

URGENT ACTION

ONE OF TWO WOMEN PROTESTERS RELEASED

A woman protester has been released in Bahrain, three years before completing her sentence. A woman sentenced with her is still in prison.

Nafeesa al-'Asfoor was released on 2 July, three years before her sentence would have come to an end. Her release was part of a royal pardon. She had been arrested in April 2013 together with another protester, **Rayhana al-Mosawi**, and both women were sentenced in April 2014 to five years in prison for "possession of explosives" and "planning to commit terrorist acts" under the anti-terrorism law: they had attempted to enter the Formula 1 circuit during a protest at the Bahrain Grand Prix in 2013. Both women denied the charges.

Rayhana al-Mosawi has not been released. Her family have told reporters that there were no news on her release. Both women had complained to the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) that they had been tortured and otherwise ill-treated after their arrest, but it is not known if the SIU has investigated their complaint or not.

Please write immediately in English or Arabic:

- Urging the Bahraini authorities to set up a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into Nafeesa al-'Asfoor and Rayhana al-Mosawi's allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging them to quash Rayhana al-Mosawi's conviction and sentence as it appears that evidence used against her was based on statements marred by allegations of torture;
- Urging them to order a retrial of Rayhana al-Mosawi in proceedings that meet international standards for fair trial.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 AUGUST 2015 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
Email: info@interior.gov.bh
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs
Shaikh Khaled bin Ali bin Abdullah Al Khalifa
Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs
P. O. Box 450, al-Manama, Bahrain
Fax: +973 1753 1284
Email via website:
<http://www.moj.gov.bh/en/default76a7.html?action=category&ID=159>
Twitter: @Khaled_Bin_Ai

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 third update of UA 232/13. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde11/028/2014/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the run up to the April 2013 Formula 1 Grand Prix in Bahrain, clashes between protesters and the security forces increased and continued during the event, resulting in dozens of arrests. On 24 April 2013, the Bahraini government cancelled a planned visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, Juan Mendez, for the second time in two years.

Rayhana al-Mosawi and 49 men were convicted on 29 September 2013 of involvement in the “14 February Coalition” and received sentences of up to 15 years in prison. Rayhana al-Mosawi was sentenced to five years’ imprisonment “for belonging to and sharing activities with a terrorist organization [the 14 February Coalition]”. Amnesty International raised concerns about the unfairness of the trial. Please see this press release: *Bahrain: 50 Shi’a activists sentenced amid torture allegations*, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/bahrain-50-shi-activists-sentenced-amid-torture-allegations-2013-09-30> and Urgent Action 114/13 <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/047/2013/en>.

Their trial fell far short of international standards for fair trial. Many in the group said they had been tortured, sometimes with electric shocks, to force them to “confess”. The court relied on their “confession” instead of ordering an investigation into their torture allegations. Defendants were also arrested without warrants. Some were violently taken from their homes, apparently after the security forces smashed down their front doors. Lawyers complained to the court that they had not been allowed to visit their clients. The court refused to allow defence lawyers to call witnesses, and some prosecution witnesses were apparently not heard, depriving the defence of the right to cross-examine witnesses. Some defendants, who were already serving prison sentences or were being held pending investigation in other cases, were brought before the court unaware that they faced new charges. They did not have the assistance of lawyers at this trial.

One of the defendants, ‘Abd ‘Ali Khair, was apparently sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment just for forwarding an email containing a statement by the “14 February Coalition”.

In March 2014 the Bahraini government listed the “14 February Coalition”, together with two other groups, as a terrorist organization after a bomb blast killed three policemen.

The “14 February Coalition” emerged as a movement of several Bahraini youth groups, named after the date when Bahrain's uprising began in 2011, and is said to be led by anonymous people who organize protests mainly via social media websites.

Names: Nafeesa al-‘Asfoor, Rayhana al-Mosawi
Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 232/13 Index: MDE 11/2040/2015 Issue Date: 7 July 2015