

*(Translated from Arabic)*

**Reply of the Kingdom of Bahrain to urgent appeal No. UA BHR 9/2017 of 13 July 2017 concerning Ms. Ebtessam Abdullhusain Ali Alsaegh**

We have the honour to reply to the urgent appeal as follows:

This case involves the unlawful establishment and operation of a group for the purpose of impeding law enforcement, obstructing State institutions in the performance of their duties, violating the personal freedom of citizens and prejudicing national unity through, inter alia, the use of terrorism to achieve the group's objectives, in full knowledge of those terrorist objectives; conspiracy with persons acting in the interests of a foreign-based terrorist organization with a view to the commission of acts of terrorism against the Kingdom of Bahrain; acceptance of gifts from persons working in the interests of a foreign-based terrorist organization with a view to the commission of acts of terrorism against the Kingdom of Bahrain; fundraising for a group known to be engaged in terrorist activities; use of violence against public security forces in a criminal attempt to deter them from performing their duties; premeditated assaults on public security forces; participation in a public gathering for the purpose of committing acts of aggression against public security forces and public property and disturbing public order; and spreading false rumours that could prejudice national security and public order.

- The investigation reports showed that the security agencies had succeeded in apprehending a person suspected of establishing the so-called "Manama Human Rights Observatory" as a facade to conceal the support that the suspect was giving to the terrorist acts being committing in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The organization's members had been divided into groups which, while ostensibly engaged in human rights-related activities, were organizing unlawful demonstrations which were being exploited with a view to disturbing the peace and committing acts of sabotage and terrorism against police officers, their vehicles and the premises of the Ministry of the Interior in Manama.
- The investigation reports and the evidence collected also showed that the founder of that terrorist organization was receiving financial support for the conduct of its activities from the Lebanese terrorist Hizbullah through a Bahraini citizen residing in Lebanon who was working for the latter. The Lebanese Hizbullah was found to be funding and supporting several persons belonging to a number of self-styled human rights organizations so that they could send false reports on the human rights situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with a view to defaming and discrediting those States in the eyes of international public opinion and prejudicing their national interests by holding conferences attended by members of international human rights organizations. It was determined that Ms. Ebtessam Alsaegh was involved in these operations insofar as, hiding behind her human rights activities, she was in contact and colluding with the "Alkarama Human Rights Foundation" to which she was sending false and misleading information and reports on the situation in Bahrain in order to bring the country into international disrepute. Its founder, who was on the terrorist lists appended to the communiqué issued by the States boycotting Qatar, had already been designated as a terrorist by the United States Department of the Treasury which froze his assets in 2013 due to his links with the Al-Qaida terrorist organization. The investigations indicated that he had been able to use that Foundation's human rights activities as cover for the support that he was providing for numerous terrorist organizations.
- Ms. Ebtessam Abdullhusain Ali Alsaegh and others were arrested on 4 July 2017 and she was questioned by the Public Prosecution in the presence of her lawyer, Mohammed Al-Jishi, in conformity with the legally prescribed safeguards. She was charged with membership of an unlawful terrorist group, participation in its



activities, conspiracy with persons acting in the interests of a foreign-based terrorist organization with a view to the commission of acts of terrorism against the Kingdom of Bahrain, acceptance of gifts from persons working in the interests of a foreign-based terrorist organization with a view to the commission of acts of terrorism against the Kingdom of Bahrain, fundraising for a group known to be engaged in terrorist activities, spreading false rumours that could prejudice national security and public order, and participation in a public gathering for the purpose of committing acts of aggression against public security forces and public property and disturbing public order. The Public Prosecution ordered her remand in custody and medical examination, as well as the conduct of further investigations and the rapid submission of technical reports.

- She denied the charges brought against her in the presence of her lawyer, [REDACTED].
- She did not claim to have been subjected to torture in the case under investigation. However, she alleged that she had been tortured after being summoned by the National Security Agency last May. The Public Prosecution decided to refer that allegation to the Special Investigation Unit.
- On 5 July 2017, the General Secretariat for Grievances (Ombudsman) received a complaint from her husband concerning her arrest by female police officers. However, in his complaint he did not claim that she had been subjected to any form of threat, torture or verbal or sexual abuse.
- To date, the Inspector General of the National Security Agency has not received any complaint from her, on her behalf or from any member of her family or from her lawyer.
- Immediately after her arrest, she was sent to hospital for a medical examination in order to determine her state of health.
- She was held in a female detention facility run by the Ministry of the Interior.
- At the female detention centre run by the Ministry of the Interior, she was provided with the health care required under the regulations in force and, on numerous occasions, was sent to hospital to receive the requisite treatment, as detailed below:
  1. On 8 July 2017, when she declared a hunger strike, she was advised against it but refused to listen. She was therefore transferred to the hospital and the Public Prosecution was notified.
  2. On 9 July 2017, the competent public prosecutor went to the hospital and decided that she should continue to be advised against the hunger strike. She was returned to the detention facility.
  3. On 10-12 July 2017, when she claimed to be feeling ill, she was transferred to the hospital where appropriate medication was prescribed. However, she refused to take the medication and was returned to the detention facility.
  4. On 13 July 2017, she again claimed to be feeling ill and was sent to the hospital where appropriate medication was prescribed.
  5. On 14 July 2017, she declared a hunger strike and was sent to the hospital.
  6. On 15 July 2017, she was transferred to the military hospital after the effects of the hunger strike became apparent.
  7. On 16 July 2017, the clinic at the detention facility referred her to the Public Security Clinic from whence she was transferred to the military hospital due to the effects of the hunger strike.
  8. On 17 and 18 July 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention facility due to the effects of the hunger strike.
  9. On 19 July 2017, the clinic at the detention facility transferred her to the Public Security Clinic for radiographic examination.

10. On 20 July 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention facility and the Public Security Clinic for radiographic examination.

11. On 23 July 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention centre due to the effects of the hunger strike and was subsequently transferred to the Public Security Clinic for the requisite physiotherapy.

12. On 24 July 2017, she was again sent to the clinic at the detention facility due to the effects of hunger strike

13. On 25 July 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention facility and subsequently referred for MRI examination.

14. On 26 July 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention facility due to the effects of the hunger strike and subsequently received physiotherapy at the Public Security Clinic.

15. On 30 July 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention facility due to the effects of the hunger strike.

16. On 31 July 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention facility due to the effects of hunger strike and subsequently received physiotherapy at the Public Security Clinic.

17. On 1 August 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention facility due to the effects of the hunger strike. She ended her hunger strike at 1 p.m. and was sent to the women's department of the military hospital.

18. On 2 August 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention facility due to the effects of the hunger strike.

19. On 3 August 2017, she was sent to the Public Security Clinic for physiotherapy. She was also sent to the clinic at the detention facility suffering from [REDACTED] and was subsequently transferred to the Public Security Clinic. She was returned to the detention facility at 3 a.m. on 4 August 2017.

20. On 6 August 2017, she was sent to the clinic at the detention facility suffering from [REDACTED].

- She has been permitted to contact her family in order to inform them of her place of detention and she is entitled to make telephone calls during her period of detention. As of 3 August 2017, she had made 24 telephone calls to her family and 4 calls to her lawyer.
- The case is still under investigation.
- In the light of the above, the allegations made in the urgent appeal are unfounded.

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations Office at Geneva/Vienna: C.P. 39, 1292 Chambésy, Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: (+41) 22 758 96 40. Fax: (+41) 22 758 96 50. E-mail: geneva.mission@mofa.gov.bh