



Brussels, 2 October 2020

Dear High Representative/Vice President Borrell,

As Members of the European Parliament, we are writing to express our deepest concern over the ongoing human rights violations in Bahrain, particularly with regard to death sentences handed out in torture-tainted court cases.

Since 2014, [37 men have been sentenced](#) to death, among them, at least 23 individuals who have experienced torture, unfair trials and whose convictions were politically motivated. In January 2017, the Kingdom of Bahrain ended a seven-year moratorium on the death penalty when Bahrain's Court of Cassation [upheld](#) the death sentences against Ali Al-Singace (21), Abbas Al-Samea (27), and Sami Mushaima (42), who were [executed](#) on January 15th, 2017. Despite evidence of arbitrary arrest, coerced confession and denial of appropriate legal counsel in all three cases, the court dismissed the defendants' arguments and [refused to investigate their allegations](#) of torture.

Our concern is now directed towards torture victims Mohamed Ramadhan and Husain Moosa, whose [death sentences](#) were upheld by the Court of Cassation in July, 2020 and whose fates may follow a similar path. Both men were originally convicted in a **grossly unfair trial** that used **evidence obtained through torture**, including **coerced confessions**. While the [Bahraini judiciary turns a blind eye](#) to the torture these two men endured in prison, Mr Ramadhan and Mr Moosa are now at risk of **imminent execution**.

The European Parliament, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, 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 all denounced serious violations of their right to a fair trial. Moreover, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez and NGO researchers have been repeatedly [denied entry](#) into the country, raising concern and suspicion on our behalf.

For the reasons listed above, we hereby ask you to:

- ❖ Stand firm in our opposition to the implementation of the death penalty, especially in the case of Mr. Ramadhan and Mr. Moosa, who were subjected to unfair trial and torture;
- ❖ Remind the Kingdom of Bahrain of its obligations under international law and the treaties it has signed, especially in regard to the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- ❖ Remain vigilant in regard to developments in the country and in the Gulf region in general, and to use all means of influence at its disposal;
- ❖ Insist on the establishment of a formal human rights dialogue with Bahraini authorities, in accordance with the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Dialogues;
- ❖ Apply public and private pressure on the Bahraini authorities to hold officers from the Ministry of Interior who committed the heinous crime of torture responsible for their actions by removing them from their posts and prosecuting their cases;
- ❖ Publically call for the release of all political prisoners and start a comprehensive and sincere dialogue with the political opposition, which would establish trust-building measures and lay the ground for an end to security force violence and set the foundation for future political and economic sustainability.

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

Sincerely,

MEP Helmut Scholz, GUE/NGL

MEP Chris MacManus, GUE/NGL

MEP Ernest Urtasun, Greens/EFA

MEP Ville Niinistö, Greens/EFA

MEP Bernard Guetta, RENEW

MEP Brando Benifei, S&D

MEP Tatjana Zdanoka, Greens/EFA

MEP Giuliano Pisapia, S&D

MEP Eva Kaili, S&D

MEP Maria Grapini, S&D

MEP Dietmar Köster, S&D

MEP Dimitrios Papadimoulis, GUE/NGL

MEP Erik Marquardt, Greens/EFA

MEP Reinhard Bütikofer, Greens/EFA

MEP Alviina Alametsä, Greens/EFA