His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa  
Prime Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
P.O. Box 547  
Government Road  
Manama  
Kingdom of Bahrain

Via email to: info@mofa.gov.bh  
Via fax to: +973 17536343

August 27, 2010

Re: Professor Abdul Jalil Al-Singace

Your Excellency:

I write on behalf of the Scholars at Risk Network with regard to Professor Abdul Jalil Al-Singace, a scholar and professor of mechanical engineering at University of Bahrain. We respectfully urge you to make public the reasons for his detention, disclose his whereabouts and ensure immediate and regular access to legal counsel of his choosing, to family and to any necessary medical treatment.

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of over 220 universities and colleges in 29 countries dedicated to promoting academic freedom and its constituent freedoms of thought, opinion, expression, association and travel. In cases like Professor Al-Singace’s involving alleged infringement of these freedoms, Scholars at Risk investigates hoping to clarify and resolve matters favorably.

Professor Al-Singace is a scholar of mechanical engineering who has worked at University of Bahrain since 1995. He is also the Director of the Human Rights Bureau of the Haq Movement for Civil Liberties and Democracy, an opposition political movement. We have learned that Professor Al-Singace was arrested on August 13, 2010 at Bahrain International Airport, upon his return from the United Kingdom, and taken to an undisclosed location. This followed his address on August 5 to the British House of Lords during which he reported on Bahrain’s human rights situation. Reports also indicate that Professor Al-Singace has not been permitted regular visits with his family or lawyer; indeed we understand that his lawyer was able to see him for the first time only recently. Although Bahraini law dictates that detainees are brought before the public prosecutor or formally charged with an offense within 48 hours, Professor Al-Singace has yet to be formally charged. Furthermore, we understand that Professor Al-Singace suffers from poliomyelitis. In light of this, his prolonged detention without regular access to counsel, family
or adequate medical support would appear to constitute a reckless disregard of his health and well-being.

This disregard, coupled with the suddenness and lack of any clear basis for his arrest, raises concerns that this case appears to involve retaliation against one scholar’s peaceful exercise of fundamental rights, which are guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bahrain is a party.

We therefore join with the many national and international academic associations, human rights organizations and individual scholars in respectfully urging you to examine the circumstances of Professor Al-Singace’s detention and to disclose his location. We respectfully urge you to intervene to ensure his well-being including ensuring immediate and regular access to legal counsel of his choosing, to family and to any necessary medical treatment. Given the public reports surrounding Professor Al-Singace’s detention, we further urge you to explain publicly the reasons for his detention or absent this, to arrange for his earliest release.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this important matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Quinn
Executive Director, Scholars at Risk

Cc:

His Majesty Shaikh Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa
King of Bahrain
Office of His Majesty the King
P. O. Box 555
Rifa’a Palace, Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 17668884

Her Excellency Ms. Houda Ezra Ebrahim Nonoo
Ambassador of Bahrain to the United States
Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain
3502 International Drive NW
Washington, DC 20008 USA
Fax: +1 202 362-2192

His Excellency Dr. Majid Bin Ali Al Nuaimi
Minister of Education
Ministry of Education Building
Al Istiklal Street
P.O. Box 43
Isa City
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax:  +973 1768 7866
Email: moe.relations@bahrain.gov.bh

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
United States Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC  20520  USA

His Excellency J. Adam Ereli
Ambassador of the United States to the Kingdom of Bahrain
Embassy of the United States of America
Bldg 979, Road 3119, Block 331, Zinj
Kingdom of Bahrain
Fax: +973 1727 0547