

Bahrain court sets October 28 trial for alleged terror network

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- By Habib Toumi, Bahrain Bureau Chief
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Manama: A court has set an October 28 trial date for an alleged terror network, a senior public prosecution official has said.

"The Public prosecution has ordered the referral of the defendants in the terror group case to the criminal court," Abdul Rahman Al Syed said.

Bahrain last month said that it has busted a network allegedly plotting to undermine the country's security and to carry out acts of sabotage and arson.

The National Security Agency (NSA) said that the network had 25 top and middle level leaders published the names and pictures. Two of the top leaders lived in London, the agency said. Bahrain, backed by its fellow Gulf Cooperation Council member states, later urged Britain to deport Gulf nationals who funded or supported terrorism.

In September, the public prosecution pressed 12 charges against all suspects. International human rights groups have called upon the Bahraini authorities to uphold the rights of all the detainees and to ensure that they would be fairly treated.

According to Al Syed, the charge sheet includes forming an illegal group to stall the constitution and laws, hindering the state authorities from exercising their responsibilities, undermining public order and endangering Bahrain's safety and security.

Other charges in the trial are "using terror to achieve objectives, consciously joining a network and funding it, inciting hatred and scorn of the political regime, possessing pamphlets and disseminating false news and malicious rumours to disrupt public security and interests, disseminating false news and malicious rumours abroad about the country's domestic situation, inciting publicly for the hatred of a sect of the society to undermine social peace, rioting and starting fires."

According to Al Sayyed, under these charges, the defendants could face life in prison.