

Brussels, 30 JUN 2016
A(2016)2686093-3364656

To the signatories of the letter of 3 June

Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 3 June 2016, bringing my attention to the case of Mr Mohamed Ramadan and Mr Husain Ali Moosa whose death penalty sentences have regrettably been upheld by the Bahraini Court of Cassation on 16 November 2015 for their alleged involvement in a February 2014 bomb explosion.

Let me first stress that since the events of 2011, the EU has been closely monitoring the situation in Bahrain. The EU has consistently engaged with local authorities, at all levels, also maintaining constant contacts with a wide range of Bahraini stakeholders and activists.

Like many in Europe, I have been concerned by the death penalty sentence imposed on Mr Mohammed Ramadan and Mr Husain Ali Moosa, which epitomises a worrying trend in the wider region in the use of capital punishment. The basis and conditions of these sentences, as well as the nature of the punishment handed down to them, are matters of concern for the EU.

We have therefore been engaging the Bahraini authorities, in close coordination with EU Member States represented in Manama, to convey our preoccupation and express our principled position on the case, as well as on issues related to the use of the death penalty in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and on the need to address effectively allegations of ill-treatment in detention and of forced confessions.

Although the European Union has clearly publicly signalled on several occasions that violence cannot and will not be tolerated for political purposes under any circumstance, it has also constantly called for transparent and due process and proper investigation in all cases of alleged ill treatment or torture.

The EU, both in Brussels and through the Delegation in Riyadh – accredited to Bahrain – will continue to liaise with the Bahraini authorities to advocate for the respect of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms as per Bahrain's international commitments, the recommendations set out by the Bahraini Independent Commission of Inquiry and the recommendations made during Bahrain's UN Universal Periodic Review process.

The EU will also continue to call on the Bahraini Government to act proportionately in all cases to protect the rights of individuals indicted as a result of criminal charges, as was done during the second visit of the EU Special Representatives for Human Rights Stavros Lambrinidis in May 2015, and during the first meeting of the Working group on Human Rights recently established between the EU and Bahrain. More broadly, I believe that recent developments, such as the suspension of

Al-Wefaq political society, the sentence of 9 years in appeal against its Secretary General Ali Salman, the stripping of citizenship of Sheikh Isa Qassim, as well as the re-arrest of Mr Nabeel Rajab are not conducive to national reconciliation. The EU remains convinced that Bahrain's stability can only be sustained through reforms and reconciliation, in an environment where peaceful political grievances can be expressed freely.

Rest assured that I will continue to closely follow the situation in Bahrain in general and the case of Mr Mr Mohammed Ramadan and Mr Husain Ali Moosa in particular.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini