

BAHRAIN

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

Executions, torture & tribalism widespread on 6th anniversary

As the people of Bahrain prepare to mark the 6th anniversary of their 14th February Revolution the regime embarked on another criminal episode with incalculable consequences. The Alkhalifa tribal dictatorship will never be forgiven after it had committed the most heinous crime of executing three innocent native Bahrainis in cold blood. The crime was committed in the early hours of 15th January, when the three young men: Sami Mushaima, Ali AlSingace and Abbas AlSamee were led from their cells, given different uniforms and driven to the gallows where they were executed. Four bullets were directed to their hearts only to come from their backs with abundance of human flesh. It was a crime that was condemned by every decent human being. Condemnation came from every quarter; even the allies of the regime like the British who declared their opposition to the executions as a matter of principle. The American were forthright in their condemnation in the eleventh hour of President Obama's presidency. The European Union saw it as unjustified and based on flawed trial. The human rights world reacted in anger as the Alkhalifa regime belittled them and sought to discredit their efforts. The Human Rights High Commissioner's spokesman read a statement describing the crime as appalling. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Reprieve described it in most damning terms.

The executions were allegedly in retaliation for the killing 30 months ago of an Emirati hired mercenary who had come to Bahrain with the aim of killing natives. He died in what many people thought was "friendly fire". Yet the three young men were hand-picked, tortured and forced to sign false confessions. The three had maintained their innocence to the last minute. One of them, Ali AlSamee issued a videotaped statement providing details of his movement on the day of the alleged killing. Two of them had solid alibis while the third was too young to commit the alleged crime. All these mitigating factors did not carry weight with the blood-thirsty dictator who wasted no time to sign the death warrant. The three were murdered in the worst possible scenario. The killing is an embarrassment to the British government which has maintained its unequivocal support to

the illegitimate tribal Alkhalifa rule. The killings have undermined their rule and rendered them unworthy of human value. They polarised the situation further. Almost every honourable citizen has condemned the slaughter. Only the mercenaries and the opportunists subscribed to the killers.

What is next? It is clear as the country steers towards the unknown that the extent of hatred of the Alkhalifa occupiers and their backers are reaching dangerous levels. There is now absolutely no capacity to stomach the Alkhalifa rule which is viewed as abhorrent, occupier, dictatorial and reactionary. Its existence will be resisted at every level. Despite the unlimited support it enjoys from Britain it has been unable to make positive use of this support. It has remained isolated and hated by most native Bahrainis. Moreover, it has been humiliated in many ways. In addition to the executions last month, two other episodes have tainted the Alkhalifa. The first was the cold-blooded murder of young sports journalist, Iman Salehi. Their angel-like face was covered by her blood after she was shot by one of Alkhalifa killers for no decent reason. Her killer is known but is not facing real trial or retribution. The second is the jail break that shocked the regime to the core. On New Year's day at least ten Bahraini inmates successfully broke free from their cells and fled the scene leaving no trace behind. Despite collective punishment of their family they could not be traced. Scores of citizens were detained in revenge for the successful escape. The regime has, once again, exhibited total lack of brinkmanship. These Bahrainis who had continuously been attacked and humiliated have proven to the world that they are superior to their torturers, ethically, politically and in terms of tactics and logistics.

AS the Revolutionaries celebrate their sixth year of continuous filed presence, the world has to bend in respect and appreciation of their bravery, longevity and resilience. Six years of military and security support from six armies could not ensure the survival of this regime. How much does it need to be able to survive. The question then comes: Is such regime worth supporting or defending? Those

who, for their own reasons, decided to grant the Alkhalifa six years extension of hopeless life, must now question the logic of their decision. If six armies; the Saudis, Emiratis, Pakistanis, Jordanians, American and British bases, could not enable the regime to stand on its feet, is it worthy of remaining? Should it not be allowed just to follow the natural route to its eternal grave? The regime, headed by the present dictator has been clinically dead for six years. It is time to re-think the logic of keeping it alive on life-supporting machines. For the sake of mercy it must be allowed to sink. The alternative policy is to continue harassing the native Bahrainis who have been demanding their natural rights to determine their own destiny, write their constitution and elect their government. In the 21st century is that too much to ask for? As UK is now fully involved in preparing its exit strategy from the European Union following its Brexit vote, and as the US prepares itself to engage with President Donald Trump, the Bahrainis must be given the chance to build their own political system and future. The people are not asking for material help. The only thing they demand is to stop supporting and defending this corrupt regime. This strategy has been in action for six full years and it has come to no fruition. Isn't it logical to abandon it and look for a more progressive, humane and logical alternative? Bahrainis are ready to forgive although they will not forget. Their civilised behaviour and civil disobedience strategy has paid off. In the eyes of the world the Alkhalifa must be viewed as the aggressors, the violent, the aggressive and the terrorist. The Bahrainis are the ones who have conducted the affairs of their revolution in the most favourable, peaceful and intelligent ways. They deserve to be granted the chance to show the world how they could transform their country into a beacon of hope to the others who are seeking change. It is time to relieve the world of extremism, violence and terrorism. This could be done only by ending the support of those brutal regimes in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. The Trump presidency will have added to the confusion, but the Alkhalifa charm offensive is unlikely to alter the facts on the ground.

Saudi's cunning approach to Trump, Alkhalifa to kill more Bahrainis

An air of scepticism dominated the media and politics worlds when the Saudis announced that they had "killed" two would-be suicide bombers in Jeddah on 21st January. Sabq, a news website affiliated with the kingdom's interior ministry, reported on Saturday that security officers surrounded a house in Jeddah and exchanged fire with two men, who then detonated explosives that destroyed the home. The news confirmed the suspicion that the kingdom is infested with terrorist groups and sleeping cells that are under the control of Saudi intelligence bodies. Riyadh still grooms fanatical and extremist ideologies in its religious schools that has provided the ideological indoctrination of modern day terrorists. Sceptics also raised doubts on the motives of a Saudi businessman who recently published a full page advert in a local newspaper to congratulate US President Donald Trump on his inauguration. Businessman Muslat Abu Theneen Al-Sobaie took out the advertisement on the last page of Al-Jazira, a local Saudi newspaper. It said "I congratulate Your Excellency on the occasion of assuming the leadership of the US and wish you and the friendly American people every success and prosperity during your term." It is widely believed the move was intended to soften the new president's approach to the kingdom of fear and terror.

Meanwhile collective repression has engulfed Bahrain following the brutal execution of three native Bahrainis on 15th January. In the week 16th-22nd January the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights documented at least 41 arbitrary arrests including eight children and one woman. There were 200 marches in 41 towns and villages. At least 57 of them were attacked by regime's mercenary forces. Regime's

courts tried 57 native Bahrainis in 16 politically-motivated cases through both primary and appeal courts. They were given prison sentences totalling 510 years and ordered to pay almost 300,000 Bahraini Dinars (about \$800,000 dollars). Eleven were given life sentences. Yesterday regime's masked members of Death Squads raided several houses in Markoban Sitra and snatched three young people: Mustafa Muhammad AlAttar, 16, Hussain Ahmad AlJordabi, 16 and Alaa Talib Al Unsura, 17. From Bani Jamra town Sayed Ali Sayed Jaffar was detained in a hours raid. Two brothers from Karrana Town were also seized: Hussain Ulayyan and his brother, Ahmad. On 22nd January Alkhalifa court ordered the administrative detention of one young man and two minors for two weeks for taking part in anti-regime protests: Muhammad Abdul Ghani AlKufi, 14, Ali Abdul Hamid Ali, 16 and Mirza Abd Ali AlShughul, 18 were ill-treated after their arrest. On 19th January, Mohammed Abdulla AlSaeed, 23, Mohammed Isa AlMuhandes, 17, and Isa Adel Aoun, 17 were arrested when masked members of regime's Death Squads raided their houses at Al-Dair Town. Abbas Aabdulnabi Marhoon was given 15 days detention pending investigation. Ali Abdul Jalil, a university student from Jordab Town, was arrested on 19th January. Last week Ali Jaffar Al Mutaghawwi was snatched by regime's forces. Ahmad Taqi Al Halwachi, from Manama was detained and taken to unknown location. Six citizens from Karzakkan were arbitrarily arrested including a special needs kid.

On 18th January Amnesty International issued a statement urging Bahrain's authorities to immediately commute the death sentences of Mohamad Ramadhan and Husain Ali' Moosa, who had been sen-

tenced to death in December 2014. Neither of the men had access to a lawyer during their interrogations. Mohammad Ramadhan said he had been detained incommunicado, beaten and given electric shocks by interrogators at the Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID) in a failed attempt to force a confession from him. Hussain 'Ali Moosa said his "confession" implicating Mohamed Ramadhan was extracted after he was suspended by his limbs from the ceiling and beaten repeatedly for several days. "Bahrain is at boiling point. The hundreds of Bahrainis who have taken to the streets to protest against these shocking executions, which were carried out amid allegations of torture and after unfair trials, have been met with excessive use of force by security forces, as well as an escalation in the ongoing crackdown on freedom of expression," said Lynn Maalouf.

Activists have called on Britain to suspend its support for the Bahraini criminal justice system to avoid UK complicity in further human rights violations in Bahrain. British foreign secretary Boris Johnson said in response to the executions that the UK is "firmly opposed to the death penalty", and that he has "raised the issue with the Bahraini government". But anti-death penalty campaign group Reprieve described Johnson's response as "woefully inadequate". The charity has sent a letter to UK Prime Minister Theresa May calling for the government to "immediately suspend its involvement with all actors within the Bahraini criminal justice system and Ministry of Interior". Reprieve and other organisations have repeatedly called attention to the link between human rights abuses and the multiple UK-trained institutions in Bahrain.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
25th January 2017

Outrage at execution of 3 Bahrainis, Saudis killed over 10,000 Yemenis

Worldwide condemnation is being directed to Bahrain's dictator after executing three native Bahrainis on Sunday 15th January. It was one of the bleakest days in the recent history of the country. The three; Sami Mushaima, Abbas Al Samee and Ali Al Singace were murdered in cold blood by the Alkhalifa tribal regime despite pleas from many corners of the world to spare their lives. Human rights bodies, including Reprieve, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch had described the show trial as "unfair" and did not meet the minimum of the international standards of a fair trial. "We are appalled at the execution by firing squad of three men in Bahrain on Sunday," UN human rights commissioner spokesperson, Rupert Colville, said in a statement. In response to the executions Amnesty International's Deputy Director for Campaigns in Beirut, Samah Hadid said: "This is a dark day for human rights in Bahrain. These executions - the first to be carried out since 2010 - are a deeply

regressive step for a country whose authorities' have repeatedly trumpeted their commitment to human rights. The European Union, US and UK expressed concerns about the executions.

The killing led to flare up of widespread protests in the country and elsewhere. Thousands of Bahraini natives poured onto the streets in the past few days to condemn Alkhalifa heinous crimes and call for the end of their black era. In the week 9-15th January the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights documented at least 46 arbitrary arrests including 44 under-aged children. The regime's courts issued prison sentences on 20 native Bahrainis of a total of 236 years for protesting against Alkhalifa dictatorship. There were at least 137 protests in 40 towns and villages. At least 31 of them were attacked by regime's mercenary forces.

The family of a young citizen, Fadel Abbas has pleaded for the safety of their son who had been snatched by masked members of the Death Squads on 9th September last

year. Nothing has been heard of him since. The other disappeared native Bahraini is Sayed Alawi Sayed Hussain Al Durazi whose whereabouts are not known since his abduction five months ago. A young Bahraini youth is clinging to life after he had been pursued by the regime's mercenaries and hit with their car. Abbas Abdul Nabi Marhoon, from Karzakkan, was seriously injured. Eyewitnesses reported that he was in severe pain following the attack which caused him serious injuries. Many Bahrainis were injured in the recent protests; a young boy losing one eye, others had their bodies sprayed with shotgun pellets.

There are serious concerns at the continuing British support of the regime. On Saturday 14th January The Guardian published an article about the extraordinary British security support to the Alkhalifa killers. It said: "Officials from Bahrain's prison torture inspection panel were allowed secretly to visit Yarl's Wood,

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UK supplied cluster bombs to Saudis, Alkhalifa confirm death sentences

The UK government has admitted selling 500 cluster bombs to the Saudis in the eighties. Evidence has confirmed the illegal use of cluster bombs by the Saudis killing many Yemenis. UK's Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon revealed the official figures, which relate to exports signed off by the British government between 1986 and 1989. It emerged that a "limited number" of the weapons had been sold to the autocracy and are still in its stockpile. Yemen's Prime Minister Abdel-Aziz bin Habtour had said the UK Government was profiting from the humanitarian crisis by selling munitions. He told Sky News: "They have sold cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia" adding: "They know the Saudis are going to drop them on Yemen... in Sa'adah and in Sana'a and other provinces... I don't think they are guilty of war crimes, I believe so. They are participating in the bombing of Yemen people." Despite these admissions UK insists on continuing to supply Saudis with arms and ammunition to pursue their war crimes in Yemen. Chancellor Philip Hammond has been accused of putting trade above human rights during his tour of the Middle East last week. His two-day Gulf visit is an attempt to bolster economic ties and forge investment opportunities post-Brexit. But Amnesty International said he should be pressuring leaders into bringing an end to the conflict in Yemen, and reconsidering UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Lucy Wake of Amnesty said: "Philip Hammond shouldn't confine himself to trade issues during his Gulf visit, but should insist on a few human rights home truths with his hosts." It is the third time in four weeks a senior member of the Government has travelled to the region on a charm offen-

sive. Prime Minister Theresa May and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson visited late last year.

On 9th January Alkhalifa highest court upheld the death sentences of three men despite irrefutable evidence that they had been tortured into making false confessions. Their executions are now imminent. Abbas al-Samea, Sami Mushaima, and Ali al-Singace were originally sentenced to death in February 2015. All three were tortured into signing false 'confessions' that were used against them in court. Mr Mushaima was forced to sign documents despite being illiterate. He is a relative of a prominent opposition politician, but has never been involved in activism. Mr al-Samea was admitted to hospital for surgery as a result of his interrogation. He is a PE teacher and aspiring photojournalist. The three men's death sentences were overturned in October 2016 after a court ruled that their initial sentences were "misjudgements."

In another development Bahrain's dictator has issued a decree granting the notorious National Security System the power to arrest political activists. In 2012 this power was removed after Bissioni Report accused it of torture. On 6th January Freedom House said: "Bahrain giving its intelligence agency authority to make arrests is an alarming expansion of police powers and more evidence that the Kingdom is not committed to reform," said Dokhi Fassihian, senior program manager for MENA programs. "Bahrain should reverse this decision, halt its unjust harassment and detention of human rights defenders, and put into force the recommendations offered by the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry."

On 5th January regime's kangaroo court decided to extend Nabeel Rajab's illegal

detention by two more weeks to revenge his unyielding stands. The UN human rights agency (OHCHR) has voiced its concerns over Rajab's continued detention. "We are seriously concerned about the ongoing prosecution of Nabeel Rajab ... who has been detained since 13 June 2016 for exercising his right to freedom of expression," said OHCHR in a statement.

Bahraini death row detainee Mohammad Ramadan, confirmed that the detainees in solitary confinement in "Jaw" Prison live in "terrible conditions", since 10 prisoners managed to escape on New Year's day. Ramadan's wife, Zeinab Mohammad, said according to her husband, that (the guards) took all their things and clothes, and are treating them "a terrible treatment, yelling at them, intimidating them, and interrogating them more than three times." She added through a post on her Twitter account, "After 7 days of no information about my death row sentenced husband, he called today and told me they are living in terrible conditions." Zeinab wondered, "What is my husband's guilt, with those around him, in what happened with the group that escaped prison, to be treated this bad treatment." Ramadan's wife also called on "human rights personnel to interfere to stop violations against her husband and detainees in solitary confinement."

For the week 2nd-8th January the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights has documented at least 45 detentions including one child. 37 of these people were arrested in raids on their homes while seven were snatched at police check points. There were 39 protests five of which were attacked by regime's mercenary forces.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
11th January 2017

1st anniversary of AlNimr execution by Saudis, Mass arrests of Bahrainis

The first anniversary of the martyrdom of Sheikh Nimr AlNimr has been marked by people in the Eastern Province of Arabia and Bahrain with pain, sorrow and defiance. He was killed by the Saudi regime on 2nd January 2016 for his outspoken support of Bahrain's Revolution and rejection of the Saudi occupation of that country. He was against the tribal dictatorship calling for an end to the black era in the region under the rule of dictators and tyrants. He was arrested after he had been shot and wounded in his leg. He was subsequently charged with war against the tribal rule and sentenced to death by beheading and crucifixion. There are growing concerns for Al Nimr's nephew, Ali, 22, who is on the death row. The Saudis want to behead and crucify him for joining anti-regime protests in 2011. UK's former Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond had given assurances that the boy would not be killed, but his family fear

the worst.

In 2016 Saudi Arabia executed more than 150 prisoners under their antiquated laws. It is one of the world's most prolific executioners. According to Amnesty International a total of 153 executions were carried out in 2016. At least 47 people were put to death for 'terrorism' offences on a single day last January. They included prominent Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr, whose execution prompted protests in many countries. In Iran protests led to a fire at Saudi embassy, prompting Riyadh to sever relations. Most people put to death in Saudi Arabia are beheaded with a sword and the grisly event can often draw a small crowd. Amnesty International says the number of executions in Saudi Arabia last year was the highest for two decades. The level of executions was criticised by Allan Hogarth, Amnesty International UK's head of policy and government affairs, who said the kingdom was 'making a mockery of justice'.

On New Year's day, several Bahraini prisoners from the notorious Jaw Torture Centre, made their escape after years of incarceration. Among them is Reda Al Ghasra who had three times made successful escapes in the past. He is serving one of the longest prison sentences in the world of 180 years for taking part in anti-regime protests. In the mayhem that surrounded the escape one of the mercenaries from Yemen was killed. It is not clear how that had happened although the regime is exploiting the event to claim it as a terrorist act. The escape has hit the morale of Alkhalifa and their backers hard. They have plundered people's wealth to transform the country, especially the torture centres and prisons into fortresses. Yet their failure is abundant. Revenge. In the absence of the rule of law, personal tastes and evil desires prevail. 15 years ago the dictator's inferiority complex led him to "enthroned" himself as a "king".

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Britain urged to act as two face execution in Bahrain

By Sophie Wingate, January 19, 2017
Bahrain could be poised to execute two prisoners who claim their confessions were extracted through torture.
Mohammed Ramadan and Husain

AlNimr's execution

Anniversary; Cont from P3

In the past few days he felt wounded by the escape of several victims of torture from one of his fortresses. He reacted with a sweeping wave of arrests in many parts of the country. The natives bore the brunt of the dictator's revenge. From the town of Bani Jamra alone up to 30 natives were snatched from their homes by masked Death Squads. Among the detainees are: Mohammed Baqer Adel and Ali Abdul Aziz AlGhanmi, 55. The arrests included a father and his four sons. Sayed Jawad Redha's home was raided. He was detained with his four sons, Jalal, Mutahhar, Hadi and Mohammad. One of his grandchildren was also detained.

More arrests took place in other towns. On 1st January, Anwaar AlSayed a mother of two from Ras Rumman Town was arrested with her husband. After two days of harassment and abuse, she was released, but her husband, Abdulla Essa, remained at the torture centre. Her two children became ill without their parents and were transferred to hospital by their relatives. On 1st January Hassan Al-Shamar was arrested at police check point and taken to unknown destination. On the same day a From Karzakkan, Kumail Mirza was arrested at a police check point. From Arad Town, Hussain Ali Ma'ana was arrested from his grandfather's house. Other arrests include: Ali Fadhel, Hassan Abdulla Haram (From Ma'amir), Ammar Eid Hassan (from Sitra AlKharjiya) and Mohammad Baqer Adel Adam (from Saar Town). On 1st January a special needs boy from Salmabad Town, Sayed Mohammad Alawi Sayed Hussain was arrested. He had been given five years jail sentence. From Nuwaidrat Town Faisal Ali Bahar was detained on 2nd January. He had been sentenced to three years for his anti-regime activities. The town of Duraz remains under siege for more than 200 days. As the most senior religious leader in the country stands high-headed refusing to accept anything less than real democratic transformation, Alkhalifa and their backers are pouring their fury and revenge on the 20,000 defenceless people of the town. Children face daily torture of waiting to re-enter the town after school, stores are denied food supplies, sick people face extra agony waiting to be transferred to the hospital while relatives outside the town are not allowed inside it. It is as vicious as the Gaza blockade imposed by the Zionists who are helping Alkhalifa.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
4th January 2017

Moosa were sentenced to death in 2014 for their alleged involvement in a bomb attack that killed a police officer, but supporters say they were falsely accused and confessed under duress.

Human rights organisations fear that the two men could be put to death in the coming days following the execution of three prisoners on Sunday (16 January), the first in Bahrain since 2010.

The men, Ali al-Singace, Abbas al-Samea, and Sami Mushaima, were allegedly tortured to force a confession in the same police station as the current death row inmates.

Activists have called on Britain to suspend its support for the Bahraini criminal justice system to avoid UK complicity in further human rights violations in Bahrain, a wealthy island state in Persian Gulf and a key British ally in the Middle East.

Bahrain, which is ruled by a Sunni monarchy, has led a major government crackdown against its Shia majority in the five

years since protests erupted in Manama during the Arab Spring.

British foreign secretary Boris Johnson said in response to the executions that the UK is "firmly opposed to the death penalty", and that he has "raised the issue with the Bahraini government".

But anti-death penalty campaign group Reprieve described Johnson's response as "woefully inadequate". The charity has sent a letter to UK Prime Minister Theresa May calling for the government to "immediately suspend its involvement with all actors within the Bahraini criminal justice system and Ministry of Interior".

Reprieve and other organisations have repeatedly called attention to the link between human rights abuses and the multiple UK-trained institutions in Bahrain. Human Rights Watch and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy were among other organisations to make similar appeals.



Outrage at execution of 3 Bahrainis; Cont from page 2

Britain's most controversial immigration detention centre for women, raising fresh questions over the nature of the relationship between the UK and the Gulf state. In June 2013, delegates from Bahrain, where allegations of torture in police custody and in prisons are widespread, were given permission to access the centre in Bedfordshire accompanied by members of the UK prison watchdog. And it follows repeated claims of ill treatment at Yarl's Wood. It also came shortly before an official UN inspector investigating state-run detention centres for women was banned by the Home Office from entering Yarl's Wood, which houses about 400 women. On Friday, it emerged that a controversial multi-million-pound programme of support for Bahrain's security and justice system was being bolstered by a further £2m of British funding, despite the Gulf state reversing reforms to an intelligence agency accused of torture."

The Saudis have committed another crime; murdering an inmate at a prison in Qatif. Martyr Jaber Habib Al Ali was killed last week. He had been detained on 6th January under the pretext of "entering a forbidden area" in the sea. The regime wanted his

family to accept that he had died of natural causes in return for allowing them to see him at the morgue. The family flatly refused to accept the regime's version. Other citizens killed in this manner include Makki Al Urayyed (March 2016), Nazar Al Muhsin (November 2016) and Majed Baramda (March 2016). The first two were killed under torture inside prison. The third was attacked with electric batons and rifles in one of the streets of Mecca.

On 15th January The UN's humanitarian affairs office at least 10,000 people have been killed in the war in Yemen which is a low estimate. The figure was reached using data from health facilities that have kept track of the victims of the war, which has largely been ignored by the international community. The figure does not include those recorded by hospitals and health centres as having died, which is likely to be most of the combatants. "This once more underscores the need to resolve the situation in Yemen without any further delay," Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for the UN general secretary, said in New York. "There's been a huge humanitarian cost."

Bahrain Freedom Movement
18 January 2017