

2016 Timeline

Bahrain: Human Rights Crackdown

May - November 2016

MAY

30

The original sentence of Sheikh Ali Salman, Secretary-General of Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society (the spiritual leader of the opposition party), was doubled to nine years in prison.

16

The Bahraini Parliament amended article 5 of the Political Societies Law (2005), which prevents any religious figure who delivers a sermon from joining political societies or from participating in political activities.

JUNE

09

Inmates from the Dry Dock Detention Center were subjected to various forms of ill-treatment amounting to torture following the escape of 7 detainees on 3 June. Security forces allegedly beat, kicked and slapped all detainees.

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Following her release, Human Rights Defender, Zainab Al-Khawaja, was forced to either leave Bahrain or risk indefinite detention. she now lives in Denmark.

12

Civil society members and Human Rights Defenders were prevented from participating in the 32nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

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The President of Bahrain Center for Human Rights and prominent human rights defender, Nabeel Rajab, was arrested by the Bahraini authorities.

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The citizenship of top Shia religious leader, Sheikh Isa Qasim was revoked by the Ministry of Interior. In response, hundreds of demonstrators began a peaceful sit-in around his home in Duraz.

JULY

16

Authorities announced the referral of Shia spiritual leader, Sheikh Isa Qasim, and other religious figures to court in order to be prosecuted over charges relating to their freedom of religion.

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Nazeeha Saeed, prominent journalist, was summoned for interrogation over charges of "exercising media work without an authorisation."

26

Minister of Information, Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, issued Decree 68/2016, constraining what little press freedom remaining in the kingdom by increasing government oversight on the dissemination of electronic media.

31

Hassan Jassim Hasan Al-Hayki died at the Salmaniya Medical Complex. Al-Hayki was accused and detained for taking part in a 30 June bombing on 4 July. Al-Hayki has allegedly died from injuries sustained during torture at the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID).

AUGUST

26

The courts in Bahrain have moved forward to hand down prison sentences against protesters from the Duraz sit-in.

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Human Rights Defender Sheikh Maytham Al-Salman was arrested and interrogated for his work on freedom of religion, anti-extremism, anti-violence and strengthening positive relations between cultures and religions.

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The government of Bahrain imposed a travel ban on Nedal Al-Salman, BCHR's Head of International Relations, to prevent her from participating to the HRC33

SEPTEMBER

2

34 organizations, including BCHR, sent a letter to the King of Bahrain to release of HRD Nabeel Rajab. But to no avail.

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The Bahrain's Public Prosecutor charged prominent human rights activist, Nabeel Rajab, after the New York Times published his letter from prison.

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The Bahraini authorities summoned opposition Sheikh Ali Salman, from Jau prison for interrogation over an oral intervention that was delivered on his behalf at the HRC33

22

Bahrain's second High Civil Court of Appeals upheld an earlier court decision to dissolve Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, the largest political opposition group in Bahrain.

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Bahrain's courts continue to convict protesters over their peaceful participation in the ongoing Duraz sit-in. They convicted protesters to one Year in prison for each day at Duraz sit-in

OCTOBER

9

Bahraini authorities arrested journalist and social media activist Faisal Hayyat arrested after Writing Critical Letter to Minister of Interior about Torture Suffered in 2011

6

Nabeel Rajab, saw his trial at the High Criminal Court postponed today, for the 3rd time in a row since his arrest. The next trial has been scheduled for October 31st.

27

Bahraini Opposition
Activist Fadhel Abbas
Sentenced to Three Years
in Prison on Appeal

10

As the Religious Season of
the month of Muharram
begins, Bahrain increases
restrictions and attacks
on religious freedom. The
Bahraini authorities are
still enforcing a lockdown
on Duraz, which has
continued for more than
100 days so far.

31

The High Criminal Court
postponed the trial of
prominent human rights
defender Nabeel Rajab,
President of the Bahrain
Center for Human Rights
(BCHR) to 15 December
2016.

NOVEMBER

3

Journalist Faisal Hayyat
appeared in court today
on charges related to a
"defamatory" tweet. His
sentencing was
postponed to 29
November 2016.

6

Sayed Alawi Hussain has
forcibly disappeared for
two weeks following his
arrest at the hands of
Bahraini security forces.
The last time his family
had heard from him, he
was being detained at the
Criminal Investigation
Directorate (CID)



BAHRAIN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS