

BAHRAIN

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Occupation of Bahrain will lead to destruction of Saudi state

Instead of solving the crisis of the Al Khalifa regime, the Saudi invasion of the country has compounded the domestic and regional problems of an embattled dictatorship. It is now reported that the fallout from the Bahraini revolution has forced the Saudi regime to ask the Al Khalifa to find a way out of it as a matter of urgency because of its impact on its domestic population. The talk of sectarianism may have limited the support to the revolution but it did not stop its influence on the public in the Saudi kingdom. There is political volatility that could herald political change in a country whose regime has always thought it had been immune from popular revolts. Not only has the political strife shaken the Eastern Peninsula whose people have supported the Bahraini people, but it has spread to other regions with detrimental effect. Last month the students at the King Khalid University in Abha (in South Western region) protested in large numbers at the way the university was being run. Soon other female and male students at other branches of the University joined in the protests that are now threatening to become the torch for wider political strife. The Saudis had hoped that the failure of last year's call for massive protests for 10th March 2011 would put an end to those who had hoped they could lead a revolution. But the current strife is likely to ignite more political dynamism.

The political problems in Saudi Arabia have been compounded by the absent of strong leadership. The king is so old and frail that he is no longer in the driving seat of a static machine. He has ceased to be a force for either leadership or change. The crown prince, Nayef bin Abdul Aziz is also in poor health and is unlikely to be able to stem off the rising tide of political unrest. In addition, the Arab Spring has not been good news for the Saudi monarchy. The forces of counter revolution including Saudi Arabia are still assessing their success in stalling the tide of change one year after the eruption of the monumental political wave, but it is too early to suggest that the revolutionary tide has lost its momentum. This particularly true in Bahrain where the Saudi occupation has not only failed to stop the mass protests but it has had negative effects on the ruling family. The Al Khalifa are depending

more on the American, British and Israeli support especially in the field of repression and mass containment. Bahrainis have never accepted the Saudi invasion and have vowed to resist it with more zeal. The announcement that the Al Khalifa wanted to abandon whatever has been left of the sovereignty of the country to the Saudis has had negative effects. Bahrainis are now more aware of the dangers to their existence, sovereignty and identity if the Al Khalifa continued in power. They are more determined than ever to rid themselves of this dictatorship.

It is a known fact that both Al Saud and Al Khalifa owe their political existence as dominant forces in their respective countries to outside support, mainly from Washington. But USA itself is not enjoying much success whether in its economic policies or foreign adventures. They have lost in both countries which they had occupied in recent years especially Iraq and Afghanistan. Their monumental debts is gradually eroding their ability to run the country efficiently as they sought to deflect the attention to highly-exaggerated outside threats. It is clear that the Obama administration has forfeited their political pledges to support democracy and defend human rights worldwide. The case of Bahrain has seriously undermined their promises and public statements. They stand accused of complicity in shedding innocent blood of peaceful protesters as "America's worst cop" continued beating the drums of violence against Bahrainis, aided by the not-so-successful British officer, John Yates. Despite their policies of repression and mass punishment, Bahrainis have turned out en masse at every demonstration called for the opposition. They have failed to quell the youth's zeal and ability to mobilize in the streets as they continued their protests; day and night of each day. More martyrs have fallen to the extent that the dual Timony-Yates are accused of causing more deaths since their arrival in Bahrain than those killed in the seven months prior to that. They are also accused of a role in resisting political change as they continued assuring the Al Khalifa hereditary dictatorship of their ability to crush the revolution and end the political strife. They could not be further from reality.

The past few months have proven beyond

any doubt that the will of the people cannot be defeated with violence, intimidation or abuse. The Saudis machines of death have failed to crush the revolution and the Al Khalifa were dealt humiliating defeats. Time and again they had to make U-turns on decisions or actions they had taken against the people. For example the mosques they had destroyed are being built by the people in defiance of the Saudi and Al Khalifa dictators. The athletes were acquitted after months of torture, abuse and accusations. Most of the teachers have been acquitted of wrong doing and the medics will also be liberated soon after the dictator and his clique are dealt heavier blows. None of the regime's actions has been condoned or justified even by its own commission of inquiry headed by Bissioni. In the process he has to commit more crimes to shelter his henchmen, killers and torturers. His son, Nasser has once again been exposed as the person who commanded the thugs who attacked Sitra recently and he is wanted for torturing several prominent figures who had testified against him. This is in addition to the fact that the people's revolution has not been crushed despite the illegal crackdown and the use of chemical warfare against Bahrainis.

The situation has thus been polarized in a unique way as to leave the Al Khalifa and their backers outside the human norms and ethical behavior. They are becoming a very expensive liability that the Western powers will soon have to abandon. With opposition turning Eastward towards Russia, the US is losing the war to gain the hearts and minds of Muslims. There is no more tolerance of the unethical behavior of the regime which has stepped too far out from the acceptable national tones. Most of the justifications relating to invincibility of those GCC countries have evaporated as the youth moved to cleanse the country off their unpleasant and rotten ways. Time has thus become a new factor in the conflict which had become a sour source of more sectarianism and dictatorship. To be free from these unwanted chains, Bahrainis have to convince the world that this the opposition is capable of providing a viable political alternative political system based on "one man one vote" principle.

Yates, Timoney apparatus tortures a boy

Abda Ali Abdul Hussain Ibrahim is a 59 year Bahraini woman who would have enjoyed the rest of her life with her loved ones. Instead, she was martyred this morning as a result of excessive inhalation of chemical gases fired by the security forces at her town of Aali. Last week she was taken to hospital after the incident following a massive attack on the town and her home in particular. After a week she was released only to inhale more of it as the attacks on Bahraini towns and villages with these fatal chemical gases were sustained. Today's announcement of her premature departure from this life is yet any sad episode in the struggle by Bahrainis to rid themselves of the Al Khalifa murderous dictatorship. The number of martyrs has now risen to 79.

Last Sunday 19th March another young man was martyred in the same way. Sabri Mahfoodh, 27, from Sharakkan, succumbed to the effects of the chemical gases he had inhaled the previous day. His death bore all signs of agony as it was slow and painful. One day earlier, another martyr ascended to heaven in the same recurring way. Jaffar Jassim Radhi, 41, from Al Maqsha passed away days after inhaling those chemical gases which have been deployed against Bahrainis in excessive amounts since John Timoney and John Yates took charge of the

police and security forces. The past few months since they arrived in Bahrain there have been at least 35 deaths at the hands of their forces. While most have been the result of chemical gases inhalation, others were killed under torture (Yousuf Al Mawalli) and by police guns (22-years old Fadhel Al Obaidi). Their outrageous criminal acts have now dwarfed the torture crimes committed by the notorious Ian Henderson.

Since the arrival of John Timoney and John Yates, torture has become more rampant. The dual are now engaged in one of the most atrocious and outrageous campaigns to against the people of Bahrain, as they attempt to crush the opposition with all means of repression. The latest in these crimes is that of Ali Al Singace, from the town of Sanabis. The 15-years old boy was kidnapped on his way to school, abducted, tortured and sexually assaulted. His ordeal continued for several hours before he was dumped at a garage and locked in. His cries attracted passers by who broke the lock and saved the boy. His hands were bound under his legs and his body had deep razor cuts with bleeding pouring from his wounds. He was subjected to horrific treatment by the men of Timoney and Yates for refusing to work for their security apparatus. Demonstrations erupted calling for the punishment of the torturers who are directed by the

American and British cops. Calls have been made to Navi Pillay to intervene.

The lives of several senior political figures who are languishing behind bars are under serious threat. Of particular cause for worry is that of Abdul Hadi Al Khawaja, the renowned international human rights activist. He has now completed six weeks of hunger strike in protest against his continued detention for his peaceful of opinion. He has lost great amount of weight and has been transformed into a skeleton, unable to walk or move. Together with the other senior political figures, Mr Khawaja should have been released several months ago. The Bissioni report, funded by the regime, had called for the release of political prisoners who had been jailed for peaceful expression of opinion. But the Al Khalifa have refused to end their ordeal, hoping that time would turn the tide in its favour.

The sectarian campaign launched by the ruling Al Khalifa against the majority Shia Muslims of Bahrain shows no signs of abating. In addition to 53 religious sites confirmed by the Bissioni report to have been demolished, an ancient mosque has been desecrated. Sa'saa ibn Sawhan's Mosque in the South of the country has become the latest religious site to be attacked by pro-Alkhalifa militia, destroying part of this historic mosque.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
23rd March 2012

One year after Saudi invasion; People ready to sacrifice to free their country

The latest martyr is Fadhel Mirza Al Obaidi, 22, who died on Saturday 10th March. He had been shot at close range on 2nd March as he protested peacefully with others in the town of Duraz. He was hit on the head and was left clinically dead for a week. The latest martyr is Fadhel Mirza Al Obaidi, 22, who died on Saturday 10th March. He had been shot at close range on 2nd March as he protested peacefully with others in the town of Duraz. He was hit on the head and was left clinically dead for a week. The Al Khalifa rulers failed to take steps to stop killing Bahrainis. They have also given a deaf ear to international calls to overhaul their security and police operations. The killers of Fadhel Al Obaidi remain at large to kill more victims. The authorities issued a false death certificate alleging that the young man had been killed with a hard instrument; contrary to the established fact that he had been hit with police tear gas canister at close range. The family refused to take the certificate and insisted that their son had been deliberately killed by police. On Tuesday his mourning period ended. People went to his graveyard in accordance with established religious traditions. They were ruthlessly attacked with chemical and tear gases, shot-guns and batons.

This ultimate repression against the natives has only emboldened the people to continue their struggle with daily demonstrations and protests. Every night at least twenty five protests, candle vigils for the martyrs and slogans from the tops of the houses have

continued. In the day protesters burnt tyres on the main roads to stop police vehicles, armoured vehicles and tanks reaching their homes. Attacking houses with those lethal gases has become a routine practice and has claimed the lives of tens of Bahrainis. The regime has remained adamant on refusing to concede any of its powers to the people. Instead of heeding the calls to reform, Al Khalifa have failed to realise the seriousness of the situation. The situation has been made worse since John Timoney "America's worst cop" and John Yates, UK's former High Commissioner of Police arrived in Bahrain last November. While cameras were installed in parts of the prisons to deceive the world that torture had stopped, evidence has emerged that severe torture has been administered on Bahrainis especially in police cars and hiding houses. Yet torture has continued to be practiced in farms and in jails.

Today coincides with the 1st anniversary of the bloody attack on Pearl Roundabout in which at least five people were killed. The crime was committed two days after the Saudi occupation of Bahrain. The attack was implicitly supported and defended by the American administration whose sympathies lie with the dictators and killers. For the twelve months afterwards, people gradually became more adaptable, rose to their knees and shot their way forward to bring the Revolution to a speedy and successful conclusion. Bahrainis today are more focussed on their objectives and demands,

more determined and steadfast and more inclined towards a fundamental change of regime. The counter-revolutionary forces support by US have worked hard against Bahrain's revolution but its strong comeback has shocked the spectators who had thought that Al Saud had gained the upper hand.

In Geneva where the 19th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Bahrain's people received a good attention from those who had delivered their speeches. At least nine of 14 EU states mentioned Bahrain as a place where human rights are mostly violated. Only the US and UK considered have ignored the fate of the people. The Islamic Human Rights Commission dedicated the whole of its address to Bahrain, mentioning the numerous cases of human rights violation. In a side-panel about Bahrain, several witnesses, politicians and activists presented a moderate discourse that was liked by those present at the seminar. However, the Al Khalifa sent their slaves to the meeting in order to create an image of the family in a relaxed mode. They attempted to carry out their plan but the public support of the Al Khalifa has been greatly minimised that left the whole project in disarray. The seven-persons team immediately withdrew to give the impression that they had dealt it a severe blow. Their plot failed to materialise although it killed several people.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
16th March 2012

Biggest march in the history of Bahrain calls for regime change

The biggest demonstration in Bahrain's history took place this afternoon. Hundreds of thousands marched from to Maqsha with two parallel columns; one for men, the other for women. Chants were deafening coming from every part of the human sea "People want regime change" and "Down with Hamad, Down with Hamad". Banners and images of martyrs and detainees filled the horizon. The route to Duraz where the main Friday prayers were held had a lot of services by volunteers who wanted to help the participants and offer them refreshments. Food was served in many places, mosques, congregation halls and clubs. The whole country appeared to be on the move to prove to the world that Bahrainis were united in their revolution and that they wanted a real change including the right to determine their destiny, writing a new constitution, a fully-functioning democracy and an end to the tribal hereditary dictatorship. Impunity for torturers and criminals must be removed. The demonstration came at the end of a week when at least two Bahrainis were martyred as a result of excessive use of chemical gases. On 5th March, a 45-days old baby died as a result of inhaling chemical gases. His family, from Ras Rumman town were devastated when their house was sprayed with excessive amounts of those lethal gases as part of the Al Kha-

lifa retaliation from Bahrainis. On 6th March another martyr passed away as a result of inhaling excessive gases. The woman, from Abu Saiba' suffered immensely as she struggled with the effects of the lethal chemicals. Meanwhile daily protests and demonstrations have continued all over the country in on daily basis. Men and women would demonstrate every day and night in at least thirty towns and villages calling for regime change. In retaliation, police and security forces have continued their attacks on residential areas and houses.

A worldwide campaign against holding the Formula1 races in Bahrain. The decision by Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula1 chief, to go ahead with holding the race despite the rising number of martyrs and human rights violations has shocked the human rights world. International bodies and personalities including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Lord Avebury and seven other peers have expressed dismay at the irresponsible decision that would bring the race into disrepute. Human Rights Watch said: "The FIA should consider the serious human rights violations committed by Bahraini authorities". Lord Avebury said: "The Bahraini Government continue to show that they are more concerned with their international image than with the security and rights of their own citizens. They do not deserve to hold an important international event like F1. The

Grand Prix should not be held in Bahrain". A petition calling for the immediate release of Abdul Hadi Al Khawaja, the renowned international human rights activist has been signed by 48 NGOs. Mr Khawaja has been on hunger strike for the past four weeks and his health has deteriorated sharply in recent days. He has been taken to hospital several times but doctors have been unable to locate his veins to inject the blood vessels with Saline. He has complained of ill-treatment and demands his immediate release. He had undergone three operations to repair his jaws after being broken during torture sessions. Prisoners at Dry Dock prison have recently been subjected to horrific treatment. On Wednesday 8th March riot police and security personnel working under the notorious John Timoney and John Yates stormed into their cells accompanied by police dogs and started attacking them. At first they said they were searching the prison but then they started beating the prisoners indiscriminately. Copies of the Holy Quran were desecrated and the prisoners belongings were thrown all over the place. It was part of the process of revenge against Bahrainis after it had become clear that the campaign of intimidation, torture and collective punishment has failed to dislodge them from their principled stands and calls for regime change.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
9th March 2012

Al Khalifa have a lot to hide; International HR inspection banned

Today, the soul of latest martyr has ascended to its Lord. Sayyed Jaffar Sayyed Salman Sayyed Juma Al Alawi, 75, after he had been beaten by the regime's agents. He was subjected to horrific treatment and received a serious injury to the head that caused him to enter into a coma. He regained consciousness briefly but his condition deteriorated sharply until he passed away this morning, carrying with him his vivid testimony to God. The martyr was present in the revolution at all levels from its first day. He was targeted personally for his high profile peaceful activism.

On 25th February another Bahraini woman, Zainab Hussain Isa, 69, was martyred after inhaling high quantities of chemical gases. Her house was attacked with large amounts of these gases the night before and she went into coma. She was taken to hospital where she died shortly afterwards. On 29th February, another Bahraini was martyred by chemical gases used by the Al Khalifa troops. Habib Khadhem Al Mulla, from Southern Sehla died few days after his house was attacked with these lethal weapons that have become the main tool of death in the hands of John Timoney and John Yates.

In line with its policy of refusing to let the truth come out to be seen by the international community, the Al Khalifa have refused to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit Bahrain and see for himself the extent of human rights abuses

of Bahrainis. Juan Mendez had repeatedly asked to visit the country especially after it had become clear that torture had become systematic in the torture chambers of the Bahraini prisons. He was due to arrive in the country next week but the "minister of human rights" sent an emissary to Mr Mendez asking him to delay his visit to an unspecified time. The Al Khalifa have adopted the tactic of appearing to accept international inspection of its behaviour and then "postponing" it often citing technical difficulties. The United States had attempted to shield the Al Khalifa from the wrath of the international community by proposing the BICI commission that was financed by the dictator's office. Mr Mendez would have implicated the dictator's son, Nasser, in torturing prisoners and would have referred the Al Khalifa to the UN Security Council as one of the worst offenders in terms of human rights. The Al Khalifa have a lot to hide; this is why they do not want anyone to dig deep. To their dismay, the BICI commission had dug deeper than what they should have done and the experience could not be repeated. The U.N. human rights office in Geneva said Bahrain formally requested a delay until July.

On another level, Amnesty International has cancelled a visit to Bahrain after the Al Khalifa imposed restriction on groups trying to monitor "reforms" including the handling of protests. Amnesty, Human Rights Watch and another group had said that Human

Rights and Social Development Ministry informed them this week of the new rules limiting them to five-day trips which must be arranged through a Bahraini sponsor. "Regrettably we have cancelled the fact-finding visit to Bahrain ... as the new five day limit imposed by the Bahraini authorities for visits by international human rights organisations is a serious impediment," Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, a regional Amnesty deputy director, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, protests have continued on daily basis. At least 30 demonstrations took place every day and night in various towns and villages with participation from the youth and women. The use of chemical gases has intensified in density and lethality. Whole towns were sprayed with those weapons as the people have shown no sign of retreat from their position calling for the removal of the Al Khalifa from government. The chants of "Down with Hamad" can be heard everywhere in the country as the dictator became the most hated figure in the land.

Bahrainis have appealed to the world to take a stand and condemn the Saudi occupation of the country as it has only led to more instability and insecurity. On 14th March Bahrainis will rise against the occupation and will call on the world to stand up to its responsibility to counter occupation and to call for the right of the natives to determine their own destiny.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
2nd March 2012

AI cancels planned visit because of conditions

MANAMA, March 2 (Reuters) - Amnesty International said on Friday 2nd March it cancelled a visit to Bahrain after the Gulf state imposed restrictions on groups trying to monitor reforms including the handling of protests.

Amnesty, Human Rights Watch and another group had said Bahrain's Human Rights and Social Development Ministry informed them this week of the new rules limiting them to five-day trips which must be arranged through a Bahraini sponsor. The U.N. investigator into torture has also postponed a visit, with the U.N. human rights office in Geneva saying Bahrain formally requested a delay until July.

"Regrettably we have cancelled the fact-finding visit to Bahrain ... as the new five day limit imposed by the Bahraini authorities for visits by international human rights organisations is a serious impediment," Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, a

regional Amnesty deputy director, said in a statement. "The Bahraini authorities have repeatedly stated their commitment to undertake human rights reform and to cooperate with human rights organisations. These new restrictions contradict such commitment," she said.

Bahrain, a U.S. ally ruled by the Sunni Muslim Al Khalifa family, has been under Western pressure to improve its rights record and institute political reforms after it crushed a pro-democracy uprising last year, imposing a period of martial law.

The government said on Thursday it would need up to 20 more days to complete its plans for implementing the recommendations of the experts, whose Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) issued a damning report in November. The BICI said protesters, who come mainly from the majority Shiite population, had suffered systematic torture to force confessions that were used in military trials.

The country remains in turmoil as clashes between youths and riot police continue daily in Shiite neighbourhoods and the banking and tourism-based economy, already down after the world financial crisis, struggles to pick up.

The new rules follow an Interior Ministry announcement it would tighten tourist visa regulations after Western activists took part in anti-government demonstrations last month marking the first anniversary of the Feb. 14 uprising.

Bahrain is due to host the Formula One grand prix in April. Washington, whose Fifth Fleet is based in Manama, and former colonial power Britain have pressed Bahrain to ensure peaceful protest is allowed. Police allowed the main parties to hold a rally inside the capital this week.

Opposition parties want a move to full-scale parliamentary democracy where the elected chamber has full legislative powers and can form cabinets. The government has given parliament more powers of scrutiny over budgets and ministers.

Al-Khawaja from prison: Freedom or Death

Courageous defender of human rights and the main founder of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights, Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, announced from jaw prison, on Wednesday, 8 February, 2012, that he begins an indefinite hunger strike. The distinguished human rights defender told his family in a telephone call, that he is starting a hunger strike to "freedom or death."

On 22, June, 2011, Human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja has been sentenced by the National Safety Court - a military court- to a life imprisonment. On 29 January 2012, human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja and 13 other prisoners, including human rights defender Abduljalil Al-Singace and prominent activists, started a hunger strike to protest against their imprisonment and demanding respect for people's human and civil rights in Bahrain.

The Gulf Centre for Human Rights urges the authorities in Bahrain to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally free human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, and the other 13 activists, and drop all the charges against them.
2. Carry out an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the reported torture and ill-treatment of defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, with a view to identifying those who are responsible, and bringing them to justice;
3. Ensure that all human rights defenders in Bahrain, carrying out their legitimate work in the defence work of human rights, are able to operate free of restrictions and reprisals.

Geneva seminar on Bahrain

A side panel on the human rights crisis in Bahrain was held this afternoon at the Human Rights Council meeting at UN HQ in Geneva. It was organized by the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and addressed by several Bahraini political and human rights activists. Masood Shajarah, the Chairman of IHRC urged the international community to take action to stop the serious abuses that have continued after the BICI investigation that had confirmed the use of systematic torture on detainees.

Mr Mashood Shadjera- the situation in Bahrain is being ignored and undermined. Those seeking democracy and empowerment ignored are being ignored despite the promises of reform. On the ground people are still suffering and are being denied their basic rights. We are concerned for the health and well-being of prisoners.

Mr Ali Al-Awad- (Ex-member of the opposition Wafaq Party) - In the past year the world has been exposed to the best and worst of Bahrain. The best being the strength and courage of the people in their fight for democracy even when they were being ignored by the international community. The vast majority have been denied democracy. The government have used the BICI report to mask the revolution. The question needs addressing is not what happened during the February revolution, but why are the demands of the people being ignored. The international community must stand with democracy not dictators.

Dr Faud Ibrahim- Deputy President of the International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights (ICSFT)- Saudi troops advanced into Bahrain last March 2011. I want to discuss the legal definition of military intervention. The state claimed that the Saudis were invited to uphold and

protect the institutions. The secretary of state Hilary Clinton stated after the Saudi intervention that Bahrain has the right to seek assistance. The BICI was obliged to clarify the issue of Saudi intervention.

Mr Mattar Mattar Ibrahim- Former Bahraini MP of the opposition of Wafaq Party- I want to focus on the recent situation involving the implementation of the BICI report recommendations in November. The focus needs to be on the conclusion of the report where the recommendations were made. The torture was proved systematic and showed strong patterns of violence. These patterns have continued. Only 4 days ago a 25year old was hit directly with a tear gas canister and died as a result. There are problems with the judicial system. There have been no major changes in the structure, legislation or figures. The government is controlling through the use of excessive force and torture. They punish the pro-democracy supporters and protect the criminals who have committed such crimes. They have tried to divide the society by using racial persecution.

Dr Saeed Shehabi- We do not need foreigners to come and teach us how to be civilized. They have imported the worst cops from the US and UK to implement reforms. This must be questioned. Why cant our own people handle the situation. How can a dictator become a democracy? It is not possible. The Prime Minister has been ruling for over 41 years. Once you do not have a separation of powers then there is no democracy. We cannot tolerate a hereditary dictatorship. We deserve to live in dignity and the demands of the people must not be ignored.