

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST DR ALI ESA MANSOOR AL-EKRI RELEASED

Dr Ali Esa Mansoor al-Ekri, a Bahraini consultant surgeon and activist, has been released after completing his five-year prison sentence. He was a prisoner of conscience.

On 10 March, **Dr Ali Esa Mansoor al-Ekri** (Dr Ali al-Ekri), a Bahraini consultant paediatric orthopaedic surgeon was released from Jaw Prison, south of the capitol Manama. He had served a five-year jail sentence as a prisoner of conscience.

Dr Ali al-Ekri had been convicted of "illegal gathering and participating in unlicensed marches" and "calling for the overthrow of the regime by force". Amnesty International believes that he was targeted because of his vocal denunciation to international media of the excessive force used by the armed forces against peaceful protesters during the February to March 2011 protests and for exercising his right to freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Dr Ali al-Ekri was one of a group of health professional from the Salmaniya Medical Complex arrested in early 2011 and, many of whom, including Dr Ali al-Ekri, held incommunicado for several weeks, tortured in detention and forced to sign "confessions". They have all since been released.

Dr Ali al-Ekri told Amnesty International that he would like to express his gratitude and appreciation to all those who continuously supported him and his family throughout his imprisonment.

Amnesty International will continue to monitor Dr Ali al-Ekri's situation.

No further action is requested by the UA Network. Many thanks to all who sent appeal

This is the tenth update of UA 296/11. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde11/058/2012/en/>

Further information on UA: 296/11 Index: MDE 11/5996/2017 Issue Date: 31 March 2017

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