

URGENT ACTION

TEACHER RELEASED AFTER SERVING HIS SENTENCE

Prisoner of conscience and former president of the Bahrain Teachers' Association, Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb, has been released after completing a five-year prison sentence.

Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb, the former president of the Bahrain Teachers' Association (BTA) was released on 4 April after serving a five-year prison sentence in Jaw prison, south-eastern Bahrain.

He had been sentenced, along with **Jalila al-Salman**, the former vice-president of the BTA, in a grossly unfair trial before a military court, for participating in and leading the February 2011 anti-government protests. Jalila al-Salman was released after serving five and a half months of her six month prison sentence.

After his arrest in April 2011, Mahdi Abu Dheeb spent 64 days in solitary confinement, during which he says he was tortured, including by being beaten on the head, back and legs and being forced to remain standing for prolonged periods of time. During his appeal hearing in April 2012, he detailed the acts of torture he was subjected to and named the officers he said had tortured him, prompting the prosecution to open an investigation into his torture. The Special Investigations Unit (SIU), the body responsible for investigating torture and ill-treatment allegations, has still yet to complete its investigation, five years after his alleged torture. Mahdi Abu Dheeb has not been contacted by the SIU regarding their investigation and the officers he accused of torturing him have yet to be brought to trial.

Mahdi Abu Dheeb told Amnesty International that he wants to thank the many people who tried to help him during his time in prison. "I send my thanks and appreciation for your efforts. I was always happy when I heard about your efforts for me, which was helping to keep my case in focus all the time, which was very important for me and my family. My family felt that the world did not forget us."

No further action is requested by the UA Network. Amnesty International will continue to monitor Mahdi Abu Dheeb's situation. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the eleventh update of UA 227/11. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE11/2330/2015/en/>

Name: Mahdi 'Issa Mahdi Abu Dheeb
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 227/11 Index: MDE 11/3919/2016 Issue Date: 29 April 2016

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