

Dear [Insert the name of the government official] \*\*\*\*

### **An Urgent Call to Release of Abdul-Hadi al-Khawaja**

As part of the [StandAsMyWitness Campaign](#), we join CIVICUS to call on the authorities in Bahrain to drop all charges against Abdul-Hadi al-Khawaja and ensure his unconditional release.

Abdul-Hadi al-Khawaja was part of the 'Bahrain 13' group of prominent activists and opposition leaders arrested in February 2011 after calling for civil and political rights during the 2011 uprising. On 22 June 2011, he was sentenced to life imprisonment on trump-up charges during what was primarily regarded as an unfair trial.

Since then, he has been subjected to torture, physical and sexual abuse and placed in solitary confinement. His health is increasingly deteriorating, and the environmental conditions of the prison put him at great risk of contracting COVID-19.

We call on you to give Abdul-Hadi al-Khawaja's family, friends, colleagues, and many others arrested during the uprising reasons to renew their hopes for a better future in Bahrain.

We urge you to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Abdul-Hadi al-Khawaja and those arrested for their participation in protests calling for the respect of civil and political rights and to stop all judicial persecution against them.
- Prioritise the protection of Abdul-Hadi al-Khawaja's family, who have been subjected to several threats.
- Respect the rights to civil and political freedoms and allow political differences to exist without fear of reprisals.
- Stop carrying out new arrests and crushing dissent.

Sincerely,

[Insert Name of Your Organisation/Movement]

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Use the details below by writing to the authorities in Bahrain and calling for the release of Abdul-Hadi al-Khawaja.

Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister: Twitter; @BahrainCPnews

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain: [contactus@mofa.gov.bh](mailto:contactus@mofa.gov.bh)