

I am writing this letter to express my deep concern for Two Bahraini boys, Jihad Sadeq ‘Aziz Salman and Ebrahim Ahmed Radi al-Moqdad. Both were tried as adults despite being under the age of 18.

On 29 September, they had their 10-year prison sentences upheld by the High Criminal Court of Appeal. The two children had been convicted under articles of the Bahrain Penal Code and the 2006 anti-terrorist law.

According to one of the children’s lawyers their conviction was based on “confessions” that they allege they were forced to sign, without the presence of a lawyer or a family member, and which they recanted during the trial.

So I urge the Bahraini authorities to quash the children’s convictions and order a retrial, in a court abiding by international standards of juvenile justice and please remind them that even under these standards children may only be imprisoned as a last resort.

I also urge the authorities to protect the children and other prisoners from torture and other ill-treatment.

Lastly I urge the authority to ensure that their allegations of torture are independently investigated and that statements obtained through the use of torture or other ill-treatment are not accepted in any proceedings.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,