

CASE STUDY

MADHI ABU DHEEB



What happened to Madhi?

Mahdi Abu Dheeb is a teacher from Bahrain, a country in the Middle East. As the leader of the Bahrain Teachers' Association he was worried about education in Bahrain and wanted his government to make some changes to improve schools. In April 2011 he called for his fellow teachers' to walk out of their classrooms and join in a strike. Many people would say that he was just doing his job but the Bahrain authorities disagreed. Mahdi was arrested and sent to prison. The authorities claimed that he was trying to organise a violent overthrow of the government. Amnesty International does not think this is true.

Torn from his family and treated badly

Mahdi's daughter, Maryam, told Amnesty International that her father has severe injuries, including two broken ribs, from being beaten. Mahdi is still serving a 5 year prison sentence. He is really missed by his family and the children he used to teach in school.

Prisoner of Conscience

Mahdi is a prisoner of conscience. He is not in jail for a crime. He is imprisoned because he expressed his views and because he wanted to demonstrate with other teachers. We all have the right to express our views and discuss issues that are important to us. We have the right to gather peacefully with other people and be a member of a trade union. All Mahdi did was call for a strike; he is being punished for doing his job.

Using **Activity Sheet 4** write a solidarity letter/ card to Madhi letting him know you support his struggle for human rights. Address your letter: Dear Madhi

Using **Activity Sheet 5** write an appeal letter to urge the Bahrain's Ambassador to the UK to work for Madhi's release from prison. Address your letter: Dear Ambassador

Key words: Bahrain, strike, authorities, overthrow, Prisoner of Conscience, demonstrate, trade union, ambassador