



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament  
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa  
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eitropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament  
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European  
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

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

Brussels, 11 April 2019

Dear Federica,

I write to bring to your attention the urgent case of political prisoner Hassan Mushaima, who is being denied unconditional access to adequate medical treatment while serving his unlawful sentence to life imprisonment in Jau Prison.

Mr. Mushaima is in his 70s and suffers from a number of medical conditions, including diabetes, erratic blood pressure, prostate issues as well as an ear infection. He also requires regular scans as he is in remission for lymphoma cancer.

These conditions require that Mr. Mushaima undertakes regular check-ups and follow-up treatment. In order for him to receive his prescription, prison authorities insist that he would have to go to the prison clinic shackled and in prison uniform, which he refuses to do. This practice, aimed at degrading and humiliating prisoners, is contrary to Rule 47 of the Mandela Rules, whereby restraint instruments should only be used as a precaution against escape or to prevent prisoners from injuring themselves or others. As a result, Mr Mushaima is not receiving adequate medical care and his health is at risk. More specifically:

- **Diabetes:** Mr. Mushaima has not been able to see a diabetes specialist for more than 2 years. Since August 2017, his diabetes medication has been given to him sporadically. In January 2018, he was taken to the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Hospital as his blood sugar had arisen to a dangerous level. The doctor gave him 3 insulin shots and advised him to consult a diabetes specialist. To date, such a visit has never materialised.
- **Cancer Scans:** Despite it being a necessity, prison authorities have not allowed Mr. Mushaima to attend a check-up for 2 years. After 2 years, on 27 August 2018, the Bahraini authorities finally took Hassan to the hospital for a cancer PET scan but have failed to disclose the results to him. Cancer scans should be taken every six months. The cancer scan which was supposed to be taken on 27 February 2019, however, did not take place.

Ana Gomes  
European Parliament  
Bât. Altiero Spinelli, 14G201, rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel. : +32 (0)2 284 58 24 Fax : +32 (0)2 284 98 24  
[anamaria.gomes@ep.europa.eu](mailto:anamaria.gomes@ep.europa.eu)



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament  
Euroopa Parlament Ελληνικό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa  
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament  
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European  
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

- **Prostate:** Mr. Mushaima also suffers from prostate issues. Although he regularly takes tablets, he has never consulted a specialist.
- **Ear infection:** Mr. Mushaima suffers from an ear infection which does not allow him to hear properly and is causing him pain and discomfort. Years ago, Mr. Mushaima had an operation to that ear due to the torture suffered during his interrogation which caused severe complications. He has had his appointments with the otolaryngologist cancelled for about 10 times, as authorities insisted that he wears the shackles.

The international community has expressed great concern for Mr. Mushaima's condition. The US State Department reported on his poor detention conditions in its Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2018. Similarly, Amnesty International, which labelled him a "prisoner of conscience", issued a report detailing the systematic absence of adequate medical care in Bahrain's Jau Prison, including Mr Mushaima's case. Finally, the United Nations have joined the call for his release.

On 7 September 2018, the Ministry of Interior Ombudsman issued a statement claiming that "in light of Mr. Mushaima's age and medical history, the Ombudsman office requested the rehabilitation centre administration to, on an exceptional basis, permit Mr. Mushaima to attend an outside hospital consultation for a health check-up without being handcuffed." Not only did the Ombudsman dismiss all medical concerns, but such a visit has never materialised.

Therefore, I kindly request that you make urgent representations to the Bahraini authorities so that Mr. Mushaima is immediately granted access to medical care, without restriction, including:

- A diabetes specialist, an otolaryngologist and a urologist;
- PET cancer scans every six months.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Best regards  
Ana Gomes

Ana Gomes  
Member of the European Parliament

Ana Gomes  
European Parliament  
Bât. Altiero Spinelli, 14G201, rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel. : +32 (0)2 284 58 24 Fax : +32 (0)2 284 98 24  
[anamaria.gomes@ep.europa.eu](mailto:anamaria.gomes@ep.europa.eu)