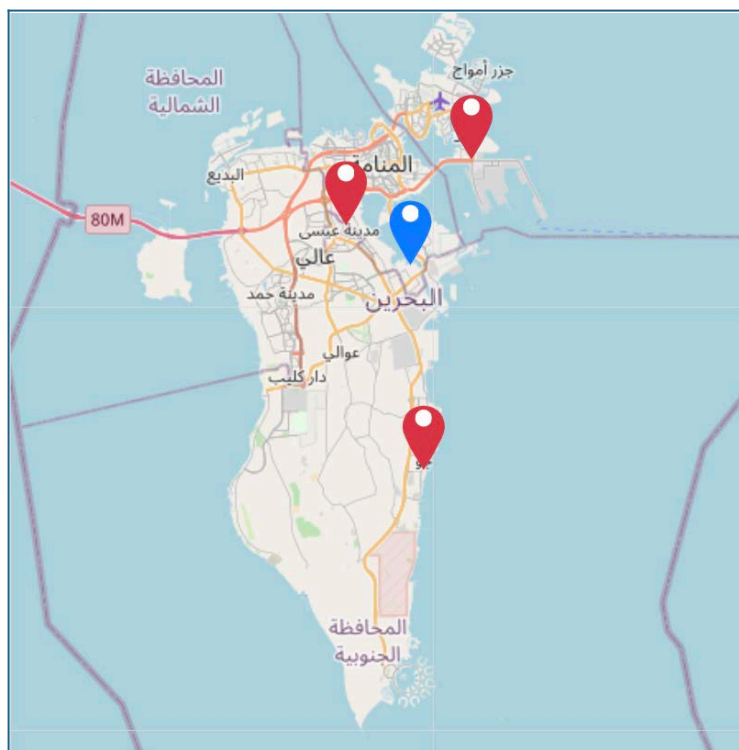


# Bahrain Immigration Detention Data Profile



## Quick Facts

Immigration detainees (2018)	Not Available
Detained asylum seekers (2018)	Not Available
Detained minors (2015)	200
Immigration detention capacity (2017)	Not Available
Persons expelled (2017)	5,710
International migrants (2019)	741,161
New asylum applications (2016)	43
Number of immigration detainees on a given day (2017)	Not Available

## NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/middle-east/bahrain>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

## STATISTICS

### Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2018	Number of immigration detainees on a given day	Not Available	2017
	5,710	2017			
Top nationalities of detainees	Not Available	2017	Number of persons granted alternatives to immigration detention	Not Available	2018
				Not Available	2017
Number of detained asylum seekers	Not Available	2018	Total number of detained minors	200	2015
	Not Available	2017			
Number of detained unaccompanied minors	Not Available	2017	Number of detained accompanied minors	Not Available	2017
Number of detained stateless persons	Not Available	2017	Number of apprehensions of non-citizens	Not Available	2017
Immigration detainees as a percentage of total international migrant population	Not Available	2017	Estimated total immigration detention capacity	Not Available	2017
Number of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres	Not Available	2017	Estimated capacity of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres	Not Available	2017
Number of dedicated medium-term immigration detention centres	Not Available	2017	Number of immigration offices	Not Available	2017
Number of transit facilities	Not Available	2017	Number of criminal facilities	Not Available	2017
Number of ad hoc facilities	Not Available	2017	Number of persons removed/returned (voluntary returns and deportations)	5,710	2017
				7,346	2013
Percentage of persons removed in relation to total number of people placed in removal procedures	Not Available	2017	Criminal prison population	3,485	2017
				4,028	2013
Percentage of foreign prisoners	23.7	2015	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	234	2017
	30.2	2005		301	2013
				275	2012

### Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	1,700,000	2020	International migrants	741,161	2019
	1,501,116	2017		823,610	2017
	1,377,000	2015		704,100	2015
	1,400,000	2012		729,400	2013

International migrants as a percentage of the population	54.86	2017	Estimated number of undocumented migrants	60,000	2018
	54.7	2013		Not Available	2017
Refugees	251	2019	Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	0.19	2016
	255	2017		0.23	2012
	270	2016			
	247	2015			
	311	2014			
Total number of new asylum applications	43	2016	Refugee recognition rate	92.3	2014
	55	2014			
	37	2012			
	0				

DOMESTIC LAW					
LEGAL TRADITION					
Legal tradition	Name		Observation Date		
	Muslim law				
	Civil law				
	Common law				
	Customary law				
LAWS AND REGULATIONS					
Constitutional guarantees?	Yes/No	Constitution and Articles		Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Yes	Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Adopted on 14 February 2002, Article 19.		2002	2002
LAWS AND REGULATIONS					
Core pieces of national legislation	Name			Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Immigration and Residence Act of 1965 (amended by Law No. 24 of 1986)			1965	1986
	Immigration and Residence Act of 1965 (amended by Law No. 21 of 1980)			1965	1980

LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Additional legislation	Name		Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Law No. 15 of 1976 Issuing the Penal Code		1976	
	Law No. 19 of 2006 Regulating the Labour Market (amended by Decision No. 15 of 2011)		2006	2011
	Law No. 1 of 2008 Issuing the Anti-Trafficking Law		2008	
	Law No.19 of 2006, Regulating the Labour Market		2006	
	Law No.1 of 2008 with respect to Trafficking in Person		2008	
	Royal Decree No. 61/2013		2013	
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION				
Immigration-status-related grounds	Name		Observation Date	
	Detention for unauthorised entry or stay		2018	
	Detention to effect removal		2015	
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Does the country provide specific criminal penalties for immigration-related violations?	Fines	Incarceration	Observation Date	
	Yes	Yes	2018	
	No	Yes	2015	
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Grounds for criminal immigration-related detention/incarceration and maximum potential duration of incarceration	Grounds for Incarceration	Maximum Number of Days of Incarceration		Observation Date
	Unauthorised stay	180		2018
	Unauthorized entry	180		2015
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length for administrative immigration detention in law.	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	No Limit		2015	
VULNERABLE PERSONS				
Is the detention of vulnerable persons provided in law? Are they detained in practice?	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Accompanied minors		Yes	2015
	Unaccompanied minors		Yes	2015
	Pregnant women		Yes	2015
	Victims of trafficking		Yes	2015

## COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
Latest Update	<p>Responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, Migrant-Rights.org, an advocacy organisation that aims to advance the rights of migrant workers, reported that in Bahrain, due to Covid-19, the Ministry of Interior issued a circular ordering authorities not to detain migrants because of their irregular status until the end of the year. Another circular has also been issued whereby migrants should not be detained for minor or administrative offences. According to the source, these orders were present in every police station in Bahrain. Migrant-Rights.org also reported that due to the coronavirus, hundreds of detained migrants were released from detention centres and prisons following a royal pardon, including 347 Bangladeshi nationals who were pardoned in April 2020 and repatriated to Bangladesh (see 19 April Bangladesh update on this platform). Although there was no information about whether safeguards had been put in place to assist people after their release from detention, official news agencies reported that Covid-19 tests were being carried out at detention centres. Removals from the country were also reportedly halted mainly due to travel restrictions and border closures of countries of origin. In some cases however, organised deportation flights did take place to some countries, including Bangladesh and India, during the pandemic. As reported in a previous update on the country (see 19 April update on this platform), even though little information regarding the country's immigration detention system is available, data collected by the GDP shows that the country has used at least five facilities to hold immigration detainees. In 2017, the country had around 820,000 international migrants, which represents nearly 55 percent of Bahrain's total population. On 9 April, Reuters reported that in a statement to them, the Bahraini government said it was "absolutely committed" to protecting those in its prison system and that "testing of the prison population is conducted regularly. To date there are no confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Bahrain's prisons."</p>	2020
	<p>Responding to the Global Detention Project's request to complete our Covid-19 survey, Bahrain's National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) provided a document detailing its role and actions during the coronavirus pandemic. The NIHR's Committee on Detention &amp; Facilities Visitation, convened on 28 May, affirmed the importance of continuing its visits to correction, rehabilitation, shelter and health and social care centres and houses during the pandemic to ensure compliance with the directives issued regarding preventive and precautionary measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The committee also stated the importance of working to find an appropriate mechanism to monitor the conditions of migrant workers in light of the current exceptional conditions, to ensure the availability of services provided to them. The NIHR reported that on 19 April they communicated with some expatriate workers, examining their living conditions in isolation, treatment and precautionary quarantine centres and ensured that they enjoy safety, cleanliness and healthcare in accordance with established standards. The NIHR praised the measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to provide an appropriate environment for expatriate workers. Despite efforts from part of the Kingdom of Bahrain to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on migrant workers, up to 90 percent of active cases of Covid-19 in the country were in migrant work camps due to their dense population and lack of resources. The government implemented various measures to curb the spread of Covid-19. Their initial response was to relocate 8,011 individuals out of camps and into several different buildings, including closed schools, to reduce overcrowding. The government pledged to cover migrant workers' medical expenses and to distribute 30,000 hot meals a day to workers seeking food. Even though IOM applauded Bahrain's response to Covid-19 in migrant camps, new cases have continued to mount, with 654 confirmed cases on 8 June alone. Nonetheless, testing has reportedly become a priority for the government and Bahrain has also said it has imported more than 100 tons of medical equipment from China and India to increase its mitigation efforts. On 26 June, Migrant-Rights.org reported that some 150 workers from a construction company had not been paid for three to six months, and that workers, mainly from India and Bangladesh, were struggling to survive in a dilapidated camp without food and income. With three workers testing positive for the disease, the situation had become precarious and two people were transferred to a quarantine facility in Sitra and another isolated in a separate room in the labour camp in Tubli, along with other workers who have shown symptoms. However, although workers have been allocated separate toilets and rooms, they still share the same cooking and dining space, exposing the rest of them to infection. In June 2018, the workers had lodged a complaint at the Ministry of Labour with assistance of social workers and while some wages were retrieved, the company has since reverted to only paying one month's worth of wages every two to three months. Yet, the company reportedly has faced no repercussions, reflecting Bahrain's weak regulatory framework. Workers appear to be growing desperate; one Indian worker told Migrants-Rights: "I have been sitting in my room for six months waiting for my salary to go back home, nobody is helping us, and now inside we have corona also. We are all going to die here." NIHR indicated that they had visited the Jaw Correction and Rehabilitation Centre on 7 April to review the human rights conditions and medical care provided to inmates in light of the precautionary measures taken by the administration to limit the spread of Covid-19. Ms. Maria Khoury, Chairperson of the NIHR, said: "I'd like to confirm that (the centre) complies with international standards recommended by the WHO for prevention of spread of Coronavirus among the inmates, and that there is a medical staff that provides the necessary medical care and services." She also added that there were no infections among inmates. In addition, during a seminar organised by the OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa on the effect of Covid-19 on trafficking in persons, the Director General of IOM, Mr. Antonio Vitorino, praised the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain in correcting the situation of 17,000 irregular migrant workers as one of the best international practices to deal with the Covid-19 crisis.</p>	2020
	<p>Although little information regarding the country's immigration detention system is available, data collected by the GDP over the past years shows that the country has used at least five facilities to hold immigration detainees, including prisons and detention centres (see the GDP's Bahrain immigration detention profile). In 2017, the country had around 820,000 international migrants, around 54.86 percent of the country's population. It is estimated that 60,000 undocumented migrants were present in the country in 2018. According to GDP partner Migrant-Rights.org, which has posted a dedicated page updating responses by all GCC countries to Covid-19 and its impact on migrant workers in the gulf, the government of Bahrain has taken a series of measures that affect migrant workers in the country, including with respect to detention. In particular, according to Migrant-Rights.org: - Bahraini MP Masoumeh Abdel-Rahim put forward a proposal to restrict hourly domestic work, adding that every such worker must have a medical examination certificate confirming they do not have the virus. - Bahrain is considering a proposal to impose a curfew from 6PM to 5AM to ensure people remain at home outside of usual work hours. It is unclear how the many migrants who work outside of those hours will be affected. - Bahrain has released 300 Bangladeshi migrant workers from prison. Negative attitudes towards migrant workers have now risen in the country. Locals have protested through social media posts and videos against migrants being treated in government quarantine facilities in Sitra. Yet, almost half of all nurses in Bahrain's public healthcare sector are migrants and the proportion is even larger in the private sector. An ICU nurse volunteering to work with Bahrain's Covid-19 campaign told Migrant-Rights.org that unlike Bahraini health care workers, migrant nurses do not receive any hazard pay or compensation.</p>	2020
	<p>In mid-March King Al Khalifa of Bahrain ordered, via decree, the liberation of 901 prisoners so as to control the spread of Covid-19. Prison sentences for 585 other prisoners will be changed to rehabilitation and reformation programmes. Bahrain is notorious for imprisoning large numbers of foreign workers, who at one time reportedly made up some 30 percent of the country's prison population. However, the GDP has not obtained any information regarding measures taken to safeguard immigration detainees in the country.</p>	2020

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

### Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

International treaties	Name	Ratification Year
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2011
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	2007
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	2006
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2004
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2004
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	2002
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1998
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1992
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1992
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1990
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	10/19	

### Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

International treaty reservations	Name	Reservation Year	Observation Date
	ICCPR Article 18	2006	2006
	ICCPR Article 9	2006	2006
	ICCPR Article 14	2006	2006
	CEDAW Article 2	2002	2002

### Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date
	0/7	
	0/7	

### Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

Regional legal instruments	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
	AC, Arab Charter on Human Rights	2006

### Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Name	Year of Visit	Observation Date
	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children	2006	2015
	Working Group on arbitrary detention	2001	2015

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms				
Relevant recommendations by UN Special Procedures	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children	95. The Special Rapporteur recommends that: [...] (m) Screening and identification procedures of trafficked persons in detention centres be systematic. Alternative arrangements, other than deportation or detention centres, should be considered to safely house identified trafficked persons; [...] (q) Authorities ensure that embassies are systematically informed when their nationals are being detained, and visits by the relevant consular officials be facilitated. Sending countries should ensure that their embassies in the receiving States have the necessary resources to carry out such visits, follow up on the cases and provide any necessary assistance; [...] (u) Migrant workers in detention centres be informed of the reasons of their arrest in a language they understand, be provided with legal assistance if requested, be allowed to make a local or international phone call and have access to their embassies; [...] (w) Special attention be paid to detecting minors crossing borders and passing as adults with falsified documents. In such cases, necessary steps should be taken to provide the minors concerned with the necessary protection and assistance, including safe repatriation or social reintegration if repatriation is not in the interest of the minor; [...] (x) Bahrain no longer postpone the opening of the shelter identified for this purpose and encourages the Government to review the plans communicated to her to limit the migrant women's movement for their own protection. Alternative measures, such as being accompanied by social workers when leaving the shelter, could be envisaged. Oman should seriously consider establishing a shelter to provide trafficked persons with a place of refuge where they can obtain the necessary protection and assistance;	2007	2007
	Working Group on arbitrary detention	"120. Consular assistance: the Working Group points out that under international law on consular relations, any incarcerated foreigner ought to be receive assistance from the local consular services of his country of origin. The Group therefore recommends the Bahraini authorities to take steps to facilitate contact between detainees and the appropriate consular services, and to encourage the countries most directly concerned to provide the best possible response to requests for consular assistance."	2001	2001

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms			
Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recommendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2008	2017
	No	2017	2017
	No	2012	

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS		
Governing structures		
Federal or centralized governing system	Federal or centralized governing system	Observation Date
	Centralized system	2015

Governing structures															
Centralized or decentralized immigration authority	Centralized or decentralized immigration authority									Observation Date					
	Centralized immigration authority									2018					
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Custodial authority	Agency					Ministry		Ministry Typology			Observation Date				
	Directorate of Reform and Rehabilitation					Ministry of Interior		Interior or Home Affairs			2015				
						Ministry of Interior		Interior or Home Affairs			2008				
						Ministry of Interior		Interior or Home Affairs			2002				
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Detention Facility Management	Entity Name						Entity Type			Observation Date					
	Directorate of Reform and Rehabilitation						Governmental			2015					
	Police						Governmental			2015					
	Ministry of Interior						Governmental			2015					
	Specially trained police officers						Governmental			2008					
	Specially trained police officers						Governmental			2002					
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Types of detention facilities used in practice	Immigration detention centre (Administrative)	Immigration field office (Administrative)	Transit centre (Administrative)	Reception centre (Administrative)	Offshore detention centre (Administrative)	Hospital (Administrative)	Border guard (Administrative)	Police station (Criminal)	National penitentiary (Criminal)	Local prison (Criminal)	Juvenile detention centre (Criminal)	Informal camp (Ad hoc)	Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc)	Surge facility (Ad hoc)	Observation Date
	Yes							Yes	Yes						2015
Detention monitoring institutions															
Authorized monitoring institutions	Institution					Institution Type					Observation Date				
	National Institution for Human Rights					National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI)					2018				
	Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission					National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI)					2017				
	Ombudsman					National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI)					2017				
	Ombudsman					National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI)					2015				
	Commission of the Rights of Detainees and Prisoners (CRDP)					National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI)					2015				
Detention monitoring institutions															
Is the national human rights institution (NHRI) recognized as independent?	Is the NHRI recognized as independent by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions?										Observation Date				
	No										2018				
	No										2015				



Detention monitoring institutions		
Does NHRI carry out visits?	Does NHRI carry out visits in practice?	Observation Date
	Yes	2017
	Yes	2015
Detention monitoring institutions		
Does NHRI have capacity to receive complaints?	Does NHRI have capacity to receive complaints?	Observation Date
	Yes	2018

More information about immigration detention in Bahrain is available at the website of the Global Detention Project  
[www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org)