



Tragic Death of Political Prisoner Hussain Aman in Jau Prison

Briefing by the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD)

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Hussain Aman, a 41-year-old political prisoner, tragically passed away after collapsing in the yard of Building 11 in Jau Prison on 5 December 2024. His death is the second such tragedy in Jau Prison this year, raising serious concerns about the facility's ability to handle emergencies, particularly cardiac arrests, where every moment is critical.

Summary of the incident

A certificate issued by Bahrain's Ministry of Health and reviewed by BIRD confirmed Hussain's time of death as 9:04 PM (Bahrain local time); location of death as en route to BDF Hospital from Jau Prison; and listed cardiopulmonary arrest as the cause of death. This was also further confirmed in an [official statement](#) issued by [Government Hospitals](#).

- **Eyewitness testimonies:** Hussain collapsed in the prison yard of Building 11 at Jau Prison between 7:11 and 7:30 PM (Bahrain local time).
 - Many prisoners, who were in the yard playing football at the time, witnessed the collapse. A panicked commotion ensued, with prisoners shouting, "*Someone collapsed! Move away, let him breathe!*"
 - An ambulance arrived approximately 7-8 minutes later, but no emergency first aid was administered during this critical time. Hussain was then taken to the prison clinic, where authorities removed other prisoners, seemingly to conceal the situation.
- **CCTV disclosure:** Highly edited [CCTV footage](#) released by the Ministry of Interior on 6 December shows Hussain collapsing to the ground. Although the video lacks timestamps, which seem to have been deliberately removed by authorities, it corroborates eyewitness accounts.

The footage and testimonies indicate that a medic arrived at the scene, where Hussain lay unconscious, but no immediate resuscitation efforts, such as CPR or AED use, were initiated.

Medical experts, including the [American Heart Association](#) and [Resuscitation Council UK](#), stress that immediate first aid for cardiac arrest is critical within **3-5 minutes of collapse**, as survival rates [decrease](#) by **approximately 10% with each minute of delay** in defibrillation.

Authorities must thoroughly investigate the provision of timely and adequate first aid intervention and ensure that, in a crowded prison, both prison guards and prisoners are given proper training to provide timely intervention, especially sudden unconsciousness that may indicate cardiac arrest.

Background on Hussain Aman

Hussain Ali Ali Aman, born in March 1983, was the father of two young daughters, aged 12 and 14.

Arrested in 2015, Hussain was [sentenced](#) to life imprisonment and stripped of his citizenship by the Fourth High Criminal Court on 15 May 2018 in a [mass trial](#) involving 115 individuals. His citizenship was [reinstated](#) by royal decree in April 2019.

The mass trial was internationally criticised as it was marred by allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture.

- Five UN experts raised these concerns in [November 2018](#) and [October 2019](#), stating that “the forced confession allegedly obtained under torture appear to have been used as evidence in court.”
- In an [opinion](#) published on 9 June 2020, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concluded that “given the severity of the alleged torture, it is unlikely that several of the individuals would have been able to effectively assist with and participate in their own defence during the trial proceedings, thus adding to the conclusion that the alleged torture violated their right to a fair trial.”

On 24 September 2024, Hussain was transferred to Building 11 in Jau Prison after qualifying for the open prisons program. On 3 December 2024, he was temporarily [released](#) from prison for the first time since his arrest as part of the program.

Further Context: Prison Unrest

On 25 March 2024, 32-year-old political prisoner Husain Khalil tragically [died](#) in Jau Prison due to failure to provide emergency first-aid. His death brought to the forefront the pervasive issue of medical negligence within Bahrain’s prisons.

Shortly after his death, an estimated 1000 political prisoners went on strike in Jau Prison, and [protests](#) erupted across Bahrain. Some political prisoners remain on strike since 26th March, demanding their unconditional release.



The prison administration responded to the strike with [collective punishment](#), cutting off essential services such as air conditioning, drinking water, electricity, and medicine in Jau Prison.

As prison authorities continued to violate prisoners' most basic rights, UN experts [called](#) on Bahrain to restore rights in Jau prison on 15 August 2024. The [press release](#) expressed grave concerns about conditions in Bahrain's Jau Prison, citing inadequate medical care, substandard food and water, overcrowding, extreme heat, and the harmful use of prolonged solitary confinement.