

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 19, 2014

His Excellency Shaikh Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Rashid al-Khalifa
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain
3502 International Drive, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We are writing to convey our deep concern for Maryam al-Khawaja, who was arrested on August 30 and released into her family's custody on September 18. We urge the Government of Bahrain to immediately lift the travel ban on Ms. al-Khawaja and drop all charges against her.

Ms. al-Khawaja, an internationally respected human rights activist who some of us have met personally, returned to Bahrain to visit her father, Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, who is currently on a hunger strike and serving a life sentence for his own human rights activism.

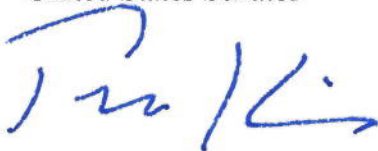
The arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights defenders like the al-Khawajas contradicts the Kingdom of Bahrain's publicly stated commitments to human rights and reconciliation. We urge your government to release its political prisoners and uphold its commitments to fully implement the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry.

We look forward to working with you to ensure a strong continued friendship between our two nations and the protection of human rights of the people of Bahrain. To that end, we await the Kingdom's decision to lift the travel ban against Ms. Maryam al-Khawaja and drop all charges against her.

Sincerely,




PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



TIM KAINE
United States Senator



RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



MARCO RUBIO
United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator



RON WYDEN
United States Senator