

OUR RESPONSE (M&I Construction Ltd. Co.)

20 May 2020

Dear Salma Houerbi (Regional Researcher) and Marti Flacks (Deputy Director).

Migrants-Rights.Org in reference to your email of 19 May 2020

We respond, though, we don't know how you are registered to interfere within the Kingdom of Bahrain, we think it is an interference in the sovereignty of Bahrain, which has very good and honest laws and our workers are protected within the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain

We were in contact with the Migrant Workers Protection Society, Bahrain to try and settle the worker strike. However, they failed to settle between our company and the 18 workers. Whatever other workers were not satisfied, all were negotiated with and departed peacefully. We offered to discuss with the 18, we cancelled all work visa's, as per law, returned all their passports (we have the right to present their passports for cancellation of residence visa's), and they squatted on our property, using our electricity, water, accommodation while they worked elsewhere. We agreed with the Migrant Workers Protection Society to leave the workers be, let them stay in our accommodation, though, technically they were squatters instigating problems with our other employees, and obviously there are serious questions about liability in the event of an accident. All this we accepted.

For your information, we had to hire subcontractors to complete our work, while our workers sat around, went to work on neighboring sites, and elsewhere, led by 3 former employees who had other objectives in mind.

We now have 18 legal cases from former M&I Construction employees for unpaid wages, total settlements ranging from BD 69,000 to BD 2,900,000. Though we tried to arrange a settlement for all, as one can see, mostly these are not major settlements, the former employees, who are all working elsewhere obviously felt that a court case would secure a Work Visa for them. Which, to our understanding, was provided by the government. We discovered that there were 3 main leaders to instigating these 18 court cases, these 3 were determined to secure work elsewhere and stay in Bahrain.

We bring to your attention that M&I Construction employed and paid over \$200,000,000.00 to our former employees since our start in 1975, only in the past 12 months we started facing some difficulties and delayed salaries. For 44 years we paid salaries on time; thousands of families lived from our joint efforts, built homes, educated their children, and lived to retirement, now we are considered criminals, threatened with permanent exposure as abusers of human rights, over 18 people, on your website?

The owner of the company recently passed away, this February 2020, the man who is responsible for making thousands of migrant workers and their families and children happy, prosperous, and this matters not to you? Shame on you.

M&I Construction Ltd. Co.