

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2014

His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa
The Amiri Court, Riffa Place
P.O. Box 555
Manama, Bahrain

Your Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa,

We write to express our concern and disappointment with your recent decision to expel Mr. Tom Malinowski, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor from Bahrain. The treatment of Assistant Secretary Malinowski is disturbing in light of the close diplomatic relationship that our governments have enjoyed for decades. Now, more than ever, is a time when we need to encourage diplomacy in the Middle East. We respectfully request that Secretary Malinowski be welcomed back to the country so that he can resume his visit intended to strengthen bilateral ties and support your reform and reconciliation efforts.

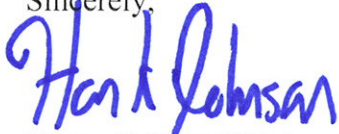
Assistant Secretary Malinowski's deportation from the country appears to be the first time that the Government of Bahrain has enforced a troubling decree recommended by the National Council in June 2013 barring members of opposition parties from meeting with officials of foreign governments absent pre-approval from the government and without a representative of the Foreign Ministry present. The statement by the Bahraini Foreign Ministry deeming Assistant Secretary Malinowski as "unwelcome" and accusing him of intervening "in the country's interior affairs by holding meetings with certain parties...in defiance conventional diplomatic norms" significantly undermines any efforts toward reconciliation and the success of the National Dialogue. This is particularly troubling in light of the fact that Assistant Secretary Malinowski was in the country doing exactly what high-level diplomats are called on to do: meet with members of the government, opposition parties, and members of the public to gain a deeper understanding.

As you know, creating the space for open dialogue and diplomacy is critical to addressing the urgent political and human rights issues currently facing Bahrain. Deeming a high-level U.S. diplomatic official as "unwelcome" in Bahrain will only serve to undermine public confidence in the government's diplomatic efforts and damage Bahrain's image in the international community.

The United States and Bahrain have enjoyed a strong bilateral relationship for decades and share mutual interests in the region. In recent years the government of Bahrain has made a commitment to improving human rights and diplomacy. Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed al Khalifa recently said "Our actions, more than our words, should dispel any doubts regarding my

government's commitment to upholding human rights through the rule of law. Let us follow the path of dialogue, not propaganda." We urge you to honor this commitment and welcome Assistant Secretary Malinowski back to Bahrain. This would demonstrate your government's previously stated commitment to reconciliation and dialogue in Bahrain.

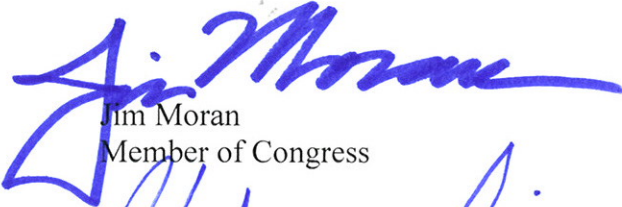
Sincerely,



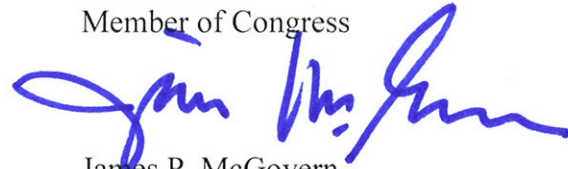
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



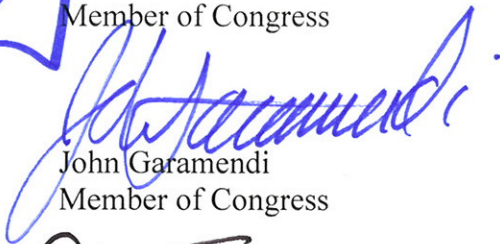
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



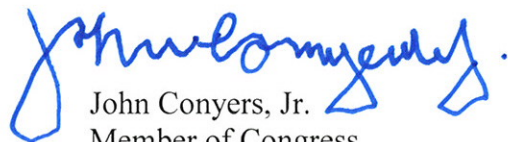
Jim Moran
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



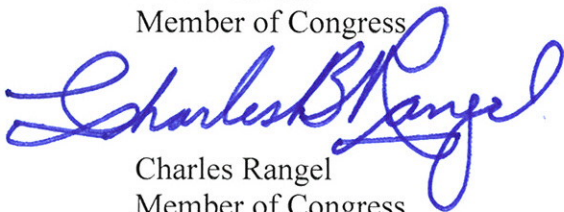
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



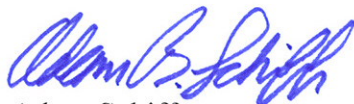
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



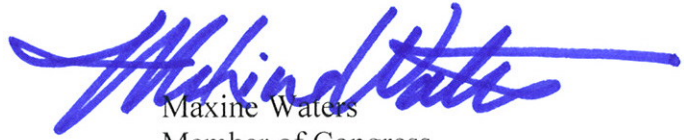
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Frank Wolf
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress