

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 10, 2012

His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa
The Amiri Court, Riffa Palace
P.O. Box 555
Manama, Bahrain

Your Royal Highness,

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the arrest of six Bahraini medics last week after Bahrain's highest court refused to overturn their convictions. Dr. Ali Al Ekri, Dr. Ghassan Dhaif, Dr. Mahmood Asghar, Dr. Saeed Al Samahiji, Dheya Ibrahim, and Ibrahim Al Demistani were arrested in the early morning and brought to prison to serve sentences ranging from several months to five years. Two additional medics, Ahmed Almushatat and Hassan Matooq, have been in prison since 2011. We call on Your Highness to pardon these eight medics in an effort to adhere to international norms of medical neutrality. Pardoning the medics would represent a significant step forward in the Bahraini government's protection of medical personnel as well as the general health of the population.

The eight medics were first arrested in April 2011 after treating injured protesters during last year's uprising. Based on conversations with the medics themselves as well as independent investigators, we believe they were targeted not because of criminal activity, but because they were first-hand witnesses to the injuries caused by the Bahraini security forces' excessive use of force.

In the past, we and our colleagues have expressed our concern about the detention of political prisoners, excessive use of force against peaceful protesters, and the denial of independent investigators' access to the country. We remain concerned about the well-being of all those currently in detention and reiterate our calls for the Bahraini government to adhere to its promises to implement recommendations from the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and from the Universal Periodic Review before the Human Rights Council. Pardoning the eight medics currently serving sentences for treating protesters would be a key step in moving Bahrain's practice in line with its international obligations.

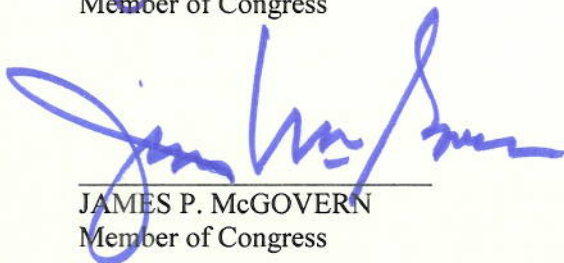
Sincerely,



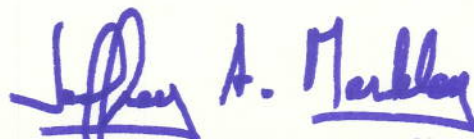
JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress



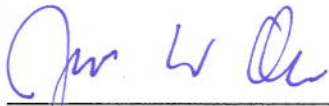
RON WYDEN
United States Senator



JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress



JEFF MERKLEY
United States Senator



JOHN W. OLVER
Member of Congress



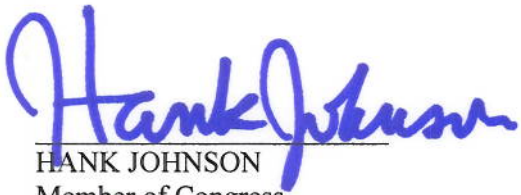
JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress



DENNIS KUCINICH
Member of Congress



ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



HANK JOHNSON
Member of Congress



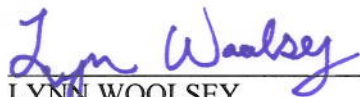
BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



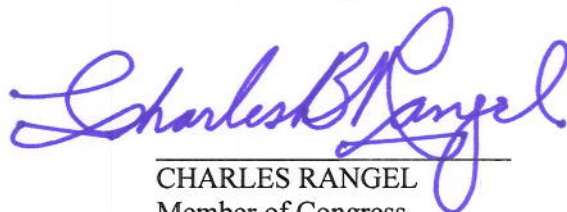
KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



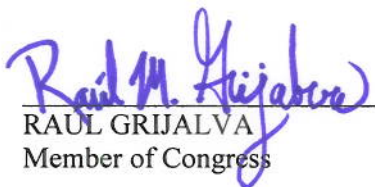
RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress



LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress



CHARLES RANGEL
Member of Congress



RAUL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



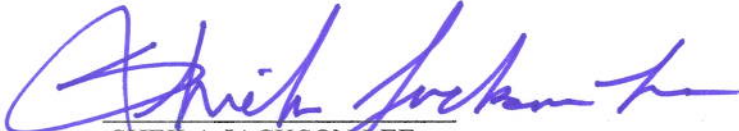
TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress

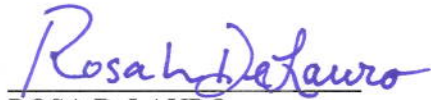


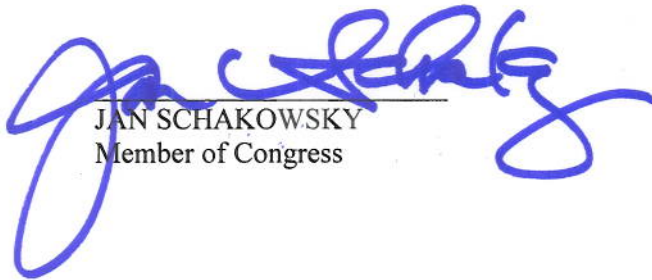
JIM MORAN
Member of Congress

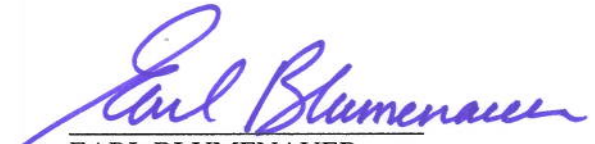


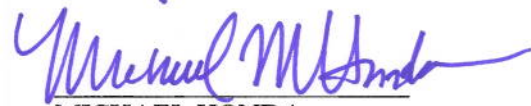
ALCEE HASTINGS
Member of Congress


SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress


ROSA DeLAURO
Member of Congress


JAN SCHAKOWSKY
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EARL BLUMENAUER
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MICHAEL HONDA
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