

8 July 2016

### **Bahrain – Human rights defender Ahmed Radhi banned from travelling**

On 7 July 2016, human rights defender Ahmed Radhi was prevented from travelling to Oman from Bahrain International Airport. He had not received any prior notification of the travel ban. Security officers refused to provide him with any reason and asked him to report to the Criminal Investigation Department for further explanations.

Ahmed Radhi is a Bahraini journalist and human rights defender advocating for press and media freedom and documenting human rights violations in Bahrain. He has reported on cases of prisoners of conscience and victims of torture and ill treatment. He writes for several national and international newspapers and media outlets including the international broadcaster Radio Monte Carlo Doualiya. He is actively engaged in social media, has been subjected to several acts of intimidation from Bahraini authorities.

On 7 July, while heading to the Sultanate of Oman from Bahrain International Airport, airport authority officers informed Ahmed Radhi that a travel ban had been imposed on him. He was told that he was not allowed to leave the country at the time but no reason or any additional information were provided.

Ahmed Radhi has been targeted by Bahraini authorities before. In July 2014, he was banned from entering the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and was detained for fifteen hours in the Dubai International Airport, he was then deported to Bahrain. Previously in May 2012, security forces stormed Ahmed Radhi's house. He was subsequently detained for four months without a trial and was banned from travelling to Saudi Arabia for 10 years. During his detention, he was physically tortured and verbally assaulted by police officers. This detention was reportedly linked to a news report by the human rights defender criticising the 'Gulf Union' (the Gulf Cooperation Council) and its security consequences. In the year of 1995, he was detained without charge and tortured, which he believes was related to his human rights work.

The travel ban of Ahmed Radhi comes within the context of the shrinking space for civil society in Bahrain and the restriction of activities of human rights defenders. On [12 June 2016](#), Bahraini security forces prevented three human rights defenders, Mr **Hussain Radhi**, Ms **Ebtisam Al-Saegh** and Mr **Ibrahim Al-Demistani** from travelling to Geneva from Bahrain International Airport to attend the UNHRC and to participate in a side event on the situation of human rights in Bahrain. On 20 June, human rights defender [Abdulnabi Al-Ekry](#) was prevented from traveling following an order by the public prosecution, and on 29 June, journalist [Nazeeha Saeed](#) was prevented from travelling to Germany.

Front Line Defenders expresses concern for the travel ban imposed against Ahmed Radhi and believes that it is solely motivated by his peaceful and legitimate activities in the defence of human rights in Bahrain.

#### **Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Bahrain to:**

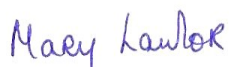
1. Immediately lift the travel ban on Mr Ahmed Radhi;

2. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Bahrain are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw your attention to Article 6 (b): *“Everyone has the right, individually and in association with other, as provided for in human rights and other applicable international instruments, freely to publish, impart or disseminate to others views, information and knowledge on all human rights and fundamental freedoms”*; and to Article 12 (3): *“In this connection, everyone is entitled, individually and in association with others, to be protected effectively under national law in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, activities and acts, including those by omission, attributable to States that result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as acts of violence perpetrated by groups or individuals that affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.”*

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Lawlor  
**Executive Director**

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