



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

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June 3, 2011

His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa
King of Bahrain
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His Excellency Dr Majid bin Ali Al-Naimi
Minister of Education
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Your Majesty and Your Excellency:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, an organization representing more than 66,000 academic and general staff in over 100 universities and colleges in Canada. We are committed to defending the professional rights and academic freedom of higher education teaching personnel both in Canada and abroad.

We have recently received reports that approximately 200 students, academics and university staff have been dismissed from their position at the state-run University of Bahrain. The University's Probe Committee decided to fire them for their alleged links with anti-government protests in your country. This follows widely circulated reports that several opposition leaders and human rights activists have been arrested as well as members of the elite such as doctors, lawyers, journalists, and professors who voiced their support to the protest.

We respectfully remind you that such actions run counter to internationally recognized human rights. We call upon you to fulfill your obligations, as a signatory to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to guarantee and protect freedom of opinion and expression.

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We further urge you to fully respect the professional rights of academic staff, including the right to academic freedom, as provided in the 1997 UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel.

Finally, we call upon you to conduct a thorough and independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the dismissals of students and staff at the University of Bahrain and to take all appropriate measures to protect institutional autonomy, academic freedom, and civil liberties.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Wayne D. Peters in black ink, featuring a stylized 'W' and 'P' with a horizontal line through the 'P'.

Wayne D. Peters
President

Handwritten signature of James L. Turk in black ink, featuring a stylized 'J' and 'T'.

James L. Turk
Executive Director

/mmp