



Uaa - Country: Bahrain

Bahrain: Stop the crackdown on teacher unionists (01 April 2011)

Education International (EI) calls on its member organisations to take action to protest at the recent crackdown on teacher unionists in Bahrain. While teachers and students are voicing their demands for more freedom and rights, EI keeps receiving worrying reports about attacks against the Bahraini Teacher Association, which is not affiliated to EI, and its members: arrests of student and teacher union leaders and activists; investigation into union activities; and cuts in teacher salaries. EI has condemned those arrests and excessive use of force. EI is urging the Bahraini government to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of teachers, students and unionists. EI is also requesting that the authorities engage in a respectful dialogue to bring about a peaceful and fair solution to the issues and legitimate claims of the Bahraini people.

[Help us stop the crackdown on teacher unionists in Bahrain! Send an online message to Bahraini authorities now!](#)

Already 65 messages sent



BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On Sunday 20 March 2011, the house of the President of the Bahraini Teacher Association, Mr. Mahdi Abu Deeb, was raided by twenty members of security forces in the middle of the night. His wife and children were interrogated for two hours. Other officials of the Bahraini Teacher Association were summoned by the Ministry of Education for interrogation, creating a climate of fear of arbitrary arrest and detention amongst teacher unionists.

The campaign of arrests against trade unionists intensified on 29 March when the Vice President and other officials of the Bahraini Teacher Association were arrested. The General Secretary was arrested the next day. The security forces again inspected the house of the President, twice on the same day, without being able to arrest him.

The arrested leaders of the Bahraini Teacher Association are:

- Mrs. Jalila Salman, Vice President
- Mr. Sana Abdul Razzaq, General Secretary
- Mr. Salah AlBari, Financial Secretary
- Mr. Afrah Asfour, Administrative Member
- Mr. Ahmed al-Aneisi, Management Member
- Mr. Falah Rabih, Management Member

The authorities also arrested 19 students from the Teachers College in Bahrain (Mahmoud Hassan Shibr, Ahmed Taleb, Hassan Hamza, Ali Nassif, Jassim Milk, Hussein Alcirbebedi, Ali Haddad, Ahmad Walid, Hassan Jaafar, Ali Almoaalif, Mohammed Al Fardan, Muhammad Taqi, Ahmed Hayki, Hussain Al Aradi, Ali Hayki, Abdullah Saeed, Mohammed AbdulKarim, Mohamed Hubail and Zuhair Ibrahim), making unfounded allegations against them. Some other students have been dismissed from the College.

EI has also been informed that the authorities have launched an investigation and charged some board members of the association with false accusations. The payment of the salaries of some teachers and board members has also been stopped.

EI and the Bahraini Teacher Association believe that those attacks on the union and its members are a hostile reaction to the participation of teacher unionists in the peaceful protests that started on 14 February on the Pearl Square in Manama; and on the call to strike action made on 14 March to raise concern about the physical security of academics, education workers and students in education institutions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Send appeals, in English, Arabic or your own language, urging 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 Union 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.

APPEALS TO:

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

Copies to:

Contact Us

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+32-2-224 06 11

Latest Updates

Bahrain: BTA court case postponed for fourth time to 30 May

EI has learned that the Supreme Criminal Appeals Court has adjourned the case of Mahdi Issa Abu Dheeb and Jalila Al-Salman, from the Bahraini Teachers Association (BTA), to 30 May, and refused to release Mahdi on bail once more. Both were arrested after a crackdown by authorities following pro-democracy demonstrations.

[Read more](#)

More on this country

[Bahrain: BTA court case postponed for fourth time to 30 May \(04 May 2012\)](#)
[EI pleads with Bahraini government officials to respect human and trade union rights \(26 April 2012\)](#)
[Bahrain: Decision on Mahdi Abu Dheeb's release deferred \(30 March 2012\)](#)
[Bahrain: Academic freedom under threat \(27 March 2012\)](#)
[Bahrain: Teacher leaders still detained \(21 March 2012\)](#)

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- - Diplomatic representatives of Bahrain accredited to your country.
- - EI (headoffice@ei-ie.org or fax +32 2 224 0606).

2. Encourage your individual union members to send online messages to the authorities through the EI website: www.ei-ie.org/uas/issues_actions. (available very soon)

3. Express your solidarity with the Bahraini Teacher Association, through EI.

4. Give visibility to the situation of teachers in Bahrain and the online appeal in your magazine, on your website, during meetings and via other appropriate means.

EI will of course keep you updated on all development. For additional information or to discuss possible action, contact the [**EI Human and Trade Union Rights Coordinator**](#).

EI is grateful for your solidarity in support of our Bahraini colleagues.