

# URGENT ACTION

## ZAINAB AL-KHAWAJA COURT SESSIONS POSTPONED

**Bahraini activist Zainab Al-Khawaja was released on bail on 16 February and has had her trial postponed several times since. She is now due in court on 14 October on two separate charges: “destroying government property” and “insulting a police officer”.**

**Zainab Al-Khawaja** was released on bail on 16 February after nearly a year in prison serving a series of short sentences for an array of charges. They included “destroying government property”, “insulting a police officer”, “illegal gathering”, “rioting” and “inciting hatred against the regime”. On 18 February Amnesty International issued a press release on her behalf: *Bahrain: Outspoken activist fears re-arrest days after her release* (see: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/bahrain-outspoken-activist-fears-re-arrest-days-after-her-release-2014-02-1>).

She was due to appear in court in two separate cases, but her court sessions have been repeatedly postponed since her release. She is due to appear in court on 14 October. In the first case, Zainab Al-Khawaja is accused of “insulting a police officer” after she defended a prisoner who was humiliated by a prison guard at a women’s detention centre south of the capital, Manama, in June 2013. In the second, she is accused of “destroying government property” after she ripped up pictures of the King while detained at a police station in ‘Issa Town on both 4 and 6 May 2012. Should Zainab Al-Khawaja be detained again solely for peacefully exercising her rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly Amnesty International would consider her to be a prisoner of conscience.

The day after being released, Zainab Al-Khawaja told Amnesty International that she would like to thank the organization and its members for all the support they had given her, and said she was honoured by what they had done for her.

**No further action is requested by the UA network as the next trial session may well be postponed yet again. Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor Zainab Al-Khawaja’s case and take further action as necessary.**

This is the ninth update of UA 232/12. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/007/2014/en>

Name: Zainab al-Khawaja  
Gender m/f: f

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