

BAHRAIN

Issued by the "Bahrain Freedom Movement" to promote human and constitutional rights

The illegitimate rule of Sheikh Hamad is doomed

Bahrain has entered a new phase of tension; this time with new hopes and means. The events of the past few weeks have shocked even those who had worked to make it possible. After several years of political stagnation, the scene is set for more conflict between the people of Bahrain and the Al Khalifa hereditary dictatorship. Today, senior figures in the opposition admit one serious mistake on their part; that dictators may, one day, turn into democrats. The political developments of the past five years have proven them utterly wrong. Dictators go in one direction only; from bad to worse, until they leave the scene. They are beyond reformation. History does not have abundance of evidence to suggest that dictators had changed their appetite for despotism, greed and repression. Under extreme pressure they may yield tiny grounds to reformers, but they soon claim them back with ever stronger tendency for oppression. Parts of the Bahraini opposition had initially thought that the Al Khalifa had a sudden bout of an awakened conscience. Sheikh Hamad appeared for few months, to be the man who was leading the country away from the political and security disaster. Under international pressure, he had ordered the release of political prisoners and allowed back the political exiles. Soon it became clear that he was manoeuvring his way out of the political bottle neck, and that he had no solid political plan in line with the wishes of the people. Five years after his U-turn on the initial "programme of reforms" Sheikh Hamad must have realised the futility of his political twists. He has to be told by his backers in Washington and London that he and his family could pay a heavy price for attempting to deceive the people. If the opposition to his predecessors by the people of Bahrain over the previous eight decades had centred on the need for a written constitution and an elected legislature, the new opposition is likely to call for an end to the Al Khalifa dictatorship at any cost. Sheikh Hamad was wrong to

assume that he was "granting" the people some "gracious acts" for which they should have been "grateful". If anything, the opposition is the party that gave Sheikh Hamad the chance to correct the wrongs of his predecessors. He had the goodwill of the people who tried to put aside their grievances and their sufferings for decades at the hands of the Al Khalifa brutal regime. He missed that chance and that could prove to be a fatal mistake not only to his rule but to his family's reign which had continued for more than two centuries. He should have realised that dynastical rule often has a limited lifespan and could not last forever. The people of Bahrain went out of their way to carry him shoulder high in appreciation of the limited steps he had taken in a departure from the traditions of his predecessors. They expected something in return. They did not get it. The events of 14th February 2002 will remain the single most destructive decision the Al Khalifa had taken since they occupied the islands of Bahrain in 1783. It was a blatant disengagement from the commitment his father had given to the people back in 1971 following the withdrawal of the British from the Gulf. It was not an act of charity, but a bipartisan commitment to political and social co-existence between the people of Bahrain and the Al Khalifa dynasty on the basis of a shared management of the land on equal basis of both parties. His uncle, Sheikh Hamad, despite his arrogance and cruelty, refrained from abandoning the Constitution, knowing that it would be suicidal to voluntarily repeal the only source of legitimacy of the Al Khalifa rule. Prior to that constitution, Bahrain had effectively been ruled by the British for 150 years. In 1820 the British signed the Piracy Agreement with the Gulf sheikhs who relinquished their sovereignty to the British until their withdrawal. That withdrawal presented a dilemma for the Al Khalifa whose rule had never been

accepted by the people of Bahrain. The 1973 Constitution provided the first and last source of people's legitimacy to that rule. By repealing it, Sheikh Hamad had thrown the rule of his family into a constitutional crisis which has rendered their rule illegitimate. The imposition of the 2002 Sheikh Hamad's constitution has turned the Al Khalifa rule into an occupation and a new culture of resisting this illegal occupation is forming among the Bahraini youth. No action, short of a referendum could restore that legitimacy.

The realisation by the people that they are engaged in a life or death struggle has made them more resolute in their stands and inclinations. The past few months have witnessed an upsurge in political struggle by the youth who are determined to end this confused political state. They are clear in their demands; that Al Khalifa decide which way to go, i.e. to reach an amicable settlement with the people of Bahrain (through a contractual constitution) or leave the scene sooner or later. The political naturalisation process is another dangerous factor in the struggle between the Al Khalifa and the people of Bahrain, but it is unlikely to alter the balance of power drastically. With this action, Sheikh Hamad is attempting to alter the rules of the game to in his favour. In this respect, he is playing with fire, it could easily turn against him and weaken his authority. The spectre of a wider conflict should make the backers of the Al Khalifa rethink their support to a regime that is committing crimes against humanity. The policy of ethnocide through ethnic cleansing has not worked for others in Bosnia and Rwanda. It is unlikely to succeed in Bahrain. Wisdom must prevail among those outside powers and make them realise the extreme dangers attached to these policies. Identifying with the people of Bahrain is the only legitimate course of action. The Al Khalifa rule is doomed especially if Sheikh Hamad continues to pursue his misguided policies. It is outrageous to side with the aggressor and ignore the cries of the victim.

More attacks on freedom as minors are summoned for trial

As the political strife continues in Bahrain, the Al Khalifa regime has become more cruel in its treatment of Bahraini citizens who peacefully express their opinion. The attack on the peaceful demonstration last Friday by the riot police has triggered a spate of anger among the citizens who are increasingly becoming disappointed by the lack of real political or economic reforms. While allies of the Al Khalifa and their servants are paid high salaries the majority of the Bahrainis are on extremely low pay. The attack happened against the demonstrators who had gathered near the town of Karbabad near the commercial mole, to protest the continued detention of their beloved ones. Scores of young citizens had been taken hostage by the death squads in an earlier demonstration on 22nd February. The town had been attacked mercilessly in the earlier aggression; many bystanders were beaten and others were detained. Among those still in detention are: Sayed Ali Sayed Akbar, 20, Sadiq Jaffar Kadhem, 21 and Mahmood Ali Mahdi, 22. The death squads used various means of repression against the demonstrators and pursued them inside and outside the town. The Al Khalifa have, in recent weeks, escalated the arrests of young people in retaliation for the continuing opposition activities. Among those who are languishing in torture chambers are: From Juffair:

Mohammad Karim, 24. From Karrana: Jaffar Fardan Salman Yousif, 23 and from Abu Saibe': Radhi Ali Radhi, 22. Children had also been arrested in earlier clashes but subsequently released and are awaiting trial. They are charged according to article 178 of the Penal Code, with taking part in protests and what the Al Khalifa term "unlawful congregation". Today, summons were sent out for those them to attend a kangaroo court on Wednesday 18th April. Vengeance is likely to be exercised by the Al Khalifa-appointed officials who will try those innocent people.

Since the regime has refused to abide by its commitments in line with the various international conventions against human rights abuses, there are now growing fears among human rights activities for the safety of citizens especially those calling for democratic rule and the upholding of the rule of law.

The citizens have, however, continued their peaceful expression of anger against the Al Khalifa hereditary dictatorship. In the past few days, anti-regime slogans were seen in many areas, most notably, in Karzakkan and Malikiya. Two days ago a mouse and cat incident was witnessed by many people as death squads pursued those who paint slogans on the walls. The action continued for more than one hour near Hamad town, roundabout No 13. When the attackers failed to stop the slo-

gan-writing youth they used banned tear gas canisters against them. Some Molotov cocktail was used against the aggressors before fleeing the scene. Another victory was scored by the pro-democracy activists against the tools of evil and the servants of dictators.

Meanwhile, international human rights organizations and bodies are following the case of Nabil Rajab, the Vice-President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights with concern. Mr Rajab was summoned to appear at one of the Al Khalifa torture centres where he was interrogated, threatened and told to prepare for further persecution. The whole episode is seen as a punishment for this Bahraini activist following his recent travel to Washington and Geneva to defend the rights of the people of Bahrain in the struggle against the Al Khalifa tyranny.

Activism by the opposition is likely to intensify in the coming weeks as the more facts about the evil designs by Al Khalifa against the people of Bahrain are exposed. The Bandar report has caused enormous stress and anger amongst the people and more revelations are likely to create more tension and anxiety. The opposition has called for a massive demonstration on 1st April to mark the Black Saturday when, in 1996, two young men were slaughtered by the Al Khalifa death squads in Bani Jamra.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
19th March 2007

Young Bahraini students behind bars

Students of Jidhafs School have been warned by the ruling family against participating in demonstrations calling for the release of other detainees. The warning was issued after a massive demonstration by students on 1st March calling for those who had been arrested during an earlier demonstration on Tuesday 27th February. The demonstrators were photographed by naturalised teachers and agents of the secret service. The gloomy atmosphere in schools has deepened in recent years as bad policies employed against the Bahraini teachers reflect badly on the morale of the teachers. Now the teachers have taken up the case with the Al Khalifa ruling family, calling for better treatment and work contracts. A petition calling for better wages and fairer treatment of Bahraini teachers has been signed by more than 3000 teachers. Up to 5000 are expected to sign the landmark document that has embarrassed the ruling family which has blundered the wealth of the country especially in the past five years since the present ruler, Sheikh Hamad came to power. Mr Mahdi Abu Dib, one of the organisers of the petition is working hard to secure more signatures, the first of its kind within the professional circles, and he expects more solidarity with the cause of the teachers

from other sectors of the society. The Haq Movement has expressed support to the demands of the teachers.

Meanwhile the fate of scores of political prisoners remains unclear as the Al Khalifa continued their repressive policies against the people of Bahrain. Calls for their release are gathering momentum amid international concerns for their well-being. The Al Khalifa are notorious for their ill-treatment of Bahraini prisoners with a long record of torture and other degrading treatment of detainees. Among the prisoners: from Sitra: Khalil Ali Sheikh Hassan, Jaffar Ahamad Al Kuwaiti, 30, Khalil Ali Al Rumi, 17, Sayyed Hashim Sayyed Hussain, 16, Mohammad Jawad, 17 and Abdulla Ali, 16. From Al Juffair: Mohammad Karim, 24. From Karbabad: Sayyed Ali Sayyed Akbar, Sadiq Jaffar Kadhem, 21 and Mahmood Ali Mahdi, 22. From Sanabis: Ahmad Jamil Abdulla Radhi, 19, and Ali Jaffar Ali, 16. From Daih: Mohammad Abdul Karim Hassan Ali, 16 and Mahdi Sa'ad, 19. From Karranah: Jaffar Fardan Salman Yousuf, 23 and Hassan Salman Al Qaidoom, 16. From Abu Saibe': Radhi Ali Radhi, 22.

The public anger is rising as the policy of demographic change takes new dimensions. It has now been revealed that former Sunni Ba'thists from Iraq are being

brought into the country, naturalised and settled. It is reported that the Kuwaiti government was incensed by this development and has strongly protested to the Al Khalifa for this policy. The new Ba'thist "Bahrainis" are cared for by the Jordanian government which, apparently, facilitated their expatriation to Bahrain following an undeclared agreement with the Al Khalifa family. They are brought into the country by orders from the royal court, settled, and offered Bahraini nationality. They are then offered job opportunities in the secret service, riot police or armed forces. They are known for their cruelty towards the Bahrainis. Among their duties is facilitating the transfer of financial support to extremist groups inside Iraq from the Al Khalifa family which has blundered the wealth of Bahrain. As a result, more acts of sectarian provocations are being carried out by the servants of the Al Khalifa policies. In the past few days, for example, religious banners in the town of Nuwaidrat have been removed, leading to anger and hopelessness of the natives.

On another level, the people are expressing their views on the walls of the towns and villages as the media became a tool to further the Al Khalifa's perverted aims. Slogans can be seen in most areas as the anti-regime movement gathers strength.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
05/03/2007

Alarming deterioration in human rights

Reported brutal beating of civilians by special security forces and alleged political recruitment of Iraqi Sunnis into special security forces
Bahrain Center for Human Rights
1 March 2007

The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) calls for an investigation into allegations regarding the brutal beating of a Bahraini citizen Saeed Ibrahim (32 years) from Sanabis.

According to eye witnesses, a busload of special security forces (notorious for using excessive force against civilians) entered the village of Sanabis last weekend, snatched Ibrahim from his family's grocery shop and beat him brutally, leaving him bleeding. Similar violations have occurred in Bani Jamrah and other villages in Bahrain. Villagers claimed that the special security agents were speaking Arabic with an Iraqi accent.

Traditionally the special security forces in Bahrain are non-Bahraini and recruited from Jordan, Yemen and Balochis from Pakistan.

The allegations that Iraqi Ba'athis are being employed by the Bahrain authorities have been addressed by a document leaked recently by former consultant to Bahraini Government, Dr Salah Al Bander.

According to the report, issued by the UK-based Gulf Center for Democratic Development of (GCCD), the Bahraini own internal political agenda. In the third section of the said report (pages 99-114), focus was placed on the priorities of naturalization, its challenge and strategy. It monitors the priorities in targeted nationalities as sources of naturalization, and sets the requirement for naturalization. Authorities employ a humanitarian-front plan; granting refuge to Iraqis fleeing civil war in Iraq- for its ation of 50 thousand people per year so that a 'sectarian balance' is achieved by the end of 2010. Out of the recommendations of this part of the report states: "There are more than 120 thousand Iraqi Sunnis in Jordan, fugitives from tyranny and Shiite persecution in Iraq. Make use of this quantity in facilitating the presence of at least 30 thousand of them in Bahrain. Despite the rough nature of the Iraqis compared to the Bahrainis, this will help in elevating the temperature of the Bahraini Sunnis.

Discrimination and persecution facing Iraqi Sunnis since the fall of Saddam, is still virtually undisclosed in all parts of the Islamic world. Bahrain can use this in its propaganda campaigns, directed internally, to pre-empt the current Shiite schemes"

"These allegations and the excessive use of force by the Bahraini security forces

against civilians need to be investigated thoroughly by an independent and trustworthy body", BCHR vice president Nabeel Rajab said. "I also repeat the call for a tribunal to be set to investigate the first Bander report", he added. "The situation in Iraq is tense, sectarian oriented and leading to a civil war, where people have been arbitrarily killed based on identity and sectarian grounds".

Rajab added: "Suggestions that the Bahraini Authorities drawing from such disastrous situation, and importing Sunni Iraqis with Ba'athi background to use against the local Shia population in special security forces is extremely worrying, as it paves the path for a replica of the Iraqi case." The BCHR calls for an honest and independent investigation into Sanabis incident

We urge the Bahraini Authorities to answer, in public, citizens concerns and fears that Iraqis are being brought into the country to be employed in the state security bodies and deployed for suppression of popular activities calling for democracy and more freedoms.

We also call for the Bahraini Authorities to answer questions over the shocking Bander gate report, which was leaked over 4 months ago but has never been dealt with in appropriate manner, to alleviate these fears and concerns.

Prosecution of minors and others participants in protest activities

Early yesterday evening, the Bahraini special security forces besieged Sanabis village (2km west of the capital Manama) upon news of a protest march from the village center. At sunset, the heavily armed security forces flowed in large numbers into the open areas in the vicinity of the village, blocked main entrance, and started heavy firing of tear-gas canisters and rubber bullets from a distance to the participants in the march, which started at around 9pm near the cemetery, located in the center of Sanabis.

The march was attended by dozens of young people, of both sex, launched slogans to claim rights and release of detainees in prisons. They also denounced the scheme of demographic change and targeting of activists that were reported in the locally dubbed "Bandargate" report issued by Dr. Salah Albandar-secretary general of the UK-based Gulf Center for the Development of Democracy .

After starting the protest march, special forces accumulated at the northern and southern entrances of the village and commenced intensive firing tear gas, extensively covering the atmosphere of Sanabis and adjacent areas (villages of Daih and Karbabad). Columns of smoke coming of blazed rubber garbage containers were observed from a long distance, while all roads leading to the village were blocked. All local shops were closed and traffic was halted in the total darkness within the vil-

lage avenues, but of young people participating in the clashes with the security forces. These were prevented from enter the village, but later ransacked it after bombarding it with heavy tear and face-burning gas and rubber bullets. This situation lasted for over three hours from the commencement of the protest.

In parallel, protests were launched in Daih village -neighbouring to Sanabis- where the Bahraini special forces blocked its entrances, from north and south, fired tear gas and rubber bullets on houses, prevented residents from leaving their homes, even to hospital, and banned ambulances from reaching them. On the other hand, similar acts of protest, less in size, triggered in both Belad Al-Qadeem (2 km south of the Capital) and Karzakan (10 km south-west of Manama), setting fire to tires and garbage containers, and attended by a limited number of special security forces to yield the same treatment to protesters.

It should be noted that some civic committees planned similar protest marches, in villages like Bani Jamrah, 4-km west of Manama-on April 1, in the memory of what is locally dubbed as "Black Saturday" commemorating the besiege of the village and attacking and killing at least three of its citizens in protest against the arrest of late Sheikh Abdul Ameer Al-Jamri.

On the other hand, the Bahraini security authorities declared Wednesday-April 28, to prosecute detainees of the protests that oc-

curred in the village of Bani Jamrah on last February 22. Out of those detained are: Jaafar Salman Yusuf (23 years) from the village of Karanh, and Radhi Ali Radhi (22 years) from the village of Abu Saiba.

Also declared 18th of the same month for the trial of minors - not to exceed 17 years of age- who were released two weeks after their arrest because of their presence in the vicinity of protesting events, took place in the third week of last February. Still in custody are Sayed Ali Sayed Akbar (20 years), Jafar Sadiq Kadhem (21 years), Mahmood Ali Mahdi (22yrs) - from the village Karbabad, Mohammad Kareem (24 years) from the Jufair, and Jassem Jaafar Madan (25 years) from the village of Daih, since their arrest in the same period.

The Public Prosecutions accused all detainees - including the minors-with the charge of crowd and riot, according to Article 178 of the Penal Code, which states that "shall be punished by a term of up to two years and a fine no more than two hundred Dinars, or both, who participated in a gathering in a public place consisting of five persons at least, the purpose of which is to commit crimes, or acts equipping or facilitating for it, or disturb public security, even if that was to fulfill a legitimate objective". The activists condemned the excessive use of force by security forces →

Scare Tactics in Bahrain (Part 1)

By Andrew Higgins

Wall Street Journal 26th February 2007

Bahrain, a crucial American ally and home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, was quickly caught up in a wave of anti-Iranian paranoia. Politicians, clerics and the media jumped on the theme, turning Iran into a big issue in bitter local elections at the end of the year.

The trigger for all the noisy alarm? A ruckus over the purchase of a ramshackle house by a handful of local Bahrainis who share the Shiite Muslim faith of Iran. At a time of rising tension between Washington and Tehran, the scare-mongering in Bahrain shows how America's geopolitical standoff with Iran is paralleled by much older animosities between the Muslim world's two great traditions, Sunni and Shiite. The Arab world is majority Sunni while Persian Iran is mostly Shiite. In a dangerous dynamic, legitimate concerns about Tehran's intentions are being overlain with phobias and political calculation as Arab governments, rabble-rousing politicians and clerics fan sectarian fears.

Washington views Iran as a rogue nation that arms militias in Iraq, wants to build a nuclear bomb and seeks Israel's destruction. From Arab kingdoms on the Persian Gulf to Lebanon on the Mediterranean, however, Iran is also viewed through another prism, as a non-Arab, and, for some, heretical power intent on expanding the clout of itself and fellow Shiites at the expense of the region's Sunni establishment.

Containing Tehran has become a major American foreign-policy goal. But for these countries, Iran is a hot-button domestic issue as well. Bahrain is ruled by a Sunni royal family but roughly 70% of the populace is Shiite. The nation was shaken by a series of clashes this month between Shiite protesters and security forces dominated by Sunnis. Saudi Arabia frets about the Shiite minority who inhabit its oil-producing eastern region next to Bahrain. Kuwait, too, has a sizable Shiite minority. Lebanon's Sunni-dominated government is under threat from Hezbollah, a Shiite militia.

Even countries with hardly any Shiites, such as Egypt and Jordan, have domestic concerns. By denouncing Iran (and by association Shiites), leaders hope to outflank their most virulent critics -- militant Sunni Islamists, who often fume against Shiites as heretics. They also seek to blemish the reputation of Hassan Nasrallah, the Shiite Hezbollah leader whose radical views spook Sunni leaders but delight some of their citizenry.

When the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, it believed that the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, would seed tolerant democracy there and elsewhere. The war instead uncorked pent-up sectarian tensions in Iraq, pitting the country's once-dominant Sunni minority against its long-oppressed Shiite majority. The Iraqi chaos also has emboldened neighboring Iran to flex its muscles in

Iraq and beyond, further stirring passions rooted in centuries of theological, political and ethnic rivalry. Bahraini Shiites carry a wounded man during clashes with the security forces in Sanabis, south of the capital Manama, Feb. 2.

Until recently, Washington focused on Sunni threats, from Sunni insurgents in Iraq to the remnants of al Qaeda, a Sunni outfit. In his January state of the union address, however, President Bush also warned of the menace posed by Shiite extremists who "take direction from the regime in Iran." It has become clear, he said, that "we face an escalating danger" from militant Shiites "determined to dominate the Middle East." This reassessment of America's enemies underpins what Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has hailed as a "realignment in the Middle East" -- a drawing together of Sunni-led Arab countries against Iran.

Some experts on the region warn that America's standoff with Iran is exacerbating Sunni-Shiite rivalry and pushing the U.S. into some unruly company. Indeed, America now unintentionally finds itself on the same page as Sunni firebrands who loathe America but sometimes hate Shiites even more. Much of the most venomous anti-Iranian rhetoric comes from militants whose views echo Osama bin Laden's.

Anti-Shiite fervor, says Vali Nasr, a professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., is "part of the DNA" of America's biggest foes, Sunni extremists. In recent testimony to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, he urged a cooling of tempers with Iran. "It will boomerang back against us," he says.

Shiites make up 15% or less of the world's Muslim community, but in many Sunni eyes they hold outsize influence because of Shiite-ruled Iran, which now rivals and sometimes even eclipses Israel as an object of loathing. On the gallows in Baghdad at the end of December, Saddam Hussein used his last words to denounce Americans and "Persians," or Iranians. He didn't name Israel. A lexicon of Arab polemic previously dominated by "Zionists" and "Crusaders" -- i.e., Israel and America -- now has a new villain: the Safawis, or Iranians. The term refers to the Safavid dynasty that established Shiism as Iran's state religion in the 16th century.

The most splenetic diatribes against Iran and Shiites often come from militant Sunnis who previously focused their fire on the U.S. In a January document entitled "Covenant of the Supreme Council of Jihad Groups," for example, a Kuwaiti extremist cleric ranked Iran ahead of the U.S. and Israel in a hierarchy of foes. He railed against the "Safawi enemy that seeks the destruction of Islamic civilization."

Saudi Arabia, a prime source of toxic jihad theology in the past, now also churns out bile against Iran and Shiites. At the

end of December, Abdel-Rahman al-Barrak, a senior cleric, labeled Shiites "more dangerous than Jews and Christians." King Abdullah, in a recent interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, predicted defeat for what he suggested was an Iranian-backed campaign to convert the Sunni world to Shiism and "to diminish [the Sunnis'] historical power."

Fear of Iran, of course, is anchored in real-world issues. Tehran's nuclear-research push has caused widespread jitters and prompted Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to suggest they might start nuclear programs, too. Iran's involvement in Iraq since the toppling of Mr. Hussein's Sunni tyranny has stirred real fear that Iraq will be led by a Shiite regime loyal to Tehran.

The hostility between Sunnis and Shiites began with the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632 and a dispute that followed over whether his father-in-law (the Sunni choice) or his son-in-law (the Shiite candidate) was the worthy successor. The schism later fed into another rift now at the heart of the region's rivalries -- between ethnically Persian Iran, which became Shiite, and the ethnically Arab heartland, which became mostly Sunni.

Bahrain, home to some 2,500 U.S. military personnel, plays a key role in U.S. efforts to contain Iran. The Fifth Fleet's command center here controls an armada of U.S. warships -- beefed up this month by a second aircraft-carrier battle group -- that is America's main military lever against Tehran. A banking center and weekend playground for revelers from neighboring Saudi Arabia, Bahrain boasts a vibrant economy and is much more open than most Arab countries.

But as a predominantly Shiite land of roughly 700,000 ruled by Sunnis, Bahrain also sits astride the Muslim fault line shaking the region.

Prosecution of minors

Continued from Page 3

to disperse protesters and demonstrators, and deal harshly with popular protests in a manner that does not befit a member of the UN Human Rights Council. The Committee also calls for the Bahraini authorities to stop its pursuit of collective punishment in areas where protests occur, and deal with it in a civilized way, by abiding to the international covenants signed by Bahrain, headed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Committee calls on the authorities to stop dumping protest areas with chemical gases, which cause congestion and suffocation to people - especially children and the elderly. It also calls to defuse the tension resulting from the continued incarceration of detainees and stop chasing juveniles.

Committee for Solidarity with Activists and Prisoners of Conscience in Bahrain

26/03/2007