

PUBLIC

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Ill-treatment / Health Concern

15 August 2003

BAHRAIN

Over 200 prisoners at Jaw Prison

Amnesty International has received information that more than 200 prisoners have been on hunger strike for about 10 days in Jaw prison in south Bahrain. There are concerns for the possible deterioration of the health conditions of the striking prisoners, who are protesting about their ill-treatment and lack of access to lawyers and human rights organizations.

Earlier this year, following a previous hunger strike, a prisoner called Yasser Makki allegedly died in detention on 3 March, as a result of him not being given timely access to medical treatment for his deteriorating health.

The prisoners are reported to have taken over Camp Number Four in the prison, following complaints of ill-treatment, such as the alleged assault of prisoner Ghazi Munshed, who was said to have been beaten in front of his family.

Human rights organizations in Bahrain say that they have brought the issue of the ill-treatment of the prisoners to the attention of the Bahraini authorities. However, the authorities are not only denying them access to the prisoners, but are also not adequately addressing the issue of ill-treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or your own language:

- asking for medical treatment to be provided to the prisoners, and for them to be given immediate access to lawyers;
- calling on the Bahraini authorities to carry out an immediate, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the allegations of ill-treatment at Jaw Prison;
- calling for those who are suspected to have been involved in the ill-treatment of the prisoners such as Ghazi Munshed, to be brought to justice;
- calling for an immediate, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the death of Yasser Makki.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency

Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

Prime Minister

Office of the Prime Minister

P.O. Box 1000, Manama, Bahrain

Telegrams: Prime Minister, al-Manama, Bahrain

Telexes: 9336 PROM BN or 7889 PMPO BN

Faxes: + 973 533033

Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency

Shaikh Muhammad Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa

Minister of Interior

Ministry of Interior

P.O. Box 13, Manama, Bahrain

Telegrams: Minister of Interior, al-Manama, Bahrain
Telexes: 9572 PSMKT BN or 8333 ALAMAN BN
Faxes: + 973 276765 or 290526
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Highness

Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa

Office of His Highness the Amir

P. O. Box 555

The Amiri Court, Rifa'a Palace, Bahrain

Telegrams His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa, The Amiri Court, Rifa'a Palace, Bahrain

Salutation: Your Highness

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of BAHRAIN accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 September 2003