



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

BAHRIAN CONTINUES DEGRADING TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

ICSFT calls for an urgent, full and unrestricted access to medical care in detention for all prisoners of conscience in Bahrain, in particular Hassan Mushaima¹, a septuagenarian prisoner of conscience serving a life sentence in Bahrain he continues to face illegal restrictions on his access to medical care. The Bahraini authorities have denied him of his basic human rights mainly his right to access to medical care. The Bahrain authorities have failed to address concerns raised on behalf of many prisoners of conciseness, and their life remains at risk.

Ali Mushaima, son of Hassan Mushaima, is on his 20th day of a hunger strike outside of Bahrain's Embassy in London protesting against such inhumane and illegal treatment of his father by the Bahrain justice system. He went on this hunger strike with the following demands:

- A cancer scan
- Seeing a diabetes specialist
- Family visits
- Books

Ali Mushaima states in his protest statement

"I was part of the same case as my father, but I was convicted in absentia because I was in London at the time; a year later [my Bahraini citizenship was revoked](#). If I return home to see my father, I'll be jailed along with him.

Throughout this time, Bahrain's authorities have punished my father by subjecting him to humiliating, inhumane treatment in the kingdom's notorious [Jau prison](#) – a horrific detention centre overcrowded with hundreds of political prisoners. The

¹ In 2011 he was at the forefront of Bahrain's Arab spring protests – a mass movement that peacefully called for human rights and democratic reforms in the authoritarian Gulf kingdom. Police violently crushed the demonstrations killing dozens and jailing thousands.



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torture my father has endured has caused such severe problems that he has required surgery four times. Jau prison's abusive and unsanitary conditions have seen his health sharply deteriorate, and authorities are denying him the medical care he needs to survive.

My father is 70 years old and suffers from serious chronic illnesses, including high blood pressure, diabetes, gout and a urinary tract infection. He in remission from lymphoma. He needs to take many different pills a day to help with these conditions: without them he could die."



Bahraini authorities are killing my father, I'm on hunger strike to save him, Ali Mushaima

Mushaima suffers from a series of chronic medical conditions, including gout, diabetes and erratic blood pressure. He requires over 15 different types of

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medication to help with these conditions but has faced restricted access to his medicine. He also faces restrictive conditions on family visits, with the result that he has not been able to meet with his family since February 2017. In fact since October 2017 prison authorities have confiscated all books, including religious books, papers, and writing materials.

For almost a decade now prisoners of conscience have been singled out for mistreatment. Prison authorities force prisoners of conscience, including the elderly Mushaima to be strip-searched, chained, shackled, and marched to medical facilities if they want to attend medical appointments. This is against the Mandela Rules. Which is a United Nations (UN) Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

The UK and the US are directly enabling Bahrain's practice of repression and the brutal human rights conditions. Both countries have entered in to a multi-billion dollar deals with the regime which inadvertently amounts to green lighting the regime's atrocious human rights violations.

Bahrain is long overdue to establish truly independent and credible human rights mechanisms that are fully empowered to carry out their mandates and appropriately address human rights violations and abuses.

ICSFT urges US and UK to use their influence to ensure human rights standards are upheld without any preconditions. Further we call on these countries and the UN to urge Bahrain authorities to immediately provide Hassan Mushaima and other prisoners of conscience in detention with the adequate medical treatment they need to live, and ultimately to secure their release.

It is time to end the fake reform campaign and embrace the concept of human rights without a precondition!

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