

2016 Timeline

Bahrain: Human Rights Crackdown

January - December 2016

JANUARY

28

Sentencing of 57 Jau Prisoners to additional 15-year jail terms for their alleged involvement in the Jau Prison riots March 2015.

FEBRUARY

3

Bahraini authorities continue targeting minors. The security forces had recently arrested six minors from the Sar region.

24

Bahrain court sentenced opposition leader Ebrahim Sharif to one year in prison for allegedly "inciting hatred against the regime". Verdict was passed for a peaceful political speech.

MARCH

8

Bahraini Scholar Dr. Masood Jahroomi forcibly deported after citizenship revocation. He became the third person that Bahraini authorities have deported in less than a month.

10

Bahraini authorities continued to violate the right to privacy and suppress freedom of expression by imposing more restrictions on messaging on social media platforms.

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Bahraini security forces raided the house of human rights defender Zainab al-Khawaja and arrested her with her 15 months old son for her activism and exercise of freedom of speech.

APRIL

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Bahraini authorities issued an order to disband the Bahrain Photographic Society immediately based on the alleged "involvement of members of the Society in activities contrary to the law and public order."

MAY

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.

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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.

JUNE

06

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

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.

12

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

13

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.

17

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.

13

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.

29

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.

5

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

15

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.

29

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

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.

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

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As the Religious Season of the month of Muharram begins, Bahrain increases restrictions and attacks on religious freedom. The lockdown on Duraz 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

27

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

3

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

28

Sayed Alawi Hussain has forcibly disappeared for over a month following his arrest at the hands of Bahraini security forces. The last time his family had heard from him, he was being detained.

DECEMBER

21

Bahraini security forces raided houses and attacked protesters around the residence of Sheikh Isa Qassim meaning the use of police violence against protestors.

23

Three death sentences of torture victims were upheld by the sixth higher court of appeal in Bahrain



BAHRAIN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS