

# URGENT ACTION

## SAYED YOUSIF ALMUHAFDAH ACQUITTED IN BAHRAIN

**Bahraini human rights activist Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah was acquitted by an Appeal Court in Manama on 12 September of the charge of “spreading false news with the intention of causing damage to state security”.**

On 12 September Branch 2 of the High Criminal Court of Appeal in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, upheld the acquittal of **Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah**, the Acting Vice President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. On 11 March 2013 he had been acquitted by Branch 4 of the Lower Criminal Court of “spreading false news with the intention of causing damage to state security” on his Twitter account. However, the Public Prosecution had appealed the acquittal verdict.

Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah, was arrested on 17 December 2012 at a protest in Manama, while documenting clashes between demonstrators and the police and tweeting information along with a picture of an injured protester. On 20 December the Deputy Public Prosecutor reportedly said that the publication of the picture “resulted in protests and acts of sabotage that disrupted security and order on the same day” and that Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah had denied publishing the picture.

Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah's trial began on 9 January 2013 at the Lower Criminal Court and he was released on bail of 100 Bahraini dinars (about US\$265) on 17 January.

Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah was arrested and released without charge several times between August and December 2012 after participating in or monitoring protests.

**No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**

This is the second update of UA 8/13. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE11/004/2013/en>

Name: Sayed Yousif Almuhafdah

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA 8/13 Index: MDE 11/037/2013 Date: 13 September 2013

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