

ADHRB's Efforts to Address the Safety of Journalists and Impunity in Bahrain

ADHRB strives to promote the safety of journalists in Bahrain and to call for those involved in abuses against journalists to be held accountable. In accordance with the [UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity](#), our organization works to raise awareness of the issue of journalist safety in the United States (US) Congress, to the US public, and internationally.

In Congress we regularly meet with staff members from a variety of offices in both the House and Senate to raise concerns regarding the human rights situation in Bahrain, including the risks journalists in the kingdom face. We occasionally will participate in joint Congressional meetings with other organizations like the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), where we raise both Bahrain-specific and regional concerns. We additionally encourage members of Congress to adopt a Bahraini prisoner of conscience through the [Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Defending Freedoms Project](#). Among the vetted list of prisoners we advocate for is photo journalist [Ahmed Humaidan](#), who is serving a ten year sentence in relation to his work. We also hold briefings in Congress in order to inform groups of individuals, mainly Congressional staffers, of ongoing human rights concerns including Bahrain's culture of impunity and treatment of journalists.

We also work to inform the US public through social media and website campaigns. We participate in UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day every year by issuing a statement highlighting abuses against journalists in Bahrain and neighboring countries and releasing graphics via social media and we highlight the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists annually. Additionally, we hold events and panels at local universities to discuss human rights concerns in Bahrain, including the safety of journalists. To publically raise the issue of impunity in Bahrain, this year we launched a two week social media campaign highlighting a different member of Bahrain's Ministry of Interior (MOI) that has been complicit in rights abuses and has not been held accountable for their crimes. We also highlight impunity in coordination with IFEX annually surrounding the Formula One (F1) Grand Prix in Bahrain to bring attention to the case of Ahmed Ismail, a journalist and videographer who was killed in 2012 while covering a protest in response to the F1 race. No one has been held accountable for his death.

At an international level, ADHRB participates in the UN Human Rights Council three times a year and uses the opportunity to raise concerns about the safety of journalists through oral interventions, side events, and meetings with representatives from various countries.