

**UK 9807022**

**22nd July 1998**

**BAHRAIN: Death in custody/Fear for Safety**

**Nooh Khalil Abdulla Al-Nooh, aged 22**

Bahrain Human Rights Organization (BHRO) has received information regarding the death in custody of Nooh Khalil Abdulla Al-Nooh, a 22-year old man from al-Na'im district (Manama), died two days after his arrest. He was arrested on Sunday 19 July from his family's shop where he used to work in al-Na'im. On Tuesday 21 July his body was handed to his family by the official men from Ministry of the Interior. According to the information received by BHRO, his body allegedly bore physical marks of torture.

Arbitrary mass arrests and the death in custody of several people in the past years have prompted fears for the safety of political detainees in Bahrain. On 6 June 1997, Bahraini Government officially informed the relatives of Abdul Zahra Ibrahim Abdulla, aged 27, about his death in custody after five days of his arrest. On 29 June 1997, Shaikh Ali Mirza al-Nakkas, aged 50, a blind Shi'a cleric, died in custody in al-Qal'a Prison in Manama, where he had been held incommunicado since his arrest on 23 April 1997. His body was reportedly buried by the security forces on the same day. On 13 August 1996, Sayyid Ali Sayyid Amin Al-Alawi, aged 19, was arrested and four days later his body was handed over to his family, reportedly bearing marks of torture. And on 29 June 1995, Said Al-Iskafi, a 16-years-old, student, was summoned for interrogation, and on 8 July his family was told to collect his body from the Military Hospital.

No thorough and independent investigations have been carried out into the circumstances surrounding the causes of these or other deaths in custody since anti-government protests erupted in Bahrain in December 1994.

Bahrain Human Rights Organization fears for the safety of other political detainees and prisoners of conscience currently held incommunicado. There are currently about 1,500 to 2,000 detainees held in various prisons in Bahrain.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send letters:

- expressing deep concern at the deaths in custody of Nooh Khalil Al-Nooh, reportedly as a result of torture.
- calling for full and thorough investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death of Nooh Khalil Al-Nooh, for the results to be made public, and for anyone found responsible for their deaths be brought to justice.
- calling for all detainees to be protected from any form of torture or ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency Shaikh Muhammad Bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa  
Minister of Interior  
PO Box 13, Manama, Bahrain  
Faxes: + 973 276765 or 290526



## **DK 9806301.30th June 1998. BAHRAIN: MARCH - JUNE 1998 FURTHER ARBITRARY ARRESTS - INCLUDING CHILDREN HIGH RISK OF TORTURE DENIAL OF THE EXERCISE OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS PROLONGED INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION DISCRIMINATION**

The Bahrain Human Rights Organization is gravely concerned for the physical and psychological integrity of at least (70) minors and (99) others allegedly arrested in a further wave of arrests. Most of the detainees, including minors, were arrested without valid charges. They were allegedly beaten severely when they were arrested. The arrest at home was allegedly accompanied with damaging belongings and terrorizing residents. Given the lack of basic safeguards and the enormous number of documented cases and since the detainees are held for long periods in incommunicado, the risk to the physical and psychological integrity of all these detainees is extreme. During the last three years, some detainees, including minors, have lost their lives during detention period.

### **Annex 1:**

Names and details of (70) minors, aged between 7-17 years, allegedly arrested during the last three months. Annex 2: Names and details of (99) adults allegedly arrested during the last three months.\* It is believed that there are many more undocumented cases

Annex 1 includes Majid Abass Habib, 12 years, who was arrested on 5th February, 1996, allegedly forced to sign papers accusing him of sitting a place on fire. He had served the two-year sentence imposed on him by the State Security court but he is still in custody. Annex 2 includes the name of the 20-year-old female Ramlah Hassan, who was snatched from her parent house on 31 May, and the family still does not know about her fate. The list includes also the names of eight persons who were re-arrested on 13 June; Ahmad Nema, Majid Milad, Raed Al-Khawaja, Abbas Al-Aradi, Jaffer Selail, Jawad Marhoon, Nizar Al Qarea, and Jaffar Al Sayed had been released two weeks earlier after being kept in jail for three and a half years serving a three-year sentence by the State Security Court in connection with the ongoing unrest.

**HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The human rights situation in Bahrain has remained extremely serious since the outbreak of mass protests late in 1994 calling for the release of detainees and for democratic reforms. In its resolution adopted on August 18, 1997, the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities noted: "the elected National Assembly of Bahrain was dissolved in August 1975, that for 22 years Bahrain has been without an elected legislator, and that there are no democratic institutions in Bahrain." The Sub-Commission noted further: "the information concerning a serious deterioration of the human rights situation in Bahrain, including discrimination against the indigenous Shi'a population, extra-judicial killings, persistent use of torture in Bahraini prisons on a large scale as well as the abuse of women and children who are detained, and arbitrary detention without trial or access by detainees to legal advice." In its annual report issued in June 1998, Amnesty International said: "several hundreds of people were reportedly arrested during the year in connection with anti-government demonstrations. Eight religious and political leaders, all prisoners of conscience, remained held without charge or trial throughout the year". Amnesty International added: "torture and ill-treatment of detainees continued to be reported and two detainees died (in 1997) in circumstances suggesting that torture or medical neglect may have contributed to their deaths. Three people sentenced to death in 1996 remained under sentence of death. Several Bahraini nationals were banned from returning to the country".

**REASON BEHIND THE ARRESTS:** "According to senior western diplomats between 1,000 and 2,000 are in jail. Businessmen, academics and lawyers put the figure at more than 5,000." (Financial Times, 28.05.98). The International Committee of the Red Cross said last year that they had met 1429 detainees in 27 detention centers. Apparently, the main reason behind the arrest was to discourage anti-regime activities such as participation in demonstrations or gatherings, painting graffiti, and distributing pamphlets. Out of the large number of the detained, only few were charged for instigating violence. Some have been in detention for more than two years without charge or trial.

**INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / TORTURE:** In his report to the UN Commission on Human Rights this year (E/CN.4/1998/38), the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture said that: "he would welcome the Government's reaction to the observations he formulated in his report of last year (E/CN.4/1997/7, para. 29)". In the aforesaid report the Special Rapporteur stated that: "he had continued to receive information indicating that most persons arrested for political reasons in Bahrain were held incommunicado, a condition of detention conducive to torture. The Security and Intelligence Service (SIS) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) were alleged frequently to conduct interrogation of such detainees under torture. The practice of torture by these agencies was said to be undertaken with impunity, with no known cases of officials having been prosecuted for acts of torture or other ill-treatment." On February 21st 1998, the Government of Bahrain ratified the "Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)". But the reservation that the Bahraini government made on article 20 paragraphs (1,2,3,4,5) and article 30 paragraph (1) means that the Committee is unable to monitor whether the Convention is properly

implemented. SPECIAL MEASURES TO DISCOURAGE AND PUNISH THE EXERCISE OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: In its report to the UN Commission on Human Rights this year, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention stated in its opinion (No. 15/ 1997 - Bahrain) that: "The Working Group refers to a previous decision it adopted regarding Bahrain, Decision 35/1995, and in particular to paragraph 5, 9, and 12 to 17 of that decision. The Working Group recalls its conclusion that the application of the State Security Law is liable to cause grave violations of the right to a fair trial, guaranteed by article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The application of the State Security Law is also in contravention of principles 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and in particular principle 33 of the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment." The Working Group further requests the Government to study the possibility of amending its legislation in order to bring it into line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other relevant international standards accepted by the State of Bahrain. In its previous decision (No. 35/1995), the Working Group noted that: "the State Security Law does not make any distinction, in its provisions, between persons who, on the one hand, are prosecuted for having engaged in peaceful activities or activities undertaken in the exercise of their fundamental rights to freedom of religion, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly and association and freedom to take part in the government of one's country (...); and on the other hand persons who are prosecuted for having committed acts which constitute undue abuse of the exercise of the aforementioned rights." DISCRIMINATION: Violating holy places of the Shi'a and Insulting their beliefs during arrest and interrogation, is very common. It is worth mentioning that all the detainees are from the Shi'a-Muslim majority, while all officials, security personnel and judges, dealing with such cases, are either members of the ruling Al-Khalifa family, or deliberately chosen to be Sunni-Muslims. Since 1990, Bahrain has been a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, but the authorities has not submit any report, as recommended in Article 9 of the Convention, blocking the way on the related UN committee to monitor the implementation of the Convention. VIOLATIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: Bahrain is a State party to the International Convention on Rights of the Child since 1992. During that period, gross violations against children have taken place especially since the beginning of the unrest late in 1994. The authorities has not submit any report to the UN Committee on Rights of the Child violating the Convention and blocking the way on the Committee to monitor the implementation of the International convention which provides that: (a) the arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be used only as a measure of last resort; (b) State parties shall take all appropriate measures to guarantee the respect of the physical and psychological integrity of the child, and (c) every child deprived of his liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal assistance as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority. ACTION REQUESTED: Please contact the Bahrain authorities urging them to: I. guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of all detainees and in particular children; II. put an immediate end to the use of arbitrary detention of people, especially minors, by the police; III. order the immediate release of all minors and all those who are detained without valid charges, and establish a competent and impartial civilian tribunal to guarantee procedural rights of the defendants at all time, if such charges exist; IV. open an exhaustive and impartial enquiry into all the events, identify those responsible, bring them to trial and apply the civil, penal and/or administrative sanctions according to International standards; V. abolish the security measures and the laws used against persons who are engaged in peaceful activities or activities undertaken in the exercise of their fundamental rights; VI. comply with the observations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture that "the Government should establish measures to insure the independent monitoring, on a sustained basis, of the arrest, detention and interrogation practices of law enforcement agencies, particularly the SIS." (Ref. E/CN.4/1997/7) APPEALS TO: \* Al-Shaikh Issa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain, Address: P.O. Box 555, The Amiri Court, Rifa' Palace, Rifa', Bahrain. Telex: 8666 Qasar BN or 8500 Qasar BN. Telegrams: His Highness the Amir, Manama, Bahrain. Fax: (+973) 668884. \* Al-Shaikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Minister of Interior, Address: P.O. Box 13, Manama, Bahrain. Telex: 9572 PSMKT BN or 8333 ALAMAN BN. Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Manama, Bahrain. Faxes: (+973) 276765 or 290526 or 754303. \* Al-Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain, Address: P.O. Box 1000, Manama, Bahrain. Fax: (+973) 533033. Please send copies of your appeals to our office in Denmark. Bahrain Human Rights Organization (BHRO), Strandgade 39, 2-16, 1401 Copenhagen K, DENMARK. Fax: (+45) 32 54 99 44 <http://www.iae.dtu.dk/u/d946801/http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/4441/> e-mail: [d946801@student.iae.dtu.dk](mailto:d946801@student.iae.dtu.dk) e-mail: [BHRO@hotmail.com](mailto:BHRO@hotmail.com)

**Annex No. 1 BAHRAIN: JUNE 1998 LIST OF SOME MINORS (UNDER 18) ARRESTED BETWEEN MARCH - JUNE 1998 (Note: The following information is written as received from the sources.) No.; NAME; AGE; DISTRICT; DETAILS / (DATE OF RECEIVING INFORMATION)**

1 Abas Jaffar Abdul Ridah; 15; Sitra; He was arrested last week, tortured than released. (from 23.05)2 Abass Ahmed Abdula; 17; Sitra - Wadyan; On the 15th of April the security forces raided his house, he was arrested after being mercilessly beaten.( it is worth mentioning that he was arrested a year ago, and was just released a month ago) (19.04)3 Abbas Jaffar Abdul Ridah; 15; Sitra; Arrested week 20, 1998, at a check point set up at Sitra Causway, they were taken to Al Nabih Saleh prison where they were allegedly tortured and then released.4 Abbas Saeed Sabt; 17; Shakhoura; Arrested 30 April5 Abd Ali Al Khunaizi ; Manama; He was arrested with 2 other teenagers on the 22nd of March, when the security forces raided several houses. (24.05)6 Abdul-Ali Al-Beri; Sitra; Arrested on 27 April.7 Abdul-Elah Yousif; 16; Samahig; He was snatched on the 23rd of Feb. (27.02)8 Abdul-Hussain Al-Safi; 16; Sitra; Arrested on 27 April9 Abdul-Zahra Saeed Salman (seyyed); 16; Shakhura; He was arrested on the 3rd of June. (11.06)10 Abdula Juma'a Hasan; 12; Karbabad; On 14th April the security forces raided his house, and beat him in front of his parents before arresting him. Then they took him to Budaya'a police (torture) centre without bandaging his wounds. He was accused of "writing pro-constitution slogans on the walls". On the same day at 10:00 am the police arrested his 10 year old brother.(19.04)11 Ahmad Mahdi Mahfood; 17; Al-Qurayya; (11.06)12 Ahmad Makki; The security forces attacked him and his fellow students in Sheikh Abdul Aziz Secondary School and arrested them. (30.03)13 Ahmed Ali Hassan; 10; He was arrested on the 15th of April and was taken to Budaya'a (torture) centre. (19.04)14 Alawi Mahdi (seyed); 17; Duraz; He was arrested last week (from 27.02)15 Ali Abbass Al Arradi; Manama; He was arrested with 2 other teenagers on the 22nd of March, when the security forces raided several houses. (24.05)16 Ali Abdulla bu-Shaker; 10; Al-Dair; He was arrested on the 9th of feb. at 2 am. with 2 other children. Ater he was tortured for about 24hours he was released. (13.02)17 Ali Ahmad Al-Motawwa; The security forces attacked him and his fellow students in Sheikh Abdul Aziz Secondary School and arrested them. (30.03)18 Ali Ahmad Jassim; 17; Sitra; Arrested on 27 April.19 Ali Habib; 14; Samahig; He was snatched on the 23rd of Feb. (27.02)20 Ali Hassan Al-Qallaf; The security forces attacked him and his fellow students in Sheikh Abdul Aziz Secondary School and arrested them. (30.03)21 Ali Ibrahim Ahmad; The security forces attacked him and his fellow students in Sheikh Abdul Aziz Secondary School and arrested them. (30.03)22 Ali Jaffar Khaleel Al-Bahrani; 13; Arad; He was arrested on the 10th of february with three other children. (12.02)23 Ali Mohammed Al-Madhi; 12; Shakhoura; Arrested 28 April.24 Ammar Abbass Al Arradi; Manama; He was arrested with 2 other teenagers on the 22nd of March, when the security forces raided several houses. (24.05)25 Fadhil Seyyed Ahmad Mahfoodh; 17; Sar; The security forces raided his fathers house beat him, his 19 year old brother and his parents. Then him and his brother were arrested for one day. (18.03) 26 Faisal Ali Adnan(seyyed); 13; Al-Qurayya; He was released after being tortured by Adel Flaifel for three days. (11.06)27 Haider Abd-Ali Salman Al-Asfoor; 15; Shakhura; He was arrested on the 6th of June. (11.06)28 Hani Ahmed Ya'aqub; 16 ; Shakhoura; Arrested 30 April29 Hassan Abdul Aziz; 13; He was arrested on the 15th of April and was taken to Budaya'a centre. (19.04)30 Hassan Ahmed Hussain; 13; Sitra; Arrested week 20, 1998, at a check point set up at Sitra Causway, they were taken to Al Nabih Saleh prison where they were allegedly tortured and then released.31 Hassan Ali Husain Al-Fulath; 13; Arad; He was arrested on the 10th of february with three other children. (12.02)32 Hassan Yousif Ali Ihssan; 14; Sitra; Arrested week 20, 1998, at a check point set up at Sitra Causway, they were taken to Al Nabih Saleh prison where they were allegedly tortured and the released (23.5)33 Hussain Ahmed Al Walad; 19; Dair; Arrested on 23 March, 1998.34 Hussain Ali Mousa Al-Ghais; 15; Al-Dair; He was arrested on the 9th of feb. at 2 am. with 2 other children. (13.02)35 Hussain Hassan Ali; 17; Muqsha'a; He was arrested on the 6th of June. (15.06)36 Hussain Muslim Ibrahim; 13; Al-Qurayya; He was released after being tortured by Adel Flaifel for three days. (11.06)37 Hussain Shaikh Abbas; 17; Duraz; He was arrested last week (from 27.02)38 Issa Jawad; 17; Shakhoura; Arrested 30 April39 Jabir Ahmed Ali; 16; Sitra; Arrested week 20, 1998, at a check point set up at Sitra Causway, they were taken to Al Nabih Saleh prison where they were allegedly tortured and the released.(23.5)40 Jaffer Al-Unaisi (seyyed); The security forces attacked him and his fellow students in Sheikh Abdul Aziz Secondary School and arrested them. (30.03)41 Jaffer Naser Ahmad; 13; Samahig; He was snatched from his family, on the 21st of feb. He was tortured severly while being snatched, and eye-witness said "a brick was used for hitting the child Jafer" (27.01)42 Maher Abbas; 17; Duraz; He was stopped and beaten by security forces in an arbitrary way. (18.03)43 Mahmood Ali Abdulla Mohammed; 17; Muqsha'a; He was arrested on the 6th of June. (15.06)44 Maitham Abdul Aziz Abdulla Al-Sabbagh; 17; Jabalat Habshi; Arrested on 29 March.45 Majid Abass Habib; 12; Arrested two years ago, has finished his sentence's term, but is still in custody without any explanation being given by the Interior Ministry.46 Mohammed Abbas Abdulaah; 13; Al-Dair; He was arrested on the 9th of feb. with 2 other children. Ater

he was tortured for about 24 hours he was released. (13.02)47 Mohammed Hussain Ahmad Al-Yas; 13; Samahig; He was snatched from his family, on the 21st of Feb. He was tortured severely while being snatched. (27.02)48 Mohammed Juma'a Hassan; 10; Karbabad; On 14th April the security forces raided his house, and beat his brother in front of his parents before arresting him. Then they took him to Budaya'a police (torture) centre without bandaging his wounds. He was accused of "writing pro-constitution slogans on the walls". On the same day at 10:00 am the police arrested Mohammed. (19.04)49 Mohammed Khudor; Manama; He was arrested with 2 other teenagers on the 22nd of March, when the security forces raided several houses. (24.05)50 Mohammed Matoq Ali; 14; Al-Qurayya; (11.06)51 Mohammed Salman; Samahig; He was snatched on the 24th of Feb. (27.02)52 Mohsin Khaleel; Manama; He was arrested with 2 other teenagers on the 22nd of March, when the security forces raided several houses. (24.05)53 Mosa Jaffer Al-Madani; 17; Duraz; He was arrested last week (from 27.02)54 Muhammed Abbas Abdullah; 13; Al-Dair; He was arrested at 2 o'clock on Monday the 9th of February. After beating him for 24 hours, he was released. (13.02) 55 Najib Abdulla Omran ; The security forces attacked him and his fellow students in Sheikh Abdul Aziz Secondary School and arrested them. (30.03)56 Nawar Ahmad Mansoor; 17; Jed-Ali; Arrested on 3 April, Nawar is the son of the pro-democracy activist, Mr. Ahmad Mansoor, who had been arrested several times in the past three years. his two brothers are in jail after being sentenced for three years by an unconstitutional State Security Court.57 Ridha Abdula Al Ashiri; 16; Dair; Arrested at 1.00 am from his house. (Brother of Hussain Al Ashiri arbitrarily killed by the police). Arrested 23 March.1998.58 Sadiq Ali A'adab; 18; Duraz; He was arrested last week (from 27.02)59 Sadiq Hassan Abdulla; 17; Shakhoura; Arrested 30 April60 Sadiq Qasim Ahmad (seyyed); 15; Duraz; He was arrested on the 16th of March and tortured for four days. (18.05)61 Saeed Jaffar al-Aunaisi; Arrested from his school (Shaikh Abdulaziz Secondary School).62 Saeed Zaheer; 13; He was arrested for a day. (11.06)63 Saleh Atteya; 13; Samahig; He was snatched on the 23rd of Feb. (27.02)64 Salman Mahdi Al- Habbash; 16; Sanabis; Arrested on 28 March.65 Shakir Muslim Ibrahim; 16; Al-Qurayya; He was released after being tortured by Adel Flaifel for three days. (11.06) 66 Usama Saeed Abdula; 15; Shakhoura; Arrested 30 April67 Yaser Abdulla Khalil; 13; Samahig; He was snatched on the 23rd of Feb. (27.02)68 Yasser Ammar; 7; Allegedly tortured and interrogated and held in solitary with another two 8 years old kids, for insolence to the police.69 Yousif Ali Hussain Al-Fulath; 12; Arad; He was arrested on the 10th of February with three other children. (12.02)70 Zakaria Abdulla Hussain Habib Matar; 14; Ekr; He was detained and tortured for 37 days. During all these days he had been blindfolded and handcuffed in a solitary cell. Bahrain Human Rights Organization (BHRO), Strandgade 39, 2-16, 1401 Copenhagen K, DENMARK. Fax: (+45) 32 54 99

44 <http://www.iae.dtu.dk/u/d946801/http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/4441/> e-mail: [d946801@student.iae.dtu.dk](mailto:d946801@student.iae.dtu.dk) e-mail: [BHRO@hotmail.com](mailto:BHRO@hotmail.com)