



## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

### ALI MUSHAIMA HAS RESUMED HIS HUNGER STRIKE IN FRONT OF THE BAHRAINI EMBASSY IN LONDON



*Ali Mushaima at St. Thomas's Hospital in London, 30 August*

Bahraini human rights activist Ali Mushaima was taken to hospital on Thursday from outside Bahrain's embassy in London where he had been camped for a month in protest at his father's prison conditions.

Ali Mushaima, 35, was on a [hunger strike](#), which he began after his imprisoned 70-year-old father Hassan Mushaima was denied proper medical care for his cancer. He has vowed to continue his protest until the rights of his father, who is serving a



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life sentence in a Bahraini prison for leading pro-democratic protests in 2011, are restored.

### **Ali's hospitalisation**

On Thursday afternoon, his 30th day outside the embassy, Mushaima was taken to St. Thomas's Hospital in London's Westminster by ambulance, following fears for his health.

Activists supporting Mushaima said doctors who were called to the Bahraini embassy on Wednesday evening referred to his condition as "critical".

“Ali's blood sugar dropped significantly, along with his sugar levels, while his heartbeat increased quite rapidly,” Sam Walton, an anti-war activist who has been supporting Mushaima.

“He was just lying on his bed lifeless all day yesterday. We got worried about him and called a doctor to assess Ali's condition. It was only after examining him when the doctor said he was concerned for Ali's health.”

Ali, who has only had liquids during his protest, had lost approximately 13kg since beginning his hunger strike.

### **Medicine, shackles and humiliation**

Ali began his protest after the Bahraini authorities denied his father medical treatment because Hassan, who was diagnosed with cancer several years ago, refused to wear shackles while being treated.

“Rather than giving him his medication inside his cell, the Bahrainis are making him walk to a counter for his medicine in this uniform,” Mushaima said. “He is an old man, and they are trying to use any excuse to humiliate him and break him down.”



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“They are killing my father slowly. He is 70 years old and by denying medicine and books they are trying to break him down bit by bit,” he said.

“This was not an easy decision to make. I left my wife and daughter to be out here. But if this is the only way to save my father, then so be it.”

Over the course of Ali's protest, Bahrain has agreed to allow his father to go to the hospital unshackled for a cancer PET scan, activists said.

On Wednesday, a day before his condition deteriorated, Ali Mushaima [said](#) Bahraini authorities were “shameless” and that he would continue his hunger strike until his demands are met.

“It took a month of hunger strike in London before they allowed my father to undertake his cancer screening in Bahrain,” Ali Mushaima said, according to a Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD) [press release](#).

“The same happened with my other requests, which they ultimately acknowledged. I will not stop until my father gets what he is entitled to, and the more authorities abuse him, the more I will expose them.”

Ali had his Bahraini nationality revoked after being sentenced to 45 years in prison, and came to Britain as a political refugee in 2006, where he has remained active in campaigning for rights in his country ever since.

Ali has resumed his hunger strike after being discharged from hospital. His demands are:

- Family visits
- Books
- Diabetes care

ICSFT condemns the Bahraini authorities for the inhuman and degrading treatment imposed to the 70-year-old Hassan Mushaima who is being forced to walk in chains and shackles to receive treatment.



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We also condemn the Bahraini authorities who, despite being internationally exposed about their horrendous violations of fundamental human rights against Hassan Mushaima through the hunger strike of his son Ali Mushaima, are not only resisting to put in practice international obligations to which Bahrain is bound to abide by, but also are endangering the life of Ali in front of the eyes of the whole world.

We call on the UK to use their influence to ensure that human rights standards are upheld by Bahrain, one of their closest allies in the Middle East.

We also urge the UN to call on the Bahraini authorities to immediately provide Hassan Mushaima and all other prisoners of conscience in detention with adequate health treatment without preconditions.

Finally we call on for the immediate and unconditional release of Hassan Mushaima and all other prisoners of conscience detained in Bahrain.