

URGENT ACTION

BOY AGED 13 RELEASED ON BAIL IN BAHRAIN

Salman Mahdi Salman, a 13-year-old Bahraini boy, was released on 10 September following a month long detention where he was allegedly beaten and threats made against his parents.

Salman Mahdi Salman, aged 13, was released from a juvenile detention centre on 10 September 2013 after his first hearing before a juvenile court the same day. In an interview published on 13 September in the independent daily newspaper, the Bahrain Mirror, Salman Mahdi Salman said that he had been repeatedly hit on the face by policemen during his interrogation on 14 August at al-Budaiya' police station. He said that he was threatened with more beatings if he did not "confess" and if he complained about his treatment. He further added that the two policemen also threatened to arrest his parents. His trial started on 10 September on charges of "illegal gathering", "riots" and "attacks on security patrols", which he denies. The court ordered that he be released on bail pending a second session on 24 September.

Salman Mahdi Salman was arrested on 11 August 2013 at around 5pm near a shopping mall on al-Budaiya' Street, in the west of the capital, Manama. He was taken to al-Budaiya' police station and released at 1am on 12 August. The police contacted his family on the day of his release and asked them to bring Salman Mahdi Salman back to the police station for further interrogation, which they did the next day. The Juvenile Prosecution ordered his detention for seven days pending investigation, which was renewed again. Salman Mahdi Salman was held in a juvenile detention centre.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the Bahraini authorities to ensure that Salman Mahdi Salman is treated in accordance with the international standards of juvenile justice;
- Ensuring that Salman Mahdi Salman's allegations of ill-treatment are independently investigated and that statements obtained through the use of torture or other ill-treatment are not accepted in any proceedings.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 NOVEMBER 2013 TO:

King

Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace, al-Manama,
Bahrain
Fax: +973 1766 4587
Salutation: Your Majesty

Minister of Interior

Shaikh Rashid bin 'Abdullah Al Khalifa
Ministry of Interior
P.O. Box 13, al-Manama,
Bahrain
Fax: +973 1723 2661
Twitter: @moi_Bahrain
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa
Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs
P. O. Box 450, al-Manama,
Bahrain
Fax: +973 1753 1284
Email: minister@justice.gov.bh
Twitter: @Khaled_Bin_Ali
Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 233/13. Further information:
<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/035/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Salman Mahdi Salman, was arrested on 11 August at around 5pm near a shopping mall on al-Budaiya' Street, in the west of the capital, Manama. According to an eyewitness, Salman was walking alone when he was surrounded by members of the security forces who arrested him; there was no demonstration in progress in the street at the time. He was taken to al-Budaiya' police station and released at 1am on 12 August. The police contacted his family that day asking them to bring the boy back to the police station for further interrogation, but the family did not do so. The police then contacted the boy's uncle and threatened to raid the family's house and arrest Salman Mahdi Salman, if they refused to comply. The family eventually complied the next day. The Juvenile Prosecution ordered his detention for seven days pending investigation, and this order was renewed again. Salman Mahdi Salman was held in a juvenile detention centre. When his family visited him on 18 August he told them that following his arrest and during his interrogation he was slapped in the face to force him to confess that he was masked at the time he was arrested, carrying a Molotov cocktail and a cigarette lighter.

Over the past months an increasing number of children have been detained. Those aged between 15 and 18 have been held in adult prisons. Many of these children were arrested during demonstrations and have been accused of "illegal gathering" and rioting. Some of them alleged they were beaten during arrest or during interrogation. In some cases they were forced to sign "confessions". In other cases, they were formally charged with criminal offences under the Penal Code, tried as adults, convicted and sentenced to prison terms. On 6 August 2013 the King, Shaikh Hamad Bin 'Issa Al Khalifa, issued two emergency decrees including one amending the 1976 juvenile law which now stipulates that if anyone under 16 years of age takes part in a demonstration, public gathering or sit-in, his or her parents will be warned in writing by the Ministry of Interior. If six months after the warning the juvenile is found in a new demonstration his or her father could face jail, a fine or both.

On 12 September 2013 the European Parliament passed a resolution calling for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Bahrain. It states that "the legitimate right of Bahraini citizens to express their opinions freely, organise gatherings and demonstrate peacefully must be respected". The resolution further calls on the authorities to immediately end all acts of repression, release all prisoners of conscience, and respect the rights of juveniles, adding that "the independent commission for the rights of prisoners and detainees should effectively monitor and improve their conditions", while "the Ministry for Human Rights and Social Development in Bahrain should act in accordance with international human rights standards and obligations". Also in mid-September a joint statement by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Bahrain, signed by 47 countries, expressed concerns about the ongoing human rights violations in Bahrain..

Name: Salman Mahdi Salman
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 233/13 Index: MDE 11/042/2013 Issue Date: 20 September 2013