

Rt Hon Theresa May  
Secretary of State for the Home Department

Dear Ms. May,

I write to you regarding the current visit of the Prince of Bahrain, Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to the United Kingdom amidst serious allegations of torture and ill treatment. His visit coincides with the 2014 British Invention Show of which he is a patron.

On 7 October 2014, the UK High Court quashed a decision by the Crown Prosecution Service that the Prince had immunity from prosecution on torture allegations under Section 20 of the State Immunity Act 1978. In light of this, we believe that the presence of Prince Nasser in the UK undermines the decision of the judiciary and the position of the UK as a state party to the UN Convention Against Torture.

Prince Nasser has been accused of taking part in individual acts of torture during the 2011 uprising in Bahrain. In 2012, the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights sent a detailed dossier of evidence regarding alleged practices of torture committed by the Prince. This included witness statements by members of Bahrain's opposition who alleged that the Prince had personally engaged in acts of torture against them. Lord Justice Laws and Mr. Justice Cranston confirmed that "based on the evidence provided" in the hearing, the Prince would no longer be immune to investigation or prosecution for the alleged acts as required by UK and Bahraini commitments to the Convention against Torture.

Two days after this decision, the British ambassador [met with Prince Nasser](#) expressing a "keenness to strengthen ties with Bahrain." Similarly, the UK government invited the Prince to [visit](#) the Royal British navy transport dock in Bahrain last week. These actions have shown the government's disregard for the decision made by the UK High Court earlier this month, which considered evidence of torture claims against the Prince sufficient to strip him of his functional immunity in the United Kingdom.

The Prince's undisturbed arrival in the UK further undermines the decision of the High Court and reflects a compromising position of the UK government towards Bahrain. While the order of the High Court on Prince Nasser recalls the UK obligations under the UN Convention Against Torture, an unchanged attitude towards the Prince amidst serious allegations of torture puts to question the UK's commitment to its international human rights engagements.

I also express my disappointment with the decision to grant the Prince access to British territory while there are ongoing accusations against him. I call on the government to refrain from inviting the Prince onto public property, including for the inspection of sensitive military installations. I further urge you to advise an appropriate course of action for his dismissal from the UK.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andy Slaughter