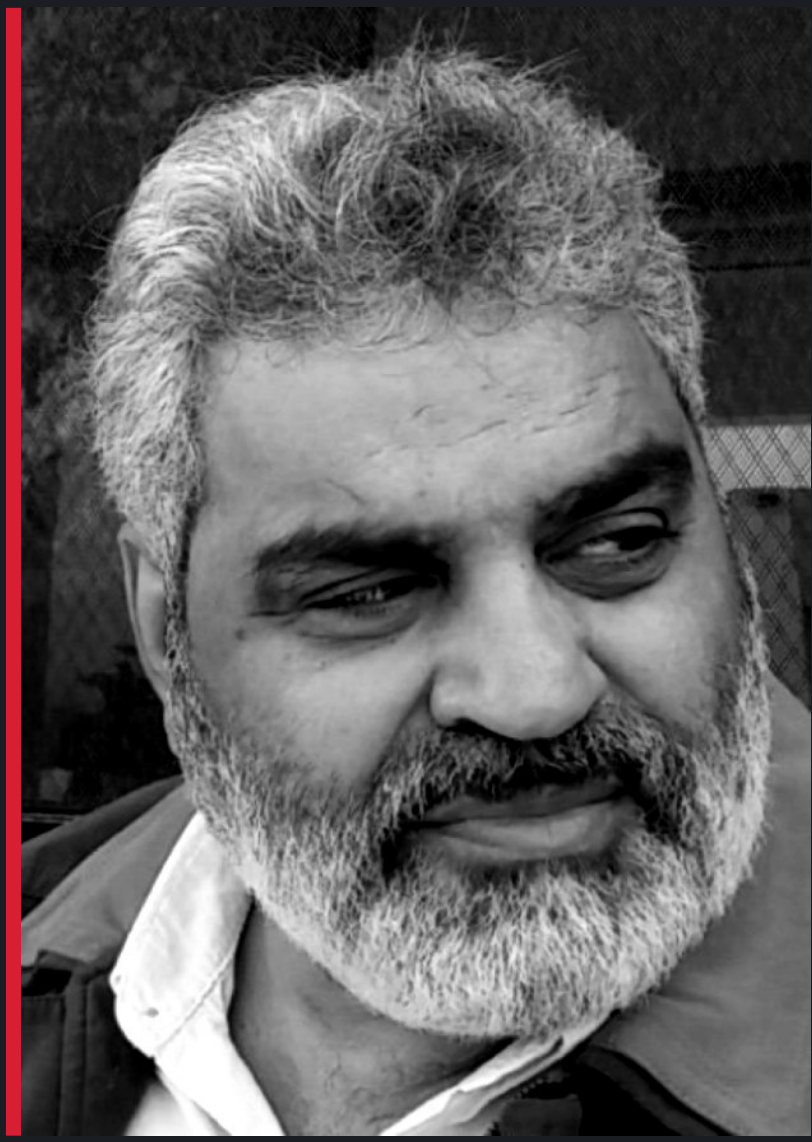

Advocacy dossier

Mohammed Jawad Hameed

محمد جواد حميد

At liberty **Bahrain**

Mohammed Jawad Hameed is a Bahraini musician and environmental activist who campaigns against industrial pollution in the village of Ma'ameer. He was detained for 100 days from 7 April 2026 over social media posts about a death in custody and released on 18 July 2026.

01

The case at a glance

Mohammed Jawad Hameed is a Bahraini musician and environmental activist who campaigns against industrial pollution in the village of Ma'ameer. He was detained for 100 days from 7 April 2026 over social media posts about a death in custody and released on 18 July 2026.

Status	Arrested	Country
At liberty	**7 Apr 2026**	**Bahrain**

Charges: Inciting hatred against the regime ("hatred of the regime")

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Mohammed Jawad Hameed and on any family members affected by the same order.

02 Restore valid travel documents and remove any border-watch flags placed in connection with peaceful human rights work.

03 Comply with the ICCPR Article 12 guarantee of freedom of movement.

02

How the case unfolded

2011

Other act

Judicial harassment over environmental campaigning, 2011 to 2013

Front Line Defenders reports that between 2011 and 2013 Mohammed Jawad faced continual judicial harassment for his environmental rights work, including an arrest for protesting in front of polluting factories in Bahrain.

2 November 2016

Travel ban imposed

Stopped from travelling to the UN climate conference COP 22

Border officials at the King Fahd Causeway stopped Mohammed Jawad as he travelled with his family to Marrakech for the twenty-second UN Climate Change Conference (COP 22). An officer told him the computer system showed a travel ban but gave no reason. He had not been informed of any ban and had last travelled abroad on 24 April 2016.

7 April 2026

Arrest

Summoned and detained over social media posts on a death in custody

The Cybercrime Directorate, part of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science, summoned Mohammed Jawad Hameed and took him into detention. The Gulf Centre for Human Rights says the reason was his social media posts expressing shock and grief at the death in custody of Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi. Human Rights Watch also reported the summons.

9 April 2026

Contact with the outside world cut off

Held incommunicado after the summons

The Gulf Centre for Human Rights and the Bahrain Center for Human Rights reported that contact with him had been lost since the summons and raised concern about ill-treatment. GCHR later reported that he was held incommunicado at first, then moved to Dry Dock Prison, was allowed one phone call, and that there was concern he was not receiving medication for a chronic illness.

15 April 2026

Pretrial detention renewed

Public Prosecution extends detention on a charge of hatred of the regime

The Public Prosecution extended his detention by two weeks on a charge described as "hatred of the regime". GCHR also reports the charge as inciting hatred against the regime.

3 May 2026

Other act

Human Rights Watch reports he remains in detention

In a statement on media repression in Bahrain, Human Rights Watch reported that Mohammed Jawad Hameed remained in detention after an initial 15-day period was extended. The same statement lists Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi as a death in custody during the arrest campaign of March and April 2026.

16 June 2026

Pretrial detention renewed

Detention renewed again after more than two months

The general prosecution renewed his detention, although he had already spent more than two months in custody. GCHR called for his immediate and unconditional release.

18 July 2026

Release

Released after 100 days in detention

The authorities released Mohammed Jawad Hameed after 100 days of detention. The Bahrain Center for Human Rights welcomed the release and reported that after it he again drew attention to persistent odours and emissions in Ma'ameer. The sources do not say whether the charge against him was dropped.

03

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Mohammed Jawad Hameed was released on 18 July 2026 after 100 days in detention over social media posts about a death in custody. Available sources do not say whether the charge of inciting hatred against the regime has been dropped.

Background and Work

Mohammed Jawad Hameed, known as Jawad, is a Bahraini musician, singer and environmental and human rights activist. Ma'ameer is a village that the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) describes as surrounded by more than 130 polluting factories, industrial workshops and petroleum and petrochemical plants. He became aware of environmental damage at an early age and has campaigned for clean air, a healthy environment and an end to discrimination.

According to Front Line Defenders, he heads the Ma'ameer Environmentalist Committee, which promotes environmental and human rights in Al-Ma'ameer. As a musician he has worked to revive the Dilmun lyre, an ancient stringed instrument, and has performed with it in the region. In 2019 the Artists at Risk network hosted him in Helsinki as its first Ecologist at Risk resident; its profile refers to an unlawful arrest, travel bans and growing obstacles to earning a living.

Front Line Defenders reports that between 2011 and 2013 he faced continual judicial harassment for his environmental work, including an arrest for protesting in front of polluting factories. On 2 November 2016 border officials at the King Fahd Causeway stopped him from travelling with his family to Marrakech for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 22). He was told only that the computer system showed a travel ban. He had last travelled abroad on 24 April 2016 and had not been informed of any ban.

The Arrest

On 7 April 2026 the Cybercrime Directorate, part of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science, summoned him and took him into detention. The arrest took place during a wider campaign in which, according to local sources cited by GCHR and the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR), more than 200 people were detained.

GCHR states that the reason for his arrest was his social media posts expressing shock and grief at the death in custody of Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi. Al-Mousawi's family learned of his death on 27 March 2026 through a call from the authorities, and GCHR reports that his body bore signs of torture. Human Rights Watch lists Al-Mousawi's case as a death in custody during the arrests of March and April 2026.

Detention Conditions and Health

GCHR and BCHR reported on 9 April 2026 that contact with him had been lost since the summons, and raised concern that he could face ill-treatment. GCHR later reported that he was first held incommunicado and then moved to Dry Dock Prison, that he was allowed a single phone call, and that there was concern he was not receiving medication for a chronic illness.

Legal Proceedings

On 15 April 2026 the Public Prosecution extended his detention by two weeks on a charge described as "hatred of the regime", which GCHR also renders as inciting hatred against the regime. Human Rights Watch reported on 3 May 2026 that he remained in detention after the initial 15-day period was extended. On 16 June 2026 the general prosecution renewed his detention again, after he had spent more than two months in custody.

On 18 July 2026, after 100 days of detention, the authorities released him. Neither GCHR nor BCHR states whether he was released on bail, whether the charge is still pending, or whether the case has been closed. After his release BCHR reported that he again drew attention to persistent odours and emissions in Ma'ameer.

International Response

GCHR issued an urgent call for his release on 9 April 2026 and repeated it in June 2026, describing him as a prisoner of conscience held for peaceful expression. Human Rights Watch cited his case in its May 2026 call on Bahrain to end media repression. BCHR welcomed his release in July 2026 and called on the authorities to monitor air quality in Ma'ameer independently and to ensure that residents and activists can raise environmental concerns without intimidation, reprisals or arrest.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/mohammed-jawad-hameed/

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