

Bahrain blasts Amnesty, says allegations are false

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As for Amnesty International's recommendation on freedom of assembly, the Ministry stressed the keenness of the Ministry of Interior to ensure that there is no prohibition on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly and that the exercise of this right is in accordance with legal provisions to ensure the safety of participants of these gathering and marches, and to maintain public order and morals as well as protect the rights and freedoms of others, according to Decree-Law No. (32) for the year 2006, that amended certain provisions

of Decree-Law No. (18) of 1973 on public gatherings and rallies. The Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms that all persons arrested, including those mentioned in the report, were arrested in accordance with legal procedures and not for their exercise of their right to expression or for any other reason related to human rights.

Use of force, torture

Regarding the allegations of the use of force, torture and other ill-treatment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that, in accordance with the decision of the Attorney-



General of 2012, the Special Investigation Unit of the Kingdom of Bahrain operates independently in the Public Prosecution. Its legal practices shall be exercised under the power of its Chairman, and the Attorney-General shall supervise its work with administrative oversight. The Unit is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all allegations of murder, torture and ill-treatment attributed to persons in leading positions, whether they were civilian and military, who are under "command responsibility in accordance with international standards.

The General Secretariat Ombudsman was also established, which is an administratively and financially-independent body in the Ministry of Interior. The Ministry of Interior has also established a new Directorate of Internal Investigations, which is responsible of examining complaints related to allegations of wrongdoing by any members of the public security forces. It has also issued the Code of Conduct for Policemen under

Ministerial Resolution No. 14 of 2012. It is derived from the best international practices and codes of conduct for law enforcement officials of the United Nations. Ministerial Decree No. 24 of 2014 was

issued to promulgate the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms, in line with the basic principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials of the United Nations. With regard to allegations of arbitrary deprivation of nationality and forced deportation, the Ministry stated that the deprivation of nationality occurs in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom and is only in accordance with the mechanism provided by the law - a Royal Decree - either on the basis of judicial decisions or upon the order of the Minister of the Interior after receiving the approval

of the Cabinet. The Ministry referred to the right to appeal against the decision to revoke citizenship by persons involved before the Bahraini judiciary in accordance with legal procedures.

The Ministry affirmed that the Government has compensated victims of human rights violations. The Government adopted the civil settlement initiative to compensate the victims of the events of February and March 2011 upon the proposal of the National Committee that was established to follow up on the recommendations of the report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry.

Violation of law forced action against Al-Wasat

As for the shutdown of Al-Wasat newspaper, the report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the legal procedures to suspend Al-Wasat newspaper in June 2017 came as a result of the newspaper's repeated violations to the Law of Press, Printing and Publishing of 2002, and the national and international press and media covenants, through its involvement in spreading rumours and false news that would incite sectarian hatred, racism and harm the Kingdom's relations with fraternal and friendly countries, and serve extremist organizations in light of the violence and

terrorism taking place in the Kingdom. The most notable violations that took place in the last three years, and the procedures taken against them are as follows:

In the past years, the Public Prosecution, under Article 80 of the Press, Printing and Publishing Law, has summoned a number of Al-Wasat authors to question them after publishing news and reports that would stir sectarian divisions, threaten national security, incite hatred and disregard laws. Opinion articles that included violations were published in the newspaper 4-6 times a month.

Court upholds Daesh supporter's jail term

DT News Network
Manama

The High Appeals Court yesterday upheld the ten-year jail sentence and stripping of citizenship of a Daesh supporter.

The court ruled by accepting the appeal in form, rejected it in substance, and upheld the sentence, said Advocate General Ahmed Al Hammadi, Chief of Terror Crime Prosecution.

The defendant was tried and convicted for forming and joining a terror group, illegal possession of firearms for terrorist purposes and spreading false news. The

High Criminal Court on June 15 sentenced him to ten years, stripping his citizenship and confiscating the seized items.

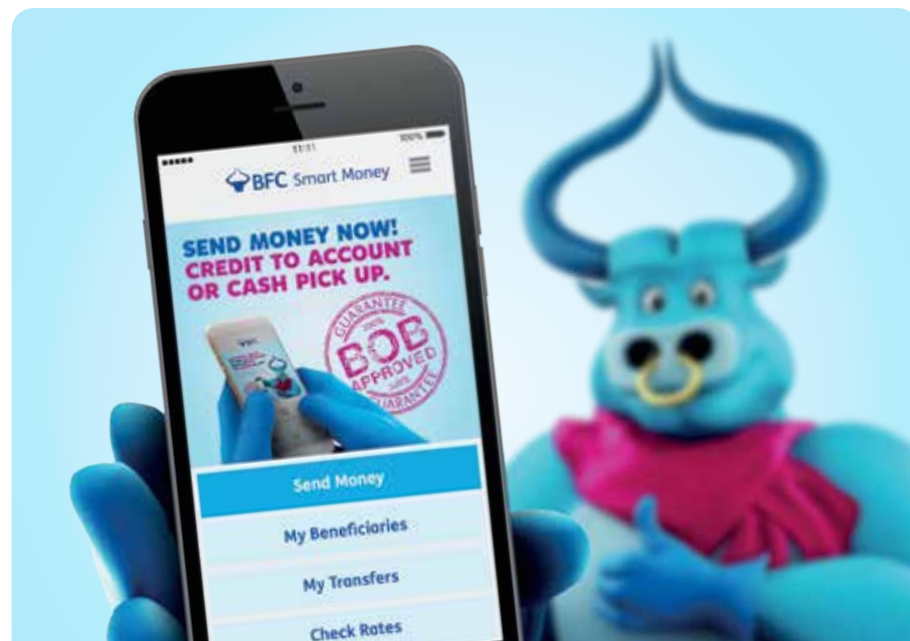
The case was charged after the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID) received tips about an individual who expressed extremely anti-police, anti-government and pro-Daesh views.

The investigations led to one of the most dangerous members of the Daesh group who forged links between its elements inside Bahrain and its fighters abroad. He supplied the Daesh group with vital information including names and details of Interior Ministry

officers to target them via terrorist attacks.

The suspect had distorted the image of Bahrain, its Judiciary Authority and security agencies in social media, especially with regards to human rights and inmates' treatment. He was apprehended in accordance with legally-prescribed procedures and referred to the Public Prosecution.

The defendant appeared in custody before the High Criminal Court. His case was deliberated by the court, which heard his defence argument and the Prosecution statement which insisted on maximum possible penalty.



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