



Ms. Navanethem Pillay

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

Manama, 13 August 2013

Dear High Commissioner,

Many activists, clerics and politicians have called for protests on 14 August – the day of independence from the British colonialism – this call has been adopted by a movement that names itself ‘Bahrain Rebellion’, this political movement stresses that it calls for peaceful demonstration on 14 August in order to achieve self-determination for the people of Bahrain and to protect the civil and political rights especially in relation to freedom of opinion, assembly, political participation and the right to choose the government.

The National Assembly (80 members from the Council of Representatives and Shura Council) held on Sunday – 28 July – an extraordinary session in order to discuss giving extensive powers to the Executive Authority in the area of counter-terrorism, the session was attended by 12 ministers, among them was the Minister of Interior and Minister of Justice. The Assembly endorsed 22 recommendations which are submitted to the King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa; the King later issued a statement in which he agreed to all the recommendations (**recommendations attached**).

Since the King of Bahrain endorsed the recommendations of the National Assembly, the security bodies have started to practice the extensive powers it was granted, and according to the **BYSHR** documentation, the Bahraini Authorities have during the period (29 July – 11 August) arrested approximately **120 people** and raided almost **283 houses from various villages**.

The Bahraini Authorities arrested the blogger Mohammed Hasan Safy (@safybh)- his lawyer **Abdul Aziz Moussa** was detained on 8 August 2013 after he reported on Twitter the visible signs of torture he had seen on Mohamed Hassan- as well as the two photographers Hussein Hubail and Qassim Zen-el-deen, and according to information they were subjected to mistreatment in the Criminal Investigation Department.

The Ministry of Communication had also blogged several electronic websites.

The Bahraini Ministry of Interior issued a warning that it will take the necessary legal action against anyone who participates or calls for demonstrating on 14 August.

Many journalists have been barred from entering Bahrain and the Bahraini authorities had threatened employees in the public and private sectors.

The Bahraini Authorities had amended the Bahraini Anti-terrorism law in order to limit public liberties and restrict freedom of opinion and assembly and to hold accountable those responsible for peaceful protests.

On 30 July 2013, the **BYSHR** addressed the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and on 1 August the **BYSHR** addressed the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression about the on-going human rights violations.

The **BYSHR** called on the Bahraini Authorities to allow freedom of opinion and assembly, and especially on 14 August, and it called on all the political parties that called for the protests to take on a peaceful approach and not use violence.

The **BYSHR** asks you to address the Bahraini Authorities to stop the arbitrary measures against freedom of opinion and assembly and especially in relation to the expected protests on 14 August, and it also calls for monitoring the serious violations that will happen on 14 August, whether by the riot police or protestors.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Mr. Mohammed Al-Maskati
President
Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights

Recommendations by National Assembly

- 1.** Issuance of Decree Laws during parliament's summer recess in order to toughen penalties in the terrorism law and, if necessary, to implement such recommendations, in order to face any event requiring expediting the adoption of measures that brook no delay, and need swift actions to protect national security and stability, in line with Article 38 of the Kingdom's Constitution.
- 2.** Revoking the citizenship of those who carry out terrorist crimes and their instigators.
- 3.** Inflicting tough penalties on those who incite all forms of violence and terrorism.
- 4.** Inflicting severe punishment on all kinds and forms of violence and terror crimes.
- 5.** Drying up all sources of terrorist financing.
- 6.** Banning sit-ins, rallies and gatherings in the capital Manama.
- 7.** Taking all necessary measures, including the declaration of the State of National Safety, to impose civic security and peace whenever law is violated, the security of the citizens is compromised and private and public property is under threat.
- 8.** Taking legal actions against some political associations which incite and support acts of violence and terrorism.
- 9.** Amending Law 58 of 2006 with respect to protection of the community of against terrorist acts so as to inflict punishment on those who instigate and support terrorism.
- 10.** Granting the security bodies all required and appropriate powers to protect society from terror incidents and prevent spreading them.
- 11.** Requesting Ambassadors to Bahrain not to interfere in the kingdom's domestic affairs, in line with International Law and regulations.
- 12.** Toughening penalties on those who involve children and exploit them in acts of terrorism and vandalism of private or public facilities.
- 13.** Total commitment to applying all punitive laws related to combating violence and terrorism.
- 14.** Adherence to a balanced moderate discourse in order to preserve the social fabric of the Bahraini society.

- 15.** Direct relevant state bodies to activate the necessary legal action against those who use social networks in an illegal way, and toughening penalties against those who use those networks to disseminate false information to foreign sides which plot against the country's security and stability.
- 16.** Basic liberties, particularly freedom of opinion, should be affected so as to strike a balance between law enforcement and human rights protection.
- 17.** Examination of the educational policies of the kingdom and review and change educational curricular in a way that protects society from violence and terrorist actions and improves the behavior of students.
- 18.** Using the media to shed light on the dangers of terrorism and its negative impacts on national stability and economy.
- 19.** Backing the loyal efforts of HM the King to encourage national dialogue and push it forward, as serious national dialogue is the best means to resolve all issues and maintain national cohesion.
- 20.** Those involved in terrorist acts shall not be covered by Royal pardon on crimes.
- 21.** Devising an integrated national security strategy in order to be able to face all developments and supporting the efforts of those in charge of it and ensuring their protection.
- 22.** Launching programmes to rehabilitate youths who were exploited in various crimes.