Dear Liz Truss,

We write in solidarity with imprisoned Bahraini academic and human rights defender Dr Abduljalil AlSingace who has been on hunger strike since 8 July 2021, losing over 20kg and has been hospitalised since 18th July 2021. He is protesting persistent mistreatment by prison authorities and demanding a book he wrote in prison on Bahrain’s culture and dialects, to which he dedicated four years of research, be returned, following its confiscation in April 2021.

AlSingace has spent over 10 years in prison since being sentenced to life for his peaceful activism during Bahrain’s 2011 Arab Spring uprising. The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry documented severe torture against AlSingace following his arrest and UN experts and rights groups have reported mistreatment and medical negligence throughout his imprisonment. The UN Human Rights Committee has warned that the national security law used to convict AlSingace is used to persecute “human rights defenders and activists.”

16 rights groups, 101 global academics and numerous British parliamentarians have called on Bahrain, a close UK ally, to meet AlSingace’s demands and order his release. Yet despite calling for the release of prominent human rights defenders imprisoned by hostile states, the UK government has made no substantive statement, instead repeating false assurances from Bahrain about his case.

This silence risks emboldening Bahrain in their criminalisation of peaceful dissent and torture of dissidents. The UK government must condemn Bahrain’s persecution of AlSingace, call for the return of his intellectual property and immediate and unconditional release. This miscarriage of justice must end.

1. Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Kingston and Surbiton
2. Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Conservative, Father of the House of Commons, Worthing West
3. Ian Blackford MP, Westminster Leader of the Scottish National Party, Ross, Skye and Lochaber
4. Liz Saville Roberts MP, Westminster Leader of Plaid Cymru, Dwyfor Meirionnydd
6. Layla Moran MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Oxford West and Abingdon
7. Brendan O’Hara MP, Scottish National Party, Chair of the All-Party
Parliamentary Group on Democracy and Human Rights in the Gulf, Argyll and Bute
8. Alistair Carmichael MP, Liberal Democrat, Orkney and Shetland
9. Christine Jardine MP, Liberal Democrat, Edinburgh West
10. Munira Wilson MP, Liberal Democrat, Twickenham
11. Sarah Olney MP, Liberal Democrat, Richmond Park
12. Wera Hobhouse MP, Liberal Democrat, Bath
13. Andrew Gwynne MP, Labour, Denton and Reddish
15. Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Labour, Streatham
16. Clive Lewis MP, Labour, Norwich South
17. Diane Abbott MP, Labour, Hackney North and Stoke Newington
18. Hilary Benn MP, Labour, Leeds Central
20. Kim Johnson MP, Labour, Liverpool Riverside
22. Paula Barker MP, Labour, Liverpool, Wavertree
23. Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Labour, Salford and Eccles
24. Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Scottish National Party, Na h-Eileanan an Iar
25. Chris Stephens MP, Scottish National Party, Glasgow South West
26. Deidre Brock MP, Scottish National Party, Edinburgh North and Leith
27. Owen Thompson MP, Scottish National Party, Midlothian
28. Chris Hazzard MP, Sinn Féin, South Down
29. Francie Molloy MP, Sinn Féin, Mid Ulster
30. John Finucane MP, Sinn Féin, Belfast North
31. Michelle Gildernew MP, Sinn Féin, Fermanagh and South Tyrone
32. Mickey Brady MP, Sinn Féin, Newry and Armagh
33. Órfhlaith Begley MP, Sinn Féin, West Tyrone
34. Paul Maskey MP, Sinn Féin, Belfast West
35. Kenny MacAskill MP, Alba Party, East Lothian
36. Neale Hanvey MP, Alba Party, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath
37. Claudia Webbe MP, Leicester East
38. Jonathan Edwards MP, Carmarthen East
39. Margaret Ferrier MP, Rutherglen and Hamilton West

House of Lords

40. Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Green Party
41. Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb, Green Party
42. Lord Browne of Ladyton, Labour
43. Lord Scriven, Liberal Democrat
44. Baroness Northover, Liberal Democrat
45. Lord Hylton, Crossbench
46. Baroness Stern, Crossbench

NGOs

47. Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei, Director of the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD)
48. Allan Hogarth, Head of Advocacy and Programmes, Amnesty International UK
49. Annie Game, Executive Director, IFEX
50. Daniel Gorman, Director, English PEN
51. David Kode, Advocacy and Campaigns Lead, CIVICUS
52. Gerald Staberock, Secretary General, World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)
53. Husain Abdulla, Director of Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB)
54. Khalid Ibrahim, Executive Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR)
55. Maya Foa, Joint Executive Director, Reprieve
56. Phil Lynch, Director, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
57. Quinn McKew, Executive Director ARTICLE 19
58. Romana Cacchioli, Executive Director, PEN International
59. Rupert Skilbeck, Director of REDRESS Trust
60. Sinead O’Gorman, Director, Scholars at Risk Europe

Trade Unions

61. Frances O’Grady, General Secretary, Trade Union Congress (TUC)
62. Jo Grady, General Secretary, University & College Union (UCU)
63. Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary, National Education Union (NEU)
64. Mary Bousted, Joint General Secretary, National Education Union (NEU)
65. Patrick Roach, General Secretary, The Teacher’s Union (NASUWT)

Academics

66. Dr Ala’a Shehabi, Deputy Director Institute for Global Prosperity, UCL, UK
67. Dr Brian Dooley, Visiting Scholar UCL
68. Catherine Cobham, Lecturer, Head of the department of Arabic and Persian, University of St Andrews, UK
69. Dr David Wearing, SOAS University of London
70. Professor John Chalcraft, Professor of Middle East History and Politics, London School of Economics (LSE), UK

Lawyers

71. Daniel Carey, Partner, Deighton Pierce Glynn
72. Emma Deacon QC, 5 Paper Buildings
73. Julian Christopher QC, 5 Paper Buildings
74. Martin Evans QC, 33 Chancery Lane
75. Martyn Day, Co-founder and Senior Partner, Leigh Day
76. Richard Hermer QC, Matrix Chambers
77. Sue Willman, Assistant Director, King’s Legal Clinic