

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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On Tuesday 14 August 2012, the final verdict on the appeal by 13 opposition activists and prisoners of conscience in Bahrain are due to be handed down.

Amnesty International has mandated Dr Ghanim Hamad Alnajjar, an internationally recognised human rights expert, to attend and observe the proceedings at the High Criminal Court of Appeal in Manama on 14 August 2012.

Dr Ghanim will be available for interviews, in English and Arabic, after the hearing.

The 13, who include prominent activist Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, were originally sentenced by military court in June 2011 to between two years and life in prison on charges including “setting up terror groups to topple the royal regime and change the constitution”.

All of the men maintain their innocence.

Several of the defendants have described in previous court hearings their alleged torture and other ill-treatment in detention, including sexual assault, to coerce “confessions”.

Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience, held solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly and has repeatedly called on the Bahraini authorities to quash all 13 opposition activists' convictions and release them immediately and unconditionally.

When: Tuesday 14 August 2012

Contact: for more information and to arrange interviews with Dr. Ghanim Hamad Alnajjar, please contact the Amnesty International Press Office on +44 (0) 20 7413 5566 or email press@amnesty.org