



**January 25, 2021**

**Petition: Call to Release Female Politics Prisoners in Bahrain**

We, the undersigned MEPs, call for releasing Bahraini female political prisoners, who have been tortured, abused and insulted. Human rights organizations have documented that female prisoners in Bahrain have been facing very humiliating conditions. Many of these political prisoners still don't know why they were detained with no access to lawyers or fair trials.

In some cases, [the Bahraini authorities](#) would deceive female activists by calling them to sign papers and once they attend to the place, they get detained. This is just another way to detain them.

These women [are subjected](#) to investigation for long periods of time amounting to 12 hours a day. Some of them have reported that they [are being violated](#) and sexually abused during detention and investigation as they are held in cold cells or placed in solitary confinement; some of them were coercively disappeared.

Following staged unfair trials, eight Bahraini women [were sentenced](#) from six months to five years in prison which forms a serious violation against the right to fair trials; as the courts denied the women's right to renounce their coercive confessions.

[According to Al Jazeera](#), the human rights groups beseeched the Bahraini government to set the female prisoners free and advocated stopping weapons deals and coordination with those involved in the capture of activists and human rights defenders until the Bahraini government puts an end to these human rights violations.

[According to Human Rights Watch](#), on June 14<sup>th</sup>, resolution regarding the Bahraini human rights case was passed by the European Parliament calling on the Bahraini government to liberate all political activists and human rights defenders. It called as well for an official halt on all executions and for a termination to the unfair lawsuits against civilians. It also denounced the high number of executions and condemned the deprivation of citizenship "as a means of reprisal."

**To this end, we call on the European Union and the Bahraini government:**

1. The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) in the European Parliament should raise the issue of female political prisoners in Bahrain with the European Commission and the Court of Justice of the European Union.
2. To release all political prisoners, especially female political prisoners who are detained over expressing their opinions or calling for political, social and religious reforms.

+447547 282209

[www.intunwatch.com](http://www.intunwatch.com)  
[info@intunwatch.com](mailto:info@intunwatch.com)

272 Baath Street, Glasgow,  
Scotland, G2, 4JR





3. The EU should send a delegation to meet with female political prisoners in Bahrain and should ensure that the authorities place them in places that preserve their human dignity especially in winter.
4. The EU should pressure the Bahraini government to ensure fair trials of political prisoners and female activists.

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