

# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST 'OFFENDS' AUTHORITIES

**Bahraini human rights activist Nabeel Rajab was arrested on 1 October. The Public Prosecution has ordered him to be detained for seven days, for further investigation. He is a prisoner of conscience.**

**Nabeel Rajab**, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights and Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights was summoned to the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID) Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security Unit on 1 October for questioning about tweets from his Twitter account considered offensive to government institutions, with his lawyer present. The CID ordered him to be detained overnight. The following day, he was taken before the Public Prosecution for questioning with a view to bringing formal charges against him or not. The Public Prosecution ordered him to be detained for a further seven days, pending further investigation. He is detained at al-Hooraa police station in the capital, Manama.

Amnesty International has reviewed Nabeel Rajab's statements on Twitter and considers him a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for peacefully expressing his opinion. He is being investigated under Article 216 of Bahrain's Penal Code, which criminalizes those who "offend by any method of expression the National Assembly, or other constitutional institutions, the army, law courts, authorities or government agencies". If convicted, he could face up to three years in prison.

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

- Calling on the Bahraini authorities to release Nabeel Rajab immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for 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 13 NOVEMBER 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**

Minister of Interior  
 Shaikh Rashid bin 'Abdullah Al Khalifa  
 Ministry of Interior  
 P.O. Box 13, al-Manama  
 Bahrain  
 Fax: +973 1723 2661  
 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.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nabeel Rajab was released from prison on 24 May 2014, after serving a two-year sentence for taking part in “illegal gatherings with the intention of disturbing public security” and calling for and participating in marches without prior notification between January and March 2012. He had been sentenced to three years in prison on 16 August 2012, which was reduced on appeal to two years in prison on 11 December 2012.

He then joined a two-month international human rights advocacy tour to a number of European countries to highlight the human rights situation in Bahrain. The tour included the UN Human Rights Council's 27<sup>th</sup> session in Geneva, in which he chaired a panel on tracking Bahrain's fulfilment of the recommendations made during its Universal Periodic Review (a UN mechanism to examine the human rights performance of its member states). He visited Amnesty International's International Secretariat on 7 August and spoke with staff and with the Secretary General about the human rights situation in Bahrain. He also wrote a message of thanks for Amnesty International's blog, Livewire: <http://livewire.amnesty.org/2014/06/10/bahrain-a-message-of-thanks-from-newly-released-prisoner-of-conscience-nabeel-rajab/>.

Nabeel Rajab's statement on Twitter which was considered offensive to government institutions referred to security institutions in Bahrain as “ideological incubators”. This was in reference to a video posted by the armed group calling itself the Islamic State which shows Bahraini men, some of whom had left the Bahraini Ministry of Interior to join the armed group.

Name: Nabeel Rajab  
Gender m/f: m

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