

# BAHRAIN

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

## Political change is inevitable; no one can stop it

Servitude, slavery and loss of self-esteem and dignity may be undesirable qualities in modern times, but, to the astonishment of many, they are still desired by strata of people in the Arab world. As the revolutionary fervor gripped the countries which passed through the Arab Spring revolutions, the abundance of petro-dollars in the hands of the few Gulf monarchs played significant role in taming many people who have had liberal tendencies in the past. It soon became clear that tyranny is not, after all, a bad phenomenon, at least to those who framed their lives to become dysfunctional as humans. Not only have these "elites" enemies of freedom and democracy, but they are now appealing to their pay masters to tighten the grip on the society, punish those who call for freedom and close down modern day social networks. While the world is calling for more of these media and the ending of censorship, the Gulf "elite" is pleading to the hereditary dictatorships to oppose openness, freedom and human rights. Columnists in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are competing to clean the dirt of their masters and urge them to become more repressive and reactionary. In the past month calls were made to those despots to close down Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp on the premise that they are corrupting the minds of the youth and corrupting the traditions of subjugation and censorship. In Bahrain, those working as mouthpiece of the regime have instigated against the freedom-loving citizens and urged the hereditary dictatorship to clamp down on dissent. Furthermore, some of those columnists have suggested that countries which have granted asylum to Bahraini exiles must take action against Bahrainis in exile when they oppose the regime or expose its atrocities.

These facts have posed a dilemma to those seeking more freedom to the people. They are considered "provocateurs", "instigators" or even "terrorist". The tide of change has been stopped as the old regimes regrouped and staged massive counter-insurgency. Egypt epitomizes the worst of those coups which are spearheaded by Saudi Arabia. The spirit of the 21st century has not yet materialized, but, instead, the old regimes have retained power and fought against all attempts to

achieve modern statehood. The oil wealth has enabled those monarchies to claim new political territory and, with it, they hope, political legitimacy. In Bahrain, for example, the regime has been able to recruit few of those "liberals" to attack the opposition and defend the hereditary dictatorship. Some of them have gone as far as calling for an end to the social media, the repeal of nationalities of opposition figures and extension of the Saudi occupation. Few of those nurtured "thinkers" have called for permanent military presence of the Saudi forces and with it, the illegal occupation. This is recipe for new forms of slavery and institutionalized dictatorship. This is the state of the political and social morality in today's oil monarchies with the Saudis spearheading the attacks on democracy and the rule of law. For Bahrainis, they have engaged in a lifetime struggle to achieve freedom, democracy and dignity. For over three years they have struggled against all the odds to ensure victory. Against them stood all forces of evil, tyranny and despotism. When they turned to the streets in their hundreds of thousands the Saudis were so infuriated that they turned their military might against them. But the will of the people has been able to outshine that of the occupiers. In last month's session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva voice of the Bahraini oppressed echoed in the corridors of the human rights world. The spirits of the martyrs also attended the session and called on the world to end its hypocrisy and raise its voice against the most reactionary of the world's regimes. It is now evident that the voice of the dispossessed has broken the walls of silence and cautioned the big powers against indifference. While petro-dollars were in abundance the human rights world began to listen to the cries of the tortured in the Alkhalifa dungeons. The UN had sent a fact-finding mission to Bahrain prior to the session and is awaiting its report. It is widely expected that the report will shock the human rights world and no amount of money will subdue the voices of the aggrieved. The regime has adamantly refused to allow a visit by the Special Rapporteur on Torture and at least two others. The world has to decide, upon the filing of the UN's mission to Bahrain, whether to

make a stand against a murderous regime or remain silent with grim consequences. The Alkhalifa regime has another headache to deal with. The Formula1 race is scheduled to be held in Bahrain in April. Calls have been made to the F1 management to stop this outrageous act of cleansing the worst political regime in the world. The race must be stopped as it has come to symbolize worst faces of brutal oppression, lack of compassion and abundance of abuse. The next period is likely to witness the withdrawal of some teams, but the cancellation of the race is still in the balance. There needs to be an international pressure, especially from the human rights world on the Alkhalifa hereditary dictatorship to hand power back to the people. To tolerate a regime that has repressed its people with all dirty means is an abandonment of the most basic principles and duties of the human race. When President Obama visits Saudi Arabia this month he has two choices; either to appease his hosts by glorifying their crimes in Bahrain and defend their dictatorship or to warn them of dire consequences for their crimes in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq and Syria. The Saudis who are bullying other GCC countries especially Qatar, must be challenged both on their political and ideological stands. Their occupation of Bahrain, which was the launching pad for the Saudi military might, must be condemned and brought to an end. The forces calling for change in the Arab world must show bravery by declaring support to the struggle of Bahrainis to achieve democracy and liberation from occupation. The decision by the military leaders of Egypt to execute more than 500 members of the Muslim Brotherhood was taken both in revenge from the group for its victory in the ballot boxes and in support of the Saudi decision to classify the Brotherhood as a "terrorist" group. This blood-thirsty alliance of the counter revolution forces is an indication to the extent to which enemies of freedom would go to exterminate opposition to their dictatorship. Bahrain's people will not be intimidated into submission to dictatorship or occupation. They will pursue their peaceful Revolution and struggle until counter-revolution forces and despots are defeated.

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## New martyr as MPs declare opposition to holding Formula 1 in Bahrain

A Bahraini citizen has been martyred after inhaling large quantities of chemical and tear gases fired by Alkhalifa forces on unarmed demonstrators. Jawad Al Hawi, 48, from Sitra City was passing by the area where a peaceful protest was taking place when regime's forces hurled large quantities of lethal gases on Bahraini protesters. He collapsed as a result and within short period his soul rose to its Creator. Many people attended the martyr's funeral, chanting anti-regime slogans. They were attacked mercilessly by the foreign-staffed riot police and security forces.

A Campaign to stop Formula1 car race scheduled to be held next month in Bahrain has started. A group of 17 Members of Parliament have signed the following Early Day Motion (EDM): "That this House opposes the staging of the 2014 Bahrain Grand Prix due to ongoing human rights violations in that country; notes that Human Rights Watch's 2014 World Report highlighted that Bahrain's human rights record regressed in key areas in 2013 drawing particular attention to arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture of activists, prosecution and harassment of government critics and a failure to hold those guilty of human rights abuses to account; expresses deep concern that in previous years Bahrain has implemented a severe crackdown before and during the Grand Prix, restricting freedom of movement of persons in the country, detaining and deporting foreign journalists and conducting mass arbitrary detentions in towns close to the Formula 1 circuit; recalls with concern that previous

Grand Prix have coincided with the extrajudicial killing of protester Salah Abbas in 2012 and the arbitrary imprisonment and alleged sexual abuse in custody of protester Rihanna al Mousawi in 2013; further expresses disappointment at the continued failure to hold security forces to account for these abuses, as well as the arrest, detention and torture of 27 employees of the Bahrain International Circuit in 2011; and urges the Government to make strong representations to try and prevent the 2014 Bahrain Grand Prix from going ahead."

Meanwhile the ruling family refused to acknowledge the appeal against its earlier decision to jail Nabeel Rajab, the most senior human rights activist in the Gulf region. He has been in jail since August 2012 when he was sentenced to three years, later reduced to two. His lawyer, Mohammad Al Jishi said that all "judicial" avenues have now been exhausted. Mr Rajab will be eligible for release on 24<sup>th</sup> May when he completes the whole period of his sentence. Judiciary has been used by the Alkhalifa rulers to exact revenge on their opponents.

Amnesty International has issued an Urgent Action appeal calling for the release of photographer, Hussain Hubail. He had been in jail since last year and has been subjected to ill-treatment for covering the peaceful protests in Bahrain. Amnesty has urged its members to ask Alkhalifa authorities to release Mr Hubail immediately, drop the charges against him because they relate to freedom of expression, grant Mr Hubail adequate medical care and order an independent investigation into torture and other

ill-treatment claimed by him, and bring those responsible to justice.

This morning, photographer Majed Tareef, from Sanabis, has been snatched by masked members of regime's Death Squads. His home was ransacked and his family terrified. In the past three months three other photographers were detained; Ahmad Al Fardan, Sayed Baqir Al Khamel and Sayed Ahmad Al Mousawi. Yesterday Alaa Al Ekri was arrested during a raid on his home in Daih Town.

The Bahrain Centre for Human Rights has confirmed that Sheikh Riyadh Al Henni has been severely tortured. Before he was moved to the Dry Dock prison, he had been subjected to severe beating, electric shocks, sexual assault, verbal attacks and other forms of ill-treatment. He was kept blindfolded since his arrest last week.

Human rights activists have been alarmed by the continuous supply of soldiers and security personnel by Pakistan to Bahrain. The visit this week by Bahrain's dictator, Hamad bin Isa Al KHalifa, to Pakistan is expected to lead to more Pakistani mercenaries being recruited to kill and torture Bahrainis, in a way similar to that adopted by Libya's former dictator. Gaddafi had used African mercenaries to fight against Libyans who were calling for political reforms. But they could not save him or his rule. Bahrain's dictator is expected to call for more mercenaries after he realised that the Saudi military occupation had failed to crush people's Revolution.

**Bahrain Freedom Movement**  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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## Third anniversary of Saudi occupation marked with defiance

As the third anniversary of the Saudi occupation of Bahrain approaches there have been frantic activities inside and outside the country. There are calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Saudi troops from that country because the native population are wholly against it. The Saudi forces invaded Bahrain on 14th March 2011 and participated in heinous crimes. The UK Government was informed of the invasion in advance but did not oppose it. In Bahrain the Revolution has been intensified against the ruling Alkhalifa hereditary dictatorship which is accused of treachery. The dictator, Hamad bin Isa Alkhalifa, is accused of treason for inviting or accepting the Saudi occupation, compromising Bahrain's sovereignty and seeking foreign and mercenary forces to kill Bahrainis. The killing last week of three mercenaries in an unexplained explosion has exposed the reality of the occupation.

The policy of kidnapping citizens and torturing them has continued unabated. On the eve of the National Day of Resistance Against Saudi Occupation at least 13 Bahrainis have been detained and 17 houses raided. Aseel Ali and Hassan Abdul Karim were snatched from their homes at Al Qurayya Town by members of Alkhalifa Death Squads. They have been taken to an

unknown destination and fears are growing for their safety. As the kangaroo courts pursued their policies of exacting revenge on Bahrainis, three youth were sentenced to three years imprisonment for taking part in anti-regime protests. Mohammad Mahdi, 19, Yousuf Al Sayegh, 17 and Yousuf Abdul Hadi, 16, were tortured and abused before their court appearance. From Al Ekr town, Ali Hassan Al Mughanni was arrested today from his home. Three others were arrested from Nuwaidrat: Ilias Hassan Marhoon, Ahmad Abd Ali Jum'a and Jaber Hlal. Mahmood Abdul Redha Al Shahrakkani was arrested at a check point in Jufair.

As the American president prepares to visit Saudi Arabia, pressure is mounting on USA to come clean of its immoral links to the Gulf dictatorial monarchies. Twenty eight American Middle East experts have signed a letter to Mr Obama urging him to raise the case of Bahrain with the Saudi king during the visit. Washington has been reluctant to support pro-democracy calls in that region and has been accused of adopting double standards in dealing with the world. Its silence on horrendous human rights abuses by the GCC dictatorships has been condemned by political and human rights activists, at a time when the GCC itself is fragmenting .

In London the Bahraini opposition block has undertaken several activities to mark the occasion. On Monday 10th March a Press Conference was held by Lord Avebury, the Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee. Several speakers participated including Dr Mahmood Al Fardan who outlined the attack on the medical profession after the Saudi invasion. Rori Donaghy of the Emirates Centre for Human Rights outlined the serious abuses by the regime of that country against political activists. He said 128 political prisoners are languishing behind bars. Raza Kazmi, of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, presented grim picture of the serious human rights violations in Saudi Arabia. On Tuesday night, a gathering was held to mark the Saudi invasion and occupation of Bahrain. Anti-war and anti-arms trade activists pledged support to the Bahrainis who are resisting foreign occupation.

Mr Obama's visit to Riyadh has prompted calls from human rights activists as well as academics to be more pro-active and work to alter the course of the American policy in the Gulf.

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## Bahrain recruiting former Pakistani military men to quell protests

IKRAM JUNAIDI

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ISLAMABAD: Recruitment of retired military personnel by the armed forces' welfare bodies for serving in Arab hotspots such as Bahrain is not official government policy, explains Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Tasneem Aslam.

"Those who have been going to Bahrain to work in the armed forces have done so on their own initiative," she adds.

"The government of Pakistan does not have an agreement to send a workforce to Bahrain. We do however have an agreement with Malaysia for sending workers there and negotiations are going on with Italy for a similar arrangement," she said.

Aslam was responding to questions about a recent ad posted on its website by Bahria Foundation, an armed forces welfare body. The organisation, which is headed by the Chief of the Naval Staff, ran the ad asking for people to apply if they were interested in working in Bahrain.

In the past, the Fauji Foundation, which is run by the defence secretary, has also recruited people for Bahrain. On Sunday, the advertisement on the Bahria Foundation website caused much confusion as the ad did not explain all the pre-requisites.

As many as 800 aspirants reached Bahria Foundation in E-8, only to be notified that the vacancies in Bahrain were for former servicemen only and that civilians could not apply.

Abdul Qudoos from Sialkot was one of those left disappointed.

"If the jobs were not for civilians, they should have mentioned it in the advertisement in the first place," he said.

This however is not the first time retired security officials are being hired to work in Bahrain.

A Pakistani resident, Shahid Sultan, who served in Bahrain for four years where he worked in an air-conditioning plant and the construction industry, said that his uncle had worked with security forces of Bahrain.

"Just after the revolution in Egypt in 2011, the political temperatures in Bahrain also began to rise as a section of society wanted more political rights. What added to the problem was the fact that the opposition in the country is comprised of the majority Shia population while the government is backed by Saudi Arabia," he said.

"In order to deal with the restless opposition, the government began hiring a large number of former Pakistani soldiers.

"They were preferred as they had served in Bahrain in the past also – but to train military personnel and so on."

Saeed claims that he has not heard of "Indian or Bangladeshi soldiers" being recruited for these training jobs, adding that this is probably why the Gulf state looked towards Pakistan when it needed more personnel to control the protests held by the Bahraini opposition."

"Former soldiers who have been working under the defence department of Bahrain

get 430 Dinars a month which is around Rs120,000. They have to work just 10 days in a month. Those who serve in the police department have to work around 22 days in a month," he added.

He also claimed that "a number of Pakistanis have died while working for the police department in Bahrain but the salary is so attractive that there is never shortage of Pakistanis for the jobs available," he said.

According to him, there were some private recruiting agencies which come from Bahrain time to time and recruited directly.

However he explained that these agencies were very expensive and charged high fees from the aspirants.

Bahrain is a small Gulf state that is linked to Saudi Arabia with a bridge.

An analyst for the Arab Media, Ali Mehr, told Dawn that it was an open secret that a large number of Pakistanis had been hired

by the security forces of Bahrain and that many had died while trying to quell the protests. He added that one was killed just last week during a blast in a town (Daih).

"Initially Bahrain used to recruit Baloch people but now it has been recruiting former soldiers from all over Pakistan," he said. "The opposition in Bahrain has condemned the inclusion of Pakistanis in the security forces of Bahrain," he said.

An official of the Foreign Office, who did not want to be identified, said that it was expected that a senior government official from Bahrain will visit Pakistan in the next few days.

"It is expected that defence and security agreements might be signed," he said.

FO spokesperson Tasneem Aslam explained that the Pakistani who was killed last week was working in a community welfare department in Bahrain.

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## Saudi tyranny leads to death sentences; protests to stop Bahrain F1 race

As the Saudis continued to drag their feet in Bahrain by constructing new military bases for their troops of occupation, they are also attempting to dominate the Arab political scene in different ways. At the Arab summit in Kuwait this week, the atmosphere was one of tyranny imposed by the Saudis who dictated the agenda by flexing their financial and political muscles. Instead of addressing the Arab people's aspiration for freedom and democracy, the Saudis have deflected the debate and presented the pro-democracy movements as "terrorist" including Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and the Bahraini activists. They refused to discuss the real terrorists who are supported by their intelligence agencies and petrodollars. Daily killing of innocent civilians in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Lebanon and Egypt have been ignored by the Arab summit. The sentencing of 529 Egyptians to death by the military-controlled judiciary has largely been sidelined. In Bahrain, the Saudi occupation is behind the recent sentencing of several Bahrainis to death. The aim is to deter the pro-democracy movement and push it to submission.

Meanwhile, the Bahraini activists have escalated their efforts against the Formula 1 race planned to take place in Bahrain on 4-6th April. Termed "Blood race" by victims of Alkhalifa regim, F1 has become symbol of regime's brutality and indifference to the misery and death of Bahrainis. The Death Squads have been rounding activists en masse to ensure that no major protests are organised during the event.

Over the past 24 hours at least ten people have been detained from the towns of Karbabad, Jannusan and Al Qurayya. Among them is the Hussaini orator, Sheikh Ahmad Al Daqqaq from Karbabad. Yesterday eleven people were arrest-

ed from Karbabad, Samaheej, Nuwaidrat, Daih and Al Qurayya. including Sayed Ameen Sayed Hussain Al Mousawi, 17, Hussain Abdulla Al Qassim, from Abu Saiba, Mohammad Jaffar Hassan and Mohammad Jaffar Bu Nasib (from Samaheej). From Karbabad Hussain Abd Al Ali Al Heela, 24 was detained. In London, the pro-democracy Bahraini opposition is holding daily protest outside the F1 headquarters in Kensington. They started on 24th March and will continue for two weeks.

Two days ago, a young Bahraini was arrested because of his father's activism. Mohsin, the son of Abdul Majeed Abdul Mohsin (known as Hajji Sumood by the revolutionary circles because of his steadfastness despite his old age) was arrested. He was at the Country Mall when members of Death Squads recognised him as the son of Bahrain's eldest hero and audaciously attacked and arrested him.

On Sunday 23rd March the regime's forces attacked a religious meeting at Sanabis for no reason. There was a competition in Qur'an recitation when an armoured vehicle was roaming the streets to stop any protest. As it approached the gate of the congregation hall it fired tear gas canisters at the entrance to the hall, causing panic, confusion and the ill-effects of the chemical gases. It was totally unwarranted attack similar to an earlier one last month at another mosque.

Yesterday there was an intervention on Bahrain at the Human Rights Council session in Geneva under item 8. There will be two other interventions today under items 2 and 10. All are calling for international actions against Alkhalifa regime for serious abuses of human rights.

**Bahrain Freedom Movement**

26th March 2014

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## Lord Avebury: Bahrain's regime cannot uphold human rights

Lord Avebury, vice-chair of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, had called for a Press Conference to mark the Saudi armed incursion into Bahrain on 14th March 2011. Here is his speech: speaking at a meeting on March 10 in Committee Room G of the House of Lords to mark the third anniversary of the intervention by Saudi Arabian forces in Bahrain on March 15, 2011

Salam alaikum, and welcome to this press conference to mark the intervention by Saudi And UAE forces in Bahrain which started three years ago and has continued ever since.

I'm sure it is clear, and has always been so to the media representatives who have attended these meetings over a period of some 20 years, that we have tried to present the views of the opposition in Bahrain and that nobody has ever been under the misapprehension that what is said here represents the views of the House of Lords. Individual contributors have their own slant on the events we discuss, though all are agreed that the people of Bahrain and their rulers are at a cross roads.

Do they proceed along the path of reform, where in the words of Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

".. they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural rights"

Or are they stuck in the rut of a dictatorship and a false process of dialogue leading nowhere? Not only have the al-Khalifas not moved a centimetre towards democracy, but they have tortured and locked up all those who speak up for democracy and human rights. Among some 3,000 political prisoners are every single one of the previous speakers at these press conferences who returned to Bahrain: Hassan Mushaime, Leader of the Haq Movement; Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, co-founder of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights; Abduljalil al-Singace, Head of the Haq Movement's Human Rights Bureau; Nabeel Rajab, President of the Gulf Center for Human Rights; Mohammed al-Tajer, a human rights lawyer who defended peaceful protesters; Ibrahim Sharif, General Secretary of the secular liberal National Democratic Action Society; Abdulwahab Hussain, a political activist who played a leading role in 2011.

The government's policy of arresting, torturing and handing out long prison sentences to their opponents has largely been met by peaceful protests in the past, but as civilians continue to be tortured and killed in custody, some individuals have retaliated. Thus after the torture and death in custody on February 27 of 22-year old Jaffer al Durazi, a bomb killed three policemen in Daih from the UAE, Pakistan and Yemen, also injuring

some others. The police then inflicted an unlawful collective punishment on the village, and attacked the headquarters of Al Wefaq and three political organisations were arbitrarily listed as terrorists.

The late President John F Kennedy said "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable".

That wise statement is being played out on the streets of Bahrain. The provocative use of foreign security forces, brought in and naturalised to oppress the native population and ultimately to create a Sunni majority which might show gratitude and loyalty to the autocrats, is calculated to make peaceful opponents despair, particularly when it is accompanied by systematic displacement of Shias from positions of responsibility and authority throughout higher education, health services and business. The appearance of a UAE officer in the Daih casualty list also gives the lie to the statement that GCC forces have had no part in the direct policing of disturbances. But increasingly, the role of the GCC in Bahrain, and parallels between the violations of human rights in the various Gulf autocracies, must come under public scrutiny.

The Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers has just reported on a visit to UAE and Qatar at the end of January, but has never been to Bahrain, though in both countries dissidents are convicted on evidence obtained by means of torture. The existence of a Joint Security Pact between the UAE and Bahrain promotes exchange of information between the two states about their peaceful opponents, facilitating their persecution. Both states freely use torture against political prisoners, and in neither state are freedoms of expression and assembly respected. The same is true in spades in regard to Saudi Arabia, which escapes cutting edge censure because it supplies much of our oil and is a major customer for our weapons.

Two major shortcomings of the Special Procedures generally are that they don't consider transnational human rights phenomena and they don't report on credible evidence unless it is confirmed by visits. Thus in the case of the Gulf countries which are ruled by Sunni monarchies, the common threat of persecution and marginalisation of their Shia populations is ignored, and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion has never visited any of those countries, a matter I hope will be raised with him at the meeting of the Human Rights Council in Geneva this week.

All the UN Special Procedures should be able to issue reports based on reliable testimony from the media, NGOs and multiple corroborating statements from private individuals. Otherwise, states can avoid criticism merely by postponing the visits by the Special Procedures indefinitely, as has happened in the case of Bahrain with the Special Rapporteur on Torture. But why has there been no word by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, with 3,412 people in detention last Friday? Why has the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers not looked at the proceedings of the kangaroo courts which sentenced the Bahrain 13 to long periods of imprisonment based on testimonies extracted by means of torture? Why has the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion not commented on the total exclusion of the Shia from the professions, education, broadcasting, health and government, and the expulsion of thousands of Shia migrant workers? We know that the Special Procedures are starved of resources because countries like Bahrain don't want them to work, but the stakeholders do have the opportunity of raising their voices at the open sessions of the Human Rights Council this week.

The questions of human rights, democracy and good governance were all originally taken up by the opposition on a non-sectarian basis, but they have been forced into a sectarian mould by the treatment of the Shia population. The allies of the al-Khalifas in this project are Salafists, a hard-line extremist group with an ideology ain to the Wahabism of Saudi Arabia, which denies the right of Shias to call themselves Muslim and in some countries are calling for their annihilation. They are increasingly infiltrating government, though it has to be said, the regime has already been carrying out their programme without needing to be prompted.

Christopher Davidson, in his book *After the Sheikhs*, predicts the collapse of the Gulf monarchies due to mounting internal pressures, including the wholesale persecution of their Shia populations. The short term interests

of the west, and of the UK in particular, rely heavily on the maintenance of stability in the region, so we should be working hard to counter the sectarianism of these autocracies, and to promote democratic inclusivity in which all citizens are equal, and all systems of religion or belief are protected. These principles should take priority over alliances with rulers whose main object is to stay in power, and to grab the wealth that belongs as of right to their people.

