

# **Report on the Treatment of Political Detainees in Bahrain's Prisons**

Prepared by the Bahrain Rehabilitation & Anti-Violence Organisation (BRAVO) and the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) for the International Committee of the Red Cross

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## **Introduction**

Since the popular uprising calling for greater political and civil rights started in Bahrain on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011, well over 3000 people have been arrested by the authorities and continue to be arrested, according to the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI). Many of those who were detained or imprisoned by the government in relation to the events have described substandard conditions at various detention centres around Bahrain, particularly at central prisons whilst systematic torture seems to be continuing in local detention centres where unconvicted prisoners are held. This report attempts to highlight areas where treatment of political detainees at these detention centres falls short of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMRTP) adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Geneva 1955). The research methodology adopted is based on extensive interviews conducted with prisoners recently released and incorporates consistent reports that the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) receives from families of prisoners.

**By far the biggest complaint of mistreatment continues to be the poor access to health care, the continuing torture in local detention centres and the denial of due process by not releasing political prisoners arrested for taking part in the 2011 uprising.**

## **1. Discrimination against political detainees**

The UN SMRTP states that there should be no discrimination between prisoners on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. However, according to accounts from prisoners and those recently released from the central Jaw prison, political prisoners suffer from targeted discrimination in facilities and services that are generally provided to non-political prisoners. The majority of the political detainees are identified, distinguished and referred to by prison admin as “National Safety” detainees, referring to the 2.5 month period between March-May 2011 in which National Safety Law (a form of emergency law) was declared by the King of Bahrain. However, there are political prisoners sentenced on the back of opposition activities detained in Jaw prison since 2008 and 2009. It is believed that at least 400 prisoners arrested during that period remain in prison, if not more. In September 2011, the military courts sentenced 208 prisoners to a combined total of over 2500 years imprisonment.

Political detainees, for example, said they were specifically excluded from taking part in certain activities provided to non-political prisoners such as workshops in carpentry or arts, sports coaching and other voluntary jobs. Political prisoners are expected to serve their full sentence and no reduction in their time is evaluated based on good behaviour as done with other prisoners. When the prison administration were asked about this discrimination, prisoners were told by prison admin that any request for early release is rejected by the courts who have to approve the request. According to our records, no political prisoner so far, at least those on short sentences of less than one year, have been granted early release.

## **2. Separation of prisoner categories**

The UN SMRTP requires that different categories of prisoners be kept in separate institutions or parts of institutions. This includes separation of civil prisoners from criminal prisoners and untried detainees from convicts.

According to recurring accounts from Jaw prison, there is no separation between political prisoners and those convicted of criminal offences. In Jaw prison, political detainees are scattered in cells with drug dealers, sexual offenders, murderers and various other offenders.

In a phone call from Isa Town women's prison with Zainab Dhayem, a 20 year old law student, sentenced to 6 months imprisonment for illegal gathering and in jail since 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011, she stated that female political prisoners are mixed with the other prisoners convicted for prostitution and drug cases. She said they share the same bathroom with detainees who have STD's and that they worry for their health. Many other female detainees who spent time in this prison report the same.

SMRTP also states that young prisoners should be kept separate from adults. A number of families have confirmed that their young girls are imprisoned in the same place with adult women convicted for prostitution and they worry about the psychological effects this would have on their daughters.

In addition to these cases, some prisoners have complained of being held in the same cell as prisoners from various nationalities that do not speak Arabic creating at times communication problems between inmates.

### **3. Accommodation**

The UN SMRTP states that all accommodation provided for the use of prisoners and in particular all sleeping accommodation shall meet all requirements of health, due regard being paid to climatic conditions and particularly to cubic content of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating and ventilation.

Jaw prison detainees report poor hygienic conditions with prisoners not provided the necessary equipment to clean their cells and bathrooms. The smell of human waste fills the cells due to insufficient ventilation with very small windows and no exhaust fans. The shower area and drinking water basins are located in close proximity to the waste deposit facility contributing to the low hygienic conditions.

About 90 prisoners in each prison ward share around 5 working showers, with hot water quickly running out due to showers being restricted to break times only. This goes against the UN SMRTP mandate to provide showers at a temperature suitable to the climate.

Rooms are very small. Each prisoner has a bed area with very little space in the cell forcing prisoners to stay on their beds most of the time. A 3.5 x 4.5 meter room contains 6 beds, lockers and a 1.0 x 1.5 meter bathroom with a sink and toilet. The toilet door has an opening to the room which restricts privacy but does not prevent the smell from dissipating within the room.

In summer, air conditioning may occasionally not work (at least twice a week according to prisoners), at the same time water runs out from time to time with no chance of using toilets. In winter, water in the rooms is very cold as no heated water is provided to the cells, so prisoners find it difficult to wash for prayers. Air conditioning remains switched on in winter and prisoners complain that their cells are almost freezing.

Similar conditions exist in Isa Town women's prison as reported recently by families of the City Center detainees. There are 10 bunk beds in each room with no sitting area and a lack of sufficient spacing between beds for the women to perform their daily prayers. In addition, the rooms are poorly lit and considered to be very cold by prisoners in winter.

Bathrooms are in close proximity to the bedrooms with insufficient ventilation causing bad smells. They are in a very bad condition, quite old and in need of maintenance. Bathroom lighting is very poor with dirty dark floors which are almost black due to dirt.

There is a hall for playing sports but it is also unclean; again, falling short of UN minimum standards of ensuring that all parts of an institution regularly used by prisoners shall be properly maintained and kept scrupulously clean at all times.

### **4. Clothing and bedding**

UN SMRTP states that all clothing shall be clean and kept in proper condition with underwear changed and washed as often as necessary for the maintenance of hygiene.

Jaw prison detainees are able to wash their own clothes by hand, however, they complain that they are expected to dry their clothes in their small cells which causes dampness that encourages pests such as flies, cockroaches and bed bugs. They also say that they are unable to buy underwear from the prison shop most of the time. Policies to do with obtaining clothes from outside prison are unclear and badly articulated to families, often changing on a weekly basis.

Prisoners complain that beds are old, dirty and uncomfortable, and since the prisoners don't have sufficient space in the room they remain in their beds most of the time.

Jaw prison detainees complained that their beds are dirty and uncomfortable whilst those held at Isa Town women's prison have described their beds as spring-based with a thin base causing back pains after sleep.

## **5. Food**

In line with SMRTP every prisoner shall be provided by the administration at the usual hours with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served.

Jaw prisoners describe their food as unhealthy, seldom fresh, and meals contain high levels of oil and fat especially at lunch. They also mention that the variety of foods offered are very limited.

Women at the Isa Town detention centre have also described the food offered to them as unhealthy, with little to no salt, and at times inedible. They say they are forced to buy from the prison shop which is overpriced and has little variety on offer.

Bahrain is well-known for the high prevalence of hereditary diseases such as G6PD deficiency, which require special diets, however the prison does not provide a special menu for them, and when they do for severe diabetics, it is of substandard quality and taste.

## **6. Exercise and sport**

Every prisoner who is not employed in outdoor work shall have - weather permitting - at least one hour of suitable exercise in the open air daily according to the UN SMRTP. Recreational training during the period of exercise in addition to space, installations and equipment should also be provided.

According to accounts from the central Jaw prison, every day prisoners are allowed out of their cell for a maximum of 3.5 hours. In this break time, they are expected to shower, wash their clothes, read newspapers, watch TV, make phone calls, and to exercise and socialise. This, they say makes it difficult to set aside sufficient time for exercise and sport. Furthermore, recreational training is not provided to them and sporting facilities are limited.

Outdoor time is restricted to 30 minutes daily instead of one hour as mandated by UN SMRTP. Prisoners recently released from Jaw prison say outdoor time may be shortened or extended from the usual half hour depending on the political situation. Unconfirmed reports,

talk of prisoners who are kept in isolation prison or solitary confinement going up to one year without being allowed to exercise outdoors.

There are cases where prisoners are still kept in solitary confinement. Abdulaziz Abdulredha and Ali Alsingace, Ali Altawee, sentenced to death, continue to be held in solitary confinement despite their sentences being overturned by the Court of Cassation. Other inmates convicted of murder in non-politicised criminal cases, are not treated in the same harsh manner and are allowed to share cells and mingle with other inmates.

Ali Alghanimi, 27 years old police officer who defected at the height of the uprising, was sentenced to a total of 12 years imprisonment. His family also report that he is held in solitary confinement.

## **7. Medical care**

According to UN SMRTP, at every prison institution there shall be available the services of at least one qualified medical officer who should have some knowledge of psychiatry. The medical services should be organized in close relationship to the general health administration of the community or nation. They shall include a psychiatric service for the diagnosis and, in proper cases, the treatment of states of mental abnormality.

Medical care in general is very poor for all detainees, especially political prisoners. At the central Jaw prison, there is one general practitioner for the entire prison with over 2000 prisoners, operating on weekdays from 8-12AM. Prisoners also complain of inadequate dental care. Upon entering the prison, detainees are not given a medical examination or are asked whether they have contagious diseases until at least two months into their detention. So there have been cases where prisoners are discovered to have contagious diseases later. In the last few weeks alone, there was a case of TB contraction, where the prisoner had to be quarantined. The issue is that new detainees are not being examined upon arrival and are bringing diseases to the prison at a great risk to other inmates.

UN SMRTP mandates that sick prisoners who require specialist treatment shall be transferred to specialized institutions or to civil hospitals. However, in many documented cases, receiving medical care outside prison has proven to be extremely difficult. There are cases of cancer patients not receiving adequate medical care.

One of the common illnesses in Bahrain, and among prisoners as well, is Diabetes. Prisoners do not receive regular blood tests to measure sugar levels and receive their daily medication at random times.

Prisoners also note the free availability of sedatives, such as Dormicum, and anti-anxiety pills such as Valium and Xanax, in an attempt to develop addiction to these drugs amongst prisoners without adequate diagnosis of mental health.

Sickle cell patients, a common genetic disease in Bahrain, require frequent care and treatment, are not able to control room temperature which needs to be adjusted when they suffer from seasonal pain crisis.

Political detainees who sustained injuries during protest and were subsequently taken to Jaw

prison were prevented from receiving adequate medical treatment, if any, as well as those suffering from physical or psychological injuries of severe torture that was systematically inflicted upon them during their detention.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of cases highlighting the lack of proper medical care within Bahrain's prisons:

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**Example 1:** Jaffar Salman, 28, Sitra, sentenced to 2.5 years on the charge of participating in an illegal assembly. Jaffar was shot in his eye with buckshot pellets. He is completely blind in one eye and is partially blind in the other. The pellets have not been removed to this day, and he has not received any treatment whatsoever. He has made requests to the prison administration on many occasions and was completely ignored. Prisoners who were with Jaffar and have been released talk of the continuous pain and suffering that Jaffar endures. He cannot tolerate sunlight and has not participated in outdoor activities in over six months.

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**Example 2:** Jaffar Mohammed Ali Marhoon, 30, Sanabis, sentenced 7 years on the charge of blocking the Bahrain Financial Harbour. Jaffar was physically tortured when he was arrested at a police station, he was subjected to electrical shocks to his head and genitalia, he was whipped with a hose on his body and feet. Prisoners who were with him describe his symptoms as either bipolar disorder or schizophrenia, with insane and violent behaviour as a direct result of the trauma of the physical torture he experienced. He was never examined by a psychiatrist. The prison doctor prescribed Dergacon, without examining either the physical or psychological effects of the severe torture he endured.

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**Example 3:** Jassim Aldemestani, 32, sentenced to 10 years. After experiencing severe torture and prolonged standing, he suffered a slipped disc, and was only examined by the prison doctor. He was never taken for an x-ray or examined by a specialist. This lack of specialist treatment means he continues to suffer the pain of a manageable illness.

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**Example 4:** Sayed Haitham Shubbar, 35, sentenced to 1 year imprisonment. A live bullet tore his thumb off and entered through his thigh. He was stitched up at hospital, sent to the police station where he was severely tortured on his injury and sent to the central prison after he was sentenced. He has not received any follow up treatment in the form of physiotherapy or post-trauma stress.

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**Example 5:** Zainab Salman, 39 years old mother of 4 children and a teacher, sentenced to 6 months imprisonment for illegal gathering. In jail since 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011. She complained of ill-treatment in prison. Said she is forced to pick up heavy water containers despite her illness. She suffers from friction injuries in her shoulder bones. Prison administration didn't believe her and asked for a medical report. She went to MOI hospital and was examined. They refused to issue a report of her case to be submitted as a complaint to the police.

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**Example 6:** Fadhila Al Mubarak, 38 year old mother of a 9 year old child, sentenced to 18 months imprisonment by military court on charges related to listening to revolutionary songs in her car. In jail since March 2011. Her family is concerned over

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her health as she has "ovarian cysts" for which she was attending periodic medical sessions before her arrest. Not getting proper medical care might put her at risk. Her family has asked for her medical report more than once, and have asked through her lawyer to transfer her case to doctors outside Bahrain but the authorities were not cooperative with them in this matter.

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**Example 7:** Hassan Mushaima, 63 year old president of Haq movement, sentenced to lifetime imprisonment for charges related to overthrowing the monarchy. Currently detained in central Jaw prison. Mushaima has been receiving treatment for cancer (Follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (fNHL) , scale 4) in 2010 and just before his arrest. His family are worried that he might get it back as he has been unable to get the required treatment since his arrest in March 2011. He was also subject to sever torture during detention. According to the information received he needs to do blood tests every two months and a special Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiography (PTC) Scan and this device is not available in Bahrain. He also needs chemical doses every two months for two years. He has been denied access to his own medical records, and believes his cancer may have returned.

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**Example 8:** Mohammed Ali Ebrahim Al Sari, 21 year old Trainee Electrician, sentenced to 2 years after appeal and currently held at the central Jaw prison. Al Sari sustained a bullet wound when the BDF shot protesters with live ammo who wanted to go back to the Lulu roundabout on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The bullet entered the left side of his chest and exited from the back damaging his lungs and left subclavian vein in addition to breaking off fragments from his left clavical bone. Three critical operations were performed on Al Sari over three weeks in where he was kept in ICU at Salmaniya Medical Complex. Al Sari was due to be sent abroad for further critical treatment by the Ministry of Health however this was prevented from happening after the military took control of the hospital in mid-March upon the imposition of martial law in the country. The doctor overseeing Al Sari was forced to do an urgent operation in coordination with the hospital abroad to temporarily stop the inner leakage within his body. Soon after Al Sari was taken to the central Jaw prison and is now prevented from being given the proper medical care he requires despite requests to the administration by his family to let Al Sari be examined by a doctor.

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**Example 9:** Mahdi Abu Deeb, president of Bahrain Teaching Society, was sentenced to 10 years by a military court on charges related to calling for a national strike. Amnesty International believes that he's a prisoner of conscience. Abu Deeb suffers from diabetes, high blood pressure and heart problems. Guards in Jaw prison do not distribute daily medication to diabetics on a regular basis. Despite being a victim of systematic torture at the beginning of his arrest and subjected to forced standing and beating, he has been denied medical treatment for serious pain in his neck, legs and lower back.

The BICI described in detail the use of systematic torture in detention centres across Bahrain. The victims of the severest cases of torture have been those charged with 'the severest of crimes'. They continue to be detained and denied rehabilitation from the physical and mental trauma they experienced in 2011.

## 8. Discipline and punishment

UN SM RTP states that discipline and order shall be maintained with firmness, but with no more restriction than is necessary for safe custody and well-ordered community life. Disciplinary offences and their punishments shall be clearly outlined in the prison regulations and no prisoner shall be punished unless they have been informed of the offence alleged against them and given a proper opportunity of presenting their defence in front of a competent authority that shall conduct a thorough examination of the case. Corporal punishment, punishment by placing in a dark cell, and all cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments shall be completely prohibited as punishments for disciplinary offences.

Although some conditions have improved during the BICI investigations, reports from Jaw prison still describe political prisoners being subjected to unfair punishments. For example, Sayed Mahdi Al Mosawi, was physically tortured, beaten, kicked, verbally insulted and humiliated because he was accused of encouraging a hunger strike.

Prisoners state that guards administer punishments as they see fit without proper procedures of giving detainees a chance to present their defence in front of a competent authority.

Those attempting hunger strike are not only punished individually, but the prison administration collectively punishes all prisoners as a deterrence tactic by reducing the number of hours of break time from cells, or reducing phone calls to family, or generally subjecting them to verbal abuse.

## **9. Instruments of restraint**

UN SM RTP requires that instruments of restraint, such as handcuffs, chains, irons and strait-jackets, shall never be applied as a punishment.

Prisoners, however, have confirmed that they were handcuffed and beaten as punishment for going on hunger strikes or practising religious customs that are Shia-related.

## **10. Information to and complaints by prisoners**

As required by the UN SM RTP, prison administration should provide detainees with written information about regulations governing their treatment upon admission and ensure that they are able to seek information and make complaints without censorship as to substance but in proper forms, to the central prison administration, the judicial authority or other proper authorities through approved channels. Every request or complaint shall be promptly dealt with and replied to without undue delay unless it is evidently frivolous or groundless.

Unfortunately many prisoners have described their inability to file their requests or complaints to the central prison administration. They say that there is no sufficient privacy with the provided complaint box for them to make candid requests or complaints. This forces them to request an appointment with the administration officers directly, however, such meetings are rarely granted to them.

When complaints are made, prisoners say they are mostly ignored with no response given

back to them. There is a big trust deficit between prison administration and political detainees. Prison guards routinely refer to political detainees as traitors for trying to overthrow the monarchy to which the prison administration vow utter loyalty.

## **11. Contact with the outside world**

UN SMRTP requires that prisoners be allowed under necessary supervision to communicate with their family and reputable friends at regular intervals, both by correspondence and by receiving visits.

In this regard, political prisoners in Bahrain are allowed visits by close family only which include the parents, grandparents, wife, children and in some cases uncles or aunts. Friends or other family members such as cousins are not allowed in these visits.

Family visits are allowed for one hour once or twice a month, subject to appointment availability and families complain of this lack of access to loved ones and difficulty in obtaining appointments. During these visits, prisoners are not given sufficient freedom to communicate with their family especially with regards to their suffering and conditions in prison, and if they do so, they risk being punished by mistreatment, physical abuse or put in solitary confinement. Prisoners complain of the rigorous searches before and after each family visits.

Prisoners are also not allowed to receive letter and many of them, if not all, are forbidden from sending out letters.

The UN SMRTP also requires prisoners to be kept informed regularly of the more important items of news by the reading of newspapers, periodicals or special institutional publications, by hearing wireless transmissions, by lectures or by any similar means as authorized or controlled by the administration.

Prisoners from the central Jaw prison have complained that only government newspapers are approved and not on a daily basis. If major political events happen, all newspapers are banned. This was evident on 23 November when the BICI report was released, for several days all newspapers were banned. Radio, MP3 players requested by some prisoners are not allowed.

At Jaw prison TV channels are restricted to the state BTV channel and Saudi-based Al Arabiya news channel which is considered pro-government. Even these according to released prisoners were banned between September and November 2011. Prisoners were also banned from watching television that day which was airing Bassiouni's speech. The top opposition leaders were recently given unique access to BBC television channel in their own separate cells, but not the rest of the prisoners. In Isa Town women's prison, detainees said independent television channels were banned.

Prisoners are mostly not allowed to receive or send written letters. The few cases of notebooks that have been released have had pages ripped out. The perception is communication in this form is difficult if not impossible most of the time.

## **12. Books and formal education**

UN SMRTP requires every prison institution to have a library for the use of all categories of prisoners, adequately stocked with both recreational and instructional books.

The library in the central Jaw prison has limited variety consisting mainly of old books from the 70s and 80s. Prisoners are only allowed to have two books from the outside at a time. The books go through supervision channels which frequently reject certain books of a political or religious order. Most of the library collection is leftover books from previous prisoners as the prison library doesn't buy or provide new books.

As per the UN requirement, so far as practicable, the education of prisoners shall be integrated with the educational system of the country so that after their release they may continue their education without difficulty.

Unfortunately many prisoners have fallen behind in their formal education, especially political prisoners, where their requests are neglected by the prison administration. For example, Zainab Dhayem, 20 years old law student, sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and in jail since 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011, has said that although the prison administration promised her that she can sign up for university courses, they kept postponing until she missed the registration deadline for that semester which may end up losing her a year at university.

At the time of writing, Jaw prison administration filmed a session in which selected prisoners such as Mahdi AbuDeeb to educate other prisoners, but as yet their teaching role has not been activated. A meeting between a selected group of prisoners and the prison admin was filmed. There is skepticism about the timing of this just before an expected ICRC visit, however if it continues it will be welcomed.

## **13. Religion**

The UN SMRTP mandates that every prisoner shall be allowed to satisfy the needs of his religious life by attending the services provided in the institution and having in his possession the books of religious observance and instruction of his denomination.

However, sectarian discrimination against Shia detainees, whether political or non-political prisoners, is widespread. In Jaw prison, Shia detainees are not allowed to participate in the congregation for Friday prayers. Even though the Sunni mosque is open all day, the Shia mosque is open only during the mid-day prayer time for half an hour. Some other complaints related to access to clay prayer tablets and religious books. There were reports of prisoners being punished for reciting prayers in a loud voice for congregation purposes.

Shia prisoners at the Isa Town women's prison note that they had more freedom in practising religious rituals before the issuing of the BICI report but now more restrictions have been placed especially during and after the Ashura season.

## **14. Notification of death, illness, transfer, etc.**

Prison administrations are required by the UN SM RTP to inform a prisoner at once of the death or serious illness of any near relative. In case of the critical illness of a near relative, the prisoner should be authorized, whenever circumstances allow, to go to his bedside either under escort or alone.

Unfortunately, in cases of death or serious illness of near relatives, prisoners at Jaw central prison will just be informed without monitoring the psychological impact, they are only permitted to have 30 minutes extra phone call time. They are prevented from attending the funeral or even to get an exceptional visit in jail by their family. This complaint was very widespread, that prisoners no longer made such requests even upon hearing the news of the death of a loved one because of the perceived expectation of rejection. Families of detainees also lack knowledge of prison policies or who to contact under such circumstances.

## **15. Conditions in local detention centres**

It is worthy to note that in recent months and after much media and international attention post-BICI report publication, physical abuse continues at the point of arrest and at local police detention centres. There have been reports of protesters and activists being tortured outside police dentention centres in an attempt to avoid direct implication of such incidents and to avoid accountability, particularly after a recent stated decision to introduce video recording during interrogations in police stations. This is a common tactic to avert tracing superior responsibility and is increasing drastically according to reports by those arrested and recently released.

For example, the Northern Municipality building in Karzakan village has been transformed into a riot police barracks. A number of people including teenagers reported being tortured and beaten there after being detained by riot police at peaceful protests that took place in the village on a nearly daily basis or have been arbitrarily kidnapped from checkpoints. In most cases when detainees are not transferred to a proper detention centre, they are held for a day, tortured and beaten then released without the proper due process of being formally charged with an offence or registering their detention case.

Another place that similarly has been transformed into a police barracks and became notorious as a torture centre for protesters are the Bahrain Youth Hostels in Sanabis (also known as Seef Hostels No. 2). Many protesters have reported being tortured there in addition to detainees who were taken to the hostels, beaten and electrocuted in order to force them to sign confessions. Again, these unofficial detention centres operate with no due process towards detainees and have become havens for security officials to hide their ongoing acts of torture against citizens.

This goes against UN SM RTP requirements of ensuring that any person detained shall have the information concerning their identity, time of admission and reasons for their detention written and kept in an official registration book. No person shall be received in an institution without a valid commitment order of which the details shall have been previously entered in

the register as well.

This trend in targeting protesters and torturing them in remote places outside prison to evade accountability has also been observed in a number of police stations around Bahrain. In the case of Hassan Oun, 18 year old student at Shaikh Khalifa Institute of Technology, arrested on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 and subsequently subjected to torture while in detention at Samaheej police station. He said that he had been forced to stand for about 11 hours and that he had been beaten on his feet with a hose and threatened with rape. He was later transferred to the Public Prosecution Office and accused of illegal public gathering and is now held pending investigation for 45 days. The police said that they had an order to arrest Oun but he later told his lawyer that the police did not produce an arrest warrant when he was arrested and instead he was interrogated at the police station regarding information he provided to BCHR about being tortured and threatened during a previous arrest.

## **Recommendations**

BCHR continues to call for

1. For the ICRC to push the Bahraini government to sign the Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture.
2. For the ICRC to request, the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience punished for taking part in the uprising, particularly those with serious health conditions.
3. For the ICRC to immediately intervene, for the release of Hasan Mushaimi, a cancer patient whose life is at immediate risk and to offer medical care to all other inmates suffering from ill health.
4. For the ICRC to push for rehabilitation services for victims of torture.