

# BAHRAIN

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

## **Bahrainis resist regime's betrayal of Palestinian cause**

Bahrain must not become dustbin for tyrants, conspirators or counter revolution forces to dump their awful wastes on its soil. But the puppet Khalifi regime has achieved exactly that because of bad deals it had struck with financially and militarily superior regional powers. Since the dictator, Hamad alKhalifa invited (or forced to accept) Saudi and Emirati troops in March 2011 to prevent its total collapse, he has relinquished Bahrain's sovereignty to those invaders. No longer does he own any sovereign political decision of strategic significance. Thus when the Trump Administration decided to implement their "deal of the century" that seeks to kill off the Palestinian ambition of creating homeland, he was ordered to host it. Neither the Saudis or the Emiratis wanted to hold the "Peace to Prosperity" workshop that aims at raising funds to buy off the Palestinians away from their aspirations to liberate their land or establish a Palestinian statehood. Only the Khalifi dictator was available to host the event on orders from its sponsors. When the Bahraini people revolted on 14th February 2011 they had, like the Palestinians, aspired to free their homeland from the khalifi occupation that had lasted so long. The occupation tribe has never become homogenous or melted in the Bahraini pot. They have remained isolated, living in their own compounds and districts, refusing to become ordinary citizens. The Revolution had unnerved regional dictators especially the Saudis who were shocked to see the extent of the popular anger in the Arab world against absolute tribal rule. Today, these tyrants have allied themselves with Benjamin Netanyahu and spearheaded the counter-revolution. They seek to end any popular aspiration for democratic transformation in the Arab world. Yet the proposed "workshop" marks a new dimension in the treachery of those dictators. Few facts are thus necessary to clarify the situation:

The meeting in Bahrain on 24-25th June is an attempt to end the Palestinian cause in line with the Trump administration's vision of a single state in Palestine to be ruled by the Zionists. Palestinians must relinquish their ambitions to liberate their lands or establish a state. The workshop aims at raising billions of dollars by milking the Saudis and Emiratis under American or-

ders. This money will be used to buy off the Palestinians with enormous amounts of money. The financial attractions, it is hoped, will lead to the abandoning of the hope of a Palestinian state forever. This time the plot is not hatched by the Americans only but by the leaders of the counter-revolution forces.

The other means of coercion in the American plan is the provision of alternative areas for the Palestinians of the diaspora. An enclave in the Sinai Peninsula, probably attached to Gaza will be allocated. Jordan will be encouraged to take more Palestinians in return for financial incentives. While Sisi of Egypt may accept the proposals, the Jordanians are unlikely to agree. In the past few months Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia has been strained because of lack of financial support and other regional disputes. Amman has realized that it had been bypassed by the counter revolution forces in establishing working relations with the Israelis which they view with contempt. The "Deal of the Century" is thus beginning to falter under these strains despite the enormous money pledged to see it through.

The imposition of the deal needs suitable political and media climate. The American noise about Iran is one of the decoys to deflect the attention away from Palestine. But the Iranian position has surprised even the Americans who thought their bullying would force the Iranians to raise the white flag. It is now clear that it is Mr Trump who had to change his language repeatedly as a means of appeasing the Iranian leadership. The media campaign has, however, led to more repression in the GCC states. New laws make it almost impossible for anyone to criticize the American plan, the Saudi or Emirati policies. Many have been detained in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain for tweets deemed to be detrimental to inter-GCC relations. A climate of terror, intimidation and fear has thus been imposed on the region to ensure that the plan is implemented. The Saudis are eager to market their own vision called 2030 vision linked to Mohammad bin Salman who has now been practically been embraced by the West after the brutal murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The scheduled workshop has angered the natives of Bahrain who have been engaged in anti-regime campaign to end its era of dictatorship and repression. In the past few weeks many protests were waged by the people against the proposed deal and workshop. Innocent people have been detained for their activism, tweeting or planning of political disruption. Bahrainis are known for their pro-Palestine case before the creation of the Zionist state. In 1936 they welcomed in Manama the Palestinian leader, Hajji Amin Al Hussaini who was the head of the "Supreme Arab Commission". In 1948 seventy native Bahraini businessmen signed a petition rejecting an invitation from the captain of an American warship that had anchored at Juffair port. They said that they were rejecting the invitation because it came from a country that had recognised the creation of "Israel" few months earlier. In October/November 1956 they protested against the trilateral invasion on Egypt by Britain, France and Israel. Their protests led to a British crackdown on the opposition leadership at the time, sending three of its leaders into exile at St Helena prison, in the heart of the Atlantic.

The Bahraini political crisis thus feeds on various elements especially the regime's total reliance on foreign powers to stay in power. Now that the Khalifi dictator and his clan has come out openly in support of the occupiers of Palestine, the Bahrainis have found a real cause to work to uproot the roots of corruption, cruelty and treachery. It is expected that the country will face more internal strife prior and after the proposed economic seminar which has placed the dissolution of the Palestinian crisis at its core. What has infuriated the native Bahrainis is the fact that the Khalifi regime has sold out the country to the counter-revolution forces in return for their protection of their dynastical rule. Senior opposition and religious figures, as well as the grass roots, have stated clearly their opposition to transforming Bahrain into dumping grounds where other powers exploit the weakness of the Khalifis to impose their will. Bahrainis will continue their Revolution against the Kahlifi hereditary dictatorship. The human and material price they have paid over the past eight years is enough to enable them to

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## UK urged to stop arming Saudis, MPs challenge Khalifi death sentences

The new Parliamentary citizens committee on arms sales (CCAS), is meeting in Westminster today to take evidence from Yemeni human rights campaigners speaking from the capital Sana'a as well as a former UK brigadier to the Saudi capital, Riyadh, who has previously claimed the UK is breaking its own rules by selling arms for use in Yemen. The meeting comes as MPs from the all-party parliamentary group on Yemen wrote to the foreign secretary, Jeremy Hunt, imploring him "to use every available tool to put pressure on our allies in the UAE and Saudi Arabia to bring about an end to the conflict. The UK has a strong relationship with Saudi Arabia and this must be used". The Saudi regime has intensified its persecution of the Shia Muslim population of the Eastern Province. After the beheading and crucifixion of 32 innocent lives last month and the extra-judicial killing of eight others earlier this month, the Saudi authorities have now closed down the last mosque of this community in the city of Al Khobar. As the people were preparing to conduct their prayers on the Lailat Al Qadr (the night of power) their mosque was closed without warning. This is yet another form of persecution. Zuhair Al BuSaleh, one of the main sponsors of the mosque had been jailed for six months and flogged. The announcement that Bahrain's dictator had "agreed" to hold an American-imposed, Saudi-financed workshop titled "prosperity for peace" has caused widespread furor amongst the people. Protests were held in various towns and villages as most world's leaders objected to the seminar. Mr Trump had initiated the controversy two years ago when he announced his "deal of the century" that would end the dream of a Palestinian state

and leave Israel as the strongest entity in the region. His son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has championed the Israeli cause and spearheaded the proposed workshop. The Palestinian president, Mahmood Abbas has already declared his boycott as other groups declared their position of rejection and urged other governments to boycott the proposed workshop. No one else is enthusiastic about the workshop except its sponsors and planners. Both Russia and China have declared their boycott. Bahrainis have pledged never to allow their country to be used as a launching pad to anti-Palestine conspiracies. The most senior religious and political leader, Ayatullah Sheikh Isa Qassim has also given a clear pledge to resist these satanic moves.

Prison officials have continued to harass Nabeel Rajab after the collapse of the dictator's plans to release some prisoners under "alternative forms of punishment". His contacts with other political prisoners have been curtailed, as well as family visits and medical care. Mr Rajab suffers from various ailments due to ill-treatment at all levels. Native Bahraini Ayyoub Adel has informed his family of his extreme pains as the regime continued to deny him proper medical care. Despite repeated requests for treatment, Mr Adel's health has deteriorated as his ailments became chronic. His persistent pains deprive him of sleep or comfort. Another young native Bahraini, Fadel Abbas suffers the same predicament, with persistent pains in his teeth that the Khalifi authorities have chosen to ignore.

On 27th May Khalifi court upheld five year jail sentence on woman activist, Zakiya Al Barbouri, based on "confessions" extracted under torture. The 30-year old native Bahraini woman is

a chemical engineer who had been abducted in May 2018 and subjected to forced disappearance for three weeks. There are at least ten women activists behind bars.

Protests have continued during the holy month or Ramadan calling for regime change. On the second anniversary of the criminal attack on Ayatullah Sheikh Isa Qassim's home on 23rd May 2017 there were demonstrations and rallies at Al Musalla, Saar, Abu Saiba, Shakhoura, Nuwaidrat and Druaz. Five people were martyred as regime's forces attacked the peaceful congregation outside the house. Almost 300 people were arrested and about 180 were jailed for up to ten years. On 23rd May 16 MPs signed a letter to UK's foreign secretary, Jeremy Hunt calling for his intervention to save the lives of two young Bahrainis condemned to death by the Khalifi dictators: They said: "We are writing to express our gravest concerns to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regarding the decision of Bahrain's highest court to uphold the death sentences of Mr Ali AlArab and Mr Ahmed AlMalali on 6 May 2019, amid credible allegations of torture and due process violations. Their sentences will now pass to the king for final ratification, placing these men at risk of imminent execution." They ended their letter urging him to intervene: "The United Kingdom has long opposed capital sentences in all circumstances and countries and we urge you to demonstrate this historic commitment by making immediate representations to the King of Bahrain urging him to quash the unlawful sentences against Mr AlArab and Mr AlMalali, order a retrial, and investigate the torture allegations before it is too late."

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## Saudis carry out more abuses as Khalifis confirm death sentences

In the last few days, several citizens from the Eastern Province of Qatif were detained by the Saudi regime's forces. Among them are: Zuhair Al Samkhan, Mustafa Abu Shahin, Mohammad Al Musabbeh, Mohammad Al Tahnoon and Radhi Yasin Al Shayeb. The arrests followed the murder by these forces of eight citizens two weeks ago. Saudi Arabia has been holding two Arab journalists for several months, global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said on Monday 21st May, amid ongoing international scrutiny of the kingdom's human rights record. Yemeni Marwan al-Muraisy has been missing since June 2018, and Jordanian Abdel Rahman Farhaneh, who had worked for Qatari-owned Al Jazeera television network, disappeared in February, RSF said in a statement. Disturbing news from Riyadh say that the regime intends to execute three prominent scholars after Ramadan. Attributing the news to two government

sources The Middle East Eye said that the three: Salman al-Odah, Awad al-Qarni and Ali al-Omari may lose their lives if no pressure is used to deter the regime. They have not been convicted of specific crimes or sentenced.

In protest against proxy powers behind the conflict in Yemen, Italian union workers refused to load electricity generators onto a Saudi Arabian ship carrying weapons on Monday 21st May. The 'Bahri-Yanbu' was blocked from collecting arms in the French port of Le Havre by protests from humanitarian groups earlier this month. The arms which remain on board were loaded in Antwerp, Belgium. Unions in Genoa, northern Italy have attempted to prevent the boat from docking. Despite their efforts however, the ship docked early Monday morning, and was met by a small group of protesters on the quay. "We will not be complicit in what is happening in Yemen" declared union leaders. Bahrain's dictator has publicly called for

more oppressive policies on freedom of speech in the country widely known as the "kingdom of silence". He urged his torturers to deal "firmly and decisively" with those who question regime's policies through social media. He considers any such negative comments as divisive and inflammatory. Since Fadel Abbas and Nabeel Rajab were imprisoned for three and five years respectively for twitter comments against the war on Yemen, native Bahrainis have largely refrained from tweeting on political matters. The Khalifi regime encourages expressions of praise and hypocritical comments in its favour but punishes severely anyone who dares to criticise its repression.

On Monday 20th May Khalifi courts confirmed the death sentence against Hussain Marhoon, a native Bahraini unjustly condemned for his anti-regime peaceful activities. He is the sixth native to have his death sentence confirmed by regime's kangaroo courts since the beginning of

## Saudis murder 8 more citizens, Khalifis confirm more death sentences

On Saturday 11th May the Saudi regime's forces murdered eight innocent citizens in the Eastern Province. The attackers surrounded the district of Sanabis in Tarut island off the Qatif coast. There were no warnings of the impending aggression. The victims were surrounded at a house which was ferociously bombarded by the security forces. None of the victims was on the "wanted" list circulated by the regime. This brings to over 40 victims from the Eastern Province murdered by the Saudis in the past month including 33 beheaded and crucified in April. The crime was seen as revenge from the people of that region who refuse to accept the Saudi hegemony and repressive policies.

On 10th May a Saudi vessel that was due to load weapons at a northern French port left without them and headed towards Spain, a day after a rights group tried to block the cargo on humanitarian grounds. The Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT) sought to block the loading of weapons onto the ship through a legal filing a day earlier, arguing the cargo contravened an international arms treaty.

Human right woman activist, Mrs Naseema Al Sadah remains in solitary confinement for unknown reasons. She was moved there almost six months ago. Her Saudi jailers refuse to explain their action while the mother of three is denied her basic rights to defend the defenceless in the kingdom of fear. Yesterday, Amnesty International issued a statement titled "Saudi Arabia's 'year of shame' Crackdown on critics and rights' activists continues". The statement says: "Today marks a year of shame for Saudi Arabia.

A year ago, the authorities started locking up some of Saudi Arabia's bravest women activists, instead of celebrating hand in hand steps that should have served to advance the rights of women in the country". It further added: "This is also a shameful day for Saudi Arabia's closest allies in the West, namely the USA, the UK and France. Instead of prioritising business deals and arms sales, they should be intransigent – and publicly so – in pressuring the Saudi Arabian authorities for the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals who are being punished for expressing their views peacefully

Bahraini political prisoners are raising their voices to call for international help as their dire situation worsens. The cells that were initially built for 6 inmates have now 13 who remain inside for at least 23 hours a day. This has led to outbreaks of infectious diseases. In recent days the Central Jau Prison has witnessed an outbreak of food poisoning. The largest of its buildings (Block 4) suffered the widest of the outbreak of food poisoning that led to diarrhea, severe vomiting and acute stomach pains. The lack of medical care has led to many losing their lives. Few days ago Nooh Abdullah told his family that he would soon lose his eyesight as a result of neglect. Despite requesting treatment he has been left in agony especially with his acute arthritis in his joints diagnosed six months ago. The family of Ilyas Al Mulla has issued an appeal to provide their son with reasonable medical care. He suffers from Cancer and lives in agony most of his time. For the fifth time, woman political prisoners, Hadeer Ebadi has been remanded in custody for thirty more days. This brings her total custodial sentences to 150 days

without charge or trial. This dirty revenge is symptomatic of the regime's policy against native Bahrainis.

On 19th May an Urgent Action update was issued by Amnesty International on behalf of Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab and Ahmed Issa Ahmed al-Malali whose convictions and death sentences were upheld on 6 May 2019 by the Khalifi Court of Cassation. The two men were convicted of offences which include "forming and joining a 'terrorist' group" following an unfair mass trial. Both men were tortured. The death sentences will now go to the dictator for ratification. In a December 2018 letter, a group of United Nations experts stated that they were "extremely concerned by allegations that confessions implicating several defendants were obtained under torture and used as evidence in court." The defendants in the letter included Ali al-Arab and Ahmed al-Malali.

Two more native Bahrainis have had their death sentences confirmed by the Khalifi supreme court of cassation. Zuhair Ibrahim Jassim and Mohmmad Mahdi saw their hope of acquittal dashed despite their innocence. They had been sentenced to death on trumped up charges, and the death sentence was ordered by the royal court which considers itself at existential war with the natives of Bahrain. Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD), and the European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (ECDHR) have expressed deep concerns over the court's decision, which places the men at imminent risk of execution.

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Ramadan. On 14th May the death sentence on Hussain Abdulla, from Demstan town was confirmed. Twenty others with him were given twenty years and revocation of citizenship. Last week two others had their death sentence also confirmed: Zuhair Ibrahim and Mohammad Mahdi. At the beginning of Ramadan another two natives had their death sentence confirmed: Ali Al Arab and Ahmad Al Malali.

On 21st May UN human rights experts appealed to Bahrain's dictator to halt the imminent executions of Ali Mohamed Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab and Ahmed Isa Ahmed Isa al-Malali, amid serious concerns that they were coerced into making confessions through torture and did not receive a fair trial. "We urge the Government of Bahrain to immediately halt the executions of the two men, to annul the death sentences against them and to ensure that they are retried in accordance with international law and standards," the experts said. The experts reiterated that capital punishment may only

be carried out for the most serious crimes and after a legal process which has included all possible safeguards to ensure a fair trial. "The two individuals should have never been convicted on the basis of what appears to be seriously flawed trials. Executions in these conditions would amount to arbitrary executions," they stressed.

In the past few days regime's forces detained at least twelve people, following peaceful protests at several towns and villages. Protests are banned by the regime and thousands of native Bahrainis are jailed for their participation in peaceful demonstrations. The family of Ali Mirza who has spent more than seven years has been denied family visits or phone calls to his family for the past ten days. He is serving a jail term sentence of thirteen and a half years.

The Khalifi torture apparatus has summoned and detained lawyer Abdullah Hashim for his comments on Twitter. This



case is similar to that of Ali Al Asheeri, former MP, last November who was interrogated for expressing political views during the khalifi fake elections. Regime's prosecutors said they were charging Mr Hashim for "misusing social media and publishing fake news that can harm public order." Detaining him for one week they claimed to have found a long history of comments on his Twitter account that question the khalifi clan and its ability to maintain security and protect the public.

**Bahrain Freedom Movement**  
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## UN experts call on Bahrain to halt executions of two individuals amid tor-

GENEVA (21 May 2019) – UN human rights experts\* have appealed to Bahrain to halt the imminent executions of Ali Mohamed Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab and Ahmed Isa Ahmed Isa al-Malali, amid serious concerns that they were coerced into making confessions through torture and did not receive a fair trial.

The two men were reportedly arrested, one of them without a warrant, on 9 February 2017 within the context of a joint security operation. They were allegedly prevented from attending their trial, sentenced to the death penalty in absentia and stripped of their nationality, which was later reinstated.

Prior to the conviction, Ali Mohamed Ali Mohamed Hakeem al-Arab was reportedly forcibly disappeared for a month, during which he was subjected to torture to obtain confessions which were then used against him in court. He was allegedly charged with killing a police officer, firing on a security patrol and injuring one of its officers, assisting in an attempted prison escape, and possession of firearms. He did not have access to legal counsel before the trial proceedings began.



Ahmed Isa Ahmed Isa al-Malali was reportedly struck by two bullets in his right hand during the arrest. The bullets were allegedly only removed 23 days later. He was also reportedly tortured and forced to sign a confession which, if accurate, violates the Convention against Torture. He was subsequently charged with possession of firearms, membership in a terrorist cell and the alleged killing of a security officer. He allegedly did not have access to legal representation until late in the trial proceedings.

"We urge the Government of Bahrain to immediately halt the executions of the two

men, to annul the death sentences against them and to ensure that they are retried in accordance with international law and standards," the experts said.

The experts reiterated that capital punishment may only be carried out for the most serious crimes and after a legal process which has included all possible safeguards to ensure a fair trial. "The two individuals should have never been convicted on the basis of what appears to be seriously flawed trials. Executions in these conditions would amount to arbitrary executions," they stressed.

"All allegations of arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance and torture must be promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated with a view to holding those responsible to account and preventing similar occurrences from happening again in the future.

"We have raised multiple cases with the Bahraini authorities," the experts said. "We urge the Government to establish an official moratorium on all executions with a view to abolish the death penalty."

The experts had previously sought clarifications from the Government on this case.

## Italian unions refuse to load Saudi ship carrying weapons to Yemen

In protest against proxy powers behind the conflict in Yemen, Italian union workers refused to load electricity generators onto a Saudi Arabian ship carrying weapons on Monday.

The 'Bahri-Yanbu' was blocked from collecting arms in the French port of Le Havre by protests from humanitarian groups earlier this month. The arms which remain on board were loaded in Antwerp, Belgium.

Unions in Genoa, northern Italy have attempted to prevent the boat from docking. Despite their efforts however, the ship docked early Monday morning, and was met by a small group of protesters on the quay.

According to human rights advocates, the weapons on board the Bahri-Yanbu violate a U.N. Treaty as there is a risk that the weapons will be used against civilians. The United Nations have previously said that Saudi Arabia may have committed war crimes in the Yemen conflict. If this is true, then these arms transfers are illegal say protesters.

"We will not be complicit in what is happening in Yemen" declared

union leaders.

The Yemen Civil War has been on going since 2014 between Iranian-backed Houthi rebels and government forces, now led by a coalition of Arab states.

UN relief chief Mark Lowcock has said that approximately 360,000 children in Yemen are suffering severe acute malnutrition.

Both sides are reported to have "obstructed desperately needed humanitarian assistance

for civilians in need."

In spite of much secrecy masking the extent of the west's involvement in the Yemen war, arms from the U.S, UK, Finland, Belgium, France, and others have reportedly been used in the conflict.

In recent weeks, three French journalists have been threatened with prison sentences for "publishing reports... about the use of French weaponry in Yemen."

