

BAHRAIN

Issued by the "Bahrain Freedom Movement" for Promoting Human and Constitutional Rights

Political change is inevitable

The people will never go back to the period prior to the uprising

When the massive marches took to the streets on the occasion of Ashura (28th May 1996), the policies of Mohammed Al Mutawwa, the information minister, crumbled. The tens of thousands of mourners who ventured out in the capital, Manama, defying the armoured vehicles and the thousands of the foreign troops working for the riot police, had one thing in mind: never to bow down to the pressures of the Al Khalifas. The policy of Mr. Mutawwa who was promoted to his present portfolio after he had proved his blind loyalty to the prime minister, has been to reverse the professed policies of his predecessor, Mr. Tareq Al Moayyad who had advocated media openness. Since taking up his job, he has been engaged in relentless quarrels with the news media. He has never been satisfied with the reports of the international news agencies, TV stations and radios. To him, there has been an international conspiracy to weaken his position by promoting the cause of the Bahraini people. He picked up fights with Reuters, AFP, BBC, Qatar Radio and TV, Tehran Arabic Service and so on. He thought he could deal with the outside media in the same way he had been dealing with some of the Arab journalists who acted as a mouthpiece to his ministry. Talking about constitution is more dangerous than fighting the regime with the gun. Under his administration, Bahrain was to become a black box, the contents of which must not be accessible to anyone, except those sanctioned by his Egyptian advisor (Seyed Al-Baboli). Those media have received bundles of letters containing letters of complaints and threats. However, it is high time that Mr. Al Mutawwa realised that his efforts are futile.

As the 21st century approaches, every sincere effort, be it by politicians, journalists, authors or intellectuals, must be used to ensure that despotism must not be allowed to flourish in the new world. Totalitarian regimes such as that of the Al Khalifa have either to give way to a more democratic system or leave the scene altogether. There is abundance of evidence to suggest that the longer dictatorships such as that of the Al Khalifa remain in power, the more suffering will have to be borne by the people. When it becomes an offence to speak out your mind to a news agency or to tell a writer about the situation in which you live, a lot has to be done to save the human race from the evils of dictators. They may be as big as Hitler, and as small as the Al Khalifas, the size is immaterial, since confiscating peoples liberty and freedom is always a crime against humans. Without the ability to express opinion, to speak one's mind, to discuss issues and to participate in open dialogue, man is reduced to a sub-human. In

Bahrain, the Al Khalifas have been fighting against the people for no other reason than to deny their human needs and values. To snatch a citizen whose only crime was to speak to a foreign journalist, for example, detain him and subject him to the most humiliating and painful forms of torture, is abhorrent to mankind. To kill a demonstrator for expressing his views peacefully in the streets is barbaric, to say the least. To kidnap young mothers from their toddlers in the middle of the night as hostages and to deny them any access to a their basic needs is vicious. To snatch boys as young as seven or eight years of age from their parents, abuse them, torture them and dump them in uninhabitable and overcrowded cells cannot be justified under any circumstances.

Silence is no less serious a crime. Supporting the perpetrators of these crimes is a very serious betrayal of the principles of international justice, and the basis of human dignity. Whilst it is understandable to take economic and political dimensions in international relations, once a super power or the United Nations, agrees to compromise on issues of principle and human values, a pattern of world-wide violation of the basis of human dignity and values will evolve leading perhaps to a knock-on effect on fundamentals of human relations. Eighteen months of non-stop endeavour to prop up values of human rights and democracy in Bahrain have so far proved the inability of the big powers to shoulder their responsibilities towards the promotion of peace and tranquillity in the world on the basis of justice, mutual respect, freedom and defence of human rights values. Whilst the people maintain their demands for the reinstatement of the constitution with the hope that a regime based on the rule of law will emerge, the Al Khalifas have spared no effort in their resistance to the establishment of the rule of law. An outdated system of government is being propped up with the support of western security experts, with Ian Henderson leading the list. We are not revealing a secret when we claim that the people of Bahrain have reacted with anger, dismay and disappointment towards any statement by western politicians that could be interpreted to be supportive in any sense of the policies of random arrests, unlawful detentions, torture to death even of juveniles, shoot-to-kill tactics and forcible exiles.

The peaceful struggle of the Bahraini people will continue until the constitution is reinstated. They are aware of the positions of the various parties who took interest in the affairs of Bahrain and uttered statements in either way. For example, the handing over by the Kuwaiti government of Mr. Jameel Abdul Ghani to

Henderson's men last month was considered an irresponsible act and is an indication of bad faith. Mr. Abdul Ghani, a Bahraini married to a Kuwaiti wife and an employee at the Pension Fund of Kuwait. This act will seriously lead to the escalation of the crisis since the Bahraini people feel they have been betrayed by people whom they had helped in their hour of need. On the other hand, the Bahraini people viewed the statement by Sultan Qaboos of Oman, in an interview last month with the London-based Saudi newspaper Al Hayat, in which he said the crisis of Bahrain was an internal affair and has to be treated accordingly as a positive statement that could bring back the Al Khalifas to their senses. With the unscheduled departure of King Fahd from public life, the situation in Saudi Arabia is causing concern not only to the Saudis themselves but to the outside powers as well. Prince Abdulla who is most likely to become the new king will have to open a new chapter in the relations with his people if his reign is to survive. The Bahraini situation will be crucial in the coming months because the people will never go back to the period prior to the uprising. The Amir will soon announce the formation of four districts in Bahrain and to add ten more members to the unceremonious Shura Council. These acts are small steps that came too late in the ongoing war between the foreign-staffed troops and the Bahraini people. The wisdom dictates that anyone with good relations with the Al Khalifas must try to bring home the idea that they have to make concessions to the people if they want to avoid a situation in which they find themselves swept aside by the wind of change. The people will get their rights but whether this happens in a bloodless manner or it takes more lives to achieve it lies wholly with the government. It is them who should decide between a fundamental change or a moderate one according to the constitution.

Al: Torturers must not be assisted

On 23 May Amnesty International issued two reports, one from the US and one from the UK. The US report quoted by UPI stated that "US taxpayers should never pay for political killings, torture or the unjust imprisonment of those struggling to exercise the basic human rights taken for granted in the United States". In a 70-page report titled "Human Rights and US Security Assistance," AI reviewed the situation in many countries including Bahrain. The UK report mentioned Bahrain and stated that doctors and nurses have been persecuted worldwide to cover up medical evidence of torture to government opponents.

Joint statement confirms: No compromise on demands

The ruling family is attempting to change the structure of Bahrain society in a way that makes difficult for the opposition to call for the restoration of the elected parliament. A new system of provinces is being established under the control of the interior ministry. The new system is charged with institutionalising dictatorship through taking control of all aspects of social, religious, economic and community-related matters. The remit for the provinces declares that one primary responsibility is to ensure the loyalty of people. There is no illusion, therefore, that the new system will be an extended arm for the intelligence department and will have no primary objective other than confiscating any marginal freedom that might have been left out. Opposition forces confirmed that all these measures will not deter the pro-democracy movement from pressing ahead with the original core demands. These views were made clear in a statement issued jointly between the Bahrain Freedom Movement and the Coordinating Committee of the Popular Front and National Liberation Front of Bahrain. The statement said:

"In 1992 the government of Bahrain formed an unconstitutional and all-appointed Shura (Consultative) Council in violation of the constitution of the country. This government's body failed to be more than a rubber stamp for the draconian measures aimed at institutionalising dictatorship in a desperate attempt to divert attention from the popular demand for restoring the elected parliament in accordance with Bahrain's constitution.

A British motion on Bahrain

In Britain, eighteen members of parliament circulated a motion (dated 18 May) on Bahrain stating "That this house notes the general deterioration of the human rights in Bahrain, including the arbitrary detention of hundreds of people under the State Security Law during peaceful demonstrations since October last year; notes that many of those arrested have been children in violation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, which Bahrain acceded to in 1992; deplors the banning of religious celebrations and the arrests of hundreds of detainees during the recent Eid festivities; is appalled at the execution in March of Issa Ahmad Qambar after a trial held in camera which ignored internationally accepted human rights standards regarding adequate legal assistance; expresses concern about allegation of torture and further reports of exposure of children to beating; calls on Her Majesty's Government to make urgent representations to the Amir of Bahrain, that he orders the immediate release of all children, and that all other detainees should be set free immediately if they are detained without valid charges, or if such exists, that they are brought promptly before a competent and impartial tribunal, guaranteeing their procedural rights at all times; calls on the Bahrain government to conduct a thorough, impartial investigation into allegations of ill-treatment and torture, and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice, and urges that Bahrain respects in all circumstances human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with national laws and international standards"

The Amir of Bahrain intends to deliver a speech to announce new plans for "developing" the unconstitutional Shura Council. Many foreign journalists have been invited to attend the ceremony and listen to these plans. It is believed that the Amir may announce that the number of members of the Shura Council will be increased by ten people to become a total of 40 members. The ruling family's intention would be to imply that this step is in line with the constitution which specifies the addition of ten persons after the end of the first round of sessions. The people of Bahrain rejected the present Shura Council because the ruling family wanted to replace the elected National Assembly with a body that has no legislative or monitoring powers. The ruling family rejects the re-activation of the constitution and is attempting to manoeuvre around the core demand of the opposition, namely the restoration of the elected parliament in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Constitution (Articles 42-82). This and other demands were made clear in the various petitions submitted to the Amir, especially the 1994 Popular Petition which was signed by 25,000 citizens.

Our nation has struggled thus far, having suffered tens of martyrs, thousands in jail, many hundreds in exile, and scores of people arbitrarily sentenced to harsh terms, we therefore declare that any new cosmetics added to the unconstitutional governmental agency (Shura Council) are rejected outright and that we will continue to press ahead with our call for the restoration of constitutional law to Bahrain".

Draconian laws of 20 March 1996

Since 20 March 1996, some seventy people have been rushed to state security courts and arbitrarily sentenced to severe terms of fines and imprisonments. Typically a trial lasts an hour after which a member of the ruling family presiding over the court would pass arbitrary sentences incompatible with the charges levelled against defendants. Those sentenced have no right of appeal. Extraordinary violations are taking place without any respect to international standards or the constitution of the country. For example, five persons who were acquitted by the ordinary criminal court last February, had been kept in detention and will now be brought before the said court. The five are all from Ekr village: Hamid Isa Sahlan, 22, Hussain Isa, 21, Abdul-Shahid Isa, 19, Ali Hassan, 21, and Monir Hassan, 18.

The draconian laws of 20 March were published as follows:

((Law No 10 of 1996, was published in the official gazette on 20 March 1996 It amends some of the provisions of the Penal Code, which was issued by Decree Law No 15 of 1976. The decree reads that the text of Paragraph 1 of Article 185 of the Penal Code, issued by Decree Law No 15 of 1976, shall be replaced by the following text: "Perpetrators of the following crimes shall stand trial before a court, the formation and procedures of which shall be based on an Amiri decree: (A) Crimes enshrined in Articles No 112, 184, 277 and 281 of the Penal Code. (B) Crimes included in Articles No 220, 221, 333 and 336-340 of the Penal Code if the attack is against one of the persons

Security forces are behind the explosion in Sanabis

On 7 May, an extremely strong explosion brought down a three-level building killing Salman Al-Taitoon, his wife Fadheela, their son Ali and injured their second son Mohamed as well as three other members of the family. The people of Bahrain believe that the ruling family authorised the explosion to retaliate against the uprising principal are of Sanabis. A letter from Bahrain explained some of the issues surrounding the explosion. The letter, be an expatriate, was sent by email to the news group on the Internet, stating:

((1. The restaurant in question was a small Indian samosa shop. Several days before the blast the Indian manning the shop appeared very nervous. The day before the blast he sold all his remaining samosa. The morning of the blast this shop was closed and locked - for no apparent reason. Was he warned to get out?

2. Fire trucks and the security forces arrived within minutes after the blast - a record for Bahrain. It was as though they knew it was coming.

3. The damage done was, in the words of those who work with gas, far greater and more extensive than a gas leak could do. "This was not a gas leak," said one man who has worked with gas for a number of years.

4. Within 48 hours of the explosion what remained of the house was torn down, the site cleared and swept clean. If you go there today you won't even know that there was a house there. Again - a record for Bahrain. I live next door to an apartment building which burned down two years back. It took weeks before they cleared away the debris in that case. This is what normally happens in Bahrain. Why, in this case, did the authorities feel the need to not only clear away the debris in record time, but sweep the site clean, as well? I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

PS: The important thing to note here is that this information has come from dis-interested sources. In fact, most has come from people who want desperately to believe what the government is telling us about what is happening in Bahrain, as I do myself. A person who has been a strong government supporter throughout the troubles related most of what I wrote above to me. He did so with sadness, as he is now being

mentioned in Article No 107 of the Penal Code or their representatives while carrying out his duties. (C) Crimes enshrined in Article 18 of Decree Law No 18 of 1967 regarding explosives, weapons and ammunition. (D) Crimes linked to the crimes mentioned in the previous articles". Also, the official gazette published Decree No 14 for 1996, issued by the Amir. The decree amends some provisions of Decree No 7 for 1976 regarding the formation and procedures of the court enshrined in Article 185 of the Penal Code. The decree reads that the text of Paragraph 1 of Article 1 of Decree No 7 of 1976 on the formation and procedures of the court stipulated in Article 185 of the Penal Law shall be replaced by the following text: "The Higher Court of Appeal, which consists of three judges, shall be the competent court to look into the crimes enshrined in Article 185 of the Penal Code").

many others are arbitrarily sentenced

Shia community in the wake of the continued attacks by security forces.

Bilad al-Qadim suffered the worst atrocities and many youth are being picked up on a daily basis. Riot police attacked the mosques and mattams in a desperate attempt to implement the new policy of confiscating the religious rights of the Shia community. Youth and security forces clashed near "Mattam al-Jeshi". Tear gas, rubber bullets and cylindrical batons (5"x1.5" sizing) were deployed by riot police. They also stormed "Mattam Haji Mansoor Al-Sateeh", clashed with the audience and arrested several of them.

21 May: The French *Le Monde* published an article based on an interview made with opposition figure Mr. Hussain Mossa. Mr. Mossa stated that the people of Bahrain have made their constitutional and peaceful demands through petitions, the latest of which was signed by 10,000 people last March. However, the government responded with violence. The *Los Angeles Times* published a lengthy article on Bahrain on 15 May. It concluded: ((So Bahrain's situation festers - an intransigent government faced by a popular opposition that will not be quelled. "In the end, they will have to make concessions" the diplomat predicted. "They'll probably do everything too late". Ibrahim observed: "The unrest will continue until the government restores the parliament. I think it will get much worse".

22 May, the unconstitutional state security court brought the numbers of those sentenced haphazardly to 53 people during two months. The said court sentenced three people to 10 years imprisonment and imposed a record fine of about \$1.1 million. The victims are: Ahmed Kadhem Al-Huda, 28, Ali Ibrahim Ali Ahmed Ismael, 25, and Samir Ahmed Ali Al-Sheikh, 26.

22 May: The crown prince's military units staged military maneuvers with UAE troops in a show of forces against the unarmed people of Bahrain.

26 May: More than 70 people were arrested in Manama alone. This followed the mass distribution of leaflets calling for an end to "the reign of terror imposed by the ruling family on Bahrain". Dawn raids were mounted all over the country and many youths leading the religious procession were arrested. Many elders were summoned and ordered to provide the names of youths who assume leading roles in the procession. These encounters end up in a stormy way, with the security officers threatening elders of the community and the latter resisting the intimidation. Community leaders decided not to distribute food for the public in solidarity with the families of martyrs and with those in jail.

27 May: The health of Sheikh Abdul Amir Al-Jamri, the leading figure in jail since 22 January 1996, has deteriorated and a medical doctor specializing in heart problems was called in to see him in a prison situated in Safra paramilitary town. This is the first time that Sheikh Al-Jamri has ever seen someone from the outside world. Since his arrest, no lawyer or member of family has ever been allowed to see him.

27 May: Seyed Jawad Al-Wedai, the leading religious authority in Bahrain, delivered a speech, today in the grand religious place "Mattam Madan" in the capital Manama, and stated that he had been contacted by the interior ministry regarding his call for a new procession to emerge from Ras-Romman mosque on 28 May. Al-Wedai said "I see no taste in life under oppression" and informed the gathering that he decided to call-off the procession to avoid bloodshed. Earlier, the chief of Manama police, Abdul-Salam Al-Ansari met with elders from Manama and asked them to speak to Seyed Al-Wedai regarding the new procession. However, he was told that Seyed Al-Wedai is a religious authority and was entitled to call for such a procession.

On the tenth of Muharram, Dr. Faisal Al-Zeera was sent by the government to Seyed Jawad Al-Wedai. Al-Zeera (member of the powerless Shura Council) stated to Al-Wedai that he managed to convince the authorities to allow the new procession to go out. But Al-Wedai stated that "we do not need anyone's permission for our religious affairs".

Armoured vehicles with commandos (new unit made of Pakistani nationals) were deployed in the capital in a show of muscle.

29 May: Nine youths and Teenagers (all from Duraz) were sentenced to TEN years imprisonment on 29 May by the unconstitutional state security court as follows: Hussain Mohammed Al Asfoor, 22 year old, Hussain Asoori, 19, Muneer Ali Hussain Al Asfoor, 18, Shafeq Hussain Al Asfoor, 19, Ali Abdul Waheed Shihab, 20, Hamdi Abdul Jalil Al-Gurbal, 20, Emad Jaffer Al Alawi, 19, Mahdi Sheikh Abbas Al Rayyis, 17 and Ali Mohammed Hassan Al Hamran, 17. Ebrahim Khalil Abu Ruwais, 17, was sentenced to five years imprisonment. Ali Ahmed Saleh, 20, and Ammar Abdul Hussain Al-Mutgawwi, 15, were sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. The last three were told that they will be brought before the court for another charge.

The government spokesman, Seyed Al-Baboli (an Egyptian), stated that "an explosion on 29 May, on the roof of a house in Jedhafs injured the wife of a man in detention". The injured (pregnant) woman, Nawal ali Abdulla, 20, who suffered a miscarriage, is the wife of Ali Hassan Mansoor, 26, who was detained earlier in the year as part of the crackdown against the community and is expected to appear before the state security court on 7 June. It was known that the government started using rubber bullets and tear gas on the night of 28 May and besieged Daih and Jedhafs the following day (29 May).

One person (Ali Hassan Yousif) lost his eye as a result of a rubber bullet fired at him (by security forces) in Karbabad. He is now being treated in the International Hospital.

Clashes in Qadam resulted in the arrest of 15 youths. On the 11th day of Muharram (29 May) In Daih, thousands of people poured into the area defying the siege and clashed for two hours with riot police starting at 2.30. More than 25 people were arrested and another person is reported to have lost his eye because a rubber bullet.

"Week of Civil Resistance" confirms: No compromise on demands

The week of protest and mourning started on the night preceding Eid Al-Adha (28 April) with peaceful processions taking to the streets in Sitra, Nuweidrat, Dair, Sanabis, Duraz, and Bani Jamra. The general public avoided normal celebrations marking Eid Al-Adha in protest against the continued detention of opposition leaders together with more than 2000 people who are calling for the peaceful reinstatement of the parliament which was dissolved by the Amir in 1975.

Security forces attacked the peaceful gatherings and established check points in uprising areas. Along Budaya Highway, paramilitary troops took positions. In Bani Jamra, many male members of families (found during the attack) were arrested. For example, the security forces attacked and arrested Ali Hussain Mohammed Abdul-Rasool, 42, together with his son Hussain, 15, his brothers Abdul Hussain, 37, Habib, 27, and five young nephews and relatives. In the first and second day no less than 150 people were arrested during attacks on residential areas.

The people exchanged condolences and visited the families and graves of the martyrs who were killed by the security forces. The latter imposed a virtual curfew on most uprising areas to prevent public gatherings. Clashes during the last two nights were sporadic and loud sounds of exploding gas-cylinder were heard throughout. Graffiti on the walls declared a week of protest stating "No Eid (feast) while Al-Jamri is away", "They (government) establish an Islamic Council while detaining our women and children", "No compromise on parliamentary demand", etc. Markets were affected by the low number of buyers and even Al-Ayyam published an article saying traders in Manama were complaining about low sales.

The broadly-based opposition is determined not to allow the ruling Al-Khalifa family to destabilise the security of Bahrain and the Gulf by continuing these oppressive measure. The leading opposition figure and ex-MP, Mr. Mohammed Jaber Sabah, appealed to the ruling family to restore the constitution and parliament for the sake of the stability of Bahrain and the Gulf. In his article, published in *Al-Quds* on 27 April, Mr. Sabah said that the democratic forces are united in seeking a peaceful solution and in standing against violence and counter violence. A spokesman for the Bahrain Freedom Movement stated that "the call of Mr. Sabah represents the policy of the opposition and we hope that the ruling family adopts a courageous approach for exiting the crisis. This can only be achieved through dialogue with members of the Committee for Popular Petition, which is responsible for the petition signed by 25,000 citizens calling for the restoration of parliament and constitution".

The US newspaper "Christian Science Monitor" wrote last week saying: "So far, the emir has not listened to domestic or international voices, including some members of the United States Congress and 45 British members of Parliament". It added "If the US (Administration) doesn't support democracy and human rights in Bahrain, it will be exposed to charges of hypocrisy".

May 1996: More citizens are killed by security forces, ...

1 May: The Associated Press reported that "witnesses and residents said fire on Sunday (28 April) gutted the tire store in the village of A'ali, south of Manama. Smaller fires, ignited with old tires and fuel drums, were also started throughout the three-day holiday that ended Tuesday (30 April), and there were also explosions using gas cylinders, they said. The activists also set several tires ablaze on a road leading to Saudi Arabia, creating a wall of fire that disrupted busy traffic".

Two of the mothers, Mona Habib Al-Sharakhi (daughter-in-law of Sheikh Al-Jamri) and a six-months pregnant lady, Iman Salman Ibrahim, who were unlawfully arrested on 29 February, were released on 1 May on bail after paying 200 dinars (\$500). The sister of Iman, Zahra Salman Ibrahim, a mother of four children and whose husband has been in detention since January 1995, remained in jail for 2 more weeks together with Nazi Karimi who was snatched from her bedroom on the dawn of 29 February.

3 May: Mr. Ali Al-Motgawwai, Ghazi Abdul Hassan and three other Bahrainis were arrested in Saudi Arabia and handed over to Bahrain interior ministry.

4 May: Uprising areas of Bahrain started the day fully prepared to stand by their principles and commemorate the 40th day of the martyrdom of Isa Qambar who was executed on 26 March by the ruling Al-Khalifa family after flogging and unfair trial. Three mothers were arrested in Ekr following a mass demonstration. A 30-year old mother by the name Najma was arrested together with her baby. The baby was released later and had to be admitted to hospital. Two other mothers were also arrested with Najma: Zainab Al-Mukhtar, 40 year old, and Rabab Dhaif, 55 years old. They remain in jail for a week.

5 May: Manama was wrecked by several explosion at 2.00am on Sunday morning heralding another wave of violence and counter violence in the country. Two seven-storey buildings as well as several shops were damaged. Security forces started attacking residential areas in the past few days and many areas were put under siege yesterday, including Daih, Sanabis, Karzakkan, Bani Jamra, Duraz, Abo-Saiba. Women went out in demonstrations at night in Tobli and Bani Jamra denouncing the atrocities of the security forces and calling for the release of their children. Children marched on the main Budaya Highway near Abo-Saiba and Karanah and blocked the road while carrying posters of the jailed leaders.

The trial of the leading opposition figure Mr. Ahmad Al-Shamlan ended today with the government failing to prove its points that the leading figure has been behind arson and sabotage.

6 May: The security forces committed another crime against the peaceful people of Bahrain. Fadhil Abbas Marhoon, 25 years old, from Karzakkan village was shot and injured by live ammunition fired by security forces on 3 May. The security forces arrested him despite the fact that he had been injured. The next thing the family of the martyr knew was a call from the security forces informing them that their

son has been buried under the supervision of the riot police in Hoorah Cemetery at 6.00 am.

A home-made bomb exploded near the airport in Muharraq on 6 May, wounding two policemen. A security source told the Associated Press that the wounded men were "Pakistani policemen. Bahrain has long recruited Pakistanis, Jordanians and Syrians to serve in its police and armed forces".

7 May: Karzakkan, the home village of the martyr Fadhil Abbas Marhoon, was flooded with crowds of people who visited the family of the martyr and declared their disgust at what the hated security service did. Residents of Sitra were shocked to see units of riot police deployed without any reason. These units started beating people haphazardly in what is now becoming a routine collective punishment exercise.

7 May: A very strong explosion, believed to be the work of the security department levelled to the ground a 3-storey building in Sanabis killing Salman Al-Taitoon, 28 years old, his wife Fadeela and 3-year old son Ali. Four others were injured.

8 May: Residents in Karzakkan went out in solidarity with the family of the martyr Fadhil Abbas Marhoon who was killed and buried by security forces. The residents of Sanabis, Daih and Jedhafs went out in mass demonstrations after 8.00 pm on 8 May denouncing the atrocities of the foreign-led and foreign-staffed security forces. Soon after, units of riot police encircle the area, blocked the main Budaya Highway and started firing live ammunition. Columns of fire spread during the clashes and clashes continued till mid-night. Earlier in the day helicopters continued to fly at low levels.

8 May: The State Security Court jailed 11 people for one to five years for anti-government protests. The State Security Court, whose rulings cannot be appealed, sentenced four men for one year each and ordered them to pay 500 dinars (\$1,300) each. Six others received three years each and one received five years.

10 May: Residents in Daih took to the streets on and clashed with security forces.

11 May: at night, residents of Sanabis went out in a demonstration denouncing the government and accusing the security forces of blowing-up and killing Salman Al-Taitoon and his family. Following the clashes, columns of smoke covered the area and loud explosions were heard.

12 May: Residents in Duraz went out in a demonstration and clashed with the security forces.

13 May: A young mentally-disabled person was killed by security forces during clashes in Daih last week. Abdul Amir Hassan Rustum, 26 years, was captured the preceding night by the security forces. The severe beating caused his death in the morning. A group of youth were sentenced after unfair trial as follows: four were jailed for five years and two for two years. Two others received 12-month suspended sentences.

14 May: Kuwait security officers visited "Al-Ta'aminat Al-Ejtema'eya" in Kuwait, the work place of Jamil Abdul Ghani Abdulla Ali, 25 years old, a Bahraini citizen, and drove him

away to the borders with Saudi Arabia and handed him over to some security officers from Bahrain. His Kuwaiti wife was not informed about the fate of her husband. She complained to the Kuwaiti parliament. The Kuwaiti interior minister stated that his Bahraini counterpart phoned him a day earlier and requested the hand-over. This was done without any respect for legal procedures.

17 May: Security forces attacked and deployed rubber bullets in Bilad al-Qadim. Other areas were also attacked including Zenj, Khamis, Sehla, Maamir, Tobli, Karanah, Karabad, Duraz, Karzakkan and other areas as part of the oppressive campaign against the religious premises (mattams). At least 21 people were arrested from Bilad Al-Qadim alone. Two people were severely beaten by police in public: Abdul Jaleel Saeed Ahmed Al-Noaimi and Mohammed Radhi Al-Noaimi.

The security forces also attacked footballers in Bilad al-Qadim and haphazardly arrested the following players: Maytham Mohammed Al-Eskafi, 18, Muradha Saleh Al-Eskafi, 16, Ali Abdullah Abdul Wahab Al-Eskafi, 16, Husain Ahmed Ali Ebrahim, 16. Later at 8.00 pm, riot police attacked "Al-Takya Mattam" and severely beaten the preacher (Sayed Abdullah) and many people in the audience including Ghazi Al-Haddad and his brother Ramzi. The latter were arrested and the Mattam was closed.

The religious premises (Mattams) in Sehla were also ransacked and their contents destroyed. In Duraz, the security forces turned themselves into painters and spent most of their times trying to paint over the slogans written on the walls. The interior minister summoned heads of major mattams in Manama: Mansoor Rajab, Ibrahim Mansoor, Fuad Al Haji, Sayed Hussain Alawi, and Haji Ahmed Saloom. The meeting ended with the latter declaring that they will not succumb to any pressure and will go ahead with the processions as usual.

19 May: The BBC World TV broadcast of a film showing how security forces savagely attack civilians and break demonstrations was jammed by the Ministry of Information in Bahrain. Bahrain TV interrupted the BBC transmission on 16 May at 7.05 pm GMT. BBC second broadcast on 18 May (midday) was also jammed by the Bahraini authorities which are desperately attempting to prevent the spreading of news about the pro-democracy uprising.

Sources close to the government indicated that Mr. Ian Henderson, the British officer in charge of the security apparatus has recently recruited 150 more British officers to work for him. Mr. Henderson and his deputy, Mr. Bryan, are nearing their retirement ages and such recruiting is indicative of how deep the crisis in Bahrain is.

19 May: Seyed Ali Alawi Al-Khabaz was brought before the unconstitutional state security court. His family was not told about the outcome of the trial.

20 March: On the occasion of Ashora, two senior leading Bahraini religious figures, Seyed Jawad Al-Weda'ei and Seyed Alawi Al-Ghoreifi, issued a statement to the nation calling on them to unite all their activities and show solidarity with each in the face of the threats against the