

# Man who placed fake bomb in A'ali loses appeal

● **First High Criminal Court originally ordered to jail the appellant for one year, considering he was 16 years old at the time of the incident**

● **The appellant's role was to monitor the area, from the top of one of the nearby buildings, while he guided the second defendant through a telephone call so he can place the object without being noticed by the police.**

TDT | Manama

The Court of Appeals yesterday rejected the plea of a Bahraini man who was earlier punished with one year in jail for his involvement along with another Bahraini in placing a fake bomb on a busy road in the Northern Governorate.

The defendants were previously sentenced by the First High Criminal Court, which ordered to jail the appellant for one year, considering his young age (16 at the time) in accord-



Representational image via Reuters in accordance with Article 72 of the Kingdom's Penal Code.

The second defendant, a 30-year-old at the time the crime was committed, was sentenced to three years of imprisonment.

The case occurred in A'ali in 2016, when the defendants placed a fake bomb on Shaikh Zayed Highway, one of the busiest roads in the area.

The appellant's role was to monitor the area, from the top of one of the nearby buildings, while he guided the second defendant through a telephone call so he can place the object without being noticed by the police.

Once reported, a police patrol reached the spot and cordoned off the area, while the special-



**Under Article 72 of Bahrain's Penal Code, if an offence is committed under extenuating circumstances and the judge feels the need for clemency, the penalty shall be reduced**

ised teams inspected the object, which was a refrigerating gas cylinder tied to a battery

and wires. Upon inspection, the teams discovered that the object was a fake bomb placed on the road to disturb public order and spread fear.

Forensic investigations and laboratory examination showed traces of fingerprints, which matched those of one of the defendants, who had a criminal record and whose fingerprints were registered in the Interior Ministry's database.

He was immediately arrested and led police to his accomplice. Both defendants confessed in the interrogation to their crime. They were charged with committing an act of terror by placing an object imitating explosives in a public place.

It is worth mentioning that Article 72 of Bahrain's Penal Code states: "If an offence is committed under extenuating circumstances and the judge feels the need for clemency, the penalty shall be reduced."

"If the prescribed penalty is a death sentence, it may be reduced to life or term imprisonment. Further, if the penalty is life imprisonment, it may be reduced to term imprisonment or a jail sentence for a period of less than six months. Where the penalty is a term imprisonment, the judge shall not inflict the maximum penalty but may reduce it to imprisonment for no less than three months."

## Court replaces jail sentence with community service for two Bahrainis

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Two Bahraini men, who were jailed in 2018 for burning tyres on one of the main roads in Sitra during national day celebrations, will continue the remaining period of their punishment in community service.

This came as the First Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal ruled yesterday to reduce the previously issued sentence of three years of imprisonment against both defendants to one year of community service.

The two men were among a group of six defendants who were each sentenced in 2018 to the three-year jail terms.

According to the results of investigations of the Public Prosecution back then, the six defendants were charged with possession of Molotov cocktails, participating in an illegal gathering and disturbing public security.

It was shown in the details

of the case that the men gathered on Avenue One in Sitra on December 16, 2018, simultaneously with the Kingdom's annual national day celebrations, and placed five tyres on the road before setting them on fire.

Additionally, when the Public Security forces reached the scene, the defendants, along with other unknown accomplices, hurled Molotov cocktails at the forces before fleeing.

Police investigations led to the identification and arrest of a couple of the culprits, who confessed to their crimes in the interrogation and led the police to the other four defendants involved.

Police succeeded in arresting two more defendants, while two others remained at large.

The court sentenced four of the defendants in praesentia, while the other two received the same punishment in absentia.

## NIHR participates in "future of education in the Arab region" seminar



A screenshot from the meeting in progress

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National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) Board of Commissioners member, Wedad Al-Mousawi, participated in an online seminar on "The Future of Education in the Arab Region" yesterday.

The seminar was organized by the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions and the Arab Institute for Human Rights, in line with the UNESCO Global initiative to re-imagine the future of education by 2050.

Al-Mousawi highlighted Bahrain's commitment towards measures and decisions

to ensure the strong continuation of the educational process in light of the current global circumstances caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

During the seminar, the most important challenges facing education in the region were discussed, as well as proposals for development.

The meeting also focused on rethinking the concept and measures of development and plans to formulate new education visions. In a post pandemic world, they noted the need to redefine education frameworks, and to adopt a humanitarian curriculum for students.

## Proper steps stressed for those going out to sea

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Taking the proper steps before going out to sea has been stressed, after three individuals were rescued recently when their boat capsized in open water.

As reported in yesterday's TDT, the trio were out on Thursday night last week and after their boat was damaged, were forced to cling on to lifesaving equipment before being saved four hours later.

The quick response of the main operation room, Coast Guard patrols, and Police Aviation helped rescue the individuals.

The on-duty officer at the Coast Guard's headquarters, Captain Mohammed Sater, said that the trio were amateur sailors, who used a boat intended only for coastal areas and not deep waters. Further, their boat's identification system was turned off and their first-aid equipment was incom-

**“A strong wave capsized the boat and we were forced into the water clinging on to lifesaving equipment”**  
THE BOAT'S OWNER, 29-YEAR-OLD ABDULLA AL NAZAR



An image from the thermal camera used in the rescue mission

plete. Captain Sater therefore

highlighted the importance of installing and turning on a boat's automatic identification device whenever going out to sea, in addition to registering the destination with the Coast Guard.

Meanwhile, Captain Abdulla Isa Al Kawari from Police Aviation revealed that a fully quipped helicopter that was part of the rescue mission used a thermal camera to identify the individuals

in the water. The boat's owner, 29-year-old Abdulla Al Nazar, said that they went out to fish from Galali and were heading north on Thursday at 4pm. They decided to come back at 6pm, but a strong wave capsized the boat and they were forced into the water clinging on to lifesaving equipment. Al Nazar added that he was

able to reach for his phone which was in a bag and called 999.

The waves were strong so they were washed away from their location to the west of Hidd, he added.

Al Nazar thanked the Interior Ministry for their efforts and quick response. He also advised sea goers and sailors to put on life jackets whenever they are at sea.

## Rental fees reduced, exempted

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Minister of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning Eng Essam Abdulla Khalaf issued an edict yesterday to reduce and exempt fees for 234 Bahraini families living in rental properties for June 2020. The decision is based on the directives of HRH the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

It was passed to reduce the burdens of living conditions on citizens, and within the framework of the Cabinet's decision to equate the fees of renting

citizens with home owners.

Meanwhile, the Works Minister and Bahrain Paralympic Committee head Shaikh Mohammed bin Daij Al Khalifa have signed a Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of HM the King's vision to optimise services for citizens, achieve SDGs, and provide benefits to special needs citizens with ways to integrate into society, mainly in the sporting field.

The infrastructure at public sport facilities will be developed, for the those with special needs.

## Court slashes jail term of NPRA employee convicted of forgery

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The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal reduced the jail term previously issued against an employee in the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) from three years to one.

The man was convicted by a first degree court, which found him guilty of forging information in the NPRA electronic system, after he allowed a person to travel abroad and return to the Kingdom without entering his personal details in the system. Court files showed that the

crime occurred in 2018, in which the appellant, in consensus with the second defendant, did not enter the latter's information in the NPRA system, allowing him to travel to Saudi Arabia through King Fahad Causeway and re-enter Bahrain through the same way.

The second defendant confessed that his co-defendant, the appellant, did not enter his information in the system because his identity card was expired at the time.

The Public Prosecution charged the appellant in Jan-

**Jail term reduced from three years to one for man found guilty of forging information in the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs' electronic system**

uary of 2018 for forging information using information technology that belonged to the NPRA in the Interior

Ministry.

The prosecution mentioned in its arguments that he, the appellant, refrained from performing the duties imposed on him by his job to enter the data of the second defendant, and it showed in the NPRA system that the latter did not leave the country.

The appellant was initially sentenced to three years of imprisonment. He appealed against the verdict and the Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal recently accepted his appeal and ordered to reduce the punishment to one year in jail.