

Bahrain: Human Rights QSD on 13 March 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Scriven to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of human rights abuses in Bahrain.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Human Rights and Democracy Report 2017](#), 16 July 2018, Cm 9664, pp 28–9

Chapter detailing the human rights situation in Bahrain in 2017. This includes information on the activity undertaken to “defend human rights and promote democracy” in the country by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its diplomatic network.

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, '[Minister for the Middle East Statement on the Sentencing of Sheikh Ali Salman in Bahrain](#)', 4 November 2018; '[Minister for the Middle East Statement on the Sentencing of Nabeel Rajab in Bahrain](#)', 21 February 2018; and '[Executions in Bahrain](#)', 15 January 2017

Statements by the Minister of State for the Middle East, Alastair Burt, on the life sentence handed to the opposition leader, Sheikh Ali Salman, who was sentenced for spying, and the five-year sentence handed to a human rights activist, Nabeel Rajab, who was sentenced for criticising the Bahraini Government on Twitter; and comments by the former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Boris Johnson, on capital punishment in Bahrain.

- United Nations Human Rights Committee, [Concluding Observations on the Initial Report of Bahrain](#), 26 July 2018

Report examining human rights abuses in Bahrain, which includes information on the use of military courts and the death penalty.

- Human Rights Watch, [World Report 2019](#), 7 January 2019, pp 58–64

Chapter outlining the human rights situation in Bahrain during 2018. This includes details on the treatment of human rights defenders and alleged violations committed by security forces in the country.

- Kingdom of Bahrain, '[About Human Rights](#)', accessed 7 March 2019

Bahraini Government webpage on human rights in the country.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- [Debate on 'Bahrain'](#), HC *Hansard*, 11 September 2018, cols 226–50WH
- [Oral Question on 'Bahrain: Death Penalty'](#), HC *Hansard*, 15 May 2018, col 119–20
- A selection of written questions from both Houses: [223511](#) (27 February 2019); [217686](#) (13 February 2019); [HL13339](#) (12 February 2019); [214590](#) (7 February 2019); and [HL13130](#) (10 December 2018)

Press Articles and Comment

- Aya Majzoub, '[Hakeem al-Araibi Case: Bahrain is Emboldened to Take Human Rights Abuse Beyond its Borders](#)', *Guardian*, 4 February 2019
- Human Rights Watch, '[Bahrain: 127 Rights Groups Call for Immediate Release of Nabeel Rajab](#)', 29 August 2018
- Karen McVeigh, '[British Government Accused of Funding Human Rights Abuses in Bahrain](#)', *Guardian*, 17 May 2018
- Simeon Kerr, '[Bahrain Jails Human Rights Activist Over Critical Tweets](#)', *Financial Times*, 21 February 2018
- Reuters, '[Bahrain Human Rights Deteriorate as World Looks Away: Activists](#)', 25 January 2018
- Bethan McKernan, '[The Middle Eastern Kingdom of Bahrain is Quietly Heading Towards a 'Total Suppression of Human Rights'](#)', *Independent*, 3 June 2017

Further Information

- Amnesty International, '[Human Rights in Middle East and North Africa: Review of 2018—Bahrain](#)', 26 February 2019
- House of Commons Library, '[Human Rights Abuses and UK Assistance to Bahrain](#)', 7 September 2018
- Bahrain Center for Human Rights, '[No Right to Rights: A Report into Human Rights Violations Committed by Bahraini Authorities](#)', 6 June 2018
- European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, '[Bahrain: Human Rights Situation](#)', June 2018
- Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, '[Highlights on the Crackdown on Human Rights in Bahrain in 2017](#)', 1 February 2018

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