AI Index: MDE 11/10/94

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Further information on UA 438/94 (MDE 11/09/94, 9 December 1994) - Fear of torture / Legal concern and new concern: Possible unlawful killings

BAHRAIN Al-Shaikh 'Ali Salman

Ibrahim Hassan and others

new names: Hani 'Abbas Khamis, student, aged 23

Hani Ahmed al-Wasti, aged 22

Amnesty International has received reports that Hani 'Abbas Khamis and Hani Ahmed al-Wasti were killed on 17 December 1994 in circumstances suggesting that they may have been unlawfully killed by the security forces.

The two men were taking part in demonstrations in al-Sanabis in Manama when the Bahraini security forces opened fire, killing them and injuring a number of others. The United Nations Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials state that "intentional lethal use of firearms may only be made when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life."

The demonstrators were calling for, among other things, the release of political detainees arrested in connection with the signing of the petition calling on the Amir of Bahrain to reinstate the parliament. The detainees include al-Shaikh 'Ali Salman who was arrested on 5 December. Since that date a number of demonstrations have taken place in different parts of Bahrain, some of which turned violent. Scores of people have been arrested.

Amnesty International fears that all those detained are at risk of torture while in custody. The organization has received no new information about al-Shaikh 'Ali Salman, Ibrahim Hassan and others arrested in early December, most of whom are believed to be in detention in al-Qal'a Prison.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing concern that Hani 'Abbas Khamis and Hani Ahmed al-Wasti may have been unlawfully killed by the security forces;
- urging an immediate thorough and independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding their deaths and that the conclusions and methods of the investigation be made public;
- urging that those held for political reasons are being humanely treated in accordance with international human rights standards, and are being granted access to lawyers and relatives;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of any detainee who is being held solely for the non-violent expression of their conscientiously held beliefs:
- calling for the whereabouts of all those detained to be made known to their families.

APPEALS TO:

His Highness Al-Shaikh 'Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa Office of His Highness the Amir P.O. Box 555
The Amiri Court
Rifa'a Palace
Rifa'a
Bahrain

Telexes: 8666 Qasar, BN 8500 Qasar BN

Telegrams: His Highness the Amir, Manama, Bahrain

Faxes: +973 668884 Salutation: Your Highness

His Excellency
Al-Shaikh Mohamed Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa
Minister of Interior
PO Box 13
Manama
Bahrain

Telexes: 9572 PSMKT BN or 8333 ALAMAN BN

Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Manama, Bahrain

Faxes: +973 276765 or 290526 or 754303

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Al-Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa Prime Minister of Bahrain PO Box 1000 Manama Bahrain

Faxes: +973 533033

and 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 30 January 1995.