

URGENT ACTION

PROMINENT ACTIVIST ARRESTED IN BAHRAIN

Prominent human rights activist Nabeel Rajab was arrested on 5 May at Bahrain International Airport in relation to tweets he posted. He has been charged with “insulting a national institution” and is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Nabeel Rajab, the President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights and Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights, was arrested in the evening of 5 May after he landed at Bahrain International Airport, in Manama, the capital. He had flown from Lebanon where he had been attending a human rights workshop. He was taken to al-Houra police station and the following day he appeared before a representative from the Public Prosecution.

On 26 April Nabeel Rajab had received a summons for questioning at the Public Prosecutor’s Office in connection with a complaint made against him by the Ministry of Interior. He did not go because he was about to travel abroad. Nabeel Rajab was charged with “insulting a national institution” (the Ministry of Interior) in his tweets. He told the prosecutor that all tweets published in his account are his own, but he refused to answer other questions. The prosecutor issued a seven-day detention order pending an investigation. He is being held in al-Houra police station and he has received visits by his family and his lawyer.

On 6 May, Nabeel Rajab was also taken to a lower criminal court in another case in which he is charged with calling on people to join him in illegal marches against the government. The trial was adjourned until 22 May.

Nabeel Rajab has previously been subjected to ill-treatment. On 6 February 2012 he was on a protest when riot police hit him several times in the face, head and back with truncheons. He was briefly hospitalized for treatment.

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

- Expressing concern that Nabeel Rajab has been detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression and urging his immediate and unconditional release;
- Urging the Bahraini authorities to protect him from torture or other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 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
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.

Name: Nabeel Rajab

Gender m/f: Male

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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

