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

I write to ask that you support human rights in Bahrain by speaking up on behalf of Hassan Mushaima and all prisoners of conscience currently suffering from torture and mistreatment in the country. Hassan Mushaima is a Bahraini political activist, teacher and Secretary General of the al-Haq Movement who is suffering from Stage IV cancer while he serves a life sentence in prison for engaging in peaceful protest.

In February 2011, thousands of Bahrainis took the streets to peacefully call for democracy, freedom, and political reforms as part of a broader movement in the Middle East. The authorities in Bahrain responded with a violent and brutal crackdown that resulted in dozens of deaths, hundreds of injuries, and thousands of arbitrary arrests. Since then, the government has only continued to crack down on human rights by the recently criminalizing the rights to freedom of assembly, association, and speech, while fostering a culture of impunity for human rights abusers. Arbitrary detention and torture continue unabated, while the government reduces the sentences of convicted human rights offenders.

Among those arbitrarily arrested and tortured was Mr. Mushaima, a 65-year-old political activist and founder of the al-Haq movement, which advocates for a representative democracy and an end to hereditary rule in Bahrain. In 2010, he had moved to London in order to undergo treatment for his cancer. During the 2011 demonstrations, he returned to Bahrain after the government dropped their previous charges against him as a concession to the opposition. But in an apparent change of heart, security forces arrested Mushaima at his home in the early morning of March 17, 2011.

In 2010, Mushaima was diagnosed and treated for stage four follicular lymphoma in London and has since been on regular medication to prevent relapse of the disease. There is credible evidence to believe that he is being denied access to urgent medical treatment while in prison. As of January 2014, human rights groups were unable to ascertain whether this medication was being administered to him in prison. Mushaima’s most recent biopsy results were also withheld for at least two months after he should have received them.

As your constituent, I ask that you call for Mr. Mushaima’s unconditional release and petition the Government of Bahrain to ensure that he is receiving adequate medical treatment for his cancer on par with international standards. 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, bring attention to Hassan Mushaima’s situation, and send a strong signal that the United States does not condone the arbitrary detention and maltreatment of peaceful demonstrators and human rights activists.

Sincerely,

Name

Address