

# BAHRAIN

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

## An imminent intervention is needed to avert catastrophic consequences in Bahrain

### A peaceful change is the only guarantee to stability

The unfolding saga in Bahrain is entering a new phase with the realisation that the prime minister is adamant in his refusal of the proposed changes in the political situation in the country. When the people went on demonstrations and protests in the last week of September it became clear that the crisis was far from over, contrary to the claims by the Government. The people acted in response to the call by the opposition for a three-day civil resistance to prove their ability to challenge the foreign-staffed security forces and riot police. Those mercenaries could not face the thrust of the masses in the various corners of the country as they expressed their rage in street demonstrations, slogan-writing on the walls, and exploding Gas cylinders to attract attention to their cause. For over two years, the people have restrained themselves against the onslaught of the most sophisticated machinery of torture, repression and mass punishment. The prime minister who understands no other language than that of sheer force had to bow this time to the people's resolve and to admit that his policies could only land the country in trouble. The veteran British officer, Ian Henderson, was also forced to admit that his heavy-handed policy of unlimited torture could not break the determination of the people of Bahrain to achieve their constitutional goals.

The internal bleeding of Bahrain has to be stopped. This is the duty of anyone who is in a position to influence events in this troubled island. It is unclear to the observers whether the riot and security forces could after all bring about peace to the country. What is clear, however, is that two years of extraordinary harshness that led to the death of no less than 29 citizens, 8 expatriates and 4 security men, has not uprooted the opposition. Furthermore, the Government has failed in its endeavour to divide the opposition along sectarian lines. Today, the voice of the opposition is as united as ever. Sunnis and Shias, Liberals and Islamists, are going along hand-in-hand on the road to democracy. The prime minister has failed in attracting members for the Shura (Consultative Council) who have social weight or significance, and had to be content with a few opportunists who are on the margin of the political and social life. Many noble personalities turned down to offer to join this unconstitutional entity, and have effectively slapped the prime minister, who is well known for his arrogance, on the face. This is why he resorted to unethical forced appointment of some people. The main body of the people has refused to accept the all-appointed council as an alternative to the elected

constitutional National Assembly, which is the main demand of the people. This council, for whose opening the Government has prepared a big event, is doomed in the same way as its predecessor. The will of the people cannot be easily overlooked, and the crisis will continue to plague the era of the Al Khalifa as long as they refuse to recognise the feelings of the people. It is wrong to assume that force is enough to bring noble people to their knees, in certain circumstances, such people prefer death to humiliation. The Al Khalifa have to change their attitude to the people of Bahrain, and indeed to the new era in the world that has precipitated a global movement towards openness, pluralism and democracy. It is foolish to assume that tribal mentality and stubbornness can sort out the mess of a modern civil society.

Furthermore, the crisis in Bahrain is made worse by the fact that the Government has performed badly with regards to the border crisis with Qatar. In a fashion that has now become familiar, the Crown Prince last month called for a unity with the neighbouring country and said such a proposal would solve the looming crisis on the border dispute. Diplomats were surprised to see this hush-hush policy of a man who is in the line to rule the country. Only two months ago he had stated his readiness for "martyrdom" to defend the islands of Huwar if any war with Qatar erupted. The two statements were considered irreconcilable and were taken to indicate unbalanced attitude towards the regional and local problems. The same prince had surprised foreign diplomats and expatriates last spring when he deployed army units in various parts of the country. The move had infuriated the Al Khalifa allies to the extent that they had to rush to salvage the situation from the childish attitudes of the Al Khalifa. The prince was told that armies were principally for protection against foreign attacks and not to confront unarmed civilians calling for the respect of the rule of constitutional law. The prime minister's attitude, however, was different. He surprised the GCC foreign ministers meeting in Riyadh last month with a letter handed by the foreign minister to Jamil Al Hujailan, the GCC Secretary General, informing him of the decision by his boss to boycott the forthcoming GCC summit in Doha in December. Observers do not believe there was any seriousness in that, and know that the Qataris would be more than pleased if the Al Khalifas were to be seen breaking a long-standing tradition in the GCC; i.e., summits have to be attended and respected. When the Qatari Amir withdrew from the Muscat summit last year over the issue of the appointment of the

GCC Secretary General it took a good deal of efforts and behind-the-scene activities to bring the Qataris back into line. The Al Khalifas who are indebted almost to everybody in the Gulf are considered much weaker than to be able to threaten to boycott the summit. And if they do so, then they risk the rage of the Saudis.

The internal and external factors are thus important to understand in order to assess the likely scenarios of change in Bahrain. Experts are aware that the Al Khalifas would be foolish to think that they are able to tackle two serious problems with the prevailing attitude. The people of Bahrain are going through a hard time but are determined to go through it all knowing that there is no alternative to the realisation of their demands. The revitalised uprising is now well ahead of everybody's expectations, and the people are in no mood to compromise on their original demands. The harsher the treatment they face at the hands of the foreign-staffed security and riot police the stronger will be their resolve. They are poised for a long struggle, which is justified by the ruthlessness, backwardness, inhuman nature of the regime. It is time for a serious approach to the problem in Bahrain if a wider, but similar, problems in the Gulf are to be avoided. The programme of civil resistance introduced by the opposition in the past few weeks will continue, so, will, as expected, be the retribution of the Government. The end result will be either the reinstatement of the Constitution or the removal of the tribal system altogether. A peaceful change is the only guarantee to stability, the alternative will surely undermine the interests of those who are silent on the atrocities of the Al Khalifas.

### EIU Report on Bahrain

The Economist Intelligence Unit published its third-quarter report on Bahrain. The 10-page survey stated "Since the detention in January of a prominent Shia opposition leader, Sheikh Abdel-Amir al-Jamri, and six other key government opponents, many disenchanted Bahrainis have rallied around the London-based BFM. A BFM call to show solidarity with jailed leaders by refraining from using electricity, water and telephone for five minutes at noon on July 26 was reportedly highly successful, particularly in the Shia areas. There was also widespread boycott of petrol stations that day. Encouraged by its success, the BFM called for similar actions on August 16, at the end of a week of civil disobedience to mark the 25th anniversary of the country's independence. Reports suggest widespread public compliance, including non-payment of utility bills and reducing shopping to a bare minimum".



# September 1996: Clashes and mass demonstrations...

## 31 August:

At night, columns of fire were seen in Bani Jamra, Daih and Sanabis. One restaurant (Al-Shu'la Restaurant) located in Daih caught fire as a result of the clashes between the residents and the foreign-staffed security forces. A column of fire was seen in the middle of Budaya Highway (near Al-Borhama) and reports spoke of a boiling anger in the principal uprising areas.

In one of the raids on 31 August, the foreign forces wanted to arrest Mohammed Abd Ali from his house in Shakhora, a village to the west of the capital Manama. Mohammed was not at home. Hence, the security forces rounded up 16 members of his family and took them hostages. They included Mohammed's wife, Noor-al-Huda Al-Moqdad, 21 years old, and their 2-months old boy. Other hostages included the brothers-in-law: Abdul-Salam, 25, and Abdul-Qader, 26; Mohammed's sister (who is pregnant in her eight month), the father, Abd Ali and the mother. Fourteen of the relatives were released on 2 September, but the wife Noor-al-Huda Al-Moqdad and the baby remained in custody as hostages until Mohammed hands himself to the foreign forces.

## 1 September:

The 40th-day commemoration of the martyrdom of Zahra Ibrahim Kadhem, 53 years old, who was beaten to death by the foreign forces on 23 July went ahead in Bani Jamra and other places for the past three days. The foreign forces clashed with women in Bani Jamra cemetery last Thursday (29 August). The women gathered around the grave of the martyr and chanted slogans denouncing the ruling family which gave permission for foreign forces to kill the innocent citizens of Bahrain.

## 3 September:

In Demestan, the house of Mohammed Abdulla Dhafir, 40, was put under siege following a raid to arrest him. In Muharraq, several houses were raided and the family of Mr. Khalil Darwish (3 sons and several daughters) were taken hostages to force their father to hand himself to the security forces. Several families in Muharraq as well as in Seqayya (a district of Manama) are suffering from the recent human rights abuses. Some of the recently suffering people come from the "bedoon" category. These are people who are denied of Bahraini passports as part of the racist policy of the ruling Al-Khalifa family.

## 4 September:

An old man from Iskan-Jedhafs, Hajji Yousif Al-Sammak, was taken as a hostage to force his son-in-law to hand himself to the torturers in Al-Qala'a fort. A shop in Iskan-Jedhafs was damaged by fire on 4 September following clashes between residents and security forces. In Daih, the foreign forces mounted a wave of arbitrary arrests amongst teenagers following their failure to counter the intensive campaign of wall-writings.

## 5 September:

More arrests are being reported on daily basis, with security forces storming houses and ransacking their contents.

## 6 September:

The family of a young person were telephoned by the intelligence department and

told that their son has been transferred to the psychiatric hospital for treatment. Mohammed Ibrahim Fatil, from Sanabis, was tortured severely to the extent that he had to be taken to hospital for mental treatment. This atrocity follows a wide spread campaign resulting in the arrest of scores of people.

## 7 September:

In Canada, the Arab Community organised a seminar on Bahrain on 7 September in the university of Ottawa. The seminar, addressed by Dr. Mansoor Al-Jamri of the Bahrain Freedom Movement, was attended by over a hundred people who participated in the discussions on the background and future prospects for the uprising in Bahrain. The atrocities of the government were condemned by the participants who expressed their outrage at the way the civilised people of Bahrain are being treated by a medieval ruling establishment.

## 8 September:

A seminar was organized by the Bahrain Women in London in commemoration of the martyrdom of Zahra Ibrahim Kadhem, the 53-year old lady who was beaten to death by the foreign forces on 23 July. Several speakers outlined the role of the Bahraini women in leading and supporting the struggle for human and constitutional rights.

## 8 September:

In a move that surprised observers, Bahrain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Khalid Muhammad al-Musallam, was quoted saying that the government of Bahrain decided not to attend the 17th GCC Summit to be held in Doha, because Qatar insisted on pressing ahead with taking the case of Hawar islands to the Hague. This unwise move is a reflection of the inability of the prime minister to handle both internal and regional problems in a rational way.

## 8 September:

Reuters quoted an official of the interior ministry stating that three men were arrested "in connection with a shooting attack on a policeman guarding the Russian consulate last month". "The official named the three as Mohammed Abd-Alli Jassim Isa, Mohammed Reda Murtada and Farahat Khorsheed". The relatives of these three as well as others are still held as hostages including the parents, the wife and 2-month baby of the first person. The total number of those arrested is much more than the three named persons.

Columns of fire were being seen in Duraz, Sira, Aali and other uprising areas in what seems to be a resurfacing of new rounds of clashes between the citizens of the country and the foreign security forces. On the evening of 8 September, security units sealed-off part of the Makharqa district of Manama. All access to the area was denied until about midnight.

## 11 September:

The Amir Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa issued an unconstitutional for the recruitment of 40 employees to fill the-in vacancies in the rejected Shura council. The decree said "the council will now consist of 40 members and will be appointed by an Amiri decree!!". The recruited secretary-general will be given an Amiri gratitude by awarding him a status equivalent to an undersecretary of a ministry. The

employees of this council are scheduled to start playing their roles in October in a desperate attempt to justify dictatorship.

## 11 September:

At afternoon, it was reported that an explosion that damaged some cars occurred in Exhibition Road of Manama.

## 14 September:

Sounds of explosions were heard in Manama (near Hooraa and Rass Roman) and columns of fire were seen in principal uprising areas.

## 14 September:

The foreign-staffed security forces committed further atrocities against the citizens of Bahrain. They attacked the houses of respected families and snatched mothers from their beds in the middle of the night. One of the mothers, Layla Habib Al-Sharakhi, was taken prisoners after a savage attack and intimidation of the whole family. Layla is the sister of Mona Al-Sharakhi, the daughter-in-law of Sheikh Al-Jamri, who had been arrested for several months earlier in the year. Another lady from Muharraq by the name Nasrin (Um Ali) is known to be amongst the group of women who suffered from the arbitrary arrest on the same night. More arrests in Muharraq have been reported and several families have lost all their male members.

## 16 September:

Fires and explosions were reported in Jedhafs and Sira. Bani Jamra was besieged. The foreign forces rounded up scores of youth and deployed the unit which specializes in the jet-painting of walls to cover-up graffiti. Slogans on the walls stated "The life of Sheikh Al-Jamri is in danger".

Local papers stated on 16 September that two shops were set ablaze in Nuweidrat and an Asian had died as a result. The opposition denounces violence and calls on the government to stop the schemes of collective punishment which are igniting new wave of clashes. Clashes have been reported in Nuweidrat in the past two days with security forces ransacking houses and damaging public properties. More than 70 people from Nuweidrat have been arrested. The resurfacing of clashes and counter clashes in greater intensity is a direct outcome of the government attempt to implement its iron-fist policy.

## 18 September:

Three shops were damaged by fire in Um al-Hassam. In Isa Town, Manama and Bilad al-Qadim, columns of fire were also seen during day and night.

## 20 September:

The security forces attacked the grand Al-Sadiq Mosque in Qafool (Manama) at 1.00 pm local time. Two informers entered the mosque and lined themselves up behind those preparing for performing prayers. The two persons were spotted by the youth who noticed their unusual activities for listening and recording what was happening inside the mosque. The two informers gave a signal to two police jeeps stationed at the gates of the mosque notifying that they had been discovered. The informers ran to the jeeps who by then called in six more jeeps. Street clashes erupted between the citizens and the security forces, resulting in injuries and arbitrary arrests of youth.



## ... defy the foreign security forces

The security forces attacked Sitra, Nuweidrat and Maamir smashing private cars and properties. In Bilad al-Qadim, a security officer by the name Hashem was caught red-handed trying to set on fire the house of a prisoner, Khalil Mohammed Ali. In Manama, the security forces continued their atrocities and arrested more people.

### 21 September:

Columns of fire were seen near Bastanah store (on Budaya Road) about a hundred meters off Sanabis. Security helicopters were flying low in the area up until 10 pm. Sounds of explosions were heard around Sanabis and Manama at around 11.00 and 12.00 pm.

### 22 September:

Two agents arrested and dragged a young person while he was praying at the grand mosque in Qafol. Another person was ordered to report to Nuaim Police Station the next day for torture and interrogation. The intelligence department summoned Haji Hassan Jaralla, 70, and his son Mahdi, 33, to the interior ministry. Haji Hassan has just been released after spending eight months in solitary confinement because of his refusal to prevent people from attending the grand mosque in Duraz.

More than 23 thousands telephone users in Sitra had their lines cut-off as part of the collective punishment programme against the residents of Sitra. On 22 September, the residents of Duraz had their telephone lines cut-off.

### 23 September:

Reuters stated that its Bahrain correspondent, Abbas Salman was detained on 21 September and kept until the next day. The correspondent was detained "for more than 24 hours for questioning over a story he wrote on the political situation in the Gulf state.

Abbas Salman, 46, a Bahraini, was summoned to the Interior Ministry Saturday morning and held overnight. He was released Sunday afternoon. Salman, who has worked for Reuters since 1977, said no charges were laid against him". This is not the first time correspondents from the international news agencies had been harassed, a policy that resulted in the moving of both AFP and Reuters offices from Bahrain to Dubai. This attack on freedom of information is indicative of the dictatorial nature of the outdated feudal government that insists on living in the dark ages.

The interior ministry announced that it picked up four people from Nuweidrat and that they confessed to have burnt two shops that resulted in the death of an Asian on 14 September. More than 70 people were arbitrarily arrested from Nuweidrat during a ransacking operation.

Members of the intelligence department stormed the house of Redha Jawad (Manama) at 1.00 am in the morning (23 September) and arrested him. He had just returned from Egypt. The intelligence department has been conducting a campaign to arrest people with the first name, Redha. They also stormed the house of Redha Al-Makhloq. Since the latter was not at home, they took his brother, Sadiq, as a hostage.

### 24 September:

At night, the residents of Karbabad started the 40th day commemoration of the martyrdom of Seyed Ali Amin Mohammed, who was tor-

tured to death on 17 August. Lights in streets and houses were switched-off marking the beginning of the commemoration programme.

The main assembly hall (matam) of the village has been closed down by the foreign-staffed forces for the past 40 days. The security forces attacked the peaceful commemoration and imposed a siege on the village.

In Duraz, a mass demonstration took to the streets last night (24 September) at around 6.45 pm (local time). The demonstrators marched towards the assembly hall (Matam Ansar al-Adalah) which was closed down last month after the arrest of the elderly man in-charge of the place, Mr. Issa Al-Ajami. All slogans demanded the restoration of the dissolved parliament, the release of political prisoners and an end to the collective punishment programmes being implemented by the foreign forces. Two security helicopters were deployed to direct the ground aggression launched by the foreign forces against the citizens. Two loud explosions were heard at 9.00 pm local time in Ain-Adhari area. Security helicopters were then deployed against the residents of Karanah and Karbabad at around 9.30 pm. At night, many places erupted including Sanabis, Daih, Jidhafs, Tashan, Bori and Sitra. All were later besieged by the foreign forces. Loud explosions were heard in most areas.

The 25th of September marks the 40th commemoration day of the martyr Seyed Ali Amin Mohammed and the 1st anniversary of the release of Sheikh Al-Jamri and his colleague. Last year, the jailed leaders were released following an agreement between the opposition and the interior ministry to calm down the situation. When Sheikh Al-Jamri and his colleagues calmed down protests, the security forces re-launched their aggressive attacks against mosques, schools and residential areas, thus provoking the situation. Sheikh Al-Jamri and many thousands were re-arrested last January as part of a game being played by members of the ruling family who are competing against each other at the expense of the security and stability of the nation.

### 26 September:

Following a mass demonstration in Duraz security forces attacked the houses and arrested many people. Columns of fire were seen at around 6.00 pm (local time). The foreign forces used tear gas and rubber bullets in their aggression against the citizens.

At night more than 15,000 people gathered in Manama for religious processions while many thousands marched in all other principal areas. Pro-democracy slogans were chanted demanding the restoration of the elected parliament and release of jailed leaders and political prisoners. Riot police attacked the procession in Manama and Bilad al-Qadim towards the end of the night.

### 27 September:

The message from the people of Bahrain was made clear in the past four days as demonstrations spread all over the country defying the sieges of security forces. On Friday night (27 September) most principal areas witnessed demonstrations and clashes with sounds of explosions heard in many places. Riot police and military helicopters were deployed against the

unarmed citizens in Duraz, Sanabis, Daih, Jidhafs, Daih, Karzakkan, Samaheej, Arad, Sar and Malkiya. Security forces fired rubber bullets and tear gas from ground and air. Earlier in the day the residential areas responded to the call of the opposition and switched off utilities at 2.00 pm local time for 15 minutes in solidarity with the thousands of political prisoners.

### 28 September:

On the eve of announcing the names of 40 appointees for the governmental talk shop, the so-called Shura Council, the State Security Court presided by a member of the ruling Al-Khalifa family sentenced more youths from Sanabis. The biased court whose verdicts can not be appealed, passed the following arbitrary sentences on 28 September against the following people: Mohammed Jaffer Al-Sabagh, 5 years imprisonment, Ali Jaffer Al-Sabagh, 5 years, Jaffer Al-Mokhoder, 5 years, Ali Abdul Hussain, 5 years, Majid Abbas, 3 years, Hussain Al-Kantalah, 3 years, Hesham Al-Johary, 5 years, Hassan Al-Hadad 5 years, Shaker Kayyed, 3 years.

### 28 September:

The security forces ended their 5-day siege against the residents of Karbabad yesterday with many of the people taken prisoners. The religious scholar of the area, Sheikh Hassan Awal, 57, was also intimidated and detained. During the siege, the security forces prevented a pregnant woman from going to the hospital and prevented any doctor from attending for the birth which was handled by local women. Also, the "sweat water" tankers were prevented from entering the village. No one was allowed in or out and the children of Karbabad emerged yesterday from the vicious siege talking about the atrocities of the attackers.

The anger of the people continued at night (28 September) to be vented through the exploding of gas cylinders in many places. Several areas witnessed continuation of the protests including Aali, Bori, Nuweidrat, Sitra, Bani Jamra and Duraz.

### 28 September:

The government announced the names of forty people who had been appointed by the prime minister for the so-called Shura Council. The failure of the prime minister to find any respected personality for his governmental committee caused the delay in the announcement. For that reason he summoned some people to his office on Wednesday 25 September, towards the end of the day, and informed them that they had been appointed to the council without allowing any response. With Thursday and Friday taken as weekend days off-work, some people were astonished to hear their names on TV and Radio as members of the council.

This way of appointing is indicative of the failure of the prime minister to gain any respect from the highly respected politicians and professionals. The people of Bahrain have no time to waste with a governmental committee that has no legal basis and that has been prevented from debating political issues as per the Amir Order No. 12 Article 2a. The latter restricts the scope of consultation on laws (issued by the cabinet) relating to "social, cultural, educational and health matters".



## Let's Unite and Fight!

The crown prince Sheikh Hamad bin Salman Al-Khalifa, was busy making incompatible statements in order to exacerbate the regional situation. He told local papers on 14 September, that he wants to "unite" both Qatar and Bahrain, that he will never attend the GCC Summit, that the relations between Qatar and Bahrain are excellent, that there had been only two military attacks by Qatar (1937 and 1986), the 1937 was against Zubara (a village located on the Qatari coast which was home of the Al-Khalifa tribe before their invasion of Bahrain in 1783), that he welcomes the ex-Amir of Qatar in Bahrain, and that the best way is for a summit between the two political leaderships to agree on the disputed islands of Hawar. The people of Bahrain were baffled by this mixture of inarticulate statements lumped together for no logical purpose. The crown prince utilized the opportunity of deputizing for his father and called in the special forces of the UAE to conduct maneuvers with his special forces in a show of force. WAM news agency reported that "A group of the United Arab Emirates' Special Forces arrived in Manama on 14th September to take part in a joint exercise with the Special Forces Unit of the Bahraini Defence Force". This is aimed at sending messages for the opposition inside especially as the ruling wing of Al-Khalifa family heads for semi-war with Qatar.

The prime minister issued a decree for "the establishment of a wildlife protection zone on the disputed Hawar islands... in accordance with the stipulations of Law 2 for the year 1995 in connection with protecting the ecologies of all types of sea and land fungi, especially the rare types of fungi or those threatened with extension". This move is linked to earlier maneuvers aimed at stirring up regional troubles. The government has said that it will not attend the next GCC Summit to be held in Doha next December.

## Al-Babuli... a "Spin Doctor!"

The ruling family feels insecure in all fields. They have recruited scores of non-Bahrainis to staff all important and non-important function. Last month, more than 400 non-Bahrainis were imported to work in the traffic police department in a bid to tighten the grip on the citizens of the country. The policy being implemented is aimed at intimidating the people of Bahrain in all fields.

For example, Seyed Abdul Adhim Al-Babuli, is the chief propaganda man. He decides all the contents of the columns of the newspapers. From him, the contents are passed to the information minister, Mohammed Al-Motawwa, who in turn calls to his office the likes of Sawsan Al-Shaer, Ibrahim Bashmi, etc, and orders to hail further insults against the citizens of the country. Al-Babuli was the only one to be allowed to express an opinion and spin the illogical statements of the crown prince when the latter called for unity and war with Qatar. Al-Babuli presented himself to the BBC Arabic Service as "an Egyptian living in Bahrain".

## "Embassy of Bahrain - London"

Having failed to counter the citizens of the country, staff in the London Embassy, started to gather around opposition speakers in the Hyde Park (ever Sunday afternoon). In the past few

weeks, embassy staff abused their diplomatic immunity and attempted to attack some of the forcible-exiles who have been distributing brochures and pamphlets explaining the miserable situation in Bahrain. The third secretary in the embassy, Khalil Al-Rayis, was reprimanded by police after attacking a member of the opposition on 8 September. Al-Rayis presented his diplomatic card to police in order to evade arrest. The new ambassador, Abdul-Aziz Al-Kalifa had earlier stated to British MPs that those opposing dictatorship in Bahrain "are non-Bahrainis".

More highlights of other individuals who are working against the people of Bahrain outlines the inferiority complex of the ruling establishment. Adnan Yousif, the Press Attache in the embassy in London recruited an Egyptian reporter who works for one of the Arab dailies published in London. The reporter writes articles full of abuse against Bahrainis and signs them in the name of Adnan Yousif, and sometimes he signs his name. Adnan Yousif is of an Iranian origin himself. There is nothing wrong in this, as Bahrain civil society is cosmopolitan. However, the inferiority complex of this man motivates him to accuse other Bahrainis of being Iranians!

Another hopeless person: Dr. Omar Al-Hassan, for example, wrote a letter to the Egyptian newspaper, Al-Sha'ab, as reply to an article about the uprising in Bahrain. Omar Al-Hassan stated that members of the opposition in London are Iranians. This libellous statement can back-fire on this person as non of the Bahrainis in London is an Iranian what so ever. On the contrary, the vast majority of Bahrainis inside the country, in London and anywhere in the world inhabited Bahrain many thousands of years before the Al-Khalifa migrated from the mainland to the shores of the Gulf in search of food and shelter, following some years of starvation in the Arabian desert.

Omar Al-Hassan is a bad luck for the Al-Khalifa who are in bad luck themselves. He has been in the spot light regarding misappropriation of funds when he was working for the Arab League. He was sacked from the Arab League in the early Eighties. He later turned to supporting Saddam Hussain and when Saddam lost in Kuwait, he re-directed his hopeless efforts to supporting dictatorship in Bahrain. Soon, he will have to search for another country to spread his bad luck.

## Non-Bahrain Security Courts

The State Security Court was established in 1975 following the dissolution of the elected National Assembly. Last March it was widened and to three courts and given extra-ordinary powers to pass arbitrary sentences. Who preside and sit as judges in these courts. Since last March, these courts were increased to three quarters. The first court is presided by a member of the ruling family, Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Jaber Al-Khalifa. Two Egyptian judges sit alongside him: Ali Mansoor and Mohammed Ra'afet Mostafa Barghash. The second court is presided by an Egyptian: Mohammed Hamdi. Two judges sit alongside him, a Sudanese and a Bahraini: Mahmood Al-Salimi and Omar Khalaf-Allah. The third court is presided by a member of the ruling family: Sheikh Khalifa bin Rashid Al-Khalifa. Two judges sit alongside him: Mosa'ad Ramadan Al-Saci and Abdulla

Badeer (Egyptian). These individuals are the least just and independent people in the universe. They are more than biased in all their rulings (which can not be appealed) and they are full hate to Bahrainis. However, they are the materialisation of an inferiority complex that is inherent within the ruling establishment that avoids any interaction with the citizens of the country other than adversary relationship.

## A Call for Democracy

Twelve Bahraini personalities representing opposition forces issued a statement calling for the restoration of the dissolved parliament. The statement issued on 11 September called for "National unity and Democracy", saying: "Our homeland and nation are facing an escalated danger as a result of the continuation of the political and security crises. This danger necessitates from all of us to shoulder our responsibilities for ending the crises. The most dangerous aspects of the problem lies in the threat to the unity of the people as a result of the discrimination policy on sectarian and tribal bases, as well as the increase in the numbers of deaths, injuries, prisoners and forcible-exiles resulting in the deterioration of security and economic conditions. The unity of our nation faces real dangers as a result of the invention of tribal and sectarian alternatives to the criterion of citizenship. Hence, we affirm the necessity to abide by the constitution as a standing pillar for guaranteeing national unity and rights of citizenship on the basis of equality amongst all sections of the society. There seems to be a determination by the government for not addressing the core issues relating to the restoration of the constitution and popular participation. There also seems to be a determination to impose appointed bodies, such as the Shura Council, as well as imposing other outdated arrangements. The citizens of the country are urged to stick to the national criteria as outlined in the constitutional petition of 1994, which was addressed to the Amir, calling on him to tackle the deteriorating situation since abolishing the constitutional establishment in 1975. The true exit to the current political crisis can only be through the national and constitutional criteria. We call on all political forces, individuals and establishments of the civil society to abide by these bases for ending violence and counter violence and for providing an opportunity for a dialogue between the political leadership and representatives of the popular forces for the restoration of constitutional life to the country". Signed by: [Ahmad Ibrahim Al Khayyat, Ahmed Ibrahim Al Thawadi, Bader Abdul Malik, Dr. Saeed Al Shehahi, Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Abdulla Ali Al-Rashid Al Bin-Ali, Abdul Nabi Al Ekri, Dr. Abdul Hadi Khalaf, Sheikh Ali Salman, Mohammed Abdul Jalil Al Murbati, Dr. Mansoor Al Jamri, Dr. Yaqub Yousif Al Janahil].

## Forcible exiling

The government stepped-up its oppressive campaign against the people of Bahrain. Three families from Muharraq were forcibly deported to Iran in mid September. The Iranian authorities refused to grant them entry and returned them to Bahrain. Since then they have been put under house arrest and full surveillance. These families were born and had lived all their lives in Bahrain.