

PUBLIC

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UA 294/98 Incommunicado detention / Fear of torture 11 November 1998

BAHRAIN Salwa Hassan Haidar (f), aged 30
Hanan Salman Haidar (f), aged 20
Maryam Sa'id al-'Aradi (f), aged 20
and many others from al-Daih village

Amnesty International is concerned that many Bahraini villagers, including the three above-named women, are being held in incommunicado detention and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Security forces raided al-Daih village, near the capital al-Manama, several times between 2 and 4 November 1998. They reportedly ransacked houses, destroyed or confiscated personal property and arrested a number of people. The reasons for the arrests are unclear, but some people are believed to have been detained as "hostages" for relatives sought by the authorities.

One of the women, Salwa Hassan Haidar, has reportedly been beaten on the soles of the feet (*Falaqa*) and suspended by her limbs. Another woman, Mona Salman Haidar, was apparently also beaten during detention. She and another woman, Laila Mahdi al-Bazaz, were reportedly arrested during the raids and later released without charge.

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

- expressing concern that Salwa Hassan Haidar, Hanan Salman Haidar, Maryam Sa'id al-'Aradi and others arrested in al-Daih village between 2 and 4 November 1998 are being held incommunicado;
- urging that all the detainees be granted immediate access to their families and legal counsel and that the reasons and legal basis for their arrest be immediately clarified;
- expressing concern at reports that some detainees, including Salwa Hassan Haidar, have been subjected to torture and ill-treatment;
- urging that these reports be immediately investigated and anyone found responsible be brought to justice;
- seeking assurances that all detainees are being treated humanely;
- reminding the government of Bahrain of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency

Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister

P.O. Box 1000, al-Manama, Bahrain

Telegrams: Prime Minister, al-Manama, Bahrain

Telexes: 9336 PROM BN or 7889 PMPO BN

Faxes: + 973 533033

Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency

Shaikh Muhammad Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa
Minister of Interior

P.O. Box 13, Al-Manama, Bahrain

Telegrams: Minister of Interior, al-Manama, Bahrain

2

Telexes: 9572 PSMKT BN or 8333 ALAMAN BN
Faxes: + 973 276765 or 290526
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 22 December 1998.

"No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>