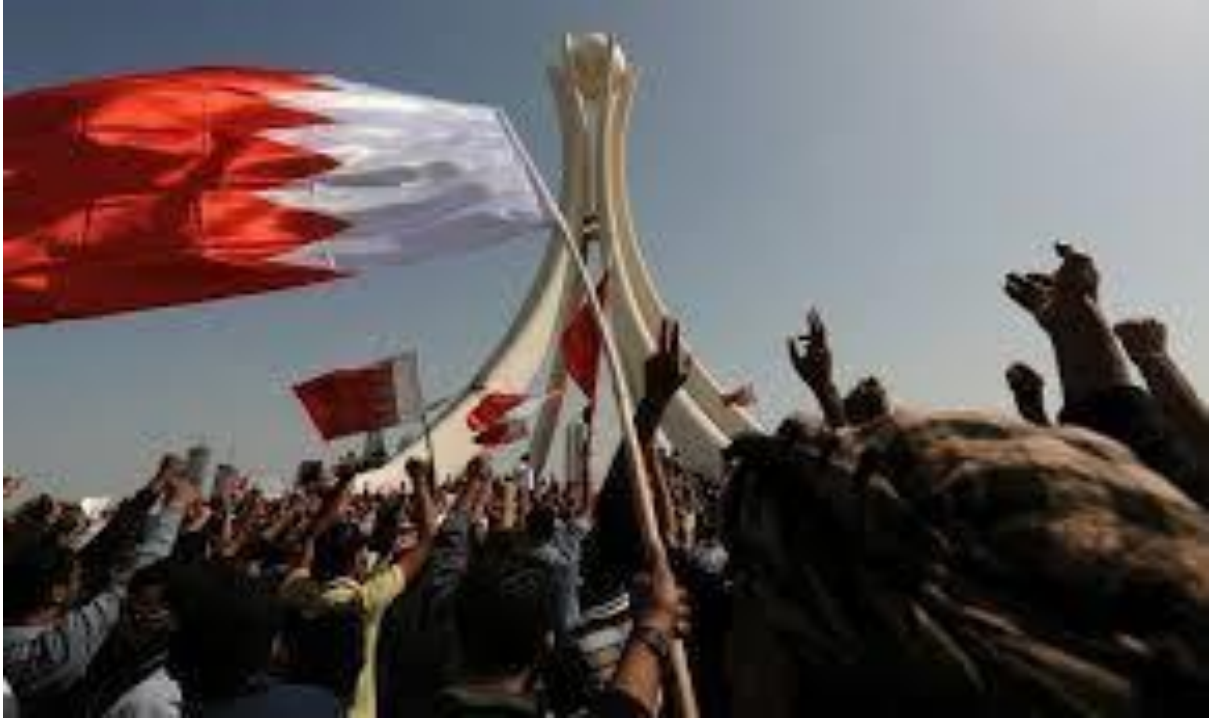




INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR
TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

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Bahrain's appalling stripping of citizenship of human rights defenders

ICSFT advocates for human rights defenders, monitors the encroachment of their rights, and pushes for international accountability for situations around the world. As such Bahrain has been of concern for years in its treatment of human rights defenders, and especially in on the issue of freedom of speech, and the rights correlated to it, including

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freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, and more. The country has a track record of significant mistreatment of its citizens, and especially

when they stand up to protest any injustice occurring in the country, or when any activism criticizing the government is attempted in anyway.

Penalties by the Bahraini government for activists fighting against these human rights abuses have been unpredictable, unjust, and indefinite detainment in jail or prison, restriction of travel, physical, psychological, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse, torture, surveillance, and death.

Bahrain also employs another tactic of control in silencing human rights activists: cancellation or stripping of citizenship.

On May 15, in a trial that was called “ludicrous” by members of the international community, a court revoked the citizenship of 115 people and handed 53 of them life sentences on terrorism-related charges.

“The sheer scale of this mass trial is ludicrous; **it is hard to believe that justice can have been delivered through a fair trial process** when this number of people are simultaneously sentenced. This is one of the most severe rulings yet, and is further proof that the Bahrain authorities have no regard whatsoever for international fair trial standards. The Bahraini government is using revocation of nationality – **rendering many of its citizens stateless in the process – and expulsion, as tools to crush all forms of opposition, dissent and activism.**

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Arbitrarily depriving citizens of their nationality, turning them into stateless people and banishing them by forcing them to leave the country is a violation of international law.”

Lynn Maalouf, Middle East Research Director at Amnesty International, said.

Not only is the government of Bahrain oppressing its people, it is attempting to oppress or control the international community through falsified narratives of a peaceful, open, rights-affirming country. This is a regime attempting to cover up bloodshed and crime behind the values and words of the human rights agenda, but without any implementation of the values it is referring to.

The International Council Support Fair Trial and Human Rights condemns the lip service and hypocrisy of the Bahraini government against the ongoing revoking of citizenship, violation and repression against human rights defenders in Bahrain. **Bahrain must immediately stop all forced revocations, imprisonments and exiles, and allow those it has already forced into exile to return to the country and reinstate their innate rights, and be returned their citizenship.**

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