

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 104/95 Health and legal concern / Fear of forcible exile 1 May 1995

BAHRAIN Nazi Karimi (f), aged 29, university student

There are fears for the physical well-being of Nazi Karimi, who is being held without charge or trial in Madinat 'Issa. She is anaemic and has reportedly been on hunger-strike since her arrest on 9 April 1995. She is said to be in very poor health, having suffered significant weight loss. She is also reportedly under threat of forcible exile from Bahrain.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Nazi Karimi and her husband were summoned for interrogation on 9 April in connection with recent pro-democracy protests (see background below). Her husband was freed the same day, but she has been held since. She is being held in a solitary cell and has reportedly been put under pressure to sign a "confession" stating that she had taken part in recent protests. Amnesty International fears that any such "confession" obtained under duress could subsequently be used in evidence against her if she is brought to trial. Nazi Karimi had previously been summoned for interrogation on 20 March, but freed the same day.

For some 18 days after her arrest, Nazi Karimi was denied access to her family, lawyers and medical treatment. On 26 April she was granted a brief visit from one family member, allegedly to convince her to sign a "confession". Her husband continues to be denied access to her despite repeated attempts.

Both her family and her husband's family, all of whom are Bahraini nationals, have also reportedly been threatened with forcible exile.

Nazi Karimi, who is from al-Muharraq, is a student of languages at the University of Bahrain. She has no children.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Widespread arrests have taken place in Bahrain since early December 1994, as security forces have attempted to crush a popular pro-democracy movement. Demonstrators have been calling on the government to reconvene the National Assembly (dissolved by Amiri decree in 1975), to respect the provisions of the country's 1973 Constitution, and to release all political detainees.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters in Arabic, English, or your own language:

- expressing concern about the health of Nazi Karimi, detained in Madinat 'Issa since 9 April, and urging that she be given immediate access to medical care as needed or requested;
- seeking reasons for her arrest and continued detention, and urging that she be granted full and continued access to family members and her lawyer;
- calling for her immediate and unconditional release unless she is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- seeking assurances that neither she nor her relatives will be forcibly exiled from Bahrain.

APPEALS TO:

His Highness
Shaikh 'Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

Office of His Highness the Amir
P.O.Box 555
The Amiri Court
Rifa'a Palace, Bahrain
Telexes: 8666 Qasar BN; 8500 Qasar BN
Telegrams: His Highness the Amir, al-Manama, Bahrain
Faxes: +973 668884
Salutation: Your Highness

His Excellency
Shaikh Muhammad Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa
Minister of Interior
P.O.Box 13, al-Manama, Bahrain
Telexes: 9572 PSMKT BN or 8333 ALAMAN BN
Telegrams: Minister of Interior, al-Manama, Bahrain
Faxes: +973 276765 or 290526
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency
Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister
P.O.Box 1000, al-Manama, Bahrain
Telexes: 9336 PROM BN or 7889 PMPO BN
Faxes: +973 533033
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Bahrain accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your Section Office, if sending appeals after 15 June 1995.