

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2013

Her Excellency Houda Ezra Ebrahim Nonoo
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain
Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain
3502 International Drive NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Madam Ambassador:

We write to express our concern and disappointment regarding a recent decision of Bahrain's Ministry of Education to terminate the teaching position of Ms. Jalila al-Salman, a respected teacher and Vice President of the Bahrain Teachers' Association. Ms. Al-Salman was notified of this decision less than one week after traveling to the United States to participate in a public event. Ms. Al-Salman also met with Members of the United States Congress, including many of us, during her visit. We are deeply concerned that Bahrain's Ministry of Education terminated Ms. al-Salman's employment in retaliation for her activism in Bahrain and her advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.

Following the outbreak of protests in 2011, Ms. al-Salman helped to organize peaceful teachers' strikes in support of the pro-democracy movement, in accordance with her legitimate right to freedom of expression and assembly. As a result of her organizing efforts, Ms. al-Salman's home was raided on March 29, 2011, and she was taken into custody. During her detention, Ms. al-Salman was "blindfolded for hours, kept in isolation, deprived of sleep and verbally abused," as reported by the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI)—an investigatory body whose report and recommendations were accepted by the King of Bahrain. Ms. al-Salman was also allegedly subjected to solitary confinement, beatings, forced standing, and was threatened with sexual assault and forced to sign a false confession. In addition, Ms. al-Salman was denied "adequate access to legal representation" and was not "allowed regular contact with family members."

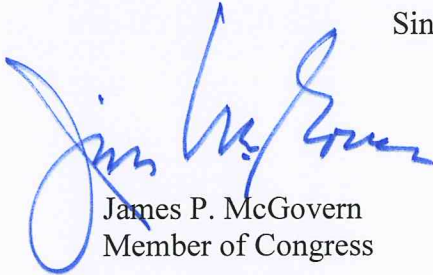
Given the abusive treatment Ms. al-Salman was forced to endure during her detention, as well as the questionable justification for her detention and subsequent prosecution, there is little doubt in our minds that the Ministry of Education's recent decision is but the latest in a long line of efforts by the Government of Bahrain to punish Ms. al-Salman for exercising her rights to freedom of speech, expression, assembly, and association following the outbreak of protests in 2011.

We therefore strongly urge you to advise the Ministry of Education to reverse its decision in order to permit Ms. al-Salman to freely practice her occupation without interference or

retribution. We also urge you to direct the Ministry of Education to compensate Ms. al-Salman for any unpaid wages since her initial arrest in March 2011.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



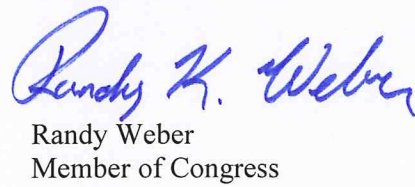
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



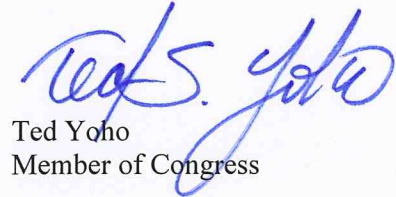
Jim Moran
Member of Congress



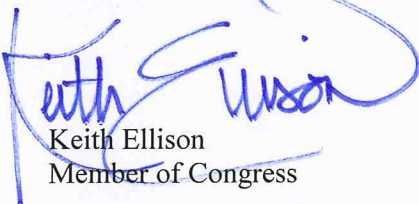
Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Ted Yoho
Member of Congress



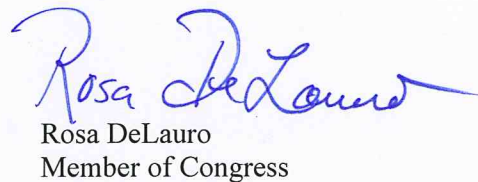
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress