

I am writing to express my grave concern on prisoner of conscience Ahmad Mshaima who has told his family he was beaten following a prison strike on 10 March and again in the first week of May. He may be at risk of further torture and other ill-treatment. Ahmad Mshaima' is serving a one-year prison sentence handed down in December 2014 for reading a poem considered offensive to the King of Bahrain.

I would like to urge the authorities to ensure Ahmad Mshaima' is not subjected to further torture or other ill-treatment and to launch an investigation into his allegations.

He should be released immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for his legitimate exercise of his right to freedom of expression.

The authorities are also urged to publish the results of an investigation said to have been launched by the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior into the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of prisoners in Jaw Prison.

Your attention and action on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,