors, criminals, and Safavis”.

Recommendations pertaining to Apprenticeship Contracts
Despite the mention in Bassiouni’s report as per the need to implement the recommendations contained thereof and the various calls made by the international organizations and bodies, the authorities in Bahrain did not take it serious to put in place corrective measures to remedy what was proved by the BICI Report as being violations and abuses. Instead, the Authority of Information Affairs inked training contracts with international media outlets ignoring very obviously the fact that such abuses and violations did not relate to the technical remedies or the poor level of professionalism within the staff. However, it was connected to the media discourse for the

coverage and inciting sectarian strife in accordance with policies the media professionals were forced to abide by under political pressure. Therefore, those responsible for the incitement of sectarian strife are still in their posts to run the reform phase after they functioned to commit the violations largely acknowledged by the BICI.

As per Bassiouni's recommendations pertaining to hold those responsible for the torture to account and bring them before justice, the Bahraini authorities has failed to perform such duty to identify the perpetrators who violated press professionals' rights and acted brutally against them. Until today, the Bahraini Judiciary has only brought the cases of Publisher Kareem Fakhrawi, blogger Zakariya AlAshiri, and journalist Nazeeha Saeed before court. The BPA and other human rights watchdogs have their reservations over the public prosecution procedures to interrogate and try. The BPA considers them as "bogus" trials, as they don't hold the officials accountable for the violations. The Bahraini judiciary has neglected many cases of arbitrary arrests and torture accusations for the majority of media professionals.

In the same context, journalist Reem Khalifa of Al-Wasat Daily Newspaper still faces regime-led targeting through the continuation of her trial in the Bahraini courts despite many international calls to drop any and all charges against her, the latest of which was the report dated January 24, 2012 (Tunisia/London) issued by (writers in Prison Committee of international PEN, Index on Censorship, Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, IFEX, and the Gulf Centre for Human rights) titled "Denial of justice in Bahrain: Stifle freedom of expression and peaceful assembly," The report called upon the government of Bahrain in one of its recommendations to stop the said trial against Reem Khalifa and end targeting her whatsoever.

Many journalists, who were arbitrarily dismissed from public and private media outlets, are waiting to be reinstated to their posts; the BPA could not document one single case in which a sacked press

professional has been reinstated.

Reference may be made to the report titled "Word Leading to Death" issued by the BPA in 2011 in which the BPA documented all violations and cases of arbitrary dismissals of media professionals. The Authority of Information Affairs offered to reinstate those dismissed professionals to posts not within their specialties on unjust terms. The dismissed professionals have refused to get back to the posts that did not match their qualifications and know-how. Pro-regime papers, or those papers owned by members from the ruling family, still refuse to reinstate sacked journalists and photographers to their jobs.

Unfair Judicial Rulings

Judicial rulings issued on the 22nd of June against Dr Abdul Jalil Al Sangaece, a blogger and human rights activist, Ali Abdalemam, a blogger and founder of a political online forum, and Hassan Matouk, a photographer and a nurse, are still a major concern within the media circles inside and outside Bahrain.

Several human rights organizations and watchdogs described such unlawful sentences as abusive for the sentences extended from three years to fifteen years imprisonment. Dr. Abdul Jalil Al Sangaece and Photographer Hassan Matook are currently serving their sentences while Ali Abdulemam was convicted in absentia. Until the moment of drafting this report, no information has been available pertaining to Mr. Abdulemam's whereabouts and whether he had been arrested or not. Such sentences entirely lack legal due process. Many violations have been in place that touched the violated the defendants' legal rights. The defendant Dr. Al Alsangaece was subjected to torture while in prison given the fact that he is a handicapped. The court sessions were not held as per locally and internationally approved conditions and, thus, represent a grave breach to human rights conventions and treaties of which Bahrain is a signatory.

Conclusion and recommendations

Bahrain Press Association stresses the seriousness of the situation in Bahrain and casts greater concerns regarding the safety of journalists, photographers and bloggers who are subjected to systematic campaigns of intimidation. The Bahraini regime has neither taken any corrective remedies nor implemented reforms based on the recommendations issued by the BICI report. The state continues its repression policies against journalists and cyber activists. It still exercises a complete control over electronic media by blocking many websites, including the London based Al Quds Al Arabi Newspaper, Bahrain Mirror and a number of other prominent web pages.

The BPA is hereby calling upon all organizations, authorities, unions, whether regional or global, concerned with media and journalism along with human rights defenders to intervene into Bahrain and put pressure on the regime to ensure the safety of media personnel in the country. The BPA wishes to have the following procedures in place:

1. To form an independent international committee to investigate into the murder of Blogger Zakariya Al Asheeri and Publisher Kareem Fakhrawi and bring those involved in the murdering to justice;
2. To form an independent international committee to investigate into the torture faced by media professionals in the detention houses managed by the Ministry of Interior's national security department, Bahrain Defence Force, or The National Guards;
3. To call upon the Bahraini regime to ensure the recruitment of a permanent delegate of international organizations concerned with the freedom of the press and media (International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Reporters Without Borders, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX)), to function as a watchdog for two years to have a direct supervision on what Bahrain is witnessing as per the violations faced by the media professionals;
4. To suspend the applicability of Law No. 47 pertaining to journalism, print, and publication regulation, the unconditional release

of media activists and bloggers who were unfairly charged with crimes related to the freedom of expression and jailed in Bahrain with immediate effect, stop all on-going trials against media professionals being held in the Criminal Courts, review all sentences issued against Bahraini bloggers, and to drop all charges auctioned by the Public Prosecution and leave them to file;

5. To reinstate all dismissed media professionals to their positions in private and public media outlets with fair compensation for the corporeal and incorporeal damages they have sustained since they were arbitrarily dismissed;
6. To separate the external media affairs directorate from the Authority of Information Affairs with the establishment of a temporary committee to regulate journalism and all media-related matters. Such committee shall be run by elected Bahraini journalists until the formation of a higher investigation committee to oversee print and publication; and to establish an independent inquiry committee to investigate the media role as practiced by the Information Authority during the popular uprising in Bahrain and hold those responsible of violations as proved by the BICI accountable; and
7. To stop all repression, trespass, abuse, and intimidation against media professionals and stop all security measures to in order to pave the way to realize a true freedom of the press and the freedom of expression.

Freedom of Expression in Bahrain: Unchanged Deterioration

LONDON, September 15, 2012:

Bahrain Press Association ("BPA"), the London-based association concerned with defending and addressing issues related to Bahraini media and press people, is calling upon the Member States in the

United Nations Human Rights Council whose meeting is being held Geneva on September 19, 2012 to put extreme diplomatic pressure on the Bahrain regime as per Freedom of Expression, the Press, and Media in a country that has been undergoing repressive policies against for more than one year and a half.

The BPA is further calling upon the HR Council's Member States to reaffirm the severity of the on-going violations and crimes in Bahrain pertaining to the crimes committed to ban the freedoms of expression, opinion, and conscience. Since February 14, 2011, such crimes have led to the killing of 3 media people with trying; dismissing; and torturing hundreds of press and media people along with human rights activists on trumped-up charges putting anyone exercising their civil liberties on trial.

On-going Violations

The BPA's Monitoring Unit has been witnessing the developments taking place on the Bahraini scene in terms of arrests, restoration of dismissed media personnel, and the outcome of judicial proceedings amid the UN Human Rights Council session on May 21, 2012. It is unfortunate to say that the Monitoring Unit officials were not satisfied with the results that the Bahraini authorities made any tangible measures to fulfill the commitments vowed before the Council and other NGOs. This further exacerbates fear that the regime policies intimidating freedoms are on the rise.

Since the 176 recommendations were made by the Council which addressed the freedom of expression in more than one context, the authorities in Bahrain continued to intimidate press people and put more restrictions on the freedom of expression in many ways.

Procrastination of Trials

The Bahraini authorities still deliberately procrastinate to try those responsible for the killing of Publisher Kareem Fakhrawi and Blogger Zakariya Al Asheeri (both were killed in 2011 while in detention due to

sever torture and was later proved and documented by the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry "BICI") and Photographer Ahmed Ismail (killed on March 31, 2012 by armed militia of the interior ministry). The authorities also procrastinate to try those responsible of torturing Journalist Nazeeha Saeed whose court session was adjourned until October 7, 2012 to affirm the fact that the regime is delaying the process of bringing those responsible for the killing and torturing of press and media people before justice. As yet, no violator has been brought to account.

In procrastinating the trials of those killers and torturers, the Bahraini regime seems to prosecute foreign policemen make them and postpone their trials to ensure no conviction is reached. This is being done with explicit neglect to the local and international laws in the sense that the accused of killing crimes are free while a total of 800 other people are being illegitimately held in custody on charges like participating in "authorized" demos.

The story does not end here. The family members of the victimized press professionals were also the subject of intimidation. For instance, the widow of Publisher Kareem Fakhrawi was chased by a security squad as she was participating in a demo in the capital city of Manama and was later assaulted.

Ahmed Radhi: Freedom of Expression Victim

The Bahraini authorities still keep Journalist Ahmed Radhi in custody since May 16, 2012. Mr. Radhi's sole crime was a dissenting statement he made to the Arabic section of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The statement centered around rejecting the idea of the then-circulated news that a union between Bahrain and the KSA was called for. Later on, the Bahraini authorities forged charges against Mr. Radhi such as participation in an "authorized" demonstration to manipulate the public opinion both locally and internationally. In a letter sent to his lawyer, Ms. Reem Khalaf, Mr.

Radhi emphasized his being subjected to torture and mistreatment before he was forced to sign a confession while blindfolded for three times without being allowed to read the papers.

On August 2, 2012, the security forces assaulted the photo-journalist Mazin Mahdi, who works for the German news agency DPA. Mr. Mahdi was severely beaten and punched by an armed militia group believed to be reporting to the interior ministry as he was covering a protest called by the opposition in the village of Bani Jamara located to the west of the capital city of Manama.

The Bahraini authorities are still trying bloggers and cyber activists like Mr. Ali Abdulemam and Dr. Abduljalil Al-Sangice who have been handed life imprisonment sentences on lawsuits related to the freedom of expression and freedom of opinion. Needless to say, the Bahraini authorities still ban many foreign journalists from entering Bahrain.

Hunger for Freedom

Since the announcement of the BICI Report in November 2011 and up until this statement has been written, despite the vows made by the Bahraini regime as to reinstating all the dismissed to their jobs, there are more than 200 press professionals of different disciplines (journalists, photographers, news anchors, directors, and bloggers) who are waiting the Bahraini regime to fulfill its commitments.

Apparently, the regime is determined to run a mass starvation war against all and everyone with dissenting views with the official perspective on the political crisis in the country, and just looks like-as labeled by the journalists in Bahrain- as 'The Inquisition Courts of the 12 century'.

What the Information Authority, the body responsible for the Information, still makes the headlines in the daily papers owned by members of the ruling family and other regime loyalists who refuse to

reinstate dismissed press professionals to their jobs on the grounds of their participation in the protests calling for national reforms that erupted in February 2011.

Bahrain: Enemy of the Internet

The description initiated by Reporters Without Boarders on Bahrain that it is a state enemy to the Internet was the most explanatory expression ever. The regime in Bahrain is intimidating press professionals and human rights activists participating in the social networking websites which present the only window of exercising freedom of expression after the state has fastened its grip on the media. One of the bad practices used by the regime is the disturbance on the broadcasting of Al Lulula TV Channel, which is Bahraini channel being broadcast from London.

The acting manager of the general directorate to combat corruption and cyber and economic security on behalf of the Bahraini regime announced that the interior ministry has launched the so-called program 'Combating defamation and abuse conducted in the social networking websites).

The BPA considers this announcement as a preliminary phase to perform more violations, breaches, and restrictions on the freedom of expression especially with the unstopped arrests of media professionals and human rights defenders to be later charged with crimes related to electronic publication. Mr. Nabeel Rajab, the chair of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights forms a good example for this new type of intimidation.

Conclusion and recommendations

The BPA is hereby calling upon the Member States of the UN Human Rights Council; all NGOs, authorities, unions, whether regional or global, which are concerned with media and journalism along with human rights defenders to intervene into Bahrain and put much

pressure on the Bahraini regime to ensure the safety of media personnel in the country. The BPA wishes to have the following procedures in place:

1. To form an independent international committee to investigate into the murder of Blogger Zakariya Al Asheeri, Publisher Kareem Fakhrawi, and Photographer Ahmed Ismail and bring those involved in the murdering to justice;
2. To call upon the Bahraini regime to ensure the recruitment of a permanent delegate of international organizations concerned with the freedom of the press and media (International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Reporters Without Boarders, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX)), to function as a watchdog for two years to have a direct supervision on what Bahrain is witnessing as per the violations faced by the media professionals;
3. To suspend the applicability of Law No. 47 pertaining to journalism, print, and publication regulation, the unconditional release of media activists and bloggers who were unfairly charged with crimes related to the freedom of expression and jailed in Bahrain with immediate effect, stop all on-going trials against media professionals being held in the Criminal Courts, review all sentences issued against Bahraini bloggers, and to drop all charges auctioned by the Public Prosecution and leave them to file;
4. To reinstate all dismissed media professionals to their positions in private and public media outlets with fair compensation for the corporeal and incorporeal damages they have sustained since they were arbitrarily dismissed;
5. To separate the external media affairs directorate from the Authority of Information Affairs with the establishment of a temporary committee to regulate journalism and all media-related matters. Such committee shall be run by elected Bahraini

journalists until the formation of a higher investigation committee to oversee print and publication; and to establish an independent inquiry committee to investigate the media role as practiced by the Information Authority during the popular uprising in Bahrain and hold those responsible of violations as proved by the BICI accountable; and

6. To stop all repression, trespass, abuse, and intimidation against media professionals and stop all security measures in order to pave the way for a true realization of freedom of the press and the freedom of expression.

10

international statements & Reports on Bahrain 2012



10

international statements & Reports on Bahrain 2012

1 Bahrain should grant entry to journalists

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: February 9, 2012

New York, February 9, 2012--Bahrain has rejected at least six journalists' applications for entry visas ahead of the anniversary of antigovernment protests that swept the country in February 2011, according to news reports. The Committee to Protect Journalists calls on authorities to allow journalists into the country to carry out their work freely.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/02/bahrain-should-grant-entry-to-journalists.php>

2 A year of repression: Bahrain continues crackdown on press

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: February 13, 2012

In the year since peaceful protests began in Bahrain on February 14, 2011, the government has targeted the press corps with assault, detention, harassment, and torture to obstruct their coverage. My organization, the Gulf Centre for Human Rights, has documented a systematic campaign by authorities to silence coverage of our try's unrest. Here are just some of the many attacks on the press:

Details:

<http://cpj.org/blog/2012/02/a-year-of-repression-bahrain-continues-crackdown-o.php>

3 Bahrain: Press freedom conditions hit their worst point since Bahrain gained its independence in 1971.

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: February 21, 2012

The government waged a brutal multifaceted crackdown against independent news media covering the country's months-long protest movement. Security forces subjected journalists to assaults, expulsions, detentions, politicized trials, prison terms, and lethal mistreatment in custody. Both international and local reporters were targeted: A journalist for the U.S. broadcaster ABC was beaten and his camera was confiscated in February; a photographer for the independent domestic daily Al-Wasat was beaten while covering a March protest.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/02/attacks-on-the-press-in-2011-bahrain.php>

4 Journalist imprisonments jump worldwide, and Iran is worst

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: February 21, 2012

The number of journalists imprisoned worldwide shot up more than 20 percent to its highest level since the mid-1990s, an increase driven largely by widespread jailings across the Middle East and North Africa. In its annual census of imprisoned journalists, CPJ identified 179 writers, editors, and photojournalists behind bars on December 1, an increase of 34 over its 2010 tally.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/02/attacks-on-the-press-in-2011-journalists-in-prison.php>

5 From Arab Uprisings, Five Trends to Watch

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: February 21, 2012

At the trial of deposed President Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's print media were banned from reporting on testimony by the de facto head of state, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi. But the testimony--in which Tantawi contradicted an earlier public statement by the military that it had defied orders to shoot protesters--was reported by bloggers and others on Twitter. With the news broken, traditional media seized on the opportunity to run their own stories that otherwise would have been off-limits.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/02/attacks-on-the-press-in-2011-five-early-lessons-from-the-arab-spring.php>

6 Bahraini videographer killed while filming protest

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: April 4, 2012

New York, April 4, 2012--A Bahraini videographer died Saturday morning after being shot while filming a protest outside the capital, Manama, according to local journalists and news reports.

Ahmed Ismail Hassan, a videographer who regularly filmed pro-reform protests in Bahrain, was filming a demonstration in Salmabad, a village southwest of Manama, Adel Marzooq, president of the London-based Bahrain Press Association, told CPJ, citing Bahraini colleagues. After the protest was dispersed by riot police with tear gas and rubber bullets, unidentified assailants in a Toyota Land Cruiser began shooting live ammunition at the protesters, news reports said. Hassan was shot in the upper right thigh and died later that morning in Salmaniya Hospital from complications associated with his wound, news reports said.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/04/bahraini-videographer-killed-while-filming-protest.php>

7 CPJ in joint call for release of bloggers, activists in Bahrain

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: April 18, 2012

CPJ is among 50 organizations that have signed a joint letter to Bahrain's king calling for the release of detained bloggers, activists, and human rights defenders and to drop all charges that violate the right to peaceful expression ahead of the Formula One motor racing event to be held in Manama on April 22.

Among the detainees is blogger Abduljalil Alsingace, who has been imprisoned since March 2011 and was handed down a life sentence. Another blogger, Ali Abdel Imam, was sentenced in absentia to 15 years in prison.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/blog/2012/04/cpj-signs-joint-letter-calling-for-release-of-blog.php>

8 Bahrain cracks down on news around Formula One races

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: April 23, 2012

New York, April 23, 2012--Bahraini authorities, intent on suppressing coverage of the restive political conditions that were a backdrop to the Formula One Grand Prix in Manama on Sunday, arrested at least seven international journalists who were seeking to report on anti-government demonstrations, according to news reports.

9

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/04/bahrain-cracks-down-on-news-around-formula-one-rac.php>

10 Breaking pledge, Bahrain bars free expression mission

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: May 4, 2012

Reneging on a promise made just weeks earlier, Bahraini authorities have denied visas to representatives of several free expression organizations who planned to travel to the kingdom next week to assess press and free speech conditions. CPJ is among several organizations that have signed a joint letter to Bahrain's director of human rights organizations condemning the action.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/blog/2012/05/breaking-pledge-bahrain-bars-free-expression-missi.php>

11 Bahrain arrests critical journalist

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: May 17, 2012

New York, May 17, 2012--A journalist who criticized Bahrain's proposed union with Saudi Arabia was seized from his home near Manama on Wednesday and his whereabouts are unknown. The Committee to Protect Journalists called today for his immediate release.

Ahmed Radhi, a freelance journalist who contributes to local news websites, was arrested by security forces at 4 a.m. after they broke down his door, according to news reports. His condition and any charges against him are unknown, news reports said.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/05/bahrain-arrests-critical-journalist.php>

12 For journalists, danger lurking in your email

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: July 7, 2012

This week, Morgan Marquis-Boire and Bill Marczak of the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab provided a disturbing look into the likely use of a commercial surveillance program, FinFisher, to remotely invade and control the computers of Bahraini activists. After the software installs itself onto unsuspecting users' computer, it can record and relay emails, screenshots, and Skype audio conversations. It was deployed against Bahraini users after being concealed in seemingly innocent emails.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/internet/2012/07/finfisher-journalists-danger-email.php>

Syria, Somalia, Bahrain--where fathers bury their sons

12

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: August 10, 2012

The 17-year-old videographer Anas al-Tarsha regularly filmed clashes and military movements in the city of Homs in Syria, and posted the footage on YouTube. On February 24, he was killed by a mortar round while filming the bombardment of the city's Qarabees district, according to news reports. The central city had been under attack for more than three weeks as Syrian forces stepped up their assault on opposition strongholds.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/blog/2012/08/syria-somalia-bahrain--where-fathers-bury-their-so.php>

Bahrain should scrap life sentence of blogger Alsingace

13

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: September 6, 2012

New York, September 6, 2012--Bahraini authorities should toss out the unjust conviction and life sentence handed to an online journalist who was imprisoned for exercising his right to free expression during the country's 2011 popular uprising, the Committee to Protect Journalists said today.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/09/bahrain-should-scrap-life-sentence-of-blogger-alsi.php>

Critical Bahraini journalist detained for four months

14

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: September 13, 2012

New York, September 13, 2012--The Committee to Protect Journalists is concerned about the ongoing imprisonment of Ahmed Radhi, a freelance journalist who was first detained four months ago after making critical comments about Bahraini-Saudi relations. Radhi now faces terrorism and other anti-state charges which he says were lodged after he was abused and forced into making a false confession.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/09/critical-bahraini-journalist-detained-for-four-mon.php>

Bahrain acquits officer on charges of torturing a journalist

15

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: October 24, 2012

New York, October 24, 2012--CPJ is alarmed by a Bahraini court's acquittal of a police officer accused of torturing a journalist in custody in 2011. A criminal court in Manama on Monday acquitted police officer Sara al-Moussa on charges of torturing Nazeeha Saeed, a reporter for France24 and Radio Monte Carlo Doualiya, while the journalist was in custody in May 2011, according to the official Bahrain News Agency (BNA). The agency reported that the court ruled that Saeed's testimony was full of "contradictions" and not "consistent." Saeed told CPJ that she and her lawyer are urging prosecutors to reopen the case.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/2012/10/bahrain-acquits-officer-on-charges-of-torturing-a.php>

Journalist deaths spike in 2012 due to Syria, Somalia

16

Organization: Committee to Protect Journalists

Date: December 18, 2012

Syrian violence contributed to a sharp rise in the number of journalists killed for their work in 2012, as did a series of murders in Somalia. The dead include a record proportion of journalists who worked online. A CPJ special report

NEW YORK

The number of journalists killed in the line of duty rose sharply in 2012, as the war in Syria, a record number of shootings in Somalia, continued violence in Pakistan, and a worrying increase in Brazilian murders contributed to a 42 percent increase in deaths from the previous year. Internet journalists were hit harder than ever, while the proportion of freelancers was again higher than the historical average, the Committee to Protect Journalists found in its yearly analysis.

Details:

<http://cpj.org/reports/2012/12/journalist-deaths-spike-in-2012-due-to-syria-somal.php>

17 Repression of a peaceful protest - Human rights defenders at risk

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: January 7, 2012

Paris-Geneva, January 7, 2012. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), calls on the authorities to guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and the safety of demonstrators, including that of human rights defenders, following the repression by security forces yesterday of a peaceful demonstration to call for the release of political prisoners.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Repression-of-a-peaceful-protest>

18 SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Updated as of May 2011

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: January 24, 2012

In 2010-2011, several defenders were arrested and prosecuted under the Anti-Terrorist Law or were the target of defamation campaigns. In addition, while several NGOs still did not obtain legal recognition, other human rights and labour and unions were subject to obstacles to their freedom of association during the repression of a peaceful protest movement in 2011. Moreover, men and women who denounced human rights violations committed during the repression of this movement were subjected to arbitrary arrests, threats and acts of intimidation and even acts of torture that led to the death of one of them in custody.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHREIN-2010-2011>

19 Ongoing repression against political prisoners

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: February 2, 2012

FIDH expresses its utmost concern about acts of continued repression on political prisoners that have entered in a hunger strike to protest their continued arbitrary detention as well as the deteriorating human rights situation in the country.

FIDH has been informed that around 250 political prisoners started a widespread national hunger strike on January 29, 2012, after the prominent 14 political and human rights activists, who were arbitrarily detained since March 2011 [1], announced they will begin a hunger strike in the central Jaw prison.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Ongoing-repression-against>

20 Ongoing judicial harassment faced by Mr. Mohamed Issa Al Tager - BHR 003 / 0411 / OBS 065.3.

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: February 7, 2012

February 7, 2012

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Ongoing-judicial-harassment-faced,11289>

21 Bahrain: Detained human rights defender Abdulhadi Al Khawaja's life in jeopardy

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: April 6, 2012

Last Update 6 April 2012

New information

BHR 004 / 0411 / OBS 070.3

Ongoing arbitrary detention / Judicial harassment / Deteriorating health condition / Denial of visit of international delegation Bahrain April 6, 2012

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Detained-human-rights>

22 Governmental Declarations on Reform Are Little More than Rhetoric, As Reality Reveals Continued Repression of Basic rights, Deliberate and Collective Forms of Punishment

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: April 18, 2012

FIDH mission in Bahrain - Preliminary conclusions

FIDH concluded a 5 days visit to Bahrain to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, which was established following the violent government's response to the protest movement in Bahrain that began on February 14, 2011, and presents a preliminary assessment.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Governmental-Declarations-on>

23 BAHRAIN: Trial of arbitrarily detained Abdulhadi Al Khawaja transferred to a civilian court, concerns remain over his health status

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: April 30, 2012

Paris-Geneva, April 30, 2012. Bahrain's Military Court announced today the referral of the case of Mr. Abdulhadi Al Khawaja and 20 other human rights defenders and political opponents to a civilian court, while ruling at the same time that the detained activists will remain in detention pending trial[1]. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), calls upon the Bahraini authorities to release them immediately and unconditionally, as their detention seems to merely sanction their human rights and political activities.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-Trial-of-arbitrarily>

24 Bahrain: FIDH Demands the Immediate Release of its deputy secretary general Nabeel Rajab

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: May 6, 2012

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) is gravely concerned about the arrest of its Deputy Secretary General and the continuing targeting of human rights defenders in Bahrain. On May 5th 2012, Nabeel Rajab, president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) and director of the Gulf Center for Human Rights, was arrested upon arrival at Manama airport from Lebanon and is currently detained in Al Hawra police station. The police officers who arrested Rajab stated that the Public Prosecution has ordered his arrest, however neither Rajab nor his lawyers have been informed of the reasons for his arrest. According to BCHR, Rajab will appear before the Public Prosecution today in the late afternoon.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-FIDH-Demands-the-Immediate>

25 Bahrain: Arbitrary arrest and judicial harassment of Mr. Nabeel Rajab

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: May 7, 2012

BHR 001 / 0512 / OBS 048

Arbitrary detention / Judicial harassment

Bahrain

May 7, 2012

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Arbitrary-arrest-and>

26 FIDH's International Board Demands the Immediate Release of its Deputy Secretary General Nabeel Rajab

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: May 14, 2012

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) on the occasion of its international board meeting in Paris on May 13th 2012, strongly denounces the ongoing detention of its Deputy Secretary General Nabeel Rajab.

Nabeel Rajab, the President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, has been detained since he was arrested upon arrival at Manama airport from Lebanon on May 5th. He was then charged with "insulting the statutory bodies". The charges are pressed against him in relation to tweets he posted deemed "insulting" to the Ministry of Interior. He was taken before the court on May 6th, when he stated that he was the author of tweets posted through his account.. He further said that he did not recognise the jurisdiction of the Court and the Prosecution due to their lack of independence from the Executive. The next hearing will take place on May 22, 2012.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/FIDH-s-International-Board-Demands>

27 BAHRAIN: One hundred organisations call to end assault on freedom of speech, and to free all detained human rights defenders and netizens

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: May 21, 2012

The following is a letter calling on the Bahrain Royal Family to release jailed human rights defenders and netizens in Bahrain. The signing organisations further call on the UN Human Rights Council, the European Parliament, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and all concerned governments to exert their influence on the ruling family to stop violating human rights in Bahrain:

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-One-hundred-organisations>

28 Bahrain: release on bail of Mr. Nabeel Rajab but repression against human rights defenders continue

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: May 29, 2012

Paris-Geneva, May 29, 2012. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) welcomes the release on bail of prominent human rights defender Nabeel Rajab, but remains concerned at the repressive climate against human rights defenders still prevailing in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-release-on-bail-of-Mr>

29 Bahrain: Arbitrary arrest and judicial harassment of Nabeel Rajab

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: June 8, 2012

The Observatory has been informed by reliable sources about the arbitrary arrest of Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General [1]. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Arbitrary-arrest-and,11810>

30 Bahrain: Rights organisations alarmed over threats to civil society after trip to UN

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: June 11, 2012

International human rights organisations who participated in the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bahrain in Geneva are alarmed at threats made against Bahraini civil society members who were present. During the UPR, Bahrain's human rights track record came under fire from numerous governments, prompting the threat of reprisals against those who had been in Geneva. Some of the civil society members are among those facing lengthy prison sentences for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Rights-organisations>

31 Bahrain: Harassment of lawyer Mohamed Issa Al Tager

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: June 14, 2012

The Observatory has been informed by reliable sources about the ongoing harassment faced by Mr. Mohamed Issa Al Tager, a prominent human rights lawyer. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-Harassment-of-lawyer>

BAHRAIN: Open Letter to Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa King of Bahrain

32

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: June 15

Re: judicial harassment against Mr. Nabeel Rajab; visa request for trial observation Excellency,

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), is writing to you to express its deepest concerns over the ongoing judicial harassment against, and arbitrary detention of, Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General[1]. The Observatory announces its intention to observe the upcoming hearing against Mr. Rajab, scheduled for June 24, 2012 in Manama.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-Open-Letter-to-Sheikh>

One day after the release of Nabeel Rajab, 28 countries called on Bahrain to definitely end ongoing repression

33

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: June 29, 2012

FIDH welcomes the decision of the Lower Criminal Court of Manama to release Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Center of Human Rights (BCHR) and Deputy Secretary General of FIDH on 27 June 2012, after 14 days of detention. However, FIDH remains concerned about the ongoing judicial harassment against Nabeel Rajab as four legal cases have been opened against him (a final verdict was reached in one of the cases on 28 June 2012 [1] since May 2012 [2]).

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/One-day-after-the-release-of>

BAHRAIN: Arrest of Mr. Nabeel Rajab

34

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: July 22, 2012

The Observatory has been informed by reliable sources about the new arbitrary arrest of Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General[1]. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-Arrest-of-Mr-Nabeel-Rajab>

Bahrain: Ongoing arbitrary detention and judicial harassment of Nabeel Rajab

35

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: July 26, 2012

The Observatory has been informed by reliable sources about the ongoing judicial harassment of Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General[1].

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Ongoing-arbitrary>

BAHRAIN: Ongoing arbitrary arrests and judicial harassment of human rights defenders

36

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: August 10, 2012

Paris-Geneva, August 9, 2012 – As new cases of arbitrary arrests and ongoing judicial harassment have been reported in Bahrain, the Observatory remains extremely concerned with the very repressive climate faced by human rights defenders in the country.

On August 2, 2012, Ms. Zainab Al-Khawaja was once again arrested while she was protesting alone at Al Qadam roundabout against the arbitrary detention of her father Mr. Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, founder of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), former President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), and former MENA Director at Front Line. While arresting Ms. Al-Khawaja, police officers verbally assaulted her and threatened her with reprisals as she was legitimately resisting their orders to give a blood sample. She was finally forcibly led to the Fort Prison Hospital before being transferred to Isa Town Detention Center, where she was kept handcuffed despite a serious leg injury sustained after security forces shot her with tear gas canisters at close range. On August 4, 2012, the Public Prosecution remanded her into custody for seven days.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-Ongoing-arbitrary-arrests>

37 Bahrain: Ongoing arbitrary detention and judicial harassment of Nabeel Rajab

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: August 14, 2012

The Observatory has been informed by reliable sources about the ongoing judicial harassment of Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General[1].

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Ongoing-arbitrary> 12066

Nabeel Rajab sentenced to 3 years imprisonment

38 Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: August 16, 2012

Today, 16 August 2012, FIDH Deputy Secretary General, Nabeel Rajab, was sentenced by the Bahraini Lower Criminal Court to three years imprisonment for «involvement in illegal practices and inciting gatherings and calling for unauthorised marches through social networking sites», for his «participation in an illegal assembly» and for his «participation in an illegal gathering and calling for a march without prior notification». FIDH strongly condemns this sentence and calls for his immediate and unconditional release.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Nabeel-Rajab-sentenced-to-3-years>

39 Release Bahraini Human Rights activists now, say international groups

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: August 18, 2012

As international human rights groups, we call on member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council who participated in Bahrain's Universal Periodic Review in May 2012 to urge Bahrain to release human rights defenders and peaceful opposition activists, who have been subjected to constant harassment by security forces and the courts for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Release-Bahraini-human-rights>

40 U.S government turns a blind eye to human rights violations in Bahrain: Nabeel Rajab jailed for three years over 'illegal gatherings', but U.S reaction is delayed and weak

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: August 21, 2012

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) welcomes the U.S. State Department's long overdue public statement last week in response to the Bahraini government's sentencing of Nabeel Rajab, a prominent human rights defender, to three years in prison. However, the State Department's call for «the verdict and sentence [to] be reconsidered in the appeals process» is a woefully insufficient response considering Nabeel's predicament and the ongoing repression and human rights violations committed by the government of Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/U-S-government-turns-a-blind-eye>

41 Bahrain: Nabeel Rajab sentenced to three years' imprisonment while judicial harassment continues

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: August 22, 2012

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Nabeel-Rajab-sentenced-to>

42 Bahrain: Acquittal of Nabeel Rajab in one case but arbitrary detention and judicial harassment continue

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: August 23, 2012

The Observatory has been informed by reliable sources about the acquittal of Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General[1], in one of the cases brought against him, but recalls that the latter remains arbitrarily detained on the basis of three other sentences related to three other cases.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Acquittal-of-Nabeel-Rajab-12086>

43 Nabeel Rajab acquitted in appeal in the tweet case, but still detained for three other cases

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: August 23, 2012

The Higher Appeal Court acquitted FIDH Deputy Secretary General Nabeel Rajab this morning in the so-called "tweet case". On July 9, Nabeel Rajab had been sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for alleged libel after he tweeted a message criticising the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on 2 June 2012.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Nabeel-Rajab-acquitted-in-appeal-12089>

44 BAHRAIN: Authorities keep a hard line against human rights defenders despite international outcry

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: September 5, 2012

Paris-Geneva, September 5, 2012 – The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), is gravely concerned at the confirmation of heavy prison terms against Mr. Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, and more generally the repressive line kept by the authorities against human rights defenders. Two weeks after the 3-year prison sentence against prominent human rights defender Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Center for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General, Bahraini courts continue the judicial harassment of human rights defenders in reprisal for their role in the protest movement that erupted in 2011 in the country.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-Authorities-keep-a-hard>

BAHRAIN: Human Rights Defender Nabeel Rajab to remain in detention, appeal trial to resume on September 27

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: September 12, 2012

Paris-Geneva, September 12, 2012 – The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), sent a trial observation mission to Bahrain to observe the opening of the appeal in cases against Mr. Nabeel Rajab. It remains very concerned at the continuation of the policy of silencing and criminalising legitimate human rights activities.

On September 10, 2012, a Bahrain appeals court rejected the requests from the lawyers of Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General, to release him on bail and scheduled the next hearing for September 27.

During this hearing, Mr. Rajab's lawyers also submitted a request to merge the charges of the three cases and another request to add to the case file a report stating that Mr. Rajab had been beaten by the police. On August 16, 2012, the Lower Criminal Court had sentenced Nabeel Rajab, to three years' imprisonment for three cases related to his participation in peaceful gatherings in favour of fundamental freedoms and democracy. He has been detained since July 9, 2012 [1].

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-Human-Rights-Defender-12170>

46 End persecution of human rights defenders in Bahrain now, says international appeal

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: September 18, 2012

As human rights groups lobbying during the 21st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), we call on UNHRC member states participating in Bahrain's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to join us in urging Bahrain to accept the UPR recommendations, to be adopted on 19 September. We particularly urge the international community to call for the unconditional release of human rights defenders, bloggers, peaceful opposition activists, and all those jailed for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and to ensure that those who participate in the UPR process do not face reprisals.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/End-persecution-of-human-rights-12189>

Oral Statement- Bahrain- UPR September 2012

47

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: September 20, 2012

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its member organisations in Bahrain - the Bahrain Center for Human Rights and the Bahrain Human Rights Society - welcome the pledges of the Kingdom of Bahrain to finally support most of the UPR recommendations, in particular those corresponding to the issues raised by the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI), which our organizations find to be of particular importance. However, while certain efforts have been made by the Bahraini authorities to address some of the BICI recommendations, the FIDH report released yesterday concludes that the government continues to deny a majority of Bahrainis their fundamental rights on a daily basis, and that it uses government institutions to attack or control the population, creating an atmosphere of mistrust and fear. Our organisations strongly support the establishment of an international monitoring mechanism with the mandate of monitoring the implementation of the BICI recommendations as well and the overall resolution of the human rights crisis in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Oral-Statement-Bahrain-UPR-12201>

48

BAHRAIN: Ongoing judicial harassment and arbitrary detention of Nabeel Rajab, as criminalisation and threats against human rights defenders go unabated

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: October 2, 2012

Paris-Geneva, October 2, 2012

– The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), deplores the decision to further delay the trial on appeal of Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General. Such ongoing judicial harassment and arbitrary detention is one more evidence of the continued criminalisation of human rights defenders' activities.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-Ongoing-judicial-12239>

Bahrain: Detained Human Rights Defender Nabeel Rajab On Hunger Strike

49

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: October 8, 2012

Paris-Geneva, October 8, 2012 – The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), is highly concerned about the physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and FIDH Deputy Secretary General. The Observatory deplores the ongoing judicial harassment and arbitrary detention of Mr. Rajab.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Detained-Human-Rights-12261>

Bahrain: Rights of the defence undermined in Nabeel Rajab's trial

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: October 18, 2012

Paris-Geneva, October 18, 2012. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), deplores the violation of the rights of the defence during the third hearing of the appeal against the three years ' imprisonment sentence pronounced against Nabeel Rajab, who has been arbitrarily detained since July 9, 2012.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Rights-of-the-defence-12303>

BAHRAIN: The verdict on Nabeel Rajab's appeal expected on December 11

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: November 8, 2012

Paris-Geneva, November 8, 2012. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), deplores the Bahrain Appeals Court's refusal to refer a petition for preliminary ruling on the legality of the law prohibiting demonstrations in Bahrain and to release Nabeel Rajab, who has been arbitrarily detained since July 9, 2012.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-The-verdict-on-Nabeel-12403>

52 Government Crackdown on Opposition Constitutes a Blatant Human Rights Violation

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: November 9, 2012

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) strongly denounces the latest decision by the Ministry of Interior to revoke the Bahraini nationality from 31 political opponents, including former Members of Parliament from Al Wefaq Shia movement, and religious clerics. The Ministry of Interior released an official statement on November 7th 2012 announcing that it has revoked the nationality of 31 Bahraini citizens "according to clause (c) of Article (10) of the Citizenship Law which permits the re-evaluation of nationality when a holder of the Bahraini citizenship causes damage to state security" [1]. FIDH recalls that in the 1980s amidst the government's crackdown on political opposition, the former Emir of Bahrain issued a similar decision where he revoked the citizenship of a number of political opponents.

Details:

www.fidh.org/Government-Crackdown-on-Opposition-12409

FIDH Human Rights defenders in jail in Bahrain

Last Update 12 November 2012

!Free FIDH Deputy Secretary General Nabeel Rajab

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: November 12, 2012

on 16 August 2012, FIDH Deputy Secretary General, Nabeel Rajab, President of Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), was sentenced to three years' imprisonment by the Lower Criminal Court in Manama, Bahrain, in relation to three cases brought against him over the past months.

[Bahrain : Nabeel Rajab sentenced to 3 years imprisonment - FIDH](#)

Aug 16, 2012 ... Today, 16 August 2012, FIDH Deputy Secretary General, Nabeel Rajab, was sentenced by the Bahraini Lower Criminal Court...

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/FIDH-Human-Rights-defenders-in-12417>

Bahrain: Release and dismissal of charges against Mr. Sayed Yousif AIMuhafdhah

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: November 16, 2012

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Release-and-dismissal-of-12455>

BAHRAIN: Nabeel Rajab sentenced to two years in appeal: a sad day for the defence of human rights

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: December 11, 2012

Paris-Geneva, December 11, 2012. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), deplores the two years' imprisonment sentence issued today in appeal against Mr. Nabeel Rajab. His lawyers immediately announced their intention to lodge an appeal before the Cassation Court.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/BAHRAIN-Nabeel-Rajab-sentenced-to-12591>

Bahrain: Arrest of Mr. Sayed Yousif AIMuhafdhah

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: December 18, 2012

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Arrest-of-Mr-Sayed-Yousif-12652>

Open letter to the EU: Need for a stronger positioning on Bahrain

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: December 18, 2012

The EU expressed its strong concerns after the crackdown on the protests which began in February 2011. All along 2011, the Union - through the voice of its High Representative and through Council Conclusions - has regularly called for the respect of the Bahraini people's fundamental rights, including freedom of expression and assembly. The EU has also called for investigations of human rights abuses and expressed concerns around the sentencing of civil society and opposition representatives, demanding review of the sentences. The EU welcomed the publication of the BICI Report in November 2011 and offered its assistance in the implementation of the recommendations in the framework of a Bahraini-owned dialogue.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Open-letter-to-the-EU-Need-for-a-12654>

Bahrain: Arbitrary detention of Mr. Sayed Yousif AlMuafdhah

58

Organization: International Federation for Human Rights

Date: December 26, 2012

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), has received new information and requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.fidh.org/Bahrain-Arbitrary-detention-of-Mr-12675>

Freedom House Delegation Denied Entry to Bahrain

59

Organization: Freedom House

Date: January 23, 2012

Washington

The Bahraini Government's refusal to allow a Freedom House delegation to visit the country calls into serious question its stated intent to engage in meaningful reform.

On January 19, just days before a delegation of Freedom House staff were scheduled to travel to Manama, it received a letter from the Bahraini government indicating that it would not be allowed entry into the country at this time. In the letter, Bahrain's Ambassador to the U.S. wrote that a trip should be delayed until the end of February. The staff had already obtained visas and were in possession of a letter from the U.S. Embassy confirming a scheduled meeting when they received word of the cancellation.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/freedom-house-delegation-denied-entry-bahrain>

60

Voices from Bahrain: Anniversary of the Uprising Freedom House Opposes Arms Sale to Bahrain

Organization: Freedom House

Date: January 30, 2012

Washington

Freedom House opposes the Obama Administration's decision to move forward with an arms sale to Bahrain as that government continues to repress peaceful demonstrations for political reform. On Friday, the U.S. announced that it would move forward with a limited sale of military items to the Bahraini government after a larger, \$53 million sale was put on hold due to opposition in the U.S.

"Even a limited sale of military items to the Bahraini Government sends the wrong message," said David J. Kramer, president of Freedom House. "Until the Bahraini Government ends systemic human rights abuses, allows unfettered access to media and international organizations, and begins implementing meaningful political reform, the United States should not consider the sale of any military items."

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/freedom-house-opposes-arms-sale-bahrain>

61

One Year On, Bahrain Must Address Abuses, Implement Comprehensive Reform

Organization: Freedom House

Date: February 13, 2012

Washington

One year after the start of Bahrain's February 14 "Pearl Roundabout" protests, Freedom House remembers those who have been injured and killed in the subsequent crackdown, urges the Bahraini government to allow peaceful protests to take place without interference, and continues to call for an end to abuses and the implementation of comprehensive reforms.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/one-year-bahrain-must-address-abuses-implement-comprehensive-reform>

U.S. must oppose repression in Bahrain

62

Organization: Freedom House

Date: February 13, 2012

The Hill

With the February 14th anniversary of the Pearl uprising in Bahrain approaching, and as violent crackdowns by the government continue, it is long past time for the U.S. government to commit itself to supporting serious political reforms in the Gulf oil sheikdom that hosts our military's 5th fleet. The American policy in that country should reflect its stated commitment to supporting democracy and human rights in the region. Read the rest of the article [here](#).

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/us-must-oppose-repression-bahrain>

Bahraini Activists Detained, Deported on One-Year Anniversary of Protests

63

Organization: Freedom House

Date: February 14, 2012\

Freedom House is appalled by the Bahraini government's relentless repression of activists before and on the one-year anniversary of the "Pearl Roundabout." Three human rights activists were detained on February 14 – Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, Naji Fateel and Hassan Jaber. On February 12, human rights activist Zainab Alkhawaja, who has documented the protest movement on Twitter using screen name "Angry Arabiya," was arrested. Zainab's father, prominent activist and founder of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, Abdulhadi Alkhawaja, was sentenced to life in prison and recently began a hunger strike. In addition, two activists working with Witness Bahrain – Radhika Sainath and Huwaida Arraf – were deported this past weekend after entering the country in anticipation of the February 14 protests. The Bahraini government continues to crack down on ordinary Bahraini citizens and has failed to implement comprehensive political reform. In recent weeks, Bahrain has prevented journalists and human rights organizations, including Freedom House, from entering the country.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/bahraini-activists-detained-deported-one-year-anniversary-protests>

Nephew of Bahraini Activist Kidnapped, Assaulted

64

Organization: Freedom House

Date: March 21, 2012

Freedom House is shocked by the kidnapping, beating and brutal sexual assault of 16-year-old Ali al-Singace in Bahrain and calls for an immediate investigation into this heinous crime. Al-Singace is the nephew of prominent Bahraini activist Abduljalil al-Singace, who was convicted along with 14 other activists to life in prison. Ali al-Singace has been kidnapped and harassed in the past – intelligence agents reportedly were trying to force him to work as an informant.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/nephew-bahraini-activist-kidnapped-assaulted>

Bahrain Denies Entry for International Freedom of Expression Delegation

65

Organization: Freedom House

Date: May 3, 2012

Washington, D.C.

Freedom House condemns the Bahraini government's sudden and unjustified decision to revoke permission for an international delegation of free expression organizations to visit Bahrain. This decision is the latest example of the government's lack of interest in addressing the serious human rights abuses occurring in the country.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/bahrain-denies-entry-international-freedom-expression-delegation>

Bahrain Must Release Activist Nabeel Rajab

66

Organization: Freedom House

Date: May 7, 2012

Freedom House calls for the release of Bahraini activist Nabeel Rajab who was arrested May 5 upon his return to Manama, Bahrain from Beirut, Lebanon. Rajab, head of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights and the director of the Gulf Center for Human Rights, was detained on previous charges of 'inciting illegal rallies and marches online' using social networking websites and posting 'defamatory' depictions of security forces. His arrest occurred the same day that an international freedom of expression delegation of press freedom advocates, including Freedom House, was scheduled to arrive in Bahrain, before it was denied entry by the government.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/bahrain-must-release-activist-nabeel-rajab>

Slamming the Door on Press Freedom in Bahrain

67

Organization: Freedom House

Date: May 8, 2012

I was supposed to be in Bahrain this past weekend to lead an international freedom of expression mission with representatives of several prominent advocacy groups, including the Gulf Centre for Human Rights, the Committee to Protect Journalists, PEN International, Index on Censorship, and Reporters Without Borders. However, after approving our mission in early April, and even offering to arrange meetings with relevant officials, Bahrain's Ministry of Human Rights and Social Development decided to deny permission for the joint mission just days before we were to depart, meaning our organizations had already incurred travel and other expenses. The letter we received cited "new guidelines" that prohibit more than one organization from visiting at a time, and assured us that this was "merely an organizational matter." But given that this is the second time this year that Freedom House has been denied entry to Bahrain, the ministry's explanation seems rather dubious.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/blog/slaming-door-press-freedom-bahrain>

Freedom House Opposes Sale of Arms to Bahraini Government

68

Organization: Freedom House

Date: May 14, 2012

Freedom House opposes the Obama Administration's decision to resume the sale of arms to government of Bahrain and calls on Congress to withhold approval on the transfer until the Bahraini government ends systematic rights abuses, allows unfettered access to media and international observers, and implements meaningful political reform.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/freedom-house-opposes-sale-arms-bahraini-government>

Freedom House Welcomes Aid Conditions on Egypt and Bahrain

69

Organization: Freedom House

Date: May 25, 2012

Freedom House welcomes the Senate Appropriations Committee's decision to restrict funding for Egypt and Bahrain if the countries continue to commit human rights abuses.

On May 24 the Appropriations Committee approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, which provides \$ 52.1 billion for international affairs and foreign assistance. The bill would require the Secretary of State to certify that Egypt's government is 'democratically elected' and that the country is working to protect basic rights before releasing the \$1.3 billion in military aid to Egypt. This certification can be waived for reasons of national security. The bill also deducts the \$5 million paid by the U.S. government in bail to release American NGO workers from Cairo in March 2012.

Details:

www.freedomhouse.org/article/freedom-house-welcomes-aid-conditions-egypt-and-bahrain

Prison Sentences for Medics Proof of Bahrain's Failure to Reform

70

Organization: Freedom House

Date: Jun 14, 2012

Freedom House strongly condemns the decision today by a Bahraini appeals court to issue prison sentences to nine Bahraini medics charged for their role in the country's pro-democracy movement. While the ruling acquitted nine of the 20 medics previously convicted in a military court, the continued persecution of the remaining 11 medical professionals—including two medics sentenced to 15 years in absentia—as well as the ongoing military occupation of the Salmaniya hospital are clear violations of Bahraini citizens' right to freedom of expression and access to medical care. Freedom House calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all medical personnel, the dropping of all charges, and the withdrawal of all security forces from hospitals.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/prison-sentences-medics-proof-bahrain%E2%80%99s-failure-reform>

71 Freedom House Opposes Bahraini Government's Nominee for UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

Organization: Freedom House

Date: July 5, 2012

Freedom House strongly opposes the nomination of Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) Advisory Committee.

According to the United Nations, the purpose of the UN Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee is to "provide expertise to the Council in the manner and form requested by the Council, focusing mainly on studies and research-based advice." Al Faihani—nominated for a committee seat by the Bahraini government—has served for many years in various government positions, mostly in the Foreign Ministry. His expertise is in presenting the Bahraini government in the 'most positive light possible.' In 2011, Al-Faihani denied that Bahrainis were being tortured and were taken away by "masked men" from their homes when speaking to Human Rights First; he also claimed that those who have been arrested were shown an arrest warrant and "proper documentation." None of these assertions is true, as has been amply documented by Freedom House and other international human rights organizations.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/freedom-house-opposes-bahraini-government%E2%80%99s-nominee-un-human-rights-council-advisory>

72 Freedom House Welcomes Prosecution of Police Who Tortured Doctors in Bahrain

Organization: Freedom House

Date: August 6, 2012

Freedom House welcomes the decision by Bahrain's chief prosecutor to charge police officers with torturing a group of doctors arrested during anti-government protests earlier last year. The move is a good first step but must be followed up with the immediate prosecution of all law enforcement officials who have resorted to illegal means to curb dissent, including torture and arbitrary arrests.

15 doctors at the Salmaniya hospital in Manama who were detained by authorities last February for allegedly backing the opposition brought mistreatment charges against 15 police officers.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/freedom-house-welcomes-prosecution-police-who-tortured-doctors-bahrain>

73 Sentencing of Activist Shows Failure of Political Reform in Bahrain

Organization: Freedom House

Date: August 16, 2012

Freedom House denounces the sentencing of human rights activist Nabeel Rajab to three years imprisonment in Bahrain on trumped up charges. This harsh sentence is clear evidence of the failure of the government to follow through on promised political reforms and a reflection of the ongoing repressive environment for those that oppose the regime. Freedom House calls on Bahraini authorities to immediately release and drop all charges against him, and to implement reforms to secure freedom of expression without fear of harm or prosecution.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/sentencing-activist-shows-failure-political-reform-bahrain>

74 Life Sentences for Bahraini Activists Show Government Disdain for Reform

Organization: Freedom House

Date: September 4, 2012

Washington

Freedom House denounces an appeals court decision in Bahrain to uphold prison sentences for 20 Bahraini opposition activists, including the life sentences for Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, Ebrahim Sharif, and six other prominent activists accused of "plotting to overthrow the government." These harsh sentences further demonstrate the failure of the Bahraini government to follow through on reforms and reflect the ongoing repressive environment for those opposing the actions of the regime. Bahraini authorities must immediately release the activists and drop all charges against them.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/life-sentences-bahraini-activists-show-government-disdain-reform>

75 Bahrain Threatens to Extend Internet Repression

Organization: Freedom House

Date: September 11, 2012

The Bahraini government's recent declaration that it will prosecute persons who criticize "national and public figures" online is an alarming indicator that the government is extending its crackdown from the offline to online realm. Freedom House condemns this threat to severely curtail free expression online.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/bahrain-threatens-extend-internet-repression>

75 Bahrain Objects to Freedom House Criticism, Freedom House Rebutts.

Organization: Freedom House
Date: September 26, 2012

Foreign Policy
The government of Bahrain recently sent a rebuttal letter to Foreign Policy in response to commentary written by Vanessa Tucker, director of Freedom House's Countries at the Crossroads report about ongoing lack of reform efforts as well as continued human rights violations in the gulf country. In the letter, the government attempts to refute the report's findings. Vanessa, in return, gave a stiff rebuttal to the letter.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/bahrain-objects-freedom-house-criticism-freedom-house-rebutts>

76 Freedom House Condemns Unjust Sentencing of Zainab al-Khawaja in Bahrain

Organization: Freedom House
Date: September 26, 2012

Freedom House condemns the sentencing of Bahraini human rights activist Zainab al-Khawaja and calls for her immediate release as well as the release of all those unjustly imprisoned for expressions of peaceful political dissent in Bahrain.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/freedom-house-condemns-unjust-sentencing-zainab-al-khawaja-bahrain>

77 Bahrain Stifles Free Assembly with Ban on Public Demonstrations

Organization: Freedom House
Date: October 31, 2012

The decision by the Bahraini government to ban all public rallies and demonstrations is a glaring example of its failure to demonstrate a meaningful commitment to implementing democratic reforms or end human rights abuses that have continued to escalate since February 2011. Freedom House condemns the move and calls on the government to reverse the ban immediately.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/bahrain-stifles-free-assembly-ban-public-demonstrations>

78 Bahrain Revokes Citizenship for 31 Activists

Organization: Freedom House
Date: November 7, 2012

Freedom House condemns the decision by the Bahraini government to revoke the citizenship of 31 opposition activists, in violation of international human rights standards, and calls on it to reverse this decision immediately. The move is one of several in recent days that further highlights the government's systematic crackdown on opposition activists and human rights defenders and is a clear sign of its failure to demonstrate a meaningful commitment to democratic reform. In October, it banned all public rallies and gatherings in an attempt to 'maintain public order and prevent violence,' threatening those who organize demonstrations with legal action.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/bahrain-revokes-citizenship-31-activists>

79 Bahrain Must Commit to Real Reform One Year After Commission's Recommendations

Organization: Freedom House
Date: November 23, 2012

Washington
Freedom House calls on the Government of Bahrain to honor its stated commitment to undertake serious reform and end its campaign of repression against peaceful activists on the occasion of the first anniversary of the release of the findings of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI). One year later, few of the Commission's 26 recommendations have been implemented by the Bahraini Government and political detentions, police abuse, and the targeting of peaceful protesters continues.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/bahrain-must-commit-real-reform-one-year-after-commissionE2%80%99s-recommendations>

80 One year on, Bahrain is no closer to reform

Organization: Freedom House
Date: December 4, 2012

he Jerusalem Post
by Sarah Trister

It has been a year since the Kingdom of Bahrain received accolades for commissioning and then agreeing to implement the findings of a report investigating the protests and violence that occurred in the country from February to March, 2011.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/one-year-bahrain-no-closer-reform>

81 Bahrain: Freedom in the World 2012

Organization: Freedom House

Date: 2012

Overview:

In February 2011, peaceful protesters launched a campaign calling for democratic political reform. The authorities responded with violence and repression, killing more than 50 people over the course of the year and wounding thousands. King Hamad imposed martial law from mid-March through June. In that time, security forces arrested hundreds of demonstrators and subjected many of them to torture. Journalists, bloggers, students, high-profile human rights and political activists, and medical personnel who treated wounded protesters all faced detention, and in many cases lengthy prison sentences. In addition, several thousand workers were fired for supporting the protest movement. Bahrain's main opposition political society, Al-Wefaq, withdrew its 18 members from the parliament over the crackdown, and boycotted interim elections that were held in September to fill the empty seats. In November, a government-appointed commission found that Bahraini security forces used excessive force in repressing the protest movement and that, in spite of government claims to the contrary, there were no connections between Iran and the uprising. The BICI report offered a number of recommendations to resolve the country's political impasse, none of which had been implemented by year's end.

Details:

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2012/bahrain-0>

82 Alert: Human rights defender Nabeel Rajab attacked, hospitalised

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 6, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 6 January 2012 - The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) and Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) hold the authorities in Bahrain fully responsible for the life and safety of human rights defender Nabeel Rajab.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/06/rajab_attacked/

83 Alert: BCHR fears for life of imprisoned minor

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 13, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - The Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) is alarmed and greatly concerned for the wellbeing of Ameer AbdulSamad Fathi (15 years old). Ameer was arrested at five in the morning on 2 January in his home. He suffers from a chronic and life threatening illness that requires that he be on continuous medication and monitored while sleeping due to a risk of suffocation. Because of the seriousness of his condition, bloggers have named this child «the next martyr.»

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/13/abdulsamad_detained_life_threatened/

84 Report: Athletes targeted for exercising their rights as country prepares for the Formula One

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 16, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 11 January 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) condemns the continuing arrests and unfair trials against hundreds of pro-democracy protesters in Bahrain for exercising their legitimate rights to free expression and peaceful assembly. This includes Bahraini race car champion Mohammed AlKhunaizi, who was sentenced to two years' imprisonment just a few days after the confirmation of the placement of Bahrain in the Formula One race calendar for 2012.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/16/formula_one_athletes/

85 Alert: BCHR concerned over «show trial» of police officers accused of torturing two detainees to death

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 17, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 13 January 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) expresses concern over the show trial of five police officers allegedly implicated in the torture and death of two detainees in custody in April 2011. The trial of the policemen accused of participating in the «beating» that led to the death of online journalist Zakariya Rashid Hassan AlAsheri (40 years old) and Ali Isa Saqer (31 years old) began on 11 January 2012, 8 months after the first announcement of their referral to court.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/17/asherি_case/

**86 Joint action
International Mission to Bahrain Report says promises for reform unfulfilled, while situation deteriorates**

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 24, 2012

(ANHRI/Index on Censorship/WiPC/IFEX) - 24 January 2012 – Tunis/London – A report from a six-member mission of international organisations to Bahrain last November called out Bahraini authorities for failing to deliver on promises of reform, despite a highly-touted commission of inquiry which made numerous recommendations. Rights violations continue on a daily basis, and people are still jailed on long sentences, including prominent human rights activists jailed for life. Yet the world has not been paying attention to this forgotten country during a year of turmoil in the region.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/24/mission_report/

Alert: Human rights defender Nabeel Rajab attacked, hospitalised

87

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 6, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 6 January 2012 - The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) and Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) hold the authorities in Bahrain fully responsible for the life and safety of human rights defender Nabeel Rajab.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/06/rajab_attacked/

Alert: Freedom House delegation denied entry

88

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 24, 2012

(Freedom House/IFEX) - 23 January 2012 - The Bahraini Government's refusal to allow a Freedom House delegation to visit the country calls into serious question its stated intent to engage in meaningful reform.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/24/freedom_house_denied_entry/

Government's promises of reform unfulfilled, mission announces at Arab Free Press Forum

89

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 25, 2012

Bahrain has failed to deliver on promises of reform despite a highly-touted commission of inquiry, says a report from an international mission to the country. «Justice Denied in Bahrain: Freedom of Expression and Assembly Curtailed» finds that rights violations continue daily, and individuals jailed during the government crackdown in February and March 2011 remain in prison

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/25/mission_report_afpf/

Alert: Jailed activists begin hunger strike

90

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 30, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) calls for an urgent intervention from the international community to put an end to the continued violations of human rights, including the continued detention of hundreds of political detainees in appalling conditions, despite the acknowledgment of the BICI report that confirmed that they were subject to arrests and torture for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly. The international community's silence over the Bahraini regime's continuous crimes is leading the people of Bahrain to take desperate measures and risking their own lives.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/30/hunger_strike/

Campaigns and Advocacy: Freedom House opposes US arms sale

91

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 30, 2012

(Freedom House/IFEX) - 30 January 2012 - Freedom House opposes the Obama Administration's decision to move forward with an arms sale to Bahrain as that government continues to repress peaceful demonstrations for political reform. On Friday, the U.S. announced that it would move forward with a limited sale of military items to the Bahraini government after a larger, \$53 million sale was put on hold due to opposition in the U.S.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/30/arms_sale/

Campaigns and Advocacy: BCHR concerned about Bahrain's election to UNESCO education bureau

92

Organization: IFEX

Date: January 31, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 29 January 2012 - On 25 January 2012, Bahrain was elected Vice-President of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE), despite the country's record of human rights violations and the targeting by the Ministry of Education of members of the educational sector, including students, teachers, and professors. The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) condemns the UNESCO's decision to turn a blind eye on human rights and educational violations in Bahrain, especially as one of the main roles of the organisation is to protect and nurture individual human rights. This act does not serve to elevate the cause of human rights, rather it expresses support for a regime that is consistently targeting educators and students for exercising their right to freedom of expression. BCHR demands that Bahrain's membership in the UNESCO IBE be frozen, and contingent on the authorities taking steps to put an end to the targeting of members of the education sector.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/01/31/unesco_vicepresidency/

Alert: Activists sentence upheld; others await trial

93

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 1, 2012

(ANHRI/IFEX) – 1 February 2012 – Today, the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) denounced the Bahraini authorities for restricting freedom of expression and media freedoms. In its session on 30 January, the Bahraini Cassation Court upheld the ruling of the military court in the case of activist Fadeelah Mubarak, who was sentenced to 18 months in prison for participating in peaceful protests and listening to anti-regime songs. In addition, media professional Waheed Alballoushy is also on trial today in the lower criminal court. Female journalist Reem Khalifa will stand trial tomorrow, 2 February.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/01/sentence_upheld/

Take action!

Send flowers to the people of Bahrain

94

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 8, 2012

Tuesday, 14 February marks the one-year anniversary of Bahrain's uprising. But as IFEX has recently reported, human rights violations continue daily: peaceful protests are met with bullets, tanks and teargas while human rights defenders remain unjustly jailed - some of them sentenced to life in prison merely for calling for peaceful reform.

Details:

<http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/08/flowers4bahrain/>

Alert: Authorities urged to grant entry to journalists

95

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 9, 2012

(CPJ/IFEX) - New York, February 9, 2012 - Bahrain has rejected at least six journalists' applications for entry visas ahead of the anniversary of antigovernment protests that swept the country in February 2011, according to news reports. The Committee to Protect Journalists calls on authorities to allow journalists into the country to carry out their work freely.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/09/journalists_denied_entry/

Protesters, IFEX members mark uprising anniversary

96

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 13, 2012

Bahrain spent the week preparing for Tuesday's one-year anniversary of its uprising by deploying thousands of security forces to confront anti-government protesters, rejecting journalists' applications for entry visas, and arresting and deporting two international observers from the U.S. IFEX and its members are calling for support on 14 February to help avoid further violence.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/13/uprising_anniversary/

Alert: Two American activists arrested, deported; news website blocked

97

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 14, 2012

(RSF/IFEX) - 13 February 2012 - The authorities in Bahrain are still dragging their heels over allowing foreign journalists into the country in the run-up to the first anniversary of the uprising in the Gulf kingdom on 14 February, when demonstrations are expected.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/14/activists_deported/

Campaigns and Advocacy: One year on, authorities urged to address abuses, implement comprehensive reform

98

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 14, 2012

(Freedom House/IFEX) - Washington, February 13, 2012 - One year after the start of Bahrain's February 14 "Pearl Roundabout" protests, Freedom House remembers those who have been injured and killed in the subsequent crackdown, urges the Bahraini government to allow peaceful protests to take place without interference, and continues to call for an end to abuses and the implementation of comprehensive reforms.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/14/one_year_on/

Alert: Blogger and activist Zainab Al-Khawaja detained

99

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 15, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 14 February, 2012 - A 28 year old Bahraini blogger and activist, Zainab Al-Khawaja (@angryarabiya) was arrested on 12 February 2012, while marching peacefully towards the Pearl Roundabout in Manama. It is the second time that she has been arrested by the security forces in Bahrain in the last two months. Reports confirmed that Zainab Al-Khawaja has been questioned by the Public Prosecution Office and charged with "illegal gathering of more than five people". She will be kept in police custody for 7 days pending investigation.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/15/zainab_alkhawaja_detained/

Activists attacked, arrested on protest anniversary

100

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 15, 2012

On Tuesday's one-year anniversary of Bahrain's uprising, security forces fired tear gas and stun grenades at protesters trying to retake Pearl Square, the epicentre of last year's protests, and arrested dozens - including several international observers, report the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) and news reports.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/15/anniversary_attacks_detentions/

Alert: Two human rights activists detained

101

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 17, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 16 February 2012 - On February 14, 2012, at 16:20 the security forces in Bahrain arrested two human rights defenders, Naji Fateel and Hasan Al-Jaber, while participating in a march towards the Pearl Roundabout in Manama city, exercising their right to peaceful assembly towards this symbolic Roundabout, the centre of last year protests. Human rights defenders Naji Fateel and Hasan Al-Jaber have since been held in police custody at Noaim Police Station.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/17/human_rights_defenders_arrested/

Alert: Human rights defender renews hunger strike, calls on EU states to take more action.

103

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 24, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 23 February 2012 - Human rights defender and previous MENA Coordinator for Front Line Defenders, Mr. Abdulhadi Alkhawaja (51 years old), has entered his 15th day on open hunger strike for freedom in his detention in Bahrain prison, which he started on 8 February 2012. His health is deteriorating as he has lost 9 kilos, and signs of fatigue are clearly showing on him. He has difficulty moving and concentrating. He has been taken to the hospital multiple times in the past days due to a drop in his blood sugar, but he is continuing his hunger strike.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/24/imprisoned_hrd_alkhawaja/

Report: Human Rights Watch reports on unfair trials targeting peaceful demonstrators, activists.

104

Organization: IFEX

Date: February 28, 2012

(Human Rights Watch/IFEX) - Geneva, February 28, 2012 – Bahrain has routinely convicted hundreds of opposition activists and others of politically motivated charges in unfair trials, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. The government should void the convictions in trials before Bahrain's military and civilian courts that fell far short of international fair trial standards, Human Rights Watch said.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/02/28/unfair_trials/

Joint action: Fifty rights groups call on King to free Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, whose life is at risk in prison

105

Organization: IFEX

Date: March 5, 2012

UPDATE: Since the initial publication of this joint appeal, more signatories have been added to the list below, and the text has been modified to reflect that there are now 50 signatories. See [updates from BCHR on Al-Khawaja](#), at risk of dying in prison while still on hunger strike

(BCHR/IFEX) - 5 March 2012 - The following is a letter by 50 IFEX members and other rights groups calling on the Bahrain authorities to release from prison human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, whose life is at risk after almost four weeks on hunger strike:

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/03/05/free_alkhawaja/

**106 Campaigns and Advocacy
On World Day Against Cyber Censorship, BCHR calls for action from authorities**

Organization: IFEX

Date: March 12, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 12 March 2012 - On the occasion of the World Day Against Cyber Censorship, Bahrain continues its violations and repressive measures against netizens and internet freedom, with the help of western technologies.

Amid last year's events, many websites were reported blocked due to their reporting on casualties among protestors and uploading photos and videos of peaceful protests being brutally attacked by security forces. Website administrators were arrested and tortured.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/03/12/day_against_censorship/

107 Report: BCHR documents human rights violations post-BICI Report.

Organization: IFEX

Date: March 26, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 26 March 2012 - In its Post BICI Report released today, BCHR presents the main findings from the ongoing efforts to document human rights violations occurring in the state of Bahrain since the publication of the Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) in November 2012. Our investigative report supports the rights of victims, no matter their political or religious background. It is unaffiliated with the Bahraini government or any foreign government and is firmly centered on domestic civil society advocacy of human rights.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/03/26/post_bici/

108 At least 31 extrajudicial killings since official commission of inquiry, says Bahrain Center for Human Rights

Organization: IFEX

Date: March 28, 2012

Since an official commission of inquiry last November recommended reforms to address Bahrain's human rights violations in last year's uprisings, the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) has documented at least 31 «extrajudicial killings» in Bahrain.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/03/28/post_bici_reports/

109 Report: Vital reform commitments unmet, finds Human Rights Watch

Organization: IFEX

Date: March 29, 2012

(Human Rights Watch/IFEX) - Beirut, March 28, 2012 - Bahrain's government has not carried out critical recommendations by the independent commission that looked into extensive human rights violations during the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 2011, Human Rights Watch said today.

Details:
http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/03/29/reform_commitments_unmet/

110 Joint action: Nine human rights organisations raise freedom of expression demands with Arab League

Organization: IFEX

Date: March 29, 2012

(ANHRI/IFEX) - 29 March 2012 - The following is an appeal to the Arab League highlighting four concerns about freedom of expression violations in Bahrain, signed by nine human rights organisations:

Mr. Nabil El-Araby
Secretary General
League of Arab States
Respected Representatives of Member States
Baghdad – Iraq
Dear Mr. El-Araby:

Details:
http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/03/29/arableague_demands/

111 Alert: Armed civilians affiliated with security forces kill citizen journalist

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 2, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 31 March 2012 - Bahrain Center for Human Rights condemns the continued use of excessive force against unarmed protesters and the targeting of media people who cover these protests, which has now resulted in the death of cameraman Ahmed Ismael Hassan AlSamadi.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/04/02/alsamadi_killed/

Take action!

Join our call to save human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja

112

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 4, 2012

UPDATES:

- Al-Khawaja visited by family, forcibly fed despite hunger strike (BCHR, 29 April 2012)
- Re-trial ordered of jailed human rights defenders, writers and bloggers (PEN International WiPC, 1 May 2012)

Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, renowned human rights advocate and past president of IFEX member the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) has been on hunger strike in prison since 8 February to protest a life sentence for peacefully expressing his right to freedom of expression. He pledged to continue his protest until "freedom or death." His life is now in serious danger and there may be irreparable damage to his health.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/04/04/save_abdulhadi/

Alert: Human rights activist in critical stage of hunger strike

113

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 4, 2012

UPDATE: Urgent appeal: Abdulhadi Alkhawaja may be on his deathbed (BCHR, 18 April 2012)

(BCHR/IFEX) - 03 April 2012 - Prominent human rights defender Abdulhadi Alkhawaja, who is on his 55th day of hunger strike, is entering a critical phase where his life is at stake. Alkhawaja had two doctors accompanying him at all times last night and today he is being moved to the fort prison due to lack of the necessary medical equipment in the central Jaw prison. There are fears that he may go into a coma at any time, as his blood sugar and blood pressure have both dropped even further.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/04/02/alsamadi_killed/

Alert: Authorities prohibit distribution of books at international fair.

114

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 5, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 3 April 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) expresses its concern at the continued restrictions imposed on the freedom of press and publishing, with the local authorities prohibiting the distribution of several books at the Bahrain International Book Fair, held between 22 March and 1 April 2012.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/04/05/books_seized/

Report: Press freedom situation worsens as authorities attempt to whitewash actions.

115

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 6, 2012

(WAN-IFRA/IFEX) - Inspired by events in Tunisia and Egypt, the people of Bahrain took to the streets on 14 February, 2011 demanding change. More than a year after protests began on Pearl Roundabout, the epicentre of the Bahraini revolution, many argue that little has changed for the better. For the press, this sentiment is echoed most acutely.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/04/06/whitewashing_regime/

Alert: Human rights defender Nabeel Rajab denied entry into Egypt

116

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 12, 2012

(CIHRS/IFEX) - 11 April 2012 - The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) denounces the policy that the Egyptian security forces are taking vis-à-vis Bahraini human rights defenders. For the second time in less than two weeks, the Egyptian authorities at the Cairo International Airport prevented a prominent Bahraini human rights defender from entering the country. Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) and the Gulf Center for Human Rights (GCHR) has been told by security personnel at the Cairo International Airport that he is banned from entering Egypt.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/egypt/2012/04/12/rajab_denied_entry/

Campaigns and Advocacy: Grand Prix decision ignores abuses, says Human Rights Watch.

117

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 16, 2012

(Human Rights Watch/IFEX) - Beirut, April 14, 2012 - The decision to go ahead with the Grand Prix on April 22, 2012, gives Bahrain's rulers the opportunity they are seeking to obscure the seriousness of the country's human rights situation, Human Rights Watch said today. The decision was announced on April 13 by the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the Formula One Teams Association. As part of a major public relations campaign to clean up Bahrain's image following the brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protests in 2011, the Bahraini authorities have been lobbying to have the Bahrain Grand Prix reinstated in 2012. The event was cancelled in 2011 because of political unrest. Not only is the event expected to generate significant income, but it is also being used by the Bahraini authorities to support their claim that the political and human rights crisis in the country is over.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/04/16/grand_prix/

118 Joint action: Fifty IFEX members and partners call for freedom for Bahraini human rights defenders, bloggers and activists

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 17, 2012

UPDATE: Since the initial publication of this joint appeal, more signatories have been added to the list below, and the text has been modified to reflect that there are now 50 signatories. On 30 April, the Court of Cassation ordered a retrial. The next hearing is 21 May 2012.

(WiPC/IFEX) - The following is a letter signed by 50 IFEX members and partners to the King of Bahrain:

His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa

King of Bahrain

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/04/17/free_defenders/

119 Alert: Crackdown on rights activists escalates ahead of F1

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 19, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 18 April 2012 - In an attempt to silence the pro-democracy movement which started in Bahrain on 14 February of last year, the Bahraini authorities have escalated their violent crackdown against pro-democracy protesters and human rights activists. Villages and houses have been attacked continuously for the past few days. Pre-dawn house raids are being conducted and dozens of protesters are either arrested or wanted for arrest. As the Formula 1 is approaching, human rights activists working with the Bahrain Center for human rights are being targeted with arrests and prosecution, in an effort to undermine their work in reporting the violence against protesters during the Formula 1.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/04/19/escalating_crackdown/

120 Alert: Protester killed, activists arrested as F1 wraps up

Organization: IFEX

Date: April 23, 2012

UPDATE: Foreign journalists released, deported as crackdown on news around Formula One continues (CPJ, 23 April 2012)

(BCHR/IFEX) - 23 April 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights has reported on free expression and other human rights violations that occurred over the course of the Formula 1 Grand Prix.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/04/23/formula_one_wraps_up/

121 Alert: Re-trial ordered of jailed human rights defenders, writers and bloggers.

Organization: IFEX

Date: May 1, 2012

(WiPC/IFEX) - 1 May 2012 - PEN International's Writers in Prison Committee reiterates its protest at the continued detention of academic, blogger and human rights activist Dr Abduljalil Al-Singace and human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, after an appeals court ordered a retrial of their case but ruled that they should remain in jail pending a new verdict. No date has yet been set for the re-trial, which will be heard in a civilian court.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/05/01/retrial_ordered/

122 Retrial announced for al-Khawaja and other activists

Organization: IFEX

Date: May 2, 2012

Bahrain has announced a retrial for hunger-striking political activist Abdulhadi al-Khawaja and 20 others accused of plotting against the state in the Arab Spring protests last year, report the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), the Writers in Prison Committee (WiPC) of PEN International and Human Rights Watch. The IFEX members are disappointed that the activists remain in custody pending the retrial, and are calling for their immediate release.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/05/02/al_khawaja_retrial/

123 Alert: Prominent rights activist Nabeel Rajab arrested

Organization: IFEX

Date: May 7, 2012

UPDATE: Activist's trial scheduled for 16 May (Human Rights Watch, 15 May 2012) (BCHR/IFEX) - 5 May 2012 - The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) continue to express grave concern in regards to the targeting of human rights defenders in Bahrain by the authorities. The authorities in Bahrain have used many methods in attempting to prevent and/or limit human rights defenders in Bahrain from carrying out their work of documenting and reporting on human rights violations in the country.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/05/07/rajab_arrested/

124 Joint action: One hundred organisations call to end assault on freedom of speech, and to free all detained human rights defenders and netizens

Organization: IFEX

Date: May 18, 2012

UPDATE: The president of IFEX member Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), Nabeel Rajab, was released on bail on 28 May, but subsequently re-arrested, and sentenced to three years in prison on 16 August. Take action calling for his freedom here. Many other human rights defenders remain in prison, including BCHR's founder Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, who ended his hunger strike after 110 days, but his life sentence was confirmed on appeal on 4 September 2012. His daughter, Zainab Al-Khawaja, was released on 29 May 2012, but re-arrested. Their cases are ongoing.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/05/18/free_rightsdefenders/

125 Alert: Authorities arrest critical journalist

Organization: IFEX

Date: May 22, 2012

UPDATE: Critical Bahraini journalist detained for four months (CPJ, 13 September 2012) (CPJ/IFEX) - New York, May 17, 2012 - A journalist who criticized Bahrain's proposed union with Saudi Arabia was seized from his home near Manama on Wednesday and his whereabouts are unknown. The Committee to Protect Journalists called today for his immediate release.

Ahmed Radhi, a freelance journalist who contributes to local news websites, was arrested by security forces at 4 a.m. after they broke down his door, according to news reports. His condition and any charges against him are unknown, news reports said.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/05/22/radhi_arrested/

126 Campaigns and Advocacy: ARTICLE 19's submission to the Universal Periodic Review

Organization: IFEX

Date: May 22, 2012

(ARTICLE 19/IFEX) - 18 May 2012 - ARTICLE 19 has called on the UN member states to urge Bahrain to commit to preventing harassment of journalists and human rights defenders, stop controlling and censoring the media, increase internet freedom and end violations of the right to peaceful protest.

The government of Bahrain will appear before the Human Rights Council on Monday, 21 May, for their quadrennial human rights review.

Details:

<http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/05/22/upr/>

127 Report: BCHR calls on international community to keep attention on Bahrain

Organization: IFEX

Date: May 28, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - London/Geneva, 25 May 2012 - UN member states expressed strong concerns over Bahrain's human rights record during the second cycle of their Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva on Tuesday. States issued a total of 176 recommendations, a marked improvement from the 9 recommendations issued by states when Bahrain was the first state chosen for review in the first cycle in 2008. This indicates that states are taking the UPR process more seriously and know they cannot let Bahrain's human rights abuses pass without censure.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/05/28/upr_session/

128 Alert: Lawyer faces blackmail attempt

Organization: IFEX

Date: June 6, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 5 June 2012 - The Gulf Center for Human Rights (GCHR), the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), the Bahrain Rehabilitation Against Violence Organization (BRAVO), and the Bahrain Human Rights Society (BHRS), express grave concern regarding the act of humiliation, intimidation and violation to the privacy directed at the prominent human rights lawyer, Co-founder and Executive Director of Bravo Mohamed Al-Tajer, days after his participation at the Bahrain UPR meetings in Geneva.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/06/06/altajer_harassed/

129 Alert: Leading human rights defender Nabeel Rajab arrested once again

Organization: IFEX

Date: June 8, 2012

UPDATE: Nabeel Rajab's detention has been extended until 19 June (BCHR/IFEX) - 8 June 2012 - On the morning of 6 June 2012, prominent human rights defender, Nabeel Rajab was re-arrested after he got a summons the day before on charges of "vilifying". He was previously arrested on 5 May 2012 at the airport in Manama upon his arrival from Beirut and charged with insulting the statuary bodies, participating in illegal assembly, and calling others to join through social networking sites. On 6 May 2012, Nabeel Rajab was brought before the Criminal Court of First Instance in Manama and charged with incitement of illegal rallies by using the social media networking. The court remanded him in custody for seven days pending the investigation. He was released on bail on 28 May 2012.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/06/08/rajab_arrested/

130

Campaigns and Advocacy: Rights organisations alarmed over threats to civil society after trip to UN

Organization: IFEX

Date: June 8, 2012\

(WiPC/IFEX) - 8 June 2012 - International human rights organisations who participated in the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bahrain in Geneva in May are alarmed at threats made against Bahraini civil society members who were present. During the UPR, Bahrain's human rights track record came under fire from numerous governments, prompting the threat of reprisals against those who had been in Geneva. Some of the civil society members are among those facing lengthy prison sentences for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/06/08/geneva_threats/

131

Alert: Court acquits nine medics, upholds sentences of others

Organization: IFEX

Date: June 15, 2012

(Human Rights Watch/IFEX) - Beirut, June 16, 2012 – A Bahrain court of appeal on June 14, 2012, upheld the convictions of nine doctors and medical personnel for transparently political offenses such as "inciting and participating in an illegal gathering," Human Rights Watch said today. The charges, which stem from protests in 2011, violate basic rights such as free assembly, Human Rights Watch said.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/06/15/court_upholds_sentences/

132

Alert: Police attack peaceful protest, arrest five protesters

Organization: IFEX

Date: June 27, 2012

(Human Rights Watch/IFEX) - Beirut, June 27, 2012 – Bahraini authorities should immediately end the use of security forces to unlawfully attack peaceful protesters, Human Rights Watch said today. Riot police used teargas and sound bombs to disperse a demonstration on June 22, 2012, called by Al-Wefaq, Bahrain's largest opposition group.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/06/27/protest_attacked/

133

Alert: Authorities should free injured protesters for urgent medical care, says Human Rights Watch.

Organization: IFEX

Date: June 28, 2012

(Human Rights Watch/IFEX) - Beirut, June 28, 2012 - Bahraini authorities should quash the sentences of two protesters unfairly convicted by military courts for participating in pro-democracy demonstrations in February and March 2011, Human Rights Watch said today. Both men are in need of urgent medical treatment due to the long-term effects of injuries from security forces' gunfire during the demonstrations. Their families say they have been denied the medical care they need.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/06/28/injured_protesters/

134

Report: BCHR publishes second part of post-BICI report

Organization: IFEX

Date: June 28, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - Copenhagen - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) has published the second part of its post Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) report, regarding ongoing human rights violations in Bahrain since 26 March 2012.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/06/28/transformed_post_bici_report/

135

Alert: Police attack activist, journalist with teargas canister, grenade.

Organization: IFEX

Date: July 5, 2012

(Human Rights Watch/IFEX) - 4 July 2012 - Bahrain authorities should investigate police actions during recent demonstrations that injured one activist and narrowly missed injuring a journalist.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/07/05/teargas_attack/

136

Alert: Nabeel Rajab imprisoned for three months over tweets

Organization: IFEX

Date: July 10, 2012

UPDATE: Three months' jail sentence confirmed (BCHR, 4 August 2012)

(BCHR/IFEX) - 9 July 2012 - The Gulf Center for human Rights (GCHR) and Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) express their concerns regarding the continued campaign of judicial harassment against leading human rights defender Nabeel Rajab and his recent arrest and detention for views and statements he expressed over Twitter.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/07/10/rajab_sentenced/

Alert: Opposition activists testify about torture for first time

137

Organization: IFEX

Date: July 13, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - For the first time since their arrest in March 2011, the 13 leading opposition activists who have been sentenced for up to life by the military court on fabricated charges of "attempting to overthrow the regime", have been given a chance to speak in court. Over 5 long hearing sessions, between 22 May 2012 and 19 June 2012, the higher court of appeal chaired by consular Adnan AlShamsi has listened to the testimonies of the 13 activists who were targeted for their political and human rights activism as well as their participation in the 14 February 2011 uprising. The activists have described details of the torture inflicted upon them to force confessions, and they have named before the court the officials involved in torturing them including the son of the king, Nasser Bin Hamad.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/07/13/torture_testimony/

Take action!

Add your voice to free Bahraini rights defender

138

Organization: IFEX

Date: August 7, 2012

If you want to help free human rights defender Nabeel Rajab, jailed in Bahrain for his posts on Twitter, then you can take action here.

Nabeel Rajab is the President of IFEX's member in Bahrain, the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) and Director of the Gulf Center for human Rights (GCHR) who was sentenced to three years in jail on 16 August in relation to his role organising peaceful protests in the country calling for reforms. He has been detained since 9 July for tweets calling for the Prime Minister to step down in June.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/08/07/free_nabeel/

Alert: Human rights defender Zainab Al-Khawaja arrested, ill-treated.

139

Organization: IFEX

Date: August 7, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 3 August 2012 - Human rights activist Zainab Al-Khawaja was yet again arrested last night while she was protesting alone at the Al Qadam roundabout. Zainab decided to protest despite her entire leg being in a cast following an injury she sustained not long ago when security forces shot her with tear gas canisters at close range.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/08/07/al_khawaja_arrested/

Alert: Peaceful protests calling for self-determination violently suppressed in Bahrain.

140

Organization: IFEX

Date: August 9, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 3 August 2012 - On the night of 2 August 2012, Bahrain witnessed numerous peaceful protests calling for democracy and freedom which were called by the February 14th Coalition in Bani Jamra, Bilad AlQadeem and AlDair and have spread in other areas under the slogan «The People Demand Self-Determination».

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/08/09/crackdown_on_protesters/

Bahrain sentences Nabeel Rajab to three years in prison on charges related to protesting.

141

Organization: IFEX

Date: August 16, 2012

UPDATE: On 23 August 2012, Nabeel Rajab was acquitted of the charges of libel in the Twitter case, but remains in prison for the other case, for which he was sentenced to three years in prison. Please see a letter from his family to US President Barack Obama here and an update on his prison conditions here. The verdict in that case is now expected on 11 December 2012.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/08/16/rajab_sentenced/

IFEX deplores three-year jail sentence given to Bahraini member Nabeel Rajab.

142

Organization: IFEX

Date: August 16, 2012

UPDATE: On 23 August 2012, Nabeel Rajab was acquitted of the charges of libel in the Twitter case, but remains in prison for the other case, for which he was sentenced to three years in prison. He is being held in poor conditions. Please see a letter from his family to US President Barack Obama here.

IFEX, the world's largest network of free expression organisations, strongly denounces the three-year prison sentence handed down today, 16 August 2012, to Nabeel Rajab, president of IFEX member Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), for his role in pro-democracy protests.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/08/16/ifex_defends_rajab/

Joint action: Release Bahraini human rights activists now, say international groups.

143

Organization: IFEX

Date: August 17, 2012

UPDATE: On 23 August 2012, Nabeel Rajab was acquitted of the charges of libel in the Twitter case, but remains in prison for the other case, for which he was sentenced to three years in prison. He is being held in poor conditions. Please see a letter from his family to [US President Barack Obama here](#). On 4 September, the appeals court upheld the verdict in the case of the 13 human rights defenders and activists, including Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja and Abduljalil Al-Singace, sentenced to life in prison.

(IFEX) - 17 August 2012 – As international human rights groups, we call on member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council who participated in Bahrain's Universal Periodic Review in May 2012 to urge Bahrain to release human rights defenders and peaceful opposition activists, who have been subjected to constant harassment by security forces and the courts for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/08/17/joint_appeal_freehrds/

Appeal court upholds life sentences for Bahraini activists

144

Organization: IFEX

Date: September 5, 2012

(Freedom House/IFEX) - Washington, 4 September 2012 - Freedom House denounces an appeals court decision in Bahrain to uphold prison sentences for 20 Bahraini opposition activists, including the life sentences for Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, Ebrahim Sharif, and six other prominent activists accused of "plotting to overthrow the government." These harsh sentences further demonstrate the failure of the Bahraini government to follow through on reforms and reflect the ongoing repressive environment for those opposing the actions of the regime. Bahraini authorities must immediately release the activists and drop all charges against them.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/09/05/life_sentences_upheld/

Joint action: Human rights groups call for immediate release of all prisoners of conscience in Bahrain

145

Organization: IFEX

Date: September 5, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 5 September 2012 - On 4 September 2012, the High Court of Appeal in Bahrain ruled to uphold all of the sentences against the so-called "accused conspirators" in the case of the 13 human rights defenders and political leaders serving time in prison and the seven tried in absentia.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/09/05/politically_motivated_sentences/

Human rights defender Nabeel Rajab faces ill-treatment in Bahraini prison.

146

Organization: IFEX

Date: September 12, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - The Gulf Center for Human Rights and Bahrain Center for Human Rights express their grave concern over the information received regarding the ill-treatment of detained human rights defender Nabeel Rajab in prison in Bahrain, as well as the continued exploitation of the judicial system to punish human rights defenders and hinder their peaceful and legitimate human rights work.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/09/12/rajab_prison_conditions/

Detained Bahraini activist Zainab Al-Khawaja faces 13 cases

147

Organization: IFEX

Date: September 12, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - The Gulf Center for Human Rights and Bahrain Center for Human Rights express their grave concern over the information received regarding the ill-treatment of detained human rights defender Zainab Al-Khawaja in prison in Bahrain, as well as the continued exploitation of the judicial system to punish human rights defenders and hinder their peaceful and legitimate human rights work. Al-Khawaja is [facing up to 13 cases](#), in addition to a 3 months' imprisonment sentence issued against her on trumped-up charges.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/09/12/zainab_alkhawaja_mistreated/

148 Joint action: End persecution of human rights defenders in Bahrain now, says appeal to UNHRC

Organization: IFEX

Date: September 17, 2012

(IFEX) - 17 September 2012 – As human rights groups lobbying during the 21st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), we call on UNHRC member states participating in Bahrain's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to join us in urging Bahrain to accept the UPR recommendations, to be adopted on 19 September. We particularly urge the international community to call for the unconditional release of human rights defenders, bloggers, peaceful opposition activists, and all those jailed for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and to ensure that those who participate in the UPR process do not face reprisals.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/09/17/end_persecution/

149 Rights defenders threatened, despite Bahrain's support for UN review.

Organization: IFEX

Date: September 24, 2012

Even as Bahrain accepted many of the recommendations to end human rights violations made during a UN review this week at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Bahraini human rights defenders reported threats against them as a result of their participation in the process.

On 19 September, Bahrain accepted 145 of the 176 recommendations made as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bahrain, a process whereby states and NGOs contribute towards improving the human rights record of a country. The process occurs every four years.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/09/24/upr_concerns/

150 Bahraini court sentences activist Zainab Al-Khawaja to two months' imprisonment.

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 2, 2012

UPDATE: [Zainab AlKhawaja released, pending trial](#) (BCHR, 3 October 2012) (BCHR/IFEX) - 1 October 2012 - The Gulf Center for Human Rights (GCHR) and the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) condemn the continued detention of leading human rights defender Nabeel Rajab and the recent imprisonment sentence passed on human rights activist Zainab Al-Khawaja. The two centers express deep concern over the use of the most politically oriented judiciary to create false cases associated with politically-motivated charges to keep Nabeel Rajab and Zainab Al-Khawaja behind bars.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/02/activist_sentenced/

151 Two protesters killed by police gunfire in Bahrain

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 3, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 29 September 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights expresses in the strongest terms its condemnation of the murder of the child Ali Hussain Neamah (17 years old), shot dead by riot police 40 days after the similar killing of Hussam AlHaddad (16 years old). These deaths are a result of the continued use of excessive force and deadly weapons in dealing with peaceful protesters, and the spread of the culture of impunity.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/03/child_protesters_killed/

152 Bahraini rights defender Nabeel Rajab on hunger strike

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 5, 2012

UPDATE: Upon his family's request, Nabeel Rajab stopped his hunger strike on 8 October. His request to be released for his mother's condolence period was denied. (BCHR/IFEX) - 5 October 2012 The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) express concern over the deprivation of imprisoned human rights defender Nabeel Rajab from attending on 5 October 2011 the condolence gathering for his mother, who passed away on 4 October 2012. Nabeel Rajab, in a protest against this unjustified punishment, started a full hunger today and stopped taking food or water and medication.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/05/nabeel_hungerstrike/

Appeals court upholds convictions against Bahraini medics

153

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 9, 2012

UPDATE: Nurse sentenced to one year in prison (BCHR, 16 October 2012) (Human Rights Watch/IFEX) - Beirut, October 8, 2012 - Bahrain's ruler should order the release of doctors and medical personnel jailed on October 2, 2012 following an appeals court failure to reverse their 2011 convictions by a special military court, Human Rights Watch said today. Human Rights Watch called on King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to expunge the convictions and criminal records of nine medical personnel whose sentences were upheld by the appeals court because the convictions were based in part on confessions obtained by torture and in proceedings that were fundamentally unfair.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/09/medics_convicted/

IFEX urges Bahrain to free member Nabeel Rajab prior to appeal

154

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 15, 2012

UPDATE: On 8 November, Nabeel Rajab appeared in court where evidence was heard on his case, including videos shown to support the defense's statement that Rajab engaged only in peaceful activities. The court announced that the verdict would be issued on 11 December 2012.

(IFEX) - 12 October 2012 - IFEX, the world's largest network of free expression organisations, repeats its urgent appeal to the authorities to overturn the three-year prison sentence handed down on 16 August 2012 to Nabeel Rajab, president of its member Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), for his role in pro-democracy protests. Nabeel is due in appeals court on 16 October.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/15/free_nabeel/

Rights defender in Bahrain facing rioting charges after peaceful protest

156

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 18, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 17 October 2012 - The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) express their deepest concern over the escalating judicial crackdown on activists as several human rights defenders and political activists have been either summoned for interrogation or arrested in the past few days over their peaceful activism. The GCHR and BCHR believe that the silence of the international community on the continued judicial harassment and detention of activists is damaging and that an immediate action is required to put an end to these violations.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/18/judicial_crackdown/

Three rights defenders arrested during siege on Bahraini village

157

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 22, 2012

UPDATE: Human rights defenders Zainab Al-Khawaja, Said Yousif Al-Muhafdhah, and Naji Fateel have since been released.

(BCHR/IFEX) - 21 October 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) and the Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights (BYSHR) issued an urgent appeal regarding an ongoing siege on the village of Al-Eker that has now lasted for more than two days. Bahraini rights defender and president of BYSHR Mohammed Al-Maskati was able to get into the village to investigate despite the siege.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/22/siege_arrests/

Bahraini minister targets opposition clerics over critical sermons

158

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 22, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 17 October 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) is deeply concerned over the authorities' persistent imposition of further restrictions on freedom of expression, and their misuse of judicial procedures as a political tool to silence and terrorize opponents who exercise their free speech rights in religious sermons and seminars, and on social networks and the Internet.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/22/preachers_targeted/

Bahrain acquits officer on charges of torturing a journalist

159

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 25, 2012

(CPJ/IFEX) - 24 October 2012 - CPJ is alarmed by a Bahraini court's acquittal of a police officer accused of torturing a journalist in custody in 2011.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/25/justice_denied_torture_journalist/

Bahrain issues nationwide ban on protests

160

Organization: IFEX

Date: October 31, 2012

Less than 24 hours after Bahraini authorities issued a nationwide ban on all protests and rallies, dozens of marches filled the streets. «We were under unofficial martial law before today, but now it is clear,» said Said Yousif Al-Muhafdhah, the head of monitoring at the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), in an interview with the Beirut-based publication Al-Akhbar on 30 October 2012 - the day of the announcement.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/10/31/ban_protests/

161 Impunity prevalent in Bahrain; rights group holds King responsible

Organization: IFEX

Date: November 1, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 31 October 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) has published a detailed report by both the Monitoring and Research Committees in the Center that looks into the cases of impunity and lack of accountability of members of the ruling family and officials in the security forces and the army.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/11/01/impunity_king_victims/

162 Bahraini Twitter user sentenced to prison

Organization: IFEX

Date: November 2, 2012

UPDATE: Abdullah Al-Hashemi, sentenced to 6 months in prison, was the first of the four Twitter users arrested to be charged. The three others have now also been identified. Salman Darwish was sentenced to one month in prison and Ali Mohamed Watheqi was sentenced to four, both on the charges of defaming the king via social media. On 12 November, Ali Alhayki expects to receive a verdict on the same charges. (BCHR, 8 November 2012)

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/11/02/tweet_sentenced/

163 Bahraini rights defender arrested for documenting security violations

Organization: IFEX

Date: November 5, 2012

UPDATE: After having extended Said Yousif Al-Muhafdhah's confinement for another week, the Bahraini human rights defender was released. He was jailed for 12 days. (RSF, 14 November 2012)

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/11/05/arrest_rights_defenders/

164 Father of boy killed by Bahraini forces arrested at peaceful protest

Organization: IFEX

Date: November 5, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 1 November 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) expresses its concern over the acts of intimidation practiced by the Bahraini regime targeting the relatives of victims killed by the Bahraini security forces and arresting them to prevent them from demanding justice.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/11/05/father_arrested/

165 Bahraini citizenship revoked for 31 activists

Organization: IFEX

Date: November 8, 2012

UPDATE: Citizens stripped from Bahraini Nationality have been prevented from resorting to the judiciary to challenge the decision. (BCHR, 18 December 2012)

(Human Rights Watch/IFEX) - 8 November 2012 - Bahraini authorities should rescind their announced decision to strip citizenship from 31 people for allegedly damaging the country's security. The people affected included opposition political activists, lawyers, and rights activists. The order was imposed without due process of law and will leave the majority of the people affected stateless.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/11/08/citizenship_revoked_activists/

166 Jail for Bahraini journalists, impunity for police officer.

Organization: IFEX

Date: November 14, 2012

(RSF/IFEX) - 14 November 2012 - A Manama appeal court yesterday upheld journalist Reem Khalifa's conviction on a trumped-up charge of physically attacking two women doctors and insulting a third after a Manama news conference in February 2011.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/11/14/journalist_charges/

167 A year of broken promises: Bahrain violations continue

Organization: IFEX

Date: November 21, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 19 November 2012 - The BICI Reforms: Promises of Progress, a Worsening Reality, a report issued by the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) in conjunction with the Bahrain Rehabilitation & Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO) and the Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights (BYSHR), evaluates the progress that has been made by the Government of Bahrain towards reforming its record of human rights violations, and marks the one year anniversary of the [recommendations](#) presented by the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI).

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/11/21/rights_violations/

Protests met with violence from Bahraini forces

168

Organization: IFEX

Date: December 4, 2012

(ANHRI/IFEX) - 2 December 2012 - The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) condemned the use of excessive force by the Bahraini security forces in response to demonstrations that took place in several villages near Manama on 30 November 2012.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/12/04/protests_violent_response/

Nine sentence reductions, one acquittal for Bahraini opposition members.

169

Organization: IFEX

Date: December 10, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 8 December 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) expresses its concern over the continued exploitation of civilian courts in the suppression of free speech, and particularly against political opposition leaders, which was most recently seen in the verdict against the leaders of the Islamic Action Society.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/12/10/opposition_leaders_imprisoned/

IFEX condemns verdict in Bahraini rights defender's case

170

Organization: IFEX

Date: December 11, 2012

(IFEX) 11 December 2012 – IFEX, the largest global network of free expression organisations, joins other human rights organisations worldwide to condemn the verdict upholding the prison sentence of well-known human rights defender Nabeel Rajab, President of IFEX member the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR). An appeals court in Manama today reduced the sentence from three years to two years in prison for calling for and participating in peaceful gatherings on three occasions.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/12/11/rajab_verdict_upheld/

Bahraini rights defender's jail sentence upheld

171

Organization: IFEX

Date: December 12, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 12 December 2012 - The Gulf Center for Human Rights (GCHR) and the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) express grave concern regarding the Court of Appeal's ruling which reduces the three-year jail sentence of Nabeel Rajab, president of BCHR, director of GCHR and deputy director at the International Federation of Human Rights, to two years in jail instead for the mere exercise of freedom of assembly and freedom of expression.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/12/12/rajab_verdict_upheld/

Bahraini rights defender Zainab Al-Khawaja jailed

172

Organization: IFEX

Date: December 17, 2012

(BCHR/IFEX) - 17 December 2012 - The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) and the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) express grave concern over the ongoing judicial harassment against human rights activist Zainab Al-Khawaja.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/12/17/bahrain_human_rights/

Bahraini protest violently disrupted, rights defender arrested

173

Organization: IFEX

Date: December 18, 2012

UPDATE: Said Yousif Al-Muhafadha has been interrogated by the public prosecution on the charge of [disseminating false news over twitter](#) and [will be detained](#) for seven days. (BCHR, 18 December 2012)

(BCHR/IFEX) - 18 December 2012 - The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) expresses grave concern in regards to the Bahraini security forces' excessive use of force, the arbitrary arrests of peaceful pro-democracy protestors and the continuous harassment of human rights activists.

Details:

http://www.ifex.org/bahrain/2012/12/18/bchr_official_arrested/

174 IFJ Condemns Media Restrictions in Bahrain ahead of Controversial Grand Prix

Organization: International Federation of Journalists

Date: April 23, 2012

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) today accused the authorities in Bahrain of deliberately obstructing the work of foreign reporters who sought to cover the anti-government protests ahead of the Formula One race which took place in the country yesterday. Bahrain denied visas to non-sport journalists and arrested those who were working in the country without journalists' visas.

Details:

<http://mena.ifj.org/en/articles/ifj-condemns-media-restrictions-in-bahrain-ahead-of-controversial-grand-prix>

175 Despite government's promises, journalists continue to be harassed and attacked

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: January 6, 2012

Reporters Without Borders deplores the way the Bahraini security forces continue to intimidate and attack journalists despite the undertakings that the government gave after an independent commission of enquiry released its report on the crackdown on anti-government protests during the first half of 2011.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-despite-government-s-promises-07-01-2012,41642.html>

176 Unabashed Bahrain authorities get tough as uprising anniversary nears

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: February 13, 2012

The authorities in Bahrain are still dragging their heels over allowing foreign journalists into the country in the run-up to the first anniversary of the uprising in the Gulf kingdom on 14 February, when demonstrations are expected. In a statement published on 8 February, the head of the Information Affairs Authority cited the safety of journalists and the "abnormally high volume of requests" between 11 and 18 February as reasons for the failure to grant visas.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-foreign-reporters-denied-visas-10-02-2012,41838.html>

177 Bahraini citizen journalist shot as he filmed protest dies in hospital

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: April 3, 2012

Reporters Without Borders was shocked to learn of the death on March 31 of the citizen journalist Ahmed Ismail Hussain, shot while he was filming a peaceful demonstration in the village of Salmabad, south-west of the capital, Manama. "We strongly condemn this murder and call on the Bahraini authorities to make every effort to find those responsible and bring them to justice," the international press freedom organization said.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrein-bahraini-citizen-journalist-shot-03-04-2012,42236.html>

178 Media freedom flouted during Grand Prix, government PR operation flops.

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: April 20, 2012\

The Manama Formula One Grand Prix finally went ahead despite the all the tension and protests in Bahrain, but many foreign and local journalists paid the price of the government's determination to prevent video and photo coverage of the crackdown taking place away from the race track.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-government-measures-to-muzzle-20-04-2012,42340.html>

179 Letter to Khalifa Al Khalifa

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: May 2, 2012

Dear Khalifa Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa,
With reference to your letter to Ms. Courtney Radsch of Freedom House dated 30 April 2012, we are dismayed at your Ministry's reversal of its decision to permit the visit of an international delegation, affiliated with the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), to visit the Kingdom of Bahrain from 6-10 May 2012.

Details:

http://fr.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/120504_lettre_bahrei_n_visa.pdf

180 Government withdraws permission for visit by freedom of expression NGOs.

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: May 4, 2012

Reporters Without Borders condemns the Bahraini government's last-minute withdrawal of the permission it had previously given for a visit by a delegation of NGOs that defend freedom of expression. Spurious grounds were used to prevent the visit, which had been scheduled to take place from 5 to 10 May.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-government-withdraws-permission-04-05-2012,42554.html>

181 Authorities arrest leading human rights activist

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: May 7, 2012

Reporters Without Borders calls for the immediate release of Nabeel Rajab, the head of the [Bahrain Centre for Human Rights](#) and Director of the [Gulf Centre for Human Rights](#), and the withdrawal of all the charges against him. Rajab was arrested on his return from a visit to Lebanon on 5 May and was placed in custody for an initial period of a week when he appeared in court yesterday.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-authorities-arrest-leading-human-07-05-2012,42576.html>

182 Bloggers and activists to be retried before civilian court

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: May 10, 2012

Reporters Without Borders welcomes the decision to retry 21 human rights activists and government opponents who received jail sentences from a military court last year for their dissident activities. They are now to be tried before a civilian court.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-bloggers-and-activists-to-be-10-05-2012,42593.html>

183 Journalist arrested for comments during radio interviews

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: May 18, 2012

Reporters Without Borders firmly condemns freelance journalist and blogger Ahmed Radhi's arrest in a pre-dawn raid on his home on 16 May. "The Bahraini authorities have committed a grave freedom of information violation, resuming the practices adopted to crush last year's wave of protests," Reporters Without Borders said. "It seems that Radhi's only crime was to have expressed his views. In the absence of any charges against him, we call for his immediate and unconditional release."

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-journalist-arrested-for-comments-18-05-2012,42640.html>

184 Rights organisations alarmed over threats to civil society after trip to UN.

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: June 9, 2012

International human rights organisations that participated in the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bahrain in Geneva in May Geneva are alarmed at threats made against Bahraini civil society members who were present. During the UPR, Bahrain's human rights track record came under fire from numerous governments, prompting the threat of reprisals against those who had been in Geneva. Some of the civil society members are among those facing lengthy prison sentences for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-rights-organisations-alarmed-over-09-06-2012,42758.html>

185 Bahraini blogger still missing a year after trial of activists and government opponents.

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: June 21, 2012

On 2 June last year in a trial marred by irregularities, harsh penalties were handed down by a military court on 21 suspects prosecuted for membership of terrorist organizations and attempting to overthrow the government. Eight of them, including the blogger and human rights activist Abduljalil Al-Singace, received life sentences.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-bahraini-blogger-still-missing-a-21-06-2012,42840.html>

186 Six NGOs react to meeting between French president and King of Bahrain

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: August 2, 2012

Six human Rights organisations make public a letter sent to the French President raising their concerns following an unannounced meeting with the King of Bahrain, on 23 July. No official statement was issued after the meeting.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-six-ngos-react-to-meeting-between-02-08-2012,43151.html>

187 Activist Nabeel Rajab cleared of libel but kept in jail on other charges.

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: August 23, 2012

A Bahrain appeal court today cleared human rights activist Nabeel Rajab of charges of libelling the citizens of the town of Muharraq on Twitter, his lawyer Mohamed Al-Jishi announced.

Reporters Without Borders notes the decision but points out that Rajab, president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights and the Gulf Center for Human Rights, has already been in prison for two of the three months to which he was sentenced on July 9.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-scandalous-verdict-sends-rights-10-07-2012,43005.html>

188 Journalist Ahmed Radhi's detention extended after forced confession

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: September 6 , 2012

Reporters Without Borders condemns a decision by the supreme court in Manama on 30 August to extend journalist and blogger Ahmed Radhi's detention for another 15 days.

Charged with participating in an illegal demonstration and disturbing the peace, Radhi was arrested on 16 May ([LINK](#)) after criticizing a proposed union of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in interviews he gave to BBC Arabic Radio and the London-based exile television station, Lulu TV.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-journalist-ahmed-radhi-s-detention-06-09-2012,43340.html>

189 NGOs ask Clinton to suspend all US military aid to Bahrain.

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: September 12 , 2012

Human rights organizations wrote to US secretary of state Hillary Clinton on 10 September asking her to suspend all US military aid to the government of Bahrain because of its human rights violations.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-nouvel-article-12-09-2012,43374.html>

190 Policewoman acquitted of torturing France 24 correspondent

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: October 22 , 2012

On 22 October, a court in Manama cleared a policewoman of torture and ill-treatment in the course of her duties when a female Bahraini journalist, Nazeeha Saeed, was [assaulted and beaten in custody](#) during anti-government protests last year. Saeed, a correspondent for France 24 and Radio Monte Carlo Doualiya, had been summoned to a police station for questioning in the city of Rifa'a on 22 May last year.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrein-policewoman-acquitted-of-torturing-22-10-2012,43567.html>

191 Journalist Ahmed Radhi's detention extended after forced confession.

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: November 14 , 2012

Reporters Without Borders condemns a decision by the supreme court in Manama on 30 August to extend journalist and blogger Ahmed Radhi's detention for another 15 days.

Charged with participating in an illegal demonstration and disturbing the peace, Radhi was arrested on 16 May ([LINK](#)) after criticizing a proposed union of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in interviews he gave to BBC Arabic Radio and the London-based exile television station, Lulu TV.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrain-journalist-ahmed-radhi-s-detention-06-09-2012,43340.html>

192

Authorities use arrests, expulsion to prevent information circulating.

Organization: Reporters Without Borders

Date: December 28 , 2012

Reporters Without Borders condemns the Manama prosecutor-general's 25 December decision to hold human rights defender Sayed Yousef Al-Muhafda for another two weeks on a charge of posting false information on Twitter. Arrested on 17 December, Muhafda is currently being held in an isolation cell in a police station in the northeastern suburb of Hora. One of the accusations against him is waiting until 17 December to post a photo taken on 15 December of an injured young demonstrator.

Details:

<http://en.rsf.org/bahrein-authorities-use-arrests-expulsion-28-12-2012,43844.html>

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Silence is a war crime

