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His Majesty

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Date April 21 2011 Concerns brutal repression of teacher unionists
Our number:582255 WD/MD Information secretariat ++31 30 2989281

Your Majesty,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Algemene Onderwijsbond, the largest education union of the Netherlands representing 82.000 members, to protest at the recent crackdown on teacher unionists in Bahrain.

The Algemene Onderwijsbond has been informed that the Vice President and other 4 board members of the Bahraini Teacher Association have been arrested on 29 March 2011, as well as the General Secretary on 30 March. The security forces also raided the house of the President of the association, Mr. Mahdi Abu Deeb, for the second time since 20 March. The security forces also arrested 19 students from the Teachers College in Bahrain. In addition to the arrests, the authorities have launched an investigation against some board members of the association and the payment of the salaries of some teachers and board members has also been stopped.

The Algemene Onderwijsbond urges the Bahraini authorities to:

- Cease the crackdown on teacher unionists and release immediately the detained students and teacher union leaders and activists;
- Stop the arbitrary investigation against the Bahraini Teachers Association and pay the full salaries of teachers;
- Respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of teachers and union activists in accordance with international standards;
- Engage in respectful dialogue to bring about a peaceful solution and a fair resolution of the legitimate claims of the Bahraini people.

I look forward to hearing about your positive intervention on this very serious matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by several horizontal strokes that taper to the right.

Walter Dresscher,
President

CC - Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister
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