



H.E. Majid bin Ali al-Naimi,
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Your Excellency,

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Urgent call for the release of detained teacher union leaders

The Danish Union of Teachers (DLF) represents 90,000 teachers of the public basic schools in Denmark and is an affiliate of the global union federation of teachers, Education International. I'm writing on behalf of the Danish teachers to call for the release of Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb, Vice-President and President of the Bahraini Teachers Association (BTA).

We have been informed by Education International that Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb were arrested along with several other board members of the BTA in March and April. While we understand their colleagues have been released, Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb remain incarcerated awaiting trial in a civilian court. We believe that they are detained solely for exercising their legitimate rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly as leaders of the BTA. In addition, we condemn the punitive and vindictive campaign of violent repression carried out by your government since March 2011 against its own citizens engaged in the pro-democracy movement

On behalf of the DLF I urge the Bahraini authorities to:

- Release immediately and unconditionally Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Deeb; protect them from torture or other ill-treatment;
- Immediately set up a full, impartial and independent investigation into the reported ill-treatment of Jalila al-Salman and bring those responsible to justice;
- Reinstate the teachers dismissed and the students expelled, together with their salaries and scholarships;
- Respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of teachers, students and union activists in accordance with international standards;
- Engage in respectful dialogue to bring about a peaceful transition to democracy and a fair resolution of the current impasse and legitimate claims of the Bahraini people.

Yours sincerely,

Anders Bondo Christensen
President of the Danish Union of Teachers

Cc: Education International, EI