On Tuesday at dawn, security forces arrested football player Yousif Sahwan. He was arrested at his house in Magba.

Sahwan is renowned in his area as an athlete who dreams of a beautiful country that would be a better place for the nation’s youth. “Yousif is forgiving and always smiling. He is a hard working student. He was set to finish his exams in three days and start high school next year,” said his family.

Final exams are in session while hundreds of schoolchildren and university students are detained in Bahrain. These students are denied from their right to education, because of their arrest or prosecution.

Al-Wefaq said, "Violations by the authorities deprive the students from their right to receive an education. They are punishing the new generation for their involvement in peaceful protests."

Al-Wefaq accused the regime of trying to drag students and educational institutions to the political conflict, which did not work. But the continued oppression, arrests and prosecutions of students is leading to the denial of the right to education."

According to figures, more than 200 students of various stages are now languishing behind bars.

Jihad Al-Sameea, age 11, is the youngest prisoner in Bahrain. The charges against him are not commensurate to his age and he broke down in tears upon hearing them. He is accused
of attacking an officer and vandalizing two vehicles that belong to the Ministry of Interior in addition to charges of illegal assembly and rioting.

Head of the Athletes’ Defense Committee, Journalist Faisal Hyatt, demanded “the stop of the systematic targeting against athletes over sectarian reasons, which are well known and frequent”.

Hyatt wonders: "Where are the sports organizations that these athletes represent? Why not provide them with guarantees and protections from this continued targeting? And where is the President of the Olympic Committee? Is this the way to honor the most promising sports stars?"

The security authorities have arrested another athlete, Hakeem Oraibi, in similar circumstances after being chosen to join the national team, and he was sentenced to 10 years in jail.

Statistics published by the Athletes’ Defense Committee prove the arrest of dozens of athletes, and legal charges against them reached up to about 634 years; all due to the continued targeting since the beginning of the popular movement in February 2011.