

URGENT ACTION

ZAINAB AL-KHAWAJA RELEASED, AWAITS VERDICTS

Bahraini activist Zainab Al-Khawaja was released on 19 November after more than a month in detention for ripping up a picture of the King in court. The verdict in this case is expected on 4 December. The verdicts in a further three cases against her will be issued on 9 December.

Zainab Al-Khawaja was released on 19 November 2014 following a court order. Zainab Al-Khawaja, who is due to give birth by caesarean section on 3 December, was leaving a doctor's appointment when she received the news. Zainab Al-Khawaja had been arrested on 14 October for tearing up a picture of the King while appearing before the High Criminal Court of Appeal in the capital, Manama, in relation to two separate cases. A Lower Criminal Court will issue its verdict on this on 4 December.

The High Criminal Court is scheduled to issue its verdicts on 9 December in three cases against Zainab Al-Khawaja. Two of these cases relate to "destroying government property" after she ripped up a picture of Bahrain's King while she was detained in 'Issa Town Detention Centre for Women on 4 and 6 May 2012 and the third case is on the charge of "insulting a police officer". If her convictions are upheld and she is returned to prison, Amnesty International will consider her a prisoner of conscience. Although she has been released, the authorities still need to drop the outstanding charges against her.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Amnesty International will keep monitoring the situation and will take further campaigning action when necessary. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 259/14. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/039/2014/en>.

Name: Zainab Al-Khawaja
Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 259/14 Index: MDE 11/045/2014 Issue Date: 20 November 2014

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