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**Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios**  
**Action Mondiale des Parlementaires**

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*New York/The Hague, October 1, 2013*

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**KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

Your Majesty,

On behalf of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), an association of over 1,000 Legislators in more than 130 countries worldwide, we are writing this open letter to you today in connection with the arrest on 17 September 2013, of Mr. Khalil al-Marzooq.

Between 2006 and until his resignation as a Member of Parliament to your Majesty in March 2011, Mr. Al Marzooq served as member of PGA leading initiatives of political dialogue with both the government and the opposition to enhance respect for the rule of law in Bahrain and promoting as well the ratification by Bahrain of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Mr. Al Marzooq's leadership in this area was duly recognized by our global membership and he was subsequently elected, until the date of tendering of his resignation, as a member of the Executive Committee of our organization.

Your Majesty, in July 2011 you launched the Bahrain National Dialogue. Our organization, together with the International Community, has welcomed this development as one of the key measures to restore unity in Bahrain and address the demands of civil society. As you know, Mr. Al Marzooq has been a leading member of the Al Wefaq delegation participating in the National Dialogue.

In this regard, we are deeply concerned vis-a-vis the successful outcome of this National Dialogue in the event Mr. Al Marzooq remains in detention and no longer an active partner in this process. Indeed, his detention casts a long and dark shadow over this entire process and all must be done to ensure it is not stalled at this critical point in time.

In addition, numerous organizations have analysed the speeches and statements of Mr. Al Marzooq, and Parliamentarians for Global Action can attest to his deep, longstanding and personal commitment to non violence, to democracy and the rule of law.

With the greatest humility, in the apparent absence of clear and compelling evidence substantiating the allegations that appear to justify Mr. Al Marzooq's current detention, we appeal to Your Highness to intervene in his favour, to ensure that all the charges are dropped and the case is closed, and to ensure the physical and mental safety of Mr. Al Marzooq while in detention. As an alternative, and pending further investigations fully respecting the Rule of Law and the rights of individuals, we respectfully request that Mr. Al Marzooq at least be released from detention during this period of time.

Your Majesty – for so long, your Kingdom had served as an example and beacon of the benefits accruing from peaceful rule. It is our fervent hope, therefore, that the circumstances needed to ensure the continuity of this state of affairs –including strong adherence to all aspects of the Rule of Law– will be a high priority for the Government of Bahrain.

We are confident of your continued wisdom to give meaningful spaces in your Kingdom's peace process to those who reject violence. The peace of the Kingdom and the progressive development of a fair and free society are at stake.

Please be assured, Your Majesty, of our highest regard for your continued steadfast commitment, devotion and dedication to upholding the Rule of Law in Bahrain – in all of its manifestations.

*On behalf of Parliamentarians for Global Action:*



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