Warsaw, 05.09.2014

His Majesty the King
Shaikh Hamad bin ‘Issa Al Khalifa

Office of His Majesty the King

P.O. Box 555

Rifa’a Palace, al-Manama, Bahrain

Re: 13 imprisoned activists

Your Majesty,

 As I have learned through Amnesty International, a peaceful activist named Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, who has been detained and sentenced to life imprisonment, is now on hunger strike challenging his accusation and demanding freedom. A United Nations work group has established that he was detained in an arbitrary manner, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Once imprisoned, he may have also been tortured. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience.

He was originally detained with 12 other activists, all accused of taking part in terrorist activities. Your majesty, today the entire world knows the true face of terrorism, and I speak with full confidence when I call the 13 men imprisoned in Bahrain peaceful activists.

Therefore I call on you, Majesty, to ensure immediate and unconditional release of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja. I also call on you to order an impartial investigation into the arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, to make the findings of such investigation public and to bring those responsible to justice.

In a separate incident, Maryam Al-Khawaja, daughter of the above, has been arrested when she arrived to Manama to visit her father. Accusations against her seem groundless and supported by no evidence, yet Maryam remains imprisoned and unable to comfort her father. I call for her immediate release.

I also wish to express deep concern for the fate of the remaining 12 prisoners.

Your Majesty, reassuring you of my respect for the ruling house and the people of Bahrain I urge you to uphold justice and freedom in your beautiful and prosperous country.

Yours faithfully

[ podpis ]

c.c.
Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Abdullah Al Khalifa
Minister of the Interior, Shaikh Rashid bin ‘Abdullah Al Khalifa
Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Germany