



Brussels, 6 March 2020

HM Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
Office of HM the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa's Palace
Kingdom of Bahrain

Your Majesty,

As Members of the European Parliament, we are writing to express our deepest concern over the [cases](#) of death row inmates Mohamed Ramadhan Issa Ali Hussain and Hussain Ali Moosa Mohamed. We consider the death sentences of Mr. Ramadhan and Mr. Moosa extremely worrying. They were arrested and tortured, their human rights violated.

Mr. Ramadhan, an airport security officer and father of three, was arrested in February 2014. He was blindfolded, stripped and cuffed, beaten with iron rods, and threatened with the rape of his family members. Mr. Moosa, a hotel employee and Mr. Ramadhan's co-defendant, was arrested in March 2014, after which he was hung from the ceiling by his wrists for three days and beaten until he signed a prepared confession. Despite consistently maintaining their innocence, the two men were convicted in December 2014 on the basis of Mr. Moosa's forced confession. For years, their allegations went uninvestigated by Bahrain's oversight bodies.

It was only after a sustained campaign by human rights groups that evidence documenting their allegations of torture came to light, including medical reports by a doctor for the Public Prosecution which had not been considered by the court in the original trial. This evidence caused the Court of Cassation to overturn their death sentences in October 2018, referring their cases back to the High Criminal Court of Appeals.

After their re-trial due to the allegations of torture, which produced the most relevant evidence used to prosecute Mr. Ramadhan and Mr. Moosa, Bahrain's High Criminal Court of Appeals upheld Mohamed Ramadhan's and Hussain Moosa's death sentences on January 8, 2020.

Bahrain, after a 6-years *de facto* [moratorium](#), returned to the implementation of death sentences in 2017. On January 15, 2017, three people were [executed](#): Ali Al-Singace, Abbas Al-Samea, and Sami Mushaima. On July 27, 2019, Bahrain executed Ali Al-Arab and Ahmed Al-Malali. Since January 8, Mr. Ramadhan and Mr. Moosa have been on death row without the possibility to appeal. According to leading independent NGO experts on Bahrain like Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) and the European center for Democracy and Human Rights (ECDHR) their unfair trial, torture, and the lack of oversight due to the Kingdom's culture of impunity, are appalling human rights violations.



European Parliament

Since their arrest in 2014, the [European Parliament](#), the [Special Rapporteur](#) on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the [Special Rapporteur](#) on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, the [Special Rapporteur](#) on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the [Working Group](#) on arbitrary detention, the Special

Rapporteur on the rights to freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association, the [Special Rapporteur](#) on the independence of judges and lawyers, and [international](#) and local human rights organisations have denounced serious violations of their right to a fair trial.

Last month, due to the verdict being postponed to December 25, we sent a [letter](#) to the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowment in Bahrain, requesting a delay in the date, a moratorium on executions, and a fair trial that adheres to the Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol).

We, therefore, urge Your Royal Majesty to:

Grant Mohammed Ramadhan and Husain Ali Moosa a royal pardon or to commute their sentences;
Sponsor the undertaking of a prompt and impartial investigation into all allegations of torture, to prosecute suspected perpetrators of torture, and to dismiss all convictions made on the basis of confessions obtained under duress;

Fully implement the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry ([BICI](#)) and the Universal Periodic Review ([UPR](#)), as well as Article 15 of Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([CAT](#));

Uphold international standards on the right to a fair trial and due process, and to comply with international minimum standards as set out in Articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ([ICCPR](#)) and the Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol).

Apply public and private pressure on the Bahraini authorities to hold officers from the Ministry of Interior who committed the heinous crimes of torture responsible for their actions by removing them from their posts and prosecuting their cases.

Release of all political prisoners and start a comprehensive dialogue with the political opposition led by the leader of the political opposition in Bahrain Mr. Hassan Mushaima, which would establish trust-building measures and lay the ground for an end to security force violence and constant protests and set the foundation for future economic sustainability.

As Members of the European Parliament, we remain committed to the protection, promotion, and fulfilment of all human rights in Bahrain.

Sincerely,

Brando Benifei MEP

Alex Agius Saliba MEP



European Parliament
Attila Ara-Kovács MEP

Milan Brglez MEP

Andrea Cozzolino MEP

Miriam Dalli MEP

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Javi López MEP

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Inma Rodríguez-Piñero MEP

Alfred Sant MEP

Isabel Santos MEP

Marc Tarabella MEP

Margrete Auken MEP

Benoît Biteau MEP

Reinhard Hans Bütikofer MEP

Damien Carême MEP

Ciaran Cuffe MEP

Katrin Langensiepen MEP

Erik Marquardt MEP

Grace O'Sullivan MEP

Petra de Sutter MEP

Kira Peter-Hansen MEP

Ernest Urtasun MEP

Tiziana Beghin MEP

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CC:

H.E. Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the EU

Dr. Bahia Jawad Al Jishi