

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE GOVERNMENT FORMULATED BY THE DEPUTY OF THE
PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP BY MELILLA
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SUBJECT: Two Bahraini citizens, Ali Al-Arab and Ahmed Al-Malali, are sentenced to death.

BACKGROUND

1. The European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (ECDHR), an NGO that seeks to promote human rights and democracy in the Gulf region with a particular focus on Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, expresses its appreciation for the deep concern at the recent confirmation of the death sentences of two men from Bahrain, Ali Al-Arab and Ahmed Al-Malali, Monday 6 May 2019. The rejection of their final appeal by the Court of Bahrain's cassation - their last resort - puts men in imminent danger of being executed, as this only has to be ratified by the King of Bahrain, a process that can take place at any time. According to the account given by the NGO, the events took place as follows:
2. Ali Al-Arab was 24 years old when he was arrested on 9 February 2017 by agents of the Ministry of the Interior who arrested him at the home of an acquaintance without producing a warrant. He was held at the CID until 7 March 2017. During this time, the officers tortured him, even removing all the nails from his feet, until he signed a confession while blindfolded. On 31 January 2018, officials took Al-Arab to court for sentencing, but forced him to stay on the bus for the entire trial. The court did not allow Al-Arab's family to attend the trial, and although he allowed his lawyer to attend the trial, he was not allowed to speak. The trial was massive, involving 58 others, and the court sentenced him to death and stripped him of his citizenship. Al-Arab learned of the outcome of the trial when he spoke to his family later that day. Subsequently, the king ordered the restitution of Al-Arab's citizenship by a royal order of 27 April 2019.
3. Ahmed Al-Malali was 23 years old when he was arrested along with several others by Bahrain's Coast Guard at sea on 9 February 2017. During the first two months of his arrest, officials of the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID) kept him incommunicado. They did not allow Al-Malali to speak to his family and did not inform his family where he was being held. During Al-Malali's detention, agents of the Criminal Investigation Department interrogated and tortured him, even exposing him to cold, beatings, including on his genitals, and electric shocks. During his detention, the officials did not allow Al-Malali to speak to his lawyer. On 31 January 2018, the officers took Al-Malali to court, but did not allow him to attend the hearing, did not allow his family to attend the hearing, and did not allow his lawyer to speak. His hearing took place along with 58 others. The court sentenced him to death and deprived him of citizenship, although it was restored on 27 April 2019 by royal order.
4. In July 2017, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the UN Rapporteur on Torture expressed concern about the arbitrary detention and torture of Al-Arab. In December 2018, the Rapporteurs on executions, protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism and torture expressed concern about the treatment and abuses of Al-Arab and Al-Malali. Amnesty International promotes the individual or collective forwarding of letters concerning this matter to the King of Bahrain with the same description of facts and according to the format suggested in the following electronic link : <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1103412019SPANISH.pdf>

QUESTION

1. Does the Government of Spain know the facts related to the story formulated by ECDHR?
2. Will the Government of Spain, on behalf of the Spanish nation, join the request of various international groups promoting respect for human rights for the immediate withdrawal of the sentences referred to in this letter?

3. Will the Government of Spain contact the Government of Bahrain with a view to immediately instituting a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it, since executions are in all cases unacceptable and contrary to fundamental human rights?

Madrid, 1 July 2019