

BAHRAIN

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

Bahrainis insist on democratic transformation while in lockdown

Over the recent decades Bahrainis have always been under strict control by the khalifi hereditary dictatorship. Obstructions, impediments and banning orders have formed the core of the regime's policies of running the country under one of the strictest forms of authoritarianism. When people wanted to mark the Independence Day in mid-August of each year they were harassed, intimidated and punished. Lists of DO NOTs have continued to increase in the kingdom of fear imposed by the current dictator who is enemy of any form of freedom: Do Not question the authenticity of the history endorsed by the tribal dictators who ruled over the Muslims after the demise of prophet Mohammad. Do not criticize rulers like Yazid ibn Mu'awiyah who had slaughtered the prophet's grandson and paraded women of his household. Do Not discuss politics of the regime, Do Not use loudspeakers for your functions. When some Bahrainis resort to peaceful expression of their opinion through protests or demonstrations, regime's thugs would be there to attack them mercilessly, even when the protests are linked to foreign matters and is not linked to the internal situation. This is what happened in 1980 when citizens protested the killing of Martyr Mohammad Baqir Al Sadr at the hands of Ba'thist regime in Iraq. Scores were arrested and Jamil Al Ali was tortured to death in May of that year. When Bahraini youth protested the killing by Israelis of Mohammad Al Dorra in September 2001 Mohammad Jum'a Al Shakhouri was killed by police bullets. Reprisals do not vanish when the people express themselves in less dynamic forms such as tweeting. Criticising the Saudi-Emirati war on Yemen which Bahrain's dictator joined and was comprehensively defeated is banned. Those who tweeted against it were summarily jailed. Fadhel Abbas spent three years for his anti-war tweet. Nabil Rajab is serving five-year sentence for the same "offence".

Signing a petition calling for political reforms also risks revenge from the khalifi despot. When petitions were signed calling for the re-instatement of the country's 1973 constitution, people like Sheikh Ali Salman were detained. If they protest the continued suspension of the constitution, they may be killed. This is what happened on 17th December 1994 when people demonstrated. Two youths, Hani Khamis and Hani Al

Wasti were killed by police bullets. These draconian policies continued unabated. When Bahrainis flocked to the streets on 14th February 2011 they were met with police bullets. On the first day of the Revolution, Ali Abdul Hadi Mushaima was killed by police who had been given the shoot-to-kill orders by khalifi dictators. Women were at the forefront to receive regime's repression. Many were detained and tortured. Mrs Zakiya Al Barbouri has been languishing behind bars for the past two years for opposing the dictators. Recently journalist Naziha Saeed tweeted her sour experience in May 2011 in police cells. She even named the woman torturer who inflicted heinous crimes on her. The end has been the banishing of Miss Saeed and the promotion of her torturer.

Nonetheless, Bahrainis have always been resilient, knowing that their duty will always be to liberate their land from dictatorship, oppression and injustice. To this end they were at the forefront of pro-active initiatives. They have been calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the thousands of political prisoners languishing in khalifi jails. Their calls intensified after scores of prisoners and guards had been infected by the pandemic. The regime has refused to release natives while releasing foreign detainees convicted of various crimes. They also defied regime's ban on the use of loudspeakers for their religious activities despite threats of jail and torture. It is now expected that the dictator will order revenge attacks on those running congregation halls, mosques and other religious places. On Eid Day many natives visited the graves of martyrs at various locations. There are some martyrs who had been secretly buried at locations that cannot be accessed by people. In particular, people have remembered a unique martyr. Ali Jawad Al Sheikh was only 14 when he was shot by regime's forces on Eid Day (31st August 2011). His killers have never been prosecuted. On the contrary, his father, Jawad Al Sheikh was detained for his insistence that his son's killers be brought to justice. He spent three years behind bars. The father of martyr Mahmoud Abu Taqi was forced to flee outside the country after he had repeatedly summoned and abused by khalifi thugs. Where do we go from here? It is clear that the commonalities between the two sides; the people and the khalifi tribal regime is

ever expanding. There appears to be no room for reconciliation. The relations between the two sides have been tainted by blood, hatred, revenge and policies amounting to genocide. Native Bahrainis do not trust, recognize or condone hereditary rule by a foreign tribe that has adopted "systematic torture" as a main pillar of their policy to deal with the natives. They have continued their policy of altering the demography of the country. The recent downturn of financial mishaps is now contributing to discredit their political regime and undermine its authority.

On the other hands, native Bahrainis are determined to end the precarious situation in which foreigners have consistently undermined the integrity of the country, the natives and the political commitment to uphold the rule of law, protect human rights or engage in a process of democratic transformation. The lockdown conditions may curtail public protests and demonstrations, but they cannot remove the deep feelings of resentment, hate and rejection of the dysfunctional hereditary dictatorship. The failure of the regime at the beginning to take speedy action to repatriate Bahrainis stranded in Iran had seriously undermined the credibility of the tribal rule. Its indifference to the plight of those natives contrasted sharply with the efforts of other regional countries that rushed to return their citizens back to their families before the pandemic took hold on them. The dictator demonstrated incompetence, insensitivity and inhumanity in its original refusal to take a more robust approach to the dilemma. Then came the other human failure of the khalifis. Thousands of native prisoners have been incarcerated for their political opinion and are at great risk of the pandemic in the absence of sanitation and healthcare. The overcrowding in those torture chambers is another risk in the face of the fast-spreading coronavirus pandemic. The conclusion is that Bahrain is infested with two dangerous viruses; corona and khalifis. For a prosperous future for its natives, the world must help Bahrain to rid itself of both. Peace, health and political pluralism based on "one-man-one-vote" must replace the existing hereditary tribal dictatorship.

Bahrain's wealth plundered by CP as Saudis pardon Khashoggi's killers

On Eid Day, Monday 25th May, many Bahraini men and women flocked to the graves of the martyrs at several of Bahrain's cemeteries. They recited verses of the Holy Quran, expressing grief and anger. This is one of the ways to express solidarity with the martyrs families and show attachment to their ideals. Others visited the families or called them to express solidarity and affirm loyalty to the goals of their slain children. The regime has hidden the graves of many martyrs especially those who had been unjustly executed on orders of the khalifi dictator. Many exiled activities expressed solidarity in video clips insisting that the struggle would continue until the killers of native Bahrainis were brought to justice.

The conditions inside jails have deteriorated further with more coronavirus cases among the inmates and guards. Meanwhile Ahmad Mohammad who had been sentenced to a total of 76 years for opposing the hereditary dictatorship has developed tumors and his family is now gravely concerned for his life. They have been asking for proper diagnosis and treatment but the khalifis continue to ignore their pleas. There is deep fear of the repeat of the tragic case of Sayed Kadhem Sayed Abbas, a young and pleasant native who was left to die of cancer as the khalifis refused to provide him with proper diagnosis and treatment.

It has been revealed that the khalifi crown prince had bought a Spanish football team as Bahrainis are left to face spiraling food prices since government's subsidies were stopped three years ago. The Infinity company, which has controlled the Córdoba Club de Fútbol for a few months, is apparently owned by Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the crown prince. "The company's financing comes directly from the Bahrain

government in a clear case of corruption in which public money is used for the benefit of the royal family," Hussain Abdulla, of ADHRB said. The crown prince is also the deputy prime minister and deputy commander of the Bahrain armed forces. If Salman provided the money to buy the Córdoba Club, the person who takes the public credit is prince Naser Bin Hamad al khalifa (33), stepbrother of the heir and the person who has turned the sport into his business card. He is Commander of the Royal Guard and at the head of an elite unit that had participated in the bloody war in Yemen, Naser is the president of the Bahrain Olympic Committee and the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports as well as owner of the Bahrain McLaren cycling club. "He is the person who wants to enhance his public relations and his image laundering. There are very strong torture accusations against Naser and the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom had quashed his diplomatic immunity" adds Abdulla.

It has now been one month since Saudi Arabia announced a royal decree to end death sentences for children. Yet Ali al-Nimr, Dawood al-Marhoon and Abdullah al-Zaher remain at risk of imminent execution with no signs of change of their sentence. Reprieve, which stands against the capital punishment has issued a petition to stop these executions. It said: Ali, Dawood and Abdullah could be executed for so-called 'crimes' committed when they were children, despite a royal decree announced on April 26, 2020 claiming Saudi Arabia will no longer execute children. On paper, the royal decree is a step in the right direction. But Saudi Arabia has announced positive steps before and then failed to deliver. The royal decree is only empty words so long as Ali, Dawood and Abdullah remain on death row in Saudi Arabia. It urged people to add their names

to the petition which urges Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman to end Ali, Dawood and Abdullah's death sentences and show the world that the royal decree is more than a mere public relations exercise.

On Thursday 21st May, Salah Khashoggi, the son of the slain Saudi journalist and Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi, announced in a tweet that he had "pardoned" the killers of his father. Salah invoked Ramadan, the month of Mercy, in announcing it. That tweet created a political storm and confirmed the long-held suspicion that the Saudi regime would never prosecute the perpetrators of one of the most heinous and outrageous crimes of modern history of diplomacy. However, on Friday 22nd May Khashoggi's fiancée Hatice Cengiz tweeted: "Nobody has the right to pardon the killers. We will not pardon the killers nor those who ordered the killing,". Agnes Callamard, the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions described the family's "pardon" as "a final act of the parody of justice". She said: the parody of justice started almost a few days after the killing of Jamal Khashoggi when a team of 17 or 18 individuals were sent off to Turkey to clean up the crime scene. The second act was the trial, which I described as well as a travesty of justice. The third one was the delivery of the verdict in December last year, where those who ordered the crime were let free and only the hit men were condemned. The last and final act was when the son announced that he was pardoning the killers. But everything has been a travesty of justice.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
27th May 2020

Bahrain's political prisoners face more torture; Calls to release Saudi women

On 16th May two prisoner of conscience brothers, Mohammad and Ali Fakhrawi were transferred to solitary confinement for observing religious rituals inside jail. Every few hours torturers would their cells and inflict various kinds of torture on them. They are facing daily bouts of slapping, kicking and beating. Khalifi torturers want to make them examples for anyone who ventures to exercise his/her religious rights in the torture cells.

Outside jail, the khalifi dictators issued orders to stop the use of loudspeakers for the recitation of the holy Quran during the fasting month of Ramadan. Heads of mosques and congregation halls were summoned by the khalifi-led interior ministry and warned of severe punishment if they used loudspeakers. Most have refused to abide by the orders; and loudspeakers were used in most areas. Without them the Ramadan atmosphere would have become extremely grim given the lockdown regime that banned religious meetings or congregations.

These khalifi policies have been detailed by the latest US annual report on religious freedom in Bahrain, confirming the religious persecution of the Shia Muslim natives who are 70 % of the population. Brian Dooley, Senior Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders has tweeted grim account of the overcrowding conditions in Bahrain prisons: Hearing horrific reports from inside #Bahrain's packed Jau Prison; that Building 13 has capacity for 192 prisoners but is holding 292, & that over a dozen guards being tested for Covid-19 in the prison clinic. Let the elderly & frail prisoners out for everyone's safety. His call has been echoed by many after many prisoners and guards showed Covid-19 symptoms.

The family of political prisoner, Mohammad Al Daqqaq has appealed for his release so that he gets adequate medical treatment. He is being held at Block 12 of the notorious Jau prison. Mohammad suffers from sickle cell and skin diseases and has

only one functioning kidney. He has repeatedly suffered acute attacks linked to his blood irregularity that threaten his life.

On 13th May, French MP Jean-Luc Lagleize questioned the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs about human rights and fundamental freedoms in Bahrain. He said that a great number of NGOs had published worrying information regarding the violations of such rights and freedoms. These violations include breaches of civil and political rights, cases of torture, sexual assaults and state coercion tactics. The targets of such practices include government critics, women human rights defenders, political activists inside and outside Bahrain. In addition, the government of Bahrain has been guilty of sustaining inhumane prison conditions by refusing necessary medical care, restricting family visits, implementing isolation policies against political prisoners and allowing unsanitary conditions to fester and discriminating against detainees on the

Khalifi dictators expose Bahraini prisoners to Covid-19, Saudis triple VAT

Despite the spread of Covid-19 the khalifi regime continued the sham trials of native Bahraini activists. On 5th May five youths from the town of AbuQuwwa were dragged from torture cells to the khalifi "court" to be tried for participating in anti-regime peaceful protest. The show trial of Adnan Majed Adnan, Hussain Abdul Amir Radhi, Ahmad Essa Ibrahim, Abdulla Rashid Madan and Ahmad Yousuf Ahmad was adjourned despite their pleas of innocence and confirmation of their torture.

Meanwhile serious concerns have been raised following the removal of 60 detainees and several policemen for testing. They had shown symptoms of Covid-19. Families are fearful for their beloved children at the overcrowded khalifi torture cells. Total silence by the regime on this case has fueled more anxiety and anger.

A seminar to discuss the normalization of relations with Israel was ordered to stop half an hour after it had been launched in Manama. The online seminar was organized on 10th May by the Bahraini society against normalization (with Israel) and the Society of Bahraini Youth. Several activists from other Arab countries were scheduled to take part in the debate on the internet. An official of the khalifi regime called and ordered an immediate halt to the proceedings, threatening serious punishment if his orders were not implemented.

The dictatorial regime has undertaken the construction of one of the largest "concentration camps" in the region, adding more new buildings to the notorious Jau prison in the South of the country. Four new blocks have been added to the complex while old blocks 12-15 have been overhauled and prepared for more native Bahraini political prisoners. Despite this expansion and the release of those who had completed their jail terms over the past nine years, overcrowding remains a serious problem. The prison environment has consistently flouted the international

rules especially the social distancing introduced by WHO since the eruption of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A new form of what appears to be "benign" treatment has been enforced in recent weeks. Those who resort to hunger strike to protest the disastrous medical, hygiene and overcrowding conditions have now been denied phone calls to their families. This is in lieu of face-to-face visits which were stopped to stop the Covid-19 spread. Twenty five prisoners of conscience who went on strike recently have been told by the most senior prison official to "commit suicide" before getting the medical care they have been calling for. These people are held at the old blocks 12, 13 and 14 as well as the two new blocks 22 and 23. Ayyoub Adel, a native Bahraini political prisoner has now spent four days on hunger strike demanding proper medical care and an end to punishment for those who present such a demand. Instead of heeding his call, torturers have forced him sign a new false testimony.

In Spain, Mr Joan Baldoví, a Member of Parliament, posed a series of questions relating to the Spanish government's view and intention regarding the Government of Bahrain's record of human rights violations and requesting a written response. He represents *Coalició Compromís*, an electoral coalition in the Valencian Community. His questions queried the Spanish Government's actions in relation to the plight of political prisoners, the precise diplomatic measures that have been undertaken and explicit condemnation of grave human rights violations. The government's response was generalized, as it did not mention specific answers in relation to the questions Mr Baldoví had raised. It was a broad response to the Bahraini government's human rights record referring to the Spanish Government's involvement in the EU. It said that Spain was spearheading the human rights dialogue with Bahrain and its participation in the last Bahraini UPR.

On 9th May Human Rights Watch (HRW)

said that Saudi Arabian authorities had recently detained and are holding incommunicado Prince Faisal bin Abdullah, who had previously been netted in an anti-corruption drive and released in late 2017. Prince Faisal bin Abdullah, a son of late King Abdullah, was detained by security forces on March 27 while self-isolating due to the coronavirus pandemic at a family compound northeast of Riyadh.

The U.S. is removing four Patriot missile batteries from Saudi Arabia along with dozens of military personnel deployed following a series of attacks on the Saudi oil facilities last year, according to several U.S. officials. The attacks were linked to Saudi-led war on Yemen. It also emerged that serious U.S. threats prompted the Saudis to de-escalate their oil price war with Russia. The incident reveals the dysfunction of the U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia, where the increasingly blatant absence of mutual interests results in a strategic partnership kept afloat through ultimatums.

In an astonishing move, the Saudis have tripled the value-added tax on goods to 15 percent. The regime announced a slew of austerity measures to cope with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and an oil-price rout and cutting a cost-of-living allowance for government workers. The steps taken to shore up revenue and rationalize spending are valued at about 100 billion riyals (\$26.6 billion) in total, according to the official Saudi Press Agency. Ziad Daoud, Chief Emerging Market Economist at Bloomberg said: "Saudi Arabia's economic model is broken. The government has failed to create fiscal space in recent years to counter the virus shock. Instead, it is sharply cutting spending and raising taxes at a time when the economy is experiencing unprecedented contraction. Its policy toolkit is dated, contributing to swings in growth instead of stability."

Bahrain Freedom Movement

13th May 2020

basis of their religion.

Reprieve, which campaigns for abolishing capital punishment has belittled the significance of Saudi claim to have suspended executions of minors. In a statement this week it said: When headlines like this one were published on April 27 after the announcement of a new royal decree, the team here at Reprieve were quick to investigate the story behind the headlines. Was it real change, or was it just another public relations exercise? So far, it looks like it's a PR exercise aimed at Western journalists and decision-makers. The situation for Ali al-Nimr, Dawood al-Marhoon, Abdullah al-Zaher and 10 others remains the same today as it was when the announcement was made three weeks ago. Ali, Dawood and Abdullah could still be executed without warning.

On 18th May Newsweek published an opinion column by Tahaj Al-Hajji, a Saudi lawyer, titled: "Saudi Arabia says it will

stop executing children, but read the small print" The article said: Ten days have passed since the announcement. The decree has not been published. No death sentences have been commuted. Four young men, including Ali, remain at imminent risk of execution, one death sentence is being appealed, and prosecutors are seeking the death penalty in eight more juvenile cases. Tell me, how is this "eliminating" capital punishment for children?

Amnesty International has called on King Salman bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia to release several notable women's rights defenders, two years after they were detained. On 15 May 2018, a number of prominent Saudi women's human rights activists were arrested. They had been peacefully advocating for years for the right of women in the kingdom to drive, as well as broader reforms related to the repressive male guardianship system. In the days and weeks that followed, more of their fellow peaceful activ-

ists were detained as part of the Saudi authorities' crackdown and smear campaign. "It is heart-breaking that two years have now passed with these brave women still behind bars, especially as during this time Saudi women have been enjoying some of the newfound rights they had fought so hard for," said Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International's Middle East Research Director. "In prison, many suffered mental and physical anguish – including torture, sexual abuse and solitary confinement. Scores of others, though released, still face trial based on charges relating to their peaceful activism. "It is time the Saudi leadership stopped using the judiciary as a Damocles sword hanging above activists' heads. Saudi Arabia's 'reform drive' cannot be considered credible as long as these women and other peaceful activists are still being targeted for their work."

Bahrain Freedom Movement

20th May 2020

Above the law: How khalifis maintain an entrenched culture of impunity

In July 2011, the Bahraini government established the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI), which was charged with investigating allegations of human rights abuses in connection with the government's suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations that erupted in February 2011. Later that year, the BICI published a report which confirmed that government officials employed excessive force and discriminatory tactics in the execution of their official duties. Moreover, the BICI found that Bahrain's security forces had killed at least 18 demonstrators and detainees without justification. The commission recommended that investigations should be conducted into such deaths "with a view to bringing legal and disciplinary action against such individuals, including those in the chain of command, military and civilian, who are found to be responsible under international standards of superior responsibility". However, while authorities have been aggressively prosecuting individuals solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, there have been few prosecutions of security personnel implicated in the severe and widespread abuses documented by BICI. Those that have been prosecuted have largely been low-ranking officers, and even with these instances many have resulted in acquittals or disproportionately light sentences. Upon a Universal Periodic Review recommendation in 2009, the Bahraini government established the Bahraini National Institute for Human Rights (NIHR) as a semi-independent oversight mechanism in order to investigate human rights abuses in the country. According to its mandate, the NIHR is authorized to "study the legislations and regulations in force in the Kingdom relating to human rights, and to recommend the amendments it deems suitable". However, the ADHRB found this mandate does not prevent the institution from continuously demonstrating an evident overall lack of will and independence to objectively assess the human rights situation in Bahrain. The NIHR has a close connection to the Bahraini government and is de facto not an independent body; its complete lack of criticism in this regard helps endorse Bahraini policies that are inherently undemocratic and in this way allows the further abuse of human rights. By neglecting grave human rights abuses such as torture and extrajudicial killings, by effectively endorsing repressive policies by omission and by literally stating its support for government human rights abuses, the NIHR has shown that it is unable to objectively monitor the human rights situation in Bahrain.

A Culture of Impunity

In an attempt to highlight the culture of impunity perpetuated by the Bahraini government, in April 2019, ADHRB released a comprehensive report examining this issue at the core of the security agency that is the driving force behind Bahrain's human

rights crisis. In "The Anatomy of a Police State: Systematic Repression, Brutality, and Bahrain's Ministry of Interior", ADHRB analyzed over 1,000 incidents of abuse comprising more than 3,000 specific rights violations attributable to the Ministry of Interior (MOI) from 2011 through to the present day. This included arbitrary detention, torture, rape and extrajudicial killings. Bahrain's purported efforts to investigate and prosecute security personnel and officials have been seriously inadequate. As noted in an unpublicized US State Department assessment in 2013, other than the failed prosecution of Lt. Col. Mubarak Abdullah Bin Huwayl al-Marri and Lt. Shaika Nura Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, a member of the ruling family, "[t]here is no indication [that] any official is being held responsible or prosecuted for overseeing or committing acts leading to abuse, mistreatment, torture, or death." It must be noted that while both Lt. Col. Mubarak Abdullah Bin Huwayl al-Marri and Lt. Shaika Nura Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa were prosecuted for abuses committed against medical personnel, the court acquitted the defendants on all counts. Following his acquittal, Bin Huwayl met with Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. As reflected in a video recording of the meeting posted on YouTube, al-Marri told the prime minister, "[W]hen issues get big, you are the one with a solution." In response, the Prime minister said, "You know, those laws ... Nobody could apply them to you. No one can touch this bond between us. Whoever applies these laws against you applies them to us. We are one body."

Prince Nasser – A Human Rights Violator

Nowhere is impunity more so afforded than to Prince Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa – nicknamed the "Torture Prince" of Bahrain. As the son of the King, Prince Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa enjoys a high-ranking military role and is a Royal Guard commander; he has been documented to have been directly involved in the torture of activists during the 2011 pro-democracy protests. Due to the strength of evidence against him, the United Kingdom High Court decided to lift Prince Nasser's immunity regarding the prosecution of torture allegations. However, the culture of impunity within Bahrain means that despite the overwhelming evidence of torture, Prince Nasser is still entrusted with organizing large scale global events. This includes the country's first major defense expo in October 2017, which in 2018 was awarded Best Trade Exhibition Over 10,000 sqm at the Middle East Special Events (MESE) prize. Along with this, he was appointed to the kingdom's highest security body and is heavily involved in the procurement of Bahrain's defence and international security relationships. In the case of Prince Nasser, personally torturing protestors has not proven to be a hindrance in the performance

of his work. Prince Nasser still continues to travel blatantly around the world, accepting warm welcomes from governments that have a supposed focus on the achievement of human rights.

A Long List of Victims

The Bahraini criminal justice system is awash with impunity, which entrenches the belief that Bahraini authorities are above the law. At every level of the MOI, there is a pattern of police brutality and repression with individuals committing systematic human rights violations. The following individuals are exemplars of this large pattern of impunity within the ministry.

Abdulaziz Mayoof AlRumaihi, Director-General of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science (GDCIFS), was implicated in the February 2017 death of Abdullah AlAjouz. AlAjouz died under suspicious circumstances after an attempt to arrest him. His family and other observers believe that he was extrajudicially killed. However, despite the circumstances surrounding his death, the government did not launch an independent investigation. In 2018, AlRumaihi was promoted to Brigadier.

Even within the prison system, authorities act with impunity and little regard for human rights. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture has, for example, condemned the acts of severe cases of torture and sexual violence overseen by Adnan Bahar, who was as recently of January 2019 the acting head of Jau Prison. Furthermore, it has been reported that Maryam Al-Bardouli, Commander of the Isa Town Prison, has assaulted many political prisoners including Hajer Mansoor, Medina Ali and Najah Yusuf.

Since 2011, the Bahraini government has consistently ensured that any kind of accountability for human rights abuses committed by authorities and high-ranking officials is virtually non-existent. This has therefore helped entrench the country's culture of impunity within the security forces. Despite recommendations issued by the BICI, the establishment of national human rights watchdogs and statements issued by the regime that those responsible for the atrocities that occurred in February 2011 were held accountable, little has been done to bring justice to those who perpetrated acts of violence and torture against

peaceful demonstrators. BICI recommendations were largely ignored or insufficiently implemented, and human rights watchdogs in the country have been essentially a facade upheld to deceive the international community that the country is taking steps to reform. Moreover, high ranking individuals such as Prince Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa are still rewarded for committing human rights abuses rather than being justifiably punished for their actions.

