Ambassador Princess Reema bint Bandar al-Saud

The Embassy of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Ambassador,

I write to you with great concern for Dr. Mohammad al-Qahtani and Dr. Abdullah al-Hamid, founders of the human rights organization Saudi Association for Civil and Political Rights (ACPRA). These men have been imprisoned in your country solely for their important work in advocating for human rights.

Both the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights contain articles which guarantee the freedoms of thought, expression, and peaceful assembly. As such, the human rights advocacy work of Drs. al-Qahtani and al-Hamid is protected by recognized international legal standards to which most states subscribe. It is incumbent upon Saudi Arabia to recognize these standards and to, therefore, cease the prosecution and imprisonment of those who exercise their rights to freedom of expression and assembly in the cause of stemming human rights abuses.

I respectfully ask you to use your influence with your government to secure the releases of Dr. al-Qahtani and Dr. al-Hamid immediately and unconditionally as they are being held solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Please work to quash their convictions and prison sentences and to drop all charges against them. Ensure that they are protected from ill-treatment and are given immediate and regular access to their families, lawyers of their choice, and medical attention.

Finally, I ask you to respect and protect the right to freedom of expression and association, including the right to establish a human rights organization within your country.

Sincerely,