

Voice of

BAHRAIN

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

Five years after the eruption of the popular uprising Old habits die hard

Five years ago this month the people of Bahrain erupted in anger as the situation deteriorated in terms of human rights and public freedoms. That event became a watershed in the history of the country. Since then, the Government of Bahrain has become to know the world as one of the most repressive regimes in the world, superseded only by countries like Iraq and others with black records of repression. Five years on and the situation has barely improved despite the ascendance to the throne of a relatively young ruler following the death of his father. In this hereditary dictatorship, hardly anything moves in the direction of reform and openness. With a prime minister who has exercised absolute power for decades, government has become so immobile that some of the ministers have remained in their post for more than twenty years. To the Al Khalifa ruling family, this is a source of pride and achievement and indication to the stability of the regime. But to the victims of torture, it is a sign of an absolutist approach to governance. The Al Khalifa have long ago resigned themselves to the fact that the people of Bahrain have no love left for them, and have sought therefore to secure themselves by depending on outside expertise to keep them in place. Today, the security forces are run by a British colonial officer and staffed with torture experts from different countries. Riot police consists almost totally of foreign troops from the Indian subcontinent, while the newly-formed National Guard is mainly staffed by Bedouins from the Syrian and Arabian deserts.

Bahrainis are detested by the Al Khalifas and have received the brunt of their inhumane policies. Unemployment among the natives is high while foreigners imported into the country by the Al Khalifa enjoy the full benefits of the country. In return their main function is to provide a terror machine against Bahrainis.

With this state of affairs, the situation is made even worse by the adoption of a totalitarian system that recognises no role for the people. Since the previous Amir decreed to suspend the parliament and abolish the Constitution in 1975, the country has been run by a ruthless regime that

observed no bounds in its treatment of the native population. The popular uprising of 1994 has sought to make the world aware of the nature of the Al Khalifa brutal government, and force certain changes. So far, it has achieved enormous success. Today, the Al Khalifa are castigated in the most negative terms worldwide, and the case of Bahrain is often quoted as one where and educated people are fighting a backward regime in the most civilised manner. The government is forced to change its policies, from directly refusing to accept the ideas of change and reform to conceding small territories while maintaining the absolutist dictatorship.

Since the new Amir came to power earlier this year he promised to introduce some reforms, but so far he has failed to deliver on his promises. Apart from some cosmetic changes the system has remained as backward and repressive as ever. The country's jails are overcrowded with hundreds of prisoners of conscience, while large numbers of Bahrainis have remained in exile. Arbitrary detention is on the increase with many reports of torture being administered by the same officers who smeared the reputation of Bahrain.

When the Amir of Bahrain undertook his state visit to the United Kingdom, he found himself and his entourage embroiled in controversy similar to the one that surrounded the visit of the Chinese leader to London few months ago. Politicians, journalists, human rights and lawyers have expressed interest in the visit. A documentary depicting the fate of the victims of torture in Bahrain was broadcast by Channel 4 News programme. It was one of the most successful footage ever produced that incriminate a British officer accused of torturing people, sometimes to death. The echoes of this film reverberated in several Middle Eastern capitals as the extent of horror prevailing in Bahrain was suddenly exposed to the world.

Notable human rights organisations did their best to expose the extent of the crisis in that country, and wrote letters to the Amir and the British Foreign Office presenting the case for change and detailing the extent of the abuses. Politicians such as

Lord Avebury, Jeremy Corbyn, MP and others worked hard to force the issue of change in Bahrain on the Agenda. Although the opposition preferred a more conciliatory approach to the Amir's visit, refraining from any act of overt protest, the initiatives of the friends of the people of Bahrain have highlighted the crisis of human rights and democracy in Bahrain.

The entourage of the Amir did not reciprocate this goodwill gesture. The Foreign Minister lashed out against the opposition in his press conference to the distaste of the participating journalists. Furthermore, the security forces in Bahrain continued its aggression against the people, arrested and tortured tens of citizens during the Amir's visit. Tens of people, including children were arrested and tortured in revenge for the negative publicity that surrounded the Amir's visit to London. More repressive measures are being taken against the people of Bahrain who are now facing the prospect of having to secure an official permission for any social or religious function.

It is ironic that, as the people of Bahrain celebrate the fifth anniversary of the popular uprising (the intifada), the situation in the country has become so polarised against the government that further unrest cannot be ruled out. The opposition had hoped that its moderate demands to reinstate the Constitution would be met by a welcome gesture from the Al Khalifa, but the tight-lipped prime minister had not been in a mood for reconciliation and dialogue. He sought to uproot the people of Bahrain from their own land in the hope that no one would know. In the circumstances it has now transpired that the people of Bahrain have proved to be a force to be reckoned with. As the people of Bahrain await the new millennium, confidence has suddenly surfaced amongst the youths, who are awaiting the outcome of their sacrifices. Undoubtedly if it was not for the blood of the martyrs, the Al Khalifa would not have contemplated change, however it may be small. It is thus their right to celebrate their achievements and express the hope that the tyranny in Bahrain will be uprooted in the not-too-far future.

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More citizens sentenced

On 24 November, the State Security Court, presided by a member of the ruling family, sentenced several citizens to six months imprisonment. All the following citizens had already spent over a year in administrative detention: Dr. Isa Ibrahim Matar, Dr. Mohammed Saeed Ali Mosa, Hasan Ibrahim Matar (brother of Dr. Isa), Saeed Ali Makki, Fadhil Abbas Al-Deiri, and Seyyed Jaber.

A publicity stunt

On 24 November, the Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, met in London Norwich City Football Association's chairman Mr. Bob Cooper. The Amir donated money to the FA Youth Academy (in Norwich) and promised to visit Norwich next April when he visits the United Kingdom again. The meeting was aimed at creating an official link whereby the son of the Amir (Abdulla bin Hamad) would send youths for training at Norwich fields.

A spokesperson for the Bahrain Freedom Movement said "the meeting with Norwich FA team is being used by the Bahraini-controlled media as a PR stunt. There has been no mention of money in the official reports, instead it is simply being portrayed as a successful visit to Britain by the Amir. This was used to cover up the embarrassment caused by the wide coverage in the British media of human rights abuses in Bahrain. The idea that the general population in Bahrain would benefit from such a link is not true. Only the elite few would benefit from this scheme".

UK Motion on Bahrain:

Jeremy Corbyn MP, vice-chair of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, tabled an Early Day Motion on 25 November in the House of Commons about the visit to the UK this week of the Amir of Bahrain. The motion refers to the Channel 4 News report broadcast on November 23rd which detailed gross human rights abuses in Bahrain including arbitrary detention and torture. The text of the motion is:

"That this House notes the visit to the UK by the new Amir of Bahrain, Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on 22nd November 1999;

- congratulates Channel 4 News on its secretly filmed report about arbitrary detention and torture in Bahrain and the leading role played by the British ex-Colonel, Ian Henderson;

- deplors the regime's continued detention of several thousand political prisoners, such as Mr. Abdul Wahab Hussein, who has been in detention without charge since 1996;

- is deeply concerned that, despite his coming to power on March 6th 1999, human rights abuses have continued in Bahrain under the new Amir, including the forcible exile of dissidents and arbitrary detentions including a ten year old child, Issa Abdulla Issa Maki, from Karana village in the last few days;

- notes that leading opposition figure, Sheikh Abdul Ameer Al-Jamri, although now released after three years imprisonment without trial, is still under house arrest and banned from any political activity; and, therefore calls on Her Majesty's Government to:

- raise the findings of the Channel 4 News report with the Amir, and to urge him to halt all human rights violations in Bahrain, release immediately all political prisoners,

- halt the forcible expulsion of Bahraini citizens, allow the hundreds in exile to return, and

- to enter into dialogue with the Committee for Popular Petition for the restoration of Bahrain's Parliament and Constitution."

Henderson to face criminal charges

A short documentary film broadcast on 23 November at a British television station has led to a political furor. The film which was aired as part of the main Channel 4 news at 7.00 pm dealt with what it called the "British legacy" in Bahrain, and detailed in some length the accusations levelled against Ian Henderson, by his victims. Several Bahraini nationals described how they had been subjected to severe torture either by Henderson or at the hands of his henchmen in the notorious SIS (Security and Intelligence Service) which had been established by the British in mid-sixties. Henderson, himself, was recruited by the British Government in 1966, according to the film.

They also say they have documents on this. The victims described their ordeals during their detention. A young girl described how, together with other women detainees, she was stripped naked and threatened with rape if they did not "cooperate" with the torturers, and signed false statements incriminating themselves.

Treatment of women in this way is repugnant everywhere especially in the conservative society of the Bahrain. Another victim, Hashim Redha recollected his encounters with Mr. Henderson over a six-months period in 1982, and described unethical acts committed against him as he was being hanged like a chicken. The film also suggested that Henderson be extradited to Britain to face charges for crimes against humanity.

Lord Avebury supported this idea. Channel 4 news presenter, Jon Snow, asked the Bahraini Ambassador to his reaction to the film, but the latter failed to offer any convincing argument, repeating the same answer for all the questions, that his government had signed certain international conventions.

On 21 November the Scottish Herald, had published an important article about Henderson and his role in torturing pro-democracy activists in Bahrain. The article detailed the ordeal of Abdulla Hassam, who was tortured by Henderson himself. It cited

other torture victims who may have been ill-treated by Henderson. Roseanna Cunningham, of the Scottish Nationalist Party offered her help should extradition of Mr. Henderson to Britain be contemplated. Another member of Parliament, Jeremy Corbyn, promised to take up the issue with the Foreign Office.

The British Government has become under strong pressure to act especially as the Amir, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa is being received at the highest possible level. Yesterday the Amir had an audience with the Queen and the Prime Minister Tony Blair, and was expected to meet the Foreign and Defence Secretaries today. Several Human Rights organisations wrote to the FCO requesting them to take up the issues of human rights with the Bahraini delegation. Article 19, OMCT and FIDH, presented their demands to the FCO, while the Independent (24 Nov 99), the Daily Telegraph (24 Nov 99) and other newspapers covered the event in a balanced way outlining the concerns towards the appalling situation of human rights in Bahrain.

SPECIAL REPORT

UK CHANNEL 4 (TV) NEWS "What They Don't Want You to Know"

SPECIAL AN ETHICAL FOREIGN POLICY?

November 23, 1999. Reporter: Sarah Spiller, Production: Catma Films

A month after controversy over the visit of President Jiang - tonight Channel 4 News has an exclusive report which raises yet more questions about Labour's ethical foreign policy. As the ruler of the Gulf State of Bahrain visits, - we disclose evidence of British complicity in torture and repression.

Tonight we can reveal new information on a British Colonel who has been at the centre of a terror campaign for thirty years - and whom activists say should face torture charges. We also reveal anger over Labour MP's who, it's been claimed, have allowed themselves to become part of the Bahraini regime's propaganda machine. Sarah Spiller posed as a tourist to film this undercover report in Bahrain. We should warn you some of the pictures may be upsetting.

If you're a Brit in Bahrain - it could be home from home. You can enjoy British music, pleasant resorts - even a beer. But whilst this state might have gained independence twenty eight years ago - whilst it may have a new ruler, according to campaigners, this is a country where citizens are still denied some of the most basic human rights. A place where the real British legacy is repression and torture.

HASHEM REDHA: "They put your hand in the clamp and they bring the hammer down, beating your finger."

Filming undercover, we posed as tourists in Bahrain's opulent hotels, - and went to see the sights. The luxurious palace grounds of Bahrain's rulers, the Al-Khalifa family. And the villages where the calls are

for freedom, and democracy. At secret locations we heard how young people have been arrested after peaceful political protests. Many were so terrified they asked us to disguise their appearance. This young girl was held for two weeks after a demonstration at her school. She was beaten with a hose-pipe, then came the threats.

GIRL: "And she said to us if you don't confess we'll put you on the electric chair until you confess. And if you don't confess you will be raped. They took us all to a room and we were stripped naked all over and made to stand as a method of torture."

When youngsters paint slogans on walls - they risk being beaten. A 12-year-old told us how he was held for nine days. BOY: "They put us in a room and they started beating us inside the room whilst interrogating us. They used a hose to beat us. They hit me on the back, on the feet."

Pictures smuggled from Bahrain show the scale of the democracy movement here. The country's rulers maintain the movement for political reform has been responsible for violence and deaths. Activists say what they want is the restoration of Bahrain's national assembly dissolved in 1975. One of the figureheads of the opposition is Sheikh Al-Jamri. He's been effectively - with a twenty four hour security presence around his home.

MANSOOR AL-JAMRI, Bahrain Freedom Movement: "My father was put in jail isolated from the world, tortured psychologically and physically. He is under house arrest now. The government uses him as an example to show the government has no limits."

Sheikh Al-Jamri's picture now appears on walls alongside other activists. Over the last few months Bahrain's ruler has pardoned political dissidents, released over three hundred prisoners and set up a human rights panel. These moves, the regime's opponents say don't go nearly far enough. And the European Parliament along with human rights groups have condemned arbitrary arrests, detention for three year without trial, the ruthless use of force. The US State department has also highlighted cases of torture.

One - the death of this 19-year-old, Seyed Ali Amin. Reportedly beaten and tortured after his arrest, the US State department has said this case is one of a number the authorities have failed to investigate. And at the heart of outrage over torture - a British Colonel who has operated from this fortified castle.

SARAH SPILLER: "Stretching along this road is the headquarters of Bahrain's secret police. It's a place of fear for political dissidents. Many people we've talked to here have told us horrific stories of torture.

- And of their meetings with the notorious Ian Henderson."

This rare TV interview with Ian Henderson was recorded when he was deported from Kenya following independence in 1964.

IAN HENDERSON: "What I did as a

police officer during the emergency in Kenya many years ago is today seen as not very desirable."

Not desirable in Kenya - but according to confidential Foreign Office documents, Henderson became highly desirable to the British. Secret papers show how the British Foreign Office persuaded Henderson to take charge of Bahrain's security services in 1966, and soon became impressed by his performance, as he began 'firing on all cylinders'. As the man who's directed the state's security forces for over thirty years, Henderson's been condemned by the European Parliament and labelled by a British MP "the Butcher of Bahrain".

Tonight we can present new evidence about Ian Henderson stretching back to the early 70s. One man witness told us how the British colonel hit a prisoner when he refused to confess.

MAN: "He put on the knuckleduster, he did not control himself. He punched him on the glasses and that's why the eye started bleeding."

Another witness told us how, four years ago, after he was tortured by an officer, Henderson came to interrogate him.

SECOND MAN: "They trussed me like a chicken for 15 minutes. They take you and bend you double and handcuff you. They insert a wooden rod and they suspend you. After one week of my arrest it was him who interrogated me. He said - what do you want - why do you call for the restoration of democracy?"

But the most damning evidence is from the man who drew these pictures of his ordeal at the hands of Henderson's officers. He agreed to be identified, at great personal risk.

HASHEM REDHA: "They torture us by the dog. Sometimes they bring the clamp and they take your nail off."

He told us that officers sexually assaulted him.

HASHEM REDHA: "Of all the things about torturing, the worst of them, is that torturing they put something in your body. Sometime his finger, sometime his penis, sometime the stick. That is very bad, really very bad."

Then he told us of the times he met Ian Henderson. Hashem Redha said Henderson hit him, threatened him.

HASHEM REDHA: "He kick me and shook me two times. He told me, if we need to torture you, if you like the hit, we can hit you more than that."

Redha met Henderson at a room in the castle. He was shown a TV monitor. Redha saw his family outside waiting for him. It was a way of trying to make Redha sign a confession.

HASHEM REDHA: "I saw my wife, I saw my son. He told me if you don't sign we take you out of Bahrain, and never come in Bahrain again."

Ian Henderson has a house near the castle and apparently retired recently. But our research has led to more demands that Henderson be arrested if he ever steps foot

in Britain. The view of one campaigner - that Henderson's role in Bahrain could lead to a lengthy prison sentence.

LORD AVEBURY, Parliamentary Human Rights Group: "I'd love to see him before the magistrates in the same way that Pinochet was, except that of course he would finish up in our prisons and he would get a very long sentence, I hope for the crimes that he has committed.

But there are questions not only over Ian Henderson, - but the larger role Britain has played in repression here. In Bahrain's smart shopping malls - British household names are everywhere. What's rather less apparent are New Labour's other exports to this Gulf state. This year the government gave 29 licences to British firms to supply Bahrain with arms. New Labour's ethical line - that they ensure such weapons aren't used for internal repression.

LORD AVEBURY, Parliamentary Human Rights Group: "I think that whenever governments ask you to take their word for it you begin to smell a rat and you want to know a bit more, because we know what happens in the arms sales field.

And Britain has yet another export to Bahrain. It's not only holidaymakers who've enjoyed the cordial climate here. It's our own Members of Parliament. Over the last two years these MP's have enjoyed a study visits to Bahrain courtesy of a pro-regime lobbying group. Their number includes MP's who have been senior advisors to Robin Cook and Claire Short. Some have even declared gifts of jewellery from Bahrain's former Amir.

These MP's went on another trip last month. The verdict of Labour Mr Purchase and Mr Kumar - reported in the region's main newspaper, was that Bahrain was always the freest country in the region - and it was even more free now. Society here, is open and transparent. Both Labour MP's told us they stood by their comments - they were impressions they gained on their study visit.

MANSOOR AL-JAMRI, Bahrain Freedom Movement: "They should be ashamed of themselves being members of the House of Commons, the mother of all parliaments in this world. They should know every word they have uttered in favour of a dictator who is torturing people, is basically increasing the pain of victims.

And as Bahrain's ruler visits Britain - some are keen he sees all the sights.

LORD AVEBURY, Parliamentary Human Rights Group: "I'd like him to see from a distance the names of people who have been tortured to death under his regime and the names of people who have been kept in custody for years and years without trial, the names of people who have been wrongly convicted before the infamous state security court."

At this party, the theme - what Britain has done for Bahrain. But there's another message campaigners want Bahrain's ruler to hear today. No British complicity in a brutal regime.

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(...Continued from last issue)

Moreover, defence lawyers are not granted access to court documents before trial, so they can not familiarize themselves with the facts of the case before meeting their clients for the first time in court. Even after the first session, defence lawyers have only limited access to their clients. Trial hearings are often held in camera."

Amnesty International confirmed that "during trial, the State Security Court is not required to summon witnesses to give evidence or for cross examination. Such evidence may be submitted in writing. Defendants can be convicted solely on the basis of uncorroborated confessions given to police or security officials, even in cases involving the death penalty, and even when there appears to be evidence that such 'confessions' were extracted under torture. To date, it appears that no thorough and independent investigations into allegations of torture, which have been both frequent and consistent, brought by defendants has ever been carried out. Under Bahraini law, there is no right to appeal to a higher tribunal against conviction and sentencing by the State Security Court."

Torture

For extracting confessions, the security agencies resort to many methods of torture and ill-treatment. Scores of people have died under torture in the past five years. Torture methods include the following:

1. Solitary confinement
2. Deprivation from sleep
3. Forcing the blind-folded detainees to stand-up for days. They are beaten whenever they fall down.
4. Depriving detainees from using toilets. In the case of ladies, they are deprived from using sanitary pads for the monthly period.
5. Indecent/sexual assaults, especially against teenagers.
6. Suspension from the rests, and upside-down.
7. Suspension like a chicken, where a person is folded and a wooden rod is placed under the knees and over the elbows.
8. Several officers interrogate the blind-folded person while two or three torturers kick and punch.
9. Pulling-out finger-nails
10. Pulling-out hair from sensitive parts of the body.
11. Using police-dogs to attack the naked detainee.
12. Using electronic batons and electric shocks.

A sample of persons who died under torture is as follows:

1. Saeed Al-Eskafi, 16 years old, Sanabis, died under torture on 8 July 1995.
2. Mahmood Abdul-Latif Hissain, 12 years old, Sanabis, 11 June 1996.
3. Seyed Ali Amin Mohammed, 19 years old, Karbabad, 17 August 1996.
4. Sheikh Ali Al-Nachas, a blind person, 50 years old, Bilad al-Qadim, 29 June 1997. He was denied proper treatment and left to die.
5. Nooh Khalil Abdulla Al-Nooh, 22 years old, Nuaim, 21 July 1998.

Extra-judicial Killing

The security forces are charged with suppressing protests by deploying many types

of bullets including beating with electronic batons, tear gas, steel-pellets, rubber bullets and live ammunition. Some of the people who were killed extra-judicially were:

1. Hanni Abbas Khamis, 24, Sanabis, 17 December 94, shot dead.
2. Hani Ahmad Al-Wasti, 22, Jedhafs, 17 December 94, shot dead.
3. Haji Mirza Ali Abdul Redha, 70, Qadam, 20 Dec 94, Beaten to death by security forces
4. Abdul Qadir Al-Fatlawi, 18, Duraz, 12 January 95, shot dead
5. Mohammed Redha Manssor, 34, Bani Jamra, 25 January 95, shot dead
6. Hussain Ali Al-Safi, 26, Sitra, 26 January 95, shot dead
7. Aqeel Salman Al-Saffar, 1 year, Bilad Al-Qadeem, 8 February 95, inhaled tear gas for prolonged period
8. Hamid Abdulla Qasim, 17, Duraz, Killed on 26 March 95, shot dead
9. Mohammed Ali Abdul Razzaq, 48, Bani Jamra, Killed on 1 April 95, shot dead
10. Mohammed Yousif Atteya, 28, Bani Jamra, Killed on 1 April 95, shot dead
11. Hussain Abdulla Al-Asheeri, 17 years old, from Dair, Killed on 19 April 95, shot dead
12. Nidal Habib Al-Nashaba, 18, Duraz, killed on 4 May 95, shot dead
13. Fadhil Abbas Marhoon, 25, Karzakkkan, 6 May 96, Shot dead by a special military unit
14. Ali Taher, 17, Sitra, 2 July 96, shot dead.

15. Zahra Ibrahim Kadhem, 54, Bani Jamra, 23 July 96, Beaten to death by security forces

16. Abdul Zahra Ibrahim Abdulla, 27 years old, Sanabis, 6 June 1997, was beaten by the security forces that attacked the residents of Sanabis on 1 June.

Arbitrary Detention

Arbitrary detention has become a feature of life in Bahrain. Citizens expect to be detained without warrants and mostly in the middle of the night during dawn raids. The raids follow a report from one informer that the targeted citizen had "meddled in politics". Meddling in politics could mean anything from reading a newspaper and cynically commenting on a government statement, to publicly calling for change.

The person is then subjected to sudden and intensified sessions of ill-treatment to force out confessions. Those who are released after some time are made to sign declaration that they will never meddle in politics again, and if they do so they deserve to be interned and dealt with "properly".

Children/women

Children from the age of 7 years are included in the arbitrary detention. This fact has been mentioned, with names of children, by many organisations including the US Department Country Report on Human Rights.

Many women were arrested and subjected to torture including threats of sexual assaults. Some of them were molested by officers who continuously touched sensitive parts as part of the threats of indecent assault.

Forcible exile

Bahrain is unique in forcibly deporting members of the indigenous population, while

at the same time, the government imports people from the Syrian desert and grants them full citizenship. Amnesty International issued a special report in 1993 explaining the graveness of this violation with details of names of people who had been forcibly exiled.

The practice of forcible exile continues without stop and in the period between April 1999 to July 1999 (following the death of the late and the assuming of power by his son on 6 March) no less than 32 persons have been forcibly deported to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran and other places.

Discrimination

Discrimination amongst the citizen is a practice known to any person living in Bahrain. Some 20% of the top 420 executives, which are the sovereign and strategic positions such as defence, security, foreign affairs, industry, etc. are monopolised by members of the ruling family.

The rest of position are distributed on a discriminatory basis taking into consideration the ethnic and religious background of each person.

The University of Bahrain is one example of naked discrimination. In 1995 a military officer was appointed as head of university and he wasted no time in implemented one of the worst episodes of ethnic cleansing by removing the Shia lecturers from important position, installing a registration system that allows the university to reject citizens not on the basis of merit but on discretionary non-accountable criteria.

The criteria are aimed at denying certain section of the society from entering the university or from reaching high positions in the education sector. The US Department Human Rights Report refers to this issue when covering the State of Bahrain.

Moreover, there are some 20 thousand people who were born in Bahrain and served the country but are now being forcibly evicted from Bahrain. These people are called Ajam (a section of the cosmopolitan Bahrain whose grandfathers have come from Iran over a century ago). A new governmental policy is now in place and will be implemented more rigorously from the beginning of September 1999.

The governmental policy discriminates against this section of Bahrain society in all walks of life. As from September, the children of this section will be prevented from all public schools, while at the same time three new schools will be opened to receive the children of the recently imported Bedouins from the Syrian deserts.

The targeted section (Ajam without status) will all be denied any medical care. If anyone of them needs an emergency treatment, he or she must pay 2 dinars (\$6) as an entry fee. They will have to pay 100 dinar (\$267) for any newly born baby.

They will only be issued with a one-way travel document that takes them out of Bahrain. They will be prevented from purchasing any land and will be evicted from any employment. Most of these people live in Segaya (Manama), Dafnah (near Salmanya, Manama), Bin Ali Quarter in Muharraq, Mushber Quarter in Manama, and Halah Quarter in Muharraq.

(To Be Continued....)