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June 7, 2012

Appeal to: His Majesty King Shaikh Hamad bin ‘Issa Al-Khalifa regarding the plight of healthcare professionals in Bahrain

From: The members of the Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies, listed on the left-hand side of this appeal.

Given the universally recognized moral obligation of health professionals to treat everyone who presents themselves with injury or illness, the Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies has resolved, following discussions during its tenth Biennial Meeting, held May 23-26, 2012, to respectfully request that His Majesty, the King of Bahrain, take the following action:

- Release immediately the five healthcare professionals unjustly imprisoned and sentenced to terms ranging from six months to three years. (See attachment for names and sentences.)
- Ensure that the 20 health professionals, most and perhaps all of whom have been tortured to extract confessions and whose sentences range from 5 to 15 years in prison, are pardoned and enabled to immediately return to their important medical work. (The High Criminal Court of Appeal is scheduled to announce its verdict on June 14, 2012.) (See attachment for names and sentences currently under appeal.)
- Urge that all misdemeanor charges against the 28 health professionals currently on trial be dropped.
- Implement immediately all recommendations made by the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry in its report—mandated by you, the King—and issued on November 23, 2011.
- Reinstate and remunerate promptly and fully all health professionals removed from their jobs since peaceful demonstrations began.

We make these requests regarding our Bahraini colleagues with utmost respect and because of our great concern for their health, well being, and obligation to fulfill their professional duties.

Academies in the Network support and promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, assist unjustly incarcerated nonviolent professional colleagues, address grave science-related human rights issues, and advocate for member institutions whose independence is threatened. (The U.S. National Academies, non-profit, non-governmental honorary societies, host the Network secretariat.)

www.nas.edu.hrnetwork

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Bahraini health professionals unjustly imprisoned:

1. Younis Ashouri, 60 years old, administrator at Muharraq Maternity Hospital sentenced to 3 years for sending an oxygen cylinder to the medical tent.
2. Hassan Maatouq, 30 years old, emergency specialized staff nurse sentenced to 3 years for attending a public gathering.
3. Ahmed Almushatat, 27 years old, pharmacist sentenced to 2 years for attending a public gathering.
4. Hasan Alarabi, MD, 24 years old, medical doctor sentenced to 6 months.
5. Ahmed Mahdi Saleh, 19 years old, psychiatric nurse recently detained on April 19th and sentenced to 6 months for attending a public gathering.

Bahraini health professionals sentenced to prison; convictions under appeal:

1. Mahmood Asghar ‘Abdulwahab, 40 years old, pediatric surgeon, sentenced to 15 years
2. Nader Mohammed Hassan Dewani, 53 years old, pediatrician, sentenced to 15 years
3. Basim Ahmed ‘Ali Dhaif, 47 years old, orthopedic surgeon, sentenced to 15 years
4. Ghassan Ahmed ‘Ali Dhaif, 45 years old, oral and maxillofacial surgeon, sentenced to 15 years
5. Nada Sa’eed ‘Abdelnabi Dhaif, 39 years old, dentist, sentenced to 15 years
6. ‘Ali ‘Esa Mansoor Al-‘Ekri, 44 years old, orthopedic surgeon, sentenced to 15 years
7. ‘Abdulkhaleq ‘Ali Hussain Al-‘Oraibi, 39 years old, rheumatologist, sentenced to 15 years
8. Fatima Salman Hassan Haji, 33 years old, rheumatologist, sentenced to 5 years
9. Dhia Ibrahim Ja’far, 36 years old, nurse, sentenced to 5 years
10. Najah Khalil Ibrahim Hassan, family physician, sentenced to 5 years
11. Ahmed ‘Abdulaziz Omran Hassan, 47 years old, family physician, sentenced to 15 years
12. Qassim Mohammad ‘Omran, intensivist, sentenced to 15 years
13. Roula Jassim Mohammed Al-Saffar, 48 years old, president of the Bahrain Nursing Society and assistant professor in the College of Health Sciences, sentenced to 15 years
14. Zahra Mahdi Al-Sammak, 45 years old, anesthesiologist, sentenced to 5 years
15. Sa’eed Mothaher Habib Al-Samahiji, 56 years old, ophthalmologist, sentenced to 10 years
16. Mohammed Faeq ‘Ali Al-Shehab, lab technician, sentenced to 5 years
17. Sayed Marhoon Majid Al-Wedaei, 36 years old, director of Paramedics and Ambulances, sentenced to 15 years
18. Ebrahim ‘Abdullah Ebrahim, health worker, sentenced to 15 years
19. ‘Ali Hassan Al-Sadadi, paramedic, sentenced to 15 years
20. Hassan Mohammed Sa’eed Nasser, 43 years old, head of the ICU, sentenced to 10 years