

# URGENT ACTION

**DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE FOR MORE THAN A MONTH**  
**Al-Sayed Alawi Hussain al-Alawi was arrested at work on 24 October in Bahrain. He was allowed to call his family for the first time late at night on 27 November to tell them that he was being held at the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID). He has had no access to his lawyer since his arrest. He is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.**

**Al-Sayed Alawi Hussain al-Alawi**, a 43-year-old man working for Batelco (Bahrain Telecommunications Company), was arrested following a raid by four armed men in civilian clothing at about 4 pm on 24 October while he was in a meeting with engineers and contractors at a site they were working on in al-Muharraq, north east of the capital Manama. No reason was given for his arrest. His work phone and computer were confiscated and he was driven to an unknown place. The same day his wife filed a missing report at Budaya Police station. Staff at the station contacted all detention facilities under the Ministry of Interior, and hospitals and ports in Bahrain and they all asserted that they knew nothing about the whereabouts of Al-Sayed Alawi Hussain al-Alawi. On 25 October his wife submitted a complaint to the Ombudsman of the Ministry of the Interior's office, where she was told that they would keep her informed with any developments. Despite the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID) initially denying several times to the family that Al-Sayed Alawi Hussain al-Alawi was in their detention, his wife received a call from the CID on 3 November at about 6pm stating that he had been transferred to Dry Dock prison in Manama. The prison authorities then denied having him in their custody and referred them to the Public Prosecution where they were met with the same answer. On 17 November the family contacted the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) to inquire about the latest updates they had on the case and were surprised to hear that according to their investigations, the CID had told them that Al-Sayed Alawi Hussain al-Alawi had called his wife and told her about his whereabouts.

On 27 November at 11.15 pm al-Sayed Alawi Hussain al-Alawi finally phoned his wife and also spoke to his mother and told them that he was being held at the CID. He only answered yes or no to their questions and told them to look after themselves. The call lasted four minutes and he sounded exhausted. Requests by the family to visit him, and by his lawyer to be present during his interrogation have all been rejected until he is officially charged.

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

- Urging the Bahraini authorities to release al-Sayed Alawi Hussain al-Alawi's unless he is promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence, in line with international law and standards;
- Calling on them to provide him with prompt and regular access to his family, lawyer and any medical attention he may require;
- Urging them to ensure that he is protected torture or other ill-treatment while he is in their detention.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 JANUARY 2017 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 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**

**And copies to:**

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  
 Email: <http://www.moj.gov.bh/en/>  
 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](mailto: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.**

**AMNESTY  
 INTERNATIONAL**



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## DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE FOR MORE THAN A MONTH

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has documented arbitrary arrests and detentions and torture and other ill-treatment of detainees, particularly while held incommunicado and subjected to interrogation by the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID), when detainees allege they are forced to sign “confessions” for use as evidence against them or to implicate others at trial. Documented methods include beatings, forcing detainees to remain standing for long periods, sleep deprivation and keeping detainees naked.

The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI), appointed by Royal Order on 29 June 2011, was charged with investigating and reporting on human rights violations committed in connection with the 2011 protests. At the launch of the BICI report on 23 November 2011, the government publicly committed itself to implementing the recommendations set out in the report. The report recounted the government’s response to the mass protests and documented wide-ranging human rights abuses. Among its key recommendations, the report called on the government to bring to account those responsible for human rights violations, including torture and excessive use of force, and carry out independent investigations into allegations of torture.

In 2012 the Bahraini government created two key institutions to investigate alleged human rights violations and ensure accountability – the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior and the Special Investigation Unit (SIU). The Ombudsman and the SIU both have wide, legally backed mandates, and are empowered and resourced to conduct prompt and effective investigations into alleged human rights violations by state agents, acting in response to complaints or at their own volition. Their mandates require them to be independent and transparent, and to uphold confidentiality. The Ombudsman can refer cases to the SIU, which is mandated and empowered to investigate and refer cases to court and to challenge court verdicts and sentences before courts of appeal.

The Ombudsman’s office has generally been effective in referring complaints of torture and other serious human rights violations for investigation by the SIU. However, in some cases it failed to take prompt action to protect detainees from torture and other ill-treatment, or to effectively investigate their allegations or to ensure their access to medical care. See also 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/>).

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