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### **Bahrain: Travel ban against human rights defender Nedal Al-Salman**

On 29 August 2016, human rights defender Ms **Nedal Al-Salman** was banned from travelling to Doha from Bahrain International Airport.

Nedal Al-Salman is the Head of International Relations and Women & Children's Rights Advocacy at [Bahrain Centre for Human Rights \(BCHR\)](#) and active in the promotion of women's rights in Bahrain.

The human rights defender was travelling to Doha on 29 August 2016 on her way to Geneva to participate in several meetings at the United Nations Human Rights Council, when she was informed by officials at Bahrain International Airport that the Public Prosecution had ordered a travel ban against her. The human rights defender was not formally notified of this order nor its reasons.

Travel ban orders have been repeatedly used to curtail the activities of human rights defenders in Bahrain. In August 2016, human rights lawyer Mr. Mohammed Al-Tajer and human rights defender Ms [Enas Oun](#) were banned from travelling from Bahrain International Airport. On 7 July 2016, journalist and human rights defender Mr [Ahmed Radhi](#) was prevented from travelling to Oman. On 12 June 2016, Bahraini security forces prevented three human rights defenders, Mr [Hussain Radhi](#), Ms [Ebtisam Al-Saegh](#) and Mr [Ibrahim Al-Demistani](#) from travelling to Geneva from Bahrain International Airport to attend the United Nations Human Rights Council session and to participate in a side event on the situation of human rights in Bahrain. Human rights defenders Mr [Abdulnabi Al-Ekry](#) and journalist Ms [Nazeera Saeed](#) were also prevented from travelling in June.

Front Line Defenders expresses concern for the travel ban imposed against Nedal Al-Salman and believes that it is solely motivated by her peaceful and legitimate activities in the defence of human rights in Bahrain.

#### **Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Bahrain to:**

1. Immediately lift the travel ban on **Nedal Al-Salman** and guarantee full respect for her right to freedom of movement;
2. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in **Bahrain** are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would

particularly draw your attention to Article 12 (2): *“The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.”* Front Line Defenders would like to refer to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a treaty that was ratified by Bahrain in 2006; in particular to Article 12 which provides for the freedom of movement and the right to leave any country, including your own.

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Lawlor

Executive Director