

5th April 2011

His Majesty
Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King of Bahrain
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace, al-Manama, BAHRAIN
Fax: +973 17664587

Re: Stop the brutal repression of teacher unionists

Your Majesty,

Läroförbundet, representing 230 000 teachers in Sweden and member of Educational International (EI), is writing to you to protest at the recent crackdown on teacher unionists in Bahrain.

Läroförbundet 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.

Läroförbundet 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.

Läroförbundet (Swedish Teachers' Union) is a professional trade union for teachers and heads of schools with 225 000 members at all levels of education. Läroförbundet is the largest teachers' organisation in Sweden and promotes quality development of education and the teaching profession.

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

Yours sincerely,
LÄRARFÖRBUNDET (Swedish Teachers' Union)



Sören Holm
General Secretary

Copy to:

- Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister Fax: +973 17533033; +973 175 32839
- H.E. Majid bin Ali al-Naimi, Minister of Education Fax: +973 17273656; E-mail: moe@moe.gov.bh
- Education International

Läraryrket är ett fackligt yrkesförbund med 230 000 medlemmar. De största medlemsgrupperna utgörs av lärare i grund- och gymnasieskolan, förskola och fritidshem, skolledare och lärare på högskolan. Läraryrket är Nordens största lärarorganisation och driver frågor som utvecklar läraryrket och skolan.

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