



Atn. Cheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,
King of Bahrain,

Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister

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

Brussels, October 2nd 2014

**Subject: detention of Nabeel Rajab, President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR)
and Deputy Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**

Excellencies,

Nabeel Rajab has been arrested in Bahrain after being summoned to the CID's Cyber Crimes Department for interrogation yesterday, October 1st 2014. He had just arrived back in Bahrain after advocacy trip which included the participation at Exchange of views on the human rights situation in Bahrain at the Subcommittee on Human Rights in the European Parliament.

We have information that he will face Public Prosecution allegedly on the grounds that he offended government institutions on his Twitter account and there are reasons to believe that he was arrested for his recent international advocacy efforts.

We urge the Bahraini authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Nabeel Rajab and note that the criticism of the government by civil society activists, either in Bahrain or abroad, constitutes a legitimate act within the remit of freedom of expression, freedom of association and the public debate in open, free and democratic societies. The continued harassment of human rights defenders in Bahrain is, therefore, completely unacceptable and falls short of the commitments taken by Bahrain in the field of human rights, namely at the UN Human Rights Council.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes (S&D)

Marietje Schaake (ALDE)