

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 11/03/99

27 January 1999

Further information on UA 26/96 (MDE 11/02/96, 2 February 1996) and follow-ups (MDE 11/01/98, 12 February 1998 and MDE 11/05/98, 1 May 1998) - Fear of torture/Medical concern/Fear of medical neglect/Ill-Treatment

BAHRAIN Shaikh 'Abd al-Amir Mansur al-Jamri, aged 62
 Shaikh Hassan Sultan
 Shaikh 'Ali 'Ashour
 Shaikh 'Ali bin Ahmad al-Jeddhafsi
 Shaikh Hussein al-Deihi
 Hassan Meshema'a
 Sayyed Ibrahim 'Adnan al-'Alawi
 Abdul Wahab Hussein

The men named above have now been detained without charge or trial since January 1996 - in breach of Bahrain's 1974 Decree Law on State Security Measures (which allows for a maximum administrative detention of three years of persons suspected of "endangering state security").

The men were among hundreds arrested and held incommunicado following demonstrations protesting at the closure of mosques where prominent Shi'a clerics were calling on the government to restore democratic rights. All are prominent Shi'a Muslim religious and political leaders. The government has stated it intends to try them for instigating violence and sabotage.

Amnesty International considers the men to be prisoners of conscience, arrested as a result of their non-violent political and religious activities.

Hundreds of others are also believed to be held under the 1974 Decree Law, many for over three years without charge or trial.

Following a final round of appeals, this UA will be closed and action on behalf of the eight men will continue through other action methods. Many thanks to all who have sent appeals. Please send a last round of telexes, faxes and letters in English, Arabic or in your own language:

- asking for the eight men named above to be released immediately and unconditionally as prisoners of conscience;
- reminding the government of Bahrain of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 9: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile", and Article 19: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this rights includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers".

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency

Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister

P.O. Box 1000, 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

P.O. Box 13, Al-Manama, Bahrain

Telexes: 9572 PSMKT BN or 8333 ALAMAN BN

Faxes: + 973 276765 / 290526

Salutation: Your Excellency

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 10 March 1999.

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>