

Brussels, 09 AOUT 2018
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Ms Ana Gomes MEP
European Parliament
Brussels

Dear Ana,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 4 July 2018 in which you provided further information on the deteriorating health of Nabeel Rajab in Bahrain.

The specific case of Nabeel Rajab has become symbolic of the difficulties being experienced by human rights defenders and by those expressing political dissent in Bahrain. This is a case in regards to which I have repeatedly reacted in public, including on 6 June 2018 in a statement made by my Spokesperson following the news that the Bahrain Court of Appeal had upheld a five year prison sentence against Mr Rajab for comments posted on social media. We called on Bahrain to grant Mr Rajab's release, including on humanitarian grounds given the reported deterioration of his health.

Furthermore, in a statement delivered under item 2 at the Human Rights Council on 19 June 2018 in Geneva, the EU expressed its concern about the overall deterioration of the situation in terms of respecting political rights and the shrinking political space in Bahrain. The EU called upon the authorities to respect freedom of opinion and expression, including for human rights defenders, as well as the freedom of peaceful assembly and the right to a fair trial. The EU also raised the situation of Nabeel Rajab with the Bahraini authorities in the context of the informal EU-Bahrain Human Rights dialogue on 15 May 2018 in Manama, and it will continue to follow this case closely.

The EU will continue to use all available means at its disposal to further address the human rights situation in Bahrain in order to help the country its the path to dialogue and reconciliation again, in line with the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry.

Yours Sincerely,



Federica Mogherini