

URGENT ACTION

CANADIAN IN BAHRAIN RELEASED ON BAIL

A Canadian imprisoned in Bahrain for taking part in protests was released on bail on 6 February 2012. His charges have not been dropped and he has a hearing on 16 February. Amnesty International calls for all the charges against him to be dropped.

Naser Bader al-Raas, a Canadian national of Kuwaiti origin was sent to prison on 1 February after an appeal hearing against his five-year prison sentence on 1 February. He had been sentenced on 25 October 2011, together with another 12 defendants for inciting hatred towards the regime, participating in illegal gatherings and giving false information to the media. These charges were linked to his participation in protests in March 2011.

Naser Bader al-Raas went into hiding after the verdict was announced on 25 October. On 24 January 2012, the High Criminal Court of Appeal in Manama, Bahrain's capital, acquitted the rest of the group of all charges but Naser Bader al-Raas lost his right to appeal because he was not present in court. His lawyer petitioned the Court for a review of this decision. On 1 February he appeared before the High Criminal Court of Appeal and was arrested.

Naser Bader al-Raas was held in Jaw prison until his release on bail on 6 February. The charges against him have not been dropped and he is still expected to appear before the High Criminal Court of Appeal on 16 February for the review of his five year sentence. If the sentence is upheld, he could be sent back to prison.

Amnesty International considers that Naser Bader al-Raas has been sentenced for exercising his right to freedom of expression and assembly and therefore the charges against him should be immediately dropped.

Please write immediately in English or Arabic:

- Urge the Bahraini authorities to immediately drop all charges against Naser Bader al-Raas since he has been sentenced for exercising his right to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Urge the authorities to conduct an immediate investigation into his allegations of torture, make the results public and bring to justice anyone found responsible for his torture or other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 MARCH 2012 TO:

His Majesty the King

Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace, al-Manama, Bahrain
Fax: +973 176 64 587

Salutation: Your Majesty

Minister of Interior

Shaikh Rashid bin 'Abdullah bin Ahmad
Al Khalifa
Ministry of Interior
P.O. Box 13, al-Manama,
Bahrain
Fax: +973 172 32 661

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Human Rights and Social Development

Dr Fatima bint Mohammed Al Balooshi
Ministry of Human Rights and Social
Development
P.O. Box 32868, Manama, Bahrain
Fax: +973 171 04 977

E-mail: pr@social.gov.bh

Salutation: Your Excellency

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 24/12. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/005/2012/en>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

CANADIAN IN BAHRAIN RELEASED ON BAIL

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Naser Bader al-Raas was arrested at Bahrain International Airport on 20 March 2011 when he was leaving the country. He had arrived on 6 March 2011 for a family visit and during his stay in Bahrain he had taken part in demonstrations. After his arrest, his family and friends did not know his whereabouts for one month, during which time he was held in solitary confinement. He later claimed he had been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in detention, including by being beaten with sticks, being forced to stand for long hours and being verbally abused. He was later released without explanation on 20 April and his passport was confiscated. He was sentenced to 5 years in prison on 25 October, together with another 12 defendants, for inciting hatred towards the regime, participating in illegal gatherings and giving false information to the media. He went into hiding after the verdict was announced.

Name: Naser Bader al-Raas

Gender m/f: male

Further information on UA: 24/12 Index: MDE 11/006/2012 Issue Date: 7 February 2012