

Honourable members, dear colleagues.

Thank you Bahrain for hosting this event.

It is a great honour for me to speak to you today.

Something I have been looking forward to. I wish to tell you a story – a story about a brave man. A story about the world – about life, respect and love for each other.

This man – born in Bahrain – found his life in Denmark and became a Danish citizen. He found a good life here and made a choice.

He decided that he wanted to fight for the good life of his people in Bahrain where he came from. He saw that it was possible to fight for democracy, human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of the media – in respect of course for other people's lives and traditions.

His name is Abdul-Hadi Al Khawaja. According to the UN he was unjustly arrested in 2011 in his peaceful protests for human rights in his mother country – Bahrain. He is still in prison. He is dying.

I ask all of you: Should he not be allowed to go back to his family in Denmark? Should he not be released and find peace and freedom with his family?

I ask you, representatives of Bahrain who are present here today: Please send Mr. Al Khawaja home to his wife and daughter. For democracy. For our love and respect of human rights in the World. It would also be an important step towards a better dialogue between us.

Thank you.