

ON CITIZENSHIP STRIPPING



GLOBAL SEMINAR SERIES

LECTURE 3

BAHRAIN:
ARBITRARY REVOCATION OF
NATIONALITY



JAWAD FAIROOZ

LECTURE & DEBATE KIT

THE ONLINE LECTURE 'BAHRAIN: ARBITRARY REVOCATION OF NATIONALITY'
BY JAWAD FAIROOZ
AND FURTHER READING

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE VIEWING OF THE LECTURE IN A WORKSHEET
(ANSWERS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE KIT)

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN EXERCISE OR RESEARCH
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TOPIC

QUESTIONS FOR CRITICAL REFLECTION,
DISCUSSION OR DEBATE

VIDEO RECORDING OF THE LECTURE

CLICK TO VIEW



JAWAD FAIROOZ
(SALAM DHR)

ABOUT THE LECTURE

In this lecture Jawad Fairouz shares his story as one of the first victims of Bahrain's citizenship revocation programme. Fairouz addresses the escalation of nationality deprivation powers in Bahrain as a weapon for political punishment and the consequences of nationality revocation. He underlines the need for continuous pressure from the international community and unpacks his advocacy efforts.

JAWAD FAIROOZ is a former Bahraini Member of Parliament and chair of Salam for Democracy and Human Rights Organization (SALAM DHR). He is an Advisory Council member of ISI. In 2012 Jawad was stripped of his Bahraini citizenship for his political activity.

FURTHER READING

- Jawad Fairouz (2020) [“State terrorism: revoking the nationality of citizens in Bahrain”](#), 2020 World's Stateless Report
- Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (2020) [The World's Stateless 2020: Deprivation Of Nationality](#)

This lecture is part of the **GLOBAL SEMINAR SERIES ON CITIZENSHIP STRIPPING**.

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE VIEWEING - WORKSHEET

1. Why is becoming stateless comparable to a social death? Explain by naming at least three critical consequences of becoming stateless that Jawad mentioned during his lecture.

2. What do the two amendments that were made to the Bahraini nationality laws in 2013 and 2014 showcase about the country's citizenship stripping powers?

3. Which sequence of human rights violations caused by nationality deprivation as a legal process does Jawad Fairouz describe?

4. According to Jawad Fairouz, in Bahrain, nationality is most often deprived through the courts. What does this indicate, and why is it important to tackle this aspect of the issue in particular?

QUESTIONS FOR CRITICAL REFLECTION, DISCUSSION OR DEBATE

- In what way might the reinstatement of citizenship, in 2019, for 551 Bahrainis who had previously been deprived of their nationality impact advocacy efforts to end the practice of nationality deprivation? What strategies could be used to ensure continued attention to this issue, seeing that many aspects of it are not yet resolved?
- Do you believe victims of nationality deprivation should be compensated by the state and how?
- Jawad Fairouz argued that there is still not enough pressure on Bahrain from the international community. What do you think the international community, including NGOs, should do in order to elicit real change in the situation in Bahrain?

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- *In his lecture, Jawad Fairouz unpacks some advocacy efforts to end the practice of nationality deprivation. His organisation has initiated a campaign called 'I am Bahraini', emphasizing the fact that he, and all the other people who were stripped of their citizenship, are still Bahraini citizens. Reflect on their choice to use this phrasing when addressing the issue of nationality deprivation rather than using the term 'stateless'. Explore similar campaigns on statelessness and/or on ending other civil and political rights violations (e.g. the death penalty). What messaging do they use and what messaging do you find powerful?*
- *Research (an)other situation(s) in which human rights defenders have been targeted by deprivation of nationality. Why were human rights defenders targeted and on the basis of what law(s)?*

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE VIEWEING - ANSWERS

1. Why is becoming stateless comparable to a social death? Explain by naming at least three critical consequences of becoming stateless that Jawad mentioned during his lecture.

Three of the following:

- *When a stateless person has a child, this child also becomes stateless at birth. This showcases that nationality deprivation has an immediate effect on the next generation.*
- *Stateless people lose the right to work, because they do not have a legal residence.*
- *Stateless people lose the right to use certain services that were available to them before, such as health care and pension.*
- *Stateless people are unable to travel, as they will not be allowed to return to Bahrain.*
- *Being stateless has other collateral damages such as the loss of right to an identity, loss of a sense of security and loss of access to basic services like housing and education.*

2. What do the two amendments that were made to the Bahraini nationality laws in 2013 and 2014 showcase about the country's citizenship stripping powers?

- *In 2013, the anti-terrorism law was amended to allow for nationality deprivation as a punishment for 'terrorist acts'.*
- *In 2014, the scope of activities classified as 'terrorist acts' was widened, now including activities such as expressions of free speech or protest against the government. The amendments therefore showcase that laws in Bahrain are deliberately being modified to give more power to the government to strip citizens of their nationality.*

3. Which sequence of human rights violations caused by nationality deprivation as a legal process does Jawad Fairouz describe?

- *Arbitrary arrest (no justifications provided)*
- *Torture (during the arrest)*
- *Unfair trial and forced deportation*

4. According to Jawad Fairouz, in Bahrain, nationality is most often deprived through the courts. What does this indicate, and why is it important to tackle this aspect of the issue in particular?

The fact that the majority of citizenship stripping cases are decided through the courts indicates that the amendments that were made to local jurisdiction led to a growing power of the courts to strip people of their nationality. Although in 2019, 551 nationalities have been reinstated, which is a positive indication, this can be misleading as the issues surrounding the courts are still not resolved. The government can continue to use their power to revoke the nationalities of citizens arbitrarily. No amendments to nationality revocation laws are being made, which is why it is important to continue to tackle this issue.