

URGENT ACTION

DEFENDER RELEASED ON BAIL, BANNED FROM TRAVEL

Nabeel Rajab has been released on bail and his court session was adjourned until 20 January 2015. He has been banned from travelling.

Prominent human rights activist **Nabeel Rajab** was released on bail on 2 November, during a court hearing which was scheduled to issue the verdict in the case against him. His trial has been adjourned until 20 January 2015 and he has been issued with a travel ban. Amnesty International spoke with Nabeel Rajab who said that he learnt of the travel ban when reading a news statement. During the court hearing, the judge had confirmed to him that he was allowed to travel.

The charges of “publicly insulting official institutions” under Article 216 of Bahrain’s Penal Code have not been dropped. If convicted, he will face up to three years in prison.

Nabeel Rajab told Amnesty International that he would like to “thank all Amnesty International members and sections. Your efforts resulted in my release and I urge you to continue as there are hundreds of others who remain in prison”.

Please write immediately in English, Arabic or your own language:

- Calling on the Bahraini authorities to lift the travel ban against Nabeel Rajab and drop all charges against him as they relate to him peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Urging them to uphold the right to freedom of expression and repeal laws that criminalize the peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly including Article 216 of the Penal Code.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 DECEMBER 2014 TO:

King

Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace, al-Manama
Bahrain
Fax: +973 1766 4587

Salutation: Your Majesty

Ministry of Interior

Shaikh Rashid bin 'Abdullah Al Khalifa
P.O. Box 13, al-Manama
Bahrain
Fax: +973 1723 2661
Email via website:
www.interior.gov.bh/contact_en.aspx

Twitter: @moi_Bahrain

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs

Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa
Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs
P. O. Box 450, al-Manama
Bahrain
Fax: +973 1753 1284

Email via website:

<http://www.moj.gov.bh/en/>

Twitter: @Khaled_Bin_Ali

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 249/14. Further information:
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/036/2014/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nabeel Rajab appeared before the Public Prosecution office on 9 October and was charged with “publicly insulting official institutions” under Article 216 of Bahrain’s Penal Code. He was detained in al-Hooraa police station in the capital, Manama until he was released on bail on 2 November.

Article 216 criminalizes offending “by any method of expression the National Assembly, or other constitutional institutions, the army, law courts, authorities or government agencies”.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights called for Nabeel Rajab’s immediate release on 3 October. Following this, the US State Department called on the Bahraini authorities to drop all charges against him on 16 October.

Name: Nabeel Rajab

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 249/14 Index: MDE 11/043/2014 Issue Date: 3 November 2014