

URGENT ACTION

SAYED YOUSIF ALMUHAFDAH RELEASED

Bahraini human rights activist Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah was released on 16 November and the charges against him were dropped.

Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah – Acting Vice-President of the Bahrain Centre of Human Rights – was released on 16 November. He had been arrested on 2 November in the village of Diraz village in the northwest of the capital, Manama, for reportedly monitoring a gathering taking place and the police behaviour towards protesters. The charges of participating in an “illegal gathering” and “taking part in an unauthorised march” brought against him by the Public Prosecutor’s Office were dropped.

Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah was arrested on several occasions between August and October 2012 while he was passing through checkpoints near his house, but he was released without charge hours after each arrest. He says he was beaten during his detention in August; he filed a complaint but no investigation is known to have taken place.

Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah told Amnesty international that he had been treated well while in detention in the Dry Dock prison in Manama. He added: “thank you all for the statement and [your] solidarity... I’m sure that because of you, I was released”.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Amnesty International will keep monitoring the situation and will take action when necessary. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 324/12. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/063/2012/en>.

Further information on UA: 324/12 Index: MDE 11/067/2012 Issue Date: 23 November 2012