

URGENT ACTION

Ali Isa al-Tajer's DETENTION EXTENDED yet again

Ali Isa al-Tajer's detention has been extended by a further month. A forensic doctor referred him to see three consultants about his alleged torture. He has been examined by only one of them.

On 28 January, **Ali Isa al-Tajer** was brought before the Public Prosecutor who ordered his detention to be extended by a further month pending investigation. His detention had already been extended by 30 days on 30 December. He is being held in Dry Dock prison, north-east of the capital, Manama.

Ali Isa al-Tajer told his family that when he was taken to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) around 29 December, he was examined by a forensic doctor who referred him to see three different medical specialists at the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) about a prolapsed disc in his spine and a knee injury. The SIU later called his brother Mohamed al-Tajer, who is one of his lawyers, asking him to hand over Ali Isa al-Tajer's clothing, which had been returned to him earlier that month by officers from the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID).

He had been brought before the Public Prosecutor on 30 December, who said the forensic doctor had seen no signs of torture. Ali Isa al-Tajer asked why the forensic doctor had nevertheless referred him to three different consultants. Ali Isa al-Tajer has had appointments made with all three consultants but has only been taken to the SMC to see the ear, nose and throat consultant. His lawyers have not seen any medical reports that resulted.

Ali Isa al-Tajer called his family on 30 January and said it was very cold in the prison as there was no heating and the prison uniform was not warm enough. He said that he still had pain in his knees and back and that he had to sleep on a thin mattress on the floor. During a visit on 23 December, his family had tried to give him socks and shoes, as prison footwear is only slippers, but a prison guard objected, as they did not have written permission.

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

- √ Urging the authorities to investigate Ali Isa al-Tajer's torture allegations promptly, publish the results, including the results of any medical examinations, bring those responsible to justice and disregard any confessions extracted under torture in any proceeding against him;
- √ Urging them to take him to see a urologist and orthopaedic consultant, as recommended by the forensic doctor, and ensure he has access to any medical care that he may require;
- √ Calling on them to ensure Ali Isa al-Tajer and other prisoners are held in humane conditions, including by allowing them adequate winter clothing.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 MARCH 2016 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

Ministry of Interior

Shaikh Rashid bin 'Abdullah Al Khalifa

P.O. Box 13, al-Manama

Bahrain

Fax: +973 1723 2661
Email: info@interior.gov.bh
Twitter: @moi_Bahrain
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs

Shaikh Khaled bin Ali bin Abdullah Al Khalifa

Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs

P. O. Box 450, al-Manama, Bahrain

Fax: +973 1753 1284

Email (via website): <http://www.moj.gov.bh/en/default76a7.html?action=category&ID=159>

Twitter: @Khaled_Bin_Ali **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.

URGENT ACTION

Ali Isa al-Tajer's DETENTION EXTENDED yet again

Additional Information

Ali Isa al-Tajer was arrested on 5 November 2015 at around 5pm, at his family home in the village of al-Dair, by masked police officers in civilian clothes. They came into the house through the back door without any warning and searched Ali Isa al-Tajer's room and car, taking his mobile phone and two laptops. They did not present any search or arrest warrants, or say why they were arresting him. They told his family they were taking him to the CID.

Ali Isa al-Tajer called his family about an hour later and said he was at the CID, but the number he called from was in the al-Qalaa area, where the National Security Agency (NSA) is known to be located, not al-'Adliya in Manama, where the CID is. Ali Isa al-Tajer called his family very briefly on 11 November and said the detaining officers had told him he would soon be released. He called again six days later and said only that he would soon be released. He called again on 24 November and said the same thing. Each time he called his family, it was from the area of al-Qalaa.

Ali Isa al-Tajer was brought to the Public Prosecution on 30 November for interrogation. The prosecution only told one of his lawyers Mohamed al-Tajer, who is also his brother, about the interrogation less than 30 minutes before it started. Ali Isa al-Tajer was charged with "joining an illegal terrorist organization to overthrow the government by force" and "training individuals on the use of weapons for terrorist purposes". He denied the charges and told the prosecutor he had been tortured and forced to sign written confessions that he could not read as he was blindfolded. According to his lawyers, the charges are based on "confessions" from other detainees extracted under torture and from "secret" sources.

The prosecutor rejected Ali Isa al-Tajer's lawyers' requests to speak to him before or during the interrogation, and threatened to remove one lawyer when he told his client he had the right to deny the charges. Ali Isa al-Tajer tried to describe how he was tortured but was told to stop talking and that his allegations would be handled by the SIU.

After the interrogation, his lawyers were allowed to meet with Ali Isa al-Tajer for five minutes, with three policemen present. He told them he had been beaten all over his body, particularly on his head and genitals, and that he had a rope tied tightly round his genitals and pulled. He said he was forced to strip and kept naked for most of the 25 days that he was interrogated for in detention, threatened with electric shocks, forced to stand for long periods of time and deprived of sleep. He said he had been held in a number of different detention locations, including the NSA.

Amnesty International has been told of a number of detainees being arrested, interrogated and detained with NSA involvement. This would be a breach of Article 4 of Decree 115 of 2011, which limited the NSA's role to intelligence-gathering and uncovering activities damaging to national security, its system and institutions, in accordance with the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) recommendations.

The BICI, which was established by royal decree to investigate abuses during the February/March 2011 protests and other abuses in the following months, presented its findings to the King of Bahrain on 23 November 2011. The BICI recommended the government take a series of steps to address the violations that had occurred and to prevent further human rights violations, including the recommendation to limit the NSA's activities to intelligence-gathering.

Name: Ali Isa al-Tajer

Gender m/f: m