

## **Petition for the Immediate Release of Khalil Almarzooq in Bahrain**

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned by the detention of Bahraini opposition leader Khalil Almarzooq, and call for his immediate release and the dropping of all charges.

Mr. Almarzooq is the Political Assistant to the Secretary General of Al Wefaq National Islamic Society, a signatory of the Bahraini Opposition Non-Violence Declaration. He has consistently condemned all acts of violence and urged protesters to follow only a peaceful path.

Therefore the accusations made by the Ministry of Interior against Mr. Almarzooq of inciting terror and violence are completely baseless and nothing more than a smokescreen for a politically motivated attack on freedom of expression. As the UK based NGO [Amnesty International has said](#), "Khalil Almarzooq is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned only for of his vehement criticism of the government. He must be immediately and unconditionally released."

Furthermore, his arrest makes a mockery of claims by the Bahraini Government that they are committed to reform and reaching a political solution through dialogue. Al Wefaq has engaged with the dialogue process that began in February 2013 and the arrest of one of their leading figures casts serious doubts over the seriousness with which the Government is treating this process.

We are concerned by and call for an end to the ongoing human rights violations in Bahrain, in order to create a positive atmosphere for reconciliation and reform.

It is our hope that the authorities in Bahrain will immediately release Mr. Almarzooq and stop any further threats against the peaceful and moderate opposition, who should be brought into the political process rather than be repressed.

**Signed:**

**To add your name, please email [amaswad@gmail.com](mailto:amaswad@gmail.com)**