

BAHRAIN

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No working political settlement with Alkhalifa is possible

The recent escalation of the conflict surrounding the status of Jerusalem has caused great embarrassment to the Bahraini regime. Its foreign minister had used bad language to describe the city considering it "unworthy" compared to the relations and interests with the United States. Those remarks convinced the world that Bahrain would vote in favour of the United States at the UN General Assembly. But the orders came from Riyadh to go along the international stand that rejected the American decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The Alkhalifa were shown to be subordinate partners with the Saudis. They were infuriated but could not do much to restore any degree of integrity. Since then they have started a new campaign of revenge from the native Bahrainis. On Christmas day, they sentenced six native Bahrainis to death on trumpeted charges. They were falsely accused of conspiring to kill the commander of the regime's forces. The defendants were subjected to most horrific treatment. One of them, Sayed Alawi Al Durazi, had been snatched by regime's masked members of the Death Squads one year earlier. He was considered as "forcibly disappeared" by international human rights bodies. He was subjected to horrific torture to force him to sign false statements. The subsequent trial has been a mockery of justice. The defendants have been denied their basic rights of family visits, allowed access to lawyers or knowing the charges against them well in advance and with clear evidence. The decision to execute the six has shocked the natives especially that it was issued on Christmas day when the world is not functioning as it celebrated that day.

The Bahraini decision to kill more Bahrainis is a continuation of the policy of official murder as a means of subjugating the natives. It is in line with the regional developments especially in Saudi Arabia. The reverses suffered by the regime headed by Salman bin Abdul Aziz and his crown prince son (Mohammad bin Salman, MBS) have pushed the regime to the brink of collapse. It has become largely dependent on the goodwill and support of president Trump. The bellicose president has committed serious mistakes that have turned the rest of the House of Saudi against him. He has arrested many of his relatives and

businessmen and jailed them at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Riyadh, having been relieved of their official duties. For the past month MBS has been attempting to get part of the wealth of his cousins and big businesses in order to finance his ambitious business concerns especially the large arms deals with Saudi Arabia. This episode has eradicated real family support to MBS and deprived him of the natural family support. There is an ongoing family war within the House of Saud and MBS is unlikely to emerge from this episode without major wounds. The expectation is that his days are numbered as members of the House of Saud are grinding their axes. MBS is dependent on support from the Trump administration. But Trump himself is speedily losing ground as most of his policies have been rejected by his allies. With the war on Yemen becoming stagnant and is increasingly becoming war of attrition, there is great worry that Saudi Arabia is facing serious instability. The Western powers participating in the provision of intelligence and guidance in the war are under intense pressure from the public and the NGOs to stop their arms to the Saudis. Furthermore, the Qatar saga has exposed the limitations of the Saudi muscle power and has led to political and military polarisation as never before. There is an emerging alliance between Turkey, Iran, Qatar and Russia to counter the American influence in the region. The Saudis had thought this sage would be over within weeks, but it has lasted six months and is showing no sign of ending.

Both Saudis and Alkhalifa are resorting to revenge as a policy towards the defenceless. Shia Muslims in Bahrain and the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia are being targeted with extreme forms of punishment; arbitrary arrests, torture, execution, revocation of nationality and banishment. These measures are only helping to solidify the stands of the people and their determination to achieve political reforms. Seven years of ignoring these calls have not diminished the glare of reforms in the eyes of the people. Western supporters are seen as acquiescent in this shameful situation, and will find it impossible to continue their present policies. Another dimension that

will add to pressures on these repressive regimes is the strong possibility of recurrence of popular uprisings in several Arab countries. Egypt is among the first place where such uprisings are likely to occur. The rivalry among the GCC states is also another factor that will threaten the status quo. The alliance has never witnessed a worse crisis than the present one created by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In fact, the expanding role and political influence of the UAE is becoming an irritant in what appears to be close relations with Saudi Arabia. Other regional and Western countries view this with contempt and are likely to take steps to limit the UAE role in the region. These factors, put together, will undoubtedly lead to more confusion and could sow the seeds for future conflicts.

The Bahraini case is a decisive one. The roles of some Western countries, most notably the US and UK have not been helpful. They have failed to play a constructive role in order to contain the situation. They granted the regime unlimited support and ignored the calls by NGOs to stop this policy. They failed to heed these calls. This has emboldened the Alkhalifa to commit more crimes that will eventually catch up with them. It is expected that the Bahraini situation will flare up and ignite more regional troubles. The Alkhalifa regime has played with fire in relation to Iran. It has provoked Tehran all along while the Iranians have held up their fire up to now. Their policy has been to let the political dynamics take their own course. This, in their view will lead to political adjustments to their advantage. This is what happened in Lebanon with Hariri, Syria and Yemen. Bahrainis have also let it be known that no political settlement short of regime change in their country will be acceptable to them. This view is the result of several decades which have proven the futility of relying on Alkhalifa to introduce meaningful reforms. Experience has shown, beyond any doubt that Alkhalifa cannot be partners in a peaceful settlement. They are so arrogant, criminal and dictatorial that the only avenue for them is to go sooner than later. The world community must assist in removing them from office as they have become a menace to themselves and their supporters.

Imminent execution of six in Saudi, Six sentenced to death in Bahrain

There are fears among the inhabitants of East Arabia that the execution of six Shia Muslims from the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia may be imminent. Yesterday they were transferred from a prison in the Eastern city of Dammam to the capital, Riyadh, where executions often takes place. The six are: Mujtaba Al Suwaiket, Abdul Aziz AlSahwi, Abdulla Suraih, Hassan AlRabi', Munir Adam and Salaman AlQuraish. The six were accused of taking part in anti-regime protests. Two years ago the Saudi authorities executed a prominent Shia Muslim scholar, Sheikh Nimr AlNimr because he had called for political reforms in the despotic kingdom of AlSaud. International pressures need to be used to save the lives of these people.

On Wednesday 20th December Saudi regime's forces killed a young Saudi who was pursued for arrest because he had joined the anti-regime protests in 2011. Salman Al Faraj was shot dead when regime's forces raided his home at Awwamiyah in the Eastern Province. Bahraini activists took to the streets at several towns and villages to protest the cold-blooded murder of the Saudi activist. In Nuwaidrat, Karzakkan and Abu Saiba, regime's mercenaries attacked peaceful protests and engaged them in running battles that caused injuries among the natives. In the past week, the Saudis and Emiratis have escalated their attacks on the civilian population of Yemen. This followed the targeting of Riyadh with a ballistic missile launched by the Yemeni forces. It was aimed at a secret high level meeting in the capital. The psychological impact of launching the missile far exceeds any material losses. The Saudis reacted angrily with non-stop barbaric bombings on soft civilian targets. Whole families were wiped out. Yesterday a Saudi strike on

San'aa caused the death and injury of 100 men, women and children. It was a clear war crime.

Meanwhile the Saudi regime under Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) is bogged down in the quagmire it had created at the Ritz-Calrton Hotel which is now prison to many Saudi royals. Saudi authorities are demanding at least \$6 billion from Prince al-Waleed bin Talal to free him from detention, people familiar with the matter said, potentially putting the global business empire of one of the world's richest men at risk. This ransom is among the highest figures they have sought from those arrested. Weakening the fabric of the House of Saud could herald a new dawn not only in Saudi Arabia but in the Arab World at large.

In a serious escalation of enmity and criminality against native Bahrainis, the Alkhalifa regime has issued a new decision to murder six innocent people. On Christmas Day 25th December the military "court" passed the decision by the royal court to execute the Bahrainis: Mubarak Adel, Sayed Alawi Sayed Hussain AlDurazi, Sayed Fadhel Sayed Abbas, Mohammad Abdul Hussain AlMutaghawi, Sayed Mur-tada AlSanadi and Sheikh Habib Al Jamri. last two tried in absentia What is the charge? Planning to kill the commander of the regime's force. The court was held in secret as the regime lacked any credible evidence. The same court also announced that these people would lose their nationality (for the second time in the cases of some of them). For almost a year the regime had been criticised for kidnapping and forcibly disappearing one of the victims; Sayed Alawi AlDurazi. Human rights bodies have denounced the decision to kill more Bahrainis describing the ruling as null and void. They said that the trial was

grossly unfair and accepted confessions attributed to the victims which had been extracted under torture. Bahraini scholars have also condemned the decision arguing that it was legally flawed and religiously wrong. In a statement on 25th December they said: "We condemn the militarisation of the crisis and demand an end the military courts for civilians and the domination by members of the ruling family over the judiciary; civil and military."

At the House of Commons, Ann Clwyd, the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group has criticised the role of the British Government in supporting the Bahraini regime and working to water down any criticism that may be directed to its policies. She cited the show trials of Nabeel Rajab and the revenge that the regime had undertaken against the family of human rights activist, Sayed Ahmad Al Wadaei as examples of the excesses by the Bahraini regime that must be exposed.

Persecution of Bahraini women has continued. Two days ago Fawzia MashaAllah was remanded in custody for two weeks for taking part in peaceful anti-regime's protests. Native Bahraini women have been seriously persecuted over the past five decades and subjected to all kinds of ill-treatment. At the moment there are at least 12 women activists behind bars: Tayba Darwish, Zainab Makki, Hamida Jum'a, Faten Abdul Hussain, Muna Habib, Amira AlQash'ami, Najah AlSheikh, Hajar Mansoor, Madina Ali, Fatima Abdullah and Naris Abdullah. Women prisoners were subjected to most horrific treatment including torture, physical and psychological abuse. Sexual harassment and even rape were reported by several women.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
27th December 2017

Saudi CP accused of corruption, calls made to release Bahraini prisoners

On Monday 18th December The relief organisation Doctors Without Borders (MSF) published a media appeal in The Times newspaper titled: Yemen Crisis: Help us provide urgent medical aid". Claire Manera, MSF project coordinator who recently returned from Yemen said: When I flew into Sana'a I was shocked by how many buildings were destroyed. It's heart breaking to see a country that's already so poor being blasted to smithereens. A lot of schools, health facilities and government buildings have been destroyed. Families have nowhere to go, especially the poorest. At night I could hear the planes circling. It was awful knowing they were out there, targeting different areas and dropping bombs."

At the home front the Saudi regime has intensified its repression especially while the people are showing signs of fatigue and desperation as the numbers of their dead soldiers fighting against Yemenis increase and the cost of living shoots up. Yesterday, young native of the Eastern Province was shot dead. Salman Al Faraj

has been hiding since his participation in the 2011 protests demanding political change.

Last week international media shed light on the corruption of Saudi crown prince (CP) who had locked up senior Saudi figures and businessmen on charges of corruption. Both The New York Times and The Times reported that Prince Mohammed Bin Salman was the mystery buyer of a luxury French house. A paper trail from a 2015 purchase leads back to him through several shell companies. It cost €275m (\$320m, £240m) and Fortune magazine called it the world's most expensive house. In 2015, Prince Mohammed bought himself a yacht from a Russian businessman for \$590m. The media has also reported that he was the true buyer of the Leonardo da Vinci painting Salvator Mundi, which was sold earlier this year for a record \$450m (£341m).

In Bahrain Alkhalifa repressive junta has intensified their crackdown on natives as the Martyrs Day was underway last week. There were massive protests in the country despite the intensive suppression by

regime's forces. In the week 11-17th December at least 44 people were detained and abused. Dawn raids were carried out on several towns and villages including Sitra, Nuwaidrat, Tubli, Aali, Duraz, Bani Jamra and Abu Saiba. From Duraz two brothers, Ali and Mujtaba Khalil and Hassan Abdul Hussain Al Asfoor were seized by ISIS-style masked members of the regime's Death Squads. From Bani Jamra Jawad Redha Al Turaifi was snatched from his home. So was Ahmad Redha Al Ghasra, brother of Redha AlGhasra who was executed at sea earlier this year by regime's forces. Regime's dysfunctional judiciary has refused to release Bahraini native, Ahmad Isa, whose two years jail sentence had finished 35 days ago.

In another setback for several international human rights bodies, Bahrain's dictator insisted on pursuing his personal revenge from his opponents. Today his "appeal court" re-instated the three year prison sentences it had been ordered to impose on the family of Sayed Ahmed Al Wadaei.

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Saudis damned for Trump's Jerusalem decision, Alkhalifa normalise

Public anger in the Arab and Muslim worlds has reached new highs in the past few days, following the decision by Donald Trump to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of "Israel". In addition to America and "Israel", Saudi Arabia has been targeted for criticism and condemnation for normalising the relations with the occupiers of Palestine. Protests were staged in many countries as the Palestinians fought street wars with Israelis in both Gaza and the West Bank. Calls have been made to sever relations with USA while Saudis received lion share of the criticism. In Jordan pictures of Saudi crown prince, Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS) were burnt and stepped on in the street by protesters. In Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Tunisia and Morocco the scene was repeated. People were incensed by the lack of proper reaction from Riyadh who has forged close friendship with Mr Trump and held open meetings with the Israelis. It is said that the Saudis had been made aware of Trump's decision beforehand.

As the Arab and Muslim worlds were reeling from the shock of Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of "Israel" Alkhalifa dictator decided to go public in his links with the occupiers of Palestine. Last week he dispatched a delegation of 24 people to "Israel" to meet with officials and attend a conference on "religious coexistence". This is the first time that any Arab country has officially participated in an Israeli event inside occupied Palestine. The people were so shocked that they poured to the streets to disown those people accusing them of treachery. The Palestinians condemned the Alkhalifa regime which is spearheading the normalising of relations with "Israel". Worshipers at Al Aqsa Mosque prevent-

ed the delegation from entering the holy site and pushed them to the outside calling them traitors. The Israeli Second Channel said the delegation had been overseen by dictator Hamad. The visit took place as Bahrainis joined the freedom-loving people in the world to protest against Trump's decision. Bahrainis immediately understood the chemistry of occupation and why the occupiers of Bahrain are working hand-in-hand with the occupiers of Palestine. There are claims that the Saudis had known in advance of both the American decision and the tour to "Israel" by Alkhalifa delegation. Several journalists who attended "Manama dialogue" conference last week have spoken of their shock at the level of internal crisis in Bahrain. Few of them were able to visit some towns and villages and see for themselves the ongoing protests and the cruelty of the security forces dealing with the protesters. At least one of them questioned why the regime's agents were wearing ISIS-style uniforms with masks on their faces and cruel approach to the citizens. A prominent journalist was stopped at the airport before he was forcibly deported. British journalist Gregg Carlstrom said that he was stopped for five hours, denied entry to the country and then deported. To show the regime's deception Mr Carlstrom attached in his tweet a message he received as he was waiting at the airport, from Bahrain Embassy in London asking him to join a tour. Titled "Tolerance Tour: 15.00 Bahrain Time" it said: I would like to inform you of a tour to a number of worship places in Manama which will commence at 15.00 Bahrain Local Time.

On 11th December Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action on behalf of human rights defender and prisoner of conscience Nabeel Rajab whose two year pris-

on sentence was upheld by the Appeal Court on 22 November, in relation to interviews he had given in 2015 and 2016. A second criminal trial against him, in relation to comments posted on his Twitter account, is ongoing and the final defence hearing has been scheduled for 15 January. AI urged people call on the Bahraini regime to release Nabeel Rajab immediately and unconditionally, to quash his conviction, and halt all proceedings against him as he is a prisoner of conscience, ensure that he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment; has regular access to his family, lawyers of his choice, and adequate healthcare and urge them to uphold the right to freedom of expression and repeal laws that criminalize the peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, including Article 216 of the Penal Code.

On 11th December The Washington Post published an important letter from Nabeel Rajab titled: Letter from prison: Trump's pandering to Bahrain has deadly consequences. It attracted worldwide attention. Meanwhile, pressure is mounting on the regime to end the blockade on Sheikh Isa Qassim's house immediately and unconditionally. The message was conveyed to UK's foreign secretary who visited Bahrain to attend a conference. The elderly cleric, who is the most senior religious and political figure, has just had an operation for stomach hernia, He suffers from several other ailments and being under house arrest surrounded by armed mercenaries does not help his situation. This is part of Alkhalifa persecution of Bahrainis and the world is put on notice to end it.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
13th December 2017

Bahrain Military Court Sentences Six to Death

A military court in Bahrain on 25th December sentenced six men to death. The six, Mubarak Adel, Sayed Fadhel, Sayed Alawi, Mohammed AlMutaghawi, Murta-dha Alsindi and Habib AlJamri were given the verdicts after a mass unfair trial, the last two tried in absentia.

They were convicted of various terrorist offenses and of planning to assassinate ruling family member and head of Bahrain's military Field Marshal Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa.

Eighteen men were defendants in the trial. Five were acquitted and seven others sentenced to seven years in jail and, like those sentenced to death, also stripped of their citizenship. Bahrain's authorities said one of the men was a serving soldier.

"It's also no coincidence at all that this sentencing happened this morning, on Christmas day, to delay any pending international reactions," said prominent human rights defenders Maryam Al Khawaja.

Prominent interfaith Bahraini cleric Sheikh Maytham Al Salman told me he has grave concerns about today's convictions and that he believes the charges are

fabricated and based on forced confession extracted under torture. "These sentences are a terrible mistake, morally and politically," he said.

One of those convicted, telecom engineer Sayed Alawi, had been forcibly disappeared from his office at state telecommunications company Batelco in October 2016 and held incommunicado for five weeks without access to a lawyer or his family.

Majidah Al Moosawi, Sayed Alawi's wife, said "My husband is innocent. He does not believe in violence and constantly criticizes those who resort to violence. I believe my husband is being punished for supporting democratic reforms in Bahrain. The world should not stay silent on my husband being unlawfully executed."

Torture is routine in such cases in Bahrain as the kingdom's human rights record slides further into crisis. 2017 has been a disastrous year for Bahrain rights, with the political opposition shut down, the country's only independent newspaper forced to close, and regular reports of torture and sexual abuse in custody.

In April this year Bahrain's king approved

a constitutional amendment to allow the trial of civilians in military courts. A few months earlier, executions had resumed in Bahrain for the first time in seven years when three men were killed by firing squad.

In response to those executions, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial Executions, Agnes Callamard, said the three had been convicted after torture on flimsy evidence, and that the killings amounted to extra-judicial executions.

Less than four weeks ago Bahrain's crown prince met with president Donald Trump at the White House and promoted \$9 billion in deals with U.S. companies, including the kingdom buying F-16 fighter planes and the extension of a defense cooperation agreement between the countries for another 15 years. Trump said that Bahrain is "doing a lot of business" with the U.S. and "buying a lot of things." With such a relationship and thousands of U.S. military personnel and their families based in Bahrain, Washington should be doing all it can to make the tiny kingdom a secure and stable place.

Letter from prison: Trump's pandering to Bahrain has deadly consequences

By Nabeel Rajab, The Washington Post
11th December

Nabeel Rajab is president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights and a member of the advisory committee for Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa division.

I am writing this from prison. The government of Bahrain, my country, jailed me for criticizing its involvement in the brutal, bloody war in Yemen. I face up to 15 years imprisonment on that charge, in addition to the two-year sentence I am already serving in a separate case.

This week, the Bahraini government is holding an international forum called the Manama Dialogue, a public relations exercise designed, in part, to whitewash its dismal human rights record. But don't expect any criticism from Washington. Two weeks ago, I watched from my cell as President Trump gleefully announced the sale of \$9 billion worth of arms to Bahrain, including finalizing the purchase of American F-16 jets. At a time when Bahrain faces serious economic challenges partly due to the slump in oil prices, this deal comes as a great comfort to human rights abusers. It is a political signal from Washington that the Bahraini regime can continue to commit atrocities at home and abroad and still receive American support. Under President Barack Obama, a sale of American F-16s to the Bahraini government was made conditional upon the improvement of the regime's human rights record. Now, the Bahraini government knows it can do what it wants with impunity. It will continue to receive U.S. support no matter how bloody its hands become.

In May, I read Trump's statement to the king of Bahrain during his visit to Riyadh, which included the words "there won't be strain with this administration." It was no coincidence that days later, Bahraini police used the deadliest force we have seen in decades, killing five protesters. That was part of a larger pattern. Over the past year, opposition members have been executed, civil society crushed and our human rights completely sidelined. The regime has stepped up its reprisals against human rights activists. The Bahraini government has even imprisoned the family members of my friend and colleague Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei, who is beyond their reach in the United Kingdom.

The two-year prison sentence I am serving is related to the charge of "spreading fake news." This is because I told the press truthfully that journalists and human rights organizations cannot enter Bahrain, a key U.S. ally and participant in Saudi Arabia's disastrous blockade and bombing of Yemen. That war, which has caused untold suffering and death, has been fueled by the Trump administration's unconditional support for both Saudi Arabia

and Bahrain. The United States has also been supplying both governments with the weaponry to prosecute this vicious conflict. Many people in my region hate U.S. foreign policy, because they see Washington as the key supporter of dictatorial regimes that repress their own people. My own visits to the United States have deeply impressed me with the values of justice, freedom and equality that lie at the heart of American democracy. But there is an absolute absence of those values when it comes to U.S. foreign policy. If Trump wants to "make America great again," he could do so by orienting his policies toward the world on the same democratic and humanitarian values on which the United States was founded.

The United States must take the long view rather than focusing on short-term gains. It is in the interest of the United States — and all people everywhere — that we attain stable, democratic governments rooted in justice and respect for human dignity. This applies to the states of the Gulf as much as it does anywhere else. In May, I saw Trump dancing and waving his sword in the Saudi kingdom, which also uses swords to behead people who demand democracy, and whose leaders humiliate women and believe that they do not have the same rights as men. Clearly, Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia was the precursor to the multibillion-dollar business deals that are now putting so many lives at risk in my region.

I know I risk more years in prison for writing this. Three years ago, I was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for tweeting criticism of Bahrain for ignoring the rise of the Islamic State and related extremism. If the government of Bahrain has its way, I may never be released. From the moment I entered Jaw prison last month, I have been entirely isolated, barred from seeing visitors and separated from the rest of the prisoners. I am classified as a "threat" to the prison population, and for that I am kept in a segregated wing of the building otherwise reserved for Islamic State-supporting extremists. I hope that this is a coincidence, but I fear that it is not.

The risk of speaking out is huge. Yet when I think of the starvation in Yemen caused by Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, the lost potential of the thousands who have died, the imprisonment of so many who have dared to speak out — and all of this with Trump's apparent backing — I know it is a risk worth taking. It is true that I face the pro-

spect of spending an additional decade and a half in prison because I have chosen to take a stand. Yet my suffering is nothing compared with what Yemeni children are going through every day as they face bombing, starvation and fear. I continue to stand with the civilians and children of Yemen and to call upon the Saudis and Bahrainis to end the war immediately. Those of us who hold up a mirror to tyranny will not be silenced.

Saudi CP accused of corruption

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His mother-in-law, Hajer Mansoor, 49, Sayed Nazar AlWadaei, 19 and Mahmood Marzooq, 30 had been sentenced to three years. There had been a campaign by those NGOs to end this revenge, but the regime, emboldened by support from Riyadh, Washington and London, did not feel the need to heed these calls.

Two women activists have been detained for supporting the national demands for democratic transformation. Fawzia MashaAllah has been remanded in custody for a week after being summoned by the torture regime. Zainab Salman was stopped at the causeway last week and told that she must spend 28 days to complete an earlier sentence. Her case became an embarrassment to Alkhalifa supporters because she had already served the full sentence. She was subsequently released with more threats and abuses.

On 18th December Brian Dooley, Senior Advisor with Human Rights First, published an article in the Huffington Post titled: Bahrain's Authorities Continue to Target Abdulhadi Al Khawaja. He said: "In one of Bahrain's most notorious 2011 sham trials, prominent human rights defender Abdulhadi Al Khawaja was convicted and jailed with other leading peaceful dissidents. Now he's being targeted again, inside prison. The writer described AlKhawaja's ordeals over the past six years and said: You'd think the Bahraini authorities had done enough to Al Khawaja six years ago. But he's being punished again after writing a letter to the ministry of the interior about conditions in prison. He said: It's hard to know what the authorities think they're achieving with this sort of punishment. Washington should tell its military allies in Bahrain that these actions against leading dissidents are vindictive and myopic, and only fuel resentment inside and outside the prison. If Bahrain wants to make progress on finding a solution to its political crisis this is exactly the wrong thing to do. Introducing better prison conditions would be good, releasing the dissidents much better.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
20th December 2017

