



City of Chicago
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R2018-1053

Meeting Date: 9/20/2018
Sponsor(s): Waguespack (32)
Type: Resolution
Title: Recognition extended to Nabeel Rajab for human rights work with 'Honorary Citizen of Chicago' title
Committee(s) Assignment:

Consent Calendar
Committee on Human Relations
September 20, 2018
City Council Meeting

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Nabeel Rajab is a prominent human rights defender and democracy advocate in Bahrain; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago City Council has been informed by Alderman Scott Waguespack of Nabeel Rajab's imprisonment in Bahrain due to his human rights work; and

WHEREAS, Nabeel Rajab is a co-founder¹ and president² of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, Nabeel Rajab is a founding director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights³; and

WHEREAS, Nabeel Rajab is a member of the Advisory Committee of Human Rights Watch's Middle East Division⁴; and

WHEREAS, Nabeel Rajab has served as the Deputy Secretary General for the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)⁵; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 Nabeel Rajab was awarded the Ion Ratui Democracy Award by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars⁶; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2018 Nabeel Rajab was sentenced to five years in jail for tweets concerning the war in Yemen and allegations of torture at Jaw Prison⁷, a sentence upheld on appeal and still to be appealed before the Court of Cassation⁸; and

¹ <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/person/nabeel-rajab>

²

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/21/world/middleeast/nabeel-rajab-bahrain-twitter.html>

³ https://www.gc4hr.org/page/about_us

⁴

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/12/18/middle-east-and-north-africa-division-advisory-committee-members>

⁵

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/north-africa-middle-east/bahrain/Bahrain-FIDH-Demands-the-Immediate>

⁶

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/bahraini-human-rights-activist-nabeel-rajab-to-receive-2011-ion-ratui-democracy-award>

⁷

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/21/world/middleeast/nabeel-rajab-bahrain-twitter.html>

⁸

WHEREAS, the hard work, sacrifice and dedication of Nabeel Rajab on behalf of human rights around the world serve as an example to all; and

WHEREAS, respect for and protection of freedom of expression is a core value of the Chicago City Council; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twenty-fifth day of July, 2018, do hereby declare Nabeel Rajab to be an Honorary Citizen of the City of Chicago, and call for his immediate and unconditional release; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Nabeel Rajab and to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States.



Scott Waguespack
Alderman, 32nd Ward