

Monthly Action – May 2014

Community Organising Unit, AIUK, HRAC, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA
[Http://www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)



Individuals At Risk

Mahdi Abu Dheeb, Bahrain

Union leader jailed for standing up for workers' rights

Mahdi Abu Dheeb, former President of the Bahrain Teachers' Association (BTA), has been in prison since his arrest on 6 April 2011. Mahdi Abu Dheeb's family did not know where he was for 24 days. He spent 64 days in solitary confinement during which he says he was tortured. His family and lawyer were only allowed to see him during the first session of his trial before a military court on 7 June 2011. Mahdi Abu Dheeb has remained in prison since his arrest. He was sentenced on 25 September 2011 before the military National Safety Court, to 10 years in prison. He was convicted for using his position to call for a strike by teachers, halting the educational process, inciting hatred of the regime, attempting to overthrow the ruling system by force, possessing pamphlets and disseminating fabricated stories and information, among other charges. He did not advocate violence during the protests and Amnesty has not seen any convincing evidence supporting such accusations, nor was there any such evidence presented at trial.

No investigation into his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment is known to have taken place. His appeal before a civilian court started on 11 December 2011 and on 21 October 2012 the High Criminal Court of Appeal in Manama upheld his conviction but reduced his sentence to five years in prison. Amnesty International considers Mahdi Abu Dheeb to be a prisoner of conscience.

What you need to do:

✉ **Order copies of the Action Card (PDF attached) from TFS using code TU343 and send the signed appeals to Shane Enright at AIUK. We will be collecting signed cards until the autumn of this year. If you have contacts with local union branches, schools, or trades councils, please encourage them to sign/distribute the cards. This action can also be taken online at <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/mahdi>**

Why are we not appealing direct to the Ambassador? The Bahrain Team hope to go on Mission to Bahrain soon, so we are holding back on protests to the Ambassador for the time being. We are planning to present the appeal cards through a joint delegation with the TUC and teachers' unions later in the year. We will let you know if this takes the form of a public demonstration/event. The UK is a country of significant strategic influence on the Bahraini authorities. Together we can make a difference.

Contents

This guidance sheet
PDF of appeal card

Got queries or want to do more?

If you have any queries about this action, and for updates on this case, please contact:

✉ **Community Organising Unit**, address above,
Email shane.enright@amnesty.org.uk, **phone** 020 7033 1569
or **visit** www.amnesty.org/tradeunions

Please check our website for upcoming blogs and/or online appeals for the Bahrain teachers and their labour rights