

URGENT ACTION

COURT UPHOLDS DEATH SENTENCES OF TWO MEN

Death sentences imposed on Mohamed Ramadhan 'Issa 'Ali Hussain and Hussain 'Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed in December 2014, following an unfair trial that relied on "confessions" extracted under torture, were confirmed on 26 May by a Court of Appeal in Manama. The death sentences will go to the Court of Cassation for final ratification.

On 26 May, the High Criminal Court of Appeal in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, upheld the death sentences imposed on **Mohamed Ramadhan 'Issa 'Ali Hussain (32)** and **Hussain 'Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed (28)**. The two men were sentenced to death on 29 December 2014 for the killing of a policeman during a bombing in al-Deir village on 14 February 2014. The sentences will now go to the Court of Cassation for final ratification. Ten people, who were sentenced to serve between six years to life in prison in the same case, also had their sentences upheld.

Mohamed Ramadhan 'Issa 'Ali Hussain and Hussain 'Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed were subjected to unfair trials. Hussain 'Ali Moosa's "confession", which was reportedly obtained under torture, was used as the main evidence in his trial and was also used to incriminate Mohamed Ramadhan. No new evidence was presented during the appeal hearing. The men's lawyers only received a copy of the original judgement during the first session of the appeal hearing. In the second session they had to request permission to summon witnesses in the following session, as they had not had enough time to prepare their pleadings. The judge rejected this request and adjourned the hearing to 26 May for final judgement before the lawyers could give their final pleadings.

No investigation into the men's allegations of torture is known to have taken place. They are both currently held in Jaw prison, south of Manama.

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

- Acknowledging the Bahraini authorities' duty to protect the public and bring to justice those who commit crimes, but insisting that this should always be done in accordance with international law and Bahrain's international human rights obligations;
- Urging the authorities to order a full re-trial of the two men without the use of evidence obtained under torture and without recourse to the death penalty; and to investigate the allegations of torture;
- Urging the authorities to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and establish an official moratorium on executions.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 9 JULY 2015 TO:

King

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

Salutation: Your Majesty

Prime Minister

Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
P.O. Box 1000,
-Manama, Bahrain

Fax: +973 1753 3033

Salutation: Your Highness

Minister of Justice

Shaikh Khaled bin Ali al-Khalifa
Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs
P. O. Box 450, Manama, Bahrain
Fax: +973 1753 1284

Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 1/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde11/002/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mohamed Ramadhan 'Issa 'Ali Hussain and Hussain 'Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed told their lawyers that they were tortured or otherwise ill-treated in the first few days of their detention between February and March 2014, during interrogation at the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID). In the absence of their lawyers, Mohamed Ramadhan refused to sign a "confession" but Hussain 'Ali Moosa said he was coerced to "confess" to the crime and incriminate Mohamed Ramadhan after being suspended by his limbs and beaten for several days. Hussain 'Ali Moosa's confession was later used as the main evidence in the trial of the two men and led to their convictions. Hussain 'Ali Moosa told his lawyers that he reported the coerced "confession" and the torture he received to the Public Prosecutor, but the latter dismissed the allegations and sent him back to the CID where he was allegedly tortured for a further two months. Mohamed Ramadhan claimed he also reported his torture to the Public Prosecution but that his allegation was dismissed as well.

The last person executed in Bahrain was a Bangladeshi man, Jassim Abdulmanan, who was put to death in 2010. However, since 2011, at least 19 people have been sentenced to death in Bahrain, although some of the death sentences have since been quashed on appeal.

In December 2014, a record number of countries - 117 of the UN's 193 member states - voted in favour of the fifth UN General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Bahrain abstained after having voted against the resolution in previous years.

The right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment are recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights instruments. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception, regardless of the nature or circumstances of the crime, the guilt, innocence or other characteristics of the offender or the method used by the state to carry out executions. The death penalty violates the right to life as proclaimed in the UDHR. It is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Name: Mohamed Ramadhan 'Issa 'Ali Hussain and Hussain 'Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed
Gender m/f: m

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