Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I write to ask that you support human rights in Bahrain by speaking up on behalf of Nabeel Rajab and all prisoners of conscience currently suffering under torture and mistreatment in the country. Nabeel Rajab is a building contractor and a committed human rights activist who has held numerous leading positions in human rights organizations such as the International Federation for Human Rights, the Middle East division of Human Rights Watch, and Bahrain Rehabilitation and Anti-Violence Organization. Most recently, he served as the head of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights and Gulf Center for Human Rights.

Mr. Rajab has been the subject of persecution by Bahraini security forces for his activism for years prior to the breakout of major protests in the country in 2011. Since that time, Mr. Rajab has been targeted by government smear campaigns and subjected to tear gas attacks at his residence, and arbitrary arrest. He is currently serving a two-year sentence based on manufactured charges that were leveled against him in an attempt to stop his activism for human rights in Bahrain. Like many Bahraini detainees, Nabeel has been subject to ill-treatment and torture throughout his time in jail. On November 29, 2-13, he was eligible for early release based on a provision in Bahrain criminal procedure law that rewards good behavior of inmates who have served three quarters of their sentence.  Despite his meeting those requirements, his request was denied.

As your constituent, I ask that you utilize the platform I helped you achieve by raising Nabeel’s case and his status as one of many political prisoners arbitrarily detained and tortured by the Government of Bahrain.

Nearly two years after taking to the streets to peacefully protest social, political, and economic disparities, the people of Bahrain continue to struggle for human rights protections and basic democratic freedoms. The Government of Bahrain often meets these protests with violence, repression, and intimidation. Although the Government made some progress in implementing reforms following the initial uprising in 2011, many independent observers now believe the human rights situation in Bahrain has deteriorated further. The United States government has an obligation to ensure that its allies in the region uphold basic human rights such as the rights to peaceful association, assembly and speech.

For that reason, I ask that you, in your capacity as a public figure, release a statement or write an op-ed to bring media exposure to Nabeel Rajab’s situation. I am attaching forthwith a one-page document detailing Mr. Rajab’s profile and history as a human rights activist and prisoner of conscience for your reference.

I urge you to send a strong signal that the United States does not condone the arbitrary detention and torture of peaceful demonstrators and human rights activist by making a statement on the record and in the media.

Sincerely,

Name

Address