

## ***Unravelling Truth About Bahrain Human Rights Record***

HAQ: Movement of Liberties and Democracy - BAHRAIN

1<sup>st</sup> May 2006

### **Introduction**

Human Rights Watch<sup>1</sup> observed in April 2001 that countries with poor human rights records were seeking seats on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (Commission) not to strengthen human rights but instead to protect themselves from criticism. “Imagine a jury,” wrote Executive Director Kenneth Roth, “that includes murders and rapists, or a police force run in large part by suspected murders and rapists who are determined to stymie investigation of their crimes.”<sup>2</sup>

Some local newspapers<sup>3</sup> in Bahrain hailed the State pledging for a seat on the new United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council on the coming May 9<sup>th</sup>. In order to assess Bahrain’s suitability for the new council, light should be shed on the requirements and its qualifications for such position. Else, the drawback held against the discredited U.N. Commission on Human Rights will resurrect and take over the new council. Such occurrence will nullify the creation of the new council, which was welcomed by United Nations General Assembly as well as by NGO’s and human rights organizations.

The new council should have a clear mechanism to prevent abusive governments to ride over its back and deceive the world of its abusive human rights record. During the history of the now-defunct U.N. Commission, States of abusive record vied for membership to protect themselves from condemnation and evade to be criticized for serious human rights offences. Replacing the Commission by a new UN Human Rights Councils should provide an opportunity to raise membership standards. The new council’s members should be with good record of human rights, to enable promotion of such values worldwide. The resolution establishing the new Council calls on its members to “uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights” and requires the General Assembly, in electing Council members, “to take into account the contribution of countries to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto.”<sup>4</sup>

It is a challenge for all organizations of concern to encourage and uphold such universal membership to be of higher than average status of respecting and valuing human rights. This could be maintained only if countries of tarnished human rights record are prevented taking free ride of new Council. This will definitely set an example in their regions and can help promote human rights and elevate the standards of the world.

### **Is Bahrain qualified for candidacy of HR council?**

On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006, Bahrain pledged for membership of the new UN HR council. In its pledge, Bahrain said that it is “a firm advocate of the promotion and protection of human rights” and that it “has a large and

<sup>1</sup> <http://hrw.org/backgrounder/un/un0406/>

<sup>2</sup> Kenneth Roth, *International Herald Tribune*, “Despots Pretending to Spot and Shame Despots,” (Apr. 17, 2001).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/Story.asp?Article=141741&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=29034>

<sup>4</sup> U.N. Doc. A/RES/60/251 (Mar. 15, 2006), available at <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/60/L.48> (accessed Apr. 10, 2006). (accessed Apr. 10, 2006).

vibrant community of nongovernmental organizations, a number of which are concerned with human rights issues<sup>5</sup>.

Using the definition of the Community of Democracies, which represents a group of world States conforming to certain sets of characteristics of democratic society, one can easily realize compare the democratic status of a country. These include “the respect for human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural – including freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion and conscience; access to and free exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law; the holding of periodic free and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage monitored by independent election authorities; freedom of association including the right to form independent political parties; separation of powers, especially an independent judiciary; and constitutional subordination of all state institutions, including the military, to the legally-constituted civilian authority”. These are defined as essential elements of democracy<sup>6</sup>. Based on these elements, Freedom House assessment survey has demoted Bahrain from being participant in 2002 to observer, due to the shortcoming in satisfying the requirements of democratic status<sup>7</sup>.

In order to assess Bahrain’s qualifications for membership of the new council, one should be looking at its record of human rights and assess means of protection and promotion of human rights values. This would cover the legislative and the extraordinary measures on the ground. Such assessment and survey wouldn’t cover the period of the late Shaikh Isa Al-Khalifa- the previous ruler, where the state was under the direct management of the State security Law and its court. Rather, light will be shed on the systematic atrocities and human rights violations on what has been called openness era- post the national action charter period, starting early 2001 and onwards.

### **1) Unilaterally Drafted and Imposed Constitution Empowering the Ruler:**

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2002, the present ruler-Shaikh Hamad Bin Isa Alkhalifa- has not only abolished unilaterally the socially binding constitution of 1973, but imposed his own constitution granting himself broader authorities and practically withheld, in his hands, all powers. The so called 2002 constitution was formulated by a committee appointed by the head of state himself and convened in secret until the inception of the 2002 document. Consequently, Shaikh Hamad Al-Khalifa appoints the Cabinet and administers the country through it, members of the Constitutional Court, members of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, members of the consultative “Shura” council which shares legislation and oversight with the house of representatives. As per this imposed constitution, the house of representatives has no ability to put forward a no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister or his cabinet. The Representatives can suggest and propose themes of legislations and codes but is left for the executive body (the Government) to draft and decide time of submission of a proposed legislation to the elected body. Bureau of Monetary was under the jurisdiction of the House of representatives in the 1973 constitution. The 2002 constitution strips that privilege and grants it to the head of state, adding to his extra powers.

The head of State even issues laws (degrees), bypassing the so called “House of representatives” responsible for legislation, without even obtaining its consent<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Bahrain Pledge for candidature for the new Human Rights council (<http://www.un.org/ga/60/elect/hrc/bahrain.pdf>)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.demcoalition.org/2005\\_html/commu\\_cdm05.html](http://www.demcoalition.org/2005_html/commu_cdm05.html)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.demcoalition.org/pdf/Country\\_Assessments\\_CoD\\_Invitation\\_Process.pdf](http://www.demcoalition.org/pdf/Country_Assessments_CoD_Invitation_Process.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> His Highness issues laws of “combating floatation”, “directorates” and “fees” و«الرسوم» و«الدوائر» و«مكافحة الإغراق» العاهل يصدر قوانين «مكافحة الإغراق» و«الدوائر» و«الرسوم» و«الرسوم» <http://www.alwasatnews.com/topic.asp?tid=95629&mydate=4-30-2006>

Focusing all powers at the hand of the head of the state, as stipulated by the unilaterally imposed Constitution, undermines citizens' actual right to political participation as stipulated by international charters and casts shadows over the authenticity of proclaimed democracy.

## **2) Power of Legislation and Control**

The elected House of Representatives, produced by gerrymandered districts to ensure supremacy of the ruling family, enjoys limited participation in legislation and oversight, as portrayed by the so called 2002 Shaikh Hamad constitution. The House has so far been unable to adopt effective decisions with respect to any of the rights and freedoms issues whether with regard to legislation, oversight and accountability. In the past period, which exceeded three years, no single law is introduced establishing mechanisms for protection of basic freedoms. The only ever law produced by the House is the Political Societies Code<sup>9</sup> which introduced more constraints on political societies and ensured that its activities are emptied from any form of opposition.

Until now the House of Representatives, as well as the appointed Shura council, have not been able to adopt any effective decisions related to economic rights, citizens' living conditions or administrative and financial corruption<sup>10</sup>. On contrast, the two Houses have been involved in practices supporting the executive authority in restricting freedoms and condemning non-government organizations when participating in activities that can be classified as exercise of basic rights.<sup>11</sup>

## **3) Head of Government since 1971**

Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa- the present ruler's uncle- has been the only prime minister since independence in 1971, the longest serving prime minister in the world. Under his governance, crimes against humanity for his role in extensive use of torture against political prisoners, and human rights activists, have been committed. Furthermore, scores had died in the torture chambers which were managed by chief torturer lieutenant, the British, Ian Henderson, who was under the supervision of Shaikh Khalifa. The BBC and Channel 4 had broadcast programmes documenting the evidence against the two men. The British Police is in possession of a large dossier on the torture of Bahrainis, including testimonies of victims.

Bahrain PM, Shaikh Khalifa played a major role in the suspension of all the articles of the socially binding 1973 constitution relating to practice of acceptable level of freedoms and democracy, as well as the dissolution of the first National Assembly in the history of the country. For over a quarter of a century afterwards, Bahrainis lived under a reign of terror ensued under the notorious State Security Law and the State Security Court. Corruption has since been the order of the day during which the national wealth of the country has been blundered by elite lead by the PM himself. As a result, over 90% of public lands have been embezzled, and 97% of the Bahraini coasts have been taken by Shaikh Khalifa and his family, i.e. only 3% of coasts is left for the public access<sup>12</sup>. Oil revenue goes to the Shaikh Khalifa and his family and only a fraction of the real income is left for the public. The Bahrain old seaport- called Al-Ferdhah: the port, which was the only sea access to the neighbouring countries, has been illegitimately confiscated by

<sup>9</sup> Political Societies Code no 26, 2006.

<sup>10</sup> Among the cases are the case of General Pension Funds and the issue of political naturalization which the proved total failure in oversight and looking after the welfare of the people of Bahrain

<sup>11</sup> Case of the political societies addressing the issue of political naturalization and also when Bahrain Center for Human Rights raised the issue of privileges and discrimination in Bahrain.

<sup>12</sup> Alayam newspaper- issue no. 6224, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

Shaikh Khalifa- the PM, and converted to a private business center of his own- named by the Bahrain Financial Harbour.

Citizen of Bahrain have no say on their government. They are chosen on the basis of loyalty and not quality. Rather, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa government consists of 22 ministers, half of whom are his relatives from the ruling family- Al-khalifa.

#### **4) Judiciary System as Means of Repression**

An independent and neutral judiciary is the last resort for rendering justice especially in view of the strength of the Government, controlled and dominated by members of the ruling family and their allegiants. With the existence of laws that restrict freedoms, the judiciary is not only unable to play its role in protection and rendering justice with respect to infringement of rights and freedoms but becomes an effective tool used by the executive authority to tame the non-government forces and to penalize activists and members of the opposition. All court cases filed against the executive authority or its staff members were either not admitted<sup>13</sup>, achieved unjust ruling<sup>14</sup> or fail to pertain justice, based on respect of human rights and freedom of speech values<sup>15</sup>.

On the other hand, the Executive authority deployed tough laws and judiciary to lead fierce attack on activists and defenders of rights<sup>16</sup>. Although Bahrain has joined numerous international treaties, that have become a part of the Bahraini laws, yet in practice such laws are not applied in the regulations, procedures or the judgments handed down by the law courts.

#### **5) Emptied Democracy-Marginalizing people's well and Gerrymandering**

In speaking about true democracy, it is not the practice of balloting or limited suffrage, rather it is how genuine and true the representation is and whether such practice result in empowering people and representing their voice and well.

Irrespective of the legitimacy, the viability or the productivity of the elected councils, the election constituencies are state-controlled to ensure its limited authorities<sup>17</sup>. The districts of election are drawn on sectarian as well as tribal basis to ensure the ruling family's primacy, maximize state allegiance and create environment of sectarian tension<sup>18</sup>. The composition of some districts has resulted in the largest districts in the northern area, mainly Shiite, contain over 12,000 citizens, while the smallest have not more than 500 voters in the southern Sunni area<sup>19</sup>. Furthermore, The State has taken every step to manipulate, what seemingly a democratic process, by directing newly and politically oriented naturalized to participate in the previous voting and elections. Furthermore, it has helped in forging state documents to enable naturalized

<sup>13</sup> As in the case of victims of torture in the past era who attempted to file cases against members of the Ministry of Interior – alwasat newspaper, 12 December 2002, Al-Ayam 16 September 2003.

<sup>14</sup> the case of the martyr Mohamed Juma where all evidences admit the wrong doing of the members of the ministry of Interior, which resulted in the killing of the armless youngman. <http://www.alwasatnews.com/view.asp?tID=92227>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.alwasatnews.com/view.asp?tID=30084>

<sup>16</sup> The case of human rights Abduhadi Al-khawaja in 2003, detainees of constitutional petition collectors in 2004, and detainees of conscience in Bahrain airport incident in 2005 and subsequent events in 2006

<sup>17</sup> [www.accessdemocracy.org/NDI/library/1452\\_bh\\_report\\_100102.pdf](http://www.accessdemocracy.org/NDI/library/1452_bh_report_100102.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rsd/rsddocview.html?tbl=RSDCOI&id=4226d9895&count=2>

<http://www.fas.org/asmp/profiles/bahrain/bahrain-hr-02.htm>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.pogar.org/countries/elections.asp?cid=2>

people in Saudi Arabia to cast their votes in 2002 elections<sup>20</sup>. Documents have shown that the efforts by citizens of Zallaq, for instance, have gone astray as the winner in that district was the one voted for by the naturalized, mainly from outside Bahrain, namely Saudis.

### **6) Laws of Restricting Freedom and Rights**

Reverting regulation of the civic and political right to the law gives it a constitutional strength, even though it violates the Constitution itself. The laws, especially those related to basic rights and freedoms, were enacted in the absence of the elected legislative institution and came to restrict freedoms, give a free hand and absolute powers and authorities to the executive authority. Of the laws that are still in force there are the Gathering code of 1973 and the Penal Code promulgated in 1976 and its amendments enacted in 1982<sup>21</sup> which impose restrictions on basic public liberties and penalizes for its violation. Such act violates basic human rights and in contradiction with the international standards the State of Bahrain has pledged to respect. The Societies Law No.21 of 1989<sup>22</sup> exerts multi-facet conditions giving the State the discretion to deny granting permission for societal establishment. The Press, Printing and Publication Code no 47 of 2002 represents legalization of censorship and a mechanized approach to harass and terrorize dailies editors, reporters and columnists. The Impunity Code 56, 2002 gives immunity for tortures and those involved in crimes against humanity to evade stands before jury.

The only code produced by the House of Representatives in Three years is the Political Societies Code (No 26 of the year 2005) is based on prohibition, constraining, criminalizing and punishments using the Penal Code which penalizes the formation of political organizations- even secretly- as it is outlawed, by life imprisonment. This is done by provision of subjective terms in the Code like- enmity and hostility of society order. It refuses any opposition to the so called 2002 constitution and its outcomes, therefore, emptying any form of true political opposition or freedom of expression or posture. It imposes collective constraints on external finance and contacts, and the use of syndicates, societies and clubs headquarters for convening or carrying activities, without clarifying the type of usage.

### **7) Non-compliance with International Agreements**

The Government of Bahrain has ratified any international agreements such as Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEADAW), Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Although Preliminary reports have been submitted by the Bahraini Authorities to the Committee Against Torture (CAT), Discrimination Committee and the Children's Rights Committee, yet all these agreements have not as yet come into effect and are not referred to in the law courts. In addition, no serious effort is made to adapt the local legislation in compliance with the provisions of such agreements and there is no actual benefit derived from the international mechanisms related to them. Meanwhile, the ruling authority has succeeded to take advantage of the changes that occurred in the early phase of succession of power by new head of the State to launch a continuous propaganda and publicity campaign abroad to portray Bahrain as a model of democracy and respect for human rights.

<sup>20</sup> See documentary film about political naturalization taken in Saudi east Province for Al-Dawaser tribe. This document was shown in public seminar on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2003 and organized by six political societies: Alwefaq, Democratic Action, Islamic Action, National Coalition, Democratic Forum "Almenbar" and Alwasat National.

<sup>21</sup> This law penalizes, with fines or imprisonments, all acts related to spreading or distributing news, in any format, attendance of conferences or participating in a gathering without approval by the Authorities.

<sup>22</sup> This law prohibits the activities of non-authorized society

## 8) Maintained Restrictions and Control of Media and Press

The *State* still owns and dominates the *only* radio and TV station, so there is no reporting or discussion of issues that are even distantly related to the local political situation, without direct control of the Authorities. Although all the local newspapers are privately-owned and enjoy relatively more freedom than the broadcast media, this privilege does not grant editors and journalists to openly criticize certain influential individuals of the government, or any member of the ruling Al-Khalifa family. An annual licence from the Foreign Media Section at the Ministry of Information is used to a mean to induce control over reporters of foreign media. Reporters and journalists who exercise their profession freely are either expelled or subjected to different forms of harassments<sup>23</sup>.

The State has changed its policy of direct repression and restriction of freedom of printing and publishing to the imposition and implementation of laws (*Penal and Press Codes*). This is exercised by taking advantage of the state-driven public prosecution and non-independent judiciary system, which in turns, imposes self-censorship upon the local press. It has been noted that the level of freedom of expression in the local newspapers has receded tremendously especially after activating the new *Press Law* in the courts against editors and columnists<sup>24</sup>. Moreover, the authorities have used the media to launch regular campaigns against popular committees, civic societies and activists who consider *State-sensitive* issues or attempt to reflect the true situation to the rest of the world<sup>25</sup>. The Bahrain Center for Human Rights and Movement of Liberties and Democracy –HAQ– have been the subject of fierce media attack and intimidation, especially after the launch of the popular petition addressed to UN and calling for a new democratic constitution drafted by the people of Bahrain through elected body<sup>26</sup>.

The *State* is still barring homepages of organizations and groups talking freely about its conduct and policies. It covers public forums<sup>27</sup>, electronic journals<sup>28</sup> and homepages of opposition groups<sup>29</sup>.

In February 2005, the Bahraini authorities apprehended three moderators of Bahrainonline.org who were accused of "incited hatred towards the ruling family and defaming the king". They were released two weeks after successful local and global campaign shedding light on the case of electronic moderation and freedom of expression and bloggers<sup>30</sup>. To induce firmer grip, the Authorities later obliged all websites, whose owners reside in the country, to register with the Bahrain Ministry of Information<sup>31</sup>.

<sup>23</sup> State has stopped renewing license of London-based Al-Hayat newspaper

<sup>24</sup> The cases against Editor-in-chief and a journalist of Alwasat, Editor-in-chief of Akhbar Al-khaleej, Editor-in-chief of "Al-democratic" editorial belonging to National Action Democratic Society

<sup>25</sup> Some of those subjected to media campaigns are:

- a- Political societies after conducting their public gathering "Political Naturalization" on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2003
- b- Mr. H. Mushaima and Mr. A. Rabea for their participation in a seminar in London-UK about Naturalization and the constitution on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2003,
- c- Activist Abdulhadi president of Bahrain Center for Human Rights
- d- aftermath its public seminar on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2003 "Discrimination and Privileges in the Kingdom of Bahrain: The unwritten law"
- e- Activist Nabeel Rajab vice president of Bahrain Center for Human Rights
- f- Activist Raouf Al-Shayeb- president of National Committee for Martyrs and Victims of Torture

<sup>26</sup> A particular citation in this respect is the new Alwatan newspaper

<sup>27</sup> Bahrain online ([www.bahrainonline.org](http://www.bahrainonline.org)), Bahrain forum ([www.montadayat.org](http://www.montadayat.org)), watani (national) forum ([www.watani.net](http://www.watani.net)), Martyrs forum ([www.shaheedbh.com](http://www.shaheedbh.com)), Duraz (village) network ([www.alduraz.net](http://www.alduraz.net)), Karranah (village) forum ([www.karranah.com](http://www.karranah.com))

<sup>28</sup> Manama group Electronic Journal ([www.manama.net](http://www.manama.net)), [www.islam-online.net/Arabic/news/2002-03/28/article28.shtml](http://www.islam-online.net/Arabic/news/2002-03/28/article28.shtml)

<sup>29</sup> Bahrain Freedom Movement ([www.vob.org](http://www.vob.org))

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=12687](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=12687)

<sup>31</sup> [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=13380](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=13380)

As for press publication coming from outside Bahrain borders or those manage to go through in Book fairs and exhibitions, the Authorities ensures that they are barred at the port or removed from shelves, when covering *State-sensitive* topics. See **Appendix A** for some of Publication confiscated or barred by Authorities in the past period<sup>32</sup>.

It November 2003, the *State* tried to ban Alwefaq National Islamic Society from performing a comic play "laish Ya Abu Eish" (Why Abu Eish?)<sup>33</sup> which was shedding light on different aspects of the day-to-day life of citizens in a hilarious manner. The State also attempted to disorientate the public about the constitutional conference of the four political societies<sup>34</sup> as well as its intimidation to these societies in their periodical publication when the ministry of Information ordered them to restrict publication for the societies news only and banned articles and other forms of analysis<sup>35</sup>. When these societies launched their petition calling for constitutional changes<sup>36</sup>, the Authorities issued a ban on it<sup>37</sup> and later apprehend 16 activists on signatures collection after ransacking their centers<sup>38</sup>.

### 9) Continued Banning Citizens from Travelling

Continuation to the procedures exercised by the State security authorities in the previous era, by issuing banning lists to the ports of the regional Arab governments banning them entry to their lands. The lists contains names of activists and politicians. The Authorities keep denying the existence of such lists, but on grounds, citizens are frequently traumatized by immigration officials and prolonged wait at sea and air ports of the neighbouring countries<sup>39</sup>.

### 10) Targeting Activists and Defenders of Rights

The State has recently reverted to targeting activists (human rights and politicians) who exhibit any form of exercise to their rights and role. The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) has issued a report covering, with illustrations, the different tactics used by the authority to obstruct, tame or contain activists from being able to continue their role and participation in the advancement of the society<sup>40</sup>. The last citations in this respect is issue by the Frontline<sup>41</sup>. This campaign includes all efforts to marginalize BCHR and strip it from all means of enabling it to work comfortably. BCHR has been working on reporting and collecting data of systematic violations to human rights in Bahrain, hence the Authorities took all measures to intimidate and harass its administrations, until the dissolution in September 2004 (See Appendix B for reports about BCHR). The Authorities, further targeted its active members, especially Mr Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja and Mr Nabeel Rajab. These two were repeatedly attacked physically in public in more that one occasion<sup>42</sup>.

<sup>32</sup>The Book fair and Barred list «معرض الكتاب، وقائمة «الممنوعات» www.alwasatnews.com/topic.asp?tid=88261&mydate=3-15-2006

<sup>33</sup> The comic was supposed to be played initially in Bahrain Society of Engineers, then in a open yard in Sanabis village and finally in a private yard in Bilad Alqadeem.

<sup>34</sup> Local news papers were instructed to call the constitutional conference, organized by the four societies: Alwefaq, Action Democratic, National Islamic and National Coalition, during 14-15 February 2004 "February conference".

<sup>35</sup> Ministry of Information communication to Alwefaq and other societies on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2003

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/040424/2004042406.html>

<sup>37</sup> Al-Ayam newspaper- March 18, 2004, Akhbar Al-khaleej newspaper- March 18, 2004. Alwasat newspaper - March 30, 2004

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/040501/2004050112.html>

<sup>39</sup> See **Appendix C**

<sup>40</sup> Targeting Activists in Bahrain-Bahrain Center for Human Rights- January 2006

<sup>41</sup> Front Line Press Release-24 April 2006: Bahrain's candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council must mean better protection for human rights defenders, <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/2781>

<sup>42</sup> First attack was near the Royal court on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2005. The second attack was on near the House of Representatives on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2005. the third was on

### 11) Administering Discrimination and Protection of Torturers

The BCHR reports on Discrimination<sup>43</sup> in the Government has proven without doubt that it has been administering discrimination to ensure control over the citizens based on “split and rule” principle and further weaken all parties and groupings, from being able to ask for the citizen’s rights. In the last Government shuffle<sup>44</sup>, among the 22 ministers, Al-Khalifa were allocated have of the seats, whereas Sunni and Shia citizens have six and five seats, respectively. UN Committee against all form of Discriminations have made remarks and showed reservation on the State policy in discrimination when discussing the shadow report about discrimination in Bahrain<sup>45</sup>. UN committee against torture (CAT) has also made up remarks about the state record of torture and its victims, recommending the amendments of decree 56- 2002 to remove impunity to torturers and enable bringing those involved in torture and crimes against humanity to justice<sup>46</sup>.

### 12) Exiles’ Rights

After 5 years from returning to Bahrain, 170 families, who have been ousted from Bahrain for political reasons for over two decades, are still enduring humanitarian suffering due to negligence and avoidance to their demands and issues. Popular committee for the political and forceful exiles (The Returnees), formed by the representatives of the returnees after the declaration of the general pardon, have been in commuting from one governmental office to the other, and met many high officials, but with true progress in their issue. The Returnees demands allocation of housing, employment and other humanitarian needs<sup>47</sup>. The Authorities, till now, acting deaf for their needs, and not admitting that the State security measures were the reason behind this tragedy and it should take all measures to implement justice and truce with these citizens, whose guilt is that the had a different stance to the Government policy in the past.

### 13) Political Naturalizations and Statelessness

While the Authorities are hastily and secretly granting citizenship to thousands of citizens, having an effective nationality, from the Sahara of Syria, Jordon, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Baluchestan of Pakistan and, later employing them in State Security establishment, hundreds of stateless Bahrainis who have been born, and their ancestors and descendents, lived all their life in Bahrain, were banned from obtaining citizenship and enjoying its benefits. The politically naturalized from many countries are selected on sectarian and tribal basis and are granted citizenship, without complying with the law complying with international standards. They are naturalized on the wish of the head of state, who is the master of what is known as change of demography scheme. The Stateless, however, not only complying with the requirements of citizenship, have no where to go and endure agony and suffering to obtain the citizen document as it is needed in cases of medication, education, employment and many aspects of life<sup>48</sup>.

### 14) Intimidation and Harassing Civic Societies

The Authorities have used Civic Society code, No 21 of 1989, basically to kill off any unwanted society or twist its arm, if it has shown any unfavourable activities, specially when it crosses red line borders or

<sup>43</sup> “Discrimination and Privileges in Bahrain- the Unwritten Law”- BCHR, October 2003.

<sup>44</sup> Al-Ayam Newspaper, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005 (www.alayam.com).

<sup>45</sup> [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CERD.C.BHR.CO.7.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CERD.C.BHR.CO.7.En?Opendocument)

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cat/treaties/convention-reserv.htm>

<sup>47</sup> «العائدون» يرفضون استقالة «اللجنة» العسكري: نتمنى من الحكومة أن تتعاطى إيجابياً مع الملف” rejecting resignation of their committee members. Al-Ekri: Wish the Government cooperate positively with the issue.

www.alwaqt.com/Articles/ArticleDetailes.aspx?ArtId=466

<sup>48</sup> Call to naturalise 'stateless' people, www.gulf-daily-news.com/arc\_Articles.asp?Article=141958&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=29037

involved with politically sensitive issues. This Code regulates the activities of organizations with different objectives and nature, including human rights, professional, cultural and social societies. It also includes categories such as women, youth and foreign community societies as well as the sports clubs. Encompassing all these societies in a single law complicates the drafting and enforcement of this Law. Until July 2005, this Code was governing the political Societies and was the reason for their intimidation and harassment by the minister of Labour<sup>49</sup>.

As for

The Authorities have used this Code to introduce constraints and control activities of civic societies<sup>50</sup>. It has never missed any opportunity to harass civic societies, should they face any difficulty with regards to locating a place to convene or establish a headquarter<sup>51</sup>.

State has used this Code to dissolve Lawyers Society, Transparency Society, Bahrain Center for Human Rights and Al-Oruba Club<sup>52</sup>.

### **Monitor of Human Rights Organizations:**

Renown human rights organizations have been monitoring the situation in Bahrain aftermath the release of political prisoners and return of the exiles. These reports have been compiled in **Appendix B** and give a proper indication of how the Authorities is deceptive when claiming to protect and promote human rights of the citizens of Bahrain.

### **Concluding Remarks and Demands:**

1. In order to disseminate respect to human rights values, States applying for membership of the new HR council should reflect a good example for promotion and maintenance of human rights. This will include change of legislation as well as the practical implementation of laws to conform with the international charter and agreements.
2. Bahrain has shown its disrespect to the Bahraini people and human rights values by:
  - a- Unilaterally drafting and imposing a document calling it 2002 constitution, which transformed Bahrain into an authoritarian regime with absolute monarchy.
  - b- Imposed a government, lead by the only and ever prime minister in the country of secured supremacy by the ruling family, which could not be criticized or altered.
  - c- violating its commitments to the ratified conventions by targeting human rights activists and their institutions, and implementing abusive laws to curtail freedom and human rights values.
  - d- Manipulating what appears to be a democracy by gerrymandering election districts and Preventing representatives of people from true power of legislation and oversight

<sup>49</sup> Alwasat newspaper 30<sup>th</sup> March 2004- Minister of Labour reiterates threat to have the political societies dissolved if they continue calling for the constitutional petition.

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.alwasatnews.com/view.asp?tID=71235>

<sup>51</sup> فكرة إنشاء صندوق لدعمها ماديا... وكلفة متابعتها نصف مليون دينار سنويا Idea of creating a Fund to support them financially ..Cost of follow-up half a million Dinars annually, Al-Baluchi ( lady minister) suggest amalgamating 380 societies based on specialization or redistribute them geographically.

الوزارة أنهت قضية 85 جمعية "منذرة" من دون أي إجراء -بعد أن صحح الكثير منها أمره - After rectifying its status, Aljeeb (Mrs): Ministry finished the issue of 85 "warned" societies, without taking any action against them.

<http://www.alwasatnews.com/view.asp?tID=42233>

<sup>52</sup>

- e- Imposing restrictions on media and press as well as barring publication and access to electronic general knowledge sites and public forums.
  - f- Constraining movements and activities of political and civic societies
  - g- Protecting torturers and silence voices against them
  - h- Ignoring the rights of victims of torture and state security era (Stateless, Returnees and others) and acting deaf against all calls for reparations and justice.
3. Granting citizenship for thousands, chosen on sectarian and tribal basis, without considering the international standards, people's consent and local side effects. The State directs those Bahrainized to participate in the elections and voting is a clear breach of true democracy means and outcome.
  4. Without enacting laws against discrimination and other forms inhuman treatment, Bahrain will always be at the verge of sectarian crisis and social instability.

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## Appendix A :Publications Barred at Ports and confiscated from book fairs shelves

- 1- AlMushahid Assiyassi UK-based weekly periodical [www.almushahidassiyasi.com](http://www.almushahidassiyasi.com): أعداد مجلة "المشاهد السياسي" التي تم مصادرتها
- Issue No. 363 (23<sup>rd</sup> February –1<sup>st</sup> March 2003) covers the subject of the constitutional coup carried out by the head of state in February 2002. العدد 363 (23 فبراير 2003م) موضوع الغلاف عن التغييرات الدستورية في البحرين
  - issue No. 396: main page topic: Political Naturalization in Bahrain, العدد 397 (19 أكتوبر 2003م)-, موضوع الغلاف: التجنيس السياسي في البحرين
  - issue No. 408: Culturcide and discrimination in Bahrain: العدد 408- (4 يناير 2004م) موضع الغلاف: الإبادة الثقافية والتمييز في البحرين
  - issue No 426 (9<sup>th</sup> May 2004) main topic: Age of questioning and Petitions- Bahrain: Popular Petition to Share Ruling, العدد 426 (9 مايو 2004م) موضوع الغلاف: عصر الإستجابات والعروض، البحرين: عريضة شعبية تطالب بتقاسم الحكم
  - c-issue No. 429 (29<sup>th</sup> May-4<sup>th</sup> June 2004) which contains an article under the Arab Affairs titled: "External events reduce world concern about what is happening in Bahrain" by Dr Saeed Al-Shehabi, العدد 429- (30 مايو 2004م) مقال بعنوان: حلقة مفرغة بين الديمقراطية وأعدائها، د. الشهابي: الأحداث، اهتمام العالم بما يجري في البحرين الخارجية تقلل من
  - issue no 431 (12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2004) which contains an interview with Abdulrahman Al-Nuaimi-President National Action Democratic Society, one of fourth societies boycotted last Bahrain Parliamentarian Election – October 2002: "Void Advancements but Significant Retardations- Al-Numaimi; we want a constitutional Monarchy". العدد 431 (13 يونيو 2004م) مقال بعنوان: تقدمنا شكليا وتراجعنا كثيرا، النعيمي: نريد مملكة دستورية على غرار الديمقراطيات العريقة
  - issue No. 443 (4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2004) contains a cover page file on the political situation in Bahrain titled " Bahrain: Naturalization threatens overthrow of the regime".
  - Issue No. 450 (17<sup>th</sup> October 2004) Article- Bahrain: Dream Boat sinks in Governemtal Conspiracies, Al-wefaq accuses the Parliament of ignoring popular issues in favour of the government. العدد 450 (17 أكتوبر 2004م): مقال بعنوان: البحرين: زورق أحلام المعارضة يغرق في بحر التآمرات. الحكومية - الوفاق تتهم البرلمان بإغفال قضايا الشعب لصالح الحكم
  - Issue No. 451(7<sup>th</sup> November 2004): Escalation of differences between opposition and the government- Al-Nuaimi: Bahraini Societies don't intend to involve any foreign or external forces in Bahrain internal affairs. العدد 451 (7 نوفمبر 2004م): تصاعد الخلافات بين المعارضة والحكومة. النعيمي: الجمعيات البحرينية لا تنوي إقحام أي أطراف خارجية أو أجنبية في الشؤون الداخلية للبحرين
  - Issue No. 461: Cover page: 10 years of delayed confrontation- Bahrain: Poverty Outburst demanding resignation of PM. العدد 461 : موضوع الغلاف: 10 سنوات من المواجهة المؤجلة- البحرين: ثورة الفقر المطالبة بتنحي رئيس الوزراء
- 2- Issue no 155 of UK-based AN-NOOR Magazine<sup>53</sup> ([www.annoormagazine.com](http://www.annoormagazine.com)) was barred from entry to Bahrain as it contained an investigation file about reform history in Bahrain prepared by Sharif Saaduddin, titled: "From reforms movement of 1921 to constitutional monarchy of 1999 and after: Islamic movements in Bahrain, overrule of dialogue language with the authority"<sup>54</sup>

<sup>53</sup> AN-NOOR Magazine, Published by: An-Noor Publishing House, Registered in England and Wales – 3253231, Unit: 43, Sapcote Trading Center, Dudden Hill Lane, Willesden NW10 2DJ, U.K., Tel (44) 0208-830 12 22 / Fax (44) 0208-830 05 88, Email: [editor@annoormagazine.com](mailto:editor@annoormagazine.com)

<sup>54</sup> مجلة النور: من الحركة الإصلاحية 1921 حتى الملكية الدستورية 1999 وما بعدها، الحركات الإسلامية في البحرين- سيادة لغة الحوار مع السلطة - إعداد: شريف سعد الدين [www.annoormagazine.com/mag/ar/155/malafat/malafat\\_06.asp](http://www.annoormagazine.com/mag/ar/155/malafat/malafat_06.asp)

- 3- Some titles of religious, political and other publications confiscated from shelves of the Bahrain International Book fair (18-27 March 2004) بعض اسماء الكتب التي تمت مصادرتها في معرض البحرين الدولي 18 - 27 مارس 2004م
- a) Book: "Bahrain from Emirate to Kingdom" by Ahmed Menaisi كتاب البحرين من الإمارة للملكة للمؤلف أحمد منيسي
- b) Huge Heritage and Awareness of Distinction by Abbas Al-murshid- ضخامة التراث ووعي المفارقة للكاتب عباس المرشد
- c) The Princess who shook Gulf Thrones by Yaser Husain - الأميرة التي هزت عروش الخليج للكاتب ياسر حسين
- d) History of Najd and call of Shaikh Mohamed Abdulwahab by St John Folby تاريخ نجد ودعوة الشيخ محمد عبد الوهاب للكاتب سنت جون فليبي
- e) Development Constraints in Contemporary Arabian Gulf Societies by Dr Mohamed Al-rumaihi معوقات التنمية في مجتمعات الخليج العربي المعاصر للكاتب الدكتور محمد الرميحي
- f) NEGLECTED ARABIA 8 volumes شبه الجزيرة العربية المهملة- 8 مجلدات
- g) Reading in Versus of Sunnis Khalifs School by Al-sayed Mohamed Ali Al-Helo قراءة في نصوص أهل السنة خلفاء المدرستين للكاتب السيد محمد علي الحلو
- h) Bin Baz Advisory Notes by Saleh Al-wardani فتاوى بن باز للكاتب صالح الورداني
- i) Extorted Succession by Edrees Al-Husaini الخلافة المغتصبة للكاتب إدريس الحسيني
- j) Biography of Master of Messengers by Shaikh Jafar Al-Subhani سيرة سيد المرسلين للكاتب الشيخ جعفر السبحاني
- k) Abu-Huraira by Abdulhusain Sharafuddin Al-A'amely أبو هريرة السيد عبد الحسين شرف الدين العاملي
- l) Alkawthar in Status of Fatema Daughter of Circumcised Prophet- 7 volumes by Mohamed Baqer Almosawi, الكوثر في أحوال فاطمة بنت النبي الأطهر- 7 مجلدات- للكاتب محمد باقر الموسوي
- m) "Emam Mahdi Truth or Myth" by Amir Arab الإمام المهدي حقيقة أم خرافة للمؤلف البحريني أمير عرب
- n) "Husain Master of Martyrs" by Ali Qaem الحسين سيد الشهداء للكاتب علي قائم
- o) "Afflictions Poetry Works" ديوان شعلات الأحران
- p) Obituaries Book كتاب الوفيات
- q) "Biography of Zainab" حياة السيدة زينب سيرة
- r) "Biography of Master of Messengers" by Shaikh Subhani سيرة سيد المرسلين تأليف الشيخ سبحاني
- s) "I was Guided" and all books of Mohamed Teejani Samawi ثم اهتديت، وجميع كتب محمد التيجاني السماوي بالإسم
- t) "I was made Shia by Husain" لقد شيعني الحسين
- u) "Emam Ali in Three Adversities" by Ali Shariatee الإمام علي في محنه الثلاث للكاتب علي شريعتي
- v) "Fatema is Fatema" فاطمة هي فاطمة
- w) "Truth of Fatema Book" by Barakat Al-A'ameley حقيقة مصحف فاطمة للكاتب بركات العاملي
- x) "Fib of Abdulla Bin Saba" أكذوبة عبد الله بن سبأ
- y) "Seas of Brightness" volumes 29, 30 and 31. بحار الأنوار الأجزاء 29، 30، 31
- z) "Mother of Believers feeds her children" by Nabeel Fayadh للكتبة نبيل فياض أم المؤمنين تاكل أولادها
- aa) How married couples meet? by a Bahraini writer, كيف سلتقي الزوجان؟ لكاتب بحريني
- bb) Varieties for women- كشكول النساء
- cc) "Zahra'a Misery" by Jafaar Al-A'ameley مأساة الزهراء للكاتب جعفر العاملي
- dd) "Godiest Emamat" by Shaikh Modamed Sanad الإمامة الالهية للكاتب الشيخ محمد سند
- ee) "Burning Shocks" by Ibn Hajr الصواعق المحرقة لابن حجر
- ff) "Abundance in the status of Fatema", seven volumes, by Mohamed Baqer Al-mosawi
- gg) "Characters of Amir of Believers" by Al-Koofi مناقب أمير المؤمنين للكوفي
- hh) "Zahraa, the Model", by Mohamed Husain Fadhl-alla الزهراء القدوة - السيد محمد حسين فضل الله
- ii) "Emama in Islam" by Aref Themer الإمامة في الإسلام للكاتب عارف ثامر
- jj) "Al-Aloosi and Shiasm" by Sayyed Amir Mohamed Al-Qazweeni الألوسي والتشيع - السيد أمير محمد القزويني
- kk) Nights of Bishawer ليالي بيشاور
- ll) When the camel descended by Nabeel Fayyad عندما انحدر الجمل

## Appendix: B

**Reports and Studies By International Human Rights organizations About BAHRAIN**1. Amnesty International: [www.amnesty.org/](http://www.amnesty.org/)

- 2005 Report <http://web.amnesty.org/report2005/bhr-summary-eng>
- Bahrain: Amnesty International concerned by latest human rights developments <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/ENGMDE110042004>
- Bahrain: Concern over the detention of human rights defender and closure of human rights centre <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/ENGMDE110032004>
- Bahrain: Further information on Death penalty for Yoshork Dostazudi <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/ENGMDE110012004>
- Bahrain: Amnesty International concerned by latest human rights developments
- 2004 Report <http://web.amnesty.org/report2004/bhr-summary-eng>
- 2003 Report <http://web.amnesty.org/report2003/bhr-summary-eng>
- Bahrain: Further information on Ill-treatment / Health Concern <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/ENGMDE110042003>
- 2002 Report <http://web.amnesty.org/web/ar2002.nsf/mde/bahrain!Open>
- Human rights developments and Amnesty International's continuing concerns <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/ENGMDE110032000>

2. Committee to Protect Journalists [www.cpj.org](http://www.cpj.org)

- Cases- Ali Abdel Imam Imprisoned [http://www.cpj.org/cases05/mideast\\_cases05/bahrain.html](http://www.cpj.org/cases05/mideast_cases05/bahrain.html)
- Attacks- 2005 [http://www.cpj.org/attacks05/mideast05/snaps\\_mideast\\_05.html](http://www.cpj.org/attacks05/mideast05/snaps_mideast_05.html)
- <http://www.cpj.org/attacks04/mideast04/bahrain.html>
- Attacks on the Press-2003 <http://www.cpj.org/attacks03/mideast03/bahrain.html>
- Mansour al-Jamri, Hussein Khalaf, *Al-Wasat*-LEGAL ACTION [http://www.cpj.org/cases03/mideast\\_cases03/bahrain.html](http://www.cpj.org/cases03/mideast_cases03/bahrain.html)
- Attacks on the Press- 2002 <http://www.cpj.org/attacks02/mideast02/bahrain.html>
- Bahrain- Attack on the Press- 2001- <http://www.cpj.org/attacks01/mideast01/bahrain.html>
- BAHRAIN: Reporter prosecuted for criticizing government <http://www.cpj.org/protests/01ltrs/Bahrain10dec01pl.html>
- BAHRAIN: Government bans Al-Jazeera for abetting "Zionist infiltration" <http://www.cpj.org/protests/02ltrs/Bahrain13may02pl.html>

3. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) [www.eiu.com](http://www.eiu.com)

- Bahrain Index of Political Freedom, as per the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) is 3.85 out of 10: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/4450582.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4450582.stm)

4. The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) [www.fidh.org](http://www.fidh.org)

- Bahrain- Towards a legal denial of freedom of peaceful assembly [http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id\\_article=3195](http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=3195)
- Bahrain- new infringements of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly [http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id\\_article=2891](http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=2891)

- ICC/ Forum for the Future - Bahrain's commitment to human rights standards to be implemented into acts [http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id\\_article=2855](http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=2855)
- Bahrain: violence against demonstrators [http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id\\_article=2564](http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=2564)
- Head of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights in Detention [http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id\\_article=1944](http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=1944)
- FIDH concerned at deteriorating human rights situation [http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id\\_article=1072](http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=1072)
- Urgent Appeal: defamation of an NGO [http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id\\_article=1734](http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=1734)
- North Africa and Middle East report: <http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/amaghreb.pdf>
- Morocco / ICC- Fight against impunity, Equity and Reconciliation Commission and International Criminal Court: [http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id\\_article=1954](http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=1954)

#### 5. [Freedom House www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org)

- Freedom of the world country reports:
  - a- 2002 [www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&country=767&year=2002&view=mof](http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&country=767&year=2002&view=mof)
  - b-2003- [www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&country=341&year=2003&view=mof](http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&country=341&year=2003&view=mof)
  - b- 2004- [www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2004&country=2886](http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2004&country=2886)
  - c- 2005- [www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2005&country=6691](http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2005&country=6691)
- Freedom of Press Survey Reports
  - a-2002 <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=16&year=2002&country=767>
  - b-2003 <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=16&year=2003&country=341>
  - c-2004 <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=16&year=2004&country=2886>
  - d-2005 <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=16&year=2005&country=6691>

#### 6. [Frontline- Defenders of Human Rights Defenders www.frontlinedefenders.org](http://www.frontlinedefenders.org)

- Bahrain's candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council must mean better protection for human rights defenders- 24 April 2006 - <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/2781>
- Human Rights Defenders beaten in Bahrain, 16 July 2005- <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/2059>
- The Deteriorating Situation for Human Rights Defenders in Bahrain- 24 November 2004 - <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/1705>
- The release of Bahraini human rights defender, Abdul Hadi al-Khawaja- 23 November 2004- <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/1745>
- Detention of Human Rights Defender and closure of the Bahrain Human Rights Centre in Bahrain – 11 November 2004 - <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/1651>
- Arbitrary arrests following peaceful 'Car Parade' in Bahrain- 29 October 2004- <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/1704>
- Bahraini authorities detain human rights defender to protect image during Grand Prix, April 2004 - <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/912>
- Bahraini human rights defender released from jail, May 2004 - <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/1162>
- Bahrain Human Rights Centre under threat, May 2004 - <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/news/1190>

7. [Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

- Letter to His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/12/06/bahrai12153.htm>
- Bahrain: Investigate Police Beatings- [www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/07/22/bahrai11401.htm](http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/07/22/bahrai11401.htm)
- Bahrain: Courts Try to Silence Women's Rights Activist [www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/06/02/bahrai11062.htm](http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/06/02/bahrai11062.htm)
- Bahrain: Rights Center Closed as Crackdown Expands <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/09/30/bahrai9422.htm>
- Bahrain: Activist Jailed After Criticizing Prime Minister <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/09/29/bahrai9413.htm>
- Bahrain: Anti-Torture Activist Arrested Before Formula One Race <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/04/06/bahrai8399.htm>
- Letter to His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain <http://www.hrw.org/press/2003/04/gccbahrain.htm>
- Bahrain: Investigate Torture Claims Against Ex-Officer Amnesty should not apply to serious human rights crimes- <http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/12/bahrain1217.htm>
- [http://www.hrw.org/cgi-bin/rss.cgi?t=mideast\\_news\\_rss&c=bahrai](http://www.hrw.org/cgi-bin/rss.cgi?t=mideast_news_rss&c=bahrai)

8. [International Crisis Group www.icg.org](http://www.icg.org)

- Bahrain's Sectarian Challenge, Middle East Report N°40, 6 May 2005 [www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=3404&l=1](http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=3404&l=1)

9. [International Federation of Expression Exchange www.IFEX.org](http://www.IFEX.org)

- Bahrain- REPRESSION ON THE RISE AMID GROWING DEMANDS FOR REFORM <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/68819/>
- CAPSULE REPORT: EOHR review of free expression situation in Bahrain - 22 August 2005 - <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/68786/>
- Protesters severely beaten at demonstration - 25 July 2005- <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/68186/>
- Courts try to silence women's rights activist -02 June 2005- <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/67082/>
- RSF denounces new website registration measure as threat to free expression - 28 April 2005- <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/66276/>
- AUTHORITIES ARREST CRITIC, BAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/61757/>

10. [Center for international Development and Conflict Management- Polity IV](http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/polity/Bah1.htm)

- Bahrain: <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/polity/Bah1.htm>

11. [International Commission of Jursits www.icj.org](http://www.icj.org)

- Submission to CAT on draft anti-terrorist law in Bahrain [http://www.icj.org/news.php3?id\\_article=3697&lang=en](http://www.icj.org/news.php3?id_article=3697&lang=en)
- Attacks on Justice 2002 – Bahrain [http://www.icj.org/news.php3?id\\_article=2651&lang=en](http://www.icj.org/news.php3?id_article=2651&lang=en)

12. International Press Institute [www.freemedia.at](http://www.freemedia.at)

- 2005 World Press Freedom Review [http://service.cms.apa.at/cms/ipi/freedom\\_detail-new.html?country=/KW0001/KW0004/KW0089/](http://service.cms.apa.at/cms/ipi/freedom_detail-new.html?country=/KW0001/KW0004/KW0089/)
- 2004- World Press Freedom Report- <http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Mena/bahrain.htm>
- 2004 World Press Freedom Review [http://service.cms.apa.at/cms/ipi/freedom\\_detail-new.html?country=/KW0001/KW0004/KW0089/&year=2004](http://service.cms.apa.at/cms/ipi/freedom_detail-new.html?country=/KW0001/KW0004/KW0089/&year=2004)
- 2003 World Press Freedom Review [http://service.cms.apa.at/cms/ipi/freedom\\_detail-new.html?country=/KW0001/KW0004/KW0089/&year=2003](http://service.cms.apa.at/cms/ipi/freedom_detail-new.html?country=/KW0001/KW0004/KW0089/&year=2003)
- 2002 World Press Freedom Review [http://service.cms.apa.at/cms/ipi/freedom\\_detail-new.html?country=/KW0001/KW0004/KW0089/&year=2002](http://service.cms.apa.at/cms/ipi/freedom_detail-new.html?country=/KW0001/KW0004/KW0089/&year=2002)

13. the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) [www.omct.org](http://www.omct.org)

- OMCT comments on the press coverage following the Observatory's mission to Bahrain <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?cfid=954776&cftoken=283209&page=article&consol=close&rows=14&num=5700&kwrd=OMCT&SWITCHLNG=EN>
- Bahrain: Sentencing and release of Mr. al-Khawaja, persisting ban of BCHR <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=5177&consol=close&kwrd=OBS&cfid=954776&cftoken=283209>
- Bahrain: Arbitrary arrests during a protest <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=5143&consol=close&kwrd=OBS&cfid=954776&cftoken=283209>
- Bahrain: Another unconstitutional trial of Mr. Al-Khawaja <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=5145&consol=close&kwrd=OBS&cfid=954776&cftoken=283209>
- Bahrain: harassment against the BCHR continues <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=5104&consol=close&kwrd=OBS&cfid=954776&cftoken=283209>
- Bahrain: The order to dissolve the BCHR was issued by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=5102&consol=close&kwrd=OBS&cfid=954776&cftoken=283209>
- Bahrain: Head of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights in detention <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=5093&consol=close&kwrd=OBS&cfid=954776&cftoken=283209>
- The Observatory - Newsletter No. 28 - May - June - July 2004 <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=5046&consol=close&kwrd=OBS&cfid=954776&cftoken=283209>
- Bahrain: Threats to shut down human rights NGO- <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=4966&consol=close&kwrd=OBS&cfid=954776&cftoken=283209>
- Bahrain: coalition of NGOs's letter concerning the impunity of Mr Adel Felaifel <http://www.omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=2705&consol=close&kwrd=APP&cfid=3484182&cftoken=61896428>

#### 14. Redress [www.redress.org](http://www.redress.org)

- Reparation for Torture: A Survey of Law and Practice in 30 Selected Countries (Bahrain Country Report) – May 2003, <http://www.redress.org/studies/Bahrain.pdf>
- Submission of the Redress Trust for the meeting on Bahrain- August 2004 <http://www.redress.org/publications/BahrainSubmissions.pdf>

#### 15. Reporters without Borders [www.rsf.org](http://www.rsf.org)

- Reporters Without Borders denounces press freedom threat in website registration: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=13380](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=13380)
- Three Bahrainonline.org moderators freed: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=12687](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=12687)
- Press Freedom Index-2005: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=15336](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=15336)
- Bahrain- Handbook of bloggers and cyber-dissidents: [www.rsf.org/print-blogs.php3?id\\_article=15007](http://www.rsf.org/print-blogs.php3?id_article=15007)
- Bahrain: Imprimer- [http://www.rsf.org/print.php3?id\\_article=10731](http://www.rsf.org/print.php3?id_article=10731)
- Bahrain Annual Report-2004: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=9980](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=9980)
- Authorities urged to abandon trial of two journalists: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=7427](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=7427)
- Press Freedom Index-2004: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=11713](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=11713)
- Press Freedom Index-2003: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=8247](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=8247)
- Bahrain Annual Report- 2002: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=1433](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=1433)
- Press Freedom Index-2002: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=4116](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=4116)
- Internet- Bahrain: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=10731](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=10731)
- Government block websites: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=942](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=942)

#### 16. United Nations:

##### a- Committee Against Torture (CAT)

- The State of Bahrain does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of article 30 of the Convention.. The State of Bahrain does not recognize the competence of the Committee for which provision is made in article 20 of the Convention. - <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cat/treaties/convention-reserv.htm>
- Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee against Torture: Bahrain- 21/06/2005. CAT/C/CR/34/BHR. (Concluding Observations/Comments) - <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/2a3ee817c4c64c26c125702f004783d1?Opendocument>

##### b- COMMITTEE ON ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

- Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Bahrain. 14/04/2005. CERD/C/BHR/CO/7. (Concluding Observations/Comments) [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CERD.C.BHR.CO.7.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CERD.C.BHR.CO.7.En?Opendocument)

#### 17. US State Department- Country Reports on Human Rights Practices

- 2005 report - [www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61686.htm](http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61686.htm)
- 2004 report <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41719.htm>
- 2003 report <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2003/27925.htm>
- 2002 report <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2002/18273.htm>

18. US State Department – Country Reports on International Religious Freedom

- 2005 report <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51597.htm>
- 2004 report <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35495.htm>
- 2003 report <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2003/24447.htm>
- 2002 report <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2002/13993.htm>

*Appendix C:*

*Some media coverage about Travel Ban list*

- a) For having his name listed banning list since 1980, a Bahraini has been detained and interrogated in Cairo Airport for five hours. لوجود اسمه ضمن قوائم الممنوعين منذ 1980، التحقيق مع بحريني في مطار القاهرة لمدة خمس ساعات <http://www.alwasatnews.com/view.asp?tID=75933>
- b) For having his name in the travel ban list, Al-Matooq was detained in Kuwait, hand-chained and interrogated. قوائم الممنوعين من السفر، توقيف المعتوق في الكويت وتكبيل يديه والتحقيق معه. لوجود اسمه ضمن <http://www.alwasatnews.com/view.asp?tID=80496>
- c) Suddened by detained when leaving Dubai, Al-Muqdad name was enlisted while being in Emirates تفاجأ بتوقيفه عند مغادرته مطار دبي، المقداد يدرج ضمن «الممنوعين» أثناء وجوده في الإمارات <http://www.alwasatnews.com/view.asp?tID=77230>
- d) 21 names in the Second list was brought forward to the Ministry of Interior next Monday, Alwefaq coordinate a meeting today with those banned from travelling 21 اسما في القائمة الثانية ترفع إلى "الداخلية" الاتنين المقبل، "الوفاق" تعقد اجتماعا تنسيقيا مع "الممنوعين من السفر" مساء اليوم <http://www.alwasatnews.com/view.asp?tID=62417>
- e) A citizen banned from entry to Kuwait- Alwasat news- 26 April 2006 مواطن يمنع من دخول الكويت