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# **Discrimination & Favoritism in Bahrain**

Addressed to the UN committee on the Elimination of  
Racial Discrimination

**Bahrain Center for Human Rights**

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# Contents

- I. **Deterioration in Living Conditions Affecting Mainly Shi'a Muslims**
- II. Lands owned by members of Royal Family
- III. Discrimination in Bahrain: The Unwritten Law
- IV. Public posts occupied by members of the Royal Family
- V. Discrimination in Granting Citizenship in Bahrain



## Unemployment

- based on official figures and studies there are 20,000 unemployed Bahrainis, while the oppositions estimate the number to be more than 30,000
- In addition to their dependents who are affected by the unemployment, the number will exceed 80,000 people
- unemployed and their dependents are not receiving any social security aids in contradiction with the Constitution

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	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2013</b>
Unemployed Citizens	4,500	14,400	16,000 – 20,000	80,000
Percentage	6.6%	14.7%	16%	50%

BC  
HR

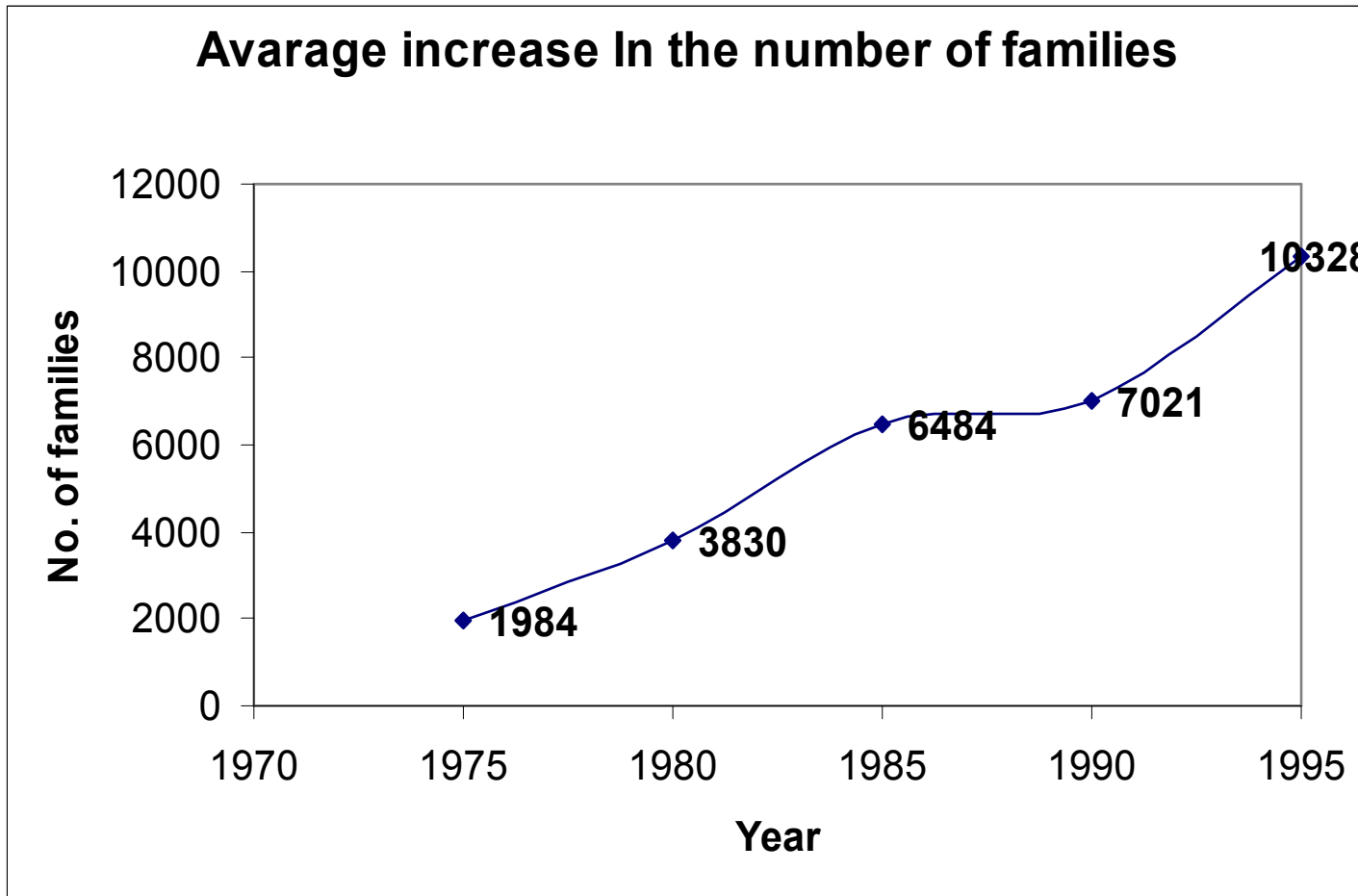


## **Financial assistance**

households who are unable to work and those who receive financial assistance from Ministry of Labour and charitable contribution from charity funds associations exceeds 20,000 families, which are around 80,000 people whom each receive BD18 per months



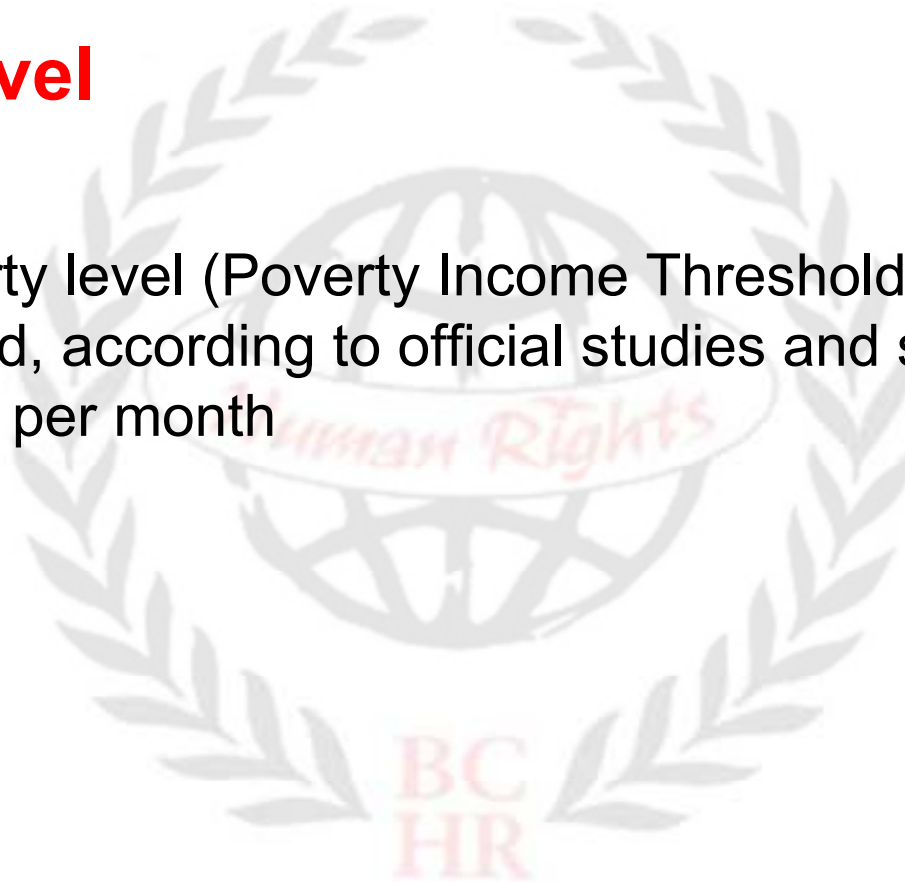
**Avarage increase In the number of families**





## **poverty level**

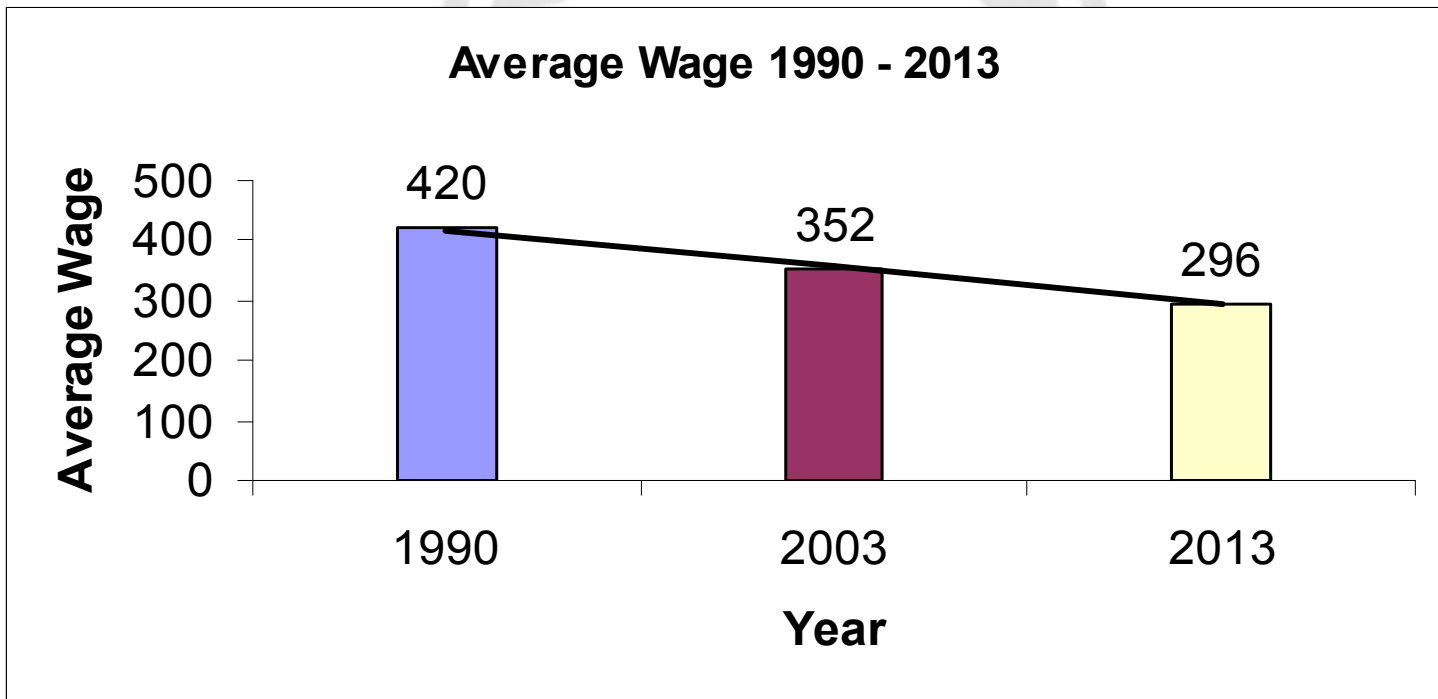
the poverty level (Poverty Income Threshold) for a household, according to official studies and statements, is BD309 per month





Decrease in the average salaries  
(source: Ministry of labour/social Insurance/Mackenzie Report)  
Average Wage for Bahrainis drops by 19%

IN Year1990	BD420.
In Year 2002	BD352
in 2013 (Projected)	BD315





## **Bahrainis under the poverty level**

- Quarter of employed Bahrainis live below the poverty level of BD309 per month
- **Conclusion:**  
Total of Bahrainis suffering from poverty and poor living conditions to around 200,000 people (half of total Bahrainis), they are mainly Shi'a.



## **Problem of housing in Bahrain**

- Unemployed citizens and those who are receiving financial assistance cannot receive housing loans granted by the Government
- 44,000 families with a low income are waiting in the waiting list for Government subsidised housing for up to 12 years or more
- official statistics shows that there are 6,000 ruined houses and that there is a project for rebuilding or maintaining 4,500 houses but in a period of 8 years



## Wealthy people

- There are 5,200 wealthy people in Bahrain.
- The average wealth of each of them reaches US\$4.2 millions, which is above the international average of wealthy people of US\$3.8 millions.
- The private wealth in Bahrain worth around US\$20 to 30 billions

Source: Bahrain Monetary Agency



## **Causes of Poverty**

poor living conditions of citizens are mainly caused by:

- Unequal distribution of wealth
- Waste of public money
- Financial & administrative corruption
- Poor planning
- Dumping the market with low wage foreign workers



**Main barrier to economic reforms;**

Dominations of a small group of influential powerful people on the national economy, both in private and public sectors.



## **social and security impact of poverty**

### **Statistics shows that:**

- Crime rate, especially robbery, have escalated.
- Divorce rate and number of people choosing to be single have also increased.
- Number of women and children participating in the working force with bad working conditions have increased



The Numerical path of thefts ( Statistical Guide issued by the Ministry of Interior)	
In year 1994	19194 Crimes
In year 1997	18668 Crimes
In year 1998	17381 crimes
in year 2001	25556 crimes



# Contents

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## **As for the land crisis in the country,**

“Ministry of Housing is unable – with its current resources to meet the increasing demand on housing units, loans and flats whose numbers are around 40,000 applications, especially in the light of annual increase in applications, which aggregates the problem due to the young nature of the community.

The ministry of housing is unable to solve the problem of Housing in the light of current resources, because it does not have land to give to people, since 90% of the land is privately owned.”

Nabeel Abdul Fath - Assistant Undersecretary for Housing  
Al Wasat Newspaper

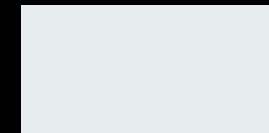


## **Large lands are taken by influential powerful people**

Senior Members of the Royal family have taken over large land areas in Bahrain, especially the reclaimed lands of the sea and the ones that will be reclaimed in the near future



**Green areas**



**Built up areas**



**Riffa District**





**1 : Al-Mohammadiyah Island owned by Sh. Mohammad bin Salman (uncle of the king).**

**2 : Jiddah Island owned by Sh. Mohammad bin Salman (uncle of the king).**

**3 : Umm an Na'asan Island owned by Sh. Hamad the King of Bahrain.**



# Hawar Islands



**Owned by Sh. Hamad the King of Bahrain.**



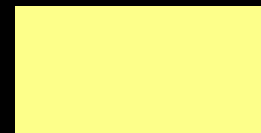
**Owned by Sh. Khalifa bin Salman (uncle of the king & the prime minister).**



**Owned by the King of Bahrain  
and his close family.**



**Owned by Sh. Khalifa bin  
Salman (uncle of the King & the  
prime minister).**



**Owned by members of the  
Royal Family.**

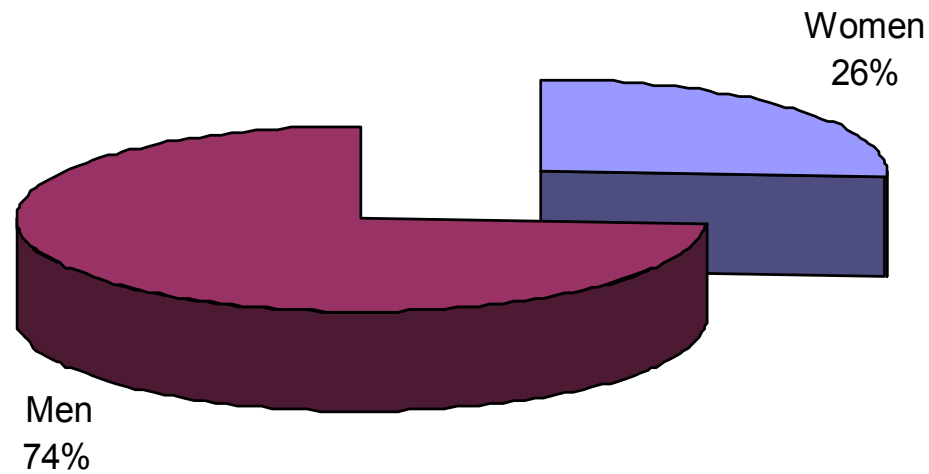


# Contents

- I. Poverty and Poor Living Conditions
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- IV. Public posts occupied by members of the Royal Family
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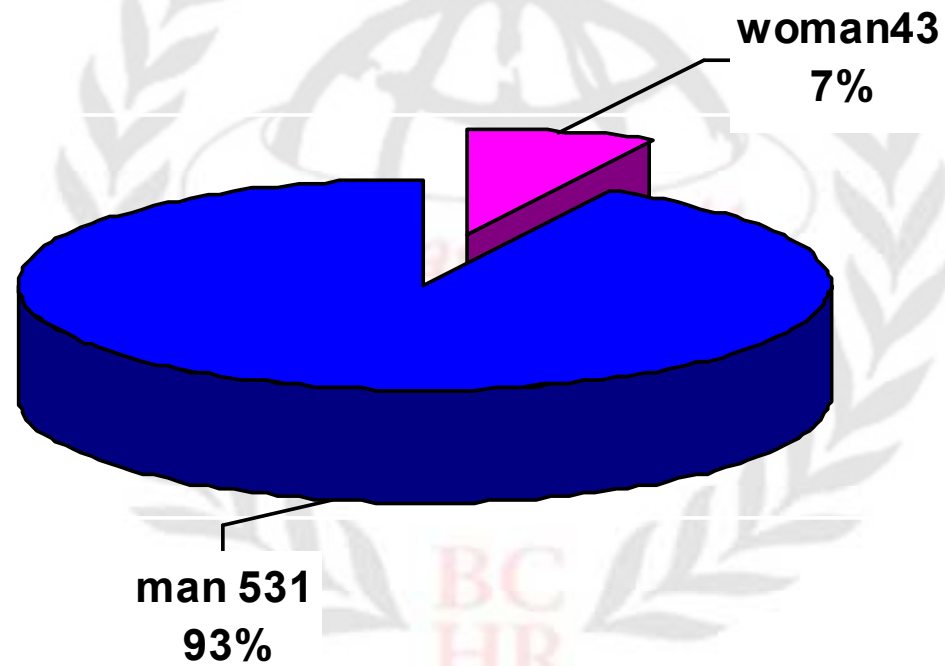


### Bahraini manpower: women vs. men as of 2001



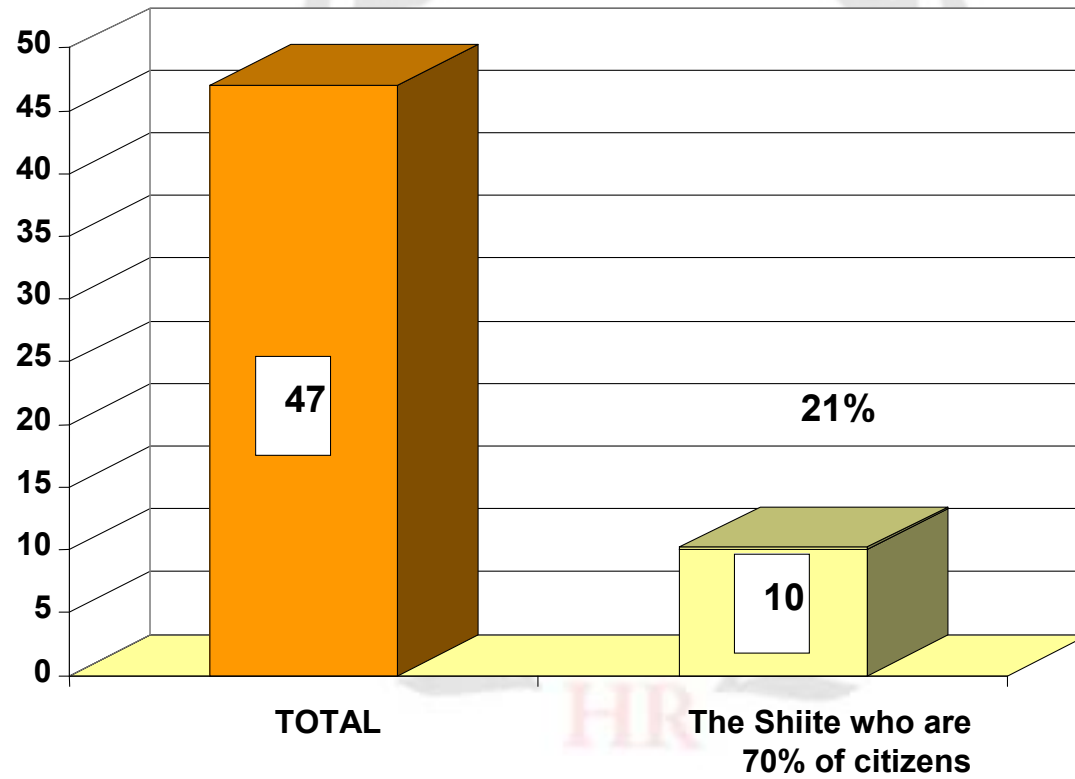


### Allocation of high-ranking posts



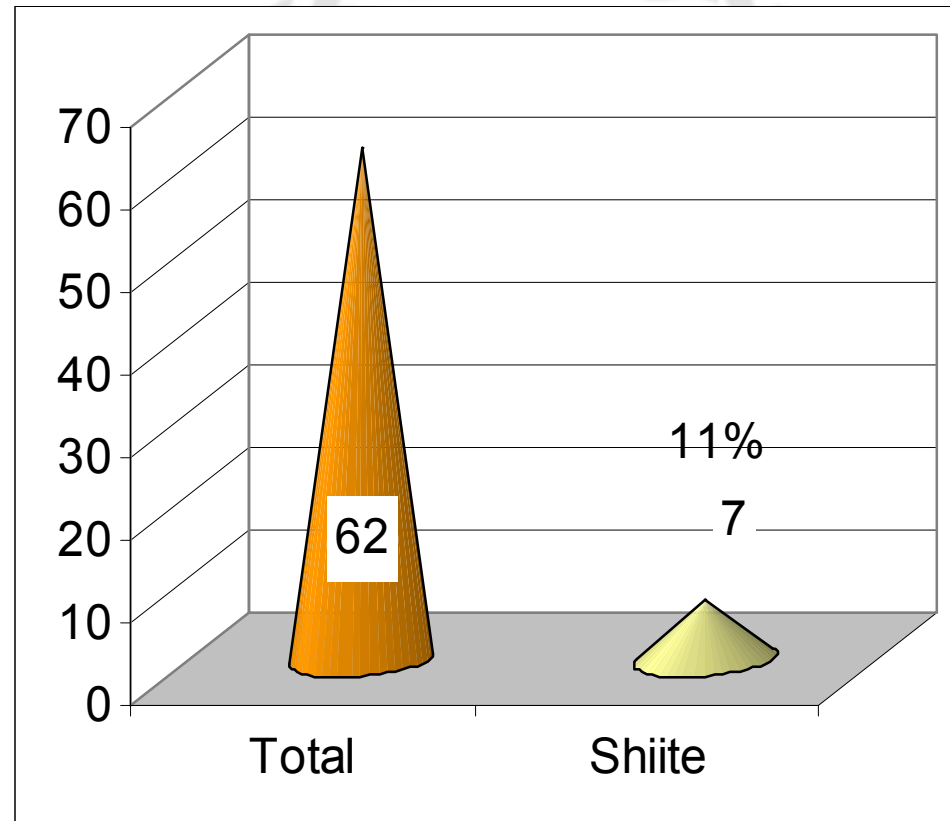


### Shiites with the rank of Minister



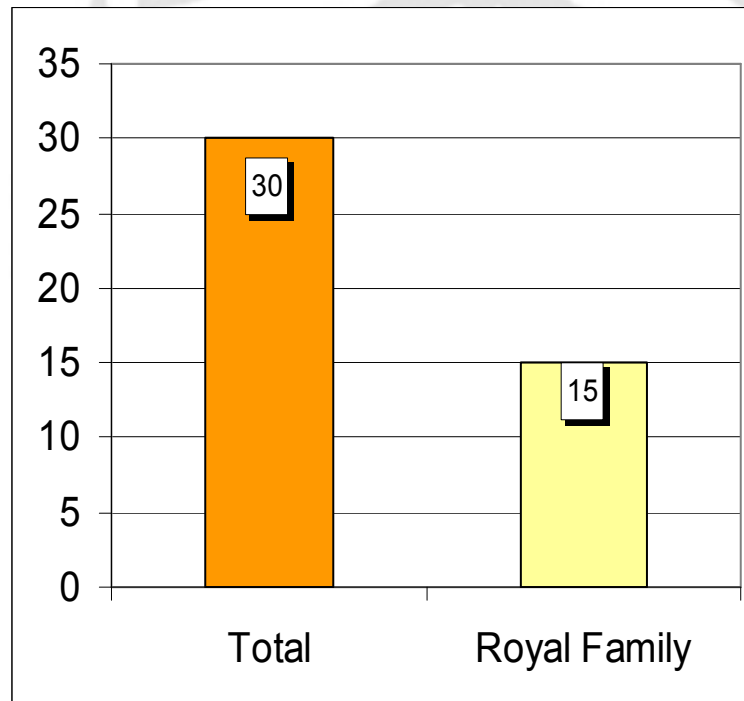


### Shiites with the rank of Undersecretary



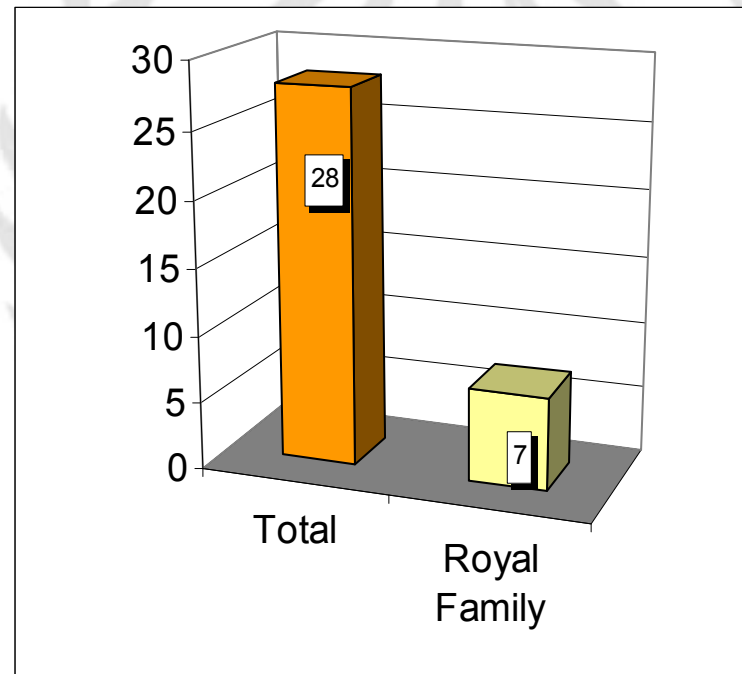


### High-ranking posts occupied by the Royal Family in Ministry of Interior (none for Shiites)





## High-ranking posts occupied by the Royal Family in Ministry of Defence (none for Shiites)





# Contents

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**Documentary Film:**

**Political Naturalization in Bahrain**



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