

BAHRAIN

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

Saudi executions, bigotry and extremism must be challenged

No society may flourish if governed by a political regime that feels it is at war with the citizens. Warmongering takes many shapes including denial of basic rights and dictatorship, persistent suspicion and social segregation. Among the practical manifestation of enmity are other daily practices that violate basic human rights. Among them are: mass arbitrary arrests, abuse of detainees including the use of physical and psychological torture, unfair trials, banishment, denial of basic rights such as the right to citizenship and equal treatment. Also among the ill-treatment is the disproportionate punishment. While Saudi penal system may chop the hand of a pity thief who may have been motivated to steal by his hunger, large scale thieves who plunder billions of dollars of oil money are allowed shielded and allowed to escape justice. The economic disparity is a deep illness in the Arabian Peninsula that is often swept under the carpet is a real challenge to modern statehood, the notion and justice and upholding the rule of law. Economic considerations must not be allowed to blur the vision of the politicians who are side-lining morals and principles as a short cut to achieving quick results at any cost. Humanity appears to be pushed towards moral and ethical abyss as the politicians squander the values of prophets, philosophers, social scientists and moralists. Mankind must be understood and treated in different ways than the animals who lack these considerations or possess the will to implement them.

In the past few months the Saudi regime went to extreme forms of punishment of its citizens as well as non-Saudis. In addition to targeting the Ughur Muslim refugees and returning some of them back to China, Palestinians are targeted mercilessly. Many of these homeless Arab Muslims are languishing in Saudi jails for years. Of particular concern is the condemnation of two innocent Bahrainis to death. Jaffar Sultan and Sadiq Thamer had their earlier conviction upheld by the Saudi High Court, thus paving the way for their imminent beheading and crucifixion. This could happen shortly after the king ratifies the judgement. The executioners are waiting for the order to chop off their heads. The two had been detained in May 2015 as they were crossing the Bahrain-Saudi causeway. They were falsely accused of possessing

guns allegedly for use on Saudi territories. The two have repeatedly denied such a false claim. International lawyers and jurists have also added that even if the charge is true, the severity of the punishment is disproportionate to the "crime". Life is so precious that it cannot be taken away for possessing a handgun. This illustrates the mentality of the rulers who view citizens as disposable commodities. They can be "imported" from abroad and can also be disposed of by the whim of the ruler's pen. This is outrageous. It only confirms the demand for political transformation in the Arabian Peninsula in order to safeguard the basic rights of the people including the right to live in peace.

The khalifi regime in Bahrain has always been complicit in such crimes. Many Bahrainis lost their lives on orders of the dictator who was received last month at the Windsor Horse Show despite calls from human rights bodies to shun him. His blood-stained hands had signed many orders to execute native Bahrainis for the smallest of "crimes" including protesting against the hereditary dictatorship. While lukewarm condemnation of the khalifi human rights atrocities had been uttered by some Western leaders, action has yet to be considered.

Human rights bodies and activists have repeatedly called for the application of sanctions on perpetrators of torture on Bahraini prisoners of conscience. Of particular significance is the call to use the Magnitsky sanctions that may deter the proponents of violence, torture and abuse. Executions on flimsy grounds are considered extrajudicial killing and must be closely and impartially addressed by the Western government. While Mr Biden has taken the unprecedented step of signing a law asking the State Department to prepare a comprehensive report on Bahrain's political prisoners, there are other steps that must also be considered. The report must be made public and Bahraini officials must be closely scrutinized for their role in inflicting the pain on native Bahrainis. The regime's normalization with the occupiers of Palestine may be in line with the Western policies, but other considerations must not be ignored or sidelined. The undeclared wars on morals, ethics, justice and the rule of law are real and may not be ignored for political expediency.

It is clear that in the present circumstances, the West has become more reluctant to anger the Saudis and their GCC allies. The rising fuel prices and the scarcity of foods and other items partially as a result of the Ukraine's crisis, are among the considerations taken into account by the Western leaders when addressing the human rights and democratic crisis in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain stand out as extreme forms of dictators and human rights abusers. Yet their oil wealth have shielded them against political and moral accountability. If this persists, the world political and moral direction could be jeopardised. People are dying as they endeavour to achieve their basic political and human rights. Thousands of political prisoners are languishing behind bars in these countries. Basic freedoms are denied them and harsh judicial processes that often lack the fair trial standards are in full force. Calls from behind bars are echoing in many corners of the world. These calls and pleas must be heeded if the world is to achieve peace and tranquillity.

Justice, democracy and human rights must become universal in order to reach to an equitable world. This is becoming a pressing issue as the world heads to the unknown in light of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Palestine and elsewhere. It must be addressed with utmost urgency to avoid catastrophe. While the economic pressures are real and serious, there are many ways to deal with them and minimize their impact on the ordinary people. Despite the sanctions that the Western alliance has imposed on Russia in the wake of the Ukrainian crisis, oil and gas from Russian continue to reach many parts of the world. Using the need for Saudi oil as an excuse not to challenge a bunch of the worst political regimes in the world cannot be justified morally or politically. Peace and security of the globe hinges on universalizing the basic values of human rights, justice, equality, humility and rule of law. If these are ignored the outcome will be detrimental to the well-being of mankind and the development of this planet. In addition to the climate change threats mother earth could face a dark future. This is what people of principles, religious values and moral stands do not want to happen.

Bahrainis on Saudi death row, HRW asks EU to take up HR with GCC

Yesterday Amnesty International (AI) urged Saudi Arabia to halt the execution of two Bahraini men accused of false crimes, as use of the death penalty spikes in the Arabian Peninsula. AI highlighted the cases of Jaafar Mohammad Sultan and Sadeq Majeed Thamer, two young men from Bahrain whose death sentences were upheld by Saudi Arabia's supreme court. Amnesty said the pair "are at imminent risk of execution". The sentences were handed down in October 2021 after a "grossly unfair" trial, with accusations including "smuggling explosive materials into Saudi Arabia and participating in anti-government protests in Bahrain", the London-based rights group said. Saudi authorities detained the men in October 2015, and the men have testified "that they were tortured and that their so-called confessions were extracted under duress", Amnesty said. The Saudis have so far killed more than 100 people since the beginning of this year and executions have more than doubled compared to 2020, Amnesty said in a report Tuesday analysing the use of the death penalty worldwide.

Yesterday Bahrainis marked the fifth anniversary of the cold-blooded murder by the khalifi forces of five native citizens. They were part of a crowd that had gathered outside the house of the most senior religious leader, Sheikh Isa Ahmad Qassim when, on 23rd May 2017, the dictator ordered his men to attack them. Five were martyred instantly by live bullets: Mohammad Hamdan, Mohammad Zain Al Din, Mohammad Al Sari, Ahmad Al Usfoor and Mohammad Al Ekri. Four months earlier, Mustafa Hamdan was martyred in an earlier attack at the same spot. There were several processions in the past two days in which pictures of the martyrs alongside

that of Sheikh Qassim were raised. They were defiant and many of them called for the trial of the killers.

On Monday 23rd May khalifi forces arrested a young native Bahraini for taking part in a peaceful protest. Fadel Khdeir was surrounded by police at a local park before he was snatched by the regime's agents.

It is now two months since Ali Ahmad Ali from Abu Saiba' town had been detained with no information about his whereabouts. He has not been allowed to contact his family or lawyer. His family is extremely concerned for the life of their son who has been forcibly disappeared. Political prisoner, Ali Essa has entered into an open hunger strike in protest at the lack of medical care. He suffers severe pain in his ears. He also needs essential clothes and other items. Political detainee Mohammad Hassan Ali Al Ramel is suffering from stomach ulcer for which he needs long term medication. He is experiencing great difficulties in getting these medicines. He is serving a life sentence for opposing the khalifi hereditary dictatorship. Another political prisoner, Ali Hussain Barakat is suffering several ailments but has not been granted proper medical care. He was only 16 when he was detained and sentenced to 22 years. He has spent 9 years so far, but his health is rapidly deteriorating.

Amnesty International has reportedly noted that the era of Mohammad Bin Salman has opened the darkest time in regard to human rights issues in the Arab kingdom. The international organization announced that since empowerment of Mohammad Bin Salman in 2015 the country has seen massive crackdown on freedom of expression targeting human rights advocates and numerous people who have voiced their opposition in any form.

It added, "All human rights or women rights advocates, independent journalists, authors and activists have been detained, unfairly sentenced or conditionally freed." On 20th May Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders tweeted: "I'm hearing disturbing reports that Woman Human Rights Defender @JAlmarzoqi (Jenan Al Marzooqi) has been receiving abuse and threats online and offline in retaliation for her human rights advocacy about the #UAE. I've serious concerns for her wellbeing, particularly since her UAE citizenship was revoked." Al Marzooqi has been calling for the release of her father, Abdul Salam Darwish who has been in Emirati jail since 23rd July 2012. His son, Salman died in exile in November 2021.

On 17th May Human Rights Watch sent a letter to the EU on its New Partnership with the Gulf Countries. It urged the bloc to take into account the dismal human rights of the GCC counties. It said in the letter to the three highest ranking EU officials saying: "We are writing to share our concerns and recommendations on the upcoming Joint Communication on a partnership with the Gulf. We believe it is imperative that the Communication highlights the poor human rights situation among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members, and that it clearly states an EU commitment to address those concerns, linking progress in bilateral relations to specific human rights benchmarks, particularly with regards to freedom of expression, freedom of association, human rights defenders, women's rights, children's rights, labor rights, arbitrary detention and torture."

Bahrain Freedom Movement
25th May 2022

Khalifi image smeared at Windsor, Saudis execute 3, Interpol chief investigated

Yesterday, a Khalifi court upheld a one-year prison sentence on six under-aged native Bahrainis. They were accused of opposing the tribal dictatorship and called for democratic transformation. The six are: Mohammad Jaffar Al Kuwaiti, 15, his two brothers, Muqtada, 15 and Muntadhar, 14, Ahmad Hubail, 15, Mohammad Abdul Zahra, 15 and Ali Hussain, 14. They were arrested in December.

On 15th May Mahmood Abdul Jabbar who is serving a ten-year prison sentence imposed by khalifis for his political views started hunger strike. He is protesting the dire situation at the Dry Dock prison and the lack of proper treatment and medication for his sickle cell disease. He was only 17 when he was charged and sentenced in 2019.

The native Bahraini political prisoner, Ahmad Jaber who was released from khalifi jails last week has attracted the attention of many when he emerged with supporting steel rods attached to his head. He was in a

perfect health when he was detained 18 months ago. He was given ten years prison sentence for his political opposition and left to rot in the filthy cells. He attracted Tuberculosis outside the lungs which crippled him. This is due to a bacteria that attacks various parts of the body like the bones, kidneys and the nervous system.

Political inmates at the Central Jau Prison have expressed solidarity with Mohammad Abdul Amir Al Sari who is serving 18 years jail sentence for his political stands. He is now suffering severe form of epilepsy after years of medical neglect. Also at Jau prison an elderly political prisoner was severely tortured this week. Hajji Abd Ali Khair, 53 was beaten mercilessly by one the torturers. His identity was given as Mohammad Salem.

The visit to UK by Bahrain's dictator to attend the Windsor Horse Show has become a public relations disaster to him and his hosts. Human rights bodies, journalists and political activists had called for the

visit to be cancelled as a sign of respect to his thousands of victims, many of whom had died and thousands more have suffered lengthy jail sentences. The Guardian published an article by Mark Townsend, its Home Affairs Editor titled: "Exiles angry as Queen hosts king of Bahrain." It said: "The ruling Al-Khalifa family continues to repress Bahraini civil society and severely restrict fundamental civic freedoms. Despite this, since at least 2013, the Queen has made annual invitations to Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa AlKhalifa for him to attend the Royal Windsor Horse Show (RWHS) as her personal guest." There were similar articles in the Independent and other media. On 17th May Under the heading: Bahrain Sportswashing at Windsor Horse Show, Kirsten Bayes, CAAT's Local Outreach Coordinator wrote: Bahrain is an authoritarian dictatorship, an absolute monarchy, which has a long history of human rights abuses. Allegations of torture go back decades, and during the

AlSingace's case haunts Bahrain regime, Saudis urged to end travel ban

Officials of the regime's security apparatus have summoned scores of native Bahrainis from Sitra and other areas for interrogation about their participation in pro-Palestine protests towards the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Many have raised slogans against the regime's policy of normalization with the occupiers of Palestine. Among those summoned were Majid Abdul Mohsin Abdulla (known locally as Hajji Sumood) and Ali Muhanna. Both have been summoned more than 10 times in the past six months.

The political detainees at the notorious Jau prison are being locked up inside their cells for twenty two and a half hours every day. They are allowed outside their cells for only one and a half hours. This is a punishment for not totally conforming to the draconian rules imposed by the regime's torturers. In the present extremely hot climate (temperatures reach over 45 degrees) this is an additional punishment against native Bahrainis who remain steadfast and defiant.

A native Bahraini political prisoner was re-arrested three days after he had been released. Sadiq Jaffar Al Asfoor from Sitra town had completed his five-year prison sentence that started when he was underage and was released on 2nd May. Three days later he went back to the torture building to complete the release procedure but he was re-arrested. He was told that he had to spend more years behind bar in a case related to his peaceful protests that goes back to 2014. The family of political prisoner, Ali Ma'tooq are asking the prison officials to provide their detained son with proper medical treatment. The young activist is suffering numerous ailments linked to the brain & the nervous system. Jeremy Corbyn, MP has tweeted the following: "The UK Foreign Office funds

training to @MoI_ (Ministry of the Interior of) Bahrain who continue to unlawfully imprison leading Bahraini academic Dr AlSingace. AlSingace has spent over 300 days on hunger strike demanding the return of his confiscated research."

Baroness Natalie Bennett is also taking interest in the case of Dr Abdul Jalil Al Singace by raising his case in social media and with the UK Government. In her latest tweet she said: "300 days #AlSingace on hunger strike in Bahrain, asking his confiscated academic research be given to his family."

The case of Dr Alsingace is attracting wider interest. Scholars At Risk (SAR) has urged for action to get him released. In its latest campaign it said: "SAR calls for letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging the appropriate authorities to ensure Dr. Al-Singace's well-being while in custody, including proper access to medical care and visits with his family, that any charges or convictions related to Dr. Al-Singace's peaceful exercise of protected human rights are lifted, and that in the interim, his case is addressed in a manner consistent with internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial, and detention, in accordance with Bahrain's obligations under international law."

Andy Slaughter, the Labour MP has urged the UK Government to apply sanctions on human rights abusers in some GCC countries. He said: "Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi are all classed as close trading and political allies of the UK. What they also have in common is locking up political prisoners, torture and execution without due process. Zuhair Abdullah and Husain Rashid are in imminent danger of execution in Bahrain, having exhausted legal remedies. Will the Foreign Secretary be sure to sanction human rights abusers in

so-called friendly countries, as well as those that are not so friendly?"

Bahrainis have reacted angrily to the latest murder by the Israelis of a media woman. Today, Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was shot and killed by Israeli occupation forces while covering an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin. It was a cold-blooded murder that has provoked angry feelings especially among those who knew her. The killing is a blatant crime, carried out in daylight by the occupiers. For the people of Bahrain, the crime has brought back sad memories of similar crimes by the khalifis in Bahrain. Ten years ago, On 12th April 2012 regime's forces shot dead Salah Habib Abbas who was covering a protest by the native Bahrainis at the town of Shakhoura. His killers remain at large.

On 9th May Amnesty International (AI) called for ending travel ban on many former and present political prisoners in Saudi Arabia. It said that it had documented 30 cases for political and human activists those who had been tried, convicted and jailed, in addition to 39 of their relatives. AI has called for an immediate end of these draconian measures that violate their basic human rights. The travel ban is used as a tool to punish and control activists, writers and journalists by locking them inside the country, or, in the case of those living abroad, by preventing their families from travelling overseas. "The Saudi Arabian authorities' arbitrary use of travel bans against activists and human rights defenders reflects a bleak reality in the country, where dissenting voices continue to be ruthlessly silenced while leaders speak of progressive reform," said Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
11th May 2022

"Arab Spring" the regime jailed dozens of pro-democracy activists, many of whom are still in prison. Medical neglect of prisoners, and threats to dissidents and their families are common. Survivors of torture and teargassing by the regime were present on the demonstration at the weekend, which also highlighted the long-term abuse of political prisoners by the regime. Reprieve, the anti-capital punishment body also reacted angrily to the dictator's visit and tweeted: "Torture survivors spend years on Bahrain's death row, in fear of execution without notice. #Bahrain rulers return home with the comforting thought that no matter how much pain they inflict on their people, they will still be feted in the UK".

The Saudi regime has, once again, committed a grave crime against the people of the Eastern Province of Arabia. On Saturday 14th May his executioners beheaded two natives for taking part in anti-regime protests several years ago. Mohammed bin Khodr bin Hashem al-Awami and

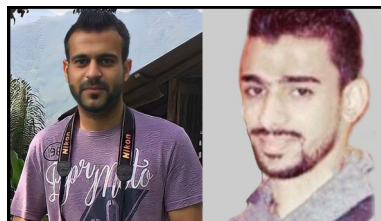
Hussein bin Ali al-Abu Abdullah, were executed after a secret unfair trial. They were subjected to horrific torture and forced to sign fabricated confessions that they had carried out "terrorist" acts. A Yemeni prisoner, Mohammad Abdul Baset Al Mu'allimi was the third victim of the Saudi atrocity. His main "crime" was his links with the Ansarullah movement. On 12th March 81 were executed, including 41 from the Eastern Province.

Last week, UAE president, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan passed away following a long illness. His brother, Mohammad bin Zayed (MBZ) inherited his position. Britain's foreign secretary, Liz Truss tweeted her congratulations to MBZ: Congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his election as President of the United Arab Emirates. I pay tribute to his leadership, and look forward to growing the

already strong relationship between our two countries." Phil Miller, Chief reporter of @DeclassifiedUK tweeted: "Britain's foreign secretary here endorsing a presidential "election" where just 7 people had the right to vote ". Meanwhile French authorities have opened a case against Interpol president Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi of the United Arab Emirates over accusations of torture and arbitrary detention filed by two Britons who were detained in the country. According to AFP, the case into suspected complicity in torture by the top UAE official has been handed by French anti-terror prosecutors to an investigating magistrate who will now decide whether to press charges. The

two Britons, Matthew Hedges and Ali Issa Ahmad, accuse al-Raisi of having ultimate responsibility – as a senior interior ministry security official – for the torture and arbitrary detention they suffered in the UAE.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
18th May 2022



Amnesty defines MBS era as darkest of Al Saud rulers

Amnesty International has called empowerment of Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman as the onset of the darkest era for Al Saud ruling in terms of human rights.

Amnesty International has reportedly noted that the era of Mohammad Bin Salman has opened the darkest time in regards to human rights issues in the Arab kingdom.

The international organization announced that since

empowerment of Mohammad Bin Salman in 2015 the country has seen massive crackdown on freedom of expression targeting human rights advocates and numerous people who have voiced their opposition in any form.

It added, "All human rights or women rights advocates, independent journalists, authors and activists have been detained, unfairly sentenced or conditionally freed." Among the sentences issued for these people are banning their travels or limiting their peaceful activities. Horrendous murder of dissent Saudi journalist Jamal



Khashoggi in the country's consulate in Istanbul in October 2018 is only one of the crimes committed by Al Saud against its critics. Digital monitoring and targeting activists outside Saudi Arabia and via cyber space, controlled by Saudi government, has created an ambiance of fear and crackdown.

Amnesty International has announced in its

previous report that illegal sentences and travel ban

issued by Saudi authorities is another instance of crackdown by the government.

The report also says that the travel ban is a tactic by Saudi authorities to silence the critics both inside and outside the country, a decision which violates international human rights.

The organization has launched an international campaign titled "Lift-Travel-Ban" reasoning that Saudi authorities are using the arbitrary sentences as means to punish and control the activists, authors, journalists and their families in the Arab country and overseas.

The campaign has referred to the files of 30 human rights advocates who have received jail terms and whose travel ban will be implemented following the end of their prison terms.

It has also enumerated 39 activists whose family members have been banned from travel without official orders.

Lynn Maalouf, Deputy Director for Research in Amnesty International' Middle East and North Africa Regional Office said, "The arbitrary use of travel ban by Saudi officials targeting activists and human rights advocates reveals the truth that the opposite voices are still silenced while Saudi authorities are claiming to pursue gradual reform in the Arab kingdom. Maalouf said, "Activists who dare to express criticism are not particularly favored by the authorities; therefore, they make the victims of illegal decisions and travel bans" calling on Saudi officials to lift all arbitrary travel bans and respect freedom of expression for all.

Activists living outside Saudi Arabia say that the emotional impacts of the decision have been the worst for them since they are not able to visit their families or their homeland as they are likely to be detained if they enter Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia: Halt imminent execution of two Bahraini men

On 23rd May Amnesty International issued an URGENT ACTION calling on Saudi Arabia to halt the execution of two Bahraini men: It said:

Jaafar Mohammad Sultan and Sadeq Majeed Thamer, two Bahraini Shi'a men, are at imminent risk of execution in Saudi Arabia. The Specialized Criminal Court sentenced them to death in October 2021 following a grossly unfair trial for terrorism-related charges, which include smuggling explosive materials into Saudi Arabia and participating in antigovernment protests in Bahrain. In April 2022, the Supreme Court upheld their sentences, rendering their execution imminent as soon as the King ratifies it. Amnesty International calls on the Saudi authorities not to ratify the death sentence, quash their conviction and re-try them in line with international fair trial standards.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud

Royal Court, Riyadh

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: +966 11 403 3125

Twitter: @KingSalman

Your Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,

Two Bahraini Shi'a men, Jaafar Mohammad Sultan and Sadeq Majeed Thamer are at imminent risk of execution following the Supreme Court's decision in April

2022 to uphold their death sentences, despite the defendants' claims before the court that they had been subjected to severe beatings during their interrogations. The two men were convicted of a range of offences including: "Joining a terrorist entity ... which aims to cause chaos and shake the security of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain"; "Participating in protests in Bahrain"; and smuggling bags of explosives to Saudi Arabia "with the aim of breaching Saudi Arabia's security". The Specialized Criminal Court sentenced both men to death in October 2021 after a prolonged and unfair trial which had begun in January 2019. The Appeals Court upheld their sentences in January 2022.

Both men were detained incommunicado and in solitary confinement for three-and-a-half months following their arrest on 8 May 2015. They were only allowed to call their families 115 days later, during which time prison officials did not allow them to discuss their detention or interrogation conditions. Their families were allowed their first visit in October 2015. Jaafar Mohammad Sultan and Sadeq Majeed Thamer had no access to legal representation throughout their pre-trial detention and interrogation. According to court documents, they told the court that they were tortured and that their so-called confessions were extracted under duress.

Jaafar Mohammad Sultan also told the court that he was beaten with cables and

threatened that he would not see his family until he signed the "confession" as formulated by the investigator. According to the court document detailing his defence, he was subsequently transferred to the prison hospital for 10 days due to the torture he endured.

I urge you not to ratify the execution of Jaafar Mohammad Sultan and Sadeq Majeed Thamer, and to quash their conviction and death sentence, given the grave concerns about the fairness of their trial, and to order a re-trial in line with international fair trial standards, without recourse to the death penalty. Furthermore, I call on you to order a prompt, impartial, independent and effective investigation into their claims before the court of torture and ill-treatment and to immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty in Saudi Arabia.

