

# URGENT ACTION

## 200 PEOPLE DETAINED AFTER PARTY IN BAHRAIN

**At least 200 people are detained at an unknown location in Bahrain after being present at what some local media have described as a “gay party”. The media claim that many of the attendants at the party are “gay” and have committed acts that constitute “immoral behaviour”, although no official charges have been filed against the detainees.**

According to media reports, at least 200 people were arrested by the police on 2 February, while at a party at the Hidd Sports Club in al-Muharraq, Bahrain. The police raided the events hall in the middle of the night after neighbours complained about the noise. Local media have alleged that some of the attendees were consuming alcohol, while others, identified as male, were wearing women’s clothing.

Nobody has been able to confirm the whereabouts of the detainees. Media reports claim those arrested were accused of acts that constitute “immoral behaviour”. Amnesty International understands that their file has been transferred to the Public Prosecution Office for official indictment. Many of the detainees are reported to be from Gulf and other Arab countries.

Amnesty International does not yet know what the accusations of “moral behaviour” are based upon. If any of the people are detained on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, Amnesty calls for their immediate release. All those detained on the grounds of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity are considered prisoners of conscience. The right to freedom from discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes sexual orientation, is recognized in international treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Bahrain is a State Party.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English or Arabic:

- Urging the authorities to immediately reveal the whereabouts of those arrested in the Hidd Sports Club on 2 February;
- Noting that, if they have been detained on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, Amnesty International would consider them to be prisoners of conscience and call for their immediate and unconditional release;
- Urging the authorities to ensure their safety and security, including by keeping their names, identities and any images of them private;
- Urging the authorities to ensure they have prompt access to their families and lawyers and any medical attention they require;
- Urging the authorities to guarantee the rights to freedom of association in Bahrain.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 MARCH 2011 TO:

#### Minister of Interior

Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah bin Ahmad Al Khalifa  
Ministry of Interior  
P.O. Box 13, al-Manama, Bahrain  
**Fax: + 973 17232661**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs

Shaikh Khaled bin Ali al-Khalifa  
Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs  
P. O. Box 450, Manama, Bahrain  
**Fax: +973 17531284**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### **And Copies to:**

#### Minister of Foreign Affairs

Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa  
P.O. Box 547, al-Manama, Bahrain  
**Fax: +973 17212603**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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