

BAHRAIN

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

Bahrain's Revolution maintains the flame of change

While the flame of revolutionary change appears to be gradually fading, Bahrain's Pearl Revolution has remained a source of inspiration to many, both inside and outside the country. Despite the enormous challenges facing the Arab Spring including the financial might of the Gulf monarchies led by Saudi Arabia, the people of that small Gulf country have defied the attempts to put an end to the process of political and social change, continued its civilian resistance and upstaged those trying to extinguish the flame of revolutionary change. Saudi Arabia had vowed from the beginning to end the Arab revolts, putting pressure on the United States not to let Hosni Mubarak fall from power, sending its troops across the causeway linking it to Bahrain to crush its Revolution and forming a GCC-Western alliance to combat shield the monarchies from the winds of change. The invasion and subsequent occupation of Bahrain has failed to crush its people's revolt. However, the Alliance has succeeded in toppling the elected President of Egypt, locking him behind bars and releasing one of the most vicious of Arab dictators from jail. Mubarak is accused of ordering his troops to fire on demonstrators in 2011, torturing his opponents, including Khalid Saeed in June 2010 and plundering the country's wealth. Yet he has now been released, while Mohammad Morsi, the elected President of Egypt whose group was crushed at Rai'a Al Adawiya Mosque and 1000 of his followers killed in one day, is in jail. This is one of the most outrageous acts of treachery committed against a nation in modern history.

The Saudis have gone further. Tunisia is now in the grip of internal turmoil with outside interference and sedition to ensure the Islamist regime of Al Nahdha meet similar fate to that of Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. These developments have come after what had happened in Sudan over the past quarter of a century. The Islamic regime in Khartoum has been targeted by the counter Revolution forces which created the conditions for internal feuding among the factions of the ruling party and eventually diving Sudan into Northern and Southern states. As the world awaits the outcome of the Tunisian turmoil it is clear that the counter Revolution forces are working hard to ensure the downfall of the Islamists from power. In addition to

the pouring of financial aid to groups and factions that oppose the Islamists, denying those regimes of financial and material aid and causing colossal internal public disquiet, sectarianism was introduced in the recent years as the ultimate weapon against political Islam. To their misfortunes the leaders who won elections both in Egypt and Tunisia were dragged into the killing field of sectarianism. Wisdom would have dictated that they stood firm against this "dirty weapon" to blunt it and render it ineffective. Instead, they ignored it at best and adopted it at worst. The result has been the creation of an environment of turmoil, disquiet, social and political disputes and media confusion that contributed to the eventual "knockdown" blows from the counter revolution forces. The bloody treatment of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt culminating in one of the most outrageous massacres in the recent history of Egypt has been received with cold blood by the world community which has colluded with the generals allowing them to stage their daylight bloody coup.

The Syrian crisis has now overshadowed the events of Egypt. It is yet another episode in the plot against political Islam. For the Saudis the victory of organized groups such as the Brotherhood or Al Nahdhad has always been viewed as the most dangerous scenario for the house of Saud whose existence has been justified on religious grounds. The emergence of parallel bodies and entities with different sources of religious doctrines and legitimacy is devastating. While the Saudis have always brushed aside the political developments and political changes in countries with majorities adopting Shia Islam, any victory of moderate Muslim groups in Sunni-dominated countries is viewed as a potentially fatal development that could seriously challenge the legitimacy of the Wahhabi school of thought which is embraced by the house of Saud. The Saudis, however, are not content with crushing Islamists in Egypt and Tunisia. They also view the Islamic regime of Iran, the political entity in Iraq (which has a degree of democracy and Islam) and the military might of resistance groups like Hezbollah and Hamas as being a major challenge to the Gulf monarchies. While the West would have naturally sided with those seeking democratic change in the region, the oil revenues and the stakes linked to the security of Israel have tilted

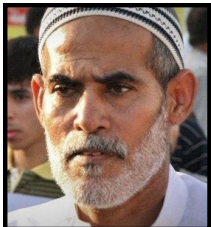
their stands and created moral and ethical challenge for the Western powers. Both Washington and London have adopted policies that support the status quo and appease the hereditary dictatorships of the GCC.

Bahrain's Revolution has, nevertheless, presented one of the most serious challenges to the GCC. It has been one of the most moderate and peaceful political revolt in the region. It is now the longest and most resilient. The Saudi military intervention in the country in support of the Alkhalifa dictatorship has failed to stem the waves of the Revolution. The country has not seen a single day without protests in most areas. The draconian laws adopted by Bahrain's dictator have failed to stop the Revolution. The outrageous human rights violations have deafened the world but failed to dislodge him from the path of what the BICI report described as "systematic torture". The political landscape in Bahrain has decisively changed in the past two years against the continuation of the Alkhalifa rule. The main slogan of the daily protesters has been "Down with Hamad" in reference to the country's most vicious tyrant.

Both Washington and London have propped up the regime with arms, security expertise and political support. In the midst of the political turmoil surrounding the Arab Spring Bahrain's Revolution has defied all the odds and remained steadfast on its peaceful and comprehensive political agenda. The attempts to create "dialogue" have been largely fruitless and the only policy to quell the demonstrations and protests have been confined to official violence against the people. Collective punishment, torture, abduction, media campaigns have become the main tools of the ruling family against the Revolution. Thus while the other Revolutions have succumbed to the Saudi-sponsored repression and bloody tactics, the flames of the people's revolt in Bahrain will remain glowing. The people's demands must be met and no other solution can deter the people from pursuing their goals. This time Arab history will start from Bahrain, the country of the martyrs and the longest running, most peaceful and least corruptible Revolution. This is the pledge of the Bahraini martyrs and God's support will ensure the eventual victory and change in the region.

Martyrs fathers, children detained, women remain in jail

As the daily protests sweep across Bahrain, the regime's brutal forces have intensified their immoral attacks on civilians. Of particular concern is the detention and torture of the fathers of the martyrs for refusing to accept to sell their sons' blood cheaply. On 22nd August, Abdul Hadi Mushaima, the father of the first martyr of the Revolution, 'Ali Mushaima', was arrested by Alkhalifa torturers from his home at Daih Town. Also Ahmad Al Mawail, the father of



Yousuf Al Mawali, who was tortured to death in January 2012, was detained on 23rd August. He was taken to an unknown destination. The two have spearheaded the calls for action against those who had tortured their sons to death. Earlier this year, Jawad Al Sheikh, the father of martyr Ali Al Sheikh was detained for 50 days outside the due process of law. These detentions have come at the backdrop of rising tension and intense public anger against the regime for continuing its atrocities

against native Bahrainis.

The Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) has, meanwhile, issued a report on the disappearance of the martyrs' fathers. BCHR believes that both Ahmed Mowali and Abdulhadi Mushaima were targeted and detained for exercising their basic rights and publicly demanding justice for their killed sons. The BCHR has previously documented several cases of attacks on families of extra-judicial victims that included detention. On 26 October 2012, Jawad Al-Shaikh was arrested from a peaceful protest in Manama that demanded self-determination. Until this day, no has been held accountable for the death of his 14 year-old son Ali Alshaikh who was killed by police with a shot to his neck from behind on 31 August 2011. The BCHR called for the immediate release of those prisoners, ending the harassment and intimidation of relatives of human rights violations, bringing to justice those who had killed the martyrs and compensating the families of those martyrs.

A wave of public anger is sweeping the country for continuing to detain and torture Bahraini women who had committed no crime except exercising their right of expressing their opinion and calling for downfall of the hereditary dictatorship. Among them are Nadia Ali Yousuf, Zainab Al Khawaja, Rayhana Al Mousawi,

Nafisa Al Asfoor, Halima Al Sabbagh and Siddiq Al Basri. Nadia Ali Yousuf was supposed to be freed on Tuesday but the regime extended her detention further. She has one child who lives with other relatives. His father is also in jail.

The wave of arrests and detentions of Bahrainis has continued unabated. On Sunday 25th August, Ali Hassan Jaffar was abducted by masked men in civilian clothing from the town of Nuwaidrat. Nothing has been heard of him since. Another child, Mahmood Hamza Muwail, 16, was ordered to be detained for 45 days pending investigation for taking part in a peaceful demonstration. Two days ago a 14 years old child was detained. Loai Al Sayed Abbas was summoned to the prosecution office, tortured there and arrested. Another child, Salman Mahdi, 14, was reported by Amnesty International to have been tortured and ill-treated since his abduction ten days ago. Over the past week 49 arrests were made during raids of people's homes in Manama, Muharraq and other towns and villages. Twenty five areas were subjected to collective punishment with chemical gases and shoguns. At least ten Bahrainis were injured in those attacks. The Al Kheef Mosque in Dair Town was raided and worshippers attacked and ill-treated.

Bahrain Freedom Movement

Women prisoners abused, journalists tortured

The plight of Bahraini women prisoners have come to light in some tweets by their relatives or human rights activists. It paints harrowing pictures of Alkhalifa torture dungeons, with freedom to torture, abuse and snatch victims at will. Yousuf Al Mahafdha highlighted the agony of a young Bahraini female activist, Zahra Al Sheikh, 23 years, who has spent several months in hiding fearing for her life after she had been summoned for another round of torture. She was detained last year and her experience is highlighted by the Al Mahafdha' tweets. She had been beaten up

severely on various parts of her body, pictured as she was strip-naked and had toilet brush cleaner stuffed in her mouth. After her release she attempted to register at the University but was sentenced to one year in prison for trumpeted charges. Having experienced the horrors of the dungeons, Zahra went into hiding where she has remained for the past six months. Another experience of women behind bars is that of Zainab Al Khawaja, detained for criticising Alkhalifa dictatorship. Her mother, Khadija Al Mousawi, wife of the internationally-



renowned human rights activist, spoke of her agony at what her eldest daughter, Zainab, is going through behind bars. In her first visit for six months, Zainab narrated harrowing details of how female prisoners are abused and denied the most basic of rights.

These facts have, themselves, become major hindrance in the way of any attempt by Alkhalifa to gain any form of popular legitimacy. Despite the recent reverses in the political democratic experience, Bahrainis will never again embrace the Alkhalifa as rulers. The ill-treatment of Bahraini prisoners is of such magnitude that all threads between Bahrainis and Alkhalifa have been severed. The status quo may continue but no reconciliation is possible without full power returned to the people. This is made worse by the continuing crackdown against Bahraini people and residential areas.

Today, the father of the first martyr of the Revolution was snatched from his home by hooded members of Alkhalifa-run Death Squads. Earlier this year, Jawad Al Sheikh, the father of Ali Al Sheikh who was killed on Eid Day two years ago, was detained for 50 days for demanding that his son's killers be brought to justice. Many Bahrainis have been snatched from their homes or the streets and taken to secret locations where they are subjected to severe forms of tor-

ture. This morning nine people from Muharraq were detained; Abdulla Al Sayegh, Yousuf Zainal, Ashraf Ghuloom, Omran Amiri, Hassan Al Sakran, Mahdi Kalzaman, Hassan Al Sayegh and Moosa Al Hayki. Many houses were raided over the past week. In Juffair, Nu'aim and Sitra properties were damaged and children horrified.

Protests and demonstrations have continued unabated despite the horrific actions by the regime's terror machine. Manama was the scene of a protest in which tens of people took part today. Other places also witnessed protests including Daih Town. Tomorrow, there will be large protest by the political societies demanding real change in the country.

Yesterday, 21st August, The Bahrain team at Amnesty International, issued an Urgent Action on behalf of Nafeesa al-'Asfoor, a mother-of-two, who was arrested along with Rayhana al-Mousawi on 20 April as they were peacefully protesting near the Formula One Grand Prix circuit in Manama. They are both to be tried, have been tortured and Nafeesa al-'Asfoor is being denied the medical care she requires. The team urged people to write to the authorities calling for providing the two women with adequate medical treatment, release them immediately and arrange for impartial investigation into allegations of torture and other forms of abuse.

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Tension, repression escalate ahead of Day of Tamarrud (rebellion)

As the Day of Tamarrud (rebellion) approaches the Alkhalifa regime becomes more frustrated, aggressive and disoriented. The latest of its irrational and illegitimate acts is the dictator's decree to punish those who take part in peaceful protests. One day after meeting David Cameron in London (on Wednesday), dictator Hamad Alkhalifa announced more draconian measures to deter Bahrainis from protesting against his rule, vowing to withdraw the Bahraini nationality from those who take part in those protests or their fathers if they are underage. The ruling Alkhalifa dynasty is alien to Bahrain. They had occupied the land in 1783 by force and have never integrated with the rest of the society. The use of Nationality as a weapon is an indication of their inferiority complex being foreign invaders occupying other people's land.

The World's reaction to these draconian measures are beginning to emerge. On 6th August the United Nations human rights office said it is concerned about a recommendation to toughen punishments in Bahrain, including revoking the citizenship of anyone convicted of terrorist offenses. "We reiterate that the right to nationality is a fundamental right protected by article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her nationality," Cécile Pouilly, the spokesperson for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), told journalists in Geneva. She added that deprivation of

nationality provided for by law had to comply with procedural and substantive standards, including the principle of proportionality. "We call upon the Government of Bahrain to fully comply with its international human rights commitments, including respect for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and association, and urge all demonstrators to exercise these rights in a peaceful manner," the spokesperson said.

In an attempt to break the silence of the Western World on what is happening in the country six Bahraini human rights bodies have signed an open letter calling for action or at least neutrality from governments, NGOs and media. It said: "We urge international human rights organizations to attempt to visit Bahrain over the coming week, in order to document and monitor ongoing protests, especially on August 14 when Bahrain is expected to come under lockdown." It added: "We call on mainstream media networks to dedicate particular attention to the situation in Bahrain in the build-up to August 14 and to send journalists into the country. What happens in the coming week could be critical." The letter addressed Mr Obama, Mr Cameron and other friendly governments "to remain neutral, if not supportive of the peoples' right to self-determination. This is not a call for intervention, but rather we urge you to live up to claims of ethical foreign policies that take human rights into consideration and to end your active support of the government of Bahrain." The letter also called on the UN and its Special Rapporteurs

to be proactive and to reiterate the rights of Bahrainis to free speech, freedom of assembly, the right to adequate medical care, and to pressure the authorities to refrain from using force, ahead of August 14.

On a more dangerous level it has been confirmed that photojournalist Hussain Hubail had been subjected to torture while at office 99 of the Central Investigation Department (CID). Hubail said he had been beaten on his stomach and face and placed in very cold room. He was also forced to stand for long hours and deprived of sleep for the whole period at the CID. He was forced to "confess" to trumpeted charges.

Today, The Open Democracy website has published three major articles about the British involvement in Bahrain. The first is by Marc Owen titled "The history of British involvement in Bahrain's internal security". The second is by Ahmed Ali titled "Chasing accountability; facing impunity". The third is by John Horne and John Lubbock titled "Policing Bahrain: the long arm of the British". The links to the articles are: <http://www.opendemocracy.net/opensecurity/marc-owen/history-of-british-involvement-in-bahrain-internal-security> <http://www.opendemocracy.net/opensecurity/ahmed-ali/chasing-accountability-facing-impunity> <http://www.opendemocracy.net/opensecurity/john-horne-john-lubbock/policing-bahrain-long-arm-of-british>

Bahrain Freedom Movement
8th August 2013

AI: Boy arrested, threatened, risks torture

Amnesty International 22 August 2013

A 13-year-old Bahraini boy, Salman Mahdi Salman, has been arrested and had his detention order renewed for seven days by the Public Prosecution on 21 August. He is held in a juvenile detention centre, but at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Salman Mahdi Salman, aged 13, was arrested on 11 August at around 5pm near a shopping mall on al-Budaiya' Street, in the west of the capital, Manama. According to an eyewitness, Salman Mahdi Salman was walking alone when he was surrounded by members of the security forces who arrested him; there was no demonstration in progress in the street at the time. He was taken to al-Budaiya' police station and released at 1am on 12 August. The police contacted his family that day asking them to bring Salman Mahdi Salman back to the police station for further interrogation, but the family did not do so. The police then contacted Salman's uncle and threatened to raid the family's house and arrest the boy, if they



refused to comply. The family handed Salman Mahdi Salman over to the police the next day. The Juvenile Prosecution ordered his detention for seven days pending investigation, and this order was renewed for a further seven days on 21 August.

Salman Mahdi Salman is held in a juvenile detention centre where his family visited him on 18 August. He told them that following his arrest and during his interrogation he was slapped in the face to force him to confess that he was masked at the time he was arrested, carrying a Molotov cocktail and a cigarette lighter.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

Urging the Bahraini authorities to ensure that Salman Mahdi Salman is treated in accordance with the international standards of juvenile justice; Urging them to disclose the reason for his arrest and release him immediately unless he is charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence; Urging them to protect him from torture and other ill-treatment.

Women prisoners abused

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Bahrainis were grateful to Janet Salmon, is a consultant, writer and activist, who wrote to the Guardian yesterday about the situation in Bahrain. She said: In all the coverage of David Miranda's detention for nine hours at Heathrow, there was no mention of the journalists detained in Bahrain before the banned 14 August independence day marches. Among them was Mohammad Hassan Sundayf, a blogger who helped foreign journalists. He was arrested on 31 July, tortured and detained for 45 days. His lawyer, Abdul Aziz Moussa, who commented on the torture after seeing him on 8 August, was sentenced to seven days and his licence may be withdrawn.

A photographer, Hussain Hubail, was picked up separately at Manama airport on 31 July, leaving for Dubai. He was tortured and also detained for 45 days. So while I have sympathy for the Brazilian, I would like to see the Guardian and other international papers support the Bahrainis who have put their lives at risk to get out the news. Attacks on a free press are important, whether they are westerners or Arabs, but the latter tend to get ignored.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
22nd August 2013

Bahrain's Day of Reckoning August 14, 2013

By Eric Avebury | Tue 13th August 2013 - 1:55 pm

August 14 has been designated by the youth of Bahrain as Tamarrud Day, the day of rebellion. They see the 42 years that have elapsed since the country gained its independence as a history of violent repression, littered with false promises of reform, the latest example of which is the so-called national dialogue.

After several months that process has achieved zero results though from the regime's point of view it distracts attention from the continued imprisonment of the 'Bahrain 13', political leaders and human rights activists imprisoned for thoughtcrime.

Those men were tried twice, using confessions to serious offences extracted from them by torture.

Yet their presence at any genuine dialogue would be necessary to make it properly representative.

So would the presence of Nabeel Rajab, the internationally renowned head of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, wrongfully im-



prisoned for two years.

And that of Maryam al-Khawaja, Acting President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, who was stopped from boarding a BA flight to Bahrain last week on the orders of the regime. We will be hearing from her during this meeting.

What is the ruling family's response to the action planned for tomorrow? During the run-up there has been an intensification of the crackdown, with round-the-clock house raids, more arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, political convictions and tough prison sentences.

A new law has been passed by the stooge parliament imposing huge penalties for vaguely defined offences.

The UN says it is concerned about the arbitrary deprivation of citizenship provided by this law. They apparently were not aware that 31 people had already lost their citizenship without due process, including several people here at this meeting.

Citizen journalists are being arrested on trumped up charges, so that the outside world can only get a sanitised version of tomorrow's events from the closely controlled domestic media.

Of course, no foreign journalists have been allowed in, and the UN Rapporteur on Torture's previously scheduled visit has been postponed indefinitely. The al-Khalifas don't want him asking awkward questions about victims such as the human rights defender Naji Fateel or blogger Mohamed Hassan.

The UK's Foreign Office claims to 'oppose tyranny and hold repressive regimes to account'. Respect for human rights is said to be 'a consistent theme that runs through Britain's foreign policy'. It is 'something on which we will not compromise'.

Yet in the case of Bahrain, we are strangely silent on human rights. Ministers say they raise human rights, but their voices are never loud enough to be heard. Instead we see King Hamad being feted by the Queen, and received by the Prime Minister to discuss a £1 billion deal to sell him Typhoon fighters.

When the al-Khalifas fall, as happens to dictators everywhere in the end, the people of Bahrain may not be so friendly to the UK, remembering that we propped up their oppressors.

The UK supports the replacement of President Assad of Syria, but King Hamad is received by the Queen and recently by Prime Minister Cameron. Did they talk about human rights?

AI: Grand Prix protesters tortured

(Urgent Action) 21st August 2013

Nafeesa al-'Asfoor, a mother-of-two, was arrested along with Rayhana al-Mousawi on 20 April as they were peacefully protesting near the Formula One Grand Prix circuit in Manama. They are both to be tried, have been tortured and Nafeesa al-'Asfoor is being denied the medical care she requires.

Nafeesa al-'Asfoor, 31, and Rayhana al-Mousawi, 38, were arrested on 20 April near the Manama Formula One Grand Prix circuit, while participating in a protest against the imprisonment of prominent Bahraini political activists, including Zainab Al-Khawaja. The two women told their families that they had been tortured or otherwise ill-treated by the police during interrogation. They were forced to sign confessions which they later withdrew when interrogated by the Public Prosecution. They have both been charged with "attempting to plant an exploding device at the race circuit" and "membership of a "terrorist" group". Their case is currently under investigation by the Public Prosecution. Rayhana al-Mousawi is being tried in another case known as the "the 14 February Coalition Cell". During the first session of the trial in early July Rayhana al-Mousawi told the court that she had been tortured, including by being threatened with rape. The trial has been adjourned till September. Nafeesa al-'Asfoor and Rayhana al-Mousawi are held in a women's detention centre in 'Issa Town, south-west of the capital Manama.

Nafeesa al-'Asfoor is being denied adequate medical care as she has found suspicious breast lumps and suffers from other health conditions, including migraines that require regular medication. Her family have requested several times that the prison administration refers her to the Salmaniya Medical Complex for treatment. She has only been granted preliminary medical examinations at the Bahrain Defence Force military hospital and has so far not been informed of the results.

Please write immediately Urging the Bahraini authorities to release Nafeesa al-'Asfoor and Rayhana al-Mousawi immediately

AI: Female activist detained

(Urgent Action) 16th August 2013

Seddiqa al-Basri, a 27-year-old mother of two, has been detained since 14 August. Three other women and a girl were detained with her but released shortly after. Seddiqa al-Basri is a possible prisoner of conscience and is at risk of torture.

On 14 August, at around 3pm, Seddiqa al-Basri, together with three other women and a 14-year-old girl, were arrested as they tried to join an anti-government demonstration in Sayf Junction in the capital, Manama. Seddiqa al-Basri was driving the car the women were travelling in when police stopped her. The women were removed from the car by force and taken away in a police vehicle to the capital's al-Hurra police station. There they were interrogated by the police for several hours. At around 1am on 15 August the three women, Tayyiba Derwish 'Issa, Sharifa Sayyid Sa'eed Mahdi and one other whose name has not been disclosed – and the 14-year-old girl, 'Adhra' Mohammad, were released. Around the same time, Seddiqa al-Basri was transferred to a women's detention centre in 'Issa Town, south-west of Manama. On 15 August, Seddiqa al-Basri was presented to the Public Prosecution Office (PPO) and was interrogated with her lawyer present. Her lawyer had requested permission to be present at the police station when Seddiqa al-Basri and the four others were being interrogated by the police, but the request was rejected by the PPO. She was charged (at the PPO) with "attempting to run over two police women", which she has denied. Seddiqa al-Basri had already been imprisoned for six months this year, from 28 January till 17 July, after she had been found guilty of "hurting a policeman's feelings" and "public gathering". At her initial interrogation for this previous incident she was reportedly tortured.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language urging the Bahraini authorities to release Seddiqa al-Basri immediately and unconditionally if she is held solely for exercising her rights to freedom of association and assembly;