

# URGENT ACTION

## DAUGHTER OF HUNGER STRIKER ARRESTED

**Bahraini activist Zainab Al-Khawaja was arrested on 21 April for protesting against the detention of her father, who has been on hunger strike for over two months. Amnesty International is calling for her immediate and unconditional release.**

**Zainab Al-Khawaja** is a Bahraini activist and the daughter of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, one of the 14 prominent opposition activists sentenced by a military court to harsh prison terms in June 2011. He has been on hunger strike for more than two months in protest against his detention. Zainab Al-Khawaja was detained on 21 April after sitting down on a highway close to the Financial Harbour in protest at her father's ongoing detention and the general human rights situation in Bahrain. She has been formally charged with disrupting the traffic and insulting an officer.

On the evening of 23 April her detention was renewed for another seven days pending an investigation and she is expected to have a hearing before a lower criminal court in a week. She is currently held at the women's detention centre in 'Issa Town, south of Manama. She has managed to speak twice with her family for only a couple of minutes and her lawyer was present when she went before the Public Prosecution Office on 23 April. She refused to sign any papers or give any information.

Zainab Al-Khawaja has previously been detained for a few days for protesting in December 2011 and February 2012, and on both occasions was released shortly after.

### Please write immediately in English or Arabic:

- Expressing concern that Zainab Al-Khawaja has been detained solely for exercising her rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and urging her immediate and unconditional release;
- Urging the Bahraini authorities to protect her from torture or other ill-treatment.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 JUNE 2012 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

Website:

[http://www.interior.gov.bh/complaints\\_en.aspx](http://www.interior.gov.bh/complaints_en.aspx)

Twitter: @moi\_Bahrain

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### Public Prosecutor

Mr 'Ali al-Bu'ainein  
Public Prosecution Office  
P.O. Box 450, al-Manama, Bahrain  
Fax: +973 1753 0884

**Salutation: Dear Mr 'Ali al-Bu'ainein,**

**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

Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, 52, is serving a life sentence for his role in anti-government protests last year. He began his hunger strike on 8 February, and his health has deteriorated dramatically since he decided on around 29 March to start reducing the doses of glucose and minerals he was taking until he was drinking water only. For more information, see UA 139/11, *Hunger striking activist's health failing* (<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/023/2012/en>).

Name: Zainab Al-Khawaja

Gender m/f: Female

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