



Attn. Cheikh Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa,
King of Bahrain,

Cheikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa,
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs,

Lt. Gen. Cheikh Rashed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa,
Minister of Interior,

HE Dr. Salah bin Ali Abdulrahman,
Minister of Human Rights Affairs,

Brussels, November 22 2013

Subject: Call for the immediate release of detained human rights defender Mr. Nabeel Rajab according to the provisions of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure

Excellencies,

I call upon the highest authorities of Bahrain to guarantee the release of Mr. Nabeel Rajab, who will have served 3/4 of his sentence on December 1st, 2013 and is therefore eligible an early release. According to Articles 349, 350, 353 of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure, detainees imprisoned for misdemeanours are eligible for an early release after serving 3/4 of their sentence given that their conduct and behaviour in prison are satisfactory.

Mr. Rajab, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), is serving a two years' imprisonment sentence for advocating and exercising the right to peaceful assembly. He has been detained since July 9, 2012.

Between September and December 2012, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders conducted four judicial observation missions to monitor the hearings in the trial of Mr. Nabeel Rajab. A report presenting the findings of those observations concluded that the trial in appeal against Mr. Rajab failed to comply with international standards of fair trial. The entire procedure was fraught with serious human rights violations from the time of arrest, through detention, trial and conviction. I consider that Mr. Rajab's conviction blatantly violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) ratified by Bahrain, but also a number of basic internationally recognised human rights such as the right to fair trial.

Though the authorities of Bahrain have committed on several occasions to implement the recommendations issued by the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI), including the release of all prisoners of opinion, Mr. Nabeel Rajab is still detained.



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Accordingly, I urge the relevant authorities to comply with both international and domestic laws and release Mr Rajab without any further delay through the implementation of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament



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