

# **Bahrain: Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition Calls for Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja to be released to Denmark on humanitarian grounds**

Saturday 14 April 2012, by [WHRDIC](#) (Date first published: 13 April 2012).

## Contents

- [Bahrain: Background for \(...\)](#)
- [Bahrain: The government \(...\)](#)

**Friday 13 April 2012 by siawi3**

The Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition

to

HM King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa  
Office of The King  
The Amiri Court, Rifa'a Palace  
PO Box 555  
Manama

Bahrain 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012 Your Highness: The Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD IC) is deeply concerned about the health and welfare of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, a well-known and highly respected human rights defender who has been a strong and peaceful advocate for the rights of women in Bahrain and throughout the Middle East. He has been on hunger strike since the night of February 8/9 and is currently being held in the Bahrain Defence Force Royal Medical Services hospital. The WHRD IC is especially concerned about reports that his health is deteriorating. We are also concerned for the welfare of his family, including his daughter Zainab Al-Khawaja, and their right to carry out their human rights activities free from harm. We urge the Bahraini authorities to release Abdulhadi to Denmark on humanitarian grounds, as per the request of the Foreign Minister of Denmark, so that he can receive treatment both for the effects of the hunger strike and the ongoing pain he suffers as a result of the torture he suffered during his detention (BICI report, Annex B, Case #8).

Your Majesty, we urge you to show statesmanship and grant Abdulhadi's release from prison so that he may go to Denmark for urgent treatment. Thank you for your consideration.

The Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD IC) is a resource and advocacy network for the protection and support of women human rights defenders worldwide. This letter has been endorsed by:

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Rights (UAF)  
Women's Initiative for Gender Justice (WIGJ)  
Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML)  
Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development and Peace (WLP)  
WOREC Nepal  
National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (Nepal)  
Isis International  
BAOBAB for Human Rights  
MADRE  
Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL)  
Front Line Defenders  
INFORM Human Rights Documentation Center (Sri Lanka)  
Coalition of African Lesbians  
Heart & Hand Fund

---

## **Bahrain: Background for the campaign to liberate Al-Khawaja**

Friday 13 April 2012 by siawi3

### **A letter from Maryam Al-Khawaja**

April 12, 2012 4:01:13 PM EDT

Subject: Areas under attack, death from teargas, update on Abdulhadi Alkhawaja

Dear friends,

As I am writing this email, several areas are being heavily attacked by security forces who are using tear gas with stronger effects, bird pellet shotguns and Turkish APV's: <http://twitpic.com/98z4y8>

Protester shot in the back with bird pellet shotgun: <http://twitpic.com/98y0td>

Abdulrasool Hassan Ismail's son notified BCHR that his father died yesterday due to teargas suffocation.

### **Updates on human rights defender Abdulhadi Alkhawaja:**

Prominent human rights activist Abdulhadi Alkhawaja called his family, and said that his health deteriorated last night and he was informed by doctors that he might go into a coma. He was given IV, which has kept him conscious but weak.

Pomed: Dear Obama: Al-Khawaja must be released immediately:

<http://pomed.org/blog/2012/04/dear-obama-al-khawaja-must-be-released-immediately.html/#.T4ckSI7bcXx>

Index on censorship "Free Abdulhadi Alkhawaja":

<http://www.indexoncensorship.org/2012/04/hunger-strike-abdulahdi-alkhawaja-bahrain-king/>

BHRRRC calls on Bahrain to release Abdulhadi Alkhawaja: <http://t.co/V4jClu1K>

12<sup>th</sup> April - Urgent appeal: Abdulhadi Alkhawaja may be on his deathbed (63<sup>th</sup> day on hunger strike): <http://bahrainrights.hopto.org/en/node/5049>

UN: Bahrain should consider transferring striker: <http://bahrainrights.hopto.org/en/node/5163>

Enough is enough: Abdulhadi al-Khawaja has waited long enough for justice  
<http://www.irct.org/media-and-resources/irct-news/show-news.aspx?PID=13767&Action=1&NewsId=3552>

Zainab Alkhawaja's testimony about her last arrest:  
<http://www.enduringamerica.com/home/2012/4/8/bahrain-1st-hand-shes-filth-zainab-alkhawaja-on-her-detentio.html>

### **Injuries in Protests:**

A large protest taking place in the capital Manama today, was attacked by security force.

Picture that shows the heavy use of teargas in residential areas:  
<https://twitter.com/#!/manama4all/status/190455884739125251/photo/1>

Abu Sabai: <https://twitter.com/#!/LillyJFL/status/190470608633597954/photo/1>

Sitra, children sleeping in the bathroom to avoid the tear gas:  
<https://twitter.com/#!/candel4u/status/189552620329897984/photo/1>

7 year old Mohammed Hadi was in the ICU after inhaling tear gas while walking home from School in Duraz: <https://twitter.com/#!/sorr0w/status/188946374484692992/photo/1>

Woman getting arrested in one of the protests: <http://i.imgur.com/bl5ys.jpg>

Girl pepper sprayed after participating in peaceful protest:  
<http://p.twimg.com/Ap53wJvCEAAAJyo.jpg>

Alba roundabout injured were reportedly attacked based on sect under the protection and help of Bahrain's MOI (Arabic): <http://www.alwasatnews.com/3505/news/read/655330/1.html>

Shotgun injury in Malkiya this afternoon. Contains graphic content: <http://twitpic.com/98kxsh>

A video taken by BCHR's S. Yousif Almuhafda shows riot police shooting a tear gas canister directly on three girls: <http://www.twitvid.com/I9I9P>

Protester injured in the head with pellet shotgun in Malkiya today: <http://twitpic.com/98kodx>

### **Other Updates:**

Lawyer Mohammed AlTajer says that 5 witnesses who came forward about 22 year old citizen journalist, Ahmed Ismail's killing, have were arrested, tortured and threatened with rape.

13 detainees from Sitra in dry dock prison cell 3 on hunger strike protesting against their extracted confessions by officer Essa Almajali Athlete Khalil Ibrahim was sentenced to 6 month imprisonment starting today: <https://twitter.com/#!/bahrain22/status/190402474312605696/photo/1>

Riot police carrying and throwing molotov cocktails: <http://twitpic.com/96uq4u>,  
<http://twitpic.com/96uszs>

Maytham Ali Alshuwaikh was subjected to torture, his hand was broken when he was arrested 3 days ago at the station.

## Reports

White House press statement on the situation in Bahrain:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/04/11/statement-press-secretary-situation-bahrain>

CIHRS : BCHR's President Nabeel Rajab was detained and deported from Cairo airport, Egypt. Nabeel's laptop and mobile phone were confiscated and thoroughly searched:

<http://www.cihrs.org/?p=1983&lang=en>

Bahrain Authorities continue to hold a detainee captive despite his urgent need for medical surgery:

<http://bahrainrights.hopto.org/en/node/5165>

BPA: Journalist Ahmed Al-Bosta Attacked in Bahrain: <http://bahrainrights.hopto.org/en/node/5164>

Swedish Anna Hagberg who formerly lived in Bahrain was deported yesterday for criticism and re-tweeting: <http://nyheter24.se/nyheter/utrikes/article679130.ece>

Interesting insight into Bahrain police discrimination by blogger Marc Owen Jones:

<http://marcownjones.wordpress.com/2012/04/11/thugs-or-groupies-highlighting-issues-of-police-discrimination-in-bahrain/>

Best,

— Maryam Al-Khawaja Head of International Office Tlf: +4581757959 Bahrain Center for Human Rights / Gulf Center for Human Rights

---

## **Bahrain: The government persecutes a family of human rights defenders**

Friday 13 April 2012 by siawi3

Source: [www.nazra.org](http://www.nazra.org) info nazra.org

12 April 2012

### **Open Letter to the Government of Bahrain: Respect the Rights of Al-Khawaja Family**

Maryam Al-Khawaja, a 24 year old woman human rights defender from Bahrain, has been doing extensive work on documenting human rights violations prior to and during the February 14<sup>th</sup> uprising in Bahrain. She is the head of international relations and advocacy officer at the Bahrain Center for Human Rights and left Bahrain in March 2011 to testify about violations in Bahrain. She has not been able to go back to Bahrain since for the fear of detention and torture. Also, there was an attempt to ban her from entering Egypt on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 due to the fact that she is a prominent

Bahraini woman human rights defender.

Moreover, Zainab Al-Khawaja, 28 years old, another daughter of Abdul-Hadi Al-Khawaja, the Bahraini human rights defender, has been detained several times, the last time was on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 while she was on her way to the military hospital to see her father. In addition, Wafi Al-Majed, her husband who is not involved in politics was detained and tortured for 10 months just for being related to the family.

Abdul-Hadi Al-Khawaja is an internationally prominent human rights defender who was beaten unconscious in front of his family, detained, severely tortured, and tried before a military court and received a life sentence in prison accordingly on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. He decided to start a hunger strike on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 following three other hunger strikes, which led to the deterioration of his health dramatically as he has been on a hunger strike for more than two months now. As women human rights defenders, Zainab and Maryam have been and continue to be subjected to harassment, detention and intimidation inside as well as outside of Bahrain.

We call on the Bahraini government to put an end to the violations against Zainab Al-Khawaja, to grant the freedom of movement to Maryam Al-Khawaja so that she can go back to Bahrain to see her father without banning her from leaving the country later on. We call on the Bahraini government to immediately and unconditionally release Abdul-Hadi Al-Khawaja and all other prisoners of conscience. We call on the Bahraini Government to end the harassment and intimidation against women human rights defenders and their families in Bahrain that come in the form of arbitrary detention and interrogation among other forms of violations against them.

For more information on Human Rights violations in Bahrain and how to take action, please see: <http://www.bahrainrights.org/en>

44 :٢٢٢٢٥٧٧٢٤٩١ .٢٢٢٢٥٧٧٢٤٩١ ٢٢٢٢٥٧٧٢٤٩١ ٢٢٢٢٥٧٧٢٤٩١ ٢٢٢٢٥٧٧٢٤٩١ ٢٢٢٢٥٧٧٢٤٩١ ٢٢٢٢٥٧٧٢٤٩١ ٢٢٢٢٥٧٧٢٤٩١  
20225772491+

Address: 44 Talaat Harb St, Downtown, Cairo, Egypt, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor. Tele-Fax: +20225772491

---