

5 September 2017

Bahrain – Human rights defender Zainab Al-Khamees summoned for interrogation

On 5 September 2017, three police vehicles and one civilian car arrived at the home of **Zainab Al-Khamees** and delivered a summons ordering the human rights defender to present herself to the General Prosecution in Manama tomorrow, Wednesday, 6 September 2017 at 10.30 am.

[Zainab Al-Khamees](#) is a woman human rights defender (WHRD) and member of the **Bahrain Human Rights Society**. She reports about human rights violations, and campaigns for the release of detained WHRDs in Bahrain, including Ebtisam Al-Saegh, on social media.

On 5 September 2017, at approximately 12.00 pm, three police jeeps and one civilian car arrived at the home of Zainab Al-Khamees in A'ali village, located in the Shamaliya Governorate of Bahrain. Policemen aggressively banged on the door and shouted for the human rights defender to come out of the house. Zainab Al-Khamees was not at home at the time, nevertheless, a summons was delivered to her sister. The summons ordered the human rights defender to present herself to the General Prosecution in Manama on Wednesday, 6 September 2017 at 10.30 am for interrogation.

This is not the first time that Front Line Defenders has reported on the [judicial harassment](#) of Zainab Al-Khamees. On 15 November 2016, Zainab Al-Khamees was summoned for interrogation purportedly for taking part in an “*illegal assembly*”. She received the summons for questioning a day earlier, following a raid of her home by Bahraini authorities. A travel ban was subsequently issued against the human rights defender. On 7 April 2015, Zainab Al-Khamees was interrogated by Bahraini representatives for “*inciting a demonstration*” in front of the United Nations building in Manama.

According to human rights defenders in Bahrain, being summoned for interrogation is a tactic that is often used by the Bahraini authorities to issue travel bans, and to restrict defenders’ work advocating internationally for human rights. Travel ban orders have been repeatedly used to curtail the activities of human rights defenders in Bahrain, their cooperation with the United Nations, and its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, including the Universal Periodic Review and the Human Rights Council.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned about the continued harassment, intimidation, and summoning of human rights defender Zainab Al-Khamees as it believes that she is being targeted in connection to her peaceful and legitimate human rights activities.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Bahrain to:

1. Revoke the summons against Zainab Al-Khamees;
2. Refrain from placing any restrictions on the free movement of Zainab Al-Khamees and cease all further forms of harassment against her, as it is believed that these measures are not only solely related to his legitimate human rights activities but, furthermore, constitute a direct transgression of the rights of Zainab Al-Khamees;

3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Bahrain are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.