



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Thirty-fourth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2017]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.17-02465(E)



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## **Bahrain: Opposition MP Sheikh Hassan Isa in Solitary Confinement for over 500 days, Faces Unfair Trial\***

Former Member of Parliament for the Al-Wefaq Bloc (the biggest opposition society dissolved last year), and religious cleric, Sheikh Hassan Isa was arrested at Bahrain airport when he arrived in Bahrain on Tuesday August 18, 2015, without knowing the reasons behind his arrest, and without the Public Prosecution's permission. During his arrest, he was denied his right to defend himself or contact his family or lawyer, and he was directly transferred to the building of the Criminal Investigations Department. His family and lawyers did not know his whereabouts until after twenty days of his enforced disappearance (despite what was exhibited in the case file that he was interrogated in the Public Prosecution on August 23, 2015). His lawyer only knew about that when he was referred to the Public Prosecution on September 7, 2015. On that day, his lawyer was only given a 3-minute chance to talk to his client. During this very short period, Sheikh Hassan Isa told his lawyer: "I am threatened, and I cannot talk about what happened to me in the Criminal Investigations building, and please deliver my regards to my family." The lawyer knew that was not the first time his client stood before the Public Prosecution. Although the lawyer presented many requests and petitions to the Public Prosecution to grant him access to interrogation sessions, the Prosecution always denied his presence, or even sharing the proceedings with him.

After 147 days (January 12, 2016), the case of Sheikh Hassan Isa was referred to the Fourth Criminal Court for charges of financing terrorist acts.

As one goes through the interrogations records with the police, they show to be devoid of any punishable offense, yet the police referred him to the Public Prosecution for charges of financing terrorist acts. The prosecution interrogated him without the presence of his lawyer with him, although the Bahraini law requires the presence of a lawyer with any defendant accused of a felony, in order to preserve his right. However, the Prosecution did not abide by the law, and it accused the defendant with the same accusations of the police, after which it referred him to the High Criminal Court, fourth division.

The High Court adjourned on Thursday January 19, 2017 the ninth session in the trial of Sheikh Hassan Isa and 24 citizens (defendants in the same case), until February 26, 2017. A lawyer of one of the defendants in the case said that the defendant has renewed calls for his release, since he has been sentenced since 2013, and is imprisoned in Jaw Central Prison, without having any link to the case, since during the timing registered [of the case offense], he was in Jaw, and is not linked to the case of opposition MP Sheikh Hassan Isa.

**Through our follow-up of the course of the investigation and trial, the most projecting violations against him are as follows:**

- 1- Enforced disappearance for 16 days.
- 2- Deprivation from contacting his family and lawyer until after Public Prosecution investigations.
- 3- Subject to threats and moral coercion in case he didn't confess to accusations against him at the Criminal Investigations Department.
- 4- Disclosure of bank account statements without the Public Prosecution's permission.
- 5- Searching his mobile phone without his consent, and without the Public Prosecution's permission.
- 6- Prevention of praying and bathing.
- 7- Arrest without Public Prosecution's permission.
- 8- 544 of detention for solitary confinement (until the date of this report 10/2/2017)
- 9- Facing unfair trial based on confessions extracted under torture.

Therefore, former MP and opposition figure Sheikh Hassan Isa should be immediately and unconditionally released, as he is a prisoner of conscience. This is especially that he had been arbitrarily arrested due to his peaceful political activity, and for practicing his right to freedom of expression and opinion, in addition to him being a religious cleric. The Bahraini authorities have been reinforcing the state of sectarian persecution against the Shiite sect.

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\*Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR), NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.