

# BAHRAIN

Issued by the "Bahrain Freedom Movement" for advancing Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain

Hunger strike turns into an all-out referendum

## Respect Constitution or Go

The hunger strike that was begun last month has reflected a new reality in the Bahraini situation. It has been hailed as a civilised and determined way of expressing dissatisfaction with the governmental policies, and a clever way of attracting attention without agitating the situation.. It was declared by the leaders of the uprising, released recently from detention, with the aim of highlighting the plight of the doomed "initiative" between the government and those leaders. Two months after it had been announced, the initiative has lost momentum, and all indications are that the Al Khalifa government has resorted to its tradition of refusing to acknowledge the existence of the other party; namely, the opposition. They have all along maintained that they would not engage in any dialogue with the opposition whose existence has never been acknowledged. Instead, the regime would boast of the "one-family" society allegedly loyal to the Al Khalifa. Observers have realised that this loyalty does not exist for the simple reason that the ruling family does not trust the people of Bahrain. For two decades the Amir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, has employed the most repressive measures to quell the aspirations of the people, and institutionalised torture as a means of controlling the aspirations of the people.

When the leaders of the uprising came out of prison, their good intentions led them to believe that the Henderson-Khalifa alliance would endeavour to create an atmosphere of trust, respect, and mutual recognition. Some of the prisoners were subsequently released, but nothing else was achieved. The government retraced on several issues; they stopped releasing prisoners who were scheduled to be released by 30th September. The Information Minister, Mohammad Al Mutawwa, repeatedly denied the existence of an agreement between the government and the detainees, and used inappropriate language to denounce them. Many detainees were taken to the State Security Court, contrary to the agreement, and several Bahrainis were turned back when they returned to Bahrain last month. The government categorically refused to discuss issues relating to the reinstatement of the Constitution. Collectively, these incidents led to the current situation in which the people are gathering their strength to launch another peaceful campaign against the continued repression and despotism.

The hunger strike is becoming yet another embarrassing episode for the Al Khalifa, who continue to ignore local and international appeals to start serious dialogue with the people. Once again the peaceful nature of the people is

demonstrated in the clearest form, whilst the despotism of the Al Khalifa is becoming ever more destructive. There seems to be little hope of a sensible approach by the Al Khalifa to the crisis. It is now ten months since the uprising started, and the whole world has witnessed the drama unfolding in blood and terror. No lessons have been learnt by the Al Khalifa. This is what Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the foreign minister, said in an interview published by the London-based Al Hayat newspaper last month, in which he stressed there had been no lessons that could be derived from the events of the uprising, a view that reflects the stubbornness of the regime. The people's stands, however, contrast this attitude sharply. Many lessons have been learnt, the most important of which is the fact that there could be no political stability in the country without the reinstatement of the rule of law under the country's constitution.

There are, however, fears that the countries that have propped up the Al Khalifa may also be conned into believing that all is well with the current situation. There were two important documents that came to light last month. The first was a letter signed by 18 Congressmen and handed to the Bahraini Ambassador to Washington, which expressed concern at the extent of human rights abuses by the regime. It called on the government to uphold the rule of law, the international standards on human rights and the Geneva Convention on Civil Liberties. The second document was a petition handed to the Charge de Affairs at the Bahraini Embassy in London, and signed by 45 Members of Parliament and more than 250 scientific and political personalities. It called on the Amir of Bahrain to reinstate the Constitution, allow the return of exiles and respect the rights of women. These two documents reflect clearly the mounting concern among responsible people in the world about the deteriorating situation in Bahrain. Whether the Al Khalifa are capable of learning the lessons or not, those countries whose calls for dialogue and respect of the rule of law must not wait for the situation to get out of hand. The people of Bahrain have shown a degree of restraint, peaceful nature, respect of law and aspiration for a more liberal way of government. It is the duty of the international community to act immediately to avert a political catastrophe in the region. Regimes such as that of the Al Khalifa must not given a free hand to terrorise a peaceful community. It has shown no respect for human life in the past and it may resort to more violence and bloodshed. Last month, American F16 aircrafts were flown in

the skies and broke the sound barrier in an attempt to frighten peaceful protests and hunger strikes. The people of Bahrain fear that the "gifts" offered by the American government to the Al Khalifa regime may be used against its own people, a prospect that is not impossible to contemplate. The time has come for a serious step in defence of human rights, constitutional change and freedom of the Bahraini people.

### British MPs declare support for the people of Bahrain

On 12 October, more than 300 people including 45 members of both houses of the British parliament submitted a petition to the Amir (ruler) of Bahrain in support of the people of Bahrain. Amongst the signatories are Lord Avebury, Chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, Charles Kennedy, President of the Liberal Democratic Party and Doug Hoyle, Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party. The petition stated:

((We the undersigned residents of the United Kingdom, reaffirming our commitment to Article 21 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that "The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of governments; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedure" (1) declare our support for the people of Bahrain who are calling for the restoration of their constitution and democratically elected Assembly, which was abrogated by the Amir on August 26, 1975; (2) call for the right of peaceful expression and assembly to be honoured in Bahrain; (3) appeal for all citizens expelled from Bahrain to be allowed to return freely to their own country, in accordance with international law.))

In submitting the petition, Lord Avebury stated "Human rights are inseparable from the political context. In particular, unless there are representative institutions, freedom of speech and of assembly, the people will be unable to secure for themselves all the other human rights supposedly conferred on all peoples by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights". He added "I think that most people here in the UK will agree that Article 21 of the Universal Declaration is the foundation of liberty, and we very much hope that, in this fiftieth anniversary of the United Nation, the principle of democracy may commend itself to rulers who up to now had not considered elections as a means of testing the will of their people".

## Opposition forces unite their approach by regaining..

On the 5th of September, Reuter reported that "Diplomats said the Gulf island's Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Khalifa al-Khalifa met jailed clergymen who were detained during the unrest which broke out in early December. The minister held talks with Sheikh Abdul-Amir al-Jamri, the most prominent of the jailed clerics, they said. He also talked to Abdul Wahab Hussain, Sheikh Khalil Sultan, Sheikh Hassan Sultan and Hasan Mushaimaa... A Shi'ite clergyman, apparently reflecting the new spirit of reconciliation, on Sunday night urged people to keep calm and shun violence to pave the way for reconciliation. "Sheikh Abdul-Amir al-Jamri is thanking you for maintaining security. I also urge all of you to maintain self-restraint and security as agreed with the government," Sheikh Hassan Sultan told a Shi'ite gathering at a mosque in the capital Manama.

By the end of September, the Bahraini authorities should have released about one thousand political detainees to pave the way for political dialogue with the pro-democracy opposition. Instead, many hundreds remain in detention while security forces step up their violations of human rights.

A press conference was held in Washington on 4 October 1995 at 9.30 am in the National Press Club and was addressed by Dr. Mansoor Al-Jamri, spokesperson for the Bahrain Freedom Movement who stated that the government's attitude exacerbated the situation: "on one side, this proves the ill intentions of the government; on the other, the denial exposes the nature of absolute rule which has no regards to the basic rights of Bahraini people".

A seminar that was to take place in A'ali village on 3 October was canceled by the Interior Ministry. The seminar was to be addressed by recently freed pro-democracy leaders as well as Dr. Abdul Latif Al-Mahmood. This sparked off a street protest the next day by residents of A'ali. The Interior Ministry objected to the participation of a leading Sunni opponent at a Shia gathering in order to preserve its not-anymore-effective policy of "divide and rule".

On 5 October, a mass demonstration took to the streets of Duraz demanding the release of those who should have been released last September and protesting against the resumption of political trials. Sheikh Abdul Amir Al-Jamri addressed a mass gathering in Duraz on 6 October and stated the following: "I would like to point out that the denial of the existence of dialogue by the Information Minister is perplexing. Civilized and modern governments take pride in conducting dialogue for resolving conflicts because this prevents violent means. The denial of the Information minister has provoked the people and created obstacles in the way to end the crisis."

Political detainees started a hunger strike on 8 October, and are continuing their protest to date. Several schools are witnessing daily protests. These include Al-Jaberyah, Nuaim, Ahmad Al-Omran and other schools in Jedhafs and Bilad-al-Qadeem. The students in other schools have also been refusing to chant the "Amiri" anthem in protest against the security forces which are encircling their schools and

which subject the students to degrading search during their exit and entry.

On the other hand, the government continued to ban freedom of expression. On 16 October, a leading women activist, Dr. Ibtelhal Al-Aali, was prevented from delivering a talk at Awal Women Society.

In response to all these government's violations, Sheikh Abdul Amir Al-Jamri and six other pro-democracy leaders, started a hunger strike on the dawn of Monday 23 October at the residence of Sheikh Al-Jamri in Bani Jamra, northwest of Bahrain. The spokesman and coordinators for the hunger strikers were interviewed by international news agencies while the residence of Sheikh Al-Jamri was surrounded by tens of thousands of people.

Schools all over the country witnessed silent protests by thousands of students who put on black-coloured shirts (as a sign of solidarity with the strikers) and walked-out of classrooms. Scores of lorries packed with riot police surrounded the campuses of Bahrain University and schools all around the country.

Many women refused to prepare dinners for their families in solidarity and people of all ages declared their support in various forms. Tens of thousands of people have applied to join the hunger strike and await permission from the leaders of the opposition. Many senior opposition figures declared their support and could also join the protest at a certain phase.

The spokesman, Mr. Abdul Wahab Hussain stated that "the meeting that was supposed to have taken place on Sunday (22 October) with the Ministry of Interior did not take place because of the stalemate. The picketing and hunger strike will continue and will be subjected to continuous assessment and their ending will be announced as may be appropriate for furthering our noble cause. We are also studying the many offers and options from all sections of the society for participating in the strike, one way or the other. Our aims remain as were initially declared: (1) the release of all political detainees and banning political trials; (2) allowing those banned from entering the country to return home; (3) the official recognition of the existence of dialogue; (4) putting in place provisions for releasing political prisoners, allowing the return of political exiles and restoring the parliament."

On the other hand, the State Security Court, rushed haphazard sentences against 14 teenagers, acquitting two of them while sentencing the other twelve to 8 months imprisonment and a fine of 300 dinars (\$600) each. It is worth noting that these young people have already spent some ten months in jail. On 24 October a security court summoned two children from Sitra, Naser Hassan Abdul Redha Al-Basri, 12 years old and Khalil Ibrahim Ahmad Al-Eskachy, 13 years old. A kangaroo court session adjourned itself for another date for the sentencing of these two children. Today, Thursday, the State Security Court will be holding a session for a group of people which include Mr. Mahdi Sahwan from Sanabis.

Jet fighters belonging to the Bahrain Defence Force broke the sound barrier on 25 October in an attempt to frighten civilians. Scores

of religious scholars joined the hunger strike after issuing a statement to the nation stating "We stress the importance of rationality and resumption of serious dialogue and the only solution to prevent the dangers looming in the horizon is for the government to positively encourage good relationship with the people. In solidarity with the leaders of the opposition, we join the hunger strike demanding the release of all political detainees, allowing forcible exiles to return home and officially recognizing the existence of dialogue".

Three university students were arrested yesterday, 24 October, as part of a sweeping security campaign. The students of the University of Bahrain issued a statement declaring that they will stage a one-day hunger strike on Thursday 26 October. In their statement they added "All students were surprised to see the reluctance of the government to implement what have agreed, and were surprised to witness provocative measures. The latter created a tense atmosphere and in order to prevent an explosive situation, the leaders of the opposition staged a political hunger strike in an attempt to notify the government about the dangerous situation".

On the third (25 October) of the hunger strike, Sheikh Abdul Amir Al-Jamri's health condition deteriorated and had to be transferred to hospital at around 6.30 pm (Wednesday 25 October). Along with Sheikh Al-Jamri, Seyed Ibrahim Adnan was also transferred, in this case for the third time since yesterday. The health condition of the other five is also deteriorating. At the time of transfer, seven thousands people were gathering in front of Al-Jamri's home in Bani Jamra, north-west of Bahrain.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Faisal Al-Zeerah (member of the all-appointed and powerless Consultative Council) visited the seven pro-democracy leaders and requested an end to the strike. He informed that the visit was his own initiative. The pro-democracy leaders requested him to take the statement to the political leadership and get an answer. Later in the day, Dr. Al-Zeerah, contacted the group to say that he was prepared to mediate after the end of the strike. This was not found satisfactory and hence the strike continued.

The State Security Court continued its sessions unabated. Mr. Mahdi Sahwan was acquitted. Sheikh Fadhel Jafer Rashid Hammad and four of his brothers and relatives were released on bail after paying 500 dinars (\$1000) each. Several others appeared before the State Security Court and had their sessions adjourned.

The fourth day of the hunger strike has been characterised by the gathering of university students and religious scholars in Zain al-Abedin Mosque, situated in front of Sheikh Abdul Amir Al-Jamri's home in Bani Jamra, north-west of Bahrain.

On 26 of October, peaceful gatherings took place in Duraz, Dair and Sitra, while delegations from many parts of the country were visiting the pro-democracy leaders. A meeting was also held with other pro-democracy leaders, including Mr. Ahmad Al-Shamlan and Mr. Ali Rabea. Mr. Rasool Al-Jeshi, member of the dissolved parliament, held talks with Sheikh al-

## the initiative

Jamri on the way forward for pressing for democratic demands. The leading businessman, Mr. Taqi Al-Zeerah also visited Sheikh Al-Jamri to convey his support.

Debate was taking place in the past two days in the leading Al-Orooba Club, with solid support emerging from this important liberal club in the country.

Leaflets have been distributed in the name of the residents of each village and area of town, declaring their support and calling on the government to save the country from another crisis. Dialogue is the only way out of the crisis, stated an announcement by the people of Duraz. Another one called on all Bahrainis to join the peaceful protest by declaring their solidarity with the pro-democracy leaders in hunger strike.

A statement by the Teachers and Students of Religious Circles in Bahrain called on the leaders of the GCC to alleviate the situation in Bahrain by using their influence to help Bahrain out of the crisis through encouraging dialogue.

On 26 October, forty thousand people surged toward the home of Sheikh Abdul Amir Al-Jamri. At around 8.00 pm, both Budaya and Abo-Subh main roads linking the northern region of Bahrain to Manama were jammed by traffic stretching back to Jedhafs and Sanabis, west of Manama. Many senior religious leaders issued statements in support of the hunger strike. Seyyed Alawi Al-Ghoreifi stated "Emanating from our religious duty, we advise the respected government to honour its agreement with the group of the initiative to exit this crisis. We also stress that the only way out is through serious dialogue on both security and political issues". Similar statements were made by Sheikh Abdul Hussain Al-Setri, Seyyed Jawad Al-Wedai and Sheikh Isa Qassim. All come from the highest level of religious circles.

A statement for the residents of Manama stated "You (pro-democracy leaders) were and remain for the restoration of the constitution and National Assembly and stood with your sincerity for the unity of the nation and worked for the public interests". Thousands of people from Sitra raised a banner carrying a statement written in blood "This is our manifesto of loyalty". As the mid-night approached thousand upon thousands of people were chanting slogans such as "With our souls and blood we defend you, O 'Jamri", "Al-Jamri does not compromise; He stands for our rights", "We are not saboteurs, we demand the Constitution", "We demand the return of Sheikh Ali Salman".

On 27 October, a statement by the pro-democracy leaders declared the intention of Sheikh Abdul Amir Al-Jamri and other six leaders to continue their hunger strike further. The statement was read on their behalf in three major mosques, Al-Sedek Mosque in Duraz, Al-Sadek Mosque in Manama and Nuweidrat Mosque in Nuweidrat. A group of Bahraini engineers announced that they will hold a picket in Zain al-Abidin Mosque in Bani Jamra, tomorrow Saturday at 4.30 pm. At 7.00 pm, they will be joined by a group of Bahraini teachers to demonstrate the wider appeal of the hunger strike on all tendencies and sections of Bahrain Society.

## Bahrain & US: Politics and Human Rights

Bahrain has re-surfaced in Washington in the past few months. A recent Congress Report on Bahrain detained the important link between the US and Bahrain in the light of the military gifts (frigate, surplus equipment, replacement F5s with F16s, etc.) as well as the deteriorating human rights situation. On 18 August, Congressman Gilman of the Committee on International Relations, wrote the following to the State Department.

(Honorable John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. I understand that the human rights situation in Bahrain has deteriorated since the State Department's 1994 Report was printed. Moreover, I received correspondence recently from Lord Avebury, Chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group in the House of Lords, in which he expresses great concern about the situation there. Human rights groups in the United States and abroad have made their concerns known to me as well.

Accordingly, I would appreciate receiving additional information about the current situation in Bahrain, and answers to questions, which are enclosed. I am also enclosing a paper prepared in June by the Bahrain Human Rights Organization in Denmark, in which they comment of the State Department's 1994 Report. I would appreciate your comments regarding the issues they raise in that report.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. I look forward to hearing from you soon. With best wishes. Sincerely, Benjamin A. Gilman, Chairman.

Questions: Have any deportation taken place since the State Department's 1994 Human Rights Report was issued? If so, who has been deported, and why? Does the Government of Bahrain often deport dissident national? Are these exiles stripped of their Bahraini passports and citizenship?

Do detainees have access to due process according to internationally accepted norms? Are formal charges required to be filed within a certain period of time? Do detainees have adequate access to counsel? Are they allowed family visits? Is their place of detention disclosed to family members?

How many detainees are minors? Do detained juveniles have access to parental visits? Do their sentences differ from those given to adults? Have minors been subjected to torture? Have any minors died in custody of the security services? How many detainees are women? Are family visits regularly allowed? Are members of the public and relatives of the accused permitted to attend trials? Are any trials conducted secretly?

How many people died at the hands of the Bahraini security forces in the past year? Are autopsies conducted on these individuals to determine the cause of death? Have allegations of torture of detainees been verified? Are those responsible for these deaths investigated and prosecuted? How many people have been injured in confrontations with the security forces in the past year? Are those responsible for the injuries investigated?

Has the Embassy been able to confirm the June 20, 1995 and July 4, 1995 sentences of 12

and 9 defendants, respectively, who were charged with killing security officers? Were the defendants accorded due process according to internationally accepted legal norm and the right to appeal?

Has the States Department urged the government of Bahrain to grant entry into Bahrain and access to detainees by independent human rights organizations? END OF QUESTIONS)

On 26 September Amnesty International held a picket and some 35 US human rights campaigners joined the protest in front of Bahrain Embassy in Washington.

On 28 September an important protest letter was signed by 18 members of the Congress stating the following:

(His Excellency Muhammad Abdul Ghaffar Abdulla, Embassy of the State of Bahrain: As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, we are concerned about the human rights situation in Bahrain. We are aware of the challenges your Government faces, but we urge you to uphold the international standards of human rights, including the right to freedom of expression, the right to a fair trial.

We have received widespread reports from sources such as Amnesty International, that those individuals supporting the reinstatement of the National Assembly and the Constitution are subjected to forced exiles, detentions without trials, and deaths under torture. At least several civilians have been killed in recent incidents and over twenty-seven hundred individuals arrested. Reports indicate that the Ministry of Interior's use of live ammunition to quell demonstrations resulted in serious injuries to many people. Rubber bullets, "birdshot" pellets and tear gas have been used as well to inflict serious wounds. It is our understanding that those allegedly subjected to torture, and beatings in order to extract confessions lack proper medical attention. At least one individual, Hussain Qambay has died while in custody. We are told that he may have died due to torture and request further information on his condition, including a medical certificate of his health situation.

We urge you to seek the prompt release of all those arrested in the "civil disturbances" unless charges of recognizable offences are brought against them. We also encourage you to ensure that those arrested are treated humanely. Those arrested should be provided with a fair and open trial, and should be given immediate access to relatives, lawyers, and independent doctors in accordance with international standards. We write to you in a spirit of mutual concern for the protection of international standards of human rights, and we thank you for your attention to our concerns. Sincerely, Member of Congress: John Edward Porter, Tom Lantos, Frank Wolf, Howard Berman, Cynthia McKinnney, Ronald Dellums, Christopher Smith, Lloyd Doggett, John Conyers, Peter Deutsch, Dick Zicker, Nancy Pelosi, Micheal McNulty, Peter Kling, Gar Ackerman, Henry Waxman, Nita Lowey)

A Press Conference was organised on October at the National Press Club (Washington) by the BFM to state the position of Bahrain's opposition on recent developments.

## Towards a General National Dialogue & Consensus

In a major move, 44 pro-democracy leading activists representing all tendencies and sections of Bahrain society issued the following declaration, dated the 13th of October 1995. The declaration stated the following:

The concept of democratic dialogue and free handling of problems and issues facing the citizen and homeland have always been the pillars for national consensus. The people of Bahrain have declared their commitment to constitutional legitimacy and their great respect for law. Both the petition of 1992 and the popular petition of 1994 have conveyed the sincere wishes of the public for initiating and consolidating the means of democratic dialogue between the government and the people, and the means for returning to legal frameworks that govern this dialogue as specified by the provisions of the constitution.

While we support any initiative towards the conductance of dialogue by peaceful means to exit the crisis and return stability to the country, we believe that the security agreement which took place between the government and some leading opposition personalities represents a positive step in this direction.

In order for this dialogue to succeed we re-confirm the required bases. The dialogue must include all national and democratic activists so that this dialogue is moved away from sectarian nature and in order to assure its national characteristics. The dialogue must also deal with the primary people's demand of restoring the 1973 constitution. Such dialogue ought to lead to an agreement with a defined programme for the reinstatement of democratic process.

We also consider the releasing of all detainees and the returning of those dismissed from employment to their previous positions are good starting points and would be appreciated by the people. These should be the pre-requisites for democratic openness represented by the return of parliamentary life and the issuance of a general amnesty for all exiles and political prisoners.

We, as patriots and democrats, emphasize that the acceptance (by the government) to receive the popular petition which has been signed by the widest sections of the society and meeting with the delegation representing the popular petition shall have the greatest influence. The latter represents true dialogue leading to the restoration of democracy by the re-activation of 1973 constitution and reinstatement of those suspended articles of the constitution which specify and control the legislative authority and its scope. This is the demand of all the people of Bahrain, with all their tendencies and sections, regardless of their affiliations. This demand will remain to be raised until the achievement of popular participation that represents the principal pillar for national unity and civic stability."

Signed by 44 leading activists including Mohammed Jaber Sabah, Ex-MP, Ahmad Isa Al-Shamlan, Lawyer and member of the popular petition delegation, Ibrahim Seyid Ali Kamal-Din, Member of the popular petition delegation, Mohsin Hamid Marhoon, Lawyer and ex-MP, Abdulla Abdul Rahman Hashim, Lawyer, Saeed Abdulla Asbool, and others.

## Martial law declared in the education sector

# The intimidation of intellect in Bahrain

On 25 June 1995, the Bahraini cabinet resigned after 20 years in power. Many though something will change. In fact, all members of the ruling family controlling all key ministries were re-appointed in the cabinet. Four ministers were replaced with others to consolidate future oppressive measures. The worst change was that of the Ministry of Education.

The Al-Khalifa ruling family realized that the former Minister of Education, the former President of Bahrain University and key officials were reluctant to allow the entry of riot police and intelligence officers to the university and other schools for crushing the mass students' demonstration. The latter were significant because the university and schools contain all sections of the society and hence any protest activity can not be portrayed as pertaining to certain ethnic, sect or group. Moreover, when students joined the popular uprising, the government knew that other people in business and employment were on the brink of joining a nation-wide protest.

Hence, on 25 June, the ruling family militarized the educational sector. An unknown military man, Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al-Fadhel was appointed as Minister of Education. Later on, another military man, Mohammed Al-Ghatam, was installed as President of Bahrain. Several other military men were appointed to key schools and posts. Both military men, Al-Fadhel and Al-Ghatam, were charged with implementing martial laws in the Ministry of Education and Bahrain University. Since assuming these key positions, both the Ministry of Education and Bahrain University became part of a military establishment with rules and regulation inhibiting and undermining the nature of research and scientific institutions.

To reinforce martial law in the education sector, both military men went on the rampage changing key positions, issuing orders and dismissing pro-democracy activists. Two notable cases became national issues: the dismissal of Ms. Hussa Abdulla Al-Kumeiri and Dr. Monira Fakhroo. Hussa Al-Khumeiri wrote to the military man protesting against her dismissal. He replied on 29 August stating the following:

\*(Miss Hussa Abdulla Al-Khumeiri, Greetings.. With reference to your letter of 4 July 1995, and as a follow-up to an earlier letter from the Ministry (of Education) dated 24 June 1995, we inform you that the decision to dismiss you was based on your participation in subversive political activities affecting state security. In accordance with Civil Service Rules 471/1987 relating to disciplinary actions, the punishment to what you did was the dismissal from your first act of violation. You were verbally and frequently requested to amend your violation by writing an official apology. You had refused to do so despite the fact that you were told that you would be dismissed from employment. Bearing in mind that you were given ample time to decide starting from the first time you were contacted on 31 May 1995 to the date of dismissal on 24 June. This period is in excess of the period stated in the rules which gives five days only.

Signed by: Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al-

Fadhel, Minister of Education))

Hussa participated in a petition signed by Women of Bahrain addressed to the Amir and protesting against human rights violations and calling for the reinstatement of the rule of constitutional law.

Another leading woman, Aziza Al-Bassam was sacked from Bahrain Radio. The most prominent of all is the case of Dr. Monira Fakhroo, Associate Professor of Sociology at Bahrain University. Monira delivered a paper in Italy on the uprising in Bahrain. When She returned to Bahrain, another military man was already in place to implement martial law. On 30 September and few days after his appointment, Mohammed Al-Ghatam wrote the following letter to Monira:

\*(Dear Dr. Monira Ahmad Fakhroo, College of Literature, General Studies Section, Greetings.

Emphasizing that you had been told by the Head of the Faculty to cease working at the General Studies Section of the Faculty of Literature, I regret to inform you that it has been decided to stop your work at the University of Bahrain from October 1, 1995, until the issue is decided.

Signed by: Dr. Mohammed bin Jasim Al-Ghatam, President of the University))

The British Ambassador met with the Interior Minister to register HM Government's concern about the dismissal of Dr. Monira Fakhroo from the University of Bahrain as a result of her pro-democracy activities.

On 7 October, the military officer went further and issued the following memo (full of woful paragraphs) to all university staff banning freedom of expression and stating the following:

\*(To: All President's deputies, heads of faculties and executive officials, Greeting

It is very important that the University handles the media of all forms, the written, viewed (TV etc..) and listened to (radio etc..) in an objective and settled way that is based on fixed facts, confirmed events and reliable information so that the status of university is exhibited accurately and impartially...hence you have to remind the heads of scientific sections and the lecturing staff in your faculties and departments the necessity of abiding by the following criteria:

1. All lecturers and executive employees must not have any direct contact with the press and media whether local or foreign.

2. If a member of the lecturing staff has something to pass to the press or media, either by his/her initiative or being requested by others, he/she must prepare the contents in writing to be then passed to his/her senior and the latter will submit to the head of the faculty who will forward it to the concerned direction in coordination with the public relations department.

3. The participation in seminars, meetings, conferences, etc., local or foreign, must have prior permission from the heads of faculties and from the presidency of the university, even if the participation was not funded by the university....Signed by: Mohammed bin Jasim Al-Ghatam, President of the University))