

20 August 2021

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
King Charles Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AH

Email: [dominic.raab.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:dominic.raab.mp@parliament.uk); [fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk)

Dear Foreign Secretary

I am writing as General Secretary of the University and College Union (UCU), the biggest trade union for post-16 educators in the world, to urgently bring to your attention the plight of Dr Abduljalil AlSingace.

Dr AlSingace, an academic and human rights defender, has been imprisoned in Bahrain since 2011, when he played a leading role pro-democracy protests. He was among 13 high profile opposition activists taken by state authorities in March-April 2011, and was then convicted by a military tribunal.

He has faced extensive torture and degrading treatment at the hands of Bahrain's tyrannical regime, and has been on hunger strike since 8 July since a book he has spent years researching was confiscated.

An alumnus of the University of Manchester, where he completed his PhD, Dr AlSingace is an important part of the international academic community, both as a respected engineer and a brave fighter for freedom and democracy.

In September 2020, you described Bahrain as "firm friend" of the United Kingdom, and two months later dubbed it – an absolute monarchy that murders protestors and executes political activists – a "modern, successful country." This cosy relationship with Bahrain is a disgrace which makes a mockery of Britain's pretensions to the promotion of democratic values globally.

Given the UK's close relationship with the Bahraini regime, though, it is incumbent on you to make urgent, direct representations to your friend Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa, demanding the immediate release of Dr AlSingace and all political prisoners held in his dungeons for the crime of supporting democracy.

I urge you to make an intervention to this effect as soon as possible, and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Jo Grady**  
**General Secretary UCU**