

Condemns travel ban of Bahraini education union leader

Monday night, Mrs Jalila al-Salman, the vice president of the Bahraini teachers' association, was banned from leaving the country and her passport was taken/confiscated. The known trade unionist was on her way to participate in the Arthur Svensson award ceremony in Oslo.

Al-Salman received the Arthur Svensson international prize for trade unionists last year. The travel ban can only be understood as a direct response to her union activism and commitment to human rights issues. The fact that she is unable to return to the award ceremony of the prize she received herself last year only shows a lack of respect for basic union rights from the Bahraini government.

The Arthur Svensson ceremony is an annual celebration of the importance of union rights in fostering democracies and social justice. In addition to the prize winner Eric Lee, this year's event is gathering union leaders from all over the Middle East to shed light on the lack of labour rights in the region. The politically motivated travel ban on Jalila Al-Salman could not be a clearer example on the challenges unionists in Bahrain are facing.

The Norwegian union Industri Energi, The Arthur Svensson foundation and Education International strongly condemn this attack against the union movement and urges the government of Bahrain to lift the travel ban immediately.

Leif Sande, President of IndustriEnergi

Fred van Leeuwen, general secretary of Education International

Andreas C. Halse, general manager of the Arthur Svensson foundation

