

King Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace
Manama
BAHRAIN

Your Majesty,

I am writing to you to express my concern that Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb may be prisoners of conscience who have been convicted on criminal charges solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, including criticism of the Bahraini government, in which case they should be released.

I urge you to ensure that their appeal meets international standards for fair trial. This means the court must start a fresh investigation, disregard statements obtained under torture, hear defendants and allow defence lawyers to call and cross-examine witnesses.

I call on you to immediately set up an independent investigation into their alleged torture or other ill-treatment.

I urge you to protect Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb from any torture or other ill-treatment and ensure he receives any medical treatment required.

Yours sincerely,

King Shaikh Hamad bin 'Issa Al Khalifa
Office of His Majesty the King
P.O. Box 555
Rifa'a Palace
al-Manama
BAHRAIN

Your Majesty,

I am writing to you in the case of the health professionals of the Salmanija Medical Complex.

I urge you to ensure that the appeal proceedings comply with international standards for fair trial, allow the defense lawyers to call any relevant witnesses, and give them adequate time to prepare the defense of their clients.

I call on you to launch an independent and impartial investigation into the defendants' allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, and ensure that an independent forensic body examines the defendants' claims.

I am concerned that if jailed, the defendants would be prisoners of conscience imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi
Office of the President
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

Your Excellency,

Women have played a central role in the protests in Yemen and this was recognized when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Tawakkol Karman. Women activists, however, have been harassed, arrested and in some cases beaten for their participation in protests.

I call on you to do what is in your power to take effective measures to address discriminatory laws and practices, protect the right of women to equality with men and to be free from all forms of discrimination, and address the underlying social and cultural attitudes that discriminate against women. In particular, I urge you to:

- bring all laws, practices, policies and procedures into full conformity with international human rights law and standards;
- ensure that women have equality with men in law and practice, including under family law;
- exercise due diligence by protecting women and girls against human rights abuses within the family, in particular forced marriages and physical and psychological abuse, and ensure that violence in the family is addressed and those responsible are held to account;
- ensure that law enforcement officials, public officials and members of the judiciary receive training in gender-sensitive approaches to violence and other violations of women's rights, and that women who are subjected to violence are not re-victimized because of gender-insensitive law enforcement practices.

Yours sincerely,

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh
(Office of the Head of the Judiciary)
Number 4, 2 Azizi Street
Vali Asr Ave., above Pasteur St. intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned about human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, a mother of two young children. She is serving a six-year sentence, simply for her peaceful work as a lawyer.

She is a prisoner of conscience.

Nasrin Sotoudeh has been held in Evin Prison in Tehran since her arrest on 4 September 2010, including a lengthy period in solitary confinement. Her health has also been weakened by hunger strikes held in protest against her arrest and detention conditions.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Nasrin Sotoudeh on the grounds that she has been imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising her rights to freedom of expression and association in the course of her work.

Yours sincerely,

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh
(Office of the Head of the Judiciary)
Number 4, 2 Azizi Street
Vali Asr Ave., above Pasteur St. intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Dear Excellency,

I am writing you to express my concern about the intimidation and repression of the the Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Company Trade Union. Please ensure to officially recognize the Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Company Trade Union and not punish HTSCC workers for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of association and their right to strike.

In particular, I urge you to drop all charges against Ali Nejati on account of his peaceful trade union activities and to release him immediately and unconditionally, and to reverse the five year ban on him, Ghorban Alipour, Mohammad Haydari Mehr, Jalil Ahmadi and Fereydoun Nikufard on working at the Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Company.

Reminding you of your obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as ILO conventions are to uphold workers' rights, including the right to form and join trade unions, I demand to respect workers' rights and release any trade unionists who have been imprisoned solely for the exercise of their legitimate trade union activities.

Yours sincerely,

Minister of Justice
Miltiadis Papaioannou
96, Mesogeion Avenue
115 27 Athens
Greece

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in the case of Konstantina Kouneva. I urge you that the main investigation into the case of Konstantina Kouneva to continue, and for it to be thorough, independent and impartial leading to the perpetrators being brought to justice.

Please keep Konstantina Kouneva informed about the progress in the investigation.

I urge you to protect the rights of migrant workers by fully implementing existing legislation.

I demand the protection of other human rights defenders and trade union members from similar attacks.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Voser
Chief Executive Officer
Royal Dutch Shell
PO Box 162
2501 AN The Hague
THE NETHERLANDS

Dear Mr. Voser,

I write to express our concern about the impact of oil pollution on economic, social and cultural rights in the Niger Delta region. I urge you to acknowledge Shell's responsibility for the impacts of oil pollution in the Niger Delta.

I call on the company to:

- contribute the full \$1 billion identified by UNEP as the start-up amount needed to establish an independent fund to clean up pollution in Ogoniland;
- carry out a clean-up of oil pollution and environmental damage in Bodo and other affected sites;
- support the need for further assessment of oil pollution across the wider oil-producing Niger Delta region;
- pay fair and adequate compensation to all affected communities.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew N. Liveris
Chief Executive Officer
Dow Chemical Co.
Midland, MI 48674
USA

Dear Mr. Liveris,

The lives of tens of thousands of people in Bhopal were devastated in December 1984 by a catastrophic gas leak at Union Carbide's pesticide factory. There has been no justice and no proper rehabilitation for survivors and this human rights disaster now spans generations. No one has been held to account for the serious failures leading to the leak. Union Carbide – today a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company – walked away from Bhopal, without even decontaminating the site properly.

I call on Dow to:

- proactively engage with the government of India to ensure that the site is properly decontaminated and that adequate reparations are made to those affected; and
- cooperate fully on the ongoing legal proceedings in order to ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor of Harare
Mr Muchadeyi Masunda
1st Floor Town House
P.O. Box 990
Harare
SIMBABWE

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to express my concern that thousands of children resettled in Hatcliffe Extension, Hopley and other Garikai settlements are being denied their right to school education.

The government of Zimbabwe has international human rights obligations to ensure free and compulsory primary education for all children in Zimbabwe and freedom from discrimination in access to education.

Therefore I urge you to take steps to:

- immediately commission an independent study into the long term impact of Operation Murambatsvina on the right to education;
- immediately adopt and implement a national developmental education strategy which ensures that as a priority, all children access free, compulsory primary education;
- immediately ensure that the right of access to public educational institutions and programmes on a non-discriminatory basis and in particular ensure that children without birth certificates are not denied access to BEAM assistance;
- take steps to support people's self-help initiatives to provide education, including facilitating the work of non-government organisations involved in education, and ensuring that legal and technical barriers faced by the poor are minimised.

Yours sincerely,