

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
Harry S Truman Building
2201 C Street NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520



Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing on behalf of the Organization for World Peace to express our concerns regarding the deterioration of human rights in Bahrain. Since the Arab Spring, the Al-Khalifa regime has violently suppressed political freedoms and brutalized peaceful demonstrators in direct violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Bahrain currently outlaws all political opposition and is notorious for jailing and torturing outspoken critics of the state. Hasan Mushaima, a prominent political opposition figure, is one of several individuals serving life sentences for participating in pro-democracy demonstrations. He and other imprisoned democracy advocates are now subjected to horrific treatment in Bahraini prison, where religious discrimination, poor sanitation, and widespread medical negligence is common. The International Committee of the Red Cross has warned that COVID-19 makes these hazardous health conditions an even greater threat towards Bahraini prison populations.

Another human rights concern is the rapidly increasing number of death sentences that have been issued and carried out under the Al-Khalifa regime. As of December 2020, 25 individuals face imminent execution upon the direct order of King Hamad bin isa Al Khalifa. Nearly half of these death row inmates were convicted on the basis of torture-induced confessions. Further, since 2017, five executions have been condemned by UN experts as 'arbitrary' due to evidence obtained through torture.

We at the Organization for World Peace are outraged by these ongoing developments and therefore urge the Biden administration to implement a human rights and democracy focused foreign policy agenda. Under previous administrations, the United States failed to adequately support Arab Spring demonstrators in the Middle East. The arrival of a new president presents an opportunity to reverse this trend, and as Secretary of State, you are directly poised to lead this initiative.

Secretary Blinken, we specifically call on you to:

- **Ensure the Biden administration publicly declares its support for pro-democracy demonstrators in Bahrain and other states corrupted by authoritarianism;**
- **Demand that the Al-Khalifa regime immediately release all imprisoned political opposition figures and secure proper compensation and justice for victims of Bahraini government abuse; and**

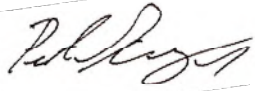
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- **Disband all U.S. weapons exports to Bahrain as the Al-Khalifa regime continues to disregard human rights and oppress democracy.**

Thank you for your attention to this letter. As someone who served as President Obama's Deputy National Security Advisor and Deputy Secretary of State, I trust you recognize how important it is that the United States prioritize the worldwide preservation of human rights and democracy. Without your help, the Al-Khalifa regime will continue its purge of political dissidents and suppress any nuance of democratic mobilization.

Sincerely,



Peter Koenigsbauer

Executive Director - U.S. Division & Advocacy Team Member
The Organization for World Peace



Arthur Jamo
Lead Advocate – Canada Division and Advocacy Team Member
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