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

I write to ask that you support human rights in Bahrain by speaking up on behalf of Hussain Hubail and all prisoners of conscience currently suffering from torture and mistreatment in the country. Hussain Hubail is an award-winning photojournalist who is currently serving a five year prison sentence in Bahrain. Mr. Hubail’s work has been published by *Agence France-Presse* and Voice of America, as well as various other news outlets. His work includes photographs of the pro-democracy protests in Bahrain. International media rights organizations such as Reporters Without Borders and IFEX recently condemned his conviction as a clear violation of press freedom.

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, speech, and press, 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.

Hussain Hubail is among those arbitrarily arrested and tortured in Bahrain. He was detained on July 31st, 2013 at Bahrain International Airport where he was due to board a flight to Dubai. His family received no information about his whereabouts for days afterward. When they finally saw him a week later, he told them that he had been beaten with plastic hosing, kicked and threatened by security officers. He was also forced to listen to the torture of a fellow prisoner. He was finally charged and convicted of "calling for and participating in illegal demonstrations", "inciting hatred of the government", "being in contact with government opponents in exile" and belonging to the “14 February media network”.

Mr. Hubail also suffers from a heart condition which has worsened since his detention. He requested medical attention from prison authorities while experiencing a rapid heartbeat and shortness of breath, but has received treatment that is sporadic at best. The prison clinic provides him with medication, but he reports that he does not know what medication he is being given and that it is being given to him on a random basis.

As your constituent, I ask that you call on the Government of Bahrain to unconditionally release Husain Hubail and to ensure that he is receiving adequate medical treatment 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 freedom of expression and assembly. Mr. Hubail’s case is only one of many violations against press freedom in Bahrain.

For that reason, I ask that you, in your capacity as a public figure, bring attention to Husain Hubail’s situation, and stand up for the American values of free speech and freedom of the press. Please send a strong signal that the United States does not condone the arbitrary detention and maltreatment of journalists and members of the press.

Sincerely,

Name Address