

## Nabeel Rajab: Arresting anyone because of tweeting is against international human rights law



<http://bahrainalyoum.uk/?p=35879>

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Bahraini activist Nabeel Rajab spoke out against arresting any individual for “expressing his opinion or tweeting,” especially when there are no direct calls for violence.

Rajab is referring to the Ministry of Interior (MOI) arresting the owner of a Twitter account called “BuKhamis.” Rajab said, “Targeting people for their opinions and beliefs is what inquisitors used to do in the Middle Ages.” He stressed that it is not acceptable today.

The Ministry of Interior announced its arrest of a Bahraini Twitter user on 6 September 2015 for insulting the MOI members who died in the war in Yemen last Friday.

He asserted that targeting individuals based on their opinion is “a human rights violation,” assuring that despite the legal justification for it in Bahraini law, “it still violates international human rights law.”

Rajab stated that governments of just countries do not suppress the voice of the people or fear their opinions, but rather see the need to fix issues in their system.

A statement by the head of the Ministry’s Electronic and Economic Crimes Unit mentioned that the owner of the “BuKhamis” Twitter account was arrested and has been transported to public prosecution.

Bahrainis have held several peaceful protests against the Saudi-led war in Yemen. Activist Fadhel Abbas has been sentenced to five years for speaking out against the war and Nabeel Rajab is currently facing the same charges.