

(Translated from Arabic)

**Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Public Prosecution**

**Office of the Attorney General**

**Information concerning a number of accused persons**

**I. Ebrahim Ghuloom Hussein Karimi: case No. 334/2015**

Identity No. 630200300 (his Bahraini citizenship was revoked in 2012).

**The charge**

1. Misuse of social media;
2. Publicly insulting a foreign State and its leader;
3. Possession of unlicensed weapons;
4. Publicly inciting hatred of the regime and disparaging it;
5. Illegal residence in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

**The facts**

The investigations conducted by the Cyber Crime Directorate established that the accused had used his account to post messages on the “freejkarimi” Twitter and Instagram social media sites that were deemed to constitute insults to His Majesty the King. It obtained copies of messages on Twitter and Instagram that contained the following expressions:

“Down with Hamad, King of the stooges; Our slogan, down with Hamad; Down with Hamad forever; Hamad the dwarf; Down with the slave of the dinar; The terrorism of Al Saud; The Emir who depends on mercenaries hastens his inevitable demise; An image of the tyrant of Bahrain; The assault on Yemen; The storm of loafers; The restoration of hope equals the loss of hope; The mercenaries of Al Khalifa have set up inspection points on the following roads; Had it not been for Saudi Arabia, the massacre of the Grand Mosque of Mecca would not have occurred; The Governorate launches an attack on Hamad, describing him as the accursed and vile criminal occupier; The revolutionaries of Muharraq are currently burning four pictures of the tyrant Khalifa bin Salman in different locations.” In addition, four pictures were posted on Instagram with the following messages: “This is how the martyrs’ corpses were carried in Mecca; May Allah punish you, oh vile Al-Saud; Cursed be Al-Saud and the descendants of Abu Lahab; Bahrain congratulates the King of Saudi Arabia on the successful Hajj season; Salman arrived to oversee the welfare of the Hajj pilgrims in Mina and disaster struck; The bad omen; The Iranian parliamentarian Mohammed Saidi asks the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to announce that Saudi Arabia is incapable of administering the two Holy Places and proposes that they should be administered by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation or by a group of Islamic States.”

When the accused was questioned about the evidence contained in the record, he admitted that he was the person who managed the Twitter account, while another person had posted the pictures on the Instagram account.

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When he was questioned by the investigating unit at the Office of the Public Prosecutor, he denied the charges and stated that the accounts in question did not belong to him and that he neither used nor managed them.

**The measures taken**

- When permission was received from the Office of the Public Prosecutor to arrest and summon him and to inspect his residence, a number of mobile phones and a Taser were seized from his residence;
- The accused was interrogated on 28 September 2015 and the Office of the Public Prosecutor ordered that he be placed in pretrial detention for 7 days. He appeared before the competent court, which examined the detention order and decided to extend his pretrial detention;
- An expert in the Cyber Crime Directorate was appointed to inspect the confiscated electronic devices. The report has not yet been received;
- An expert in the General Directorate of Physical Evidence was appointed to inspect the confiscated Taser. He stated in his report that it was a serviceable Taser and that Ministry of the Interior Decision No. 90 of 2008 concerning items the possession of which is prohibited without a licence was applicable thereto;
- Police investigations of certain persons were requested on account of the link established between them and the facts under investigation;
- The papers were copied and referred to the competent investigation unit so that it could take the necessary action concerning the accused's claim that he had been subjected to threats and abuse in order to compel him to confess;
- The accused was sent for trial and the case is still being considered by the competent court.

**II. Nabeel Ahmed Abdul Rasul Rajab**

**1. Case No. 2014/145905**

The Office of the Prosecutor referred the detainee to the Lower Criminal Court on the charge of publicly insulting the Ministry of the Interior and the defence forces. He had accused the security and military forces in the Kingdom on his social media account (Twitter) of supporting terrorist takfiri views, such as those of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). He was questioned about that matter in the presence of his lawyer and admitted to having posted such messages. He was accompanied by three lawyers during the trial sessions and the Court decided to release him. At its subsequent session on 20 January 2015, the Court decided to convict him and sentenced him to a term of imprisonment of 6 months. It set bail of 200 Bahraini dinars (BD) to suspend implementation. The accused appealed against the judgement before the High Criminal Court, which decided at its session on 14 May 2015 to accept the appeal in procedural terms but to dismiss it on the merits and to support the judgement against which the appeal had been filed. The accused then filed an appeal with the Court of Cassation. However, a Royal pardon was issued and the Court of Cassation decided to dismiss the appeal on the ground that it had become irrelevant.

**2. Case No. 112/2015**

- The accused was arrested on 4 April 2015 for posting messages and pictures on his Twitter social media account on 26 March 2015 containing allegations, lies and fabricated images concerning events in Syria and Palestine, attributing them to events in Yemen, thereby undermining the military campaign in which the Kingdom is participating with the coalition States in support of legitimacy in Yemen and

adversely influencing public opinion. In addition, he posted messages insulting a statutory body (the Ministry of the Interior), accusing the Ministry and its security forces of torturing prisoners, humiliating them, depriving them of education and subjecting them to degrading treatment;

- The Office of the Prosecutor questioned the accused on 4 April 2012 in the presence of his lawyers and the accused remained silent. The Office of the Public Prosecutor decided to detain him for 7 days pending investigations after charging him with intentionally disseminating false and tendentious news, announcements and rumours, the aim being to spread provocative propaganda during wartime. The propaganda impaired the armed forces' preparations for war and their practical operations, undermined the country's steadfastness and publicly insulted a statutory body (the Ministry of the Interior). No action has been taken on the case as yet and the accused is currently at liberty.

### **III. Ammar al-Abid (Ammar Makki Mohammed al-Aali)**

#### **The facts**

- On 12 March 2013 the above-mentioned accused was arrested for insulting His Majesty the King in a number of messages posted on his personal Twitter social media account. The Office of the Public Prosecutor charged him with misuse of the social media and referred him to the criminal court;
- The Lower Criminal Court sentenced him to a term of imprisonment of 1 year and ordered the confiscation of the telephone that had been seized. The accused filed an appeal against the judgement and on 18 September 2013 the appeal court endorsed the judgement.

### **IV. Ali Faisal Ibrahim al-Shofa (Ali al-Shofa)**

#### **The facts**

- On 12 March 2013 the above-mentioned accused was arrested for insulting His Majesty the King in a number of messages posted on his personal Twitter social media account. The Office of the Public Prosecutor charged him with misuse of the social media and referred him to the criminal court;
- On 25 June 2013 the Lower Criminal Court sentenced the accused to a term of imprisonment of one year. The accused filed an appeal against the judgement and the appeal court decided to amend the sentence to a term of imprisonment of 6 months;
- The convicted person served the sentence and was released on 4 April 2015.

### **V. Mohsen Abd-Ali Isa**

#### **The facts**

- On 12 March 2013 the above-mentioned accused was arrested for insulting His Majesty the King in a number of messages posted on his personal Twitter social media account. The Office of the Public Prosecutor charged him with misuse of the social media and referred him to the criminal court;
- On 15 May 2013 the Lower Criminal Court sentenced the accused to a term of imprisonment of 1 year and ordered the confiscation of the telephone that had been seized. The accused filed an appeal against the judgement and on 12 September 2013 the appeal court endorsed the judgement;
- The convicted person served the sentence and was released on 12 March 2014.

**VI. Hasan Abd-Ali Isa Yousef**

**The facts**

- On 12 March 2013 the above-mentioned accused was arrested for insulting His Majesty the King in a number of messages posted on his personal Twitter social media account. The Office of the Public Prosecutor charged him with misuse of the social media and referred him to the criminal court;
- On 15 May 2013 the Lower Criminal Court sentenced the accused to a term of imprisonment of 1 year and ordered the confiscation of the telephone that had been seized. The accused filed an appeal against the judgement and on 19 June 2013 the appeal court endorsed the judgement against which the appeal had been filed;
- The convicted person served the sentence and was released on 12 March 2014.

**VII. Nader Ebrahim Abdul-Imam**

**The facts**

- The Office of the Public Prosecutor received three complaints against this individual concerning a message that he posted on his personal Twitter social media account in which he insulted the person and standing of the venerable Companion of the Prophet Khaled Bin al-Waleed. The message generated an indignant reaction on social media sites;
- The Office of the Prosecutor interrogated the accused in the presence of his lawyer. He admitted that he managed the Twitter account and had in fact posted the message in question. The Office ordered that he be placed in pretrial detention pending the investigation, having charged him with publicly insulting a person who was glorified by members of a religious sect, which is punishable under article 310 (2) of the Criminal Code. He was referred to the criminal court;
- On 15 October 2014 the court sentenced him to a term of imprisonment of 6 months. The accused filed an appeal and the appeal court decided, on 15 January 2015, to reduce the sentence to 4 months' imprisonment;
- The convicted person served his sentence and was released.

**VIII. Husain Ali Isa Mahdi**

**The facts**

- The accused posted messages on his Twitter social media account containing insults to His Majesty the King. The Office of the Public Prosecutor referred the detainee to the criminal court on the charge of publicly insulting the country's King. He was released on 27 April 2015 and the case was deferred until 7 February 2016.

Information is lacking with respect to Ali Ebrahim al-Heli and Mahmood Tarish. Additional details have been requested with a view to reporting on their situation.

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البعثة الدبلوماسية  
للمملكة العربية  
السعودية  
جنيف / فيينا

Geneva, 18 January 2016

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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and would like to refer to the joint urgent appeal, UA BHR 10/2015, dated 14 December 2015, sent by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, on the information received regarding the alleged arbitrary arrest, detention, charges and prosecution, and in some cases the torture and ill-treatment, of ten individuals, among them human rights defenders and a child, at the time of arrest, for the exercise of their right to freedom of opinions and expression, and disproportionate measures that restrict freedom of opinion and expression online.

In this regard, the Mission has the honour to enclose herewith the reply of the Public Prosecution of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the aforementioned cases, in Arabic language.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

**Mr. Karim Ghezraoui**

Chief a.i.

Special Procedures Branch

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معلومات  
بشأن بعض المتهمين

أولاً: إبراهيم غلوم حسين كريمي في القضية رقم 2015/334.  
رقم شخصي 630200300 ( أسقطت عنه الجنسية البحرينية في عام 2012 ) .  
التهمة:

- 1-إساءة استعمال أجهزة الاتصالات اللاسلكية.
- 2-اهانة دولة أجنبية ورئيسها علناً.
- 3-حيازة سلاح بدون ترخيص.
- 4-التحريض علانية على كراهية النظام والازدراء به.
- 5-الإقامة الغير مشروعة في مملكة البحرين.

الموضوع:

أسفرت تحريات إدارة مكافحة الجرائم الالكترونية عن قيام المتهم من خلال حسابه على موقع التواصل الاجتماعي التويتر والانستجرام @ freejkarimi بنشر تغريدات تضمنت ما يعد اهانة لجلالة الملك وقد أرفقت صور للتغريدات المنشورة على التويتر والانستجرام والتي تضمنت العبارات التالية:

(يسقط حمد ملك الطباله , يسقط حمد شعارنا , يسقط حمد إلى الأبد , القزم حمد , يسقط بو دينار خلفوه , إرهاب آل سعود , الأمير الذي يعتمد على المرتزقة يؤجل دماره المحتوم , صورة لطاغية البحرين , العدوان على اليمن, عاصفة التنازل , إعادة الأمل خيبة الأمل , مرتزقة آل خليفة تنصب نقاط تفتيش على الطرق التالية، لوما السعودية ما كانت مجزرة الحرم

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المكي , المحافظة يشن هجوم على حمد ويصفه بالملعون المحتل المجرم والساقط, ثوار المحرق يحرقون أربع صور للطاغية خلفية بن سلمان الآن في أماكن مختلفة ). كما قام بنشر أربع صور على حساب الانستغرام وعليها العبارات التالية (هكذا حملت جثث الشهداء في مكة الله اكبر عليكم يا آل سعود يا أنجاس , اللعنة على آل سعود وأحفاد أبا لهب , البحرين تهناً ملك السعودية بنجاح موسم الحج, وصل سلمان للأشراف على راحة الحجاج في منى فصلت الكارثة , وجه الشؤم , البرلمان الإيراني محمد سعيدي يطالب منظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي بإعلان عدم كفاءة السعودية بإدارة الحرمين الشريفين ويقترح إدارة الحرمين من قبل منظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي أو مجموعة من الدول الإسلامية ).

وبسؤال المتهم بمحاضر جمع الاستدلالات أقر بأنه من يدير الحساب على التوتتر بينما قام شخص آخر بنشر جميع الصور على حساب الانستغرام.

وباستجوابه بتحقيقات النيابة العامة أنكر ما نسب إليه من اتهام وقرر بان تلك الحسابات لا تعود له ولا يقوم باستخدامها أو إدارتها.

#### الإجراءات التي تم اتخاذها:

- بعد استصدار إذن من النيابة العامة لضبطه وإحضاره وتفنيش مسكنه تم ضبط مجموعة من الهواتف النقالة وصاعق للكهرباء في مسكنه.
- تم استجواب المتهم بتاريخ 2015/09/28م وأمرت النيابة بحبسه احتياطياً لمدة سبعة أيام، وقد تم عرضه على المحكمة المختصة للنظر في أمر حبسه، والتي أمرت بمد حبسه احتياطياً.
- تم ندب أحد المختصين بإدارة مكافحة الجرائم الالكترونية لفحص الأجهزة الالكترونية المضبوطة ولم يرد التقرير بعد.

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- تم ندب أحد المختصين بالإدارة العامة للأدلة المادية لفحص الصاعق الكهربائي المضبوط وقد ورد في التقرير بأن ذلك الجهاز عبارة عن صاعق كهربائي صالح للاستخدام ويندرج ضمن قرار وزير الداخلية رقم 90 لسنة 2008 بشأن تحديد بعض المواد التي حظر حيازتها من غير ترخيص.
- طلب تحريات الشرطة عن بعض الأشخاص لما أثير بالتحقيقات من وجود صلة لهم بالواقعة محل التحقيق.
- تم نسخ صورة من الأوراق وتم إحالتها لوحدة التحقيق الخاصة لاتخاذ اللازم بشأن ادعاء المتهم بتعرضه للتهديد والسب لإجباره على الإقرار.
- تم إحالة المتهم إلى المحاكمة ولا زالت القضية متداولة أمام المحكمة المختصة.

ثانياً: نبيل أحمد عبد الرسول رجب:

1- القضية رقم 2014/145905 :

أحالته النيابة محبوساً إلى المحكمة الصغرى الجنائية بوصف إهانتته علانية وزارة الداخلية وقوة الدفاع، وذلك لما نسبته إلى الأجهزة الأمنية والعسكرية في المملكة عبر حسابه بموقع التواصل الاجتماعي (تويتر) احتضانها الفكر التكفيري الإرهابي مثل داعش، وكان قد تم استجوابه في تلك القضية بحضور محاميه حيث أقر بنشره تلك التغريدات. كما حضر معه جلسات المحاكمة ثلاثة محامين، فيما قررت المحكمة إخلاء سبيله ثم قضت بجلسة 2015/1/20 بإدانته ومعاقبته بالحبس لمدة ستة أشهر وقدرت كفالة قدرها 200 دينار لوقف التنفيذ. فطعن المتهم على هذا الحكم بالاستئناف أمام المحكمة الكبرى الجنائية والتي قضت بجلسة 2015/5/14 بقبول الاستئناف شكلاً وبرفضه موضوعاً وبتأييد الحكم المستأنف،

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فطعن المحكوم عليه بالتمييز، ثم صدر أمر ملكي بالعمو عنه، فقضت محكمة التمييز برفض الطعن لحصوله على غير محل.

2- القضية رقم 2015/112:

- ضبط المتهم بتاريخ 2015/4/4م على إثر نشره يوم 2015/3/26 لبعض التغريدات والصور عبر حسابه على موقع التواصل الاجتماعي تويتر تضمنت إدعاءات وأكاذيب وصور مفبركة تعود للأحداث الدائرة في سوريا وفلسطين وقام بنسبتها إلى أحداث اليمن مما يعرض الحملة العسكرية التي تشارك فيها المملكة مع دول التحالف لدعم الشرعية في اليمن للضرر والتأثير سلباً على الرأي العام، فضلاً عن نشره تغريدات تمثل إهانة لإحدى الهيئات النظامية (وزارة الداخلية) حيث اتهم الوزارة والأجهزة الأمنية التابعة لها بتعذيب السجناء وإذلالهم وحرمانهم من التعليم وإساءة معاملتهم الحط من كرامتهم.
- استجوبت النيابة المتهم بتاريخ 2012/4/4 بحضور محاميه، امتنع المتهم عن الإجابة، قررت النيابة العامة حبسه سبعة أيام على ذمة التحقيق، بعد أن وجهت إليه تهمة إذاعة أخبار وبيانات وإشاعات كاذبة ومغرضة عمداً والعمد إلى دعايات مثيرة في زمن الحرب وكان من شأن ذلك إلحاق الضرر بالاستعدادات والعمليات الحربية للقوات المسلحة وإثارة الضعف في جلد الأمة، وإهانة هيئة نظامية ( وزارة الداخلية ) بإحدى طرق العلانية، ولم يتم التصرف في القضية بعد. والمتهم حالياً مفرج عنه.

ثالثاً: عمار العابد ( عمار مكي محمد العالي ):

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- بتاريخ 2013/3/12 تم القبض على المتهم المذكور على إثر قيامه بإهانة جلالة الملك عبر عدة تغريدات أطلقها عبر حسابه الشخصي في موقع التواصل الاجتماعي تويتر، وأسندت إليه النيابة العامة تهمة إساءة استعمال أجهزة الاتصالات، وأحالته إلى المحاكمة الجنائية.
- قضت المحكمة الصغرى الجنائية بحبسه سنة ومصادرة الهاتف المضبوط، فطعن المتهم على ذلك الحكم، وبتاريخ 213/9/18 أيدت المحكمة الإستئنافية الحكم.
- نفذ المذكور العقوبة وأطلق سراحه بتاريخ 2014/3/12.

رابعاً: علي فيصل إبراهيم الشوفه (علي الشوفه):

الموضوع:

- بتاريخ 2013/3/12 تم القبض على المتهم المذكور على إثر قيامه بإهانة جلالة الملك عبر عدة تغريدات أطلقها عبر حسابه الشخصي في موقع التواصل الاجتماعي تويتر، وأسندت النيابة العامة إليه تهمة إساءة استعمال أجهزة الاتصالات، وأحالته إلى المحاكمة الجنائية.
- بتاريخ 2013/6/25 قضت المحكمة الصغرى الجنائية بحبس المتهم سنة مع النفاذ، فطعن المتهم على ذلك الحكم وقضت المحكمة الإستئنافية بتعديل العقوبة والاكْتفاء بحبسه ستة أشهر عما أسند إليه.
- نفذ المذكور العقوبة وأطلق سراحه بتاريخ 2015/4/4.

خامساً: محسن عبد علي عيسى:

الموضوع:

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- بتاريخ 2013/3/12 تم القبض على المتهم المذكور على إثر قيامه بإهانة جلالة الملك عبر عدة تغريدات أطلقها عبر حسابه الشخصي في موقع التواصل الاجتماعي تويتر، وأسندت إليه النيابة العامة تهمة إساءة استعمال أجهزة الاتصالات، وأحالته إلى المحاكمة الجنائية.
- بتاريخ 2013/5/15 قضت المحكمة الصغرى الجنائية بحبس المتهم سنة مع النفاذ ومصادرة الهاتف المضبوط، فطعن المتهم على ذلك الحكم، وقضت المحكمة الاستئنافية بتاريخ 2013/9/12 بتأييد الحكم.
- نفذ المذكور العقوبة وأطلق سراحه بتاريخ 2014/3/12.

سادساً: حسن عبد علي عيسى يوسف:

الموضوع:

- بتاريخ 2013/3/12 تم القبض على المتهم المذكور على إثر قيامه بإهانة جلالة الملك عبر عدة تغريدات أطلقها عبر حسابه الشخصي في موقع التواصل الاجتماعي تويتر، وأسندت إليه النيابة العامة تهمة إساءة استعمال أجهزة الاتصالات، وأحالته إلى المحاكمة الجنائية.
- بتاريخ 2013/5/15 قضت المحكمة الصغرى الجنائية بحبس المتهم سنة مع النفاذ ومصادرة الهاتف المضبوط، فطعن المتهم على ذلك الحكم، وقضت المحكمة الاستئنافية بتاريخ 2013/6/19 بتأييد الحكم المطعون فيه.
- نفذ المذكور العقوبة وأطلق سراحه بتاريخ 2014/3/12.

سابعاً: نادر إبراهيم عبد الإمام:

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### الموضوع:

- تلقت النيابة العامة ثلاثة بلاغات ضد المذكور بشأن قيامه عبر حسابه الشخصي على موقع التواصل الاجتماعي تويتر بنشرة تغريده تضمنت إهانة للصحابي الجليل خالد بن الوليد وبمكانته، وأنها قد أثارت ردود أفعال ساخطة عبر مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي.
- باشرت النيابة تحقيقاتها مع المتهم بحضور محاميه وأقر أنه من يدير الحساب الذي نشرت فيه التغريدة عبر تويتر وبالفعل قام بنشر تلك التغريدة، وأمرت بحبسه احتياطياً على ذمة التحقيق بعد أن وجهت إليه تهمة إهانة شخص موضع تمجيد لدى أهل ملة بإحدى طرق العلانية، المؤثمة بالمادة 2/310 من قانون العقوبات، وأحالته إلى المحاكمة الجنائية.
- بتاريخ 15 أكتوبر 2014 قضت المحكمة بمعاقبته بالحبس ستة أشهر عما أسند إليه، فطعن المتهم بالاستئناف وقضت المحكمة الاستئنافية بتاريخ 2015/1/15 بتخفيف العقوبة المقضي بها وبحبس المتهم أربعة أشهر عما أسند إليه.
- نفذ المذكور العقوبة وأطلق سراحه.

ثامناً: حسين علي عيسى مهدي:

### الموضوع:

- قام المتهم عبر حسابه الشخصي على موقع التواصل الاجتماعي تويتر بنشر تغريدات تتضمن إهانة لجلالة الملك. وأحالته النيابة العامة محبوساً إلى المحاكمة الجنائية بتهمة إهانة ملك البلاد علناً. وتم إخلاء سبيله في 2015/4/27، والقضية مؤجلة لجلسة 2016/2/7.

Kingdom of Bahrain  
PUBLIC PROSECUTION



مملكة البحرين  
النيابة العامة

Attorney General Office

مكتب النائب العام

هذا ولم يستدل على كل من علي إبراهيم الحلبي، ومحمود تاريش، وتطلب بيانات إضافية  
لإمكان الاستدلال عنهما.

وقد جاء الرد من الحكومة أن الترجمة جارية.  
و سيتم إتاحة الوثيقة عندما تتم الترجمة.

\*\*\*

已收到政府回函。函文经翻译后将被发表。

\*\*\*

A Government reply has been received and is being translated.  
The document will be made available when it has been translated.

\*\*\*

Une réponse du Gouvernement a été reçue et est en cours de traduction.  
Ce document sera mis à disposition dès que la traduction sera disponible.

\*\*\*

Ответ правительства был получен и в настоящее время в процессе перевода.  
Документ будет доступен после его перевода.

\*\*\*

Una respuesta del Gobierno ha sido recibida y en este momento se encuentra en el servicio de  
traducción  
El documento estará disponible una vez que se haya traducido.

*(Translated from Arabic)*

**Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Public Prosecution**

**Office of the Attorney General**

**Information concerning a number of accused persons**

**I. Ebrahim Ghuloom Hussein Karimi: case No. 334/2015**

Identity No. 630200300 (his Bahraini citizenship was revoked in 2012).

**The charge**

1. Misuse of social media;
2. Publicly insulting a foreign State and its leader;
3. Possession of unlicensed weapons;
4. Publicly inciting hatred of the regime and disparaging it;
5. Illegal residence in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

**The facts**

The investigations conducted by the Cyber Crime Directorate established that the accused had used his account to post messages on the “freejkarimi” Twitter and Instagram social media sites that were deemed to constitute insults to His Majesty the King. It obtained copies of messages on Twitter and Instagram that contained the following expressions:

“Down with Hamad, King of the stooges; Our slogan, down with Hamad; Down with Hamad forever; Hamad the dwarf; Down with the slave of the dinar; The terrorism of Al Saud; The Emir who depends on mercenaries hastens his inevitable demise; An image of the tyrant of Bahrain; The assault on Yemen; The storm of loafers; The restoration of hope equals the loss of hope; The mercenaries of Al Khalifa have set up inspection points on the following roads; Had it not been for Saudi Arabia, the massacre of the Grand Mosque of Mecca would not have occurred; The Governorate launches an attack on Hamad, describing him as the accursed and vile criminal occupier; The revolutionaries of Muharraq are currently burning four pictures of the tyrant Khalifa bin Salman in different locations.” In addition, four pictures were posted on Instagram with the following messages: “This is how the martyrs’ corpses were carried in Mecca; May Allah punish you, oh vile Al-Saud; Cursed be Al-Saud and the descendants of Abu Lahab; Bahrain congratulates the King of Saudi Arabia on the successful Hajj season; Salman arrived to oversee the welfare of the Hajj pilgrims in Mina and disaster struck; The bad omen; The Iranian parliamentarian Mohammed Saidi asks the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to announce that Saudi Arabia is incapable of administering the two Holy Places and proposes that they should be administered by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation or by a group of Islamic States.”

When the accused was questioned about the evidence contained in the record, he admitted that he was the person who managed the Twitter account, while another person had posted the pictures on the Instagram account.

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When he was questioned by the investigating unit at the Office of the Public Prosecutor, he denied the charges and stated that the accounts in question did not belong to him and that he neither used nor managed them.

#### **The measures taken**

- When permission was received from the Office of the Public Prosecutor to arrest and summon him and to inspect his residence, a number of mobile phones and a Taser were seized from his residence;
- The accused was interrogated on 28 September 2015 and the Office of the Public Prosecutor ordered that he be placed in pretrial detention for 7 days. He appeared before the competent court, which examined the detention order and decided to extend his pretrial detention;
- An expert in the Cyber Crime Directorate was appointed to inspect the confiscated electronic devices. The report has not yet been received;
- An expert in the General Directorate of Physical Evidence was appointed to inspect the confiscated Taser. He stated in his report that it was a serviceable Taser and that Ministry of the Interior Decision No. 90 of 2008 concerning items the possession of which is prohibited without a licence was applicable thereto;
- Police investigations of certain persons were requested on account of the link established between them and the facts under investigation;
- The papers were copied and referred to the competent investigation unit so that it could take the necessary action concerning the accused's claim that he had been subjected to threats and abuse in order to compel him to confess;
- The accused was sent for trial and the case is still being considered by the competent court.

## **II. Nabeel Ahmed Abdul Rasul Rajab**

### **1. Case No. 2014/145905**

The Office of the Prosecutor referred the detainee to the Lower Criminal Court on the charge of publicly insulting the Ministry of the Interior and the defence forces. He had accused the security and military forces in the Kingdom on his social media account (Twitter) of supporting terrorist *takfiri* views, such as those of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). He was questioned about that matter in the presence of his lawyer and admitted to having posted such messages. He was accompanied by three lawyers during the trial sessions and the Court decided to release him. At its subsequent session on 20 January 2015, the Court decided to convict him and sentenced him to a term of imprisonment of 6 months. It set bail of 200 Bahraini dinars (BD) to suspend implementation. The accused appealed against the judgement before the High Criminal Court, which decided at its session on 14 May 2015 to accept the appeal in procedural terms but to dismiss it on the merits and to support the judgement against which the appeal had been filed. The accused then filed an appeal with the Court of Cassation. However, a Royal pardon was issued and the Court of Cassation decided to dismiss the appeal on the ground that it had become irrelevant.

### **2. Case No. 112/2015**

- The accused was arrested on 4 April 2015 for posting messages and pictures on his Twitter social media account on 26 March 2015 containing allegations, lies and fabricated images concerning events in Syria and Palestine, attributing them to events in Yemen, thereby undermining the military campaign in which the Kingdom is participating with the coalition States in support of legitimacy in Yemen and

adversely influencing public opinion. In addition, he posted messages insulting a statutory body (the Ministry of the Interior), accusing the Ministry and its security forces of torturing prisoners, humiliating them, depriving them of education and subjecting them to degrading treatment;

- The Office of the Prosecutor questioned the accused on 4 April 2012 in the presence of his lawyers and the accused remained silent. The Office of the Public Prosecutor decided to detain him for 7 days pending investigations after charging him with intentionally disseminating false and tendentious news, announcements and rumours, the aim being to spread provocative propaganda during wartime. The propaganda impaired the armed forces' preparations for war and their practical operations, undermined the country's steadfastness and publicly insulted a statutory body (the Ministry of the Interior). No action has been taken on the case as yet and the accused is currently at liberty.

### **III. Ammar al-Abid (Ammar Makki Mohammed al-Aali)**

#### **The facts**

- On 12 March 2013 the above-mentioned accused was arrested for insulting His Majesty the King in a number of messages posted on his personal Twitter social media account. The Office of the Public Prosecutor charged him with misuse of the social media and referred him to the criminal court;
- The Lower Criminal Court sentenced him to a term of imprisonment of 1 year and ordered the confiscation of the telephone that had been seized. The accused filed an appeal against the judgement and on 18 September 2013 the appeal court endorsed the judgement.

### **IV. Ali Faisal Ibrahim al-Shofa (Ali al-Shofa)**

#### **The facts**

- On 12 March 2013 the above-mentioned accused was arrested for insulting His Majesty the King in a number of messages posted on his personal Twitter social media account. The Office of the Public Prosecutor charged him with misuse of the social media and referred him to the criminal court;
- On 25 June 2013 the Lower Criminal Court sentenced the accused to a term of imprisonment of one year. The accused filed an appeal against the judgement and the appeal court decided to amend the sentence to a term of imprisonment of 6 months;
- The convicted person served the sentence and was released on 4 April 2015.

### **V. Mohsen Abd-Ali Isa**

#### **The facts**

- On 12 March 2013 the above-mentioned accused was arrested for insulting His Majesty the King in a number of messages posted on his personal Twitter social media account. The Office of the Public Prosecutor charged him with misuse of the social media and referred him to the criminal court;
- On 15 May 2013 the Lower Criminal Court sentenced the accused to a term of imprisonment of 1 year and ordered the confiscation of the telephone that had been seized. The accused filed an appeal against the judgement and on 12 September 2013 the appeal court endorsed the judgement;
- The convicted person served the sentence and was released on 12 March 2014.

**VI. Hasan Abd-Ali Isa Yousef**

**The facts**

- On 12 March 2013 the above-mentioned accused was arrested for insulting His Majesty the King in a number of messages posted on his personal Twitter social media account. The Office of the Public Prosecutor charged him with misuse of the social media and referred him to the criminal court;
- On 15 May 2013 the Lower Criminal Court sentenced the accused to a term of imprisonment of 1 year and ordered the confiscation of the telephone that had been seized. The accused filed an appeal against the judgement and on 19 June 2013 the appeal court endorsed the judgement against which the appeal had been filed;
- The convicted person served the sentence and was released on 12 March 2014.

**VII. Nader Ebrahim Abdul-Imam**

**The facts**

- The Office of the Public Prosecutor received three complaints against this individual concerning a message that he posted on his personal Twitter social media account in which he insulted the person and standing of the venerable Companion of the Prophet Khaled Bin al-Waleed. The message generated an indignant reaction on social media sites;
- The Office of the Prosecutor interrogated the accused in the presence of his lawyer. He admitted that he managed the Twitter account and had in fact posted the message in question. The Office ordered that he be placed in pretrial detention pending the investigation, having charged him with publicly insulting a person who was glorified by members of a religious sect, which is punishable under article 310 (2) of the Criminal Code. He was referred to the criminal court;
- On 15 October 2014 the court sentenced him to a term of imprisonment of 6 months. The accused filed an appeal and the appeal court decided, on 15 January 2015, to reduce the sentence to 4 months' imprisonment;
- The convicted person served his sentence and was released.

**VIII. Husain Ali Isa Mahdi**

**The facts**

- The accused posted messages on his Twitter social media account containing insults to His Majesty the King. The Office of the Public Prosecutor referred the detainee to the criminal court on the charge of publicly insulting the country's King. He was released on 27 April 2015 and the case was deferred until 7 February 2016.

Information is lacking with respect to Ali Ebrahim al-Heli and Mahmood Tarish. Additional details have been requested with a view to reporting on their situation.