

# BAHRAIN

*A monthly newsletter issued by the Bahrain Freedom Movement*

*The Al-Khalifa Lose in Manama and in The Hague*

## Experts in Failures

Three months into the popular uprising in Bahrain and there seems little prospect of an imminent end to the strife. Whilst the government attempts to quell the suggestion that there must be a serious address to the internal conflict, the people are in no mood to compromise their central demand; the re-instatement of the Constitution. To this effect, February has been a month of relative calm, but by no means a period of collapse of the popular opposition. The calm is largely due to the advent of the holy season of Ramadhan in which Muslims observe the worship of fasting. However, there were numerous activities, and the militancy of the people has not abated. It became a familiar scene in towns and villages to read on the walls signs that say: "See You After Ramadhan".

The self-declared truce was broken by women's demonstrations on three days (11-13th February) in front of the High Court at the Diplomatic district in Manama. Many women took part in those demonstrations which were demanding the release of the prisoners and the restoration of the Constitution. The rallies were attacked by riot police and some ladies were injured. More were summoned by the Ministry of the Interior which is running the repressive show of force, and were reprimanded, threatened and made to sign undertakings not to participate in future expression of opinion. The students of the University of Bahrain also ventured a strike on three consecutive days (12-14th February) in protest on the continuing crack down by the security forces on the people.

This degree of people's resolve is an indication of the extent of the resilience of the opposition. It was anticipated that the continued detention of up to 2000 people and the campaign of arrests, intimidation and blackmail by the security forces might lead to the collapse of the opposition. On the contrary, the leaders of the uprising are showing an extremely courageous stand by insisting on the main demand for the restoration of the Constitution.

The government has been remarking to some audience that it was ready to release the prisoners in return for a total cessation of anti-government activities, but the leadership of the uprising has refused to compromise on the main issue. The process of intimidation and provocation by members of the special branch, headed by the British officer, Ian Henderson, has continued unabated, with routine break-ins, arrests and deportations. But defiance by the people has been received with admiration from outside the country. Young men and women are awaiting the opportunity to go onto the streets to protest and if need be, humiliate the government. But the leadership of the uprising is

taking a cautious policy by offering the government the chance to reflect on the people's demands in its ample time. The hope is that the events of the last three months have convinced the Al Khalifa family of the seriousness of the people in their demands, and that the harsh treatment of the people by the riot police has not weakened their resolve to press their demands.

There have also been numerous developments outside the country. Now that the picture of the internal situation has been exposed to the outside world, there appears to be a growing interest in the Bahraini affairs by outside powers. Western governments with long-standing cordial relations with the government of Bahrain have been pressing on the Al Khalifa family the need to establish a dialogue with the opposition. The Bahraini government has been told of the possibility of the situation getting out of control in the future if it persists in its refusal of the just and moderate demands of the opposition. Incidents where procrastinating monarchs had been swept away by constitutional movements were mentioned to them in order to bring home the idea that a negotiated settlement of the crisis was the only solution available to the authorities.

On 15th February, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling on the government of Bahrain to restore the constitution, release the prisoners, and respect human rights of its own citizens. It also calls on the British government to order Ian Henderson to leave Bahrain. This step is significant since it has exposed the internal situation in Bahrain to the European countries in a way not experienced before. It is a serious development since it means depriving the government of Bahrain of the prestigious position of an ally of the West it has enjoyed all along. It also confirms the total failure of the Al Khalifa's foreign policy. It is now known that the visit of the Bahrain's foreign minister to London in January to press the British government to refuse the asylum application of the three deportees has not achieved its declared goal. The British government has left the case to take its own course within the international and national rules and regulations.

The issue of Ian Henderson, accused by the Bahraini people of his heavy handedness in dealing with the detainees, ordering their torture without mercy, is now in the spotlight of the British politics. There is a growing pressure on the HM Government to distance itself from his action. Furthermore, Lord Avebury, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, has introduced a bill to ban British citizens serving in the secret service of other countries.

There are press reports that the veteran torturer is preparing for his eventual return to Britain, and has advertised for a butler and a maid to run his house in the British country side. Whether this is true or false, the fact remains that his departure from Bahrain is one of the important demands of the people of Bahrain.

Mr. Henderson, however, has remained adamant in his repressive policies ordering more detentions and torture. The photographs of victims of his torture have shocked the British politicians who saw them recently. One of them said: "This is an affront to civilised society. We should be ashamed that these wounds have been inflicted by the order of one of our citizens". It is because of these inhumane policies that the people of Bahrain would like to see an immediate end to the reign of terror unleashed by the British team leading the public security apparatus. Whether Mr. Henderson acts on the orders of the Bahraini royal family with or without secondment from the British government is immaterial. He is viewed by the people of Bahrain as if he represents the British interests in Bahrain.

The government of Bahrain now feels it is cornered. Its situation is made even worse by the loss of the case long debated by the International Court of Justice at the Hague. On 15th February, the Court ruled in favour of Qatar's submission, that it (the Court) is empowered to take up the case of the border dispute between the two countries. The Bahraini delegation boycotted the final session prompting criticisms from diplomats. The failure on the outside front, coupled with internal policy failures have embarrassed the government in front of its own people. The prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, has received several blows in recent months in addition to his own personal illness. He admitted in a recent interview with the dailies "Al Ayyam" and "Al Seyassah" that the recent disturbances have sickened him. Despite this, he attempts to express uncompromising stands towards the demands of the opposition. He is angry towards other GCC states which have refused to give him more money to salvage the situation, knowing that he would blunder any financial help, and will use it for personal benefit. There seems to be little prospect of an eminent end to the internal strife in Bahrain as long as the mentality of its government remains uncompromising. This could herald serious developments for the ruling Al Khalifa family, an eventuality that could be averted only by rational behaviour. The rule under the constitution is good for everyone including the Al Khalifa. We hope they understand this fact.

## The Sunday Times: Hendeson Days Are Over

# British Colonial Hero Tortures Bahrainis

The Sunday Times of 5 February 1995 published an article by Jon Swainentitled "Gulf dissidents accuse colonial hero of torture" with new revelations about Ian Henderson. Many thousands copies of the article have been circulated by Bahrainis inside Bahrian:

At six in the morning, while Bahrain slumbers, Ian Henderson, the most powerful but elusive British citizen in the Gulf, is already up and about. He seldom varies his routine. Rising with the sun, he begins his day with coffee and a sharp bout of exercise. Then he settles down to his work: ensuring that law and order is maintained in the Gulf island state.

It is becoming a taxing job, as an increasingly restless opposition takes to the streets to demand democracy. It is hard to know, though, how this blue-blazered, balding colonial figure of 67 is bearing up: security-conscious to the degree that he is seldom seen in public, he almost never allows himself to be photographed; when he does, he invariably hides behind sunglasses.

"He is illusive like the Scarlet Pimpernel," said a former diplomat stationed in Bahrain, "a man in the shadows whom we used to hear of but never saw".

Not, perhaps, for a lot longer. Much as he would choose to avoid it, Bahrain's recent spate of unrest has put Henderson back in the limelight for the first time since he won the George Medal nearly 40 years ago as a colonial police officer fighting the Mau Mau. Only this time he has become a hate figure, instead of the hero he was in pre-independence Kenya. He is under mounting pressure to retire and leave Bahrain for good. Old Kenya hands still recall how, alone and almost always unarmed, he made more than 60 trips into the forest to contact the Mau Mau terrorist leaders; Henderson captured Dedan Kemathi, a notorious chief later executed by the British.

He came to the Gulf in 1966, when the

British installed him as head of Bahrain's intelligence service after quelling a workers' and students' uprising the year before. Later, he was recruited by the Bahraini royal family and stayed on to become director-general of security, the key job in which he supervises the entire apparatus from intelligence gathering and Special Branch work to prisons, coast-guards and traffic police.

The suppression of street demonstrations last year has made him the butt of anti-government slogans. Since the troubles broke out in December, at least six people - including a policeman - have died; 2,000 have been arrested and seven Shi'ite Muslim clerics have been expelled.

The troubles began with the arrest of Sheikh Ali Salman, a Shi'ite preacher who returned from religious studies in Iran to play a prominent part in gathering 25,000 signatures on a petition demanding the restoration of the Bahraini parliament and the 1975 constitution.

The ruling Al-Khalifa royal family is deeply suspicious of Iran's objectives in the Gulf and fears the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. Consequently, it identified Salman as a troublemaker and he was forcibly deported with other clerics. He is now in Britain and has applied for asylum.

The opposition accuses Henderson of masterminding a ruthless campaign of repression, including torture, arbitrary detention and forced deportations. One opposition newspaper described him as "British quasi-colonial ruler of Bahrain", and questioned why a British citizen should wield such influence nearly 25 years after Bahrain's independence.

It is a question Lord Avebury, the human rights campaigner, also wants answered. He has written to Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister about Henderson. He said last week: "The presence of a British citizen in the top levels of another state's security forces

makes it seem as though we officially support their method of dealing with dissent." Avebury is seeking ways of amending an 1870 law that prohibits British citizens from enlisting in foreign armies to include British passport-holders serving in foreign security forces.

However UK officials say that as Henderson was not seconded to the state by the British government, but worked there for the Bahraini royal family, this country cannot intervene.

Bahraini exiles in London argue that Henderson, seen as the mascot of a regime which detains and tortures opponents, is damaging Britain's image. He was instrumental in framing Bahrain's draconian internment laws, which allow security forces to detain suspects incommunicado for three years without charge or trial; and he is the brains behind the recent wave of deportation that included seven young clerics.

Amnesty International's latest report said it was "seriously concerned" by the abuse of human rights in Bahrain. Its delegates have been denied access since 1987.

Salman, deported last month, said in London that during his interrogation, Bahraini officers had asked him questions from a list written in English. Another exiled said: "There is nothing over Henderson. Everything is under Henderson". He added that as many as 20 other Britons worked with him in the leadership of the security services. They did not torture suspects themselves, but ordered it.

A friend from Henderson's days of combat against the Mau Mau said: "I would find it very difficult to believe that Ian would countenance anything like that. If there was torture, it would be going on without his knowledge."

When the sun finally sets on Henderson's job in the Gulf, he will have a country house in Britain to retire to. This might not be too far from his mind. He has recently advertised for a butler and maid to run his home in the country.

## FT: The Gulf States are Run Like Private Companies

The Financial Times of 8 February 1995 published an article entitled "Saudies set to change habits of a lifetime". The article discussed the vitally needed economic reforms that must go ahead if Saudi Arabia is to salvage itself from the drying-up of cash-flow and running-out of liquid overseas assets. FT stated that "Like the other Gulf states, Saudi Arabia is in effect a private state company belonging to the ruling family. The head of the family owns the principal assets: oil and gas". At the end FT concludes: "The good times are over. Dissent, in the form of what the authorities have described as seditious pamphlets and unauthorised public gatherings, has surfaced in the last six months in Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia itself".

The FT article explains how the Saudi monarch contradicts realities by suggesting that the upcoming economical tightening measures are temporary. They are permanent and will be worse as oil income dwindles more. The uprising of Bahrain is only the beginning.

## French Socialist Party Supports Bahrain Opposition

The French Socialist Party issued a statement on 11 January in support of the popular uprising in Bahrain. The communiqué issued by the National Secretariate expressed its support for the demands of the Bahrain people for reactivating the constitution and restoring the parliament. The communiqué also called for the release of political prisoners, and end to arbitrary detention, torture and forcible deportation.

## FIDH Condemns the Government

The Paris-based International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) condemned the violation of human rights in Bahrain. In its Arabic newsletter No. 12 (February 1995) the FIDH stated that it was concerned at the escalation of oppression that affected thousands of Bahraini citizens and call on the Bahriani government to release all political prisoners, restore the parliament and allow opponents to function in the open inside Bahrain.

## The Eighth Martyr of the Uprising is an Infant

On Wednesday 8 February, the residents of Bilad-al-Qadeem mourned the eighth confirmed victim of the security forces. The infant Aqeel Salman Ali Al-Saffar, one and half year old, was smothered to death by the newly deployed type of gas that causes vomiting and inhalation difficulties, something that was not known in Bahrain before. The house of the infant's father was filled with this type of poisonous gas last month during the surging of demonstrations. The container that releases the gas carries a note stating that its use is prohibited inside the United States of America. The other seven victims of the government use of force to quell the uprising are: Hani Abbas Khamis, 24 years old (17/12/94), Hani Ahmed Al-Wasti, 22 years old (17/12/94), Mirza Ali Abdul Redha, 65 years old (20/12/94), Hussain Qambar, 18 years old (4/1/95), Abdul Qader Al-Fadlawi, 18 years old (12/1/95), Mohammed Redha Mansoor Ahmed, 34 years old (12/1/95) and Hussain Ali Al-Safi, 26 years old (26/1/95).

## The Government of Bahrain is Condemned in Strasburg The Europeans Are Shocked by the Extent of Opression

An historic statement condemning the government of Bahrain was proposed and passed by the European Parliament. This move shows the extent of international support for the Bahraini people and their pro-democracy movement's demands for restoration of the constitution and parliament.

The European Parliament passed a resolution (rule 47, ref: B4-208/95/RC1, B4-276/95/RC1) on 15 February 1995 on the continued human rights violations in Bahrain. The resolution stated the following:

The European Parliament:

A. having regard to the repeated protests since 5 December 1994, in which large parts of the population have been engaged in peaceful protests expressing demands for the establishment of constitutional democracy, the participation of women in the political process, a solution to unemployment, the release of political detainees and prisoners and the return of all deportees,

B. shocked that the Bahrain Government has resorted to the ruthless use of force by the security forces resulting in several deaths, many injuries, the detention of hundreds of persons and the deportation of prominent personalities,

C. shocked that the security forces in Bahrain are to a large extent directed by a British officer, Ian Henderson,

D. stressing that the Government of Bahrain resorted to the Decree Law on State Security of 22 October 1974, which entitles the Minister of the Interior to detain political suspects for up to three years without trial; recalling that the National Assembly, dissolved in 1975, refused to pass the State Security Law and that, since laws required their approval under the constitution, the State Security Law is of doubtful legality,

E. drawing attention to the admission of the Ministry of the Interior that 400-500 prisoners have been held under the State Security Law,

F. shocked by the deaths which have resulted from this repression, and from the repeated opening of fire on crowds of civilians,

G. shocked by the fact that the families and lawyers of those injured or detained were not allowed by law to visit them in hospital or in prison,

H. alarmed by the numerous reports of torture of prisoners, which in the case of Mr. Husain Qambar was fatal, and by the dismissal of Dr. Habib Traif and his Irish wife from the military hospital for giving medical treatment to wounded people at their home,

I. believing that the only motive for this wave of repression is the anger of the authori-

ties that a petition calling for the restoration of the constitution suspended in 1975 was sponsored by 14 people representing both the Shia and Sunni communities and secularists, and was signed by a woman, Dr. Moneera Fakhroo, representing the movement for women's rights,

1. Affirms its full support for the people of Bahrain who are demonstrating for their political, economic and social rights;

2. Condemns the attitude of the security forces to the demonstrations and demands that the Government release all political prisoners;

3. Further demands that the Government of Bahrain declare its commitment to the restoration of the constitution and to holding of free and fair general elections, and to abolish the State Security Law and other articles of laws restricting liberties and human rights;

4. Demands that an independent inquiry be instigated into allegations of murder and torture;

5. Calls on the Bahraini Government to allow the hundreds of Bahrainis, deported or living in exile for political reasons, to return to their native land;

6. Calls on the British Government to order Ian Henderson to leave Bahrain;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Government of Bahrain and the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

## Women and Students Take Action, More Will Join Khalil Al-Sa'ati and His Group Attack Peaceful Demonstrators in Front of Law Courts

\* When a group of 130 women gathered in front of Bahrain's High Court's building located in the Diplomatic Area in the capital Manama on Saturday 11 February, the Bahraini security forces responded irresponsibly. The women were mothers, wives, sisters and relatives of the many hundreds of people taken prisoners since the eruption of the pro-democracy uprising on 5 December, 1994. Two ladies were injured and taken to hospital. One of them is Fatima Abdulla Ali (from Bilad-al-Qadeem), whose son Asaad Ashor is one of the prisoners. The other lady is pregnant and could not take the savage beating from the attacking police.

The women managed to stage a 45-minute picket and attracted the attention of many people in the highly sensitive Diplomatic Area. Slogans were raised demanding the release of prisoners and restoration of the country's 1973 constitution and parliament. The security forces deployed their helicopters and savagely attacked the women tearing-off their cloths and forcing them out of the area.

The police arrested two ladies but these were released after clashes with the other women. The courts building was sealed-off preventing the women from marching inside the corridors to make their voice heard by the so-called "judges". It is worth noting that there are hundreds of people detained in concentration camps recently created in Mahmeyyat Al-Areen (a Zoo). Several male youth were arrested suspected of participating in the picket.

Two people who happened to be near the picket line while carrying their cameras were also arrested.

The women's action continued on 12 and 13 February, when more hundreds of them picketed in front of the Courts Building. The police task force was led by the notorious Khalil Al-Sa'ati, who participated in the beating of women himself. One woman had most of her cloths taken-off and other women rushed to cover her up. The wife of Seyed Ali Saeed Sharaf was beaten severely together with her sister-in-law. Both were detained for one day. Her husband was arrested on 13 January after participating in the funeral of Abdul Qadir al-Falawi who was killed on 12 February.

On the other hand reports received indicate that the situation is liable for a major escalation after the government's refusal to release prisoners, to appoint a committee to investigate the arbitrary killing of citizens and to address the question of restarting the parliament and constitution. It is reported that on Wednesday 15 February, a military force comprising 150 armoured vehicles have been stationed in the international airport ahead of demonstrations that are expected to take place by the end of February, marking the end of the holy Muslim month of Ramadhan.

Pamphlets had been circulated with such statements as "See you after Ramadaon" and "The Day of Eid (end of Ramadhan) is the day of Waheed (reward and punishment).

\* On 12 February, the students were supposed to go back to university and schools after the end of mid-term holiday. University students showed their protest by abandoning attendance to classes and distributing pamphlets condemning the government's atrocities.

\* The number of people who were forcibly exiled is increasing. The list of recent people includes: Sheikh Ali Salman (exiled to Dubai on 15 January 95), Sheikh Hamza Al-Deiri, (Dubai, 15/1/95), Seyed Haider Al-Setri, (Dubai, 15/1/95), Aqeel Rashid Al-Durazi (to Dubai), Sheikh Adel Al-Shula (Damascus, 17/1/95), Sheikh Moneer Abdul Rasool and his family (to Beirut), Hani Abdulla Al-Qubani (to Dubai), Seyed Mahmood Al-Ghoreifi (to Dubai), Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Sanadi (to Dubai), Ibrahim Ali Al-Beshri (to Dubai), Sheikh Fuad Al-Mubarak (to Dubai), Sheikh Hamid Hasan Al-Madeh (to Dubai), Sheikh Mohamed Ali Al-Jufeiri (to Dubai), Abdul Redha Al-Aali (to Beirut), Sheik Mohammed Hasan Khojestah, (Bushehr, Iran, 26/1/95), Ali Mohammed (Bushehr, 26/1/95), Mohammed Nasser (Bushehr, 26/1/95).

\* Mohammed Lsa Al-Eskafi was arrested early in February in a dawn raid at his parent's home in Sanabis. A group of security officers broke into the house, smashed windows, scattered belongings, frightened the entire family and arrested Mohammed and his brother Ali. Four of his brothers also arrested. Mohammed ended up in the military hospital suffering from sever wounds due to torture and ill-treatment during detention.

# The Opposition Present the Case of Bahrain at the 51st Session of the UN Commission Exposing Human Rights Violations in Bahrain

The 51st Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights started in early February and continues until the first week of March. This is the gathering of governments to decide who to condemn and who to support in relation to violations of human rights. The 55 members of the Commission are governments, many of which are violating human rights themselves. Every year, there are stereo-type resolutions. This year, South Africa was out of it. The Commission is assisted by subcommittees made of experts on different fields, such as arbitrary detention, torture, children, women, forced displacement, etc.. The subcommittees prepare papers on certain countries and then submit them to the Commission for decision. The Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have some role to play but are out of voting. For a country to be condemned, the subcommittees require critical mass of information to be submitted in accordance with strict procedures that must be followed in details.

It took the massive weight and influence of Amnesty International to bring Bahrain to the table of discussion at the Commission in 1992. The Bahraini Government was shocked to see its name deliberated in line with other oppressive countries. That year, Bahrain's Government promised to behave well and stop using the arbitrary provisions of the State Security Law. However, the US delegation headed by Mr. John Schatcock intervened in 1993 and proposed that Bahrain is removed from the list of countries under consideration for abuse of human rights. The pretext was that Bahrain witnessed some improvement. This year, the US delegation was notified that its initiative

had helped to strengthen the position of the Government of Bahrain, the result of which are to be seen since 5th December. The participants in the Commission were horrified by the news from Bahrain.

Representatives of Bahrain opposition were present during all the days and weeks of this year's sessions. They met with NGOs and government's delegates and conveyed the message of the people of Bahrain. On the other hand the official delegation was not interested and in most sessions only one person stayed behind, often falling asleep. The only thing that person was interested in was the collection of reports, documents and speeches delivered and distributed. At one occasion, he was caught red-handed by a member of the opposition while confiscating opposition's documents left on a table for distribution. One UN security officer intervened and reprimanded the Bahraini official reminding him that he can take one document only, not all of them.

Then, the government's delegation was to be shocked. Two conferences were arranged on Thursday 16 February, to publicize the case of Bahrain. One was a press conference and the other was a conference with the NGOs. The Bahraini delegation knew about the second one only. They reacted in a childish manner. Instead of speaking to the conference chairman (who is also the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso, the Bahraini ambassador asked the Saudis to phone Boutros Boutros Ghali in New York to complain about the meeting to be held at 2.00 pm (16 February). Boutros Ghali transferred the matter to Mr. Ayala Lasso who in turn asked his assistant to

intervene. The meeting with the NGOs was sponsored by the International Association Against Torture (IAAT) and the title of the meeting had been entitled "Human Rights Violation and Intolerance in Bahrain". The Commission secretary stated to the IAAT that the meeting was politically sensitive and requested its cancellation. The conference room No. 21 was officially closed by UN security men, but the statement had already been typed and made available to all those who attempted to participate. Many were outraged at this blatant violation of freedom of expression at the UN. Several NGO volunteered to sponsor another meeting. This had been done. On 21 February, the meeting was convened and the message of the Bahraini opposition was conveyed, to the disappointment of the Bahrain Government.

However, the press conference went ahead three hours earlier on the same day. The press conference was attended by many representatives of news organisations. BBC Arabic Service and Radio Switzerland made two interviews with Dr. Mansoor Al-Jamri (spokesman for Bahrain Freedom Movement). When the Bahrain ambassador was asked for his government's views, he shied away. Later in the evening (16 February) Bahrain was amongst the countries condemned by the US-based International Association Against Torture (IAAT) in its official address to the Commission. Omowale Clay of IAAT said that "the rights of Kurdish prisoners in Turkey and of detainees in Bahrain and Chile were matters for concern". The International Federation for Human Rights scheduled Bahrain for condemnation along side other countries violating human rights.

## PM: We Used Half of Our Forces to Crush the Uprising!

The Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, has never been heard talking since he assumed his post in 1972. Bahrainis never heard him in any public address to the nation. However, his statement and those who talk to him directly describe his personality. A determined person with one thing in his mind: those who oppose him do not deserve to exist. His interview to the Kuwaiti daily Al-Seyassah on 23 February carried all the characteristics of a patronising person who see people below his feet. He even spoke to the editor of Al-Seyassah (a servicing agent for the ruling families) with words like "I told you"... "When the riots happened the Leadership (that is himself) contacted the people of Bahrain"... "The ring leaders of the riots apologized to us". Confused, may be, arrogant, certainly.

The PM is indignant that the people of Bahrain dared to challenge a backward mentality of tribalism. The ruling family insists that the people of Bahrain are better off with tribal rule; the people disagree. Moreover, the PM statements are indictments against the government, if anything. He fails to convince himself, let alone others that the pro-democracy movement is a sectarian one link to Iran.

Implicitly, he said that Iranian officials informed him formally that they had nothing to do with the events in Bahrain. He then replies, there must be some in Iran who would support the movement and hence there must an Iranian link. Unfortunately for the PM, the movement has more support in the UK and France than in other country. That's why the Bahraini Foreign Minister visited Paris and London to convey his concern. The pro-democracy movement has the support of every free person in the World, because it is a humanist call for liberty and human rights, nothing more. This is something the PM can't absorb. His stereo-type statements of the Eighties are tasteless.

The interview explains fully the strategy of the government. The PM attempts to link the movement to foreign quarters; he fails in that. The PM states that these events have never been seen in Bahrain. He is right, the oppression has reached a climax and the national consensus stands fully behind democracy and deplores dictatorship. The PM denies that there are demands for return of parliament. He sent his men to threaten Mr. Ahmed Al-Shamlan, an outspoken lawyer, if he dared to formally submit the demands. The national leaders are ready to submit a petition signed by more than 25,000.

The world knows about it. The PM fails to convince anyone. The PM states that those involved in the events are several hundreds only and that 300 of them are detained.

He claims that only half of the security forces were used to crush the demonstrations. The people used only a small percentage of their power. He repeated his thanks and support for the interior ministry in killing, injuring and detaining Bahrainis. The interior minister has been quoted as being very worried that other members of the ruling family are leaving him alone to be accused of killing. As a result the PM, the Amir and Heir Apparent have been sending him public messages supporting him so that he is not alone. The PM complains that other GCC members have not helped him economically. He is right: They are disintegrated. However, he thanks all Gulf states (except Qatar) for supporting him in crushing opponents; They are united against political opposition. He claims that the GCC summit held in Manama on 19 December 1994 is unique in its success. He is wrong: All GCC Leaders smelled tear gas and Qatar took Bahrain to the Hague after the summit. The PM complains that his physical health is suffering because of the events. He can do something about it by implementing the constitution.