

Bahrain Sentences Iran's Spies

Nine defendants convicted of espionage for Iran's Revolutionary Guard face life imprisonment.

TDI | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The High Criminal Court sentenced nine individuals to life imprisonment after convicting them of spying for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, with the intent of executing terrorist acts against the Kingdom and destabilising its national security. Two further defendants in the same proceedings received three-year sentences, and all seized items were confiscated.

The verdicts, delivered across two separate but interconnected cases, exposed a sophisticated espionage network directed by a fugitive operative allegedly running missions for the Revolutionary Guard from outside Bahrain.

In the first case, the fugitive recruited a local contact inside the Kingdom, tasking him with



surveilling and photographing critical national installations and transmitting gathered intelligence back to the Guard. To sustain the operation financially, a third defendant — operating an exchange and cryptocurrency business from Iran — used Iranian and Bahraini bank accounts to funnel funds to network members. Two further defendants provided cover for surveillance

activities while fully aware of the operation's nature.

A second case revealed the same fugitive operative had built a parallel network, recruiting additional individuals inside Bahrain to monitor vital facilities, identify further recruits, and lay the groundwork for a structured terrorist plan targeting the Kingdom's critical infrastructure. Investigating officers con-

firmed the collected intelligence was directly used as a foundation for hostile activities against national installations.

Terror Support Earns Ten Years

In a separate set of cases heard the same day, three defendants were each sentenced to ten years in prison and fined 2,000 Bahraini dinars for endorsing terrorist attacks against Bahrain, possessing classified data, and filming locations where photography is prohibited — offences committed during a period of active hostile attacks against the Kingdom.

The cases stemmed from reports by the Cybercrime Directorate identifying social media accounts publishing praise for terrorist acts alongside sensitive restricted locations. Technical examination of seized electronic devices confirmed all charges.

Council Hears Bahrain

Waste bags, road signs, donation bins, parking and a new roundabout — Northern residents bring their concerns to council

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Hasan Barakat

Bags, Bins And Backlogs

Residents across parts of the Northern Governorate say a failing household waste bag distribution system has left them without reliable service for years, with complaints stretching back to 2022.

The issue was brought before the Northern Municipal Council by member Abdulla Mubarak Bilal, representing the Ninth Constituency, who called for urgent improvements and clearer accountability.

Bilal said residents are routinely caught between overlapping authorities, with no single body taking clear ownership of complaints. He urged a focus on fixing implementation gaps



rather than blame-shifting.

Council members raised concerns over uneven distribution in high-density areas, limited machines serving multiple constituencies, and early closing times that restrict access for working residents.

Roundabout Relief Coming Soon

Hamad residents could soon see relief from persistent rush-hour congestion, with plans advancing for a new roundabout at a key local junction.

The Ministry of Works confirmed a joint technical study, conducted with the Northern Municipal Council, is targeting the intersection of Road 3 and Road 11—a bottleneck that has frustrated residents during morning and evening peak hours for years. The proposed roundabout



is expected to improve traffic flow, reduce build-up, and enhance road safety for residents in blocks 1203, 1205, 1016, and 1018.

Preliminary designs have been completed. Implementation will follow once final designs are approved, clearances obtained, and funding secured.

Five Years, No Signs

Five years after completion, the Al Ramli housing area still has no road signs — leaving residents, visitors, and delivery drivers struggling to find it.

Council member Abdulla Abdulhameed Ashoor, representing the Sixth Constituency, raised the issue at the Northern Municipal Council, calling for the immediate installation of identification and directional signage across the growing neighbourhood.

Ashoor highlighted that four major highways—Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway, Shaikh Salman Highway, Shaikh Zayed Highway, and Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway—carry



no signs directing motorists to Al Ramli. The problem is most acute for those arriving from Saudi Arabia or travelling across the Kingdom.

Previous correspondence with the Ministry of Works in September 2024 confirmed that area naming falls under the Information and eGovernment Authority.

Bins Blocking Bahrain's Streets

Cluttering donation bins scattered randomly across residential areas are creating safety hazards and neighbourhood eyesores, with some containers placed near traffic lights, on pavements, and in the middle of roads.

Municipal Council member Abdulla Mubarak Bilal raised the issue during the Northern Municipal Council session, calling for urgent regulation of bins that lack clear links to recognised charities and are poorly maintained.

Residents have reported overflowing containers, misuse for general waste dumping, and



Municipal Council member Abdulla Mubarak Bilal

no visible oversight.

Councillors called for a joint meeting between the municipality and charities to establish firm rules covering approvals, defined locations, and limits on the number of bins permitted per area.

Compensation for Renovation Delays

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Ghadeer Alkumaish

The Northern Municipal Council approved a proposal to provide financial compensation to residents affected by delays in home renovation projects.

The plan, submitted by council member Zainab Mahmood AlDerazi, seeks to introduce a binding clause in contracts requiring contractors to compensate residents when project delays occur due to their shortcomings. Councillors said delays often force families



into temporary housing or leave them living in incomplete homes, causing financial and emotional strain.

The measure, which applies to projects overseen by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, was approved unanimously and will be referred to the next council meeting before the minister grants final approval.

Documenting Damage from Iranian Attack

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Bahrain's National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) conducted a field visit to injured citizens and families whose homes were damaged in the Iranian attack on residential areas.

Members of the NIHR Board of Commissioners

met homeowners selected at random from affected residents, listening to first-hand accounts of property damage and the physical and psychological toll of the incident.

The delegation expressed full solidarity with affected families, pledging to follow up in coordination with relevant authorities to ensure necessary support and protection are provided.

Officials praised the swift response of Bahraini emergency



services, civil defence, security, and health teams — highlighting their handling of the aftermath, provision of medical care, and arrangement of alternative housing for displaced families as evidence of strong institutional preparedness.

The NIHR said it would continue monitoring humanitarian conditions and documenting any violations affecting citizens' rights and safety, in line with its national mandate.

"Shura 360" platform in parliamentary modernization drive

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Rehab Mohammad

Digital transformation emerged as a key pillar of the General Secretariat of Bahrain's Shura Council during the fourth session of the sixth legislative term, Secretary-General Kareema Mohammed Al-Abbasi said on Sunday, highlighting expanded legislative support, training programmes, and institutional modernization.

According to Al-Abbasi, the Secretariat provided professional, technical, and digital support that helped facilitate 140 committee meetings, resulting in 97 reports, alongside coordination with government and civil entities participating in committee discussions.

She said the Secretariat's modernization drive placed strong emphasis on digital transformation and artificial intelligence applications, including the launch of the "Shura 360" platform with 19 functions aimed at improving efficiency, as well as the Smart Transcript System.

Al-Abbasi added that the Secretariat expanded cooperation with international parliamentary institutions and operates under 20 memoranda of understanding with re-



"These achievements reflect strong institutional teamwork and an unwavering commitment to advancing legislative support"

- H.E. MS. KAREEMA MOHAMMED AL-ABBASI

gional and academic partners to strengthen knowledge exchange and capacity building. During the session, 85 training programmes were delivered to staff, including joint initiatives with partner organisations.

Municipal Development Talks



Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture, Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, met on Monday with the head of the Bahrain Society of Engineers, Engineer Abdunabi Al Sabah, to discuss cooperation in engineering and development initiatives, the ministry said. He stressed the importance of continued integration and partnership with civil society institutions, noting that such cooperation supports national efforts.