



Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain

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ADHRB Sends Letter to King Juan Carlos I of Spain in Advance of Official Visit to Bahrain

WASHINGTON, D.C. – 28 April 2014 – Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) today sent a letter to His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain urging him to address the human rights situation in Bahrain with his counterpart during his [official visit](#) to the country later this week. King Juan Carlos I is scheduled to be in Bahrain 1-2 May to discuss economic and bilateral relations.

In 2011, thousands of Bahrainis took to the streets to demand democratic reform and observation of human rights in their country. The Bahrain government responded by [violently attacking](#) protesters, leaving dozens dead and hundreds more wounded. Since then, the government has continued its campaign of suppression against dissent. Human rights activists are targeted for their work, media censorship has increased, and politically-motivated trials have led to more than 5,000 political prisoners in the Kingdom.

The Spanish government has been an active participant in the broader discussion of human rights in Bahrain within the international community. At the United Nations Human Rights Council, member states expressed serious concern over the deteriorating situation in Bahrain through [joint statements in 2012 and 2013](#). Spain was a signatory to all three statements.

“The Government of Spain should be applauded for previously publicly voicing its misgivings over the Bahrain government’s proclivity towards repression and abuse,” Mr. Abdulla said. “During his visit to Bahrain, I implore King Juan Carlos I to speak frankly with leading members of the al-Khalifa ruling family to raise concerns over the severe restrictions on the political and human rights of Bahrain’s citizens. Without the implementation of concrete and urgent reform, strong economic and bilateral relations between the two countries could be jeopardized. As such, it is in His Majesty’s interest to ensure that the subject of human rights reform in Bahrain is address.”

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