



**Bahrain Forum**  
**For Human Rights**

# **Bahrain:** Repression in a Time of War

**Amid the U.S.–Israeli war on the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Popular protests and government violations: February – March 2026**



Bahrain Forum for Human Rights

Website: <https://bfhr.org/english/>

Email: [montada.hr@gmail.com](mailto:montada.hr@gmail.com)

X: @MontadaBahrain

Instagram: @montadabahrain

Facebook: منتدى البحرين لحقوق الإنسان

8 April 2026

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Popular Response and Peaceful Protests.....	5
Arbitrary Arrests and Summonses .....	9
The Return of Enforced Disappearance .....	24
Raids and Violations by Security Forces.....	26
Key Cases.....	30
The Climate of Hate Speech in Bahrain.....	39
Recommendations .....	47

## Introduction

With the launch of the U.S.–Israeli attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran on 28 February 2026—carried out from U.S. military bases in several countries in West Asia, as well as from the occupied Palestinian territories—Bahrain witnessed a series of security developments directly linked to the war.

U.S. military bases in Bahrain were targeted by Iranian missile strikes and drones in response to the aggression. At the same time, nearly 30 areas across the country saw widespread public protests rejecting the presence of U.S. military bases and condemning the attack during which the U.S.–Israeli war machine assassinated Grand Ayatollah Imam Sayyed Ali Khamenei, regarded by the majority of Bahrainis as one of their most important religious authorities and figures.

The first month of the war ended with the killing of citizen Sayyed Mohammed Abdulmohsen Al-Mousawi under torture by the security forces. He had been arbitrarily arrested because of his political views on the war, forcibly disappeared, and subjected to severe physical torture that led to his death. This incident further intensified protests and public anger related to the war. His killing came amid the summoning and arrest of more than 220 individuals who had expressed their views on the war—including women, children, and religious scholars. Meanwhile, enforced disappearances carried out by security forces have seen a renewed rise.

On 9 March, the Bahraini Public Prosecution called for the death penalty against anyone showing solidarity with what it described as a “hostile state” during the U.S.–Israeli war on Iran. This is despite the fact that the Bahraini government has officially normalized relations with Israel since 2021 and hosts U.S. military bases on its territory, effectively enabling the United States to launch military operations against nearby countries and exposing Bahrain’s security and national interests to risk. The statement suggests executing Bahraini citizens for expressing solidarity with Iran, which they consider a hostile state, even if that “solidarity” takes the form of peaceful opposition to the presence of U.S. military bases. This constitutes a clear

violation of international law, which guarantees the right to freedom of expression,<sup>1</sup> the right to peaceful assembly, and the right to life, and prohibits arbitrary deprivation of life.<sup>2</sup>

This report covers developments in Bahrain between 28 February and 31 March 2026, including public reactions to the U.S.–Israeli war on Iran and its impact on the country. It also documents campaigns of arbitrary arrest and summonses, enforced disappearances, security raids, and the targeting of religious figures, all linked to accusations related to expressing opinions or participating in peaceful anti-war activities.

**Note: This report contains images that may not be suitable for all readers, including images of injuries sustained by protesters during the suppression of peaceful demonstrations, as well as images showing signs of physical torture inflicted on the victim of extrajudicial killing, Sayyed Mohammed Al-Mousawi.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | OHCHR](#)

<sup>2</sup> Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | OHCHR](#)

## Popular Response and Peaceful Protests

The Bahraini public responded widely to the war, with dozens of daily peaceful protests and related activities taking place across various regions of the country. Initially, protests focused on two main demands: condemning the assassination of Grand Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei and calling for the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Bahrain. On 27 March, a third demand emerged, condemning the killing of Sayyed Mohammed Al-Mousawi under torture because of his political views opposing government policies.

- **Demonstrations:** The Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR) documented **109 peaceful protests across 29 areas**. At least 22 of these were suppressed by security forces, according to what BFHR was able to monitor. In some cases, excessive force was used, resulting in **two** injuries in the areas of Karana and Abu Saiba.
- **Wall expressions:** Protest activity also included displaying images of Grand Ayatollah Khamenei alongside Sheikh Isa Qassim, the leader of Bahrain's Shiite community, later joined by images of the victim Mohammed Al-Mousawi, as well as banners condemning the U.S.–Israeli attack and graffiti expressing political dissent. A total of **68 such incidents were recorded across 30 areas**.
- **Other activities:** People also expressed protest through other means, such as holding mourning gatherings for Ayatollah Khamenei, chanting from rooftops, and distributing leaflets in some areas.
- **Angry protests:** Some actions reflected public anger, including burning Israeli and U.S. flags, as well as images of those involved in the war, placing them on the ground to be trampled, and similar symbolic acts. **A total of 72 such incidents were recorded across 26 areas**.

## Legal Assessment

Peaceful protests and related activities fall within the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, both of which are protected under international human rights law.<sup>3</sup> The suppression of peaceful demonstrations through excessive force violates the principles of necessity and proportionality governing the use of force by security forces.<sup>4</sup> In addition, arresting or prosecuting individuals for expressing political views—including through slogans, graffiti, or symbolic acts—constitutes arbitrary detention linked to freedom of expression. United Nations mechanisms, including the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, have consistently considered such practices a clear violation of international law. Despite these standards, a number of peaceful protests were met with repression and excessive force by government security forces, resulting in injuries among demonstrators.

Images of some of the injuries:



---

<sup>3</sup> Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | OHCHR](#)

<sup>4</sup> Articles 12 and 13 of the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-use-force-and-firearms-law-enforcement#:~:text=13,to%20the%20minimum%20extent%20necessary>

The table below presents statistics on protests and related activities, as well as the security crackdown on some peaceful demonstrations.

Areas	Demonstrations	Suppression of Demonstrations	Wall expressions	Various Activities	Angry Protests
Diraz	15	5		1	4
Sanabis	10	3		1	
Sitra	7	1	1	1	4
Samaheej	7		4	2	2
Abu Quwah	5				
Al-Musalla	5				
Karrana	4	1	7		8
Abu Saiba	4	3	2		4
Al-Dair	4				1
Saar	4		2		
Barbar	3		8	2	8
Al-Eker	3		3		5
Bilad Al-Qadeem	3	2	8		2
South Sehla	3				2
Abu Saiba and Shakhura (jointly)	3				
Al-Maqsha	3				
Manama	3				
Bani Jamrah	2	2	4		4
Janusan	2		2	1	4
Al-Daih	2	1	1		2
Karzakan	2	1	1		2
Al-Markh	2		3		1

Karbabad	2	1	2	1	1
Hamala	2		2		
Tubli	2		1		
A'ali	2				
Nuwaidrat	1	1	4		2
Maqaba	1				1
US Embassy Area	1				
Muharraq	1				
Buri	1	1			
Dar Kulaib			1		3
Ma'ameer			1		3
Salmabad			1		2
Malkiya			1		2
Dumistan			1		2
Shakhura			1		1
Nabih Saleh			1		1
Jirdab					1
Jidhafs			1	1	
Zinj			1		
Sitra - Mahazza			1		
Sitra - Wadyan			1		
Shahrakkan			1		
Hamad Town			1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>72</b>

## Arbitrary Arrests and Summonses

BFHR documented the arbitrary arrest and summoning of dozens of individuals on charges related to expressing their views on the U.S.–Israeli aggression against Iran and its impact on Bahrain.

- **Arrests:** A total of 228 arbitrary arrests were recorded, in addition to the brief detention of two individuals, Mohammed Jassim and Ali Al-Jaziri, who were released within 24 hours.
- **Summonses:** A total of 90 arbitrary summonses were documented. Of these, 88 individuals were arrested after being summoned, as shown in the arrest list below. Ali Al-Jaziri was also briefly detained for less than 24 hours, along with two others:
  - The head of a mourning hall (ma'tam) in Sanabis, summoned over a large banner bearing the phrase *"I have triumphed, by the Lord of the Kaaba"* alongside an image of Grand Ayatollah Khamenei's hand, which was intended to be displayed behind the pulpit.
  - Mohammed Al-Zaki, son of religious scholar Sheikh Fadel Al-Zaki.

One of the most notable cases involved the arrest of six individuals from Muharraq. They were detained under unclear circumstances and subjected to enforced disappearance, until the death of one of them, Sayyed Mohammed Abdulmohsen Al-Mousawi, was announced. He was found to have been killed under torture, as evidenced by clear signs of abuse on his body.

His killing revealed that the other five citizens remain in the custody of the security services, which continue to subject them to enforced disappearance as of the date of this report. The security services still refuse to acknowledge the detention of the citizens, despite the Ministry of Interior having implicitly indicated their involvement in a post on its official "X" account, stating: "Regarding what was raised on social media about the death of Mohammed Abdulmohsen... the Ministry of Interior: the deceased was in custody in connection with a case of seeking, spying,

and transmitting information to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.” (See details of the case in the “Key Cases” section, p. 26).

**Also, among those arrested were:**

**8 Children:** Sayed Abbas Jaafar, Sayed Mohammed Khalil Al-Wedaei, Abu Al-Fadl Shaker Al-Muwali, Ali Hussein Isa, Mohammed Ali Saleh, Mohammed Isa Abdullah, Mohammed Mahdi, Mohammed Mousa.

**5 Women:** Budoor Abdulhameed Ali, Sara Abdulnabi Habib Marhoon, Sara M., Fatima L., Doaa Ahmed (a foreign national).

**4 Religious scholars:** Sayed Hatem Al-Alawi, Sheikh Ahmed Isa Al-Hayki, Sheikh Hassan Al-Qassab, Sheikh Aziz Al-Khudran.

**6 Religious chanters/eulogists:** Sayed Ahmed Al-Mousawi (one of the six forcibly disappeared, one of whom was killed), Jaafar Al-Qashami, Mohammed Ghuloom, Mahmoud Al-Qallaf, Mutahar Mahdi Sahwan, Hassan Nowrooz (arrested in April).

**3 Media workers:** Sayed Baqer Al-Kamel, Jaafar Ali Al-Dirazi, and Ibrahim Hassan Ibrahim.

**3 Athletes:** Footballers Ahmed Mirza Mousa and Mohammed Abdullah Ali (arrested in April), as well as Hassan Nowrooz, listed above among the religious chanters, who is also an international basketball player and captain of the Bahraini national team.

**Legal Assessment:**

The available information points to a widespread pattern of arrests and summonses carried out without a clear legal basis, placing them within the scope of arbitrary detention prohibited under international law.<sup>5</sup> The latter defines arbitrary detention as the deprivation of liberty without legal grounds or in violation of fair trial guarantees, even where it may appear to be justified under domestic law, if it

---

<sup>5</sup> Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [Universal Declaration of Human Rights | United Nations](#)

is unreasonable or disproportionate. The arrest of children, women, and religious figures for their views or peaceful activities constitutes a further violation of the principles of non-discrimination and the protection of vulnerable groups. Arrests linked to freedom of expression or participation in peaceful protests fall under Category II of arbitrary detention, according to the United Nations classification.<sup>6</sup>

The table below provides detailed information on the arrest cases:

#	Occupation and notes	Name	Area	Date of Arrest	Date of Release	Details of Detention Circumstances	Current Status
1		Murtadha Hussain Ali Awal	Karbabad	2/28/2026		From the workplace – alleged charge of "spying for Iran"	Detained
2		Jaafar Sadiq	Diraz	3/1/2026		Summons	Detained
3		Jawad Mirza	Diraz	3/1/2026	3/2/2026	Security forces stormed the area in the early morning, deploying reinforcements in its alleys and entrances. The five youths were pursued before being caught.	Released
4		Haider Ali Mirza	Diraz	3/1/2026			Detained
5		Isa Al-Banna	Diraz	3/1/2026			Detained
6		Mujtaba Marhoon	Diraz	3/1/2026			Detained
7		Nader Abduljalil	Diraz	3/1/2026			Detained
8		Mohamed Saeed	Al-Daih	3/1/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Bilad Al-Qadeem area	Detained
9	Media Professional	Sayed Baqir Al-Kamel	Sanabis	3/1/2026		Arrested over views and posts published on social media expressing solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran and His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei.	Detained
10	Child	Sayed Mohamed Khalil Al-Wadaei	Sanabis	3/1/2026		While leaving the Khamis Ma'atam (mourning hall)	Detained
11		Ahmed Fadhil Abbas	Sanabis	3/1/2026		Main road – pursuit by security forces	Detained
12		Ali Al-Qatari	Sanabis	3/1/2026		Main road – pursuit by security forces	Detained
13		Ali Ahmed	Sanabis	3/1/2026		Main road – pursuit by security forces	Detained

<sup>6</sup> Category II of the definition of arbitrary detention <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-arbitrary-detention#:~:text=Category%20II%3A%20When%20the%20deprivation,on%20Civil%20and%20Political%20Rights>

14	Child	Mohamed Mousa	Sanabis	3/1/2026		Main road – pursuit by security forces	Detained
15		Abbas Abdullah Matar	Al-Eker	3/1/2026		House raid	Detained
16		Sayed Ayman Mustafa Al-Alawi	Ghuraifa	3/1/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Sanabis area	Detained
17	Released after less than 24 hours	Mohamed Jassim	Malkiya	3/1/2026	3/1/2026	Security forces stormed the area in the early morning, deploying reinforcements in its alleys and entrances. The five youths were pursued before being caught.	Released
18		Sayed Yousif Ibrahim	Malkiya	3/1/2026			Detained
19		Sadiq Marhoon	Malkiya	3/1/2026			Detained
20		Abdulaziz Imad Bo Rashid	Malkiya	3/1/2026			Detained
21		Abdullah Hussain	Malkiya	3/1/2026			Detained
22		Karrar Hani	Malkiya	3/1/2026			Detained
23		Mohamed Redha	Malkiya	3/1/2026			Detained
24		Sayed Ahmed Habib	Al-Markh	3/1/2026			Participating in a protest condemning the assassination of Imam Khamenei
25		Sayed Mujtaba Haider Ibrahim	Al-Markh	3/1/2026		The vehicle he was traveling in with his friend was intercepted in the Al-Markh area.	Detained
26	(First arrest)	Sayed Mohamed Ahmed	Al-Markh	3/1/2026	Not Specified	Participating in a protest condemning the assassination of Imam Khamenei	Released
27		Hussain Al-Ghadiri	Al-Markh	3/1/2026		The vehicle he was traveling in with his friend was intercepted in the Al-Markh area	Detained
28		Mahdi Al-Ali	Al-Markh	3/1/2026		The vehicle he was traveling in with his friend was intercepted in the Al-Markh area	Detained
29		Ayman Al-Saffar	Musalla	3/1/2026		Main road – pursuit by security forces	Detained
30		Ibrahim Adel	Maameer	3/1/2026		Main road – pursuit by security forces	Detained
31		Ahmed Al-Sheikh	Maameer	3/1/2026		Main road	Detained
32		Abdullah Hani	Maameer	3/1/2026		Summons	Detained
33		Hassan Ali Madan	Nuwaidrat	3/1/2026		Participating in a protest condemning the assassination of Imam Khamenei	Detained
34		Ali Hussain Abu Ghanoum	Nuwaidrat	3/1/2026		Forces ambushed the young man, Ali Hussain, beating him severely and	Detained

						mistreating him in front of residents before taking him to an unknown location.	
35	Child	Mohamed Isa Abdullah	Nuwaidrat	3/1/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Nuwaidrat area	Detained
36		Sayed Hussain Ali	Abu Saiba	3/1/2026		Near a Quranic gathering	Detained
37		Mohamed Redha Zuhair	Abu Saiba	3/1/2026		Near a Quranic gathering	Detained
38		Sayed Hashim Mahfooz	Abu Quwah	3/1/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Bilad Al-Qadeem area	Detained
39		Hassan Yousif	Bani Jamrah	3/1/2026		Main road	Detained
40		Hussain Muhsin	Bani Jamrah	3/1/2026		Summons	Detained
41		Hussain Naji Fateel	Bani Jamrah	3/1/2026		Protesting in front of the US Embassy to condemn the assassination of Imam Khamenei	Detained
42		Ali Mahdi Al-Arab	Bani Jamrah	3/1/2026		Protesting in front of the US Embassy to condemn the assassination of Imam Khamenei	Detained
43		Hassan Abduljalil Helal	Dumistan	3/1/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Karzakan area	Detained
44		Haider Mohamed	Dumistan	3/1/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Karzakan area	Detained
45		Hassan Jassim Al-Momin	Saar	3/1/2026		He was arrested immediately after leaving the Bin Khamis Ma'atam in the Sanabis area, where he was attending a religious lecture and a mourning assembly for Sayed Ali Khamenei.	Detained
46		Ali Mahdi	Saar / Al-Markh	3/1/2026		The vehicle he was traveling in with his friend was intercepted in Al-Markh	Detained
47		Ahmed Al-Safa	Sitra	3/1/2026		Security forces, reinforced by civilian vehicles, surrounded the entrances to Sitra island at dawn and pursued several youths in narrow alleys. Security vehicles intentionally attempted to "run over" some youths.	Detained
48		Qasim Al-Safi	Sitra	3/1/2026			Detained
49		Mohamed Al-Momin	Sitra	3/1/2026		Main road – pursuit by security forces	Detained
50	Child	Mohamed Mahdi	Sitra Markuban	3/1/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Nuwaidrat area	Detained
51		Ahmed Kadhem Ashoor	Karzakan	3/1/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Karzakan area	Detained
52		Hassan Abbas Abdulkarim	Diraz	3/2/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Diraz area	Detained
53		Karrar Abbas Al-Shehabi	Diraz	3/2/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Diraz area	Detained

54		Ahmed Habib	Al-Daih	3/2/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Sanabis area	Detained
55		Jaafar Mousa	Sanabis	3/2/2026		Main road – pursuit by security forces	Detained
56		Haider Ali Al-Marri	Sanabis	3/2/2026		Main road – pursuit by security forces	Detained
57		Ali Darwish	Sanabis	3/2/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Bilad Al-Qadeem area	Detained
58	Child	Abul-Fadhel Shaker Al-Mowali	Al-Maqsha	3/2/2026		Summons	Detained
59	Media Professional	Ibrahim Hassan Ibrahim	Nuwaidrat	3/2/2026		Summons	Detained
60		Aqeel Matar	Nuwaidrat	3/2/2026		Summons	Detained
61		Hassan Hamza Zuhair	Abu Saiba	3/2/2026		Main road	Detained
62		Mohamed Fadhil Al-Zaki	Abu Saiba	3/2/2026		Summons	Detained
63		Jaafar Ali Al-Baqali	Jidhafs	3/2/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Sanabis area	Detained
64		Murtaja Ali Fardan	Saar	3/2/2026		House raid	Detained
65		Mohamed Abbas	Sitra	3/2/2026		He posted a video on social media expressing rejection of the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran	Detained
66		Nasser Faisal Al-Nabool	Sitra	3/2/2026		Summons	Detained
67	Al-Haj	Mahmood Kwayed	Sitra - Al-Kharijiya	3/2/2026		Summons	Detained
68		Mohamed Abduljalil Radhi	Samahij	3/2/2026		Security forces surrounded his car while he was driving on the street, then removed him from the vehicle and arrested him.	Detained
69		Khalil Ibrahim Al-Qurmzi	Sadad	3/2/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Bilad Al-Qadeem area	Detained
70		Zuhair Adel Sultan	Not Specified	3/2/2026		Summons – for posting videos related to the military strikes carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran against US interests in Bahrain	Detained
71		Abdullah Mahmood Khalil	Not Specified	3/2/2026			Detained
72		Ali Ahmed Ibrahim	Karbabad	3/2/2026		House raid	Detained
73		Sayed Mousa Al-Falla	Sanabis	3/3/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Sanabis area	Detained
74		Haider Al-Sheikh	Sanabis	3/3/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Sanabis area	Detained
75		Hassan Neama	South Sehla	3/3/2026		Summons	Detained
76		Ayman Zuhair Al-Baqali	Jidhafs	3/3/2026		Summons	Detained

77		Abbas Ali	Jannusan	3/3/2026		Summons	Detained
78		Jassim Ali Talaq	Shahrakkan	3/3/2026		The police arrested him after surrounding him while he was in his car in the Bani Jamrah area.	Detained
79		Hassan Haider Al-Sadadi	Sadad	3/3/2026			Detained
80		Jawad Ali Habib	Not Specified	3/3/2026		Summons	Detained
81		Hussain Abdullah Juma	Karbabad	3/3/2026		Summons	Detained
82		Ali Hussain Sabt	Karbabad	3/3/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Karbabad area	Detained
83		Hassan Al-Momin	Hamad Town	3/3/2026		The police arrested him after surrounding him while he was in his car in the Bani Jamrah area.	Detained
84	Released after less than 24 hours	Ali Al-Jazeera	Ras Roman	3/3/2026	3/4/2026	Summons	Released
85		Ali Mohamed Jawad Darwish	Sanabis	3/4/2026		He posted a video expressing rejection of US military bases in Bahrain and demanding the release of all prisoners of conscience	Detained
86		Bashir Abdulrasool	Abu Saiba	3/4/2026		Summons	Detained
87		Muntadhar Abdulrasool	Abu Saiba	3/4/2026		Summons	Detained
88		Sayed Sajjad Mahmood Al-Musawi	Bani Jamrah	3/4/2026		Summons	Detained
89		Ali Hussain Jameel Al-Jamri	Bani Jamrah	3/4/2026		Main road	Detained
90		Abdulelah Makki Hassan	Saar	3/4/2026		Summons	Detained
91		Mohsin Jaafar Al-Mutaghawi	Diraz	3/5/2026		House raid	Detained
92		Jaafar Hussain Al-Gaffas	Sanabis	3/5/2026		Summons	Detained
93	Brother of execution victim Sami Mushaima	Muneer Mushaima	Sanabis	3/5/2026		House raid	Detained
94		Taha Ahmed Qasim	Nuwaidrat	3/5/2026		Summons	Detained

95		Mahdi Hassan Al-Aradi	Arad	3/5/2026		Summons	Detained
96		Ibrahim Atiya Ali Ghufail	Not Specified	3/5/2026		Summons	Detained
97	Foreigner	Ehtesham Nafeed Mohamed	Foreigner	3/5/2026		Summons	Detained
98		Hassan Abdullah Al-Aswad	Not Specified	3/5/2026		Summons	Detained
99		Samir Ahmed Saleh Aziz	Not Specified	3/5/2026		Summons	Detained
100		Mohamed Jawad Ahmed	Not Specified	3/5/2026		Summons	Detained
101	Probably a foreigner	Mohamed Qasim Naeem	Not Specified	3/5/2026		Summons	Detained
102		Ihsan Kadhem Al-Kahrabai	Diraz	3/6/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Diraz area	Detained
103		Sayed Mohamed Fadhel	Ghuraifa	3/6/2026		Summons	Detained
104		Sayed Mohamed Hadi	Ghuraifa	3/6/2026		Summons	Detained
105	Cleric (Sheikh)	Ahmed Isa Al-Haiki	Samahij	3/6/2026		Arrested upon returning from exile in Iran, despite responding to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' call for citizens in Iran to leave the country.	Detained
106		Sadiq Faisal	Bilad Al-Qadeem	3/7/2026		Checkpoint	Detained
107	Son of security crackdown victim Salah Abbas	Mahdi Salah Abbas	Bilad Al-Qadeem	3/7/2026		Summons	Detained
108		Qasim Mohamed Nasr	Diraz	3/7/2026		Summons	Detained
109		Hussain Ali Al-NasooH	Al-Dair	3/7/2026		Summons	Detained
110		Yousif Ahmed Mansoor Sarhan	Al-Eker	3/7/2026		Arrested at the market	Detained
111		Karrar Hussain Juma Al-Shuwaikh	Barbar	3/7/2026		Checkpoint	Detained
112		Ali Jaafar Zaid	Bani Jamrah	3/7/2026		Summons	Detained
113		Ali Isa Al-Bazzaz	Buri	3/7/2026		House raid	Detained

114		Mohamed Abdulhadi	Samahij	3/7/2026		Summons	Detained
115		Ali Jaafar Badao	Diraz	3/8/2026		Summons	Detained
116		Sahlan Abdulredha Mahdi	Al-Eker	3/8/2026		Arrested during a raid on a farm in the Sanad area, followed by a police raid and search of his house in the Al-Eker area.	Detained
117		Jaafar Ali Maatook	Al-Qurayya	3/8/2026		House raid – for posting a video comment on the American-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, condemning the assassination of the religious authority His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei and expressing condolences for his martyrdom.	Detained
118		Ali Adel Abbas	Maameer	3/8/2026		Summons	Detained
119		Hussain Ali Al-Haiki	Samahij	3/8/2026		House raid	Detained
120		Mahdi Yousif Al-Muadhni	Samahij	3/8/2026		House raid	Detained
121		Ali Hussain Al-Asfoor	Diraz	3/9/2026		Summons	Detained
122		Fadhel Abbas Al-Madani	Diraz	3/9/2026		Summons	Detained
123		Sayed Ibrahim Aqeel	Al-Markh	3/9/2026		Summons	Detained
124		Sayed Hussain Isa	Al-Markh	3/9/2026		Summons	Detained
125		Khalil Ibrahim Abdulrasool Al-Musajjan	Al-Maqsha	3/9/2026		Summons	Detained
126		Elias Salman Mirza Al-Qabat	Jidhafs	3/9/2026		House raid – alleged charge of "communicating with Iran"	Detained
127		Sayed Hashim Ibrahim	Ras Roman	3/9/2026		Summons	Detained
128		Mahdi Taher Al-Jallawi	Bilad Al-Qadeem	3/10/2026		Summons	Detained
129		Redha Ali Marhoon	Sanabis	3/10/2026			Detained
130		Mansoor Yasin Mansoor Darwish	Sanabis	3/10/2026		Summons	Detained
131	Ms.	Budoor Abdulhamid Ali	Bani Jamrah	3/10/2026		House raid	Detained
132	Bahrain national team football player	Ahmed Mirza Mousa	Bilad Al-Qadeem	3/11/2026		Summons	Detained

133	Cleric (Sayed)	Sayed Hatem Al-Alawi	Al-Dair	3/11/2026		Summons	Detained
134	Ms.	Sara Abdunabi Habib Marhoon	Manama	3/11/2026		Summons – alleged charge of "communicating with Iran"	Detained
135		Hussain Khalil Ibrahim	Nuwaidrat	3/11/2026		Summons	Detained
136		Kadhem Jaafar Kadhem	Bani Jamrah	3/11/2026		Summons	Detained
137		Ahmed Ahmed Hussain Madan	Sitra	3/11/2026		House raid – charge: forming an armed terrorist cell affiliated with Hezbollah, spying, receiving weapons training in Lebanon, and collecting funds.	Detained
138		Abdullah Abdali Al-Nakal	Sitra - Al-Kharijiya	3/11/2026		Summons	Detained
139		Ali Ghazi Abdullah Mashakheel	Samahij	3/11/2026		Summons	Detained
140	Ms.	Sara M.	Not Specified	3/11/2026	3/19/2026		Released
141		Ali Hassan Isa	Not Specified	3/11/2026		Summons	Detained
142		Ali Hamid Ali	Not Specified	3/11/2026		Summons	Detained
143	Ms.	Fatima L.	Not Specified	3/11/2026	3/19/2026		Released
144	Ms.	Duaa Ahmed	Foreign (Arab)	3/11/2026	3/18/2026	The wife of a Bahraini citizen. After her detention, a decision was issued to deport her over her political views on the war.	Deported
145		Hussain Ahmed Al-Kash	Karzakan	3/11/2026		While leaving for work	Detained
146		Fadhel Abbas Al-Ithna-Ashar	Diraz	3/12/2026		Summons	Detained
147		Sayed Hassan Haider	Diraz	3/13/2026		During the suppression of a protest in the Diraz area held for International Quds Day.	Detained
148		Sayed Hassan Majid	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained
149		Sayed Sajjad Fadhel	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained
150	Child	Sayed Abbas Jaafar	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained
151		Sayed Qasim Yasin Al-Musawi	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained
152		Sayed Majid Hadi	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained

153		Sayed Mohamed Ali	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained
154		Sayed Mohamed Yasin Al-Musawi	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained
155		Ali Hussain Jameel	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained
156	Child	Ali Hussain Isa	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained
157	Child	Mohamed Ali Saleh	Diraz	3/13/2026			Detained
158		Ayman Al-Hawaj	Not Specified	3/13/2026			Detained
159		Jassim Mohamed Maatook Badao	Diraz	3/14/2026		At his doorstep	Detained
160		Sadiq Fawzi Abdulkarim Al-Rayes	Diraz	3/14/2026		House raid	Detained
161		Mohamed Ali Redha Al-Sheikh	Maameer	3/15/2026		Summons	Detained
162		Nidhal Hashim Mahdi Zuhairi	Not Specified	3/15/2026		He was arrested at a checkpoint while going to get a Suhoor meal and was forcibly disappeared for two days.	Detained
163		Nasser Mulla Al-Mulla	North Sehla	3/16/2026	3/18/2026	House raid	Released
164		Jameel Al-Jamri	Bani Jamrah	3/16/2026		Summons	Detained
165		Ahmed Sultan	Dar Kulaib	3/16/2026		House raid	Detained
166	(Second arrest)	Sayed Mohamed Ahmed	Al-Markh	3/17/2026		His house was raided and he was arrested along with his relative, Sayed Ali Hussain.	Detained
167		Ahmed Jalal	Al-Markh	3/17/2026		House raid	Detained
168		Sayed Mohamed Al-Da'am	Tubli	3/17/2026		Checkpoint	Detained
169		Sayed Hussain Ali	Not Specified	3/17/2026		House raid	Detained
170		Hussain Ismail Kadhem	Hamala	3/18/2026		Summons	Detained
171		Ali Abdulghani Yousif	Bani Jamrah	3/18/2026		Arrested under mysterious circumstances and remained forcibly disappeared for a week before it was revealed that he was held by the security services.	Detained
172		Ali Majid Nasser	Not Specified	3/18/2026		Summons	Detained

173		Naharein Abbas Al- Mawt	Sanabis	3/19/2026		Checkpoint	Detained
174		Mohamed Aqeel Abdulrasool	Al-Qurayya	3/19/2026		Forcibly disappeared	Detained
175	Radood (Religious chanter)	Sayed Ahmed Al-Musawi	Muharraq	3/19/2026		Likely forcibly disappeared from a checkpoint	Detained
176		Sayed Mohamed Abdulmohsin Mohamed Ismail Al- Musawi	Muharraq	3/19/2026	3/27/2026		Dead
177		Ali Ishaq	Muharraq	3/19/2026			Detained
178		Ali Mohsin Ghareeb	Muharraq	3/19/2026			Detained
179		Ammar Hafedh	Muharraq	3/19/2026			Detained
180		Mustafa Yousif	Muharraq	3/19/2026			Detained
181	Radood (Religious chanter)	Mohamed Ghaloum	Not Specified	3/19/2026	3/20/2026	Summons	Released
182		Ali Mohamed Abdullah Mohamed	Malkiya	3/20/2026		House raid	Detained
183		Mustafa Ibrahim Mohamed	Bani Jamrah	3/20/2026		House raid	Detained
184	Haj	Yousif Mohamed Ibrahim	Al-Eker	3/21/2026		Checkpoint	Detained
185		Hani Abdulzahraa	Al-Eker	3/23/2026		House raid	Detained
186		Murtadha Ahmed Hubail Salman	Al-Qala'a	3/23/2026		House raid	Detained
187		Ahmed Yousif Al-Saibaie	Abu Saiba	3/23/2026		Summons	Detained
188		Sayed Mustafa Hassan	Abu Quwah	3/23/2026	3/24/2026	House raid	Released
189		Abdullah Mohamed Abdullah	Saar	3/23/2026		House raid	Detained
190		Mohamed Habib Al- Aradi	Hamad Town	3/23/2026		House raid	Detained

191		Raed Abdullah Hussain	Maameer	3/24/2026		Summons	Detained
192		Ali Abdulelam Fakhr	Al-Daih	3/24/2026		Summons	Detained
193		Ahmed Sewar	Sanabis	3/25/2026		House raid	Detained
194	Radood (Religious chanter)	Mutahar Mahdi Sahwan	Sanabis	3/25/2026		Arrested for chanting a poem titled "He Was Not Killed by the Bombs of Tyrants"	Detained
195	Radood (Religious chanter)	Jaafar Al-Qashami	Barbar	3/25/2026		Arrested for chanting a poem titled "Our Khamenei Was Assassinated."	Detained
196		Taher Ibrahim Al-Samie	Jidhafs	3/25/2026		Arrested at a checkpoint in the Jau area near his workplace in the Dur area.	Detained
197	Mr.	Ali Mohsin Ali Muhanna	Sanad	3/25/2026		Summons – for posting a "tweet" expressing his concern as a Bahraini citizen for the security and stability of Bahrain, demanding "Bahrain's neutrality in regional conflicts and military battles," and calling for the cancellation of the normalization agreement with the Zionist entity and the closure of foreign military bases in Bahrain, considering that their presence brought nothing but "trouble and harm" to the nation.	Detained
198		Mohamed Al-A'ali	A'ali	3/25/2026		House raid	Detained
199	Media Professional	Sadiq Jaafar Al-Dirazi	Hamad Town	3/25/2026		House raid	Detained
200		Ahmed Mohammedi	Muharraq	3/26/2026		House raid	Detained
201		Ammar Yasser	Muharraq	3/26/2026		House raid	Detained
202		Omran Amiri	Muharraq	3/26/2026		Summons	Detained
203		Mohamed Mashhadi	Muharraq	3/26/2026		House raid	Detained
204		Sayed Abbas Yasin Al-Wadaei	Barbar	3/26/2026		House raid	Detained
205		Sayed Ali Mohamed Al-Wadaei	Barbar	3/26/2026		Summons	Detained
206		Sayed Hussain Jaafar	Hamad Town Roundabout 4	3/26/2026		Summons	Detained
207		Ali Haji	Manama	3/27/2026	3/28/2026	Checkpoint	Released
208		Ali Saeed Abdulhassan	Abu Quwah	3/27/2026		Summons	Detained

209	Radood (Religious chanter)	Mahmood Al- Qallaf	Sanabis	3/28/2026		Summons	Detained
210		Sajjad Hussain Al- Johar	Barbar	3/28/2026		Summons	Detained
211		Mahdi Mohamed Kadhem	Bani Jamrah	3/28/2026		Summons	Detained
212		Ali Fadhel Marhoon	Sanabis	3/29/2026		From a checkpoint while leaving work	Detained
213		Jaber Aqeel	Abu Quwah	3/29/2026		Summons	Detained
214		Haitham Rashdan	Suqayya	3/30/2026		Summons	Detained
215		Muntadhar Abdulhussain Al-Asfoor	Maameer	3/30/2026		While returning home, he noticed security services raiding his house searching for him, so he left. The Ministry of Interior later announced his arrest and published a photo of him.	Detained
216		Sayed Mahdi Jaafar Al- Alawi	Manama	3/30/2026		Summons	Detained
217	Cleric (Sheikh)	Hassan Al- Qassab	Manama	3/30/2026		Summons – Following his response to a “religious inquiry” addressed to him regarding the permissibility of issuing a statement against the Islamic Republic of Iran under the threat of closing the charitable association run by the questioner, the sheikh replied as follows: ‘We are facing a battle between truth and falsehood, and it is forbidden to support falsehood even with half a word. There is no justification for anyone in such situations. We ask God for a good ending.’ He was arrested on the basis of this response.	Detained
218		Hussain Jaafar	Nuwaidrat	3/30/2026		Summons	Detained
219		Mohamed Hamza	Nuwaidrat	3/30/2026		Summons	Detained
220		Hassan Yousif Mohamed	Abu Quwah	3/30/2026		Near the Muharraq cemetery to prevent visiting the grave of torture victim Mohamed Al-Musawi.	Detained
221		Ahmed Yousif Al-Musalli	Jannusan	3/30/2026		Summons	Detained
222	Cleric (Sheikh)	Aziz Al- Khadran	Dumistan	3/30/2026		Summons – for delivering a speech against the "Greater Israel" project.	Detained

223		Mohamed Ali Al Abood	Sitra - Al-Kharijiya	3/30/2026	4/2/2026	Checkpoint	Released
224		Hassan Abdulameer Ashoor	Not Specified	3/30/2026			Detained
225		Muntadhar Abdulmohsin Ali Madan	Not Specified	3/30/2026			Detained
226		Kameel Faisal Yahya	Hamala	3/30/2026			Detained
227		Hisham Ali Abdulwahab	Nuwaidrat	3/31/2026	4/3/2026	Checkpoint	Released
228		Mahmood Al-Maqabi	Maqaba	3/31/2026		Summons	Detained
229		Ahmed Nasser Juma	Sitra	3/31/2026		Summons	Detained
230	Football player	Mohamed Abdullah Ali	Sanabis	4/2/2026		Summons	Detained
231	Radood and football player	Hassan Nowrooz	Suqayya	4/8/2026		Summons	Detained

## The Return of Enforced Disappearance

Before the repercussions of the U.S.–Israeli war against the Islamic Republic of Iran began to affect Bahrain, enforced disappearance in Bahrain was nearly over. The number of cases of detainees forcibly disappeared by government agencies had significantly declined, reaching five cases in 2022—the last of which occurred in April 2022—and one final case in November 2023.

Within just 20 days (28 February – 19 March 2026), the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR) documented at least 11 cases of enforced disappearance. The disappearance of some has since ended, while others remain forcibly disappeared at the time of writing this report.

### Legal Assessment

Bahraini authorities carried out enforced disappearances following arbitrary arrests, despite the fact that such practices have no legal justification under any circumstances, including states of emergency.<sup>7</sup> There is no distinction between ‘lawful’ and ‘arbitrary’ disappearance; all enforced disappearance is inherently unlawful. It may also amount to a crime against humanity where it is carried out in a widespread or systematic manner, as appears to be the case in Bahrain in the instances documented.<sup>8</sup>

Enforced disappearance does not constitute a single violation, but rather a composite of multiple, concurrent abuses, including deprivation of liberty, torture, denial of legal protection and access to legal counsel, and denial of contact with family members. In Bahrain, such practices have recently escalated to the level of extrajudicial killing. The renewed use of enforced disappearance against political

---

<sup>7</sup> Article 1 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance | OHCHR](#)

<sup>8</sup> Article 5 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance | OHCHR](#)

detainees places the Government of Bahrain, as well as any public official involved in such acts, under direct international responsibility.<sup>9</sup>

The table below presents cases of enforced disappearance involving detainees arrested in connection with their positions on the war.

#	Occupation	Name	Area	Date of disappearance	End date of disappearance	No. of days of disappearance
1		Murtadha Hussain Ali Awal	Karzakan	28/02/2026	04/03/2026	4
2		Nidhal Hashim Mahdi Al Zuhairi	Not specified	15/03/2026	17/03/2026	2
3		Sayed Mohammed Al Da'am	Tubli	17/03/2026	31/03/2026	14
4		Ali Abdulghani Yusuf	Bani Jamra	18/03/2026	25/03/2026	7
5		Mohammed Aqeel Abdulrasool	Al Qurayya	19/03/2026	---	Still disappeared
6	Victim of death under torture	Sayed Mohammed Abdulmohsen Mohammed Ismail Al-Mousawi	Muharraq	19/03/2026	27/03/2026	Date of his death
7	Radood (Religious chanter)	Sayed Ahmed Al-Mousawi	Muharraq	19/03/2026	---	Still disappeared
8		Ali Ishaq Mandi Abdulhussain Ali	Muharraq	19/03/2026	---	Still disappeared
9		Ali Mohsen Ghareeb	Muharraq	19/03/2026	---	Still disappeared
10		Ammar Hafez	Muharraq	19/03/2026	---	Still disappeared
11		Mustafa Yusuf	Muharraq	19/03/2026	---	Still disappeared

<sup>9</sup> Article 6 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance | OHCHR](#)

## Raids and Violations by Security Forces

In parallel with popular protests and the government's repressive measures against citizens who expressed views differing from the government's position on the war, security forces carried out 179 raids across 49 areas for various reasons, most notably:

- The outbreak of popular protests in the streets, where security forces maintained a provocative presence at each demonstration, whether or not excessive force was used to suppress it.
- Raids on areas to remove banners and erase protest and political slogans.
- Raids on homes and private premises to arrest citizens; 36 individuals were arrested from private premises during March.
- The establishment of checkpoints.

BFHR documented various forms of violations committed by security forces during the specified period in connection with raids on areas and private premises, including:

- Arresting citizens during popular demonstrations, following security pursuits in public streets, from their homes or other private premises, at checkpoints, and elsewhere.
- Suppressing 22 peaceful demonstrations.
- Preventing some demonstrations from reaching the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy to protest the U.S. military presence in Bahrain.
- Security personnel physically assaulting several women who were present while police were arbitrarily arresting two young men, resulting in one woman losing consciousness and being urgently transported by ambulance for medical treatment.

- Security personnel severely beating citizen Ali Hussein on a street while arbitrarily arresting him.
- Riot police surrounding a religious facility (Ma'tam Bin Khamis) and imposing strict measures on those present, requiring them to leave individually, one by one, with several individuals arrested upon exiting.

## Legal Assessment

Raiding homes without presenting clear legal warrants, or using excessive force during arrest operations, constitutes a violation of the right to privacy and personal security, as well as international law. The use of violence during arrest or detention, including beatings or attempted vehicular assault, may amount to cruel or inhuman treatment<sup>10</sup> prohibited under the Convention Against Torture.<sup>11</sup>

This obliges the Bahraini authorities to ensure that all law enforcement operations are subject to oversight and judicial accountability.<sup>12 13</sup> However, this was entirely absent in the documented cases, as has often been the case. These practices cannot be viewed in isolation from the systematic retaliatory approach pursued by Bahraini authorities against political dissidents since 2011, marking the beginning of the country's political and human rights crisis.

---

<sup>10</sup> Articles 7, 10, and 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | OHCHR](#)

<sup>11</sup> Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | OHCHR](#)

<sup>12</sup> Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials [Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials | OHCHR](#)

<sup>13</sup> International Rules and Standards for Policing according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) [icrc-002-0809.pdf](#)

The table below presents statistics on raids by area, along with some of the associated forms of security violations.

Areas	Area Raids	Home/Facility Raids	Checkpoints	Suppression of Protests and marches	Other Violations
Diraz	14	2		5	
Sanabis	11	2	2	3	2
Samaheej	10	2			
Bani Jamra	9	4		2	
Al-Eker	8	3	1		
Karana	8			1	
Abu Saiba	8			3	
Barbar	7	1	1		
Sitra	7	1		1	
Abu Quwah	6	1			
Bilad Al-Qadeem	6		2	2	1
Musalla	5				
Al-Markh	5	2			
Saar	5	2			
Al-Dair	4				
Shakhura	4				
Manama	4		1		
Muharraq	4	3	4		
Karbabad	4	1		1	
South Sehla	3				
Al-Maqsha	3				
Jannusan	3				
Hamad Town	3	2			
Hamala	3		1		
Tubli	3		1		

Malkiya	2	1			
Jidhafs	2	1			
A'ali	2	1			
Al-Daih	2			1	
Karzakan	2			1	
Buri	2	1		1	
Zinj	2				1
Nuwaidrat	2		1	1	1
U.S. Embassy Street	2				
Ma'ameer	1				
Damistan	1				
Salmabad	1				
Shahrakan	1				
Maqaba	1				
Hidd	1	1			
North Sehla	1	1			
Al-Qurayya	1	1			
Al-Qala'a	1	1			
Dar Kulaib	1	1			
Sanad	1	1			
Sitra - Al-Kharijiya	1		1		
Hooraa	1		1		
Mahooz	1				1
Jau			1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>

## Key Cases

### 1. The killing of Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi under torture



On March 19, 2026, after midnight, Sayed Mohammed Abdulmohsen Al-Mousawi was arrested under mysterious circumstances, together with other citizens who were accompanying him. They had been on their way to have the pre-dawn *suhour* meal after leaving a Ramadan religious gathering in the Muharraq area, where security checkpoints were heavily deployed. These checkpoints were stopping citizens, searching the contents of their mobile phones, and arresting individuals who expressed solidarity with the

Islamic Republic of Iran in the context of the U.S.–Israeli aggression against it.

Following this, the families of the disappeared persons filed reports with the security authorities regarding the disappearance of their sons. They received no response from the security authorities confirming that their sons were being held in government detention facilities. Instead, the Criminal Investigations Directorate contacted the families of the disappeared and asked whether they had received any information about their sons' fate, in a scene that reflected a complete lack of transparency.

On March 27, 2026, the military hospital administration contacted the father of Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi and asked him to come to the hospital because his son Mohammed was there. When the father, Sayed Abdulmohsen Al-Mousawi, arrived, he was shocked to be asked to identify his son's body in the morgue. He identified him, and the signs of physical torture were very clearly visible on his body. The father was then given a death certificate without being informed of the

circumstances of his son's death. The family was also not handed the victim's personal belongings, including his phone, wallet, clothes, and other items.

The death of Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi revealed that he and his companions had, throughout the period of their disappearance, been forcibly disappeared by the security authorities, and that he had been subjected to severe torture. The security authorities continued to deny that his companions were being held in their custody.

What further confirmed the involvement of the security authorities in his arbitrary arrest on political grounds, the enforced disappearance of him and his companions, and his killing under torture was a post published by the Bahraini Ministry of Interior on the platform "X," in which it implicitly acknowledged its involvement. The post stated:

"Regarding what has been circulating on social media concerning the death of Mohammed Abdulmohsen ... Interior Ministry: The deceased had been detained pending a case involving seeking, communicating, and transferring information to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard."<sup>14</sup>

In its post, the Ministry of Interior did not comment on the confirmed torture, documented by photographs, to which the victim was subjected and which led to his killing. Nor did it address the criminal procedures, in violation of several laws, that the security authorities followed against him. It also failed to disclose the fate of his companions, whose enforced disappearance continued.

This confirmed that, in this incident, the authorities committed a compound crime consisting of several crimes, namely:

- The arbitrary arrest of the six detainees on the basis of their political views
- Their enforced disappearance

---

<sup>14</sup> The Ministry of Interior's post on X [https://x.com/moi\\_bahrain/status/2037596393284481112](https://x.com/moi_bahrain/status/2037596393284481112)

- Depriving them of their rights during detention and interrogation, including the right to communication and the right to have legal counsel present during interrogation
- The severe physical torture of at least one detainee during interrogation
- The conviction of the detainees before the start of any judicial trial
- The commission of an evident act of killing
- The failure to open an investigation into the crime and the denial that any crime occurred
- The involvement of the Public Prosecution through its failure to prosecute this known crime
- The violation of the constitutional principle of separation of powers, through the continued subordination of the judiciary to the government's policies and procedures, even when criminal in nature



Additional details concerning the abduction of Sayed Mohammed Abdulmohsen Al-Mousawi and the others with him, and his killing, can be found at the attached link.<sup>15</sup>

## 2. Arbitrary Arrest of Four Religious Scholars

In connection with their positions on the U.S.–Israeli war on Iran, the Bahraini authorities arbitrarily arrested four religious scholars:

---

<sup>15</sup> The complete account of the crime is detailed in the statement titled: “BFHR’s Statement on the Killing of Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi: Disturbing Signs of Torture on the Victim’s Body”  
<https://bfhr.org/english/article.php?id=1125&cid=148&st>

- Sayed Hatem Al-Alawi
- Sheikh Ahmed Issa Al-Hayki
- Sheikh Hassan Al-Qassab
- Sheikh Aziz Al-Khudran



The authorities arrested **Sheikh Hassan Al-Qassab** pursuant to a summons, following his response to a “religious inquiry” addressed to him regarding the permissibility of issuing a statement against the Islamic Republic of Iran under the threat of closing the charitable association run by the questioner, the sheikh replied as follows: “We are facing a battle between truth and falsehood, and it is forbidden to support falsehood even with half a word. There is no justification for anyone in such situations. We ask God for a good ending.” He was arrested on the basis of this response.



The authorities also arrested **Sheikh Aziz Al-Khudran** pursuant to a summons, on the basis of delivering a speech opposing the “Greater Israel” project.

### **3. The Arrest of Four Women**

On the same political grounds—namely opposition to the war and to Bahrain’s involvement in it—the authorities arrested four women:

- Budoor Abdulhameed Ali
- Sarah Abdulnabi Habib Marhoon
- Sarah M.
- Fatima L.



The authorities arrested **Ms. Budoor Abdulhameed Ali** by raiding her home on March 10, 2026, without presenting a judicial warrant. She was charged with “communicating with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard,” on the basis of posts she published on “X”, in which she explicitly expressed solidarity with Iran and support for Iran targeting U.S. military bases in Bahrain.

#### 4. Deportation of Ms. Doaa Ahmed



On March 18, 2026, the Bahraini authorities issued a decision ordering the deportation of Ms. Doaa Ahmed, an Arab woman of non-Bahraini nationality, married to a Bahraini citizen and the mother of Bahraini children. This followed her detention for several days alongside other women, on the basis of expressing their views regarding the war.

#### 5. Arbitrary Arrest of Six Religious Chanters (Radoods)

Also, in connection with positions related to the war—specifically the United States’ assassination of Grand Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei, who is regarded by no fewer than 80% of the Bahraini population as one of the most prominent religious figures—the authorities arbitrarily arrested six religious chanters (*radoods*):

- Sayed Ahmed Al-Mousawi

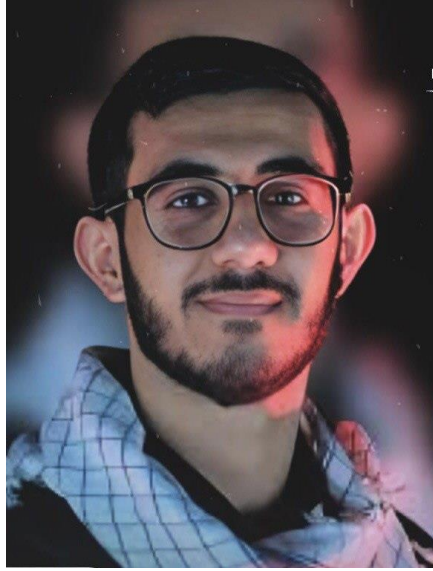
- Jaafar Al-Qashami
- Mohammed Ghuloom
- Mahmoud Al-Qallaf
- Mutahhar Mahdi Sahwan
- Hassan Norouz



The chanter **Sayed Ahmed Al-Mousawi** is among those who were subjected to enforced disappearance alongside Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi, the victim of unlawful killing under torture, in the Muharraaq area. His fate, along with those who were with him, remains unknown.

**The chanters Jaafar Al-Qashami and Mutahhar Sahwan** were arrested on the basis of reciting elegiac poems for Grand Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei.

Jaafar Al-Qashami performed a poem titled “Our Khamenei Was Assassinated”, while Mutahhar Sahwan performed a poem titled “*He Was Not Killed by the Bombs of Tyrants.*” Both were arrested solely on this basis.



## The Climate of Hate Speech in Bahrain

Findings from monitoring indicate a troubling escalation in the climate of hate speech in Bahrain, particularly in the context of regional tensions linked to the war on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This escalation intersects with a broader context marked by restrictions on freedom of expression and the targeting of dissenting views. The report documents that dozens of citizens have been subjected to arrest or summons because of their political positions or their peaceful expression of opinion. In such a closed political environment, hate speech is often reproduced as a tool of mobilization and incitement, whether through digital spaces or in public discourse. This threatens civil peace and deepens divisions within society.

The broader context of the materials monitored in this report, as well as in previous reports by the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR), shows that hate speech does not emerge in isolation from the political environment; rather, it is sustained and reinforced by it. The expanding criminalization of peaceful expression, including calls for penalties as severe as the death penalty on the basis of political positions, creates an environment in which dissidents are stigmatized and portrayed as “enemies” or “traitors.” This form of official or quasi-official discourse is then reflected in society, where some individuals adopt it and reproduce it in sharper and more extreme forms.

Accordingly, hate speech in the Bahraini context cannot be separated from policies of stigmatization and criminalization targeting specific groups of citizens. These policies contribute to the normalization of hatred and turn it into a parallel form of social pressure alongside legal repression.

### **Patterns of Hate Speech in the Monitored Content**

The texts reviewed reflect clear patterns of hate speech that go beyond the limits of freedom of expression and amount to incitement and exclusion. These patterns include:

Incitement to violence or exclusion:

This includes calls to “execute traitors” or to “cleanse Bahrain of your kind,” expressions that are explicitly exclusionary and directly inciting in nature.

Discrimination based on origin or affiliation, and questioning of identity:

This appears in descriptions of individuals as “naturalized outsiders” or “Persians,” reflecting a racist discourse that targets identity and belonging.

Collective accusations of treason:

This includes collectively labeling groups of citizens as “traitors” or “agents” without any legal basis, thereby threatening the principle of equal citizenship.

These patterns fall within the international understanding of hate speech, particularly where they involve incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence, as provided for in Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**The following is an analysis of the monitored messages that incite, or contribute to incitement to, hate speech, based on the six criteria for prohibited forms of expression adopted in the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred, in line with Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, namely: (context, speaker, intent, content or form, extent of the speech, and likelihood, including imminence), as detailed below:**

### **First: Context**

The environment in which the monitored expressions were issued shows that they are nourished by a state of escalating official political and sectarian polarization, in

which the regional dimension intersects with the domestic one, particularly in light of the tensions associated with the aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the accompanying security discourse.

In this context, public discussion shifts from legitimate political criticism to the collective demonization of segments of citizens, through linking them to external loyalties or portraying them as an existential threat to the state. This context enhances the receptivity to inciting speech and increases its risks, as it is not read in isolation from a charged environment that allows for the normalization of exclusion and hatred.

### **Second: Speaker**

Some of the monitored expressions are issued from accounts that have a degree of presence and influence in the digital space, including activists, public figures, or accounts with wide followings. The risk lies in the fact that the position of the speaker enhances the legitimacy of the discourse and its spread, and grants it a greater capacity to influence public opinion. In addition, the use of the language of treason and the denial of national belonging by actors perceived as participants in the public sphere contributes to conferring a sense of “acceptability” on hate speech and weakening societal norms that reject it.

### **Third: Intent**

The analysis of the content reveals strong indicators of the presence of intent to incite, rather than merely to express an opinion or political position. This is manifested in the use of degrading descriptors (such as: traitors, outsider, dog), and in calls for collective punitive measures (such as revocation of citizenship or execution), reflecting a clear orientation toward provoking hostility and exclusion against specific groups. Moreover, the repeated linking of sectarian affiliation or family origin with “treason” indicates an exclusionary intent that goes beyond the limits of legitimate criticism.

#### **Fourth: Content or Form**

The monitored discourse is characterized by content that includes explicit insults, dehumanization, and direct or implicit incitement to hatred, in addition to the use of charged religious and political language to justify exclusion. It also shows reliance on rhetorical methods based on generalization and collective stigmatization, in a manner that transforms individuals into a “targeted group” to which fixed negative attributes are ascribed. This form of discourse falls within the most dangerous types of expression, as it does not merely engage in criticism but seeks to strip the other of human and national legitimacy.

#### **Fifth: Extent of the Speech**

Indicators show that the discourse spreads through digital platforms with wide reach, which increases the scope of its impact and dissemination, particularly in light of repeated sharing and interaction. The viral nature of these platforms contributes to amplifying inciting messages, such that they reach a broader audience beyond narrow circles. This enhances the likelihood of entrenching negative stereotypes and normalizing hate speech in the public sphere.

#### **Sixth: Likelihood, Including Imminence**

In light of the preceding criteria, it is observed that the monitored discourse meets a high degree of likelihood of producing harmful effects, including the possibility of translating into discriminatory behavior or even physical violence. Explicit calls for exclusion or collective punishment, coupled with a charged context and wide dissemination, raise the level of risk and bring the discourse close to the threshold of prohibited incitement under Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The repetition of this pattern of discourse, in the absence of effective accountability, may also lead to the normalization of symbolic violence, paving the way for its transformation into actual practices.

#### **Analytical Conclusion**

Based on the Rabat Plan of Action threshold test, a significant portion of the monitored discourse does not appear to fall within the scope of protected freedom of expression. Instead, it approaches — or in some cases falls within — the scope of advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence. Accordingly, addressing this phenomenon requires a balanced approach that ensures legal accountability for inciting speech, while at the same time protecting the public space for legitimate debate, in a manner that promotes civil peace and social cohesion.

## Selected Examples of Hate Speech

Translation: “They no longer have a sense of decency... Those who are writing today are the granschildren of those who came out of the toilet without shame...” (an Arabic insult implying that they are illegitimate children)

تابع

عبيد الجلال   
@AL\_JALAL2000

الي أختشوا ماتوا ..ومن يكتب لنا اليوم  
احفاد من خرجوا من الحمام بلا حياء ...  


١٢:٣٣ م ٠٣٠ أبريل ٢٦ ٤،٤٦١٠ من المشاهدات

٢ المنشورات المُعاد نشرها ١٩ إعجابات

Translation: “May God let me witness the partition of Iran. May God let me witness the execution of the traitors.”

تابع

@yearnerera 

الله يبلغني تقسيم ايران  
الله يبلغني اعدام الخونة

٤:٣٦ م ٠٥٠ أبريل ٢٦ ٨١٣٠ من المشاهدات

٤ المنشورات المُعاد نشرها ٢١ إعجابات

Translation: "And this is the picture of this traitor"

Name on the image: Sarah Abdulnabi Habib

Translation: "I am not shocked by Iran's hatred toward the Gulf; this is well known and deeply rooted in history.

Nor am I shocked by the hatred of 'some' Gulf citizens, for they are traitors and this is their nature.

What shocks me, however, is the hatred displayed by 'some' Arabized Arabs toward their Gulf brothers and sisters.

What explains this resentment and malice?"

تابع  
AIK.bh2 @Bh2Alk  
ردا على @DurazMirrors @yearnerera  
و صورة هالخاينه بعد



تابع  
حازم جناحي @Hazem\_Janahi  
لست مصدوم من حقد إيران على الخليج .. فهذا شيء معروف ومتجذر في التاريخ ..  
ولست مصدوم من حقد "بعض" من المواطنين الخليجين فهم خونة وهذا ديدنهم!

أنا مصدوم من حقد "بعض" العرب المستعربة على أشقائهم الخليجين ..  
ما هذا الحقد والغل؟!

١٠:٠٥ م ٠٥ أبريل ٢٠٢٦ ٤,٧٤٦ من المشاهدات

١١ المنشورات الفعاد نشرها ٤٠ إعجابات

٣ العلامات المرجعية

“The father of the traitor, who’s falsely affiliated with the family of Prophet Mohammed, is overstepping.

A naturalized Persian, an intruder among the people of Bahrain

His son is a traitor to the country and its people, collaborating with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

Today he barks like a dog and claims that his son is both a devoted son of Bahrain and a son of the guardianship!

You dog of Iran, how can someone be both a son of Bahrain and a son of the guardianship?

May God’s curse be upon you and upon the ignorant guardianship.”

شعضوض @Sh3dod  
والد الخائن المنتسب كذبا لآل البيت  
يتماذى.

فارسي مجنس دخيل على شعب البحرين  
ابنه خائن للوطن والشعب تخابر مع  
الحرس الثوري الإيراني

اليوم ينبح مثل الكلب ويدعي أن ابنه ابن  
البحرين البار وابن الولاية !

يا كلب إيران كيف يكون ابن البحرين وابن  
الولاية ؟

لعنة الله عليك وعلى ولاية السفية



٥:٢٩ م ٠٣٠ أبريل ٢٦ ٢٠٢٠ من المشاهدات

١٣٤ المنشورات الفعاد نشرها ١٠ اقتباسات

Translation: I’m waiting for their citizenship to be revoked.

تابع Hussa @steaksssssss

في انتظار سحب الجنسي

٨:٢٦ ص ٠٥٠ أبريل ٢٦ ٢٠٢٠ من المشاهدات

١ إعادة النشر ١ اقتباس ٦ إعجابات

١ إضافة إلى العلامات المرجعية



## Recommendations

1. Releasing immediately and unconditionally all individuals detained for exercising their fundamental rights, including freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and dropping all charges arising from such activities.
2. Ceasing immediately all forms of arbitrary arrest, and ensuring that criminal or security laws are not used to criminalize peaceful expression or political opposition.
3. Conducting independent, impartial, and effective investigations into all allegations of torture, including the killing of citizen Mohammed Abdulmohsen Al-Mousawi, and ensuring:
  - Accountability for all those responsible, regardless of their positions
  - The involvement of an independent international body in the investigation
4. Disclosing immediately the fate of all forcibly disappeared persons, and ensuring their release.
5. Criminalizing enforced disappearance in national legislation in line with international standards, and acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
6. Ensuring the complete cessation of torture and ill-treatment, acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and adopting immediate measures, including:
  - Recording all interrogations through audio and video means
  - Ensuring detainees' immediate access to lawyers and their families
  - Subjecting all places of detention to independent oversight
7. Ensuring the right to peaceful assembly, including:
  - Ending the use of excessive force against protesters
  - Reviewing rules of engagement in line with the principles of necessity and proportionality
  - Holding those responsible for the suppression of protests accountable
8. Ensuring the effective independence of the judiciary, and ending any executive interference in the work of the Public Prosecution or the judiciary.
9. Conducting a comprehensive review of national legislation to ensure its compliance with:
  - The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
  - The Convention against Torture

- The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
10. Ending the culture of impunity by establishing an independent national mechanism to investigate human rights violations, with effective powers to access evidence and hold those responsible accountable.
  11. Restructuring the security apparatus to ensure its accountability to judicial and legal oversight, and training its personnel on international standards governing the use of force.
  12. Repealing or amending all laws that criminalize freedom of expression, including provisions related to “communication with foreign entities” or “undermining state security” when used against peaceful activities.
  13. Ensuring a safe environment for human rights defenders, and ending all forms of intimidation or reprisals against them.
  14. Calling on the United Nations Human Rights Council to strengthen its monitoring of the human rights situation in Bahrain, including by considering the establishment of a follow-up or investigative mechanism.
  15. Urging member states of the Human Rights Council to systematically raise the situation in Bahrain in international forums, including during sessions of the Council.
  16. Supporting the activation of the mandates of Special Rapporteurs, particularly those concerned with torture, arbitrary detention, freedom of expression, and enforced disappearance.
  17. Halting the export of security equipment by allied states where such equipment may be used to suppress protests or facilitate human rights violations.
  18. Using diplomatic channels to exert pressure for: the release of prisoners of conscience, the cessation of torture, and the end of enforced disappearance.
  19. Recognizing that certain documented patterns of violations since 2011 may amount to serious and systematic violations requiring international accountability.
  20. Calling for the inclusion of officials implicated in violations in international sanctions regimes.
  21. Emphasizing that the continuation of these violations undermines Bahrain’s international obligations and necessitates more effective international intervention.
  22. Reviewing and amending relevant national legislation to ensure compliance with Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights in a manner that balances the protection of freedom of expression with the prevention of incitement to hatred. This should include adopting a precise and narrowly tailored definition of hate speech based on the standard of incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence, in order to prevent overly broad interpretations of legal provisions that restrict legitimate expression.

23. Ensuring that official authorities refrain from using public discourse that involves stigmatization or collective accusations of treason against segments of society, given the role such discourse plays in fueling societal hatred. This should include committing to public discourse that promotes national unity and respects religious, political, and cultural diversity; while holding accountable any official or entity that promotes or tolerates hate speech.
24. Cooperating with United Nations mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, to implement recommendations related to freedom of expression and combating hate speech, and submitting periodic, transparent reports on measures taken and ongoing challenges.