

URGENT ACTION

HUSSAIN JAWAD SENTENCED, TORTURE IGNORED

Bahraini human rights activist Hussain Jawad has been sentenced in absentia to two years in prison. The investigation into his torture allegations has been closed. He is living outside Bahrain.

Hussain Jawad, Chairman of the European-Bahraini Organization for Human Rights, was sentenced in absentia to two years in prison on 15 December by a Lower Criminal Court in the capital, Manama. He had been convicted of “collecting and receiving money from home and abroad without authorization in order to support and finance subversive groups”, based on police statements and a “confession” that he told Amnesty International had been extracted from him under torture at the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID).

In court he had denied the charges against him and told the judge he had been forced to “confess” to them and that he was being targeted because of his human rights work. He is now living outside Bahrain.

Hussain Jawad had been released on bail on 19 May after more than three months in detention. He told Amnesty International that during his interrogation at the CID, officers subjected him to various forms of torture and ill-treatment, including keeping him blindfolded and handcuffed behind his back, not allowing him to use the toilet, beating and kicking him on the back of his head, hips, back and legs and threatening him with sexual abuse. They questioned him about his human rights work and his relationship and meetings with several human rights organizations, including Amnesty International.

Hussain Jawad was questioned by the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) on 23 February about his torture allegations. He said he had been tortured and threatened with further torture if he withdrew his confession. His wife was also questioned by the SIU about his torture allegations, the following month. However, Hussain Jawad has learnt that the SIU has closed its investigation into his torture allegations for lack of evidence.

Hussain Jawad is separately on trial on charges of “criticizing government institutions”, “insulting the flag and emblem of the country”, “attempting to disrupt public security” and “illegal gathering”.

Hussain Jawad told Amnesty International that the organization’s supporters’ and members’ work and support in defending human rights around the world meant a lot to him. He said that without their support, human rights defenders would never have justice in their countries.

No further action is requested by the UA Network. Amnesty International will continue to monitor Hussain Jawad’s case. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fourth update of UA 34/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde11/1066/2015/en/>

Name: Hussain Jawad
Gender m/f: m

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