



Universal Muslim Association of America

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Memo: Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) Report Presented in Manama, Bahrain on November 23, 2011

- The BICI was formed on July 1, 2011 and released its 489-page report on November 23, 2011. The report covers the human rights abuses by the Government of Bahrain during the domestic uprisings from February 2011 onwards.
- In the demonstrations since February 2011, protesters have demanded political, economic, and social reform in Bahrain, an end to the systematic faith-based discrimination, and a more representative government. These areas have been sources of popular discontent over many decades and such demands are not new.
- The Government of Bahrain has consistently violated both international human rights law and Bahrain law. For the time frame of February 14 to April 15, 2011, the government's brutal response to peaceful protests resulted in:
 - At least 35 deaths by the use of firearms and torture attributed to the Ministry of Interior and Bahrain Defense Force,
 - Approximately 3,000 unlawful arrests of those in support of the opposition, including faith leaders, political leaders, medical professionals, journalists, teachers, athletes, etc,
 - A significant number of arrests were made by government forces that systematically raided homes, destroyed property, and terrorized families at night.
 - 559 formal complaints of torture brought forth,
 - Complaints included, but are not limited to, rape, severe beating, extended blindfolding and handcuffing, burning, whipping, electrocution, sleep deprivation, hanging by wrists during interrogation, forced standing, extremely unhygienic state of confinement, threats of sexual abuse and/or death against detainees and their family members, forced confessions to support false criminal allegations, and violation of due process.
 - Approximately 4,000 individuals wrongfully dismissed from their jobs, from both the public and private sectors, and
 - 53 places of worship demolished.
- During protests, government forces used violent riot control techniques against peaceful protestors, including firing shotgun rounds, sound bombs, tear gas, and rubber bullets.
- At least 700 detainees remain in prison for opposing the government's brutality. Human rights groups report that wrongful arrests and torture of detainees continue to take place.
- The BICI found no link between an external entity, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Bahraini opposition movement. The demands of the protesters are rooted in domestic concerns.