

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 11/05/99

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Further information on UA 26/96 (MDE 11/02/96, 2 February 1996) and follow-ups (MDE 11/01/98, 12 February 1998, MDE 11/05/98, 1 May 1998 and MDE 11/03/99, 27 January 1999) - 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

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Shaikh 'Abd al-Amir Mansur al-Jamri has finally been put on trial, more than three years after his arrest. Bahraini law allows a maximum of three years' detention of persons suspected of "endangering state security".

He appeared before the State Security Court on 21 February 1999 in Jaw, south-east of the capital al-Manama, on charges including incitement to violence and acts of sabotage. Defendants tried by the State Security Court have no right of appeal. He was given access to a government-appointed lawyer only one hour before the trial session began, and his family have appointed four other lawyers to take charge of his defence. His wife and children were allowed to attend the trial session, which was held *in camera*.

It is not known if or when the other seven will be put on trial. Amnesty International considers all eight to be prisoners of conscience, arrested for their non-violent political and religious activities.

This UA has now been closed, and action on behalf of Shaikh 'Abd al-Amir Mansur al-Jamri and the other seven men will continue through other action methods. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.