

The Al Khoei Foundation would like to highlight the serious humanitarian violations committed against the Shia population of Bahrain. Whilst both the 1973 and 2002 constitutions confirm the principle of equality of all citizens, including legal, civil and political rights, this has not been the case for the Shia majority. Since 2011, positions for public office including judges, ministers and advisers have been directly appointed by the government. However, even though Bahrain's Shia are a majority, they are a minority in all constitutional and administrative branches of the country. They occupy only 15% of the executive branch, 12% of the judiciary, 10% of government bodies and companies, and only 1% of the security apparatus, which includes the army. Furthermore, according to the BICI, thousands of Shia have been made redundant from their jobs since 2011.

Since the protests of 2011, 38 Shia mosques have been demolished and an additional 8 hussainiyas have been vandalised. The Shia Islamic Council was forcibly closed in January 2014. The government has over the last few months revoked the citizenship of at least 52 citizens including a prominent Bahraini religious scholar, Ayatollah Al-Najati, who was deported along with his family.

Recommendations

1. For the United Nations Human Rights Council to oblige the Bahraini authorities to observe UN legislations and standards, and international declarations and covenants.
2. For the Bahraini government to carry out the recommendations suggested by the Bahrain Independent Commission inquiry in 2011 and the UN Human Rights Council's recommendations in 2012.
3. We recommend that the state media does not encourage hate and discrimination against the Shia majority of the country.
4. For the United Nations Human Rights Council to request that the Bahraini government cease its policy of stripping Bahraini citizens of their nationality.
5. For the Bahraini government to guarantee equal political and legal rights for its citizens, whatever their religious beliefs.
6. For the Bahraini government to review its educational curriculum to ensure that the teaching of religion and history is not directed against a particular community and teaching should not be used as preaching against other schools of thought and religions.