



December 10, 2012

Via email: john.baird@parl.gc.ca

Hon. John Baird, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Lester B. Pearson Building, Tower A, 125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Baird,

Thank you for your reply of June 20th, 2012, to our letter regarding the arrest of health-care providers in the Kingdom of Bahrain. We were relieved at the news that nine health professionals, including the president of the Bahrain Nursing Society, saw their convictions overturned on June 14.

However, one of our nursing colleagues, Hassan Maatoq, remains in prison after his arrest on March 24th, 2011. Mr. Maatoq is facing a three-year prison sentence delivered by a military court. It is our understanding that he did not receive a fair trial. We fear for his safety, as reports from international human rights organizations and the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry have confirmed the use of mistreatment and torture to extract confessions with the other imprisoned health-care workers. We understand these ill-sought confessions were later used in cases against them.

The Canadian Nurses Association joins with the International Council of Nurses in calling for the Kingdom of Bahrain to overturn the sentence of Mr. Maatoq and to protect health workers in their duty to care for all. Health professionals are needed for their services, whether in times of peace or conflict, to treat those who are suffering.

CNA is also writing to the King of Bahrain on this matter, asking that Mr. Maatoq's sentence be overturned and urging Bahraini authorities to immediately and independently investigate the allegations of torture and mistreatment against detainees. We strongly condemn the abuse of all prisoners, regardless of their offence.

As a member of the global health and nursing community, CNA will continue to monitor Mr. Maatoq's situation.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. We look forward to receiving your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barb Mildon".

Barb Mildon, RN, PhD, CHE, CCHN(C)  
President, Canadian Nurses Association