



وحدة التحقيق الخاصة
Special Investigation Unit

Special Investigation Unit Statistics

2023



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Acting Advocate General
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In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." These words were articulated in the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, issued on December 10, 1948. This principle, which the Kingdom of Bahrain has adopted as the basis for its criminal justice system, serves as a framework for the necessary protection of human rights, such as the right to life, bodily integrity, and human dignity, and it culminates in the establishment of several relevant entities, including the Special Investigation Unit.

As an independent judicial body, the SIU stands as a defender of the legal system, dedicated to safeguarding human rights with precision and integrity. Tasked with investigating and addressing crimes of torture and ill-treatment, it plays a crucial role in ensuring justice, fostering accountability, and strengthening the rights of individuals and society at large.

Under the constant support and guidance of His Excellency the Attorney General, Dr. Ali bin Fadhul Al Buainain, the SIU has diligently pursued its mandate, treating every allegation with the utmost seriousness and adhering to internationally recognized legal standards. This solid commitment has significantly reduced such crimes by over 80%, reflecting the SIU's efficacy in upholding human rights.

For the importance of providing accurate statistics and reports, and as a confirmation of the unit's commitment to transparency, it presents its third annual report. This report includes a comprehensive and detailed overview of all the work carried out by the Special Investigation Unit during the year 2023.

May Allah grant success.

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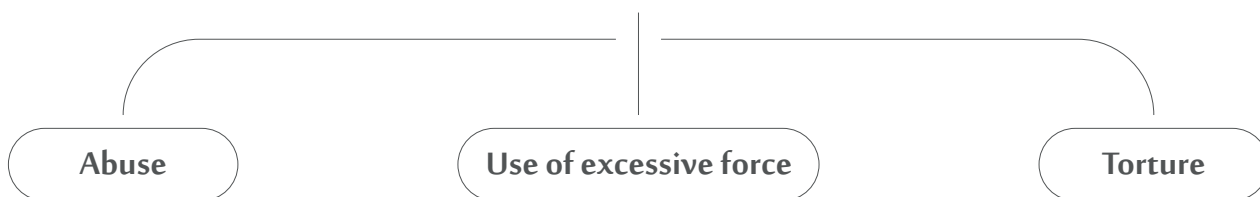
Part One: Complaints Received by SIU During the year 2023

First: Total Complaints Received by the Unit



Second: Classification of Complaints

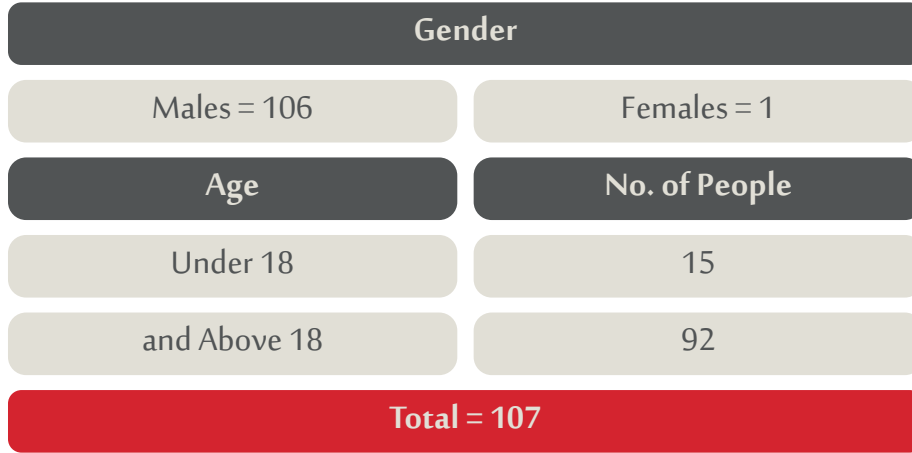
The allegations contained in the complaints varied between



Third: Nationalities of Complainants



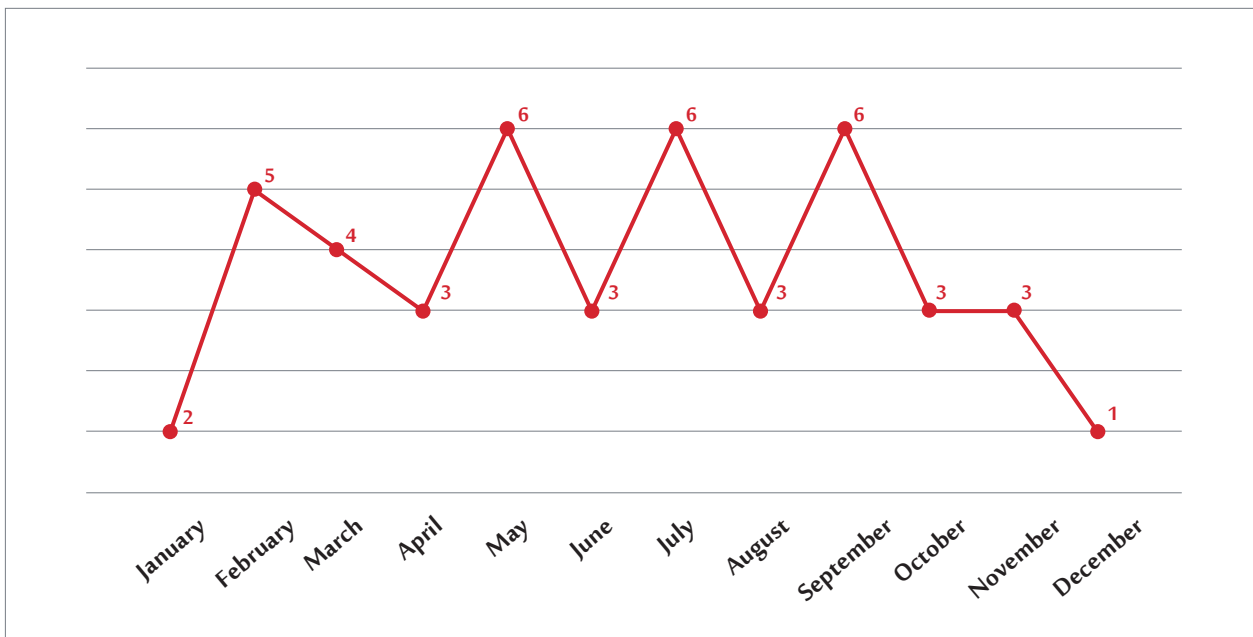
Fourth: Gender and Age of Complainants



Fifth: Source of Complaints

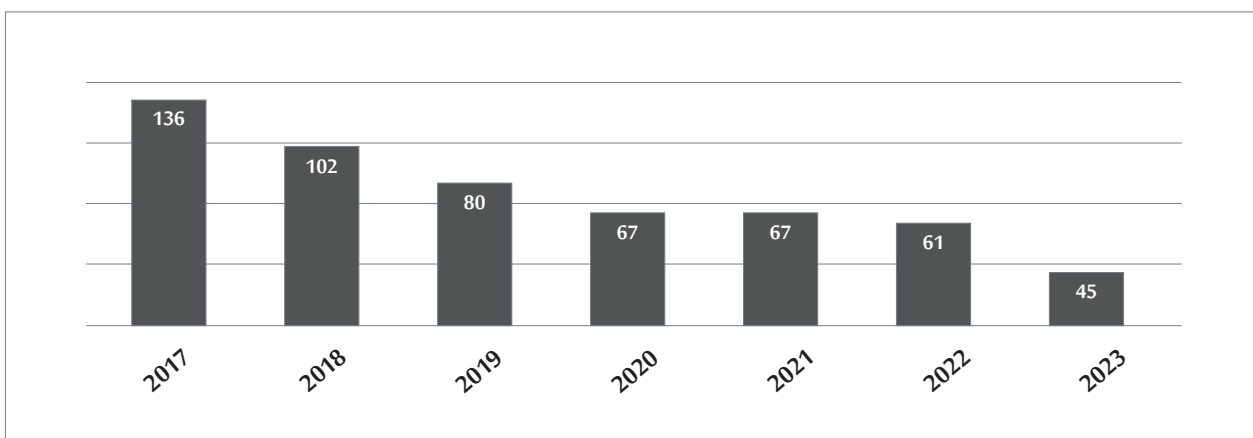


Sixth: Complaints by Month



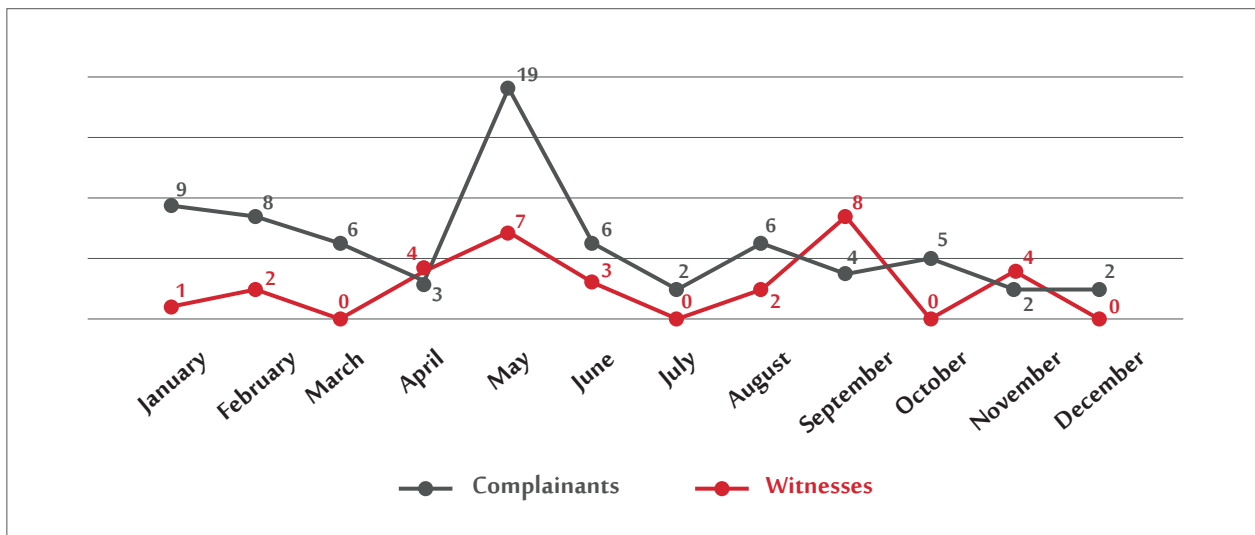
January	February	March	April	May	June
2	5	4	3	6	3
July	August	September	October	November	December
6	3	6	3	3	1

Seventh: Comparison of the Total Complaints Received by the Unit During the Year with Previous Years



Part Two: SIU Work During the year 2023

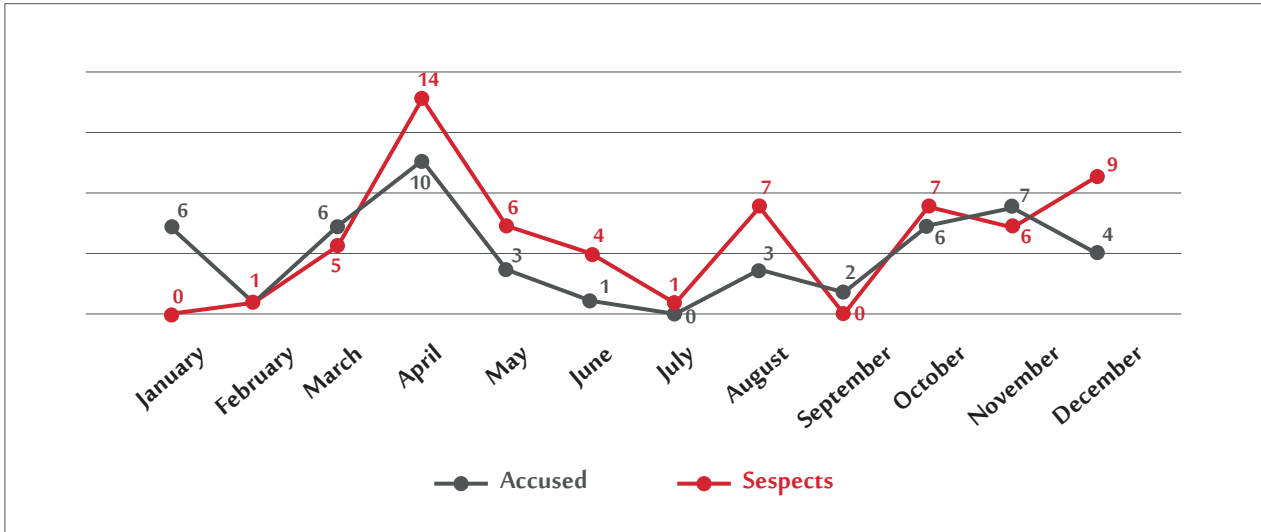
First: Complainants and Witnesses Interviewed



Month	Complainants	Witnesses
January	9	1
February	8	2
March	6	0
April	3	4
May	19	7
June	6	3
July	2	0
August	6	2
September	4	8
October	5	0
November	2	4
December	2	0
Total	72¹	31

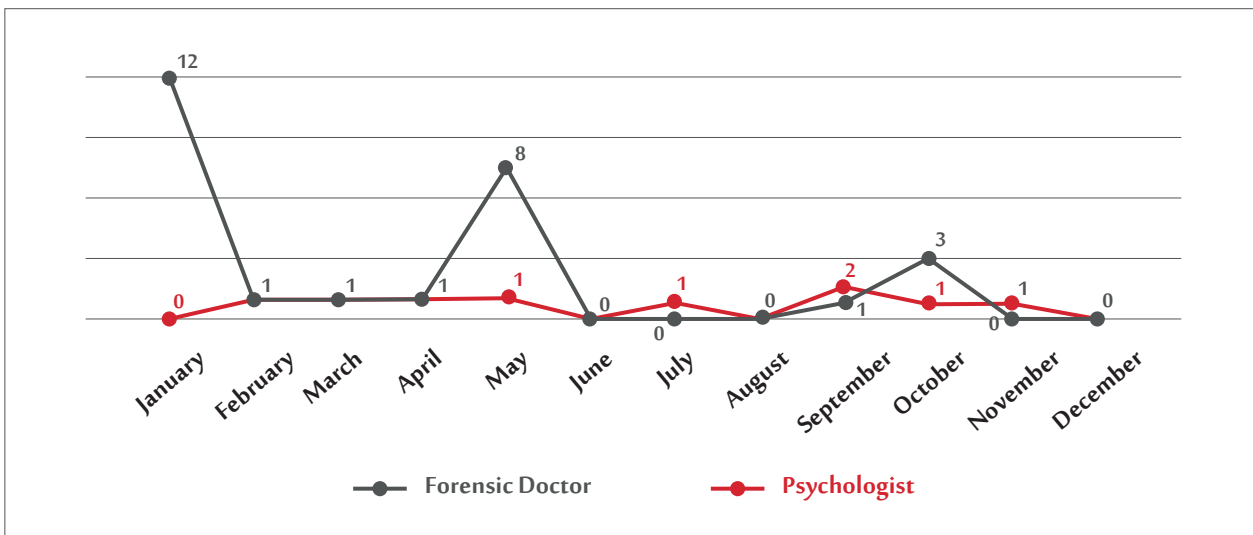
¹ It was not possible to interview a number of complainants after taking the prescribed legal procedures to hear their statements.

Second: Accused and Suspects Interviewed



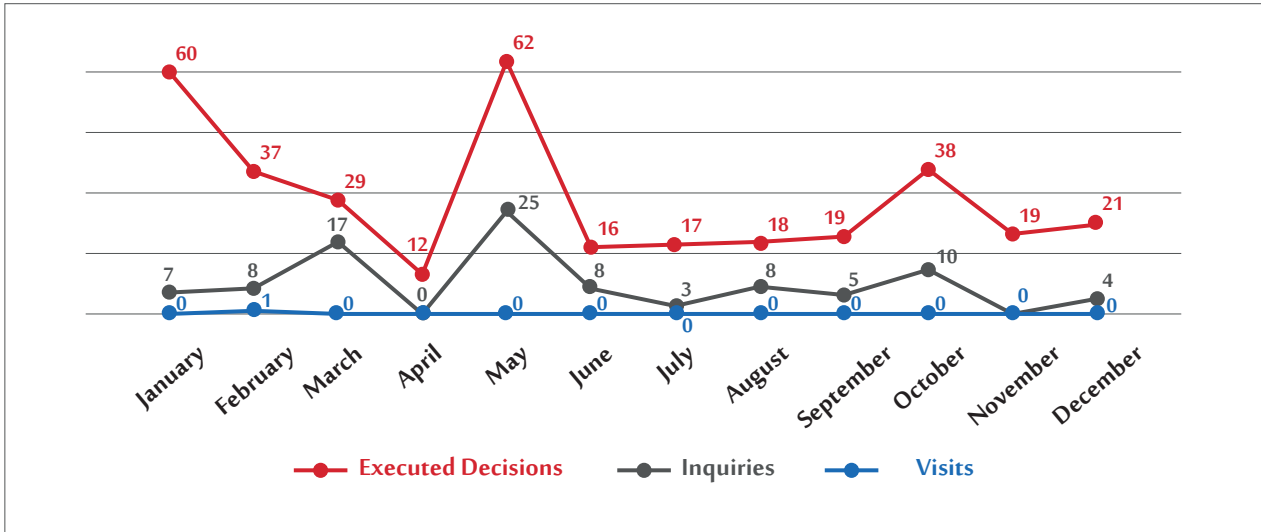
Month	Accused	Suspects
January	6	0
February	1	1
March	6	5
April	10	14
May	3	6
June	1	4
July	0	1
August	3	7
September	2	0
October	6	7
November	7	6
December	4	9
Total	49	60

Third: Complainants Referred to Forensic Medicine and Psychological Support



Month	Forensic Doctor	Psychologist
January	12	0
February	1	1
March	1	1
April	1	1
May	8	1
June	0	0
July	0	1
August	0	0
September	1	2
October	3	1
November	0	1
December	0	0
Total	27	9

Fourth: Judicial Police Division



Month	Executed Decision	Enquiries	² Visits
January	60	7	0
February	37	8	1
March	29	17	0
April	12	0	0
May	62	25	0
June	16	8	0
July	17	3	0
August	18	8	0
September	19	5	0
October	38	10	0
November	19	0	0
December	21	4	0
Total	348	95	1

² Visits: the visits of members of the Judicial Police to correctional and rehabilitation centers in execution of the decisions issued by SIU.

Fifth: Victims and Witnesses Affairs Division

Procedure	No.
Communicate with victims and their families and inform them of the legal procedures taken	9
Psychological support for victims	0
Protection requests	0
Total = 9	

Sixth: Responses to Local and International Inquiries and Reports

16
Report

SIU prepared **16** reports in response to inquiries received during the year.

Part Three: Complaints Referred to Competent Courts During the year 2023

First: Referral to Criminal Courts



Second: Referral to Military Courts Department of the Ministry of Interior for Disciplinary Sanctions



Third: Judgments Issued by Criminal Courts

Accusation	No. of Accused	Court & Ruling Date	Ruling
Torture	4	High Criminal 31/01/2023	The Court ruled in their presence to convict all the defendants to one year in prison for what was attributed to them.
		Appellate 27/03/2023	The Court granted the appeal in form and on the merits by rejecting it and upholding the appellant's judgement.
Assault	1	Minor Criminal 14/06/2023	The Court sentenced the defendant to a fine of 100 BD for what was attributed to him.
Assault	1	Minor Criminal 11/10/2023	The Court sentenced the defendant in his presence to 10 days in prison for what was attributed to him.
Assault	1	Minor Criminal 26/01/2023	Acquittal

Fourth: Disciplinary sanctions issued by the Military Courts Administration at the Ministry of Interior

SIU received disciplinary sanctions issued by the Military Courts Department at the Ministry of Interior in three different cases against four members of the Public Security Forces. SIU had previously ordered their referral to the Military Courts Administration to impose an appropriate disciplinary sanction on them. The disciplinary sanctions were as follows:

Conviction Rate

6 out of 7



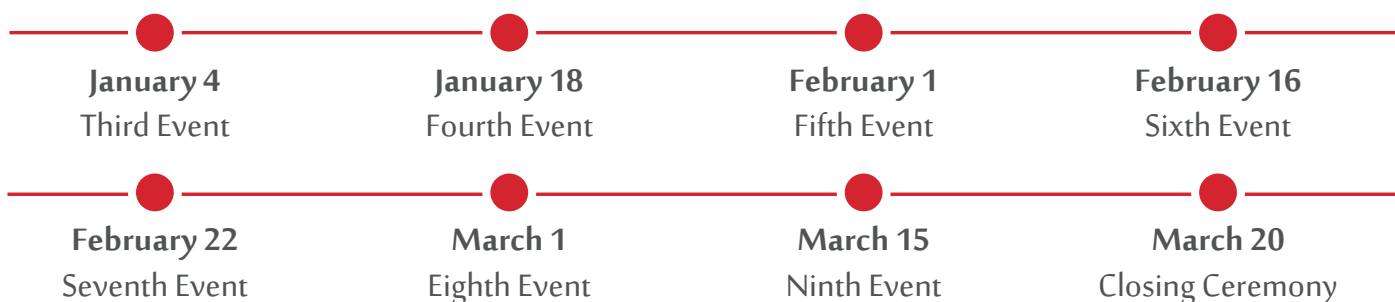
Part Four: Training Programs and Activities During The Year

First: Conferences, Seminars, and Training Programmes

The "National Training Programme to Enhance the Capacities of Those Concerned with the Protection of Human Rights in the Criminal Justice System," initiated in October 2022 under the esteemed patronage of His Excellency the Attorney General, Dr. Ali bin Fadhul Al Buainain, has concluded its activities. The programme, jointly organized by SIU and the UNDP, The Royal Academy of Police, and the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute, encompassed **9** events focusing on three main topics.



The programme attracted a total of **891** participants, comprising officials, members of national institutions, mechanisms, and agencies dedicated to human rights protection, law enforcement authorities, and civil society organizations. It addressed **50** diverse topics featuring presentations by a distinguished panel of national and international experts, with Bahraini experts representing over **80%** of the speakers. Additionally, female speakers accounted for **30%** of the total presenters.



July 17: The Special Investigation Unit delivered a lecture titled "Establishment of the Special Investigation Unit and Its Jurisdictions" as part of the training program organized by the Legal Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Interior for its members.

October 18-19: The Deputy Head of SIU contributed a working paper at the conference organized by the Ombudsman Office commemorating its 10th anniversary. The paper, titled "The Effectiveness of Ombudsmen in Institutional Work and Their Role in Promoting Respect for Human Rights".



November 13-14: SIU, in collaboration with UNDP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, convened a workshop titled "International Human Rights Procedures and Mechanisms" The workshop featured the participation of numerous international experts, representatives and associates of relevant national agencies and organizations, as well as civil society organization.



November 21: SIU, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Shura Council, convened an introductory seminar interpreting the roles and specializations of SIU, along with the international standards upheld in its operations.



December 11: The Head of SIU participated in an open dialogue symposium organized by the Ombudsman Office to coincide with International Human Rights Day and the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration. The symposium, titled "Promoting Respect for Human Rights: Duties and Challenges," provided a platform for discussions on pertinent human rights issues.



December 13: In collaboration with the General Secretariat of the House of Representatives, the head of SIU delivered a lecture on the establishment of SIU, its competencies, and its implementation of the principles outlined in the Istanbul Protocol.

Second: Launching SIU's Website

February 27: In alignment with the digital transformation and technological advancement strategy, and to uphold the principle of transparency that SIU has embraced since its inception, a modest ceremony was held in the presence of His Excellency the Attorney General, Dr. Ali bin Fadhul Al Buainain, and His Excellency Mr. Firas Gharaibeh, Resident Representative of the UNDP. During this event, SIU officially unveiled its website, providing a platform for submitting complaints and accessing all periodic and annual news, as well as reports issued by SIU.



Third: Visits



March 14: Mr. David Brownstein, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain, paid a visit to the Special Investigation Unit.



April 5: Engineer Ali Ahmed Al Darazi, Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights, along with several members of the institution, paid a visit to the Special Investigation Unit.



June 14: Visit of Mr. Maqsood Cruz, Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission in the United Arab Emirates, and his accompanying delegation to the Special Investigation Unit.



September 7: Mr. Sean O'Connell, UNDP international expert in the field of rule of law, security and human rights, visited the Special Investigation Unit.



September 19: Ms. Fiona Walker, Deputy Head of Mission of the United Kingdom Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain, visited the Special Investigation Unit.



September 26: Dr. Abdul-Jabbar Al-Tayeb, President of the Bahraini Jurists Association, visited the Special Investigation Unit.



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