

**Fra:** Bahrain Advocacy [<mailto:bahrain.advocacy@ecdhr.org>]  
**Sendt:** 6. marts 2023  
**Til:** Folketingets formand  
**Emne:** ECDHR - Call for action in support of Abdulhadi al-Khawaja

Dear MP Søren Gade,

My name is Hugo KRUSKOVNJAK, advocacy assistant from the European Center for Democracy & Human Rights (ECDHR), a Brussels-based NGO that seeks to promote human rights and democracy in the Arab Gulf region.

Few days ago, we launched the campaign, '[We Race for Freedom](#)' with the aim of pressuring the Bahraini government to immediately and unconditionally release detained Danish-Bahraini human rights defender Abdulhadi al-Khawaja.

Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, born in 1961, is an [award-winning](#), Danish-Bahraini human rights defender. In the wake of the 2011 pro-democracy protests in Bahrain, he was [arbitrarily arrested](#) and sentenced to life in prison. Since then, Mr Al-Khawaja [remains imprisoned](#) at Jau Prison, where he has been and continues to be subjected to serious abuses including torture, beatings, verbal abuse, threats of sexual assault, and long periods of solitary confinement. He is being [denied](#) appropriate medical assistance, which Mr Al-Khawaja necessitates as a result of the physical abuse suffered in prison and the several [hunger strikes](#) he underwent to protest his detention and mistreatment.

In light of Al-Khawaja's enduring unjust detention and Bahrain's deteriorating human rights situation, we consider that the recent Bahrain Formula1 (F1) Grand Prix was used by the Bahraini government to whitewash its appalling human rights record. We wanted to draw your attention especially to the controversial implication of a Danish company (*DSV A/S: Global Transport and Logistics*) sponsoring the event in a country that is illegally detaining and abusing Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, a Danish citizen.

Based on these concerns, we demand through this letter attached to take action in support of Mr Al-Khawaja, including by calling on *DSV A/S: Global Transport and Logistics* to better comply with its human rights obligations.

We thank you very much for your consideration and remain available for any additional information you may need. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

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