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Ms. Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President
of the European Commission

Brussels, 7 September 2017

Dear Federica,

I am very concerned with information I have just received regarding Ms. Ebtisam Al-Saegh, a Bahraini human rights activist currently detained at the Isa Town Women's Prison in Manama. Ms. Ebtisam Al-Saegh works for SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights, whom the Bahraini Terrorism Crimes Prosecution Office has formally charged with terrorism under the Anti-Terrorism Law on 18 July, 2017.

On 3 July, 2017, Ms. Al-Saegh was arrested without an arrest warrant. Ever since July 18, 2017, she has been barred from seeing her lawyer and has been continuously interrogated without his presence. She was also prevented from seeing her family.

According to Amnesty International and other sources, Ms. Al-Saegh suffers from a fractured arm and broken ribs dating back to May, 2017. There've also been disturbing reports that she is being interrogated by the National Security Agency for up to 12 hours a day. Moreover, she has stated that she has been the subject of torture, ill-treatment and even threatened with sexual abuse; she has also been in prolonged solitary confinement since her arrest, deteriorating her physical and psychological condition. During Ms. Al-Saegh imprisonment, she has lost 12kg. Due to the prison's precarious sanitary conditions, she is afraid she might contract a disease as she is often forced to share spaces with co-detainees contaminated with tuberculosis.

Two other prominent human rights defenders, Mr. Mohammad Khalil al-Shakouri and Mr. Radhi al-Qatari have also been detained and accused of crimes for which there are no legal grounds. They have seamlessly endured the same type of abuses.

I urge you and the EEAS Delegation to Bahrain to engage with the Bahraini authorities regarding the case of Ms. Ebtisam and of her fellow activists, in order to ensure that they are given access to their representation and fair prosecution regarding their accusations; for Bahrain to stop all forms of illegal



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imprisonment and violent and inhuman interrogation techniques, and to comply with international human rights' standards.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament