The Honorable James McGovern

U.S. House of Representatives

438 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

I write to thank you for your recent statement urging the release of Nabeel Rajab on November 25, 2013. Your dedication to seeing that his sentence be overturned and calling for his unconditional release is a testament of your commitment to the freedom and human rights of the Bahraini people. Thank you also for adopting Mr. Rajab as a prisoner of conscience through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission’s (TLHRC) Defending Freedoms Project. Your work as Co-Chair of the TLHRC has been vital in bringing greater attention to the situation in Bahrain.

As you know, the people of Bahrain continue to struggle for human rights protections and basic democratic freedoms nearly two years after taking to the streets to peacefully protest social, political, and economic disparities in the country. The Government of Bahrain often meets these protests with violence, repression, and intimidation. Although the Government has 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.

Your statement on November 25th, as well as your previous work on Bahrain, is a testament to your commitment to fulfill that obligation.

Thank you again for your commitment to universal human rights and to the people of Bahrain.

Sincerely,