



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

Berne, october 20, 2011

Your Majesty

The Swiss Nurses' Association is pleased to hear that the sentences of up to 15 years in prison against twenty Bahrain nurses* have been overturned.

We expect, however, that **every** legal action against the nurses be abandoned and that the nurses be reintegrated in their jobs, in order that they can continue to care for the people who need to be cared for.

We were absolutely shocked to hear of the sentences against the nurses, who fulfilled their duty when they cared for people who were wounded during the social unrest in your country. We would like to remind you that it is the duty of health personnel to care for everybody, regardless of his or her political, personal, cultural or social background and regardless of the reason why he or she needs help (cf. the ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses; Preamble. Bahrain is member of the ICN (International Council of Nurses)).

We also expect that immediate enquiries will be held concerning the alleged cases of torture during the imprisonment of some of the nurses, and that the results of these enquiries will be made public and the persons responsible will be handed over to justice and held accountable for their misdeeds.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Théraulaz'.

Pierre Théraulaz
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Wandeler'.

Elsbeth Wandeler
Secretary General

Copies to: President of the Confederation Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Departement of Foreign Affairs, Jakob Kellenberger, President of the ICRC, Swiss Red Cross, Embassy of Bahrain in Switzerland.

* Names: 'Ali 'Esa Mansoor al-'Ekri (m), Nader Mohammed Hassan Dewani (m), Ahmed 'Abdulaziz Omran Hassan (m), Mahmood Asghar 'Abdulwahab (m), 'Abdulkhaleq 'Ali Hussain al-'Oraibi (m), Ghassan Ahmed 'Ali Dhaif (m), Bassim Ahmed 'Ali Dhaif (m), Ebrahim 'Abdullah Ebrahim (m), Sayed Marhoon Majid al-Wedaei (m); Roula Jassim Mohammed al-Saffar (f), Nada Sa'eed 'Abdelnabi Dhaif (f), 'Ali Hassan al-Sadadi (m), Qassim Mohammad 'Omran (m) were condemned to 15 years of prison. Hassan Mohammed Sa'eed Nasser (m), Sa'eed Mothaher Habib Al Samahiji (m) ont été condamnés à 10 ans de prison. Fatima Salman Hassan Haji (f), Dhia Ibrahim Ja'far (f), Najah Khalil Ibrahim Hassan (f), Zahra Mahdi al-Sammak (f) and Mohammed Faeq 'Ali Al Shehab (m) were condemned to 5 years of prison.