

Deprivation of Identity, Deprivation of Homeland:

Citizenship Revocation and Forcible Deportation from Bahrain

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Deprivation of Identity, Deprivation of Homeland:

Citizenship Revocation and Forcible Deportation from Bahrain





Introduction

The stripping of the nationality of 69 Bahraini citizens in early 2026 was neither an exceptional incident nor an isolated event, but rather the latest episode in a systematic policy pursued by the Bahraini authorities for more than a decade. Between 2012 and 2019, 985 individuals were arbitrarily stripped of their nationality, whether by court order, royal decree, or ministerial decision, without a consistent legal basis or clear criteria governing such decisions. Although a royal pardon issued in 2019 restored the nationality of 551 of these individuals, bringing the total number of people who remain deprived of their nationality to 504 to date, the majority have effectively become stateless and continue to face serious obstacles to enjoying their most basic fundamental human rights.

Across these successive waves of arbitrary citizenship stripping, the deprivation of nationality in Bahrain was not an exceptional security measure, but rather one of the principal instruments used by the government to suppress opposition and target human rights defenders. These practices have also served to entrench the Bahraini authorities' pre-existing authoritarian and sectarian approach, which has disproportionately impacted Bahrain's majority Shia population and consistently obstructed efforts towards greater pluralism and democracy in the country. These decisions have had consequences extending far beyond the loss of civil and political rights, affecting social, cultural and economic rights as well. Those who remained in Bahrain when their nationality was revoked faced prosecution for 'illegally residing' in the country and were issued deportation orders, in many cases resulting in their forced deportation from their country of origin. The impact also extends beyond those directly targeted. While nationality deprivation predominantly targets men, Bahrain's nationality law discriminates on the basis of gender by only allowing fathers to pass nationality to their children. As a result, the children of those stripped of nationality are themselves denied Bahraini nationality and face a high risk of becoming stateless.

The Bahraini authorities have consistently exercised the power to denaturalize citizens with impunity and without providing any avenue of appeal. The government maintains that it has full discretion to determine what affects its internal and external security and that nationality deprivation decisions are not

subject to judicial scrutiny. This absence of judicial oversight, paired with a lack of accountability makes nationality deprivation a clear violation of the Bahraini State's obligations and applicable standards under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including international standards on preventing statelessness, prohibiting discrimination and prohibiting arbitrary deprivation of nationality.

The denaturalization of 69 people in early 2026, amid regional escalation between the United States, Israel and Iran, demonstrates the continuation of this approach. Allegations of sympathy with a regional party were made without any evidence being provided, any judicial ruling being issued, or any appeal mechanism being made available. Dozens of children were among those affected, while the authorities merely described those targeted as being “of non-Bahraini origin”, repeating almost verbatim the same justifications and methods used in previous waves of citizenship stripping. The denaturalization of individuals of Iranian descent also takes place in a clearly retaliatory context and represents a direct political exploitation of the ongoing war between the United States and Iran. Our ongoing monitoring of the Bahraini government's conduct reveals a recurring pattern of exploiting political crises, events and wars, whether domestic, regional or international, to tighten security controls, violate rights and freedoms and adopt restrictive measures involving sectarian or political persecution. The authorities have consistently sought to take such decisions at moments when the international community and media are preoccupied with other events and crises, allowing these measures to pass without adequate scrutiny, media attention, or accountability.

Emergencies and conflicts have been instrumentalized as cover to provide these decisions with a veneer of legitimacy. They are presented to the public and the international community as exceptional security measures dictated by necessity. Yet, as this report documents, they are less an immediate security response than pre-planned political measures held in readiness for a crisis and implemented under its cover, rather than in response to it.

Executive summary



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عام عيسى الكبير 2026
حاكم البحرين وقوايعها

الثلاثاء - 28 أبريل 2026م
11 ذو القعدة 1447هـ - العدد 6405
Tuesday 28 April 2026 No. 6405

e-mail: local@albirdpress.com : 2008. تأسست سنة

ISSN 8856-8556 | رقم الصدول

@albiladnews @albiladpress

الصفحة 25 | 20 صفحة | 218 فلسًا

أبدوا تعاطفهم وتمجيدهم الأعمال العدائية الإيرانية الأثمة

إسقاط الجنسية عن 69 شخصا وعائلاتهم بالتبعية

"الداخلية":كل من يتعاطف أو يمجد الأعمال العدائية الإيرانية الإيهابية يعرض نفسه للمساءلة

فعاليات: الجنسية البحرينية شرف لا يستحقه خائن.. وإسقاطها رسالة حزم احماية الوطن

تنفيذا التوجيهات الملكية السامية الصادرة من ملك البلاد المعظم صاحب الجلالة الفلك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة، بمراعاة ما يلزم تجاه من سولت له نفسه كجالة الوطن أو المساس بأمنه واستقراره والغدر في من استحق المواطنة البحرينية ومن لا يستحقها، والموات بتكليف ولي العهد رئيس مجلس الوزراء صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير سلمان بن حمد آل خليفة والي إطار الجهود الهادفة الحفاظ على الأمن والاستقرار، واستنادا لنص المادة (3/10) من قانون الجنسية البحرينية والتي تعنى على إسقاط الجنسية عمن مال السيب في الإضرار بمصالح المملكة أو تصرف تصرفا يناقض واجب الولاء لها، وبناء على عرض وزير الداخلية على مجلس الوزراء.

صدر قرار بإسقاط الجنسية البحرينية من من أوحوا لعائلتهم وتصجيعهم الأعمال العدائية الإيرانية الآثمة، أو قادوا بالتعاير مع جهات عارجية، حيث يتح عدد من تم إسقاط الجنسية عنهم حتى الآن، بمن فيهم عوائلهم بالتبعية (69) شخصاً وجميعهم من أصول غير بحرينية.

وتحدث وزارة الداخلية التأكيد أن كل من يعتاطف أو يقوم بتمجيد الأعمال العدائية الإيرانية الإرهابية، التي استهدفت ممثلة البحرين أو يتسبب في الإضرار بمصتح الوطن أو يرتكب ممارسات وأفعال تناقض واجب الولاء لها، بحرض لفعله المساولة القانونية باعتبار ذلك الأفعال مجرمة قانونا.

إلى ذلك، أكد عدد من الفعاليات النيابية والبكتاب والمتقفين أن القول السيادي بإسقاط الجنسية البحرينية عن 69 شخصا بمن فيهم عوائلتهم بالتبعية، يعزز أمن المجمع ويسهم في الحفاظ على كيان الدولة وحماية امنها ومصاحها الوطنية العلية مشددين على أن الجنسية البحرينية شرف لا يستحقه خائن واسقاطها رهد رسالة حزم تحماية الوطن.

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وزارة الداخلية
MINISTRY OP INTERIOR

This report, jointly produced by SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights and the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights, documents the Bahraini Ministry of Interior's decision on 27 April 2026 to deprive 69 people of their nationality, including family members affected by extension. The decision followed allegations of "sympathizing with" or "glorifying" hostile Iranian actions during the regional escalation between the United States and Iran.

Historical context:

The decision is not an isolated incident but a continuation of a systematic policy dating back over a decade. Between 2012 and 2019, 985 people were stripped of their nationality; 551 subsequently had it restored under a royal pardon in 2019. With the addition of the 2026 cases, 504 people remain stateless today.

Principal documented violations:

- Arbitrary deprivation of nationality without individually reasoned decisions or publicly available evidence.
- Collective punishment: The list included 26 children, the youngest a 19-day-old baby girl, despite the constitutional principle that punishment should be individualized.
- Violations of children's rights, contrary to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Bahrain has ratified.
- Rendering dozens of people stateless, despite their families' intergenerational ties to Bahrain.
- Lack of prior notification or right to appeal the decisions: following an administrative judicial review under a 2024 decree, decisions made by the Bahraini authorities which concern nationality are shielded from judicial review under the notion of "acts of sovereignty."

- Discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin and sectarian affiliation: All those affected were Shia from the Ajam, or Persian-heritage, community.

- Restrictions on freedom of expression: Individuals were stripped of nationality for merely peaceful posts on social media.

- Forcible deportation and family separation, accompanied by documented allegations of coercion and ill-treatment during the signing of nationality deprivation documents.

- Economic and social consequences: Confiscation of documents, suspension of pensions and loss of livelihoods.

- The situation of the daughters of those targeted who are married to Bahraini men, without activation of their legal right to acquire nationality through marriage.

Documented cases:

The report presents individual examples, including Ali Al-Khabbaz and Ali Haji, and testimonies organized into three categories: people forcibly deported, people imprisoned and those remaining in Bahrain. It also includes detailed lists of the names and ages of children and older people affected by the decision.

Legal conclusion:

The report presents individual examples, including Ali Al-Khabbaz and Ali Haji, and testimonies organized into three categories: people forcibly deported, people imprisoned and those remaining in Bahrain. It also includes detailed lists of the names and ages of children and older people affected by the decision.

Principal recommendations:

Immediately revoke the decision and restore nationality to those affected, particularly children; halt deportations and permit return; provide individually reasoned decisions and a right of appeal before an independent court; repeal the decree shielding nationality decisions from judicial review; investigate allegations of coercion; compensate victims; and call on UN mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, Special Procedures and Universal Periodic Review, as well as the international community, to take urgent action.



Report methodology

This report, jointly produced by SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights and the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights, draws on multiple, cross-checked sources to ensure the highest possible levels of accuracy, reliability and objectivity. These include official data, statements and announcements issued by the state and its relevant institutions, particularly the Public Prosecution, Ministry of Interior and other relevant bodies. The report also draws on first-hand testimonies collected directly from people whose nationality was revoked, through a dialogue session and in-person and online meetings conducted for this purpose. These were supplemented by semi-structured interviews with victims, stakeholders and specialists in nationality and statelessness in Bahrain and internationally. The report further draws on human rights and international reports issued by relevant organizations and United Nations mechanisms, to situate the documented facts within a broader comparative legal framework.



A brief history of citizenship stripping in Bahrain

the development of the legal framework and practice from 2011 to 2026

Since the February 2011 protests, deprivation of nationality in Bahrain has developed from a limited-use, exceptional legal power into a principal tool associated with national security, terrorism and political opposition. This policy has passed through three main institutional phases:

- The phase of administrative decisions and decrees, particularly prominent between 2012 and 2016.
- The phase of mass judicial rulings, reaching its peak between 2017 and April 2019.
- The phase of the re-concentration of authority in the Council of Ministers following the 2019 amendment, followed by the shielding of nationality matters from administrative judicial review in 2024, culminating in the new collective decision of 27 April 2026.

Monitoring and documentation by SALAM DHR and the Bahrain Forum indicate that 985 people were deprived of Bahraini nationality between November 2012 and April 2019, before nationality was subsequently restored to 551 of them in 2019. In 2024, one citizen had their nationality revoked, followed by 69 citizens in April 2026, bringing the total number of people whose nationality has not been restored to 504.

Distinguishing deprivation of nationality withdrawal and loss of nationality

Public discourse often uses "deprivation of nationality" broadly. Bahraini nationality law, however, distinguishes three legal situations:

1) **Withdrawal of nationality from a naturalized citizen,** particularly where fraud or false statements are established, or in certain circumstances involving conduct after naturalization. This is governed by Article 8.

2) **Loss of nationality** through naturalization in another country or renunciation of nationality. This is governed by Article 9.

3) **Deprivation of nationality on security grounds or grounds relating to loyalty to the state.** This is governed by Article 10. This section principally focuses on the third category: politically motivated deprivation of nationality under the guise of protecting national security, combating terrorism, or addressing what the authorities describe as harming the interests of the Kingdom or violating the duty of loyalty.

1. مرتضى محمود خورشيد عفرا خورشيد
2. محمد محمود خورشيد عفرا خورشيد
3. مريم محمد محمود خورشيد عفرا خورشيد
4. زينب محمد محمود خورشيد عفرا خورشيد
5. محمد محمود فرج علي إسماعيل
6. سيد حسن محمد محمود فرج علي إسماعيل
7. فاطمة محمد محمود فرج علي إسماعيل
8. حسين محمد محمود فرج علي إسماعيل
9. سوسن محمد محمود فرج علي إسماعيل
10. محسن محمد محمود فرج علي إسماعيل
11. محمد حسن إسماعيل
12. محمد موسى علي جعفر
13. علي محمد موسى علي جعفر
14. ملاك محمد موسى علي جعفر
15. علي حسين حسن حاجي
16. هاشم علي حسين حسن حاجي
17. علي عبدالنبي عبدالحسين
18. مريم علي عبدالنبي عبدالحسين
19. أمير عبدالصمد فتحي
20. محمد حسن عبدالرحمن
21. حسن محمد حسن عبدالرحمن
22. حسين محمد حسن عبدالرحمن
23. محسن محمد حسن عبدالرحمن
24. علي عبدالرسول غريب رستم
25. جلال عباس سليمان بروانه
26. إبراهيم قمبر غلوم الأنصاري
27. مرضية حسن علي حسن
28. زهير إبراهيم قمبر علوم الأنصاري
29. فاطمة زهير إبراهيم قمبر علوم الأنصاري
30. علي زهير إبراهيم قمبر علوم الأنصاري
31. زينب إبراهيم قمبر علوم الأنصاري
32. محمد إبراهيم قمبر غلوم الأنصاري
33. مريم محمد إبراهيم قمبر غلوم الأنصاري
34. زهراء محمد إبراهيم قمبر غلوم الأنصاري
35. رقية محمد إبراهيم قمبر غلوم الأنصاري
36. فاطمة إبراهيم قمبر علوم الأنصاري
37. مريم إبراهيم قمبر غلوم الأنصاري
38. حسين أيوب حسن عباس محمد
39. علي حسين أيوب حسن عباس محمد
40. ياسمين حسين أيوب حسن عباس محمد
41. سلمان أحمد علي خان بابا
42. حسين سلمان أحمد علي خان بابا
43. علي سلمان أحمد علي خان بابا
44. سلمان علي سلمان أحمد علي خان بابا
45. موسى علي سلمان أحمد علي خان بابا
46. محمد سلمان أحمد علي خان بابا
47. نوح محمد سلمان أحمد علي خان بابا
48. زهراء محمد سلمان أحمد علي خان بابا
49. أحمد أمر الله فتح الله حيدر
50. حسن أحمد أمر الله فتح الله حيدر
51. أحمد حسن أحمد أمر الله فتح الله حيدر
52. برجس حسن أحمد أمر الله فتح الله حيدر
53. زينب أحمد أمر الله فتح الله حيدر
54. عباس أحمد أمر الله فتح الله حيدر
55. آمنة أحمد أمر الله فتح الله حيدر
56. حسين عبدالجليل غلوم أسد
57. سارة حسين عبدالجليل غلوم أسد
58. علي حسين عبدالجليل غلوم أسد
59. عبدالله حسين عبدالله واتمى
60. علي حسن علي محمد بيروري
61. فاطمة علي حسن علي محمد بيروري
62. إلياس علي حسن علي محمد بيروري
63. علي عبدالحسين خورشيد عفرا خورشيد
64. علي أيوب حسن عباس محمد
65. عمران عبدالمجيد محمد غلوم أميري
66. مريم عمران عبدالمجيد محمد غلوم أميري
67. محمد جعمر رمضان مشهدي
68. حسين خليل إبراهيم
69. علي حسين خليل إبراهيم

Human rights and legal commentary on the deprivation of Bahraini nationality of 69 people

On 27 April 2026, Bahrain's Ministry of Interior announced that 69 people had been stripped of their nationality. It stated that this number included alleged to have committed the acts in question, as well as their family members by extension. The decision targeted people whom the authorities said had expressed sympathy for or glorified Iranian attacks or cooperated with external actors. The statement also emphasized that those affected were "of non-Bahraini origin".

1. Arbitrary deprivation of nationality

Article 17 of the Bahraini Constitution provides that nationality is determined by law and may be revoked only in cases of high treason and other circumstances prescribed by law. Article 10 of the Bahraini Nationality Law, as amended by Decree-Law No. 16 of 2019, provides that deprivation must be imposed through a "reasoned decision" of the Council of Ministers on the proposal of the Minister of Interior. Its grounds include harming the interests of the Kingdom and acting in a manner inconsistent with the duty of loyalty to it.

The existence of a domestic provision permitting deprivation of nationality does not automatically make every application of that provision lawful. A decision must:

1. Have a clear and foreseeable legal basis
2. Provide individualized reasoning
3. Pursue a legitimate purpose
4. Be necessary and proportionate to the conduct established in each person's case
5. Be accompanied by effective procedural and judicial safeguards

The Bahraini government's published statement, however, used collective descriptions such as "sympathy", "glorification" and "collaboration". The statement did not make public, within the information available to the public, the facts, evidence or individual reasons relating to each person, and did not explain how Article 10 applied to the children and family members affected by extension. There are serious grounds to question whether the requirement for a reasoned decision was met in substance, since providing reasons requires more than repeating general legal phrases: it requires setting out the individual's conduct, the evidence supporting it, and the connection between that conduct and the consequence imposed.

UN experts have previously drawn attention to the vagueness of expressions such as "interests of the Kingdom" and "duty of loyalty" in Article 10, and to the risk of them being used arbitrarily against critics, human rights defenders and journalists. They emphasized that deprivation of nationality must have a clear basis, be foreseeable, necessary and proportionate, and be accompanied by procedural safeguards.

Arbitrary deprivation also conflicts with:

- **Article 17 of the Bahraini Constitution, where a specific legal ground has not been established on an individual and proportionate basis.**

2. Collective punishment and the absence of individual responsibility

According to documentation by the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights and SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights, 26 Bahraini children were included in the nationality deprivation decision. Eight were under two years of age, 14 were under ten, two aged ten and two under fifteen. The youngest was a 19-day-old girl. The Ministry of Interior itself stated that the decision included "family members by extension.

This constitutes one of the clearest manifestations of the decision's legal defects. An infant cannot commit a harmful act against the Kingdom's interests, adopt a political position or engage in collusion. Depriving an infant of its nationality is based on kinship with another person rather than on individual conduct. In substantive terms, this amounts to a collective sanction based on family descent.

Article 20(b) of the Bahraini Constitution provides that punishment is individualized. The authorities may argue that deprivation of nationality is a "preventive sovereign measure" rather than a punishment, an interpretation advanced in legal statements supporting the decision.

However, the label attached to a measure does not determine its nature. Where a

measure entails loss of legal identity, a passport, rights of residence and return, and the possibility of deportation and family separation, its effects are profoundly punitive. The principles of individual responsibility, necessity and proportionality must therefore apply.

Extending the measure to family members also involves:

- **Article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits discrimination against children on the basis of their parents' status, opinions or origin.**

3. Violations of children's rights

Bahrain has legislation addressing children's rights, namely its Child Restorative Justice Law. It has also been a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child since 1992 and is therefore bound by its provisions.

Depriving children of nationality by extension from measures taken against their relatives particularly affects:

- **Article 2: Prohibition of discrimination, including on the basis of the child's origin or the status or opinions of their parents.**
- **Article 3(1): The requirement that the best interests of the child be a primary consideration in all decisions concerning them.**
- **Article 7: The child's right to be registered and to acquire a nationality.**
- **Article 8: The State's obligation to respect the child's identity, including their nationality, name and family relations.**
- **Article 9: The prohibition on separating children from their parents except by a competent decision subject to review and where required by the child's best interests.**

- **Article 12: The right of a child capable of forming their own views to be heard in proceedings affecting them.**
- **Article 16: Protection against arbitrary interference with the child's family and private life.**

Article 5(A) of the Bahraini Constitution also protects the family, motherhood and childhood. Article 24(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides for every child's right to acquire a nationality while Article 29(2) of the Arab Charter requires consideration of the child's best interests in nationality matters.

The announced decision gave no indication that an independent assessment of the best interests of each child had been conducted, or that the impact of nationality deprivation on their lives, education, health and family unity had been assessed. The automatic deprivation of nationality of infants and children therefore constitutes a particularly clear violation of the principle of the child's best interests and the protection of the child's identity.

4. Causing statelessness

Monitoring and documentation by SALAM DHR and the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights found that dozens of people became stateless, more than half of them children. Some affected individuals stated that their families had lived in Bahrain for several generations and did not hold Iranian nationality, contrary to the authorities' claims, despite the authorities having altered some of their official documents to identify them as "Iranian."

5. Lack of prior notice, the right to be heard, judicial review and the right of appeal

Approval from Bahrain's Council of Ministers is insufficient to ensure procedural fairness. Before implementing a decision affecting a fundamental right such as

nationality, each person must be notified of the allegations against them and allowed to access and respond to the evidence and to obtain legal assistance. An appeal must then be available before an independent and impartial body, with implementation suspended until the appeal is determined.

UN experts have emphasized that minimum safeguards require prior notification of the intention to deprive a person of nationality; an opportunity to submit facts, arguments and evidence; a right to a fair hearing before a court or independent body; and an appeal with suspensive effect.

By contrast, Decree-Law No. 13 of 2024 amended Article 7 of the Judicial Authority Law to exclude "acts of sovereignty", including matters relating to nationality, from the jurisdiction of the administrative courts. In the absence of an effective alternative judicial avenue, this exclusion results in the decision being shielded from substantive judicial review and deprives those affected of an effective opportunity to challenge the decision and defend their rights.

This conflicts, or raises serious concerns of incompatibility, with:

- **Article 20(f) of the Bahraini Constitution: the right of access to justice is guaranteed.**
- **Article 20(c): the presumption of innocence and guarantees of defense.**

Even if domestic law classifies nationality as a sovereign matter, that classification cannot be invoked to set aside international obligations or deny a person independent review of the legality, arbitrariness and proportionality of the decision.

6. Discrimination on grounds of national or ethnic origin and sectarian affiliation

The official statement confirmed that all those affected were "of non-Bahraini origin".

The combination of the official emphasis on "origin" and the targeting of a group

sharing a common ethnic background and sectarian affiliation creates a strong indication of direct or indirect discrimination. This alone does not conclusively establish discriminatory intent, but it requires the State to provide an objective and precise justification demonstrating that each decision was based exclusively on established individual conduct, and that persons of other origins or sects would have been treated in the same manner in comparable circumstances.

The relevant provisions include:

Article 18 of the Bahraini Constitution: equality and non-discrimination on grounds of sex, origin, language, religion or belief.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has previously recommended that Bahrain review provisions governing deprivation of nationality to ensure that their application does not result in statelessness and does not target individuals for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

7. Freedom of expression and the principles of necessity and proportionality

If some deprivation decisions are based exclusively on peaceful posts, expressions of "sympathy" or political opinions, without direct incitement to violence or material assistance to a hostile actor, the measure violates:

- **Article 23 of the Bahraini Constitution.**

A state may restrict expression to protect national security, but only where the restriction is prescribed by clear law, necessary to address a specific threat and proportionate. Political criticism, opinions, taking photographs or merely expressing sympathy cannot be equated with espionage or treason without evidence established in judicial proceedings.

In the cases addressed in this report, Ali Al-Khabbaz was stripped of nationality

because of a peaceful online post. Another affected individual, Hussein Khalil, was sentenced to five years in prison for peaceful social media posts, while others were convicted on charges involving photography or "glorification", amid allegations that they were denied access to a lawyer before trial. If established, these facts also raise the issue of double punishment where deprivation of nationality is imposed in addition to a criminal penalty, particularly in light of Article 14(7) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. However, application of the prohibition on being tried or punished twice depends on whether deprivation of nationality is, in substance, a criminal penalty rather than merely an administrative measure.

8. Deportation, the right of return and family unity

Article 17(b) of the Bahraini Constitution prohibits the deportation of a citizen or the prevention of their return. Article 12(4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights protects individuals against arbitrary deprivation of the right to enter their "own country". The Human Rights Committee has interpreted "own country" more broadly than formal nationality: it may include people with deep and enduring ties to a state, particularly where they have been arbitrarily stripped of its nationality.

Human rights documentation recorded attempts by the Bahraini government to deport individuals deprived of nationality to Iran and Türkiye, followed by the transfer of some to Oman, with families being separated across several countries. Any expulsion or deportation of people affected by the decision must be based on an individual decision issued in accordance with the law. It must be preceded by clear notification of the reasons, with an opportunity to object, present a defense and obtain effective review before a competent authority. Their right to enter their own country and the protection of family life and unity must also be respected.

Disregarding these safeguards engages:

- **Articles 9 and 16 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**
- **Articles 17(b) and 19(b) of the Bahraini Constitution.**

From a human rights perspective, the authorities cannot use deprivation of nationality as a gateway to expelling people with genuine and enduring ties to Bahrain, first stripping them of their nationality and then treating them as foreigners liable to deportation or preventing them from returning. Deportation resulting from arbitrary deprivation of nationality is therefore not an independent legal consequence: it extends the original violation and compounds its effects. The State cannot benefit from a situation created by its own arbitrary decision.

9.Coercion and ill-treatment

Some affected individuals reported being forced to surrender their passports and identity cards and sign documents acknowledging the loss of nationality and their departure. Some were subjected to degrading personal searches, shouting and verbal abuse.

If confirmed by an independent investigation, these acts would violate:

- **Article 19(d) of the Bahraini Constitution, which prohibits torture and de grading treatment and invalidates statements obtained under coercion.**

Bahrain has also been a party to the Convention against Torture since 1998.

10. Economic and social consequences and legal identity

The confiscation of passports and identity cards, loss of lawful residence, deportation or statelessness may obstruct access to education, healthcare, employment, housing, civil registration and services.

The two organizations learned that those stripped of their nationality were required to bear the cost of urgent forced travel after their names were removed from the social insurance fund. This also resulted in the suspension of pension payments to retirees and the cancellation of the pension accounts of those still employed, so that they could receive financial end-of-service benefits and pensions upon retirement.

11. The situation of daughters of targeted individuals, married to Bahraini men

The deprivation of nationality also extended to the daughters of men targeted or convicted, even though some of these women were married to Bahraini citizens. After the authorities treated them as non-Bahraini as a result of the deprivation, they should, in addition to revoking the original deprivation, have examined and applied Article 7(1) of the Bahraini Nationality Law. This provision allows a foreign woman married to a Bahraini man to acquire nationality where she meets its conditions and has applied on that basis.

Depriving a woman of nationality because of her relationship to her father, then disregarding her legal position arising from marriage to a Bahraini man, raises concerns of incompatibility with:

- **Article 18 of the Constitution.**

Bahrain's nationality-related reservation concerns Article 9(2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), relating to children's nationality, rather than the underlying obligation in Article 9(1) to protect a woman's right to acquire and retain her nationality. The Article 7 route must not be used as a substitute for restoring these women's original nationality; rather, it should serve as an additional safeguard against leaving them stateless or separating them from their families.

Documented individual cases and associated violations



The report presents selected documented cases of individuals whose nationality was deprived and examines the violations that accompanied these decisions.

1. Ali Al-Khabbaz

Reason given

Despite repeated enquiries, Mr. Al-Khabbaz received no official or written explanation from the Bahraini authorities for the deprivation of his nationality. According to what he was told, his criminal record was entirely clear, with no previous violation or criminal conviction. He was also denied a fair trial and an opportunity to defend himself.

Associated violations

- Forcibly deprived of his passport, driving license and all official documents.
- Required to pay for his own airline tickets before being expelled and deported.

Deportation route and subsequent developments

- Deported to Azerbaijan immediately after being stripped of nationality.
- Attempted to travel to the United Kingdom, but his Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) was cancelled on his first attempt.
- On his second attempt, while waiting in the boarding queue with his four-month-old daughter, he was called aside by the police and prevented from travelling.
- Travelled to Georgia after being informed that he could apply for asylum through the United Nations office there. Upon arrival, however, this option was not actually available.
- He is currently living in Iran with his family without a stable legal status. Among the cases documented here, he is the only person who has so far been unable to regularize his status through any asylum process.

2. Ali Haji

Reason given

Mr. Haji was forced by security personnel to sign a nationality deprivation document without being given any explanation for the decision. When he asked for an explanation, the security personnel merely stated that they were an "executive authority" and that the matter was "sovereign".

Associated violations

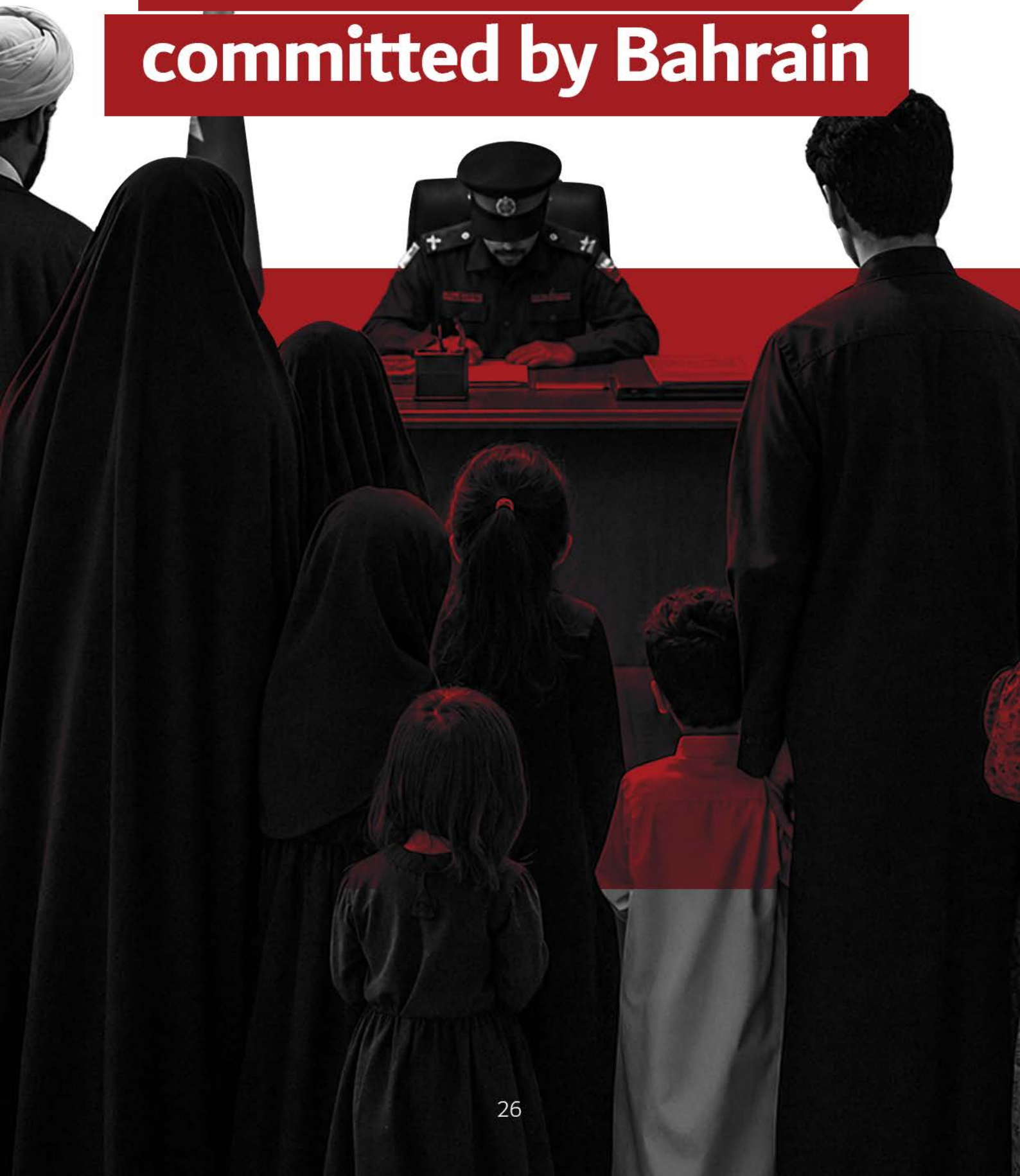
- Issued a new blue passport and had his red passport cancelled, while being required to pay a fee of BHD 15 for each passport.
- Forced to sign an undertaking specifying his mandatory destination as Iran via Türkiye within a period of only three days, while being prohibited from travelling to any other destination.
- Required to pay BHD 320 from his own funds for airline tickets to Türkiye and onward to Iran.

Deportation route and subsequent developments

- Deported to Azerbaijan via Dubai, contrary to the destination stipulated in the undertaking, which was Iran.
- He is currently living in London at the "Wakefield" immigration center.
- He was able to regularize his asylum application in the United Kingdom.

Note: The annexes contain further documentation concerning other individuals whose nationality was deprived.

Violations of domestic and international law committed by Bahrain



The following provides a concise overview of the violations committed by the relevant Bahraini authorities, namely the Ministry of Interior and the Council of Ministers, in the course of depriving the individuals named above of their nationality. It compares the actions taken in practice with the obligations arising under domestic and international law.

Violations of Bahraini law

The Bahraini Constitution provides that an individual's nationality may be withdrawn only in cases of treason and as prescribed by law. This requirement was not respected in the cases documented here.

▼

The decisions were taken through administrative procedures involving the Ministry of Interior and the Council of Ministers, without any case being referred to the courts or any judicial ruling establishing the allegations.

▼

None of the individuals was afforded a fair trial or a genuine opportunity to defend themselves before the decision was issued.

▼

The affected individuals were not provided with any official written reasons setting out the legal basis for the decisions, despite repeatedly seeking explanations from the authorities.

▼

The authorities relied on a vague and broadly worded provision of the 1963 Nationality Law and its amendments, particularly the 2014 amendment, which permits deprivation of nationality on grounds including harm to the interests of the Kingdom or state security, without precisely defining what constitutes such harm.

▼

The decision extended to family members by extension, including, in one documented case, a family comprising 19 people, without separate and individual allegations being made against each person.

▼

Those affected were not provided with any effective avenue to challenge or appeal the decision before an independent body prior to its implementation.

Violations of international law

▼
Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees everyone's right to a nationality and prohibits arbitrary deprivation.

▼
Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibits arbitrary arrest, exile or expulsion.

▼
Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides for a fair and public hearing before an independent tribunal.

▼
The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights protects the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter one's own country, a provision directly relevant to cases of deportation following deprivation of nationality:

- Article 12: Freedom of movement and the right to return to one's country.
- Article 14: the right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal.
- Article 24: The child's right to acquire a nationality.

▼
Violation of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons 1954

▼
Article 3 of the Convention against Torture: The prohibition of deportation where a person would face torture or inhuman treatment, reflecting the principle of non-refoulement.

▼
Violation of the Refugee Convention 1951 and its 1967 Protocol.

▼
Deportation outside a judicial framework constitutes a clear violation of the rule of law and fair trial guarantees under the UN Charter.

▼
Non-refoulement: No person may be deported to a place where they would face persecution or danger.

▼ The Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness 1961 requires states to refrain from measures that leave individuals without any nationality, as occurred with several children in these cases.

▼ The Convention on the Rights of the Child guarantees every child's right to acquire a nationality and prohibits punishing children or depriving them of their rights because of their parents' position.

▼ In November 2025, the UN Committee against Torture formally recommended that Bahrain stop using nationality withdrawal as a retaliatory measure against human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents.

▼ Targeting people on the basis of their political opinions or sectarian affiliation violates the principles of equality and non-discrimination guaranteed by international human rights law.

▼ The discrimination against women in Bahrain's nationality law, which prevents them from passing nationality to their children, contravenes international standards on women's rights under CEDAW and increases the number of stateless children.



Conclusion



The evidence documented in this report shows that the April 2026 decision to strip 69 people of their nationality cannot be separated from Bahrain's history of using this instrument for political retaliation and sectarian persecution. It also represents a serious escalation of human rights violations in Bahrain, requiring immediate international human rights action by the UN and international organizations and bodies concerned with defending the right to nationality. The decision does more than repeat a pattern of impunity documented in earlier waves since 2012. It brings together, in a single incident, most of the grave violations that one administrative decision can produce: collective punishment based on ethnic and sectarian identity rather than individual conduct; the stripping of infants and children of their legal identity; the direct creation of dozens of stateless individuals and forced deportation carried out outside any judicial framework; accompanied by documented allegations of coercion and ill-treatment.

What makes this case particularly serious is the absence of any effective avenue for accountability or remedy. The decision was issued through a purely administrative procedure, without referral to a competent court, and under a legislative amendment (Decree-Law No. 13 of 2024) that expressly excludes nationality-related "acts of sovereignty" from the review of the administrative courts. This legislative exclusion does not relieve the State of its obligations under the international treaties it has ratified; rather, it aggravates the violation.

The official argument that these measures constitute a "sovereign measure" rather than a punishment does not withstand scrutiny in light of their actual effects: loss of legal identity; deprivation of passports, residency, and the right to return; family separation; and, in particular, statelessness among children. All of these constitute severe punitive effects that require the application of the principles of individual responsibility and proportionality, regardless of the legal characterization chosen by the authorities to justify the measure.

The signatory organizations affirm that national security considerations, if genuinely established before an independent judiciary and through a fair trial, may justify the prosecution of acts of espionage or actual assistance to a hostile state. However, they can never justify stripping a 19-day-old child of nationality, punishing an entire

family because of its connection to a single individual, or substituting individual evidence with presumptions based on family or sectarian origin. When "security necessity" becomes a cover for collective punishment without trial, it ceases to constitute a legitimate security measure and instead becomes a violation in itself, requiring accountability.

In light of the above, the signatory organizations consider that this case cannot be addressed through partial or gradual measures. Rather, it requires urgent intervention at both the national and international levels to halt the implementation of the decision, repeal the legislative exception that shields nationality decisions from judicial review, and immediately restore nationality to all those affected by the decision where no individual grounds have been established before a competent court, with urgent priority given to cases involving children and those who have effectively become stateless.

The international community, and in particular the relevant United Nations mechanisms, has a responsibility to follow this case as a direct test of the seriousness of Bahrain's commitment to its international obligations, particularly in light of the explicit recommendations issued by the Committee against Torture in November 2025 calling for an end to the use of nationality revocation as a tool of political and sectarian retaliation, an end to exploiting crises and wars to restrict and violate rights, and refrain from issuing laws and decisions that contravene the International Bill of Human Rights.

Legal and human rights findings



The report presents selected documented cases of individuals whose nationality was deprived and examines the violations that accompanied these decisions.

01 Arbitrary deprivation of nationality and statelessness.

02 Collective punishment and the attribution of one person's responsibility to their relatives and children.

03 Violation of the principle of legality and the requirements of individual responsibility and personal punishment.

04 Denial of a fair trial and an effective judicial remedy.

05 Discrimination on grounds of national or ethnic origin, and possibly sectarian affiliation.

06 Violations of children's rights.

07 Violations of women's rights.

08 Unnecessary or disproportionate restrictions on freedom of expression.

09 Forcible deportation, denial of return to one's homeland, family separation and violation of non-refoulement.

10 Possible cruel or degrading treatment and coercion to sign documents.

11 Consequential effects on residence, education, health, work and legal identity.

Recommendations

The report presents selected documented cases of individuals whose nationality was deprived and examines the violations that accompanied these decisions.

1 Immediately revoke the decision depriving the 69 people of nationality and restore their nationality, passports, identity cards and all associated rights, pending an independent individual review that meets constitutional and international standards.

2 Immediately restore nationality to all children and family members whose nationality was affected by the decision as a consequence of their family ties, and independently assess the best interests of the children, recognizing that Article 10 of the Nationality Law provides no legal basis for stripping them of nationality because of the acts of their relatives.

3 Halt all expulsion and deportation proceedings, allow those removed from the country to return, and reunite families separated by implementation of the decision.

4 Provide every affected person with an individual, written and reasoned decision setting out the facts, evidence and legal basis. Allow sufficient time to respond, access to a lawyer and an opportunity to inspect and challenge the evidence.

5 Ensure a right of appeal before an independent judiciary with full jurisdiction over the facts, law and proportionality, suspending nationality deprivation and deportation until a final judgment is issued.

6 Repeal or amend Decree-Law No. 13 of 2024 to restore judicial oversight of nationality decisions. Amend Article 10 of the Nationality Law to define deprivation grounds precisely and prohibit collective deprivation or deprivation resulting in statelessness.

7 Independently investigate allegations of coercion, beatings, threats and forced signing of departure forms, and hold those responsible accountable.

9 Compensate victims and provide reparation for material and non-material harm, including the loss of documents, residence, employment, education and family unity.

8 Independently investigate suspected discrimination arising from the targeting of Shia people of Iranian descent, and publish case-selection criteria and complete, detailed data enabling public scrutiny.

10 Urgently review the situation of daughters married to Bahraini citizens, prioritizing restoration of their original nationality. Give effect to the route under Article 7(1) of the Nationality Law for those who meet its conditions or enable them to submit or complete applications without interruption to their legal status, preventing statelessness or separation from their husbands and children.

Recommendations to UN mechanisms

11 Call on the Human Rights Council to place these violations on the agenda of its forthcoming sixty-third session.

12 Activate the Special Procedures mechanism through the Special Rapporteurs concerned with arbitrary detention, statelessness and human rights defenders.

13 Send formal requests for information to the Government of Bahrain under established UN procedures.

14 Review Bahrain's record in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in light of the documented cases.

Recommendations to the international community

15 Urge donor states and international partners to make their agreements and cooperation with Bahrain conditional on ending these violations.

16 Call on the International Criminal Court and judicial and regional human rights bodies to follow up on these cases.

17 Accede to the 1954 and 1961 conventions relating to statelessness.

Annexes

Directives of 19 April 2026

On 19 April 2026, royal directives were announced calling for action against individuals whom the authorities said had expressed positions supporting or sympathizing with "Iranian hostile acts," and calling for consideration of who "deserves Bahraini citizenship and who does not," amid the US–Israeli war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran's targeting of certain US military installations in the Gulf states.

According to the available official sources, these directives were not a new legislative decree amending the Nationality Law. They were political and executive instructions, followed by application of the existing Article 10 of the Nationality Law, as amended in 2019.

The decision of 27 April 2026 depriving 69 people of nationality

On 27 April 2026, the Ministry of Interior announced that 69 people had been deprived of Bahraini nationality, explaining that the number included the accused and their families affected by extension. It said the decision concerned people who had expressed sympathy for or glorified "Iranian hostile acts", or cooperated with external actors, and that all those affected were "of non-Bahraini origin".

Human rights reports described the decision as the first major collective nationality deprivation since 2019. According to monitoring and documentation by the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights and SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights:

- The list included 26 children.
- The youngest person affected was a 19-day-old baby girl.
- Dozens of people became stateless.
- All those affected were Shia individuals of Iranian ancestry dating back approximately 100 years.

What distinguishes the 2026 decision is that it did not stop at individuals accused of personal acts. It extended to family members because of their relationship to those individuals, bringing the issue of nationality loss affecting wives, sons, daughters and children back into focus.

Lists of the 69 people deprived of nationality

A list of the names and ages of the children (girls) affected by the nationality-deprivation decision:

Children from youngest to oldest at the date of the decision	
Age	**Girls**
19 days	Zahra Mohammed Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
3 months	Maryam Ali Abdul Nabi Abdul Hussein Khabbaz
1 year	Ruqayya Mohammed Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
1 year 7 months	Maryam Mohammed Mahmoud Khorshid Afra Khorshid
3 years	Narjis Hassan Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider
5 years	Zahra Mohammed Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
5 years	Malak Mohammed Mousa Ali Hussein Jaafar
6 years	Sara Hussein Abdul Jalil Ghuloum Asad
7 years	Zainab Mohammed Mahmoud Khorshid Afra Khorshid
8 years	Maryam Mohammed Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
8 years	Yasmin Hussein Ayoub Hassan Abbas Mohammed
13 years	Fatima Zuhair Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
14 years	Fatima Ali Hassan Ali Mohammed Pirouzi

A list of the names and ages of the children (boys)

Children from youngest to oldest at the date of the decision	
Age	**Boys**
1 year	Ali Hussein Abdul Jalil Ghuloum Asad
1 year	Ali Mohammed Mousa Ali Hussein Jaafar
1 year	Hashem Ali Hussein Hassan Haji
1 year 8 months	Mousa Ali Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
4 years	Ahmed Hassan Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider
5 years	Noah Mohammed Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
6 years	Salman Ali Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
6 years	Mohsen Mohammed Hassan Abdul Rahman
7 years	Hussein Mohammed Hassan Abdul Rahman
9 years	Hassan Mohammed Hassan Abdul Rahman
8 years	Ali Zuhair Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
10 years	Elias Ali Hassan Ali Mohammed Pirouzi
10 years	Ali Hussein Ayoub Hassan Abbas Mohammed

List of the names and ages of older persons (over 50 years of age)

Older people	
Age	**Men**
70 years	Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
62 years	Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba (has cancer)
58 years	Jalal Abbas Sulaiman Parwana (has diabetes)
57 years	Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider
Age	**Women**
68 years	Mardhiya Hassan Ali Hassan

List of the names and ages of older persons (over 50 years of age) affected by the nationality deprivation decision:

#	Name
1	Murtadha Mahmoud Khorshid Afra Khorshid

2	Mohammed Mahmoud Khorshid Afra Khorshid
children	Maryam Mohammed Mahmoud Khorshid Afra Khorshid
children	Zainab Mohammed Mahmoud Khorshid Afra Khorshid

3	Mohammed Mahmoud Faraj Ali Ismail
children	Sayed Hassan Mohammed Mahmoud Faraj Ali Ismail
children	Fatima Mohammed Mahmoud Faraj Ali Ismail
children	Hussein Mohammed Mahmoud Faraj Ali Ismail
children	Sawsan Mohammed Mahmoud Faraj Ali Ismail
children	Mohsen Mohammed Mahmoud Faraj Ali Ismail

4	Mohammed Hassan Ismail

5	Mohammed Mousa Ali Hussein Jaafar
children	Ali Mohammed Mousa Ali Hussein Jaafar
children	Malak Mohammed Mousa Ali Hussein Jaafar

6	Ali Hussein Hassan Haji
children	Hashem Ali Hussein Hassan Haji

7	Ali Abdul Nabi Abdul Hussein Khabbaz
children	Maryam Ali Abdul Nabi Abdul Hussein Khabbaz

8	Amir Abdul Samad Fathi

9	Mohammed Hassan Abdul Rahman
children	Hassan Mohammed Hassan Abdul Rahman
children	Hussein Mohammed Hassan Abdul Rahman
children	Mohsen Mohammed Hassan Abdul Rahman

10	Ali Abdul Rasoul Gharib Rostam

11	Jalal Abbas Sulaiman Parwana

12	Hussein Ayoub Hassan Abbas Mohammed
children	Ali Hussein Ayoub Hassan Abbas Mohammed
children	Yasmin Hussein Ayoub Hassan Abbas Mohammed

13	Hussein Abdul Jalil Ghuloum Asad
children	Sara Hussein Abdul Jalil Ghuloum Asad
children	Ali Hussein Abdul Jalil Ghuloum Asad

14	Mohammed Jaafar Ramadan Mashhadi

15	Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
Wife	Mardhiya Hassan Ali Hassan
children	Zuhair Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
children	Mohammed Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
children	Zainab Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
children	Fatima Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
children	Maryam Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
children	Ali Zuhair Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
Grandchildren	Maryam Mohammed Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
Grandchildren	Zahra Mohammed Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
Grandchildren	Ruqayya Mohammed Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari
Grandchildren	Fatima Zuhair Ibrahim Qambar Ghuloum Al-Ansari

16	Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
children	Hussein Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
children	Ali Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
children	Mohammed Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
Grandchildren	Salman Ali Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
Grandchildren	Mousa Ali Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
Grandchildren	Noah Mohammed Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba
Grandchildren	Zahra Mohammed Salman Ahmed Ali Khan Baba

17	Imran Abdul Majid Mohammed Ghuloum Amiri
	Maryam Imran Abdul Majid Mohammed Ghuloum Amiri

18	Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider
children	Hassan Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider
children	Abbas Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider
children	Zainab Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider
children	Amna Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider
Grandchildren	Narjis Hassan Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider
Grandchildren	Ahmed Hassan Ahmed Amr Allah Fath Allah Haider

19	Ali Hassan Ali Mohammed Pirouzi
children	Elias Ali Hassan Ali Mohammed Pirouzi
children	Fatima Ali Hassan Ali Mohammed Pirouzi

20	Abdul Allah Hussein Abdul Allah Wathiqi

21	Ali Abdul Hussein Khorshid Afra Khorshid

22	Ali Ayoub Hassan Abbas Mohammed

23	Hussein Khalil Ibrahim
children	Ali Hussein Khalil Ibrahim

Documented testimonies of people deprived of Bahraini nationality

Classification and analysis of testimonies according to the three categories, based on Dialogue Session No. 01/03-2026, dated 10 June 2026.

Classification and review methodology

This classification is based exclusively on testimonies recorded in the minutes of the dialogue session. The testimonies were arranged according to the three agreed categories:

- **Category one:** People deprived of nationality and forcibly deported, with sufficient information available to document what happened.
- **Category two:** People deprived of nationality who are currently in prison.
- **Category three:** People deprived of nationality who remain in Bahrain.

Category one: Testimonies of forcible deportation

All the cases below involve a combination of violations. The first is arbitrary deprivation of nationality without a legal basis or a fair trial. The second is forcible deportation without due process: individuals were summoned to the Immigration and Passports Directorate and then compelled to leave the country using an alternative travel document issued in place of their ordinary passport.

3. Hussein Ali

Reason given

He was shocked to find his name in an Instagram post accusing him of "expressing sympathy for Iran online". He is the father of a child aged one and a half.

Associated violations

- He was forced to sign a document concerning the deprivation of his nationality without being given any official reason.
- The undertaking specified Iran as the only permitted destination.
- He was required to pay for his airline tickets himself.
- He became stateless.

Deportation route and subsequent developments

- He was in fact deported to Dubai and then Azerbaijan, contrary to the destination imposed on him in the undertaking, namely Iran.
- He was able to complete the paperwork for his asylum application in the United Kingdom.

4. Mohammed Al-Ansari

Reason given

He lost his nationality as a consequence of the decision against his father, who was its original target. The entire family, comprising 19 people, was subjected to collective questioning.

Associated violations

- Family members were asked to bring their passports, driving licenses and identity cards. They were not allowed to bring food or even use the toilet, although the father has diabetes.
- They were held against their will in a hotel in Bahrain under police guard.
- Their phones were confiscated, and their passports were changed from red to blue.

Deportation route and subsequent developments

- The authorities attempted to deport them to Oman, but Oman refused them entry.
- Their travel tickets to London via Bahrain were confiscated, and they were held in a room for 24 hours before travelling.

5. Mohammed Mousa

Reason given

He found his name circulating alongside others in a statement published on social media describing them as "not Bahraini", loyal to and agents of Iran, and supportive of Iranian military strikes in Bahrain.

Associated violations

- He and others were forced to bring their passports, driving licenses and identity cards. Their phones were confiscated, and their blue passports were replaced with red ones.
- They were dealt with by police officers, some of whom concealed their names and were not in uniform and were forced to sign documents.
- The next day they were handed tickets that had already been arranged for travel from Bahrain to Türkiye and then from Türkiye to Iran and were required to pay for them themselves.

Deportation route and subsequent developments

- He was deported along the Bahrain–Türkiye–Iran route.
- Along with Ali Haji and Hussein Ali, he was able to complete the paperwork for his asylum application in the United Kingdom.

Consequences of deprivation of nationality

The following brings together all the consequences and impacts described in the testimonies:

Legal and administrative consequences

- Confiscation of official documents, including passports, driving licenses and identity cards, as well as personal phones.
- Revocation of nationality without any official written explanation for any of the five individuals.
- Absence of a fair trial and denial of an opportunity to defend oneself, as in Ali Al-Khabbaz's case, despite his clean criminal record.
- Conversion of passports into alternative travel documents, including a change in color from red to blue or from blue to red, instead of ordinary passports.
- Forcing individuals to sign undertakings specifying a destination, usually Iran, without the authorities themselves subsequently complying with those undertakings.
- Extension of the decision to all family members by operation of the Bahraini Nationality Law.
- Discrimination against women: the inability of mothers to transmit their nationality to their children, leaving the children without legal protection.
- Dozens of children becoming entirely stateless as a result of the measure.

Financial and economic consequences

- Requiring victims to pay the costs of their own deportation, including fees for new passports and airline tickets.
- Loss of money and personal property in Bahrain.
- Loss of investments and careers: Those affected include a deputy bank manager, an interior designer, a businessman and major investors in Bahrain.
- Financial collapse for some families and an inability to meet basic daily needs.

Health consequences

- Disruption of children's healthcare: A four-month-old baby girl missed essential vaccinations forced displacement.
- Denial of food and access to the toilet to a man with diabetes during the collective questioning of his family.

Psychological and family consequences

- Depression and severe psychological distress among families as uncertainty continues.
- Family breakdown and forced separation, including a father separated from his one-and-a-half-year-old son by sudden deportation.
- A sense of being systematically targeted without evidence, particularly when accusations are published on social media without formal legal proceedings.

Displacement and homelessness

- Refusal by several countries to admit victims: One victim's Electronic Travel Authorization for the United Kingdom was cancelled twice, while Oman and Türkiye refused entry to an entire family deported there.
- Starkly different outcomes within the same group: Some were able complete their asylum paperwork in the United Kingdom, including Ali Haji, Hussein Ali and Mohammed Mousa. Another, Ali Al-Khabbaz, remained without refuge or support, moving between Azerbaijan, Georgia and Iran.
- Living in an unstable country, currently Iran in the case of Ali Al-Khabbaz's family, with no clarity about the future.

Social consequences and reputational harm

- Disproportionately harsh treatment by security personnel, treating families as dangerous people and social outcasts.
- The punishment affected people across a wide age range, from nine months to 72 years in a single group.
- Public stigmatization on social media through publication of names and serious accusations, such as allegiance to a foreign state, Iran, without any prior judicial investigation.

Court sentences and fines

- A. H. was sentenced to ten years in prison and fined BHD 2,000.
- A. A. was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined BHD 2,000.
- A. A. was sentenced to ten years in prison and fined BHD 2,000.
- M. J. was sentenced to life imprisonment.
- H. Kh. was sentenced to five years in prison and fined BHD 2,000.

The denaturalization of 69 people in early 2026, amid regional escalation between the United States, Israel and Iran, demonstrates the continuation of this approach. Allegations of sympathy with a regional party were made without any evidence being provided, any judicial ruling being issued, or any appeal mechanism being made available. Dozens of children were among those affected, while the authorities merely described those targeted as being “of non-Bahraini origin”, repeating almost verbatim the same justifications and methods used in previous waves of citizenship stripping.