

BAHRAIN

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

Women of Bahrain; the ultimate political struggle and self-denial

The struggle of Bahraini women is unique, long and brave. For more than half a century they have engraved their role in history with blood, whether as martyrs, under torture or victims of repression in their endless protests. What is said here is not confined to history, but it relates to the ongoing women struggle under one of the most repressive and cruel regimes in the world. At this moment of time there are ten women languishing behind bars. Crime? Opposing dictatorial regime and calling for citizens rights. These women have been subjected to most horrific treatment, including being stripped naked and sexually abused. These brave women have exposed the hypocrisy of the "free world". The UK, in particular, has betrayed the values of the "oldest democracy" and left no stone unturned in its defence of Alkhalifa brutal regime. It had been expected that Theresa May's government would come to the defence of those defenceless women. Instead, UK's officials have granted the regime blanket defence and shielded it against any international political sanctioning. There is hope that new UK politicians, following Brexit will realise that defending tyranny and despotism cannot serve the interests of the British people, but will only make the world less safe as these tyrants continue to groom terrorism, extremism and violence. The world must take notice of this.

Last month several women inmates went on hunger strike to protest the inhumane treatment being meted out on prisoners. Bahrain's dictator has broken values, norms and international obligations by imposing rigid rules on native prisoners, women and children. First he reduced family visits. Second glass platforms were made to separate family members from the prisoners during visits. Family members cannot come close to each other and they have to communicate through a telephone set while separated with glass partition. Medical care is denied as a routine and would only be provided when highlighted by international human rights activists. Median Ali was abused, humiliated while stip-naked by the security officials, who may have been "trained" by British experts. Scores of women prisoners have, over the past seven years, been tortured, abused and given heavy sentences for their peaceful expression of opinion. Some were on the receiving end of revenge for sheltering wanted young Bahrainis. At the beginning of the revolution names like Ayat Al Qurmuzi ap-

peared on major international news media like the Independent. While other names like Nafisa Al Asfoor and Rayhana Al Mousawi were detained and severely tortured for trying to bring the case of Bahraini people to the attention of the world during the notorious Formula 1 race. There are increasing pressures on the management of the F1 to stop racing on "Bahraini people's blood".

Bahraini women have been at the forefront of the struggle for freedom and democracy for more than half a century. They joined the national struggle from 1956 onwards. In the sixties they took part in the campaign against British colonialism. Several of them were detained and tortured. But their strong performance came to the limelight during the uprising of the nineties. Many were arrested and subjected to horrific treatment. Mrs Zahra Kadhim was martyred by regime's forces, while others were given prison sentences for taking a pro-active role in organising protests and sheltering activists pursued by Alkhalifa killers. The defunct Ian Henderson played a pivotal role in putting in place a rigid torture regime which has continued ever since he had been employed to serve the Alkhalifa in the sixties. The then British Agent, Anthony Parsons facilitated his arrival in Bahrain in April 1966 to put in order a new Special Branch. Women were targeted alongside men and children. In 1997 at least 20 school girls from Sitra Secondary School were paraded naked after being detained by Henderson's men. Some of them gave testimonies of their ordeal in a BBC documentary in 1998.

The present revolution has produced more women heroes. In addition to the names mentioned above, scores of women from various parts of the country have been rounded up and subjected to horrific treatment. Names like Tayba Darwish, Faten Hussain, Muna Habib, Hamida Juma, Zainab Makki Abbas, Fawziyah MashaAllah, Najah Al Sheikh, Amira Al Qash'ami, Medina Al and Hajer Mansoor have provided heroic roles that have inspired the present generation of women. Three other sisters face the prospect of detention following political decision by the tyrant: Fatima, Aamal and Iman Ali. For seven consecutive years the Revolution has continued unabated. Not a single day has passed since 14th February 2011 without

countrywide protests, be it on small scales. In almost all of these demonstrations, women are seen with the men marching in the streets, chanting anti-regime slogans and calling for freedom, democracy and an end to the tribal hereditary dictatorship. Images have circulated of women being attacked by heavily-armed foreign mercenaries employed by Alkhalifa tyrant.

Last year the case of Ibtisam Al Sayegh became prominent after her arrest and sexual abuse. The case shocked the human rights world and forced officials at the helm of the UN Human Rights Council to issue harsh statements against Alkhalifa dictators. She was eventually released but many others whose cases had not been sufficiently highlighted remain at the torture dungeons. The question is whether the persecution of a whole community which makes up over 70 percent of the population will be forced to raise the white flag. This is not going to happen. Bahrain has passed through the bleakest period of its history and its people have been resilient while remaining determined to change the situation. Foreign occupiers, including the British, could not remain forever as their existence was resisted. Bahrain women have been among the most aware and conscious in the world. They joined the political struggle decades ago and have provided the world with a glorious history of struggle that has no other rival especially in the region. Mothers of martyrs received congratulations when they lost their children at the hands of Alkhalifa killers. Wives and sisters celebrated martyrdom while their hearts were bleeding for the loss of the beloved ones. When they become political prisoners, they never give up despite the ill-treatment and abuse. The cry in silence but their voices have never subsided. They wrote poems, signed statements even from behind bars and issued encouragement to their compatriot men urging them to remain steadfast and continue raising the banner of change. This spirit has broken the will of the Alkhalifa occupiers and their backers. It will remain a source of inspiration to the youth of the Revolution and will soon blossom with the petals of victory. Heroic women will always deliver to Bahrain children who will carry the struggle forward to teach the world that freedom may only be grabbed, not given by the power-thirsty dictators and despots.

Saudis condemned on 3rd anniversary of war, More Bahrainis detained

The third anniversary of the Saudi-led aggression on Yemen has been marked worldwide with indignation, revulsion and calls for an immediate halt of American and British arms supplies to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. Protests were held in several Western cities and calls were made for an immediate ceasefire and the establishment of war crimes tribunal to investigate Saudi and Emirati crimes. Two days ago (26th March) Yemeni people gathered in the capital Sanaa in their millions to mark the third anniversary of the Saudi-led aggression. An ocean of people filled the roads and public places in a show of solidarity that has sent strong message not only to the Saudis, Emiratis and Alkhalifa but to the West especially USA and UK. Articles were written with a clear message to Washington and London: Stop arms supplies to the aggressors. The message was clear: the Saudis and their allies have lost the military conflict that they had started; it is time for them to accept that fact and negotiate a political settlement. Both Washington and London are embarrassed that they have been party to the conflict and played their cards wrong by siding with the aggressors who have effectively defeated despite their superior forces. The Saudis have been rattled two days ago (the day of the 3rd anniversary of the war) by the salvo of rockets that hit the capital Riyadh and several other cities and military bases. There is unease both in Washington and Riyadh that the missile dome protecting the Saudi capital has failed to intercept the Yemeni ballistic missiles that led to destruction and death. The realisation that the cradle of the Saudi empire is no longer shielded from their much weaker foes in Yemen is causing deep unease in

the region. Both Saudis and Alkhalifa are worried that their misfortunes in the war could lead to an abrupt collapse of their regimes, given their endemic internal crisis and the hostility with their neighbours. In Bahrain, regime's repression has intensified. In addition to a deteriorating economic situation, internal conflicts especially between the ruler and his uncle, the ancient prime minister have come out to in the open on social media. The tyrant's fears of the people's revolution has pushed him to escalate repression. Yesterday Duraz Town was raided in the early hours and at least 14 young people including children were snatched. They include: Mohammad Fadhel Al Marazooq, Hassan Isa AlFatlawi, Sayed Ahmad Sayed Majeed, Hussain Mohammad Saleh and Qassim Aqeel Fadhel. Other detainees include: Hajji Aqeel Al Madani, Hajji Ali Abdullah Qassim, Hajji Mansoor Hayat and Habeeb Hassan Al A'Adhab. A week ago five children were also detained from Duraz: Hussam Al Rayes, Sayed Hassan Sayed Salman, Jaffar Aqeel Al Madani, Mohammad Isa Al A'Adhab and Sayed Habeeb Kadhem. On 24th March regime's mercenary forces attacked the towns of Abu Saiba and Al-Shakhoura and arrested many of their youth. They include: Ibrahim Nazar, Ammar Majeed, Hussain Mohammad Dawood, Sayed Hussain Sayed Hashem, Sayed Ahmad Sayed Hamza, Sayed Mohammad Sayed Redha, Sayed Muntadhar Sayed Jaffar, Hassan Salman Ahmad, Jassim Mohammad Ali, Hussain Mohammad Jaffar AlZaaki, Hussain Jaffar Al Asfoor and his brother, Hassan, Ali Fardan and Mohammad Abbas. In the early hours of yesterday under-aged youth, Sayed Mohammad Sayed Hussain Al Mahafda from Daih Town was detained in a dawn raid on

his house. He had recently been detained and beaten mercilessly. On 26th March, Ahmad Samir, from Jidhafs was detained in a house raid.

On Monday 26th March, Alkhalifa court sentenced nine native Bahrainis to seven years each. They include Nazar Al Wadaei (cousin of Sayed Ahmad Al Wadaei, the prominent human rights activist). He is now serving a total of 13 years just because he is the cousin of the activist. This revenge policy by the dictator resulted in sentencing the boy's mother to three years. Last week Sayed Al Wadaei's wife was given two months jail sentence in absentia. This is one of the most outrageous episodes of the sham justice employed by Alkhalifa dictators against their opponents. Fears are mounting for the health of many detainees who are denied proper medical treatment. The eldest female prisoner, Fawziya MashaAllah is suffering serious ill-health for which little treatment is offered. She had suffered heart problems and high blood pressure for some time. Activists, including Mrs Ibtisam Al Sayegh have raised their concerns but to no avail. The senior leaders of the Revolution are also suffering ill health especially as they grow older in age. Hassan Mushaima and Abdul Wahab Hussain have been denied medical treatment, family visits and open space time to exercise. For almost one year these rights have been denied them and their health is gradually deteriorating. Protests have continued in various parts of the country against the ill-treatment of these leaders. Also the continued house arrest of Ayatullah Sheikh Isa Qassim is causing alarm among the people who protested in the streets in the past few days.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
28th March 2018

Trump continues to siphon Saudi wealth; four Bahrainis executed at sea

The US visit by the Saudi crown prince this week has been condemned by many quarters inside the United States amid calls to cancel it. Inside Saudi Arabia itself there is great disappointment as the US continued its support to Mohammad bin Salman (MBS) who has intensified his crackdown against activists and jailed anyone who criticised his ill-fated war on Yemen. There are also fears that the visit may jeopardise the scheduled meeting in Washington arranged by Mr Trump with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The US mediation appears to have come too late to solve the crisis caused by MBS and Mohammad bin Zayed who wanted to crush Qatar for its refusal to tow their destructive policies in the region. MBS is worried that the visit may not go in his favour as the Qataris rejected his ultimatums and blunted his empty threats, thus crushing the Saudi credibility. Mr Trump has not hidden his delight that MBS had come to sign the first major deal of \$110 billions, as part of the \$450 billion imposed by Mr Trump on Saudi Arabia last year. In his meeting with

MBS he said: Saudi Arabia is a very wealthy nation, and they're going to give the United States some of that wealth. The arms deal was signed despite rising opposition to continued American support of Saudi Arabia in its aggression on Yemen. Yesterday in the Senate a bipartisan effort to end US involvement in a bloody, three-year war in Yemen failed in a close vote on Tuesday afternoon. A disparate group of senators — Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Mike Lee (R-UT), and Chris Murphy (D-CT) — drafted and introduced the resolution to stop America's support for the bloodshed. "This is one of the great humanitarian disasters of our time," Sanders told Vox last week. But the GOP-controlled Senate voted to table — that is, kill — the resolution that says America shouldn't assist Saudi Arabia in its three-year fight against the Yemeni people. By a 55-44 margin, a majority of Republicans and some Democrats effectively said the US can still help Riyadh, by refueling its planes and providing intelligence in the Saudi's brutal air campaign. Last week, Bahrain's regime acknowledged

that its forces had opened fire on a boat carrying four Bahrainis and "forced it to flee to Iranian waters". Their bodies were subsequently found and buried in Iran. The last was that of Hassan Al Bahraini, found and buried last week. This is tantamount to extra-judicial killing. On 18th March the French newspaper, Le Monde, published an article titled: Bahrain: critical economic situation that may force government to concede to the opposition after seven years of oppression". The article described the crisis starting in 2007 with torture, travel ban, revocation of nationality and death sentences. The article said that Bahrain would have become another Kuwait if the ruler had not resorted to these measures. It said that Bahrain is now threatened with bankruptcy. The oil revenues have dropped 80 percent and the government accumulated debts of 10 billion Bahraini Dinar (about 21.50 billion Euros). Calls are mounting for the Brazilian government to stop supplying Alkhalifa regime with tear gas canisters that are being

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Gulf dictators bribed UK politicians to guarantee political, security sup-

The U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has urged the Saudi government to "abolish practices of male guardianship". It should enforce a recent order that would entitle all women to obtain a passport, travel or study abroad, choose their residency, and access health care "without having to seek their guardian's consent". "We asked for the abolition of the system, because even though they said they had passed a law, we realised that in practice the system still continued," Hilary Gbedemah, a panel member, told Reuters. Saudi Arabia is still one of the most restrictive countries for women in the world. It has no women ministers and retains a guardianship system requiring women to have a male relative's approval for important decisions. The experts said that Saudi Arabia should implement a comprehensive strategy to "eliminate patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that discriminate against women".

Meanwhile the anti-war and anti-arms trade have reacted angrily to the new arms deals signed by Saudi dictator during his visit to UK. These include 48 Typhoon military airplanes and other equipment. The opposition Labour Party had opposed British arms supplies to Saudi Arabia while it is waging destructive war on Yemen, and maintaining its military presence in Bahrain. Amnesty International said the deal will add fuel to the raging fire in Yemen.

Activists have also been outraged by the revelations that British MPs have been on the receiving end of expensive gifts, freebies or paid holidays from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Several MPs have sold out to those dictators and acted to defend them publicly. The Alkha-

lifa regime spent more than £116,000 to bribe some of those MPs who were given first class travel and expensive lifestyle with their spouses in return for favours. These immoral arrangements have continued for the past 25 years. In the 90s editors of Private Eye uncovered many such instances, especially the late Paul Foot who exposed the "Rolex Watches diplomacy".

In another development, a Saudi citizen has been martyred under torture in prison. On Sunday 11th March Hajji Ali Jassim Al-Naz'ah, 61, from Al Bahari district in Qatif, succumbed to the horrific wounds he had sustained due to extreme form of torture. He is known for his strong anti-regime views and has been calling for real political change in the kingdom of fear. His body showed clear marks of torture, but his family was prevented from taking pictures of the mutilated body or speak to the press.

On Wednesday 7th March Alkhalifa court confirmed the death sentence on native Bahraini Salman Isa Ali. He had been detained on 27th December 2014, tortured at a secret farm with his hands tied up and then his pictures were paraded at regime's TV mouthpiece "confessing" to criminal activities. Regime courts have also confirmed earlier sentences on another group called "AlBasta group". They include life sentences to four people, 15 years to five others and revocation of citizenship to nine. The accused are: Sayed Murtada Al Sanadi, Hussain Abdul Wahab, Mohammad and Ali Fakhrawi, Ali Al Me'raj, Mohammad Saleh Isa, Sheikh Zuhair Jassim Mohammad and his brother, Sheikh Ali, Ibrahim Jaffar Hassan, Hamid Ali Mansoor, Mohammad Ahmad Sarhan, Mohammad Abdul Jalil Al Sabba', Mahmood Abdul Redha Hassan AlJaziri, Mohammad Abdul Aziz Al Daqqaq, Isa Saleh Isa, Sayed Qassim

Majeed and Sheikh Isa Al Qaffas.

Sheikh Mirza Al-Mahrous, who is detained among the "Bahrain 13" group of leaders, started an open hunger strike protesting against denial of treatment by Jaw Prison's administration. After his arrest in early 2011, al-Mahroos was severely tortured - this included sexual abuse, electric shocks, threats of rape, shoes being stuffed into his mouth until his gums began to bleed, and sexual threats being made against female members of his family. Most members of the group suffer from chronic diseases due to torture. There are fears that cancer has returned to detained leader Hassan Mushaima, as reports from Abdul Wahab Hussein's family stated that his eyesight is poor and that he suffers from other health issues. In a bizarre development, Al Jazeera TV channel broadcast two-part documentary about the failed coup attempt against the former Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani in 1996. Titled (The undisclosed is greater) the programme presented strong evidence about the role of Bahrain's dictator. Several officers who had taken part in the coup attempt testified about his role while he was the crown prince. They spoke of funding, purchasing bombs, smuggling arms and equipment for sabotage activities and recruiting would be saboteurs. The programme is a strong indictment of a ruler who has repeatedly accused native Bahrainis of planning to overthrow the tribal regime whose existence is linked to occupation which adopts violence to remain. Despite flexing his muscles to frighten the people of Bahrain, the dictator was shaken to the core. He rushed to issue a denial of his personal involvement in the Qatari failed coup.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
14th March 2018

AI: Quash death sentences of Al-Arab and Al-Malali

On 15th March Amnesty International issued the following Urgent Action to save the lives of two native Bahrainis. They had been unjustly condemned to death by Alkhalifa regime on trumpeted charges:

On 31 January, the Fourth High Criminal Court in Bahrain sentenced Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab and Ahmad al-Malali to death, convicting them on charges including "forming and joining a "terrorist" group". According to information received by Amnesty International, Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab was tortured upon transfer to Jaw prison.

On 31 January 2018, the Fourth High Criminal Court in Manama, Bahrain's capital, issued its verdict convicting 60 defendants, including 12 in absentia. Two men, Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab (Ali al-Arab) and Ahmad al-Malali, were sentenced to death, 56 others to prison terms varying between 5 years and life imprisonment, and two

men were acquitted. The court also revoked the citizenships of 47 defendants. They were convicted on charges including "forming and joining a "terrorist" group", "training on the use of weapons and explosives", "murder and attempted murder of police officers", and "assisting the escape and hiding of other defendants in the case". The trial of the 60 defendants began on 22 August 2017. Ali al-Arab's "confessions", which he says were obtained under torture, were admitted in court. Their appeal began on 8 March 2018.

According to Amnesty International's information, following the court's verdict, Ali al-Arab was transferred to Jaw prison to serve his sentence and placed in solitary confinement for the first week. According to this information, Ali al-Arab may have been tortured daily, between midnight and dawn, for a week, until mid-February. His first family visit took place on 4 March. Ali al-Arab is currently held in a cell measuring one meter by two and a half meters, which he shares with two other inmates.

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

Urging the authorities to quash Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab and Ahmad al-Malali's conviction and death sentences and to declare a moratorium on all executions, as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty;

Urging the authorities to order a full retrial of Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab and Ahmad al-Malali, the proceedings of which must comply with international standards for a fair trial and where no evidence obtained under torture is used, without resort to the death penalty; and to carry out an independent and impartial investigation into their allegations of torture, and bring those responsible to justice;

Acknowledging the Bahraini government's responsibility to tackle crime and bring to justice those responsible, but insisting that this should always be done in accordance with international law and Bahrain's international human rights obligations.

Britain's red carpet for the Saudi ruler is shameless

Emily Thornberry, Wed 7 Mar 2018

Concerns about arms sales are being put above the suffering of civilians in Yemen's civil war

A poster of Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohammed bin Salman. 'This is the man behind the rolling blockade of Yemen's rebel-held ports, preventing the supply of essential food, medicine and fuel to Yemeni civilians.' Photograph: Ibrahim Chalhoub/AFP/Getty Images

They call diphtheria the "strangling disease". Parents have to watch helplessly as it slowly clogs the throat and chokes the life out of their children. Thankfully, vaccination has wiped it out in most parts of the world. But not in Yemen. Not this past year. Hundreds of children have been infected, and dozens have died that cruellest of deaths.

They join the hundreds of other Yemeni children who have died from the worst cholera outbreak in modern history, the thousands who have succumbed to malnutrition, and the untold number of civilians killed by airstrikes on homes, streets, weddings and funerals. This has been the human price of the three-year civil war in Yemen, in which all parties have shown a callous disregard for life, but where the large majority of civilian deaths lies irrefutably at the door of Saudi Arabia.

Yet today the architect of that Saudi intervention in Yemen – crown prince Mohammad bin Salman – will visit Britain, and will receive the red carpet treatment from the Tory government, as if he were Nelson Mandela. This is the man behind the rolling blockade of Yemen's rebel-held ports, preventing the supply of essential food, medicine and fuel to Yemeni civilians, and – on all the available evidence – breaching international law by using starvation as a weapon of war.

The man who –, in an equally flagrant breach of the Geneva convention, authorised the destruction of Yemen's agricultural and food infrastructure in the early stages of the war, with systematic air strikes on farms, dairies, food factories and markets.

Prince Mohammed was rightly enraged at the Houthi rebels' attempted missile attack on Riyadh in December, but retaliated with a 10-day barrage of indiscriminate air strikes on civilian areas, killing and injuring hundreds, including dozens of children. And while the UK government publicly insists there can be no military solution in Yemen, he has just sacked his most senior generals in an effort to achieve exactly that, and even now plans his assaults on the capital Sana'a and the port of Hodeidah, both of which will drastically esca-

late the humanitarian crisis. And all that is before we even mention his disgraceful attempts to subvert Lebanon's democracy, and his reported funding of jihadist groups in the Syrian civil war, both a part of his wider battle against Iran for hegemony in the Middle East.

If it was his regional rival, the supreme leader of Iran, visiting our capital – with his similar record of domestic human rights abuses, regional intervention and alleged support for terror organisations – the UK government would not dream of rolling out the red carpet. So why is it different for the crown prince?

Theresa May tells us it is about our mutual security and strategic interests. Or about Prince Mohammed's moves to "liberalise" women's rights, by which she means Saudi Arabia catching up with the rest of the world by promising to allowing women to drive cars.

It is all nonsense. As so often, it is about nothing but filthy lucre, and this government's desperation to plug the hole that will be left in Britain's trade and growth prospects by May's refusal to stay in a customs union with the EU after Brexit. Most nakedly, it is about the shameless bidding war to persuade the crown prince to include the London Stock Exchange in any international listing of the Aramco oil

company, billed as the biggest stock market flotation in history.

Most pertinently, it is about the huge increase in arms sold by Britain to Saudi Arabia since the start of the war in Yemen – a trade so shameful that the government now actively encourages applications for "open export licences" by UK arms firms, precisely to hide what weaponry Riyadh is receiving, and its true value. It's clear the government doesn't care a jot about human rights or breaches of the Geneva convention if there is a chance instead to boost its balance sheet. Britain is the official pen-holder for the United Nations security council on matters relating to Yemen. In October 2016, our government floated a draft resolution calling for a permanent ceasefire in the country to allow for immediate humanitarian relief and talks on a political solution. Prince Mohammed's acolytes immediately objected, and 17 months on that draft resolution has still not been formally presented to the council. And so his brutal, murderous war continues, without anyone in our government lifting a pen to stop him. Instead, today they fete the crown prince. But millions of us will be saying: not in my name.

Emily Thornberry is UK's Shadow Foreign Secretary

Trump continues to siphon Saudi wealth

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used as weapons against the people. Several protests were made in Brazil by human rights activists as several serious injuries were reported in the protests marking the seventh anniversary of the Saudi military incursion into Bahrain. One family almost suffocated in Sitra when regime forces fired tear and chemical gases inside their house. Several people were killed in the past with these "weapons". In November 2015 the Brazilian government blocked an independent investigation by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) into the ethicality of a Brazilian company's tear gas exports to Bahrain. The decision, made by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, came after Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) requested that Brazil's National Contact Point of the OECD investigate the business relationship between Bahrain and Condor Non-Lethal Technologies.

On Sunday 18th March native Bahraini cleric, Sheikh Hani Al Bazzaz, was arrested and taken to the torture cells by masked members of Alkhalifa Death Squads. His house was raided in a cruel way causing extensive damage to his personal property. He is accused of taking part in a peaceful protest in 2011. Mrs Hajer Mansoor, the mother-in-law of Bahraini activist, Sayed Ahmad Al Wadaei has started hunger



strike to protest the inhumane treatment at her prison cell. She is one of ten Bahraini women languishing behind bars for opposing Alkhalifa tribal dictatorial regime. She has not been allowed proper medical treatment, sanitation or contact with her juvenile son, also in jail. In the early hours of this morning, masked members of Alkhalifa Death Squads raided several homes in Duraz Town and snatched young natives. Duraz has been under siege for 20 months as a revenge for standing by Ayatullah Sheikh Isa Qassim, the most senior religious figure in the country who represents the majority of the population. Citizens spend hours when they return to their town from outside the zone. Out of six entry points to the town only two are open. They are manned by heavily-armed mercenaries who routinely humiliate the natives.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
21st March 2018