

# BAHRAIN

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

## With Revolution re-invigorated, Saudi occupation must end

The zeal shown by Bahrain's people on the second anniversary of their Revolution has astounded those who had been wrongly led to believe that it had been extinguished. The light of change has directed thousands of people to the streets despite the enormous presence of troops, security agents, death squads and police at almost every corner in the country. The forces defending Alkhalifa dictatorship; mainly the Saudis and British, had worked for weeks to ensure the failure of the anniversary protests, but at the end their efforts were largely ineffective. The people were adamant to present a solid front to the outside world and determination on achieving real democratic change. There were protests at every corner of the country despite the policy of "throttling" implemented by some British security experts that had been used to contain the students protests in 2010. Many people were shot and wounded. One, Mussain Al Jaziri was martyred on 14th February; the other, Mahmood Al Jaziri, one week later. Their blood has now become a factor for re-invigoration of the Revolution with demonstrations unyielding.

Another anniversary of significance to the people is 14th March marking the second anniversary of the Saudi occupation of Bahrain. On that day the Saudis committed what could become a fatal mistake, by crossing the causeway connecting the two countries, violating the borders and inflicting heavy material and human damage on the people. The invaders committed heinous crimes against humanity. First they helped organize the attack on the Pearl Roundabout, killing and maiming those encamped peacefully on those grounds and enabling the Alkhalifa to end the most peaceful political rally among the Arab Spring revolutions. The AlSaud then participated in attacks on towns and villages which were swamped by members of the Alkhalifa Death Squads. Among those martyred was Ahmad Farhan whose image being carried by his cousin became a distinguishing feature of Bahrain's Revolution. The Saudi forces of occupation then participated in the destruction of more than forty mosques, in line with the Wahhabi doctrine of attacking symbols of other faiths. The Alkhalifa whose position had been significantly undermined, were returned to power but at the expense of

handing over the country's sovereignty to the Saudi occupiers. Today, the country remains under occupation while the people are engaging in relentless moral, political and social war with the Alkhalifa who, themselves, had occupied Bahrain by force. The legitimacy of their rule has always been challenged.

The Bahraini Revolution has proven itself to be one of the most well-established, historically-sound, and socially all-encompassing of the Arab revolts. When the Saudis failed to quash it, the British became more involved in standing up to the challenges of the Revolution. They sent their security and police experts to help in the planning and implementation of security arrangements in order to end the most serious challenge to the Alkhalifa hereditary dictatorship since they conquered the country by force. Unlike the Saudi intervention, the British involvement has been more discrete, with the clear aim of putting in place security plans that could stop the advances of the people's revolt. But, as with the Saudi occupation, the British security involvement has been ill-advised, ineffective and could prove to be disastrous to the British interests in the region. The dictatorship they are challenging will not be allowed to rule the country again. It is reactionary, antiquated, repressive and contrary to the world's democratic tendency. The British have committed grave mistakes in attempting to prop up an ailing and hated regime. With daily demonstrations calling for regime's overthrow and with it the present dictator, the British would have been better-advised to support the legitimate rights of Bahrainis, not endorsing the Alkhalifa reign of terror.

As for the Saudi occupation, it is becoming more of a nuisance not only to Bahrainis but both the Saudis and the Alkhalifa. For the Bahrainis, it represents a continuous military and security threat as well as being a serious infringement of the country's sovereignty. It has allowed the Alkhalifa to regain power after their authority had been obliterated within the four weeks of the Revolution on 14th February 2011. But the Alkhalifa have since been unable to contain the people's revolt. They have implemented bloody programmes of repression, sparing no one in the process. Yet the country has remained volatile and their authority imposed only by the use of sheer

state terrorism. They have also lost the ability to take serious decisions, having relinquished sovereignty to the Saudi occupiers. Although they have been able to pour more of their troops and police into the streets to retain control, they have not been successful in ending the people's strife and the daily protests. The wedge between them and the people has widened significantly. Down with Hamad has become the main slogan of the protesters alongside the main one "People want regime change". On their part, the Saudis have lost credibility as a military power as they failed to dislodge the people either from their demands or the streets. But what is more serious is the fact that instead of quelling the Bahraini Revolution, they are now witnessing a flare up of anti-regime protests in their main cities. In addition to the Eastern Province which protested against the Saudi invasion of Bahrain and in support of Bahraini people's Revolution, the cities of Riyadh, Al Qaseem, Buraida and Al Jawf have become theatre for daily demonstrations. Families of more than 10,000 political prisoners are protesting daily to demand the release of their sons. It is clear that the Saudi involvement in Bahrain has produced the negative effect. This has annoyed even those supporting the Saudi and Alkhalifa hereditary dictatorships.

The situation in Bahrain has thus become politically polarized by the Saudi invasion to the extent that very few people can envisage a way out of this dilemma. Bahrainis will continue their Revolution, aware of the dangers of the continued Saudi presence on their land. The Alkhalifa have limited avenues to explore to find a way out of their quagmire, especially that the Saudi occupation has not produced tangible results for them. As for the Saudis the sooner they leave Bahrain the better for their credibility and the security of their regime. Meanwhile, as the 14th February anniversary has proven, the Bahraini people's revolt is here to stay and no amount of cruelty will be able to end it short of acquiescing to the people's demands. The Alkhalifa regime must go; This is the verdict of the people that cannot be overlooked or ignored. Liberation, democracy and freedom have become inalienable rights of Bahrainis whose blood will ensure that they be fulfilled.

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## Irish activists: No country has abused chemical gases like Bahrain

An international campaign against the use of lethal gases and shotguns by the Alkhalifa regime against people has been launched. It started after an Irish University established that the gases used by police against Bahraini demonstrators were ten times the acceptable international level of concentration. To mark the second anniversary of the February 14 Bahraini uprising, Prof Damian McCormack, Prof David Grayson and Tara O'Grady call for a ban on CS gas, 2-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile. Also, Avaaz, the online campaign group has launched a petition calling on two companies who had supplied the Alkhalifa with these lethal gases to stop the process.

Experts say that Bahrain is using a poisonous form of tear gas against civilians that Bahrain wouldn't even be permitted to use in a war against armed soldiers! Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) report that in 100 years of tear gas being used against civilians, no country has ever abused it like Bahrain. Police "routinely violated every UN principle governing police use of force." There is no excuse for using this brutality which claimed victims from a boy as young as 8 to an elderly man of 88. Activists are taking their campaign to Europe and America in order to achieve the required ban on the use of lethal gases and shotguns. More than 100 people have died as a direct result of the use of those two weapons.

A big controversy is flaring up after a controversial decision to rename a Royal Military Academy (RMA) sports hall. The deci-

sion has come under attack from politicians but has been defended by Army officers. Mons Hall, a top quality sports hall at the RMA in Sandhurst and home to the British modern pentathlon team, is said to be named after The Battle of Mons, where thousands of British and German soldiers died in 1914. However, Lieutenant Colonel Roy Parkinson from the RMA said: "Mons Hall was actually named after Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot. Bahrain's dictator, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa who has been plundering Bahrain's wealth had given £3 million. "To change the name of something which commemorates a very tragic episode in British military history, simply because they're getting a sum of money from a rather dubious source, is appalling," said Labour MP Andy Slaughter.

Meanwhile jailed doctors have called for 17<sup>th</sup> February to be named "Day to Defend Medical Neutrality". They issued a statement signed by: Dr Saeed Al Samaheji, Dr Ali Al Ekri and senior nurse, Ibrahim Al Demstani. The statement said that in proposing this we "remember the violations against the medics when the Revolution was launched on this day in 2011; the banning of the medics from attending the injured that led to cases of death that could have been prevented". Also 65 prisoners staged a five day hunger strike to mark the second anniversary of the 14<sup>th</sup> February Revolution.

There is also grave concern for the life of Mahmood Isa, of Nabih Saleh island, who had been shot on 14<sup>th</sup> February at close range, smashing his skull. He is still in the

danger zone. Also Hassan Jassim who was shot on that day, is suffering blood haemorrhage resulting from a direct hit to the head. Many others are suffering away from hospitals which are still under military control.

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, The Independent newspaper published a report about the rifts within the Alkhalifa clique. It said: "In a highly unusual step, members of the Royal Family are now beginning to speak out against their rivals – the first clear admission that the family has indeed become divided. In an anonymous interview with the Wall Street Journal newspaper this week, a "senior royal" hit out at his cousins bemoaning the fact that "surrounding the king are all powerful Khawalids". It further added: "Khawalid is a term used in Bahrain to describe an ultraconservative faction within the Royal Family who trace their lineage back to Khaled bin Ali al-Khalifa, who in the 1920s was the powerful younger brother of the then Emir. He led a brutal crackdown against a Shi'a uprising and was imprisoned by the British. His supporters were known for their intense dislike of the island's majority Shi'a population and spent much of the late twentieth century outside the corridors of power. But key Khawalid figures have managed to get into senior positions within the Royal Family and in recent years appear to have sidelined figures who are more sympathetic to economic and political reform such as the Crown Prince Salman bin Hamed al-Khalifa."

**Bahrain Freedom Movement**  
23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013

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## First martyr as 2nd anniversary protests engulf Bahrain

The third year of the Bahraini Revolution has been inaugurated with blood. As the people started the day yesterday to mark the 2nd anniversary of the 14th February Revolution the Alkhalifa killers struck with utmost cruelty. Hussain Al Jazeeri, 16, was showered with shoutgun pellets at a distance of no more than five metres. He was hit at close range in the stomach and neck. He was taken to hospital but died on the way. The crime is a replication of the events of two years ago when the first martyr, Ali Abdul Hadi Mushaima was killed after being showered with hundreds of pellets. This heinous crime has been blamed on Bahrain's dictator who gave the orders to shoot and kill Bahrainis. The people erupted in anger and a repetition of what had happened two years ago started to unfold.

On Wednesday a young woman was martyred after inhaling large amounts of chemical gases unleashed by Alkhalifa agents on Bahrainis. Amina Sayed Mahdi, 35, from Abu Saiba' Town had been transferred to the hospital at the beginning of March after inhaling toxic gases and suffering collapsed lung. She was an employee at the Marina Mall. Her house is located near an area where clashes often happened between Bahrainis and Alkhalifa Death Squads. Her death on the eve of the 2nd anniversary of

the Revolution gave impetus to the people who had been preparing to mark the anniversary of the Revolution. Her untimely death caused enormous anger among the people especially as they buried her today.

The people's action on the Second Anniversary of the 14th February Revolution has been both comprehensive and all-encompassing. The people's protests started on Wednesday night and continued throughout yesterday. At dawn yesterday the people began their main protests and marches in various towns and cities. At the same time the 14th February Alliance had called for country-wide strikes yesterday which was considered a success. Shops were closed in Manama and elsewhere while students boycotted their classes. The country was brought to a standstill despite the regime's efforts to prevent the strike. Most of the roads were cut off by the Revolutionaries. Men and women were seen taking part in closing main roads in such a way that the closures would take hours to re-open them. The police became so frustrated with the developments that they decided to be vicious with Bahrainis. They shot the martyr at a close range killing him almost instantly. Tens others sustained serious injuries as a result of the use of shotguns.

Meanwhile Amnesty International used the

Second Anniversary advent to issue damning statement against the Alkhalifa clan. It said: "Prisoners of conscience remain behind bars and activists continue to be jailed just for expressing their views whether via social media or on peaceful marches, two years on from 2011 protests". It added: "Victims of state repression say justice remains elusive and restrictions are still in place despite recent institutional reforms". "The government of Bahrain cannot carry on imprisoning people simply because it can't take criticism. It's time that people detained simply for exercising their right to freedom of expression be released and for the harassment of other activists to desist," said Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa Programme Deputy Director. "Bahrain risks creating nothing more than a bureaucracy of human rights if changes are not matched by a genuine political will to reform - Bahrainis need to see their rights respected in everyday life." Last month, Amnesty International conducted a mission to Bahrain where it met with seven prisoners of conscience detained in Jaw prison. They had been jailed on false charges or under laws that repress basic rights.

**Bahrain Freedom Movement**  
15th February 2013

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**Bahrain Freedom Movement**  
15th February 2013



## Global ban on CS gas is needed

The Irish Times, February 18, 2013

Nabeel Rajab, President, Bahrain Centre for Human Rights — currently serving a two-year prison sentence for encouraging 'illegal gatherings' — shows two members of an Irish delegation to Bahrain in July 2011, Prof Damian McCormack and Prof Eoin O'Brien, a tear gas canister which had been thrown at his home. Picture: Conor McCabe

To mark the second anniversary of the February 14 Bahraini uprising, Prof Damian McCormack, Prof David Grayson and Tara O'Grady call for a ban on CS gas.

CS gas, 2-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile, is a chemical weapon that is banned in warfare by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) under the Chemical Weapons Convention, 1993.

However, its misuse as a crowd-control tear gas in peacetime is causing significant mortality and morbidity. We have retrieved and analysed samples from tear gas canisters used in Bahrain and have unequivocally demonstrated the presence of the CS agent. At least 54 deaths have been attributed to the inappropriate use of this agent in Bahrain alone over the past two years. It is time for the OPCW and the international community to address the misuse of this chemical weapon.

### History

CS gas was first developed in 1928 by two Americans, Ben Corson and Roger Stoughton, and the toxin was named after their last initials. It is an aerosol of the active agent, 2-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile, and is synthesised by the reaction of 2-chlorobenzaldehyde with malononitrile via the Knoevenagel condensation reaction:

$$\text{ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CHO} + \text{H}_2\text{C}(\text{CN})_2 \rightarrow \text{ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}(\text{CN})_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}.$$

As CS gas is a solid at room temperature, a variety of techniques have been used to make this solid usable as an aerosol:

- Melted and sprayed in the molten form;
- Dissolved in organic solvent;
- CS2 dry powder (CS2 is a siliconised, micro-pulverised form of CS);
- CS from thermal grenades by generation of hot gases.

CS was developed and tested secretly at Porton Down in England in the 1950s. It was used first on British Army servicemen volunteers and continues to be used in low concentrations in military training.

The chemical reacts with moisture on the skin and in the eyes, causing a burning sensation and uncontrollable shutting of the eyes. Effects usually include burning and tearing from the eyes, profuse coughing, exceptional nasal discharge that is full of mucus, burning in the eyelid, nose and throat areas, disorientation, dizziness and restricted breathing. It will also burn the skin where sweaty and/or sunburned. In

higher doses, it can also induce severe coughing and vomiting.

Although CS is described as a 'non-lethal weapon for crowd control', many studies have raised doubts about this classification. As well as creating severe pulmonary damage, CS can also significantly damage the heart and liver. On September 28, 2000, Prof Uwe Heinrich released a commissioned study investigating the use of CS by the FBI at the Branch Davidians' Mount Carmel compound in Waco. He suggested that if no gas masks were used and the occupants were trapped, then, "there is a distinct possibility that this kind of CS exposure can significantly contribute to or even cause lethal effects".

### Miscarriages

Many reports have associated CS exposure with miscarriages. This is consistent with its reported clastogenic effect (abnormal chromosome change) on mammalian cells.

CS is a cyanide compound and when it is metabolised, cyanide can be detected in human tissue. Also, when exposed to fire, cyanide compounds are undoubtedly released. According to the United States Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, CS emits "very toxic fumes" when heated to decomposition, and at specified concentrations CS gas is an immediate danger to life and health. The Center also states that those exposed to CS gas should seek medical attention immediately. In Israel, CS gas was reported to have been the cause of death of Jawaher Abu Rahmah on December 31, 2010, although the Israeli Defense Forces have questioned the veracity of the report.

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## Global ban on CS gas is needed, *Cont from P3*

In Egypt, CS gas was reported to be the cause of death of several protesters near Tahrir Square during the November 2011 protests.

In September 2000, the Guardian newspaper revealed how a UK company, HPP, used legal loopholes to export CS to a private security company in Rwanda, in breach of United Nations sanctions. The Guardian also reported that CS was previously used by the Hutu militia in Rwanda to flush Tutsis out of buildings before hacking them to death. Subsequently, Amnesty called for an export ban when the receiving regime is either not fully trained in the use of CS, or has shown usage "contrary to the manufacturer's instructions".

Only five nations have not signed the Chemical Weapons Convention and are therefore unhindered by restrictions on the use of CS gas: Angola, Egypt, North Korea, Somalia, and Syria. Bahrain is a signatory of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the use of CS gas in Bahrain is subject to specific 'end-user' conditions specified by the manufacturer. However, it seems apparent in Bahrain and elsewhere that these conditions are not enforced, nor indeed enforceable. Misuse in Bahrain

CS gas has been used extensively by Bahrain's police since the start of the Bahraini uprising. The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry concluded that Bahrain's police used a disproportionate amount of CS gas when dispersing protests, and that in a number of situations, police fired CS gas into private homes in an "unnecessary and indiscriminate" manner. In one particular incident witnessed by Commission investigators, police fired "at least four tear gas canisters (each containing six projectiles)... from a short range into the kitchen and living room of a home".

According to opposition activists and families of the deceased, at least 54 persons have died as a result of CS gas since March 25, 2011. Some allegedly died from the impact of the CS gas canister, which is shot at high speed from a modified shotgun. Most are said to have died from the effects of inhaling the gas.

CS gas is regularly used at night to smother villages and is frequently shot directly into houses. Children, the elderly and the disabled who have difficulty escaping from the very high concentrations of the toxin are at greatest risk of death. Pregnant women are suffering miscarriages following exposure to high concentrations of the gas.

### Materials and methods

In order to confirm that the authorities in Bahrain were using CS gas and not a simple tear gas (a pepper spray such as OC spray ('Oleoresin Capsicum') or Mace 'Phenacyl chloride' CN spray), samples from several canisters were taken from Bahrain to Trinity College Dublin and

analysed. Five samples, containing 1 to 1.5 grams of green or beige powder, were chosen for analysis. About 500mg of each sample was extracted using cold methanol (20ml) during one hour. The extract was filtered and evaporated at reduced pressure (bath temperature 40°C) to yield a significant amount of off-white solid that crystallised from solution as the volume was reduced. All of the extracts obtained from the five samples were examined using GC-coupled high-resolution electron-impact mass spectrometry.

Analysis confirmed the presence of a molecular ion with the accurate mass 188.0135, in line with that calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Cl. A second, different spectroscopic technique was then applied to confirm a structural diagnosis for this molecule.

The extracts were examined by high-field NMR spectroscopy in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solvent and the spectra obtained were compared with published spectra for the CS compound 2-chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile.

600MHz 1H NMR spectrum, identical to those published for authentic CS, were obtained. These analyses clearly show that the tear gas canisters used extensively in Bahrain contain the chemical 2-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile, or CS.

Many thousands of used tear gas canisters have been retrieved in Bahrain, and some have external identification markings confirming their source.

More recently, external markings have been illegally removed to deny that possibility. Canisters from manufacturers in the UK, US, Germany and Korea have been identified. We conclude that the CS agent is being used as a lethal chemical weapon against the civilian population in Bahrain. As such, it is indiscriminate and constitutes a form of collective punishment of the population. We agree with and reiterate the previous call by Amnesty International to ban the export of CS gas to countries and regimes where it is being used as an offensive weapon and as a means of collective punishment.

■Prof Damian McCormack, FRCS Orth, Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, Head of the Advisory Council, Bahrain Rehabilitation and Anti-Violence Organisation (BRAVO).

■Prof David H Grayson, MA PhD CChem FRSC, School of Chemistry, TCD.

■Tara O'Grady, General Secretary, BRAVO

*Mahmood Isa Al Jaziri, 20, was martyred on 23rd Feb. He had been shot at close range on 20th Feb. Alkhalifa refused to hand his body to his family until writing this report.*



## Massive resistance on 2nd anniversary

As the preparations for the 2nd anniversary of the 14th February Revolution get underway, the field activities have warmed up extensively. At the same time supportive actions by the friends of Bahrain have risen sharply and are expected to become more widespread. In several cities around the world the pro-democracy activists have line up programmes of actions to express support to the Revolution that the Anglo-American alliance continues to target with various political and security means. The enmity of this alliance to the aspirations of Bahrain has been laid open especially the British Government dispatched several teams and personnel to help the Alkhalifa hereditary dictatorship repress the people. Despite the claims by some British officials to the contrary, Bahrainis continue to suffer repression in the form of torture, and collective punishment.

The 14th February Alliance has called for a general strike on that day and has taken many steps to ensure its success. Instead of attending workplace people will participate in country-wide protests to reinvigorate the Revolution and tell the world that they are intent on removing the cancerous Alkhalifa cell from power. It is a shame for the world community to tolerate medieval style dynastical rule that has been proven by its own commission of investigation to have committed systematic torture and extra-judicial killings. Furthermore, the Alliance has called for withdrawal of deposits from the banks linked to the Alkhalifa hereditary dictatorship. The stock market indicators have confirmed that in the first day of the campaign the Bahrain bourse lost 10.43 points, while the banking sector index registered losses of 2.25 percent of its value. Meanwhile Mr Abdul Hadi AlKhawaja and his family have been nominated by one Member of the European Parliament for the Noble Prize for their pro-democracy activities and the personal risks they have suffered in the process. Anna Gomez, MEP, from Portugal said: "I am pleased, as a Portuguese Member of European Parliament to nominate Abdul Hadi Al Khawaja and his two daughters, Zaianb and Maryam, from Bahrain, for the 2013 Noble Prize. The family have dedicated themselves, despite the risks and personal harassments to which they are exposed, for the peaceful defence of human rights and political reforms in Bahrain. The three have played a peaceful role in the popular protests in Bahrain, and represented the voice of the non-violent resistance, calling on the Bahraini authorities to respect human rights and implement peaceful political reforms". This nomination has angered the regime, and fears are growing for the safety of the Alkhwajaja family.

**Bahrain Freedom Movement**  
8th February 2013