

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture / Legal concern

9 December 1994

BAHRAIN

Al-Shaikh 'Ali Salman
Ibrahim Hassan
and others

There are fears that al-Shaikh 'Ali Salman, Ibrahim Hassan and an unknown number of others arrested during the past week are at risk of torture in detention.

The arrests allegedly took place after many Bahraini nationals had signed a petition initiated by 14 well-known figures calling on the Amir of Bahrain to reinstate the parliament which was dissolved in 1975. Al-Shaikh 'Ali Salman, who leads the prayers at al-Khawaja Mosque in Manama, and Ibrahim Hassan, were arrested on 5 December in their homes in Bilad al-Qadim, south-west of Manama.

Another of those arrested, Ahmed Hassan, was released after a few days. Reports that he was beaten in custody have heightened concerns for the safety of the other detainees, most of whom are believed to be in al-Qal'a Prison. Amnesty International has previously received reports of the torture and ill-treatment of detainees in al-Qal'a Prison.

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

- seeking assurances that al-Shaikh 'Ali Salman and Ibrahim Hassan, arrested on 5 December 1994, as well as other detainees arrested around the same time, are being humanely treated in accordance with international human rights standards, and are being granted access to lawyers and relatives;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of any detainee who is being held solely for the non-violent expression of their conscientiously held beliefs;
- calling for the whereabouts of all those detained to be made known to their families.

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 668884
Salutation: Your Highness

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 276765 or 290526 or 754303

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

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 21 January 1995.