

BAHRAIN

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

Victory of revolution is at hand as Al Saud, Al Khalifa defeated

The situation in Bahrain has now entered a decisive phase following the recent events that had shaken the country to its core. In addition to the recent killing of several Bahrainis, the Saudi occupation and Al Khalifa dictatorship have committed one of the most serious crimes to date. The arrest and taking hostage of scores of Bahraini women, handcuffing them and throwing them on the streets have ended any possibility of rapprochement and could escalate into an open conflict in the next few weeks. While the Bahraini revolution has remained peaceful, the moral defeat of the unholy Saudi-Al Khalifa alliance has forced them to commit these outrageous crimes that no other government in the Middle East has done including Israel. The arrest, beating, abuse, handcuffing and detention of these women shocked every noble Bahraini citizen and confirmed to everyone that the eventual show down is not far away. There have been numerous voices calling to exercise meaningful self-defence within the remits of international laws, but the consensus is still to be on the receiving side of aggression as this will eventually defeat the aggressors. The voices that have been calling for dialogue with the Al Khalifa are now subdued and dwindling due to the outrageous crimes by the unholy alliance. The youth are more adamant on seeing their revolution through to eventual and certain victory. No one can foresee a future for the Al Khalifa in Bahrain. Even their allies are now admitting that they have lost the opportunity of reconciliation with the people of Bahrain.

To most Bahrainis, the Saudi occupation is seen as the main cause of this human disaster. Taking women hostage in this humiliating way has proven too much to almost everyone with dignity, pride, religion and humanity in this country. Women are always held at high esteem by Bahrainis unlike their treatment at the hands of the Al Khalifa. In the nineties many women were arrested and tortured during the uprising that continued for five years until the death of the defunct ruler. The Saudi occupation is now seen as the main force behind the abduction, torture and abuse of Bahraini women and nothing could wipe out the internal feeling of despair and anger among the people. Even the largely apolitical scholars felt compelled to engage in a symbolic strike in protest at this

vicious treatment of Bahraini women. Anger is boiling under the service and it is feared that the situation could flare up out of control soon. The Americans also stand accused of complicity in this latest outrage. They had publicly condoned the Saudi occupation and repeatedly avoided any condemnation of the Al Khalifa atrocities against the people of Bahrain. President Obama has come to symbolize the worst of American morality and policy as he maintained silence at what is befalling the people of Bahrain while publicly denouncing other dictators. He has failed to impress the world of his commitment that he had initially announced at the onset of the Arab revolutions when he said: "We do not want to be on the wrong side of history". Today, the USA is firmly entrenched on that side as the people of Bahrain and Yemen are left at the mercy of blood-thirsty Al Saud and Al Khalifa dictatorships.

What is next? Several factors may contribute to highlight the possible developments in the next few weeks. First is the escalation by the 14th February Youth who had successfully carried out one of the most daring acts; the implementation of the "Dignity ring" in which Manama was encircled by motor cars and brought to a standstill. Both the American and British embassies warned their citizens against travelling to Bahrain in this period. It was the success of this operation that had angered the Al Saud and Al Khalifa forces and made them to take women hostages. Second is the success of the Ramadhan programme which became testing grounds for the ability of the youth to congregate and encircle the regime. For almost thirty nights protests and demonstrations did not cease in most parts of the country. It was a successful initiative that pushed the situation to the brink of an outright confrontation. Third is the beginning of an international awareness to the situation of this country. It was heartening to read the editorials of the Washington Post and New York Times which directed severe criticism to the Whitehouse for its double-standard policies that made its officials blind to the suffering of the people of Bahrain. Other news media, including CNN have carried out articles, commentaries and surveys that have greatly undermined the Al Khalifa public relations initiatives. Senior figures of the Al Khalifa dictatorship

have conceded defeat in the international media war which has been decisively won by the people. Forth is the reconciliation among the various constituents of the political groups, some of which were involved in the doomed political programme imposed by the Al Khalifa dictatorship. Even those groups that had participated in that programme have now taken the side of the people in the struggle, leaving no room for reconciliation with the Saudi occupation or Al Khalifa dictatorship.

What is making the youth more resolved to escalate their civil resistance to the regime is the accumulative successes over the past few weeks. Among these are: First, the polarization in the Arab world against the Saudis who are now deeply entrenched in the counter-revolution aiming at the destruction or containment of the popular revolutions. Second; the public defeat of the regime on several fronts. The release of the doctors, the teachers, the athletes and the women in the first phase of the revolution has embarrassed the Al Khalifa and Al Saud who had fabricated claims against those Bahrainis which have now been proven baseless. Third; the solidification of the local public opinion against any dialogue with the unholy alliance and that nothing short of its downfall would be acceptable.

Today, no sensible person with a social stature could accept negotiation with the occupiers and dictators. This is a serious blow to the American-initiated efforts aiming at safeguarding the position of the Al Khalifa. The dictator, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, has become a symbol of hate especially after his son, Nasser, had been exposed as a sadistic torturer. Forth; the transformation of the leadership style in favour of the youth who are more courageous and brave. These factors have created new realities in favour of total change of the regime. The failure of the dictator was laid bare last month when the by-elections could register more than 10 percent of the eligible voters. It could thus be said with a degree of confidence that the Saudi occupation and Al Khalifa dictatorship are doomed and that the people of Bahrain will soon enjoy their freedom from both evils. The blood of the martyrs is thus, once again, poised to declare victory over the sword of the Al Saud and the Al Khalifa.

Death Squads kill a child in cold blood and AI protests incorrect reporting

The killing on Wednesday of an under-aged Bahraini boy has re-ignited the revolution and took the country into what could become a decisive phase of its revolution. Ali Jawad Ahmad Al Sheikh, 14, was with a group of boys at the graveyard to visit the grave of an earlier martyr, Ali Al Mo'men, who had been killed in mid-March. One of the government troops shot him in the face and killed him almost instantly. He was taken to Sitra Clinic for treatment. But the Al Khalifa troops surrounded the clinic, snatched the body and took it to the Salmaniya Hospital which is run by the military. The authorities wanted to falsify the facts and issue a death certificate with false reasons for the death but the family refused to receive a forged document. The people were so enraged by the cold-blooded of this young boy on Eid Day (which is a day of celebration) that they attended his funeral yesterday in their tens of thousands. They chanted anti-regime slogans including: "Down with Hamad" and

"The people want regime change". The atmosphere was so charged that any attempt by the regime's Death Squads to intervene would have led to blood bath. The royal commission, led by Charif Bissiouni, once again, failed to live up to its ethical duty. Although they visited the martyr's corpse at the morgue, they continued to whitewash the crimes of the regime either by their silence or the occasional positive remarks by Bissiouni himself.

Meanwhile two senior human rights figures have gone on hunger strike in support of the medical staff who had also gone on hunger strike. They issued the following statement yesterday: "Based on the human feeling and the human rights responsibility, we, Abdul Hadi Al Khawaja and Abdul Jalil Al Singace, announce that we have started our hunger strike in solidarity with the medical team and the other hunger strikers at the Dry Dock prison and to protest the continued arbitrary detention and unfair trials in

relation to recent events in Bahrain". This brave step is likely to cause serious bodily damage to both as they had endured the most torture among the prisoners and both are reported to be in ill-health.

In another disastrous development the Al Khalifa have demoted many senior academic staff at public schools to ordinary teachers in order to meet the shortage of teachers caused by the mass dismissal of hundreds in recent months. Most of these inspectors are well qualified with masters and doctorate degrees and their sudden demotion is seen as an attempt to subjugate the Bahraini professional teachers and pave the way for more foreigners who may be brought from outside.

As the people's revolution takes a new leap forward, the Al Khalifa have brought into the country more Jordanian troops to supplement the Saudi occupiers. Over the past month demonstrations and protest have shaken the foundation of the regime which had thought that the Saudi occupation would bring Bahrainis to their knees.

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Escalation of revolution as people insist on regime change

The international pressure on the Al Khalifa regime has forced it to "drink the poison" and release the medical staff whose members had been accused by the Al Khalifa and Al Saud officials of the most serious crimes, including killing patients, falsifying evidence and plotting to overthrow the regime. Their release on Tuesday 6th September has exposed the lies, fabrications and most important of all, the crimes, committed by the regime. Doctors and nurses were tortured extensively over their six months incarceration. They were beaten, hung in the chicken position, forced to stand for days, deprived of sleep, the use of electric shocks and tasers over their bodies, spitting in their mouths and stuffing their mouths with human secretion. Women medics were sexually assaulted. International human rights bodies, including Physicians for Human Rights and Doctors Without Borders repeatedly issued statements accusing the Al Khalifa of torture and calling for their immediate release. On Tuesday, Irish doctors and supporters staged a hunger strike in Dublin in support of Bahraini medics, among them were Professor McCormack and Tara OGrady. The victims themselves had been on hunger strike when they were released. It was a major defeat of the Al Khalifa dictatorship. Many Bahrainis also staged hunger strike in support of the prisoners who had been on strike for a week. Dr Abdul Jalil Al Singace and Abdul Hadi Al Khawaja led the hunger strike inside their cells and were followed by many inside prison and outside. Men and women from Bilad Al Qadeem, Al Zinj and Al Salihya also participated in the hunger strike earlier this

week.

International angry voices are rising against the moral failure of the US government and its allies as they maintain their support to Al Khalifa dictatorship. Of particular concern to the world is the justification of the Saudi occupation of Bahrain. On 8th September, CNN published a long report on the American immoral stand on Bahrain. Its Foreign Affairs editor, Joost R. Hiltermann ended his article with these words: "Washington retains real leverage over the regime. Bahrain is firmly under the U.S. security umbrella in the Gulf, and the United States provides Bahrain with funding for military purchases (\$19 million in 2010) as well as military training assistance. The United States should be more assertive about using this influence: The current policy of continuing military-to-military relations without regard for the political and human rights situation is counterproductive, could be interpreted as violating U.S. law, and exposes the Obama administration to accusations of double standards in its approach to Arab Spring. For the moment, Bahrain is the first successful chapter of the Arab counterrevolution spearheaded by Saudi Arabia - it is the place where the West has broken its promise to support the Arab people in their struggle for a greater say in politics and greater control over their destinies. It is time for the Obama administration to push the country back onto the road toward reform, using pro-democracy forces within the regime, its supporters and the opposition to show the way.

Meanwhile, Bahrain revolutionaries are preparing for a final assault to re-occupy

the iconic Pearl Roundabout in what they have called "The final return" on 23rd and 24th September, the days of the by-elections. So far, at least three people have made the perilous attempt to occupy the Roundabout which is being defended by the Saudi and Al Khalifa troops. Abdul Qadir Darwish, Mohammad Al Hayki and Mohammad Jaffar Al Ekri had been able to cross those defences and take up positions at the Roundabout. They were all arrested, beaten and tortured.

The people have continued their revolution with great zeal and determination. This morning a large demonstration was staged at Mhaza District of Sitra calling for regime change and shouting "Down with Hamad". Last night people of Sitra also demonstrated against the regime whose forces reacted with fury, smashing cars and breaking people's properties. Over the past week, several demonstrations were held at various locations; from Sitra and Ma'amir to Bouri, Duraz and Bani Jamra to Sanabis, Daih and Jidhafs. Demonstrations took place at the town of Dair, near the airport. At the protests held yesterday at Aali, called for by the 14th February Youth, harsh measures were adopted to crush the will of the people. In addition to tear and chemical gases, regime's forces used shotguns that led to serious injuries to several people. Images of the victims have infuriated Bahrainis who feel that they are the victims of an unholy alliance between the Al Khalifa and the Western countries, especially US.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
9th September 2011

Appeals to world leaders to intervene to stop blood bath

The two days of reckoning in Bahrain are fast approaching as the Al Khalifa junta threatened a blood bath. On 23rd and 24th September the people of Bahrain will attempt to re-conquer the Pearl Roundabout in order to mourn those who were murdered by the Saudi and Al Khalifa forces in mid March. Preparations are being made to ensure a successful and peaceful operation as a first step to liberate Bahrain from the brutal Saudi occupation. The 14th February Youth are making last minute steps to ensure a peaceful march, as the Al Khalifa ministry of interior repeated threats to inflict maximum damage on anyone taking part in the proposed march. The Youth have appealed to international bodies to put pressure on the Al Saud and Al Khalifa regimes not to use violence against Bahrainis. The Bahraini opposition abroad have also written to several personalities and bodies urging them to intervene to stop a blood bath by troops, security forces and Death Squads. The plan is to reverse the crime committed by the joint aggressive forces in mid March when, under the international spotlight they waged lethal attacks on Bahrainis encamped at the Roundabout killing and injuring tens of people. The proposed peaceful action has been planned for three reasons: The first is to tell the world that the destruction by Al Saud and Al Khalifa forces of the Pearl Monument after their criminal attack had failed to destroy the will of the Bahraini revolutionaries and that the civil move-

ment is here to stay until a regime change has been achieved. The second is to commemorate the martyrs who have fallen over the past seven months including the latest two. The third is to draw the attention of the world on the day of proposed bye-elections for the dictator's shura council, half of whose members are elected through a closely controlled process. There has been massive support to the move from the youth or revolutions in several countries including Yemen and Egypt. The latest two martyrs have ignited the popular feeling of rage against the Al Saud and Al Khalifa whose machines of death have not ceased their criminal activities against the people of Bahrain. Sayyed Jawad Sayyed Ahmad Marhoon, 35, from Sitra died in agony ten days after he had been attacked by the regime's forces with poisonous and tear gases on 3rd September. His house was also attacked on 10th September when poisonous chemical gases were thrown inside his house by the Death Squads and security forces. He emerged from the house carrying his baby daughter but had suffered massive internal injuries as a result. The second martyr is Jaffar Hassan Yousuf, 28, married with two children, from Demstan, died as a result of severe torture inflicted by the regime's torturers during his incarceration. His massive funeral was attacked by the security forces and thugs and more people were reported injured. The attacks on Bahrainis have continued in the past few days as the people staged demonstrations throughout

the country calling for a regime change and chanting: "Down with Hamad" in reference to Bahrain's dictator who has become the most hated tyrant in the region. Among those attacked was women protest on 16th September at Bilad Al Qadeem. Several women were injured. Meanwhile, the US administration has been widely criticized for agreeing to receive the dictator whose trip to New York today has triggered widespread revulsion especially among human rights activists. The Obama administration has registered a drastic moral failure by its refusal to take a neutral stand with regards to the Bahraini revolution. On 15th September the New York Times published a damning article titled "Bahrain Boils Under the Lid of Repression" detailing the repression by the Al Khalifa against the people of Bahrain. On 10th September, the Washington Post published an editorial calling on the White House to take action against the Al Khalifa dictatorship and stop its double-standard policy in the Middle East. It had been hoped that Bahrain's dictator, who has come to symbolize brutality and absolute dictatorship would not be allowed to set foot on the American soil. The American stands have been criticized by both politicians and human rights activists as the world witnesses more political saga unfolding in various parts of the Middle East.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
20th September 2011

Washington Post: Bahrain needs U.S. attention

BAHRAIN HAS BECOME the hidden story of the Arab Spring. While the popular uprisings in Libya, Syria and Yemen have dominated the news in recent months, far less attention has been paid to the tiny but strategic Persian Gulf emirate, which hosts the U.S. 5th Fleet. That's partly because Bahrain's ruling al-Khalifa family deflected criticism from the massive crackdown it launched in March by promising to initiate a dialogue with its opposition and implement political reforms. The regime, however, hasn't delivered — and now it is risking a new explosion of unrest that could destabilize not just Bahrain but the region around it. The latest trouble began with the promised National Dialogue, which unraveled soon after it began in July. The government gave the largest opposition party five out of the assembly's 300 seats and left some crucial reform issues — such as the reform of parliamentary districts — off the agenda. Most of the opposition walked out before the "dialogue" concluded with several minor recommenda-

tions. One of them would increase the powers of the regime's principal hardliner, Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa, who has been in office since 1971.

Another conciliatory initiative, a commission to investigate the unrest, has been undermined by the behavior of its Egyptian chairman, who has made public statements preemptively exonerating the ruling family. A promise to rehire thousands of workers fired from their state jobs because of their suspected support for the opposition has been only partly fulfilled. And while some political prisoners have been released — a group of doctors were freed this week after they and other prisoners staged a hunger strike — hundreds remain jailed and the regime continues to use a "court of national safety" to imprison opposition leaders.

Rather than moving toward reconciliation, Bahrain is more polarized than ever, and the fault line increasingly falls between the ruling Sunni elite and majority Shiite population. Clashes between pro-

testers and police occur almost every night in Shiite villages, and the Aug. 31 death of a 14-year-old boy who the opposition says was struck by a tear gas canister has magnified the tension. Thoughtful Bahrainis worry that a new eruption of mass protests is imminent and that it may lead to a purely sectarian conflict that could spread to Saudi Arabia and even Iraq.

The United States has considerable leverage in Bahrain — through the 5th Fleet, military aid programs and a free-trade agreement. But the Obama administration has been timid here as elsewhere during the Arab Spring. In May, President Obama made a strong statement about Bahrain during a speech on the Middle East in which he promised to support the cause of democratic change across the region. But there has been no follow-up; no senior U.S. officials have visited Bahrain in months, and the administration has had nothing to say about the deteriorating situation. This is shortsighted: If Bahrain blows up, vital U.S. interests will be at risk. The administration should use its influence now — before the crisis resumes.

Testimonies from Bahrain Memories of a jailed activist's wife

By Khadija al-Mousawi, wife of imprisoned human rights defender 'Abdulhadi al-Khawaja.

It was on a Friday when we gathered in my daughter Fatima's flat as a family – eating together, talking about politics and human rights or joking and laughing.

Suddenly we heard a very loud noise. In a matter of seconds the flat door was broken in and burly, masked men burst into the room. I cannot explain how I felt at that moment, because no word in the dictionary, or in any language, can explain it.

My husband had always said “whenever they come to take me, please do not interfere and I will just go with them”. But he was not allowed to go peacefully. One of them grabbed him by the neck and then pulled him down the stairs by his legs. He was brutally beaten – punched and kicked in front of me and my daughters. When my eldest daughter interfered, they responded with insults and tried to arrest her too. I was torn between begging them not to take her and looking at my husband on the stairs where they were still kicking him and praying that he was ok. As if that was not enough, I suddenly noticed three masked men holding my three sons-in-law by their necks and taking them downstairs. At that point I was furious, sad and helpless.

My husband was gone, but I could not show how sad I felt because my daughters were suffering after watching the arrest of their husbands and father.

From that night on, our lifestyle changed. We would stay up all night, just in case the masked men decided to come back, and sleep after sunrise. We always slept fully clothed, just in case. Every sound made me jump and check the apartment was safe.

Days went by and we were waiting for news – any news. We asked a lawyer to try to get any information about their condition or whereabouts. He told us that that would be fruitless since lawyers weren't being told anything about detainees. I was praying to God, “Please just keep them alive!” – because after



seeing how 'Abdulhadi was beaten, I was not sure that he had survived. My daughter decided to go on hunger strike. She was getting weaker and weaker every day. Al-Khawaja's family call for his release in Bahrain © AP GraphicsBank

Weeks after the arrest, my husband called. He could barely speak and the call lasted seconds. He said that the oppression was great but his spirits were still high. All I could think at that point was: “At least now I know he is alive!” I only learned about the extent of my husband's injuries and his subsequent operation by watching the news. That day I wished I was dead.

I was very scared and worried about what I would see when I met him again. Then the trial started and I saw him. His face was different but his soul was unchanged. His head was held high, his eyes were sharp, and he was proud as ever. I was so happy to see his soul. Yes, as strange as that sounds, I can see my husband's soul.

I have lived with 'Abdulhadi for 30 years; 30 great years. He is my husband, my best friend, my soul-mate and my everything. He has been sentenced to life imprisonment and I hope that the pressure will be so great on the government that they will be forced to set him free. Until then, I am lucky to have so many good memories with this kind, wise, respectful, truthful and lovely husband of mine. I can go on forever re-living those memories while waiting for him.

I find myself amused by the fact that, although I am 52 years old, I usually can't sleep on the nights of our visits. I usually spend the whole night thinking of what I will tell him the following day. During these visits he helps me look on the bright side of life. We talk about all our happy memories together and usually end up laughing about some joke or another.

I love my husband and I am so proud of him, both as a man and a human rights defender.

Arrests and injuries reported in Bahrain

CNN 24th September

Polls closed Saturday night in a parliamentary election in Bahrain, a day marked by more arrests and clashes between authorities and protesters. The election was to fill 18 seats vacated by Al-Wefaq, the country's largest opposition party, which pulled out of the Middle Eastern nation's legislature to protest the treatment of demonstrators during unrest earlier this year.

Saturday was marked by more tension. There was no firm count of an injury toll, though many anti-government demonstrators were getting treated for their wounds in makeshift clinics in the capital of Manama, reports an eyewitness, who is not being named by CNN for security reasons.

Around the time the last ballots were cast, at 8 p.m., police said 22 people had been arrested so far. Protests were still ongoing at that time, the witness said.

The tiny island nation has felt the winds of change in the Arab world. Protests have lingered in Bahrain for months despite a crackdown on the Shiite majority nation by the kingdom's Sunni monarchy, backed by troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

More than 30 people have been killed in the crackdown, in which activists say Bahraini security forces used live ammunition against protesters. Opposition groups say more than 1,000 people -- mainly Shiites -- have been detained and more than 2,000 have lost their jobs for allegedly taking part in the protests.

Clashes had also been reported Friday in Manama on the eve of the elections. Security forces were sent to rallies to deal with what the Interior Ministry called “illegal acts which resulted from demonstrations,” according to the state news agency.

The ministry said saboteurs and outlaws stormed the City Center mall in Manama on Friday afternoon, “intent on sowing chaos and terrorizing shoppers,” according to the Bahrain News Agency. Those arrested will face legal action, officials said. Activists and human rights officials have also cited the stifling of political free expression in schools.

Death Squads kill child and AI protests, *Cont from Page 2*

The sudden flare up of public emotions and activism has been unprecedented with massive protests in the streets of towns and cities chanting slogans that call for the removal of the Al Khalifa regime.

In an embarrassing fiasco Amnesty International today was forced to issue a statement in response to distorted reporting by the regime's media. It said: “A number of Bahraini newspapers published articles on 2 September containing incorrect information about Amnesty International statements on Bahrain. The articles incorrectly state that Amnesty International called on Bahraini political groups not to use children in protests for political gains or as human shields. Amnesty International has never published such a statement and urges all these newspapers to immediately withdraw this article from their websites and to publish corrections in their printed editions. The most recent statement issued by Amnesty International on Bahrain can be found on its website: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/teenage-activist-killed-bahrain-protest-2011-08-31>

Bahrain Freedom Movement
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