

URGENT ACTION

OPPOSITION LEADER ACQUITTED OF CHARGES

Bahraini political opposition leader Khalil Al-Marzouq has been acquitted of charges of incitement to violence. Travel ban restrictions may still remain.

Khalil Al-Marzouq, the Assistant Secretary General of the largest legal opposition group, Al-Wefaq, was acquitted by Branch Three of the High Criminal Court on 25 June of charges of incitement to violence. The Public Prosecution Office stated that they will study the verdict and the reasons for Khalil Al-Marzouq's acquittal and may appeal the decision.

Khalil Al-Marzouq was charged on 17 September 2013 with incitement to violence in connection with a speech he gave during a rally on 6 September, which was organized by opposition groups and attended by nearly 6,000 people in the north-western village of Saar. Khalil Al-Marzouq's speech was critical of the government and while concentrating on the speech, a masked man approached him and gave him a white flag which Khalil Al-Marzouq held and then put aside. The white flag is said to be the symbol of the 14 February Coalition, a youth movement which was named a terrorist organization by the authorities in March 2014. He has denied the charges.

It is not known whether the travel ban restrictions that were imposed on Khalil Al-Marzouq remain or have been lifted.

No further action is requested by the UA Network. Amnesty International will continue to monitor Khalil Al-Marzouq's case and travel ban restrictions. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 256/13. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/040/2013/en

Name: Khalil Al-Marzouq

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 256/13 Index: MDE 11/018/2014 Issue Date: 25 June 2014

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