

IS members' appeals rejected

The defendants were charged in October last year with forming a cell that had links with IS

● The defendants are said to have been plotting to carry out a suicide bombing at a local mosque.

● The suspects also include two of Turki Al Binali's brothers (the second and third defendant).

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The Cassation Court, Bahrain's highest court, yesterday rejected the appeals filed by eight defendants convicted of joining the Islamic State (IS).

The appellants were earlier sentenced to 10 years behind bars each, while their Bahraini nationality was as well revoked.

The eight men were among 24 defendants held guilty in connection with this case, but many suspects are still at large and were held guilty in absentia.

Among the fugitives is the Islamic State's (IS) ideological leader Turki Al Binali who was handed down life imprisonment by the High Criminal Court.

The US-led coalition had released a statement last year, stating that Turki Al Binali had been killed in an airstrike in Mayadin, Syria.

His co-defendants were given 15 years behind bars each by the High Criminal Court.



Turki Al Binali is accused of recruiting dozens of Bahrainis to serve the Islamic State.

However, the High Appeals Court reduced the sentences issued against the appellants but upheld the revoking of their nationality before taking their case to the Cassation Court.

The defendants were all tried on grounds of joining the IS. Thirteen of the defendants had also their Bahraini nationality stripped in the process. The others' citizenship had been already revoked by a state-issued decree.

Aged between 16 and 42, the defendants were charged in October last year with forming a cell that had links with

the IS group, plotting suicide attacks and recruiting fighters for the jihadist organisation.

The defendants are said to have been plotting to carry out a suicide bombing at a local mosque. However, 16 of the suspects are still at large and they are being tried in absentia.

The mastermind of the cell was Turki who is believed to have recruited dozens of Bahraini youth and sent them to front-lines outside the country.

The suspects also include two of Turki Al Binali's brothers (the second and

third defendant).

The second defendant reportedly travelled to Syria where he received military training and took part in hostilities before returning back to the Kingdom.

He along with the third defendant were assigned later by their brother Turki to encourage more young Bahrainis to join IS and facilitate their travel to Syria to receive militia training and fight with IS members.

The fourteenth defendant is said to have requested the fifth defendant to carry out a terrorist attack against Shi'ites in Bahrain because there wasn't sufficient money to help him travel to Syria.

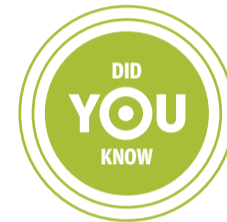
They allegedly targeted the A'ali Grand Mosque in a bid to kill a high number of Shi'ite worshippers.

Turki was accused of establishing a branch for a terrorist organisation intended to disable the provisions of the Constitution.

The other defendants were indicted with joining a terrorist organisation, receiving militia training, using arms, possessing weapons and explosives, participating in terrorist operations and planning to carry out terrorist attacks in Bahrain.

Bahrain announced on October 21 last year charging 24 people with forming a cell of IS, plotting suicide attacks and recruiting fighters for the jihadist organisation.

The move came after investigations into the formation of a "branch for a terrorist group... the so-called Daesh," said a prosecution statement, using the Arabic acronym for IS.



The US-led coalition stated last year that Turki Al Binali had been killed in an airstrike in Mayadin, Syria.

Court accepts request to retry death row convicts

● Seven other men convicted in the case were sent to six years behind bars.

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The Cassation Court accepted the request to retry two men facing death penalty in light of new medical reports, announced the Public Prosecution.

The two Bahraini defendants

are implicated in a bomb blast that killed an officer and injured five others.

Mohammed Ramadan Hussein, a 31-year-old former employee at the Bahrain International Airport, and Hussein Moussa Mohammed, a 27-year-old former hotel employee, received the capital punishment after they were convicted of premeditated murder, attempted murder, detonating and possessing an explosive device, participating in an illegal gathering and possessing Molotov cocktails.

Seven other men accused in the case were sent to six years

behind bars each.

The Cassation Court had earlier rejected the appeals filed by Hussein and Mohammed, but accepted the Public Prosecution's request to re-try them after the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) shared with Prosecutors new medical reports prepared by the Ministry of Interior's doctors.

The pair and the other defendants were tried for their role in the murder of policeman Abdulwaheed Sayyed Mohammed AlBalooshi, 29, who suffered fatal chest injuries in an explosion in Dair on February 14, 2014.

Woman sentenced for abandoning newborns

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A Bahraini woman abandoned her two newborns, the High Criminal Court heard.

She is said to have taken the babies to remote areas, where she abandoned them, according to court records.

The incident came to light after a man saw her leaving the baby near a farmland at a remote place in the Kingdom.

The man reported the incident to police and the woman

“I decided to abandon babies as I my husband left me without giving his contact or address.”

DEFENDANT

was arrested by detectives in the next few days.

It was only then the detectives came to a conclusion that

the woman had abandoned a baby earlier.

“I got married to a man but he left me. I delivered the baby and I tried to reach him, but I didn't know his address and his contact number.

“Therefore, I decided to abandon babies,” the woman told prosecutors.

“This was the second time for me to do that,” she added.

According to court files, a baby boy and baby girl were abandoned by the woman.

The woman was sentenced to four years behind bars.

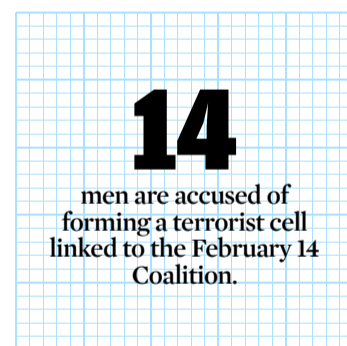
Closing arguments due in terror cell trial

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Closing arguments will be heard on November 1, 2018, in the trial of 14 men accused of forming a terrorist cell linked to the February 14 Coalition.

Two of them have also been charged with possessing pornographic videos and images.

The defendants are said to have been active between 2017 and 2018 before they have been nabbed following police investigations which revealed that the first and second defendants were



the masterminds of the cell.

Prosecutors say that the cell aimed to target police officers, citizens and violate the national

constitution as well as the country's unity.

The first defendant allegedly received funds from terrorists living outside Bahrain and used them to finance the terrorist activities of the group.

Meanwhile, his co-suspects are reported to have made fire-bombs in a bid to put lives and public properties in danger.

Apart from the terrorist-linked charges, the first and third defendants were found to have saved obscene videos and images in their phones upon their arrest. And this was added to the list of accusations against them.

Joint co-operation discussed



Education Ministry Undersecretary for Resources and Services Dr Mohammed Mubarak Juma'a received British Council Regional Director John Burnham and Bahrain-based British Council director Richard Rose. Dr Juma'a discussed with them joint cooperation, focusing on the ministry's effort to promote English language learning. The meeting was attended by Bahrain Training Institute (BTI) Acting Director-General Dr Samah Al Ajjawi and British Council programmes and projects officer Noura Al Sabah.