

11 November 1998

Further information on UA 65/98 (MDE 11/02/98, 3 March 1998) and follow-up (MDE 11/03/98, 31 March 1998) - Fear of torture / Incommunicado Detention

BAHRAIN **Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad al-'Ikri, aged 17**

Amnesty International has just learned that Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad al-'Ikri was re-arrested at his mother's home in al-Qadam village on 1 November 1998.

The reason for his arrest is not known. His whereabouts are also unknown, but he is believed to be held in al-Khamis detention centre, south-west of the capital, al-Manama. His family has been denied access to him and there are fears that he might be subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad al-'Ikri was first arrested on 10 April 1995 on charges of throwing a petrol bomb at police. He was convicted on 9 July 1995 and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by the Juveniles Court. His sentence was however overturned on appeal and he was released in September 1995.

Several weeks after his release the Bahraini authorities tried to rearrest Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad al-'Ikri, but he managed to escape and went into hiding. He was re-arrested on 24 February 1998 while visiting his mother. The reasons for his detention were unclear and he was released without charge on 25 March.

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

- expressing concern that Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad al-'Ikri is being held incommunicado;
- urging that he be granted immediate access to his family and legal counsel and that the reasons and legal basis for his arrest be immediately clarified;
- seeking assurances that he is being treated humanely;
- urging that he be immediately released unless he is promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought to trial in accordance with international standards;
- reminding the government of Bahrain of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 9: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile" and 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

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 arbitrary arrest, detention or exile".

Article 9, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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