



Report: The Recommendations of the Bahraini National Assembly Restrain Liberties

8 September 2013

On Sunday – 28 July 2013 – the National Assembly (the Council of Representatives and Shura Council) issued 22 recommendations related to the political situation in Bahrain following an extraordinary session called for by the King of Bahrain on the request of the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Khalifa Al-Dhahrani.

77 members from the Council of Representatives and Shura Council met today in addition to 12 ministers. During the meeting the members of the National Assembly endorsed recommendations against terrorism (67 and the rest abstained and two withdrew), the Speaker of the Council of Representatives refused to allow the members of the National Assembly to amend the recommendations.

The King of Bahrain released a statement emphasizing the implementation of the National Assembly recommendations – 22 recommendations – and he demanded a prompt implementation (Statement of the King of Bahrain: <http://www.bna.bh/portal/news/573191>)

The Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights issues its preliminary report – 28 July-4 September – on the recommendations that have been implemented.

Recommendation (1): The National Assembly recommends the issuance of Decree Laws during the 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.

Implementation: The King issued a resolution to amend the Terrorism Law, the Juvenile Law, the Law of Demonstrations and Assembly, and he issued a new Decree related to collecting money for general purposes.

Recommendation (2): Revoking the citizenship of those who carry out terrorist crimes and their instigators.

Implementation: On 31 July, the King of Bahrain issued Decree-law No. (20) of the year 2013 (to amend the articles of the Anti-terrorism law), Article (24) was amended by adding (revoking the citizenship on those convicted with the crimes stated in Articles (5), (9), (12) and (17) of this law, the withdrawal sentence is effective only after ratification by the King)

Recommendation (3): Inflicting tough penalties on those who incite all forms of violence and terrorism.

Implementation: On 31 July, the King of Bahrain issued Decree-law No. (20) of the year 2013 (to amend the articles of the Anti-terrorism law), Article (17) was amended to (A prison sentence shall be inflicted upon everyone who incites another to commit a crime for the implementation of a terrorist objective even though his acts shall be of no effect).

Recommendation (4): Inflicting severe punishment on all kinds and forms of violence and terror crimes.

Implementation: On 31 July, the King of Bahrain issued Decree-law No. (20) of the year 2013 (to amend the articles of the Anti-terrorism law), Article (10) was amended to:

A prison sentence shall be the penalty for everyone who causes an explosion with the aim of terrorizing innocent people whatever may be the type or form of such explosion.

The penalty increases to death or life imprisonment if the bombing results in any death or injury.

While anyone who puts or carries anything that resembles or that is believed to be explosives or firecrackers in public or private places will receive prison terms.

Recommendation (5): Drying up all sources of terrorist financing.

Implementation: On 31 July, King of Bahrain issued Decree-law of the year 2013 in regards to (organizing the collection of money for general purposes) and the law prohibits collecting money without a license from the Ministry of Social Development.

Recommendation (6): Banning sit-ins, rallies and gatherings in the capital Manama.

Implementation: On 6 August, King of Bahrain issued Decree-law No. (22) of the year 2013 regarding (Gathering and Assembly Law), Article (11) was amended to (... the organization of

demonstrations, marches, rallies, or sit-ins in the capital city of Manama is prohibited, as well as marches and gatherings that are being held at or near hospitals, airports, shopping malls, or other places of security, these places are left open for the Minister of Interior to determine and announce. The use of vehicles in any demonstration, protest or gathering is prohibited, unless a special written permission is obtained from the head of Public Security or someone on his behalf).

Recommendation (8): Taking legal actions against some political associations which incite and support acts of violence and terrorism.

Implementation: On 3 September, the Minister of Justice issued a resolution to add a new Article to Resolution No. 4 of the year 2005 regarding to the rules for political societies contacting foreign political parties or organizations. The new Article states (the political societies may contact foreign diplomatic or consular missions in the country, or foreign governmental organizations or representatives of foreign governments and others, only after coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the presence of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative or someone designated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the relevant bodies. The Ministry of Justice has to be informed at least three days beforehand).

Recommendation (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.

Implementation: On 31 July, King of Bahrain issued Decree-law No. (20) of the year 2013 regarding the (Terrorism Law) and Articles (10, 17, 30) were replaced while Articles (6, 24) were amended.

Recommendation (10): Granting the security bodies all required and appropriate powers to protect society from terror incidents and prevent spreading them.

Implementation: Since 28 July, the Bahraini Authorities have arrested approximately 525 people and raided more than 1000 house according to the documentation of the BYSHR.

Recommendation (11): Requesting Ambassadors to Bahrain not to interfere in the kingdom's domestic affairs, in line with International Law and regulations.

Implementation: On 29 July, the Minister of Foreign Affairs met with the diplomatic missions and asked them to abide by the law and not to interfere in the internal affairs of Bahrain in implementation of the recommendations of the National Assembly.

Recommendation (12): Toughening penalties on those who involve children and exploit them in acts of terrorism and vandalism of private or public facilities.

Implementation: On 6 August, King of Bahrain issued Decree-law No. (23) of the year 2013 regarding the amendment of the (Juvenile Law) and Articles (1, 2, 3, 4, 19, 20) were amended, the amendments of Articles (19, 20) included:

- It is punishable by imprisonment and/or a fine of those responsible for the education and upbringing of the juvenile for the event he was cautioned for in accordance with clause (a) of Article (4) of this Act if he neglects control of the juvenile and the consequence is repeated delinquency presented in one of the cases referred to in Article (2) of this Act.
- Punishment of imprisonment no longer than one year and/or a fine of no more than two thousand Bahraini Dinars he who neglects the performance of one of his duties if the consequence is the commissioning of a crime or a risk of delinquency present in one of the cases referred to in Article (2) of this Act.

Recommendation (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.

Implementation: On 31 July, the Bahraini Authorities arrested the prominent blogger Mohammed Al-Safi, and they arrested his colleague Hussein Hubail as well. On 3 August, the Authorities arrested the photographer Qassim Zen-el-Deen. On 4 August, the Ministry of Communication issued a decision to block 70 websites as a result of the Anti-terrorism law (statement issued by the Ministry).

A Monitoring of Statements of Officials (29 July – 4 September 2013)

No.	Name of Official	Number of Statements
1	King of Bahrain	5
2	Prime Minister – Cabinet	22
3	Crown Prince	2
4	Minister of Justice	1
5	Minister of Interior	5
6	Minister of Human Rights	7
7	Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	1
8	Minister of Information	3
9	Minister of Communications	2
10	Governor of the Southern Governorate	1

The Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights monitored press statements that concentrated on:

1. Countering terrorism.
2. Implementing the recommendations of the National Assembly.
3. Threatening civil liberties