

URGENT ACTION

SENTENCE UPHELD, LAWYER'S REQUEST IGNORED

Taqi 'Abdallah al-Maydan's 10-year prison sentence has been upheld and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has concluded that his detention is arbitrary.

Taqi 'Abdallah al-Maydan's appeal against his 10-year prison sentence was dismissed by the High Criminal Court of Appeal on 27 January 2014. His lawyer soon lodged an appeal before the Court of Cassation but no date has been set for a hearing yet.

Taqi 'Abdallah al-Maydan had been convicted of "attempting to kill policemen", "burning an armoured police vehicle" and "illegal gathering and rioting". He is held in Jaw Prison, around 30km south of the capital, Manama. His family are allowed to visit him for one hour every two weeks.

Taqi 'Abdallah al-Maydan, a 26-year-old US national, was arrested at his home in al-Sanabis, west of Manama, on 7 October 2012. He was interrogated by the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID), tortured, and forced to sign a "confession" that he was part of a group that had blocked Manama's al-Budaya' Street by burning tyres and attacked a police patrol with Molotov cocktails on 5 October 2012. The High Criminal Court had sentenced him on 24 September 2013 to 10 years in prison after an unfair trial, during which he had denied any involvement in the incident. Taqi 'Abdallah al-Maydan's allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are not known to have been investigated.

During its 69th session on 21 July 2014 the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) considered that Taqi Abdallah al-Maydan's detention was arbitrary, and called on the Bahraini authorities to release him immediately and grant him adequate compensation. The WGAD also decided to transmit the file of his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment to the UN Committee against Torture and the UN Special Rapporteur on the question of torture.

No further action is requested by the UA Network. Amnesty International will be taking this case up through other means and will take action when necessary. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 264/13. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/044/2013/en>

Name: Taqi 'Abdallah al-Maydan
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 264/13 Index: MDE 11/1102/2015 Issue Date: 3 March 2015

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