

BAHRAIN

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

The regime is doomed, people will prevail

The stage is now set for major shift in the balance of power in the Arab world in favour of the ongoing revolutions within the cycle of the activism and dominance of the revolution and counter revolution processes. The initial successes of the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt were soon brought to a halt by the Saudi-led offensive against change or reform. It is now widely recognized that on the day the Saudi invasion of Bahrain all revolutions were brought to a halt. It was a quick fix attempt not only to undermine the popular uprisings but to ensure their failure. Change is simply rejected by the Saudi regime which symbolizes the worst kind of backwardness, corruption and despotism. A polarized situation has thus ensued with two distinct camps; the people who are pursuing their revolutions and the forces of the counter revolution. Those forces have spared no money or effort in their quest to quash the Arab Spring, supported by the Obama administration. The White House which was initially overwhelmed by the popular uprisings soon retracted from the positions it took at the time. President Obama's pledge to correct the American behavior and policy towards democracy in the world and not to be "on the wrong side of history" soon evaporated. Today, the United States is well-entrenched in its counter-revolutionary designs in almost all countries where people sought to change their situation.

It is possible that these severe economic downturn in the West may have played a role in this pro-Saudi, pro-despotism and dictatorship process, but it can, by no means, be justified. If the revolutions are failed by the American and Saudi plots a new phase of severe anti-Western polarization will begin with dire consequences to the balance of power in the world. Those forces had hoped that by castigating the Bahraini revolution as sectarian they would entice other Arab people to adopt similar stands. It was also hoped that social divide between those seeking change and those hoping to exploit the situation would enable decision makers to contemplate their future policies on the basis of turning the region into a more peaceful, more tranquil one. A process of deception, corruption and containment thus continued, leading to the creation of a new reality marred by tension and tendency towards extremism,

What had started as a game to salvage the Al Khalifa regime soon became a trap not only for the Saudis but also for the Americans. While Britain and Israel played their cards discretely and secretly the Obama administration failed to accept the new realities and acted to subvert the revolutions. Even in Libya which epitomized the Western championship of the democratic cause soon became a nightmare both to its own citizens and the West. The Saudis have succeeded in tapping the "democratic world" and pulling it to play dirty games against the democratic revolutions in the Arab world.

If there is any doubt about the failure of the "free world" to grasp the historical opportunity and achieve a moral high ground, a glance at the developments of the Bahraini situation would soon clarify the confusion. The US had embraced the cliché of "reform" of the despotic dictatorship as far back as the late nineties. Washington played a pivotal role in facilitating the dictator's black reign that has now lasted twelve years. Through its secret campaign in which it managed to lure some opposition figures to Hamad's political programme, promising them new political jobs and economic opportunities. Ten years later, the whole process came to a halt as Bahrainis awoke to the grim realities of the new form of Al Khalifa dictatorship. This time the revolution has engulfed the whole country with demonstrations as massive as those that had taken place in much larger countries like Egypt and Yemen. It had been hoped that Washington's initial promises to curtail the excesses of the regime would become a reality. Those hopes have now proven to be ill-placed and premature. The US is now seen by the people as simply incapable of living up to its promises or supporting people's causes. They could not comprehend a democratic Middle East whose people are liberated from the chains of slavery, servitude and dictatorship. The Bahrainis have proven themselves able to break free from the designs and conspiracies of the counter revolution forces despite their extreme repression and savagery. Since the Saudis occupied the country, the 14th February youth have offered stiff resistance to the Saudi and Al Khalifa occupation and to maintain the momentum of the revolution. More martyrs were added to the list of those who had already been brutally murdered by

the invaders in March. The occupiers employed more lethal means including chemical gases that killed several men and women. When the Americans attempted to save the regime from the wrath of the revolutionaries through the ill-fated hopeless dialogue, their initiative faltered and they had to change their strategies. Bahraini youth have, once more, proven to be more resilient and steadfast than the mercenaries and occupiers. The revolution has been institutionalized and the call for the removal of the regime has become more pronounced. With the international bodies taking more practical approaches against the Al Khalifa hereditary dictatorship, senior members of the regime started to take actions to avoid international wrath. The opportunities available today for the victory of the revolution are far greater than at the beginning of the Arab Spring. The US administration is bogged down in serious financial crisis while the Saudis have become the symbol of hate to the youth who are involved in the revolutionary process. The Egyptians, Tunisians and Yemenis are angry at what they see as Saudi plots to abort their work and ensure the continuation of the status quo. The rulers of Saudi Arabia have now become target for change as their system is considered the most reactionary and outdated regime in the world. They may have been able to defer the revolution of their own people for the time being, but it will not be long before they are themselves targeted for regime change.

The prospects of a return to the old days when absolute dictatorship wreaked havoc in their countries and denied people their natural rights are non-existent. The sleeping giant has regained the initiative, woken up and challenged the status quo in dramatic ways to the extent that no one else can dictate the direction of the Arab societies. Bahrainis, for example, need only one more decisive victory in other Arab countries to be able to declare an outright war against the invaders. The people have declared their real demand; the removal of the regime for good. No power in the world can defend a regime that has murdered its own people and compromised its sovereignty. Time alone will expose their weakness and crimes. The people need to remain vigilant to achieve eventual victory. That is a realistic prospect that will materialize soon.

Royal commission undermined on first day working day

The anti-regime demonstrations took new dimensions yesterday when the youth took to the streets in various places. After the Friday prayers hundreds of youth staged their protest in Duraz, Bani Jamra, Barbar, Sitra, Al Ekr and other towns. They were viciously attacked by the regime's forces. Many of the demonstrators have sustained serious injuries but were unable to get to the hospital for fear of kidnapping and further torture. Children and women were savagely beaten. Tear and chemical gases were extensively used causing extreme forms of nausea and pain. Makeshift clinics were busy treating the wounded.

A case against more than fifty members of the Al Khalifa regime has been lodged at the International Court at the Hague. The international writ has been sponsored by 14 international human rights bodies. Nine international lawyers had prepared its contents ensuring its compliance with the rules and requirements of the court. Among the delegation which presented the case to the Prosecutor's office were

Haytham Manna', Dr Loa'i Deeb, Mr Abdul Hameed Dashti, a Kuwaiti lawyer and Dr Fouad Al Ibrahim. The delegation met the ICC Prosecutor, Moreno Ocampo and discussed the case with his staff. Several media channels were present at the entrance of the Court. There is mounting pressure on the ICC to act against senior members of the regime including the dictator, Hamad, himself.

Another young Bahraini, Jaffar Salman Makki, from Sitra, has lost one of his eyes after being hit with a shotgun. His shrapnel-riddled face and body were evidence to the barbarity of the Al Khalifa and Al Saud occupiers. His widowed wife and two daughters have been badly shaken by this crime. There are at least fifty Bahrainis who lost at least one eye as a result of the crackdown.

The dictator has refused to investigate these crimes by independent bodies. Instead, he has appointed a group of experts under his command to undertake partial investigation into the events of February and March of this year. Their mandate has

excluded the major crimes committed in the following months which were probably more serious than the crimes in the two months. There are many confirmed reports that documents have been intentionally destroyed by the regime's officials to hide any credible evidence of the atrocities committed against the people. Hamad's inquiry, headed by Sharif Bissuoni, has failed its first test today for their noticeable absence from the areas where excessive force was used to repress demonstrators. They should have made the effort to witness those atrocities. Several human rights experts have expressed outrage at the way the royal commission had been formed. The UN Human Rights Commission is urged to dispatch its own independent investigation committee to Bahrain to present a credible testimony to the regime's atrocities. The dictator himself is implicated directly in issuing orders for the major attacks on Bahrainis.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
22nd July 2011

Irish fact-finding delegation 'bullied' in Bahrain

By the CNN Wire Staff , July 15, 2011
Manama, Bahrain (CNN) -- Bahraini pro-government medics and state media staffers "bullied and intimidated" an Irish delegation of health workers and politicians here to secure the release of more than a dozen Bahraini health workers, said former Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews. The incident occurred as the Irish delegation was completing a two-day fact-finding mission intended to determine the condition and secure the release of more than a dozen doctors and medical staff detained on anti-government charges.

But the news conference began to fall apart when 10 to 15 pro-government doctors and reporters for the state-run media approached the Irish delegation demanding to question them about their visit.

As the pro-government doctors and reporters circled the Irish health workers in the hotel lobby, officials decided to call off the news conference.

"That's not the sort of treatment we received when we were here," Andrews told a reporter afterward. "It's most unfortunate that we were bullied and intimidated by him and his representatives."

He accused the president of the Bahrain Medical Society, Dr. Nabeel al-Ansari, of provoking the incident.

Al-Ansari, who received his medical degrees in the Ukraine and the University of Toronto in Canada, was reappointed chief of emergency medicine at Salmaniya Hospital recently in the wake of the unrest after being sacked from the same post in 2006.

Speaking to reporters, al-Ansari said that the delegation was one-sided, despite the

fact that its members had met with Bahraini government officials during the visit. "Did they meet Bahrain medical society?" he asked on his Twitter account. "Noooo." "We have not come to save Irish doctors," Damian McCormack, who led the delegation, told reporters. "We came to Bahrain to help Bahrainis," said the professor of orthopedic surgery at Temple Street Children's Hospital in Dublin.

The delegation arrived on the Gulf island with a letter of support from the Irish foreign minister, Eamon Gilmore. They traveled here as part of an effort to determine the condition of the Bahraini health workers, many of whom had trained in Ireland. Since March, 47 Bahraini doctors, nurses, and paramedics have been charged and detained for supporting protesters during this year's pro-reform demonstrations that have swept across Bahrain. Another, a doctor, left the country without having been detained.

Fourteen of the health workers remained Thursday in custody. The others were released after their military trials, which began in June. Those released alleged that they had been tortured and forced to make false confessions. The government has

responded that it is not involved in torture. An independent, fact-finding mission headed by international experts has been set up to look into the assertions, but it will not be operational until next week. Many of the Bahraini doctors are Shiite. Bahrain's majority Shiite community has long complained of discrimination by the ruling Sunni elite. Bahraini protesters assert that the Sunni majority government discriminates against them in matters relating to their welfare spending, employment and the like. The Shiites make up about two-thirds of Bahrain's population. The authorities here allege that Bahrain's Shiites who participated in the pro-reform protests that began on February 14 have links to Shiites in Iran. The Bahraini Shiites deny that is the case.

Last May, a report by Medecins Sans Frontieres, also referred to as Doctors Without Borders, said medical staff in Bahrain had been unfairly targeted by government forces and that wounded protesters were arrested when they arrived at hospitals for treatment. Twenty of the health workers face charges that include weapons possession, the occupation of a public building, and calling for the overthrow of the regime.

Some medics are charged with carrying out unnecessary operations resulting in deaths of patients and denying treatment on sectarian bases. The remaining 28 face charges of spreading false news about those killed and wounded during the protests and gathering in groups illegally.

The authorities here have detained more than 1,000 people since the crackdown began. Hundreds had



Pressure mounts for fact-finding mission

The political crisis in Bahrain has deepened in the past few days after it became clear that the long-awaited "dialogue" has failed drastically. Instead of dealing with the core issues relating to governance and the future role of the Al Khalifa, the regime turned it into a public meeting arguing about trivial issues that had nothing to do with the underlying causes and demands of the revolution. The American Embassy in Manama exerted enormous pressure on the political societies to join the meeting and the Al Khalifa dictatorship blackmailed some of those societies threatening them with severe reprisals if they did not join. The main forces of the revolution have, however, rejected any attempt to undermine the main aims including that of regime change. The first week of this futile attempt to derail the revolution has failed; the youth have returned to the streets and made their presence felt through their demonstrations and slogans like: "The people want regime change" and "Down with Hamad". Few now believe that it would be possible for the two sides to co-exist following the enormous crimes committed by the Al Khalifa against Bahrain's people.

The enormity of the situation has led to international campaigns against the regime. Major news media such as The Times, The Independent, The Guardian have continued coverage of the illegal trials of Bahraini doctors and athletes. The Al Khalifa have been weakened and humiliated to such an extent that as soon as an international body threatens to take action against the Al Khalifa they would cave in without any resistance. When Fifa asked the Al Khalifa to give details of the crimes allegedly committed by the Bahraini athletes such as Alaa Hubail and his brother, Mohammad, the two were released despite their two years prison sentences. On Friday 8th July, both The Independent and Guardian newspapers carried full page adverts against the ongoing summary military trials of doctors and nurses. Almost all international human rights bodies are convinced that senior figures of the Al Khalifa had committed serious crimes against humanity. A recent video shot secretly on Thursday 7th July depicts clearly members of the Death Squads openly torturing a Bahraini youth after being arrested in the street. There are many similar videos that could be used in any international court as evidence against senior members of the regime. New revela-

tions of the forms of torture being inflicted on the doctors have confirmed that some of the methods may not have been used before. These include stuffing human secretion the mouths of the detainees to force them to sign false confessions. Senior figures of the opposition were given the choice either to utter words of apology to the dictator or being raped.

Meanwhile the 14th February youth have called for more protests to bring about a regime change. While public anger is rising against the American support of the regime, there is mounting pressure on international bodies to take action against the Al Khalifa dictatorship. Although Bahrain's dictator is trying to avoid international sanctions by forming his own committee to "investigate" the crimes committed in the past few months, there are pressures on the Human Rights Council to send a fact-finding mission to Bahrain. The appointed committee is unlikely to scrutinize the dictator because it has to report to him and is financed by him. The UN Human Rights Council is urged to send her own team to investigate the Al Khalifa crimes against Bahrainis immediately, otherwise the Council will be accused of bias and double standards

Bahrain Freedom Movement
9th July 2011

Vicious attacks on protestors as resistance solidifies

Peaceful demonstrations were attacked this afternoon by the Saudi and Al Khalifa forces and Death Squads in the towns and villages of Sitra. Bahrainis have called for today's protests calling for the right of self-determination for the citizens and an end to the hereditary dictatorship that have plagued Bahrain for decades. The regime's forces, many of whom are hired mercenaries, used chemical and tear gases to subdue the youth who reacted by erecting barricades and shouting slogans against the Saudi and Al Khalifa occupiers. Several Bahrainis were injured in these vicious attacks by foreign forces. One woman had her car destroyed by these mercenaries and fire was seen bellowing. Running battles are still raging between the two sides while the area has been hit hard with these poisonous gases. Several houses were attacked by the Al Saud and Al Khalifa forces. The main slogan was: "Down with Hamad" referring to the dictator who has now become symbol of hatred in the country for his role in the bloodbath in the past few months. He is now held responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity. The town of Ekr, Mhazza, Ma'amir and Outer Sitra have become the main grounds of confrontations.

The Irish former Foreign Minister, David Andrews today said that Bahraini pro-government medics and state media staff-

ers "bullied and intimidated" an Irish delegation of health workers and politicians here to secure the release of more than a dozen Bahraini health workers. He accused the president of the Bahrain Medical Society, Dr. Nabeel al-Ansari, of provoking the incident. "It's most unfortunate that we were bullied and intimidated by him and his representatives." "We have not come to save Irish doctors," Damian McCormack, who led the delegation, told reporters. "We came to Bahrain to help Bahrainis," said the professor of orthopedic surgery at Temple Street Children's Hospital in Dublin. The delegation arrived on the Gulf island with a letter of support from the Irish foreign minister, Eamon Gilmore. They traveled here as part of an effort to determine the condition of the Bahraini health workers, many of whom had trained in Ireland.

On another level, more arrests have taken place in recent days, provoking more anger and frustration as the people continued their struggle to secure their rights. In the town of Al Ekr in the South East of the country, a Bahraini man was attacked savagely by members of the Death Squads before being snatched to the torture chambers. Jaffar Abbas Abdulla Al Moghanni was attacked as he walked in the street. His wounds were described as serious and he was on the brink of uncon-

sciousness when he was kidnapped by the regime's agents. Another young man, Sayyed Ahmad Al Wada'ei was arrested in the early hours of today. He had been sentenced by the military court for one year imprisonment for taking part in anti-regime peaceful demonstrations. His image on several TV screens soon after the Saudi aggression in March with blood pouring over his face and soaking his clothes had angered the Saudi and Al Khalifa occupiers. Instead of arresting his attackers, he was treated in this way as the occupiers decided to take revenge from Bahrainis.

The release of the young Bahraini poet, Ayat Al Qurmuzi, has been hailed as a victory for the people over the hereditary dictatorship. Ayat was arrested in March and kept under severe torture throughout. She became a symbol of resistance with many world artists and poets campaigning for her release. She was forced, under physical and psychological torture to "apologise" from the dictator but she has now vowed to continue her struggle until a regime change is achieved. Her testimony is expected to contribute to the indictment of the dictator, Hamad Al Khalifa and both his son and uncle who had given orders to kill and torture Bahrainis. War crimes were committed and torture is still being administered under the instruction of them.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
15th July 2011



Bahraini Soccer Players Detained & Tortured

By Kristina C. July 10, 2011

Several Bahraini soccer players, including stars of the country's national team, were detained and tortured after participating in a protest against Bahrain's ruling Al-Khalifa family in March. The Australian Times via the Times of London reports that Mohammed Hubail has been sentenced to two years in prison, while his brother, striker Alaa Hubail and goalkeeper Ali Saeed have been charged with criminal acts.

Photos of the Hubail brothers on the soccer field and after their detention can be seen at the Los Angeles Times.

The three are out on bail and now home in a Shiite village outside of the capital of Manama; they do not know if they will be able to play soccer again. They have been warned not to speak about their detainment for fear of further abuse – both Hubail brothers have their heads shaved, and Mohammed Hubail has bruises on his feet, says the Australian Times/London Times — but one unnamed relative says:

"The first two weeks after they were arrested were the worst. They were beaten all the time. They still have marks on their bodies."

When the brothers appeared in court, military police officers on duty went up to shake their hands, some asking for autographs.

"But the men who were beating them were not Bahraini. They didn't care who they were," said a friend of the players. "These men are loved by the people, Sunni and Shia. You are British: imagine David Beckham gets arrested and tortured. It's unthinkable."

The three players were also reportedly subjected to lengthy interrogations and ritual humiliation, says Al-Arabiya.

More than 150 athletes, referees and officials have been detained since March when the Bahraini king called in troops from Saudi Arabia and implemented martial law until June. At least 32 protesters were killed and hundreds more detained including human rights activists, doctors and nurses and a 20-year-old poet. Two protesters have been sentenced to death and eight to life in prison; the doctors and nurses have been charged with the equivalent of treason for giving medical assistance to injured protesters.

Bahrain Olympic Committee secretary-general Sheik Ahmed bin Hamad al-Khalifa has said that:

There seems to be a view that footballers or doctors are above the law. If there is a case against them, it does not matter who they are or what their profession is. But not only Bahraini citizens who are athletes have been detained. Also ac-

ording to USA Today, Zulfiqar Naji, a 16-year-old Iraqi player on the junior team for Bahraini club Al Muharraq, has been detained since April by the Bahraini government on suspicion of participating in the anti-democracy protests. The player's father, Abdulameer Naji, is a soccer coach and denies that his son participated in the protests, says Al-Arabiya: "He is far removed from politics," Mr. Naji said. He said his son was not involved in politics and only interested in music and football. "I have asked the club to intervene but they have not done much. I do not understand what is happening because I thought I had a good relationship with Bahrain," Mr. Naji said.

Mr. Naji Sr. played with Iraq's Al-Zawra club from 1978 to 1990 before coaching various Bahraini teams, including Al-Mouharrak, Al-Itifaq, Al-Ittihad and Al-Badiyah.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari has himself asked Bahraini Foreign Minister Khaled Bin Ahmed for an explanation about the 16-year-old's detention. Relations between Bahrain and Iraq have declined since the protests, says Al-Arabiya, with Bahrain and the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council saying that the protests were "instigated by Shiite Iran in a bid to destabilize the island and sow sectarian discord."

The soccer players' reports of torture contradict what the Bahraini Football Association (BFA) told FIFA, the governing body for international soccer, as USA Today says. FIFA said it had been given "assurances that national team players haven't been disciplined during political turmoil in the Gulf kingdom." Bahrain had given the assurances in response to a request from FIFA about whether the Bahraini government had "interfered politically in the sport," says Al-Arabiya.

But if FIFA concludes that Bahrain had "intervened for political reasons in the Gulf island's soccer," Bahrain could be suspended and its participation in the next round of the Asian Olympic qualifiers in September potentially jeopardized. Further, a FIFA investigation could adversely affect the chances of Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, a member of the Bahraini royal family, from becoming the president of the powerful Asian Football Confederation (AFC), succeeding Qatari national Mohamed Bin Hammam who is currently caught in a bribery scandal.

Below is a video of Alaa Hubail making the winning goal in Bahrain's 1-0 defeat over Japan in the 2010 World Cup. Let's hope he, his brother and Saeed and can play again

.Read more: <http://www.care2.com/causes/bahraini-soccer-players-detained-tortured.html#ixzz1STbCUXPn>

Sheikh loses palace to bookmaker after racking up gambling debts

By Greg Walton, 9th July 2011

Bookmaker Spreadex is in line to receive a share in a Bahraini palace part-owned by royal family member Sheikh Hamad Al Khalifa after he racked up a quarter of a million pounds in gambling debts.

Spreadex moved to take a share in the palace through a 'charging order' granted by UK and Bahraini courts to the bookmaker, which is claiming £240,272.26.

Al Khalifa was ordered to pay in full by June 30 at an enforcement hearing held in Bahrain in April.

Now that he has failed to meet that deadline, Spreadex is expected to sell off Al Khalifa's interest in a palace owned by the royal family, as directed by the enforcement court.

It is understood that other royals holding a share in the property will be forced to buy out the company, as according to Bahraini law only members of the ruling family should have stakes in royal palaces. Al Khalifa is believed to be in London, and the court has asked officials to seize his passport or block his return to the oil-rich Saudi-backed kingdom.

The Bahraini authorities claim not to know Al Khalifa, but court documents show his UK address to be their London embassy.



Young Bahraini on death bed

On 27th July Hassan Mahdi Al Eskafi, 24, from Bilad Al Qadeem, was attacked by the members of the

Death Squads. The attack took place in the town of Daih and the victim was transferred to the hospital which is run by the military. His condition is described as serious. He had received a direct hit with a rubber bullet to the head. There was a peaceful demonstration at the time and no violence was reported. This crime has been committed as the appointed commission was "conducting" its investigation under the chairmanship of Sharif Bis-siouni. It has remained silent as Bahrainis are targeted by the criminal regime.