

URGENT ACTION

REVIEW FOR UPHELD DEATH SENTENCE REQUESTED

On 28 March 2018, the Public Prosecutor announced that it had requested the review of the cases of Mohamed Ramadhan Issa Ali Hussain and Hussain Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed, both of whom had their death sentences confirmed by the Cassation Court in November 2015, as new evidence emerged following investigation by the Special Investigations Unit.

On 28 March, the Public Prosecutor issued a statement in which he said that his office had received a memorandum from the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) relating to its investigations into the complaints brought by **Mohamed Ramadhan Issa Ali Hussain** and **Hussain Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed**. The SIU recommended that the cases be sent for review, despite the fact that their death sentences had been previously upheld by the Cassation Court. The cases have been referred to the Minister of Justice to consider the SIU's recommendation. According to the SIU, the unit uncovered medical reports issued by doctors of the Ministry of Interior relating to the alleged torture of both men that had not been made available to the court before it issued its verdict.

On 16 November 2015, the Court of Cassation had confirmed the death sentences of Mohamed Ramadhan and Hussain Ali Moosa and their cases were passed to the King who has the authority to ratify the sentences, commute them or grant a pardon. The two men are held in Jaw prison in south Manama, Bahrain's capital. They were sentenced to death on 29 December 2014 for the killing of a policeman, who died in a bomb explosion in al-Deir, a village northeast of Manama, on 14 February 2014. Ten people, who were sentenced with them, to between six years and life in prison, also had their sentences upheld.

During the trial, Hussain 'Ali Moosa's forced "confession" was used as the main piece of evidence against him. His "confession" was also used to incriminate Mohamed Ramadhan.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the Bahraini authorities to commute all death sentences and establish an official moratorium on executions;
- Urging them to order the full retrial of both men, in proceedings that fully comply with international fair trial standards and exclude the use of evidence obtained under torture, and without resort to the death penalty;
- Urging them to promptly, adequately and effectively investigate their allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 MAY 2018 TO:

King

Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace, al-Manama, Bahrain
Fax: +973 1766 4587

Salutation: **Your Majesty**

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs

Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa
Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs
P. O. Box 450, al-Manama, Bahrain
Fax: +973 1753 1284
E-form: <http://www.moj.gov.bh/en/>

Twitter: **@Khaled_Bin_Ali**

And copies to:

Minister of Interior
Shaikh Rashid bin 'Abdullah Al Khalifa
Ministry of Interior
P.O. Box 13, al-Manama, Bahrain
Fax: +973 1723 2661

Twitter: **@moi_Bahrain**

Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. His Excellency Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain, 30 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8QB, Tel: 0207 201 9170, Fax 020 7201 9183, Email: information@bahrainembassy.co.uk or through the online contact form at <http://www.bahrainembassy.co.uk/> Salutation: Your Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fourth update of UA 1/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde11/5516/2017/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bahrain resumed executions on 15 January 2017, after a nearly seven-year hiatus. Following a grossly unfair trial, three men, Ali Abdulshaheed al-Sankis, Sami Mirza Mshaima' and Abbas Jamil Taher Mhammad al-Samea, were executed on that day after their death sentences were confirmed by the Court of Cassation on 9 January. The speed at which the King of Bahrain ratified their death sentences and their executions were carried out was unprecedented in the country. Under Bahraini law, once a death sentence has been confirmed by the Court of Cassation the decision is sent to the King of Bahrain. The latter holds the authority to then ratify the sentence, commute it or grant a pardon. Prior to the 15 January executions, the last person executed in Bahrain was Bangladeshi national Jassim Abdulmanan in 2010.

Mohamed Ramadhan 'Issa 'Ali Hussain and Hussain 'Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed told their lawyers that they had been tortured or otherwise ill-treated in the first few days they were detained, in February and March 2014, during interrogation at the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID). In the absence of their lawyers, Mohamed Ramadhan refused to sign a "confession" but Hussain 'Ali Moosa said he was coerced to "confess" and incriminate Mohamed Ramadhan after being suspended by his limbs from the ceiling and beaten repeatedly for several days. Hussain 'Ali Moosa's "confession" was later used as the main evidence in the trial of the two men and led to their conviction. Hussain 'Ali Moosa told his lawyers that he reported his torture to the Public Prosecutor, and that his "confession" had been coerced, but the Prosecutor dismissed the allegation and sent him back to the CID where he has said he was tortured for another two months. Mohamed Ramadhan claimed that he too had reported being tortured to the Public Prosecution but had his allegation dismissed.

Mohamed Ramadhan 'Issa 'Ali Hussain and Hussain 'Ali Moosa Hussain Mohamed appealed their death sentences before the High Criminal Court of Appeal on 30 March 2015. No new evidence was presented at the appeal hearing. The men's lawyers only received a copy of the original judgement during the first session of the appeal hearing. In the second session, they had to ask for the permission of the Court to summon witnesses in the next session as they had not had enough time to prepare their pleadings. The judge rejected their request and adjourned the hearing to 26 May 2015 for final judgement before the lawyers could give their final pleading. Their death sentences were upheld by the Court on the same day.

Despite receiving complaints from Mohamed Ramadhan's wife and a US-based NGO in 2014, the Ombudsman's office for two years failed to investigate his allegations of torture. In April 2016, the Ombudsman incorrectly informed the UK government that it had received "no allegations of mistreatment or torture" in relation to Mohamed Ramadhan. Following international pressure, the Ombudsman told the UK government in July 2016 that it had committed to undertake "a full, independent investigation", subsequently interviewing Mohamed Ramadhan's wife and lawyer.

For further information, please see Amnesty International's November 2016 report *Window-dressing or pioneers of change? An assessment of Bahrain's human rights oversight bodies* (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde11/5080/2016/en/>).

Today, 142 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. The right to life, the right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception, as a violation of the right to life and the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Further information on UA: 1/15 Index: MDE 11/8242/2018 Issue Date: 19 April 2018