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

Brussels, 1 February 2018

Dear Federica,

Since your response on 10 January to my letter concerning Nabeel Rajab, his condition has gravely deteriorated. According to a joint press release issued by the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders on January 25, "Bahraini authorities have planned to interfere with [...] Nabeel Rajab's medication in a clear attempt to threaten his security and integrity".

As you know, Nabeel remains one of the prominent figures of the 2011 pro-democracy manifestations in Bahrain, and since then has been detained multiple times over Twitter statements he reportedly made about the war in Yemen and the human rights situation in Bahrain. He is nothing more than a prisoner of conscience; the Bahraini Kingdom's refusal to release Nabeel - keeping him in prison under suspicious conditions, and its refusal to let independent international doctors examine him, have contributed to his increasingly alarming medical condition.

Nabeel's case regrettably is not an isolated one. Local activists say that the human rights situation in Bahrain has worsened significantly over the past year due to a weakened international pressure.

In light of this, it's crucial for the EU to take an even more serious and firm stand *vis-à-vis* Bahrain, by voicing and denouncing the country's mistreatment of prisoners and emphasising the importance of ensuring that all prisoners are given access to independent and internationally-sanctioned medical services.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes

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Member of the European Parliament