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**Ms. Dunja Mijatović**Commissioner of Human Rights
Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
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Honorable Ms. Mijatović,

I am writing to you to raise my concern about the recent decision made by Bahrain's Court of Cassation, the country’s highest appeals court, to uphold the death sentence against **Zuhair Ibrahim Jasim Abdullah** and **Husain Abdullah Khalil Rashid**. Due to the passed verdict, both men have exhausted their legal remedies and consequently, alongside eight other men, are at risk of immediate execution.

Zuhair is a father of five children and was arrested on 2 November 2017. Following his arrest, he was held for 55 days in incommunicado detention. During this period he was reportedly exposed to ill-treatment and torture, including forced nudity, electrocution, sexual harassment, and beatings. During Zuhair’s detention, his wife was also separately beaten in her home and threatened at gunpoint and with rape by Bahraini officers. After 13 days of this ongoing ill-treatment in detention, Zuhair signed a false confession admitting to several charges, which allegedly happened between 2012 and 2017. Some of these [charges](https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=24236) were the membership to a terrorist organization, participating in the murder of security forces, and making and detonating explosives.

Although Zuhair’s lawyer stated that no physical evidence was presented to link him to the crimes, Zuhair was sentenced to death and stripped of his citizenship on 29 November 2018 in a grossly unfair trial. The judge refused to issue a court order permitting the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the Ministry of Interior Ombudsman, two oversight bodies, to disclose their findings of the investigation into the torture allegation of Zuhair. While Zuhair’s citizenship was reinstated on 15 June 2020, the death sentence was upheld by Bahrain's highest appeals court.

In December 2018, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment [addressed](https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=24236) the King of Bahrain to raise their concerns about individuals on death row in Bahrain, including the case of Zuhair Ibrahim Jasim Abdullah. They highlighted that these practices violate not only the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by Bahrain on 20 September 2006 but also the Convention against Torture, which Bahrain adhered to in March 1998.

Fundamentally, the death sentence is an inhuman and ultimately cruel punishment and clearly violates an individual’s right to life as outlined in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/). It is further a violation of [Protocol No. 6](https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Library_Collection_P6_ETS114E_ENG.pdf) to the European Convention on Human Rights, concerning the abolition of the death penalty, and [Protocol No. 13](https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/187) to the European Convention on Human Rights, concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances. In light of the above mentioned inhuman treatment and upheld death sentences based on coerced confessions, **I urge you, in your role as the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, to take immediate actions in favor of all men currently on death row in Bahrain; to issue a statement which condemns the recently passed verdict of the Bahraini Court of Cassation to uphold the death sentence of Zuhair Ibrahim Jasim Abdullah and Husain Abdullah Khalil Rashid; and to exert pressure on the Kingdom of Bahrain to halt the execution of all individuals, establish a moratorium on executions, and to consider abolishing death sentence.**

Yours sincerely,