

Attention: Ambassador [Name where available]
Embassy of [Name country]
[Local Address]

[Today's Date]

Your Excellency,

I am writing to inform you about the unprecedented wave of torture and imprisonment of political, religious and human rights activists and bloggers who appear to have been arrested for peacefully expressing their views and exercising their right to free expression in Bahrain. I would specifically like to direct your attention to the detention and torture of Dr. Abdul-Jalil Al-Singace, Sheikh Mohammed Habib Al-Muqdad, Sheikh Saeed Al-Nori, Abdul-Ghani Khanjjar, Dr. Mohammed Saeed and Ali Abdulemam.

These detainees have reportedly been handcuffed, blindfolded, held in solitary cells, denied food and water for long periods, hung by their hands, their legs tied and their bodies beaten until swollen and bruised, deprived of sleep, and forced to listen to the screams of others being tortured.

According to news reports, at least 200 other people have been detained, most of whom are being held incommunicado and denied contact with lawyers and family members.

By detaining and torturing those working to expose human rights violations in the country, the Kingdom of Bahrain is brutally silencing voices of dissent and preventing legitimate activities related to democratic reform.

I respectfully urge your embassy to do everything in its power to help protect those being persecuted in Bahrain for expressing their views. Here are some specific ways your embassy can offer visibility and protection to those exercising their rights in Bahrain:

- Place pressure on the Bahrain authorities listed at the bottom of this letter to respect the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- Attend the trials of these detainees and monitor the proceedings;
- Invite representatives of IFEX member organisation Bahrain Centre for Human Rights to your office for a meeting. By meeting with these human rights defenders and listening to their stories, you will not only learn from them, but you will also be providing them with protection by association;
- Provide secure methods of international communication via use of email, telephone, embassy packets and mail systems to those whose phone calls, letters and emails are being intercepted by the Bahrain authorities;
- Provide a safe house for journalists and activists under threat, and provide them with transportation if they are in need of an exit strategy;
- Share information with those who are denied access to authentic reporting, information and analysis on the situation in Bahrain.

I am very interested to hear what your Embassy is doing to address this distressing situation. I look forward to hearing your response as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

(Your signature)

(Your name printed)

(Your title – if necessary)

(Your contact information – mailing address/email)

Please contact the following Bahrain authorities to express your concern:

Sheikh Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa

King of Bahrain

Fax: +973 176 64 587

Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa

Prime Minister

Fax: +973 1753 2839

Sheikh Khalid Bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Tel: +973 172 27 555

Fax: +973 172 12 603

Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al-Khalifa

Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs

Tel: +973 175 31 333

Fax: +973 175 31 284