Dear Senator/Representative,

I write to bring your attention to the case of Abdulla Jaffar Abdulla, a 17-year old U.S. citizen currently imprisoned in Bahrain and scheduled to go on trial on May 6 2014, and ask that you contact the U.S. Department of State and the Government of Bahrain to investigate allegations of torture and mistreatment and ensure that he receives a fair trial. Abdulla is a Virginia native who was born in Fairfax while his father was studying at George Mason University. He was a member of our community, and as such, I request that you look into his case.

As you may know, Bahrain has significant issues with regard to its treatment of prisoners, including detained children and minors. The majority of the key recommendations of the *Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry*, an independent report commissioned by the Government of Bahrain to address widespread human rights violations that occurred in response to the 2011 peaceful protests, have not been implemented. This includes determining the “accountability of those in the government who…committed unlawful or negligent acts resulting in the deaths, torture, and mistreatment of civilians,” and “to independently investigate credible claims of torture and to provide arrest warrants to arrestees.” Indeed, these human rights abuses continue with impunity in Bahrain today.

Since his imprisonment on March 10 2014, Abdulla has made credible claims of torture and mistreatment at the hands of Bahraini security officers, none of which have been investigated. Furthermore, he has alleged that a false confession was obtained under duress after security officers had assaulted him in the street and then threatened him again with a plastic hose in the detention center. In their first allowed visit to see him a week after his arrest, his family noticed visible signs of abuse, including a broken nose which had not been treated. Abdulla has also expressed concern about the treatment of other children who are imprisoned alongside him. This is unacceptable and must be investigated.

As a major U.S. ally in the region, the United States has an obligation to ensure that the Government of is upholding international legal standards on the treatment of detainees and human rights. As such, I ask that you request the Department of State to:

* Send representative from the U.S. Embassy Manama to attend Abdulla Jaffar’s trial on May 6th to ensure no miscarriage of justice occurs;
* Investigate allegations of abuse and mistreatment by Bahrain security officers;
* Investigate the obtainment of a false confession under duress; and
* Ensure that Abdulla is receiving adequate medical treatment for his injuries.

As your constituent, I appreciate your longstanding commitment to human rights and democracy, and thank you for your commitment to this important issue.

Sincerely,