

# BAHIRATUN

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

Fatchett's visit achieved positive outcome

## More steps are needed

Whether Colonel Thomas Bryan will be able to do what his master failed to achieve is highly doubtful. For Ian Henderson has, after 31 years, failed to quell the aspirations of the Bahraini people despite his adoption of the most horrific torture methods against innocent civilians. Colonel Bryan, who is now in his late fifties, has been known to the people of Bahrain for many years as an experienced torturer whose victims include young children. Under his direct supervision hundreds of people over the past year suffered degrading treatment and severe torture.

Now that he is the overall commander of the terror machine created by Ian Henderson, Colonel Bryan feels free to try his own methods of punishment against the people who call for democracy and human rights. His freedom to do this is afforded to him by the Al Khalifas whose relations with the inhabitants of the island have never been warm. Their heavy-handed policies including mass arrests, torture, executions and forcible exile made them the worst violators of human rights in the Gulf and among the worst in the world. They have, however, failed to bring the people of Bahrain to their knees. Henderson had attempted to silence the people but without success.

After serving the Al Khalifas for three decades he gave his up official position as the Director General of the State Security last year, but has remained in overall control of the security apparatus. While Henderson retains the mastermind position, Colonel Bryan has taken over the notorious apparatus new methods of mass arrests and torture are being tried. What happens behind bars is anyone's guess. What is known is that young people are taken in as energetic youth and are handed back to their families either dead or suffering from severe illnesses.

Last month the Amir of Bahrain received Mr. Derek Fatchett, the British minister responsible for the Middle East, at his court. The visiting British official did his best to please both the government and opposition. Whilst insisting on making Britain free from elements engaged in terrorist activities, he stressed that Britain would remain a bastion of free speech and political activities. This affirmation annoyed the Al Khalifa so much that they decided to dispatch the minister of the interior within 24 hours of Mr. Fatchett's visit, to London. The aim was to hear from his British counter-

part the implications of the new anti-terror legislation. To his dismay, the minister realised that those laws were not applicable to the political activists who are not engaged in violence. The Bahraini opposition has succeeded in convincing the world of their legitimate aims and peaceful tactics, something which is rare in today's environment.

Mr. Fatchett has now established for himself a first-hand knowledge about the situation in Bahrain. Although he did not meet any opposition figure during his trip to Bahrain, the information he had had prior to his departure to Bahrain had made him well-acquainted with the crisis of human rights and democracy in that Gulf island. While in Bahrain he listened tentatively to his hosts as they scorned the British government and media for the attention they were giving to the grievances of the people of Bahrain. However, it is thought that he did not hear convincing arguments from them and remained sceptical about their allegations. Whether this will translate into positive action to force the Al Khalifa to adapt their system to modern world remains to be seen.

However, the opposition believes that pressure from governments friendly to the Al Khalifa, such as the British, will certainly contribute to the solution of the political crisis engulfing the country. That still seems a remote possibility, for the time being. However, from the perspective of strategic interests of the western governments, there is a need to effect a serious political change to the political system of Bahrain. So far, the opposition has confined its demands to the reinstatement of the constitution. This is a modest demand that in fact legitimises the Al Khalifa hereditary rule, and must not be countered with the harsh and repressive measures employed by the mercenaries hired by the ruling tribe.

Now that the alliances in the Gulf region are taking new dimensions, the least the friends of the Al Khalifa could do is to exercise pressure on them to make them realise the futility of their reactionary policies. The opposition in Bahrain is home-grown, and it cannot be contained forever. Colonel Bryan may continue his repression but the onus is on the political leadership which is sanctioning his practices. The recent rapprochement between Britain and Iran is a positive step that should remove any suspicion about the constitutional movement in Bahrain. Britain and the United States can help to build bridges between the people and the rulers in Bahrain making use of their offices with these rulers. Some of them may make noises about intervening in their internal affairs, but human rights is extra-territorial and concern about them does not constitute meddling in internal affairs of the countries involved in these violations. There is a need for a courageous move from the powers with history

of democracy to listen to the grievances of people and not lend repressive hands such as Henderson and Bryan to crush reformist movements. Stability must be based on social justice and political participation by the people. Respect of human rights is an essential ingredient in both stability and security of the countries. People's feeling of security is paramount to any stability, and without it, instability will become the order of the day.

Mr. Fatchett has had a first hand experience of what is going on in Bahrain, but he also need to listen to the other party of the conflict; the representatives of the people, those who are in jail, under constant surveillance or in exile. Justice is the cornerstone of any civil society to which our people aspire. Friends of Bahrain must lend supportive hands to the constitutional movement so that everyone lives in peace.

## U-Turn on UK!

The Bahraini crown prince, Sheikh Hamad Al-Khalifa paid a visit to the United Kingdom on 6 September, just a week before the announced official state visit of the British Foreign Minister for Middle Eastern Affairs, Mr. Derek Fatchett, to Bahrain on 14 September. The Bahraini state-controlled press has suddenly abandoned the slandering campaign against Britain and changed its direction (almost 180 degrees) to praising the UK Government and the "progress in relations between the two countries", "Bahrain praises UK terror fight" and "Bahrain lauds UK steps to fight terror". The visit was said to be for "bolstering co-operation and friendly relations between the two countries especially in the political, economic and military fields".

Over the past two months the Bahraini authorities have bombarded the UK with waves of unfounded allegations as part of a vicious campaign. The press accused Britain of hosting and sponsoring terrorism. "Bahrain also rejects any type of violence and terrorism, no matter who is responsible for it" said the crown prince. This is one of the statements which has been used by the regime over the past three years to defame the Bahraini people for demanding political reforms.

Such statements do not reflect the reality in Bahrain. On the contrary, they have become meaningless especially when the international community condemned the Bahraini regime's violation of human rights and discrimination against the citizens of Bahrain. The European Parliament adopted two resolutions expressing deep concern over the regime's violations of human rights.

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# Atrocities and violations resisted by citizens

\* The name of yet another British colonel is echoing in the torture chambers of Bahrain. Colonel Thomas Bryan, in his late 50s, has taken over many of Ian Henderson's roles. Reports from prisons described the brutality with which this torturer adopts against his victims.

\* The Buday'a Police Headquarters is one of many in which torturers use for committing their crimes. Citizens have identified a number of these torturers. They are: Farooq Al Mu'awdeh, Director of the HQ, Ibrahim Al Kha'ir, Isa Thamir Al Dowseri, Ali Al Khalifa, Abdul Salam Al Oreifi, Ahmed Hoteimi. To further increase the intimidation of citizens, other different terror-gangs are assigned to drive around in villages with civilian cars and plain clothes with guns on their waists to spread terror. A number of these terrorists have been identified. They are: Maher, Jordanian, Turki, Syrian, Awwad, Syrian, Naham, Syrian, Adel, Bahraini.

\* The case of the Pro-democracy personality, Ms. Hussa Al Khumairi (a former director of at the Ministry of Education in Bahrain) against the Ministry of Education has been investigated by UNESCO. Ms. Al Khumairi was dismissed from her position and black-listed by the government following her refusal to retract her name from a petition which she and other pro-democracy women had initiated in 1995, calling for the restoration of the National Assembly and end to abuses committed by the security forces. The former Education Minister, and now the Bahraini Ambassador to France (Dr. Ali Fakhro) who ordered the dismissal of Ms. Al Khumairi, has been summoned by UNESCO (Paris) to answer questions of why he had dismissed her. Dr. Fakhro failed to explain his actions and attempted to deflect the investigation by claiming that Ms. Al Khumairi was not paying "adequate attention to her job". It is worth mentioning that UNESCO has granted Ms. Al Khumairi an honorary medal for her excellent efforts in adults education.

\* The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) convened its meeting last week at the UN offices in Geneva. Mounting concern over racial discrimination in Bahrain has led the committee experts to list the Bahraini regime for probing the racist policies systematically implemented against the citizens in all public functions, particularly at the University of Bahrain.

CERD is charged with overseeing the implementation of the UN treaty for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. States that ratified this treaty are required to submit an initial report to the Committee within one year of the assumption of their obligations, and thereafter every two years. The Committee may request a report from the state party at any time. Bahrain ratified CERD on 27 March 1990, but the government has refrained from ratifying Article 14, which allows CERD to consider communications from individuals who are victims of racial discrimination inline with the Convention. Also, the Bahraini government has never submitted any report to the Committee since its ratification of the Convention,

thus, disrupting the work of CERD and making it difficult to carry out its mandate.

Last March CERD raised its concerns about Bahrain and warned the government against failing to submit a report by end of August 1998. The government refused to submit any report to answer the allegations. Hence CERD decided to list the Bahraini regime for further probing in the next meeting to be held in March 1999. CERD action followed documented evidence submitted by Bahraini citizens relating to the official (undeclared) policy of discrimination adopted in all public functions and all corporations controlled by the government. The documented evidence of racial discrimination policies are contradictory to the obligation of the government as per the UN Convention it signed in 1990. The representative of the government of Bahrain requested to be given a "final chance" to respond and to report on the situation in Bahrain.

The government was forced by the UN Human Rights Sub-Commission on 19 August 1998 to allow the "Working Group on Arbitrary Detention" to visit Bahrain within a year. The Sub-Commission also forced the regime to abandon its reservation against Article 20 of the Convention Against Torture (CAT), thus paving the way for the Bahraini citizens to submit complaints directly to the UN Committee for investigation.

\* The ICRC has reported in its 1997 Annual Report that it has visited 23 detention centres in Bahrain and met with 2, 111 detainees. Last May, the Interior Minister said only few hundreds are in prison.

\* The political prisoners in Jaw Prison went on hunger strike on Sunday 6 September, in an attempt to draw the attention of the international community to the miserable conditions in that prison. The strike was spurred on the same day (6 September), when one of the prisoners (Moncer Al Shaikh) was savagely beaten by the prison guards after asking them for some water to wash out.

The prisoners were also protesting against two mercenary policemen in Jaw prison who are accused of sexually abusing prisoners under their custody. The abusers are known as: Suhail, a Pakistani and Ebrahim, a Syrian. The opposition calls on the international community to intervene for the protection of citizens under detention.

\* In a leading article appearing in Al-Quds of 8 September, the pro-democracy Bahraini personality, Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Nuaimi advised the government to reflect carefully on its failures and to respond to rational calls for establishing justice and rule of law. Mr. Al-Nuaimi provided extensive assessment of the iron-fist policy that is back-firing on the government. He said "the government has recruited many persons abroad in an attempt to whitewash its ugly picture. In doing so, the ruling Al-Khalifa family has plundered the nation's wealth in a lost cause". The government's drive to supplement its torturers with mercenary pens has proved a total failure in a changing world, where facts can never be hidden anymore. The iron fist and the iron curtain did not stop the UN experts in

Geneva from forcing the regime last month to concede and to announce its preparedness for following a UN Working Group to visit Bahrain for investigating the situation.

\* The Bahraini writer, Hafedh Al Shaikh, was summoned for interrogation by the secret service on 13 September. The interrogation of Mr. Al Shaikh comes after he was seen a day before conversing with a group of Syrian mercenaries in Muharraq. Mr. Al Shaikh said to the mercenaries "do you think that it would be acceptable for Bahrainis to go to Syria and get money and privileges in return for suppressing Syrians." It is worth mentioning that Mr. Al Shaikh had been under restriction from writing in local and regional press and was threatened to be expelled from "Akbar Al-Khalij" news paper if he attempted to write anything related to the situation in the country.

\* 14 September: The Kuwaiti appeal court adjourned the trial of Bahrainis accused of distributing pamphlets against the Bahraini regime. The case has been deferred until 24 October. "The Court agreed to the defence's motion to attach the so called illegal pamphlets and the testimonies of three state security personnel to the case" said Mr. Khalid Al Shatti, one of the defence lawyers. Mr. Al Shatti added "We are looking for justice, and the inclusion of these documents is what we have always sought". The Bahrainis living in Kuwait are being sacrificed by the Kuwaiti authorities as part of an unholy deal with the Bahraini intelligence department.

\* On 16 September, a court presided by a member of the ruling Al-Khalifa family decided to postpone the hearing for the case of the Bahrain Bar Society. The society was dissolved by the government earlier in the year in reprisal against the holding of a seminar that was addressed by the pro-democracy figure, Dr. Monira Fakhro. The Bar Society was represented in the court by the three last presidents and three last secretaries. The court session was adjourned until 10 October.

\* 20 September, Mr. Abdulla Fakhro, 70, has been taken back to prison after spending six days in hospital. Mr. Fakhro was admitted to the BDF Hospital after suffering a health problem in his respiratory system. Doctors indicated that he showed symptoms of cardiac problem. The reason for Mr. Fakhro eventual collapse was the on going psychological torture he endured by the intelligence mercenaries. His collapse came after the prison officials have brought into his cell a savagely tortured and exhausted young boy. When Mr. Fakhro saw the horrible scene, he immediately collapsed. The regime have taken upon itself to silence all voices that dare to criticise. Mr. Fakhro is one of those leading personalities who stood fast, calling for democratic reform in the country. Mr. Fakhro was later released on 23 September.

\* On 26 September, at 3 am, in Markuban village, the security forces were seen setting fire in one of the villagers cars. Six security forces' vehicles have raided the small village and ransacked houses and arrested a number of innocent people. The regime has systematically resorted to this method of vandalising people's properties in order to use it as an excuse for more repression.

# Fatchett calls for respect of human rights in Bahrain

## HRW calls for action

The New York-based Human Rights Watch condemned the Bahraini regime's human rights record in a statement ahead of state visit by Mr. Derek Fatchett (British Minister for Foreign Affairs) to Bahrain on Monday 14 September. HRW said "Human rights conditions in Bahrain have seriously deteriorated since the current political unrest began in late 1994. Violations include arbitrary detention, torture, deaths in custody, unfair trials, and restrictions on freedom of expression and association. At least seven persons have died in detention or shortly after their release since the unrest began. The latest victim, Nuh Khalil 'Abdallah Nuh, twenty-three, died two days after his arrest on July 19.

Bahrain announced last month that it would allow a visit by the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and reconsider its reservation to Article 20 of the Convention against Torture -- thereby allowing the Committee against Torture to conduct confidential investigations into allegations of torture in Bahrain.

"We applaud the government's recognition that torture and arbitrary detention are a problem in Bahrain," said Hanny Megally, executive director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa division. "But Bahraini citizens shouldn't have to die before the government is willing to act." Megally urged Bahrain to quickly make its declaration in favor of Article 20, and to set a date for a Working Group visit."

HRW statement had been circulated worldwide and was taken up by international media. "Rights group condemns Bahrain human rights record" said Reuters in a news release on 11 September. AFP issued a similar release titled "Rights group demands probe into Bahrain prison deaths". On the other hand, the Cable News Network (CNN) has put an Internet link to HRW's statement on the CNN Web Page. BBC World Service has also aired similar reports. HRW presented the British minister with the following recommendations:

"In light of the worsening situation with respect to freedom of association and continued reports of deaths in custody, torture, and mistreatment of detainees, Human Rights Watch calls on the government of Bahrain to take the following steps:

- Appoint an independent prosecutor to investigate deaths alleged to have occurred at the hands of the security forces, as well as acts of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment alleged to have been committed by officers of the Special Investigation Service, the Criminal Investigation Directorate, and the Public Security Force. Such a prosecutor should be empowered to report publicly on the findings of the investigation, and to bring charges against any officials implicated as responsible for ordering, carrying out, or tolerating acts of torture or acts resulting in wrongful death.

- Amend those laws and decrees that unduly restrict the ability of citizens to exercise their right to free speech and to freedom of association, such as Article 18 of Legislative Decree 21/1989, to bring them into compliance with international human rights standards.

- Immediately halt all efforts to undermine

the Lawyers' Society, or to interfere with its conducting its legitimate activities as a legal professional association".

## Fatchett's views ahead of the visit

Ahead of travelling to Bahrain, Mr. Fatchett declared his views in a reply letter to a member of the British parliament. He outlined the British Government policy towards the abuses of human rights in Bahrain, in particular, the death under torture of Nooh Al Nooh, saying "as you know, it is our policy to engage any government about serious abuses of human rights. Following the first reports of the alleged death in custody of Mr. Nooh Abdulla, our Ambassador in Bahrain raised the case with the Under Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in the Foreign Ministers absence) on 25 July. Letters were also sent to the Interior Ministry by the Embassy on 26 July and 1 August. Unfortunately, the Bahraini authorities would only confirm the matter was still under investigation. Nevertheless, we are concerned about these allegations. If substantiated, it would call into question the Bahraini government's commitment to the UN Convention Against Torture which they recently ratified. I have asked our Embassy to continue to press the Bahraini authorities to provide details and official confirmation about the events surrounding the death of Mr. Nooh Khalil Abdulla."

## Reuters report on the visit

MANAMA, Sept 15 (Reuters) - British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Derek Fatchett said on Tuesday he saw signs that Bahrain was moving ahead to protect human rights in the Gulf Arab state.

"I welcome very much the relationship which the government of Bahrain has established with the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) over detainees," Fatchett told reporters in Bahrain.

"Its recent accession to the U.N. convention against torture and the commitment given last month to the U.N. Human Rights sub-commission to invite the working group of arbitrary detention to visit Bahrain" were signs of progress in the right direction, he said.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch said on Friday that human rights conditions on the island had "deteriorated seriously" since unrest by members of the majority Shi'ite Muslim started in 1994.

"Violations include arbitrary detention, torture, deaths in custody, unfair trials and restrictions on freedom of expression and association," it said in a statement.

Fatchett said: "Friends occasionally have differences, but one of the strengths of our relationship (with Bahrain) is that any differences can be discussed frankly."

He said Bahrain had voiced its concern over activities of Bahraini opposition leaders living in Britain, some of whom had been deported by the island state on accusation of fuelling the unrest.

Fatchett said he explained steps taken by the British government to further tighten its laws against those conspiring to commit crimes overseas. "We have always made clear that we will not tolerate the use of the United Kingdom

as a base for the promotion of any form of terrorism," he said.

Fatchett ruled out the extradition of Bahraini activists living in Britain who are wanted by Bahrain. "There are no extradition proposals on the table at the moment," he said.

Responding to a question about granting political asylum to activists, the minister said: "I explained that we have a long-standing commitment to carry out our international obligations. We will only act within those obligations."

## State-controlled press responds

The Bahraini State-controlled press worded the Bahraini regime's views on human rights on 17 September. Where it disregarded the respect for and observance of the fundamentals of human rights. "Bahrain views such rights to be manifested primarily in what the state is providing for its citizens by way of a decent standard of living as embodied in good education, health services and the development of human resources" said the Bahrain Tribune quoting what a Bahraini official had said to the British minister, Mr. Derek Fatchett, during his visit to Bahrain on 14 September. The Bahraini regime flagrantly proclaims that the right to life, dignity and free opinion and expression are not the sort of rights that Bahrainis should have. This is contrary to the principles of indivisibility, interrelation, and interdependence of all human rights, as set out by the Universal Declaration for Human Rights.

The British minister ended his visit to Bahrain on 15 September. MHE was labelled as "evasive" by the Bahraini authorities after he declined unfounded allegations against Britain. Mr. Fatchett rebuffed the implied accusation of the naivety of the British society for granting Bahraini exiles asylum and freedom of speech. "Britain is a civilised country and that is why we carry out our obligations to protect rights to freedom of speech" said the British minister. He added "freedom of speech is valuable to us and we cannot stop people campaigning". The state-controlled press voiced the regime's accusation against the British press and the BBC World Service as being "a propaganda mouthpiece" for the peaceful Bahraini opposition who seeks democratic reform in the country. The British media is neither controlled by nor serve as a mouthpiece for the British government hinted Mr. Fatchett in his reply to these allegations. "The BBC is a wholly independent organisation" said Fatchett. He added "it is an arm's length relationship the government has with it and any attempt at editorial interference would be totally wrong".

"It was in consistency with Britain's longstanding commitment on international obligations" said the British minister, regarding the granting of political asylum to Bahrainis who have either been exiled or fled for fear of persecution. The Bahraini regime is eager to sign an extradition treaty with Britain in a hapless move to pressure the UK to abandon its values and commitment to international obligations. The Bahraini regime known for its quibbling and violations of international conventions expects other sovereign nations to behave likewise.

*BBC witness in Bahrain:***Foreign police fire bullets at mosque**

BBC Radio 4, Report on 26 September 1998, Programme: "From Our Correspondents"

Kate Aidi introduced the report saying "It is nearly four years now since the outbreak of popular demonstrations in the Gulf state of Bahrain. Bahrain, a small, but oil rich island has seen a number of protests over the last few years mainly involving demands for greater democracy. The security services have responded harshly and there is little reference in the local press to what is going on. The government has done its best to prevent news of internal strife reaching the outside world as well. The dissent occurs mainly in areas inhabited by Shia Muslims who make up the majority of the Bahraini population. The BBC's Martin Asser has just been to the island".

Martin Asser: "The day after my arrival in the capital, Manama, a local paper reminded its readers that, "the BBC is a tool of the Bahraini opposition". It is not true of course, but the BBC and the World Service in particular, is far from popular here with the Ministry of Information. Simon Ingram, who was BBC Middle East correspondent, when pro-democracy unrest broke out, was one of three British journalists portrayed as rabid dogs in a newspaper cartoon. In this part of the world, few insults match that of calling someone a dog. Rabid dogs are killed on site. The BBC's own Arabic-speaking Bahraini stringer has not been permitted to file since last year. The thing is, we send BBC reports to Bahrainis in their own language, where they reach the ramshackle Shia villages dotted around the island. It is there where the calls for a parliament are strongest. It is also there the Bahraini police go to work. In fact, it is a bit misleading to call them Bahraini police. They are made up of Pakistanis, Beluchies, Syrians, Jordanians, and Yemenis-Sunni Mus-

lims to a man- who have been brought in to put down any manifestation of dissent, without mercy. British officers are in charge of this force. The brain behind the operation belong to Ian Henderson, a Scot who learnt his trade in Kenya, putting down the Mau-Mau rebellion. He has been in Bahrain since the sixties, a polite man, and owner of Manama's biggest aviary. About two thousand Shias are in prison, most of them were convicted of crimes of sedition and sabotage, based on confessions made during interrogations by Colonel Henderson's men. A few confessed to murder, the rest are held without charge, often being released after a few months to make room for others in Bahrain's overcrowded jails.

I was told by my minders that I could go anywhere I wanted in Bahrain, and speak to anyone I wanted to. Nevertheless, I made sure the minders were not around to see me get into a taxi to go by night to one of the hot villages, as the areas of dissent are known. Sanabis is just a few kilometres from Manama, but it is a world apart. It is a surprise to see poverty in a region that floats on a sea of oil and gas, but here there is poverty in abundance. There is also fear. At first no one would talk to me. I explained in Arabic that I was not from the police, and I wanted to know their opinion because I was a journalist, but no journalist had been here for months or years. Later as I was walking down an unlit street, a battered old car drew up and a hand beckoned from inside. The owner said he had nothing to lose by talking to me. Sure he was afraid of getting arrested, "but that could happen anyway, and already had" he said. It was more important for the world to know what was happening inside Bahrain. Once I made contact with one, my task became easier with the others. In fact it is hard to meet people not

affected by the situation, when they are prepared to talk about it. Villagers told me torture is routine and systematic. Patterns emerged in our conversations. A former inmate at Jaw prison told me confessions are obtained by beatings and what is called 'al-ta'alighah' where prisoners are trussed up for hours with a bar tucked under knees and over elbows. An inmate of Khamis centre prison said there was sexual abuse, with prisoners forced to squat down naked on empty fizzy drinks bottles. Attack by Alsatian dogs is used as punishment. When I met a group of young men in a mosque, they were reluctant to go into detail about what went on in the woman's prison in Issa town.

Some prisoners never get the chance to confess. I met relatives of a young Shia man, called Nooh al-Nooh, whose battered corpse was delivered two months ago to a Bahraini hospital, two days after he was arrested at a shop where he worked.

Back in the air-conditioned comfort of the Ministry of Information, I was told by my host that anything I had heard was mere exaggeration. Of course police had to deal with vandals and trouble-makers. The only reason children were arrested was because their leaders had conscripted them for propaganda purposes. So why had I seen shot-gun marks on the ceiling of a mosque in Sitra. "Foreign policeman had stormed and smashed up the place", the locals said. "Nonsense" replied my hosts, "more crude propaganda invented by Shias, who wanted to destabilise the country."

If so, those Shia were incredibly lucky I had stumbled on their efforts. In a country where independent reporting is rare, they'd have to be pretty desperate to vandalise their own place of worship on the off-chance of a visit by the BBC." END.

**Commissioning agents for plotting against the opposition**

How long is it going to take before the current regime in Bahrain realises that there is no hiding from introducing reforms in the country?

The regime has never ceased to resort to futile acts to avoid people's demands for reform and to deflect criticism of the international community. The people of Bahrain are well aware of the government's plans and are vigilant enough to counter peacefully any irresponsible move to create terror and havoc in the country.

One of mischievous plots by the government against the innocent citizens is the vandalism of private properties of ordinary people for the purpose of accusing the people themselves of perpetrating these crimes. In such plot, immediately after the vandalism takes place, the regime would order its mercenaries to arbitrarily arrest any citizens. The arrested persons are in turn taken to the detention centre and subjected to horrendous torture and abuse in order to force them to sign pre-prescribed confessions. Then they would be taken to the scene of the crime and forced to depict instructions recited by the intelligence police and acted by the fatigued innocent citizens. The depiction would then be video taped and edited and sent

to international bodies.

Another type of plot that has been uncovered recently was designed to undermine the opposition abroad, mainly in Britain. The government has never ceased to hire private surveillance and lobbying companies in order to hinder the opposition's activities. A secret operation against the opposition involved lobbying certain groups to persuade the British Government to turn a blind eye towards the brutal regime of Bahrain has been uncovered. The operation's action plan consisted of 28 points and was written by Lord Gillford who belongs to a lobbying company called Policy Partnership.

The main aim of the lobbying is to encourage the UK Government to extradite the Bahraini exiles. Such lobbying costs enormous sum of money in order to gear up the plan. The amount of the sum of money involved becomes clear when it is known that one of the key figures in the lobbying is Lord "750 Pounds-per-hour" Tim Bell. Whereas the magnitude of the operation becomes obvious when it is known that Lord Prior (chairman of Arab-British Chamber of Commerce) has been revealed by "Private Eye".

A more bizarre plan that the government is

thrusting ahead with in a mistakenly calculated approach. It would soon realise that it was one of the worst mistakes it had done. The government has commissioned an Iraqi person to issue statements under a fictitious organisation named "Bahrain Human Right Society".

The Bahraini intelligence commissioned this Iraqi individual who lives in London for publishing statements in favour of the regime. The first revelation about this Iraqi person appeared last month in the US-based "Arab Times". The regime-backed individual hastily published statements congratulating the Bahraini government for its "impressive" human rights records.

The agent also accused the people of Bahrain of abusing themselves and burning their properties. However, this Iraqi individual used different names for the months (equivalent to August and September) that are customary adopted in Iraq rather than in Bahrain, thus exposing himself, and failing miserably in his mercenary activities. The failure of the government to bring a single Bahraini name to appear publicly and face the facts is indicative of the nature of a regime that has never trusted Bahrainis and that has always depended on mercenaries of all types.