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Bahrain: Amnesty International welcomes the release of political prisoners

Amnesty International today wrote to the Amir of Bahrain, Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa, and welcomed the order issued a few days ago to release 320 political detainees and prisoners, and allow 12 Bahraini nationals to return to the country.

“This is a positive step in the right direction and further measures to improve the human rights situation in the country are needed,” Amnesty International said.

The organization requested details regarding all those released including their identity, dates of arrest, reason for arrest, charges that were brought against them, their place of detention and sentences that have been passed against any of them.

A number of people are still being detained solely for their peaceful opposition to the government. “The detention of such people must come to an end. Others continue to be held in prolonged administrative detention without charge or trial. These people must either be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and promptly brought to trial or be released,” the organization continued.

Amnesty International also urged the new Bahraini Government to put an end to the practice of forcible exile.

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