PRESS INVITATION

The Hague, 16 November 2012

Dear Members of the Media,

No Peace Without Justice will organise a press conference on Tuesday 20 November at 10am in the Everest 1 Room at the World Forum:

What accountability for atrocities and persecution in Bahrain?

Next week marks the first anniversary of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) report, which established widespread and systematic abuses against the civilian population in Bahrain. As the violence continues, a Bahraini civil society delegation, including former opposition MPs, notable human rights defenders and medics, will meet in The Hague to discuss the country’s needs for accountability and justice.

Among those present will be human rights and political opposition leaders who were stripped of their nationality last week, accused of ‘undermining state security’, and others who have been imprisoned and tortured for their commitment to human rights. Speakers will include:

- **Khalil Almarzooq**, resigned deputy Speaker of parliament, Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition, head of the majority (Al-Wefaq) former parliamentary delegation;
- **Nada Dhaif**, head of BRAVO, (the NGO created by the medics and other professionals who were arrested and tortured);
- **Maryam Al Khawaja**, interim head of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights;
- **S. Yousif Almuhaifa**, leading human rights defender and blogger, released from prison this week.

These activists will present concrete measures to foster respect for human rights and democratic reforms in Bahrain. Advance press interviews can be arranged with all members of the civil society delegation on Monday 19 November, via GCC Law & Media.

There will be a reception with Dutch MPs, NGOs and others at 6.30pm on 20 November, in the World Café at the World Forum.

You are all invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information please contact:

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MEMBERS OF THE BAHRAIN CIVIL SOCIETY DELEGATION
AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW IN THE HAGUE

Khalil AlMarzooq is the Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs of Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society; and was the Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition for Al-Wefaq until he resigned his position as First Deputy Speaker at the Bahrain Representative Council in protest to the Government crackdown on peaceful demonstrators in 2011. He was also the Head of Delegation for Al-Wefaq to the “National Consensus Dialogue”, and was the Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee of Parliament for four consecutive terms, the Spokesperson and Deputy Chairman of Al-Wefaq Bloc, the Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry of Mumtalakat Holding Co, and a Member of the Organization of Arab Parliamentarians Against Corruption, a Member and Chair and Vice-Chair of various Committees of the Asian Inter-Parliamentary Union, a Board Member of the Executive Council of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Member of the Parliamentary Friendships Committees with Germany, Singapore and the European Union.

Nada Dhaif is the head of the Bahrain Rehabilitation Anti-Violence Organisation (BRAVO). Dr Nada is a maxillofacial surgeon graduated from Cairo University in Egypt in 1996. She has practiced in a private hospital in Bahrain for six years and established her own private dental practice in 2002. Dr Nada was detained, tortured and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by a military court in Bahrain for treating protesters during the uprising at Pearl Roundabout in February and March 2011. She is currently working as a human rights defender.

S. Yousif Almuhafda, is a noted human rights defender and blogger whose work as Head of Monitoring for the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights is followed by more than 75,000 twitter followers. He was released from prison this week, after being arrested for illegal gathering while documenting security forces violence against peaceful demonstrator. See Reuters http://reut.rs/PPen8G

Maryam al-Khawaja is the acting President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, as the president Nabeel Rajab, is currently in prison. Ordinarily, Al-Khawaja is the Vice President and Head of International Office for the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. Al-Khawaja is also the Deputy Director of the Gulf Center for Human Rights. In Bahrain, al Al-Khawaja played an instrumental role in the democratic protests taking place in the Pearl Roundabout in February 2011, which triggered widespread extra judicial killings, arrest, torture, discrimination, sackings and fear by security forces. Her father Abdulhadi al-Khawaja is the founder of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, who went on a 110 day hunger strike protesting human rights violations and was among a group of high-profile activists and opposition leaders sentenced to life imprisonment in June 2011.

Jasim Husain resigned his position as a Member of Parliament in Bahrain in 2011 in protest against governmental crackdowns on peaceful demonstrators demanding democratic reforms. Dr Husain was first elected in 2006 for a 4-year term and re-elected in October 2010 for another 4-year term, which would have expired in December 2014. Prior to running for a public office, he served as Director of Economic Research Unit at the University of Bahrain between 2005 and 2006; also, he taught courses at the College of Business Administration at the University of Bahrain for more than a decade. Dr Husain’s main areas of focus include promoting democracy in Bahrain and the larger Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); other
interests include socio-economic factors in the GCC and the countries of Arab Spring and carries out research on socio-economic causes underpinning the demands for change in Arab Spring states.

Ali Fakhrawi, is a human rights and democracy activist who has been targeted by the security forces for his activities, with multiple raids on his home, during which the house was ransacked, robbed and the interior was destroyed. His 15 year-old brother was arrested and charged with terrorism and is currently the world’s youngest prisoner of conscience. Ali’s wife was among those who were injured with shot gun pellets when the security forces fired indiscriminately on peaceful demonstrators. He is one of 31 Bahrainis whose citizenship has been revoked in recent days.

Hameed Al-Mulla was elected President of the Bahrain Bar Association in November 2011, until the Government disbanded the elected Board of Directors and replaced it with an appointed executive (see Human Rights Watch on http://tinyurl.com/HRWBahrainBar). He is the founding partner of one of the leading law firms in Bahrain and has acted as defence counsel for human rights defenders and victims of torture by the security forces in Bahrain.

Jihan Kazerooni is a human rights activist with the Bahrain Rehabilitation and Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO), which focuses on redress and rehabilitation of torture victims, including physical or psychological treatment. Her work places her under constant threat of arrest, as she coordinates the work of medical professionals who provide their services to injured protesters unable to go to hospitals due to fear of arrest. She has been outspoken for the call of the Bahraini people for “freedom, equality, and democracy” at numerous international forums during the past 20 months.

Ordesse Hamad is a human rights expert based in Britain. His work focused on the investigation of access to justice, prison conditions, torture and ill-treatment, unfair trials, violation against women, and refugees and IDPs. He has worked as the Middle East and North Africa Protection Coordinator for Front Line Defenders, for the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and as a researcher for Amnesty International. He holds a Master’s Degree in International Journalism from London City University, a PG Certificate in Communication Policy and Planning for Development from the Dutch Institute of Social Studies and a Certificate of Achievement in Crisis Management.

Saeed Shehabi is a columnist with the London based Arab newspaper, Al Quds Al Arabi. He is the leader of the Bahrain Freedom Movement, a London-based Bahraini opposition group. Its main conduit is the Voice of Bahrain website, which has been blocked for several years by Batelco, Bahrain’s sole internet service provider. Dr Shehabi has lived and worked in exile in London for the past 40 years. His citizenship was revoked a number of years ago and then reinstated by Royal Decree, however he joins a new list of 31 Bahrainis who have had their citizenship revoked in recent days.