

From:

Date:

Dr. Fatima Mohamed Al-Balooshi
Minister of Human Rights and Social
Development
P.O. Box 32868
Manama, BAHRAIN

Your Excellency,

I am concerned about 20 year old university student Aayat Alqormozi. On 12th June 2011 she has been sentenced by a military court to one year in prison and already has spent several months in detention between March and July 2011. The reason for her punishment seems to be that she used her right of free expression by publicly reading a poem criticising your King and your Prime Minister at a political rally in February 2011.

She has been released prematurely and although her release is most welcome, her legal status requires clarification as she might be imprisoned again at any time. Before her detention, security forces had twice searched the house of her parents and threatened to kill her brothers. She claims that while in prison she has been tortured. After her release, when she wanted to continue her studies at Bahrain University, the guard prevented her from entering the Campus without giving any reason.

Your Excellency, I count on your sense of justice and good will. Please be so kind as to allow Aayat Alqormozi to continue her studies, to annul her conviction, and to drop any pending charges against her. Please also ensure that an investigation into her allegations of torture will be carried out, make public the results and bring to justice anyone responsible.

Please uphold the rights to freedom expression, movement, and assembly, including the right to peaceful protest!

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Yours faithfully