

BAHRAIN

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

Suicide attack on Eastern Province merits political change

The outcome of the continuing crisis in Bahrain is not in doubt; people's victory is guaranteed as necessary outcome of the "Natural Law" and the fulfillment of the "Divine Promise". The War on Yemen waged by the Saudi and Alkhalifa clan may have come to facilitate the speedy demise of those evil manifestations of the most reactionary tribal regimes. With Bahraini people's determination to pursue the declared goals of their Revolution, the likelihood of any settlement that preserves the authoritarianism of the Alkhalifa tribal rule is extremely slim. There are now deep feelings that the future must not be a reflection of the immediate past dominated by the Alkhalifa most repressive regime. That will not happen unless they are totally deprived of the powers that have hitherto enabled them to detain, torture, kill, deport and deprive Bahrainis of their nationalities. The main obstacle, therefore, to any political deal is how much Alkhalifa will be deprived of those powers. Bahrainis have, for decades, entrusted them with all the powers. They greatly misused them. If they are given those powers again they will misuse them in the same way. In 2001 Hamad released most of the prisoners who had been detained during the popular uprising of the nineties. But within few years many of them and many more were detained again, tortured and abused. The people now believe that their future must not be attached to that of the Alkhalifa. They want to determine their own destiny and political system.

One of the main supporters and defenders of Alkhalifa is the British Government. The UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been at the forefront of supporters of the Alkhalifa tribal clan. Philip Hammond, the Foreign Secretary has spared no effort in propping up the most reactionary and vicious regime in the Middle East. But he has failed his most important mission to date; the participation of the political opposition in last year's elections. According to the FCO's recent documents, more than sixty meetings were held by UK officials and AlWefaq Society in order to force them to take part in those hopeless elections. But those efforts were fruitless. The elections became one of most devoid of popular legitimacy. The FCO became angry and first threatened to

stop future contacts with AlWefaq but later decided otherwise. Yet the UK's mission to provide Alkhalifa dictatorship with "democratic" legitimacy failed. The people emerged triumphant in most of their efforts including their campaign to boycott those elections, undermine the Formula 1 car race in Bahrain and exposing the regime as the weakest in the region. Furthermore, their efforts to de-legitimise the regime through exposing it as biological liar, torturer and most corrupt have borne fruit. Almost all international human rights bodies have condemned the Alkhalifa for their brutal treatment of Bahrainis. UK's efforts to shelter them have been partially successful. But they risk sucking UK into the quagmire created by Alkhalifa.

The ongoing Revolutionary activities have defied the odds and continued despite the jailing of more than 4000 Bahrainis; men, women and children. That will remain the main component of the political landscape for time to come. The ultimate goal is to achieve real regime change. It may appear far-fetched. In reality it seems very realistic, given the general trend of the regional politics. The Saudis and Alkhalifa have adopted most vicious and dirty tactics to prevent political change in the region. Terrorism and Sectarianism have been the most brutal weapons against the people. Until now they appear to be achieving the intended goals, but they are likely to hit their perpetrators harder than their intended victims. The whole Arab and Muslim worlds are now threatened with serious rifts leading to internal splits and divisions. For the time being it may appear that countries like Syria and Iraq are the most likely contenders for these divisions. But fragmentation is a disease that observes no boundaries. Saudi Arabia itself is under serious threat of division, so are countries like Egypt, Algeria and Yemen. Events like the recent attack on the Friday worshippers in Qatif that caused the death of more than twenty people will undoubtedly crystallise the calls for separation from the Saudi-dominated kingdom. The Saudi/Alkhalifa war on Yemen is also a factor in determining the future shape of the Arabian Peninsula. This is becoming more likely as a result of the failure of the aggressors to alter the reality on the ground in Yemen despite their air superiority.

Bad government is always cause for instability and division among the disenchanted people. The Arab world has been plagued by bad governance for decades. People's efforts to achieve political change have achieved little due to the strong alliance among the forces of counter-revolution. The latest efforts took the form of popular revolutions that have been quashed mercilessly causing the death of thousands. The Saudis have become the main rallying force for the counter revolution and have allocated billions of dollars to ensure the failure of those revolutions. They employed the most destructive and dirty means including terrorism, extremism and sectarianism. The Arab masses were turned away from the revolutionary path towards and forced to engage in futile internal struggle from which no party can emerge winner. The Bahrainis have been the only people who have dismissed the counter revolution calls to engage in internal destructive conflicts. They groomed terrorist groups like AlNusra Front in Syria and ISIS in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and elsewhere. The Western World has proven to be so Mikavilian in its approach to those unprecedented phenomena. It views what is happening in countries like Iraq and Syria with indifference despite its awareness that a strong ISIS will expose the West to more atrocities and terrorist attacks.

Bahrainis have decided to continue their Revolution until they realized their goals. Recent escalation by the British-empowered Alkhalifa security forces of attacks, torture and imprisonment of activists is indication that of the wrong UK's approach to international terrorism. Dictatorship causes despair among the youth who see no light at the end of the tunnel. Those who are brainwashed to carry out suicide missions are victims of dictatorship and totalitarianism who extinguish the flames of hope. Bahrainis are the most enlightened revolutionaries who have rejected extremism, terrorism and sectarianism. They are adamant on achieving their main aim of establishing democratic transformation and dignified political environment. That will remain their aim; the World must come to their aid and end Alkhalifa era of tyranny, despotism and state-terrorism.

Saudis condemned for inciting against Shia; GCC must release activists

The world was shocked by the unprovoked suicide attack on Friday worshippers on 22nd May at a mosque in the Eastern Province of the Arabian Peninsula. At least 21 Shia Muslims were killed and tens injured when a Saudi terrorist blew himself up in the midst of the worshippers at Imam Ali's Mosque at AlQadeeh Town in Qatif. People blamed the Al Saud rulers for cultivating the culture of hate in the region that has witnessed unprecedented levels of hatred between the Wahhabi salafi adherents and the rest of people, especially Muslims and Christians. For the past four years the authorities have effectively encouraged extremists and reactionary clerics to spread the culture of hate on social networks, in mosques and official broadcasting. The funeral of the martyrs took place on Monday 25th May, attended by hundreds of thousands in the biggest ever mass funeral. The reverberations of the crime have echoed in many countries as people pointed to the regime for sowing the seeds of hatred in the midst of the Muslims.

The Al Khalifa hereditary dictatorship has, meanwhile, continued its attack on civil liberties and arrested more native Bahrainis. Last week the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) was able to document a total of 37 arbitrary arrests, including 2 adult women and 4 children. 16-year-old child Hussein Bashir was kidnapped two days ago, and is still missing. From Karzakk Town, Nasr Uddin Essa Al Fardan was arrested on Thursday 21st May. From Abu Saiba Town Ali Al Zaki was also arrested on the same day. Hassan Assad was arrested last week but no news of him have been received yet. He is at high risk of torture and ill-treatment.

It is estimated that more than 1600 political prisoners at Jaw Prison have been subjected to torture or degrading treatment. At a Press Conference last week AlWefaq Society said that it was able to register 653 Bahrainis imprisoned in the first three months of this year, including 16 women and 119 children. Other sources said that more than 200 prisoners are denied proper medical treatment. Several young prisoners have developed suicidal tendencies after years of torture, solitary confinement and abuse. The regime has continued to detain and abuse under-aged children. Yesterday Lawyer Abdulla AlShamlawi tweeted: Judge renewed child Mohamed Mansour's detention for the 7th week.

On Thursday 21st May Reuters published a report on a legal battle between an activist group and Britain over a decades-old diplomatic cable on Bahrain. The report said that the case had "exposed a thorny link between the UK's colonial past and its new military ambitions in a region it once dominated." The Foreign Office has told a court in London that a censored assessment by a colonial officer of the Gulf Arab island's ruling Al Khalifa family may harm the UK's relationship with Bahrain as it seeks to build a naval base there. The two-page report is a 1977 record of a talk between a British official and Ian Henderson, a senior British security chief who advised Bahrain for decades after its independence. "What surprised me in our conversation was the gloomy view he took of the ability of the Al Khalifa to survive," the official wrote. The rest of the typewritten paragraph is heavily blacked out. Marc Owen Jones, a PhD student who brought the case on behalf of UK-based activist group Bahrain Watch, told Reuters he believes the

censored parts disparage a living member of the ruling family. Edward Oakden, the Foreign Office's Middle East director noted an accord in December to put a long standing UK naval presence in Bahrain on a permanent footing at the Gulf state's expense, and said disclosing more of the paper could also harm British efforts to reform Bahrain's security forces.

Human Rights Watch is seeking the release of activists in GCC countries. "EU High Representative Federica Mogherini should publicly urge Gulf countries to release immediately and unconditionally activists detained for exercising their rights," Human Rights Watch said in a letter to her on 22nd May. The letter was sent ahead of a Gulf Cooperation Council-EU ministerial meeting in Doha on May 24, 2015. The GCC countries' crackdown on freedom of expression and association has resulted in the imprisonment of many activists and dissidents. Member countries are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. "Despite the EU's oft-stated commitment to human rights, it hasn't so much thrown its weight behind advocates of human rights in the Gulf as nervously wagged its finger," said Lotte Leicht, EU director. "The EU should take inspiration from the courage of detained GCC activists, and call for their immediate release... If the EU excludes its major trading partners in the oil-rich Gulf states from its oft-stated commitment to human rights, it will rightly be accused of hypocrisy," Leicht said. "A weak EU response to Gulf states' crackdowns on dissent isn't going to help promote long-term stability in the Gulf."

Bahrain Freedom Movement
27th May 2015

US must act against Gulf dictators; Alkhalifa continue revenge from Salman, Rajab

Following the absence of Bahrain's dictator from the Camp David summit last week, US Congress is putting Bahrain on notice that it needs to get serious about political reforms if it doesn't want to see 5,000 US sailors and Marines take their business elsewhere. The House last week passed an annual defence bill that requires the Department of Defence to plan for a potential relocation of the US 5th Fleet if political tensions persist. Lawmakers made clear the provision was aimed squarely at putting pressure on the Alkhalifa monarchy to respond to what they consider to be legitimate grievances of the majority Shiite population. "The reason that we have to do some planning now for that contingency is exactly because of the Bahraini monarchy's failure to address the concerns of the people," the sponsor of the provision, Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Ga., told Al-Monitor. "If they choose not to address those concerns or do so in a heavy-handed way and somehow things end up getting worse there, then we may be forced to have to leave. And I don't think any

American policymaker wants to see that happen."

Concern is growing for the health of Dr Abdul Jalil AlSingace after two almost two months on hunger strike in protest at the torture inflicted on hundreds of detainees of the notorious Jaw Prison. He was subjected to enormous psychological and physical pressure for defending the victims who were subjected to one of the worst episodes of systematic state terrorism. He has now been transferred to the military hospital after sustaining damage to his internal organs including his heart. He is severely disabled and has been using crutches since childhood. He was arrested among the Bahrain 13 leaders.

The heavy-handed policy of Alkhalifa regime has continued. This morning Abbas Hassan has been arrested in dawn raid on his home in Barbar Town. From Malikiya Abdulla Mohammad Abdulla was also detained. Yesterday, four native students were detained at the airport upon their return from their studies in India. Adel Ahmad Al Taitoon, Fadhel Mahmood Rajab,

Hussain Mohammad Ibrahim and Mahmood Jassim Ni'ma were taken to unknown destination and fear is growing that they may be subjected to torture. Hussain Rajab, the brother of Fadhel Rajab was also arrested.

On Sunday 17th May Mohammad Abdul Amir Thamer from Dar Kulaib was arrested from his work place and taken to one of the secret torture houses. From Daih Town Hussain Abdulla Fadhel was arrested on Sunday from his sister's house at Maqsha' Town. His parents home was also raided with ferocity and shamelessness. On 15th May, four young men from Dar Kulaib were detained: Abdulla Abbase, Mohammad Ali Al Arab, Salman Ibrahim and Abdulla Mohammad. From Nu'aim under-aged Qassim Amin was snatched from his home. From Arad Town, Mahmood Jassim was arrested from his friends house. Abdulla Nasser Mohammad was detained in a raid on his home in Demstan Town. Ayyoub Adel from Muharraaq was snatched from a house in Malikiya.

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Bleak prospects as Saudi, Alkhalifa snub Obama, continue abuses, aggression

The long-awaited Camp David summit scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday) appears to have faltered with no tangible results expected. Only the Kuwaiti and Qatari Emirs have travelled to USA to attend the meeting called for by President Obama. The Saudis and Alkhalifa were angered by Mr Obama's suggestion that the threats to their thrones are not from outside but from their people who are angry at lack of democracy or respect of human rights. Both regimes are facing serious internal challenges and both have blamed them on the outside. Both are now engaged in the most destructive war ever launched in the region. Yemen has been reduced to rubble as human casualties continue to escalate. The silence of the world is deafening.

Amnesty International USA has written to President Obama urging him to "raise specific human rights concerns with Gulf leaders". The letter names dozens of specific prisoners of conscience currently detained or imprisoned by each of the GCC governments, and urges President Obama to raise them during the summit. "The reality is that the governments of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait all engage in significant and widespread human rights violations. Not only that, but their systems of law permit and even facilitate human rights abuses by non-state actors against women, migrant workers, and other population groups," writes Amnesty International USA executive director Steven W. Hawkins.

Bahrain's dictator has been hoping to attend Camp David meeting to gain international recognition and legitimacy. But his insistence on detaining human rights and political activists simply for advocating people's rights has embarrassed the US president. From his cell, Nabeel Rajab had sent a letter to Mr Obama urging him to take up the human rights issue with the dictator. Several international and domestic human rights bodies also wrote to Mr Obama about the Bahrainis human rights crisis. The presence of the Alkhalifa dictator at the White House would have caused immense embarrassment to the White House especially in the wake of the criminal attack on the inmates of Jaw Prison which has more than 1500 prisoners of conscience.

On Monday 11th May, Nabeel Rajab was remanded in custody for two more weeks despite international calls to release him immediately and unconditionally. On 11th May Index on Censorship issued a statement titled: End imprisonment of democracy campaigner Nabeel Rajab. "Bahrain has committed publicly to respecting human rights, but continues to flout its international commitments by denying its citizens the right to peaceful protest, peaceful assembly, and to free

expression," said Index on Censorship CEO Jodie Ginsberg. "We urge the new UK government to use its position as an ally of Bahrain to ensure the country upholds those commitments and ends the harassment of Nabeel Rajab and his fellow democracy activists."

Meanwhile arrests and detentions of native Bahrainis have continued. In the week 4- 10th May at least 51 citizens were arrested; 19 were subsequently released. This morning several people were arrested from Saar Town: Habib Ali Habib, Mohammad Ali Habib, Sayed Adnan Sayed Kadhemi and Redha Majeed Ghuloom. From Duraz Hassan Al Anfooz was arrested after being chased by civilian car driven by masked members of Death Squads. He sustained several broken bones and was arrested. Five youth were arrested on Sunday 11th May from Dar Kulaib Town. From Aali Town Sadiq Al Alwani was arrested after three years in hiding. On 6th May Mohammad Jaffar Saud was arrested in Bani Jamra. From Salmabad Jaffar Al Banna was detained by masked members of Death Squads. Hassan Mahfoodh, from Kawara Town was arrested in a house raid. From Sitra AlKharijiya several people were arrested including

Hussain Mohammad Ali Sdaif, Usama Al Sheikh, Qassim Mohammad, Amir Yousuf and Hassan Al Demstani. Ahmad Hassan, from the same town was arrested in Jannusan Town.

Pen International has issued an appeal for the release of Dr Abduljalil Al Singace whose health is steadily deteriorating. It is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace and all those detained in Bahrain in violation of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bahrain is a state party. PEN urges activists to send appeals to Alkhalifa dictators: Expressing serious concerns for the health of academic, activist and blogger Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace, who is in need of urgent medical treatment; Demanding a full investigation into reports that Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace and others are being ill-treated in prison and Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace and all those detained in Bahrain in violation of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bahrain is a state party.

Bahrain Freedom Movement

13th May 2015

Classified document on Bahrain rankles Britain decades later

A legal battle between an activist group and Britain over a decades-old diplomatic cable on Bahrain has exposed a thorny link between the UK's colonial past and its new military ambitions in a region it once dominated. The Foreign Office has told a court in London that a censored assessment by a colonial officer of the Gulf Arab island's ruling Al Khalifa family may harm the UK's relationship with Bahrain as it seeks to build a naval base there. The installation will be Britain's first permanent military presence in the Middle East since it withdrew from Bahrain and the rest of the Gulf region in 1971.

ADVERTISING

The court ruled at the end of April that more of the document, which is based partly on secret evidence by a top British diplomat, should be exposed, and the Foreign Office has 30 days to appeal.

The two-page report is a 1977 record of a talk between a British official and Ian Henderson, a senior British security chief who advised Bahrain for decades after its independence.

"What surprised me in our conversation was the gloomy view he took of the ability of the Al Khalifa to survive," the official wrote. The rest of the

typewritten paragraph is heavily blacked out.

Marc Owen Jones, a PhD student who brought the case on behalf of UK-based activist group Bahrain Watch, told Reuters he believes the censored parts disparage a living member of the ruling family.

The passages were classified "on the grounds that international relations could be damaged were it to be released. Those grounds still exist," Edward Oakden, the Foreign Office's Middle East director, argued in the case. Bahraini authorities did not respond to a request for comment.

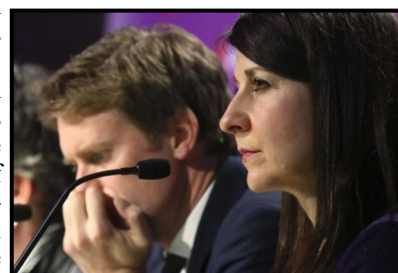
Oakden noted an accord in December to put a long standing UK naval presence in Bahrain on a permanent footing at the Gulf state's expense, and said disclosing more of the paper could also harm British efforts to reform Bahrain's security forces.

BULWARK

The move is part of a modest expansion of British military readiness in the region. In 2013 the Royal Air Force established

an air transport and refuelling hub in the United Arab Emirates. Home to the United States' Fifth Fleet, Bahrain is a strategic bulwark for Western interest in the energy-rich Gulf.

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EU: Seek Release of Gulf Activists

(Brussels) – EU High Representative Federica Mogherini should publicly urge Gulf countries to release immediately and unconditionally activists detained for exercising their rights, Human Rights Watch said in a letter to her today. The letter was sent ahead of a Gulf Cooperation Council-EU ministerial meeting in Doha on May 24, 2015.

The GCC countries' crackdown on freedom of expression and association has resulted in the imprisonment of many activists and dissidents. Member countries are: Bahrain, Kuwait,

Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. "Despite the EU's oft-stated commitment to human rights, it hasn't so much thrown its weight behind advocates of human rights in the Gulf as nervously wagged its finger," said Lotte Leicht, EU director. "The EU should take inspiration from the courage of detained GCC activists, and call for their immedi-

ate release." In June 2014, EU foreign ministers pledged to "intensify" the EU's "political and material support to human rights defenders and step up its efforts against all forms of reprisals." Human Rights Watch urged the EU to translate this commitment into concrete action and policy demands that go beyond mere expressions of support for those unfairly imprisoned. Many dissidents, political activists, human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers, and bloggers have been imprisoned across the Gulf region, often for nothing more than exercising their rights to free expression and association. Many were convicted after unfair trials and allegations of torture in pre-trial detention. GCC governments have responded to growing citizen use of social media by resorting to repressive laws and in some cases by enacting new, more draconian ones, in the name of national security.

In Bahrain, the rights situation continues to deteriorate. Some EU member states and Members of the European Parliament have called for the immediate and unconditional release of the prominent rights activist Nabeel Rajab. But the EU has yet to make a specific call for his release or that of 13 other high-profile activists – including two EU citizens, Abdulhadi al-Khawaja of Denmark and Shaikh Mohamed Habib Almuqdad of Sweden. All are serving life or other long sentences on charges that relate solely to their peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. In Saudi Arabia, the human rights activist Waleed Abu al-Khair and the blogger Raif Badawi are among those serving lengthy prison sentences for their peaceful criticism of the authorities.

The Saudi Interior Ministry issued a counterterrorism regulation in 2014 that designates certain groups as terrorist organizations and contains other provisions that proscribe acts such as "calling for atheist thought," "throw[ing] away loyalty to the country's rulers," "contact or correspondence with any groups, currents [of thought], or individuals hostile to the kingdom," and participating in or calling for protests or demonstrations.

In the United Arab Emirates, which claims to be a world leader in combating extremist ideologies, the human rights lawyers Mohamed al-Roken and Mohamed al-Mansoori and 67 other defendants were convicted in 2013 of attempting to overthrow the state and sentenced to prison in a mass trial. The trial was undermined by due process violations and credible allegations that some defendants were tortured. A 2014 counterterrorism law includes death sentences for offenses used to prosecute peaceful critics of the government and people the authorities consider opposed to Islamic principles.

Five of the six GCC member countries have also ratified the November 2012 GCC Security Agreement, which includes a vaguely worded article that would suppress "interference in the domestic affairs" of

other GCC countries. That provision could be used to criminalize criticism of GCC countries or rulers. Another provision provides for sharing citizens' and residents' personal data between GCC states at the discretion of GCC Interior Ministry officials. When adopting the EU's Strategic Framework for Human Rights and Democracy in June 2012, EU foreign ministers pledged that the EU will continue "to throw its full weight behind advocates of liberty, democracy and human rights throughout the world."

"If the EU excludes its major trading partners in the oil-rich Gulf states from its oft-stated commitment to human rights, it will rightly be accused of hypocrisy," Leicht said. "A weak EU response to Gulf states' crackdowns on dissent isn't going to help promote long-term stability in the Gulf."

US must act: *Cont from P2*

It is now almost three weeks since Yasser Ahmad Al Amriki was arrested with no news or family visit. For the sixth time, Jalila Sayed Amin, had her detention extended by 15 more days.

The Alkhalifa decision to jail Nabeel Rajab, the world-renowned human rights activist for six months has angered the World's human rights bodies. On 14th February Amnesty International said: "Today's verdict shows once again that Bahrain is brazenly flouting its international obligations. Nabeel Rajab has been sentenced solely for peacefully expressing his opinion, the Bahraini authorities must release him immediately and unconditionally, and ensure his conviction is quashed," said Said Boumedouha, Deputy Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Amnesty International. The US Under-Secretary of State for Human Rights, Democracy and Labour has rejected this sentence on his twitter account: Thomas Malinowski said: Disappointed by Nabeel Rajab's denial of appeal. No one anywhere should be jailed for peacefully expressing their opinion."

Today, Alkhalifa kangaroo court trying the Secretary General of AlWefaq Society, once again, adjourned issuing its verdict until 16th June. Defence lawyers have not been allowed to present their defence to the court. The "judge" refused to allow Sheikh Ali Salman to speak in defence of himself. The Gulf region expert for Human Rights First, Brian Dooley has said that a research by his organisation has reached the conclusion that true stability in the Gulf region can only be reached through democratic reforms that allow for peaceful dissent. As civil society disappears, so too does the moderate opposition, which is quickly supplanted by extremism. As Obama discusses security concerns with his Gulf allies, he would do well to tell them that the biggest security threat to both the US and the Gulf is their own repression.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
20th May 2015

Classified documents

Cont from Page 3

"Western countries seek good relations with Gulf States for defence reasons and also economic reasons," said Jane Kininmont, a Middle East expert at London's Chatham House think tank. She cited rapidly increasing defence budgets in the Gulf that are partly earmarked to buy Western arms. "The case shows how alive the history the British colonial rule still is in the Gulf today," she added.

Britain first signed a treaty with the Sunni Muslim Al Khalifa family in Bahrain in 1820 and their relationship has remained strong for decades after the end of its protectorate.

Bahrain's King Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa skipped a Gulf Arab summit with U.S. President Barack Obama last week and instead joined Britain's Queen Elizabeth for a horse show and to discuss bilateral relations with her.

The kingdom has been buffeted by protests from its Shi'ite majority since the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, which were put down with help from Saudi Arabia. But unrest within the Shi'ite community stretches back to Henderson's mandate and before.

Bahrain has denied accusations of torture and political repression by human rights groups, saying it has implemented reforms and greater transparency for its security forces while it confronts sporadic bombing attacks on its policemen.

Ala'a Shehabi, co-founder of Bahrain Watch, said Britain was putting security interests above resolving historic wrongs in Bahrain, adding that the group will seek to declassify more of the country's colonial archives on Bahrain.

(Editing by William Maclean and Mark Heinrich)