



# City of Chicago



**R2018-1053**

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

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

**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-founder<sup>1</sup> and president<sup>2</sup> of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, Nabeel Rajab is a founding director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Nabeel Rajab is a member of the Advisory Committee of Human Rights Watch's Middle East Division<sup>4</sup>; and

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

WHEREAS, in 2011 Nabeel Rajab was awarded the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars<sup>6</sup>; 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 Prison<sup>7</sup>, a sentence upheld on appeal and still to be appealed before the Court of Cassation<sup>8</sup>; and

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

<sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>3</sup>

[https://www.gc4hr.org/page/about\\_us](https://www.gc4hr.org/page/about_us)

<sup>4</sup>

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

<sup>5</sup>

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

<sup>6</sup>

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

<sup>7</sup>

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


<sup>8</sup>

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.

  
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Scott Waguespack  
Alderman, 32nd Ward