

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 43/93

Fear of refoulement/Fear for safety

30 April 1993

BAHRAIN:

al-Sayyid Hashem al-Musawi

Amnesty International has received reports that al-Sayyid Hashem al-Musawi, a Bahraini national, will be deported from Bahrain to the United Arab Emirates on 1 May 1993. It is also feared that if deported, he may be sent to a third country where he might be tortured or ill-treated.

Amnesty International is concerned that he has served his sentence, and if the authorities have any reason to deport him they should make this clear and allow him a proper opportunity to defend himself in a court of law.

al-Sayyid Hashem al-Musawi, a Shi'a of Persian origin, was arrested in 1988 on political grounds and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He had finished serving his sentence in early April 1993 but has been kept in custody. Recently he was reportedly asked to sign some documents forbidding him from any future political activity, but he refused. On 28 April 1993 his family was told by the Ministry of the Interior to choose a country to which he would be sent.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 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 who had been forcibly exiled, apparently for exercising their right to freedom of opinion and expression, were permitted to return to Bahrain after living abroad for many years, many others were not.

According to information received by Amnesty International, victims of forcible exile from Bahrain are frequently given no reason for their deportation 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that al-Sayyid Hashem al-Musawi is to be deported from Bahrain to the United Arab Emirates on 1 May 1993;
- urging that he not be forcibly deported from Bahrain;

- urging that he be released immediately and unconditionally since he has already served his five-year prison sentence;

- urging the Bahraini authorities that if there are criminal charges, he should be informed and allowed an opportunity to defend himself;

- urging that authorities to stop the unacceptable practice of exiling their own nationals in contravention of their own constitution and international human rights standards.

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APPEALS TO

1) His Highness

Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

Office of His Highness the Amir

P.O. Box 555

The Amiri Court

Rifa'a Palace

Rifa'a, Manama

Bahrain

Telegrams: His Highness the Amir, Manama, Bahrain

Telexes: 8666 Qasar BN, 8500 Qasar BN

Salutation: Your Highness

2) His Excellency

Al-Shaikh Mohamed Al Khalifa

Minister of Interior

PO Box 13

Manama

Bahrain

Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Manama, Bahrain

Telexes: 9572 PSMKT BN or 8333 ALAMAN BN

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

His Excellency

Al-Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

Prime Minister of Bahrain

PO Box 1000

Manama

Bahrain

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 7 May 1993.