

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 18/94 Fear of Forcible Exile

21 January 1994

BAHRAIN: Ahmed Hussein Akbar 'Abbas

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Amnesty International has learned that Ahmed Hussein Akbar 'Abbas, a Bahraini national, was forcibly exiled from Bahrain on 19 January 1994 after being held at the airport for 12 days.

Ahmed Hussein Akbar 'Abbas was forcibly exiled from Bahrain for the first time in 1982, when he was stripped of his Bahraini papers and forcibly expelled to Iran. On his return to Bahrain in September 1993 with his Lebanese wife and children, he was reportedly interrogated and beaten before being forcibly expelled to Lebanon, where he was also refused entry and sent back to Bahrain.

The Bahraini authorities sent him once again to Lebanon where he was given temporary residence only. On 7 January 1994 Ahmed Akbar Hussein 'Abbas and his family returned again to Bahrain. This time they were all detained at the airport for 12 days before being expelled to Lebanon on 19 January. Before his expulsion, he was reportedly threatened that if he returned again to Bahrain he would be put in a boat bound for Iran.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Forcible exile of Bahraini nationals suspected of political opposition activities remains one of Amnesty International's concerns in the country. While dozens of Bahraini nationals were permitted to return to Bahrain after living abroad for many years, scores more have been denied this right and remain victims of forcible exile apparently for exercising their right to freedom of opinion and expression.

According to information received by Amnesty International, victims of forcible exile from Bahrain are frequently given no reason for the measures taken against them and are denied the opportunity to appeal the decision to expel them or challenge its legality through the courts. Not only is such practice in contravention of international human rights standards, but it would also appear to be in violation of Article 17 (c) of Bahrain's Constitution, which states that it is forbidden to expel or to prevent Bahraini citizens from returning to Bahrain.

For further information on forcible exile, please refer to Bahrain: Banned from Bahrain: Forcible exile of Bahraini nationals issued on 16 December 1993, (MDE 11/04/93).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing regret at the forcible exile of Ahmed Hussein Akbar 'Abbas from Bahrain, in contravention of international human rights standards and Bahrain's own constitution that all nationals are entitled to return to their own country;

- urging the authorities to reconsider their decision and to allow him and all other Bahraini nationals who have been forcibly exiled to return to Bahrain.

#### APPEALS TO:

His Highness  
Al-Shaikh 'Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

Office of His Highness the Amir  
P.O. Box 555  
The Amiri Court  
Rifa'a Palace  
Rifa'a  
Bahrain

**Telexes:** 8666 Qasar, BN 8500 Qasar BN  
**Telegrams:** His Highness the Amir, Manama, Bahrain  
**Faxes:** +973 778884

His Excellency  
Al-Shaikh Mohamed Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa  
Minister of Interior  
PO Box 13  
Manama  
Bahrain

**Telexes:** 9572 PSMKT BN or 8333 ALAMAN BN  
**Telegrams:** Minister of Interior, Manama, Bahrain  
**Faxes:** +973 276337 or 290526 or 754303

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency  
Al-Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa  
Prime Minister of Bahrain  
PO Box 1000  
Manama  
Bahrain

**Telex:** 9336 PROM BN  
7889 PMPO BN  
**Faxes:** +973 533033

and 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 4 March 1994.