



NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS HEADQUARTERS

Hamilton House Mabledon Place London WC1H 9BD
Telephone 020 7388 6191 Fax 020 7387 8458
www.teachers.org.uk

General Secretary Christine Blower
Deputy General Secretary Kevin Courtney

Iain Lindsay
British Ambassador
British Embassy
21 Government Avenue
Manama 306
P O Box 114
Kingdom of Bahrain

03 February 2012

Dear Mr Lindsay

I am writing in relation to the charges and convictions and commute sentences of all teachers, teacher unionists and students charged with offences related to exercise of freedom of speech and right to assemble in Bahrain.

I am particularly concerned about the appeals, on Sunday 11 December, of the Vice-President and President of the Bahraini Teachers Association (BTA). Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb are appealing the sentences issued on 25 September by the military National Safety Court of First Instance to three and ten years' imprisonment, for their involvement in peaceful protests last March.

The revision of the convictions is highlighted in the strong recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI). On 23 November, it recommended the Bahraini authorities "to review convictions and commute sentences of all persons charged with offences involving political expression, not consisting of advocacy of violence, or, as the case may be, to drop outstanding charges against them."

I request that UK's diplomatic representatives in Bahrain attend Jalila and Mahdi's appeal on 19 February, as well as the appeals of the seven other BTA Board members and to visit Mahdi in prison which may improve his security.

I look forward to hearing about your positive intervention on this very serious matter.

Yours sincerely

CHRISTINE BLOWER
General Secretary