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By Pablo Jofré Leal
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The struggle continues



Sources: Rebellion

The resistance forces of the people of Bahrain, in struggle against the monarchy of the Al Khalifa, maintain high the demands aimed at achieving the objectives set since that Tamarod – Rebellion – initiated in 2011 and that meant the irruption of troops from Saudi Arabia to prop up the allied regime. (1)

I refer to the fact that the majority Shiite population of Bahrain, ruled with an iron fist by the Monarchy of Sheikh Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa and a dynasty that has ruled Bahrain since the late eighteenth century, mobilizes with the aim of demanding democratic reforms and the end of discrimination by the regime allied with the United States and in the process of making visible its agreements with the Zionist regime. Let us remember that since February 2011, coinciding with other uprisings in the Arab world, the small country located in the Persian Gulf has been the scene of social mobilizations aimed at achieving

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the release of political prisoners who are crowded by thousands in the prisons of the monarchical regime, suspend all kinds of repression, as well as suspend all cooperation in any field with Zionism. Generate a structural change in the apolitical system that ends, finally, with the end of the monarchy and make its inhabitants participate in the progress of the country and not be led by a family clan.

Bahrain is the scene of periodic demonstrations, which are often brutally repressed by Bahraini security forces, who have been trained by Saudi Arabia's security services and Israel's Mossad. Social mobilizations that are aimed at obtaining the freedom of political prisoners in these twelve years of rebellion, the withdrawal of the Saudi military forces that remained in Bahrain as advisers and that at the time crossed the King Fahd Causeway – a 26-kilometer-long bridge that connects this island with Saudi Arabia – and that propped up the Monarchy of Al Khalifa along with US support taking into account that Since 1990, the territory of this island has been in the main port of Bahrain, Juffar, the so-called Fifth Naval Fleet and 4, <> members of the US Armed Forces, along with British troops who also have military and naval installations on the island.

Bahrain, for the Western hegemonic power, thus acquires a strategic importance: located opposite Iran, in the Persian Gulf, trying to influence an area through which about 40% of the oil that goes to the West transits and where the Islamic Republic of Iran exercises its legitimate right to the custody of its sovereignty. The U.S. Fifth Fleet is responsible for the Naval Forces that operate, not only in the Persian Gulf, but also in the Red Sea, the Sea of Oman and the east coast of Africa to Kenya in the south. Bahrain is also home to the command of the US Naval Forces Central Command – Navcent – component of the United States Central Command, CENTCOM and which offers the Issa Base for the use of its airstrip of a hundred war aircraft, used, for example, for air support to the war of aggression suffered by Syria and surveillance work on Iraqi soil. At the end of 2015, Washington completed doubling the capacity of Manama International Airport in order to increase its current capacity as part of its geostrategic reorientation in the Persian Gulf region, the east coast of Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East.

The resistance forces in Bahrain have insisted on achieving unity and preserving it in order to confront the Al Khalifa monarchy, aware that it is unity that allows forces and objectives to be available that summon the maximum population. Maximize the actions of resistance and not suffer too much the rigors of a regime that detains, tortures, kidnaps and murders. The unity of each of Bahrain's movements, parties and organizations such as Al Wefaq, Bahrain Liberation Front, the Arab Socialist Baath Party, and the Arab Nationalist

Movement, is on the way to overthrowing the monarchy, in the goal of achieving a system where the population has guaranteed their political and social rights.

This is especially because West Asia and some African countries are engaged in a process of rapprochement, agreements and closer ties with Zionism and this represents a danger for the whole of West Asia and the Maghreb. And unity is the way to confront this Zionization of Arab governments' relations with the infanticidal entity. Unity is a necessary path of struggle, an imperative, no single force will triumph over the Al Khalifa without broad social support. And, finally, to preserve unity is precisely to prevent the objective of the regime, which is to disunite, disintegrate, fragment. Unity is a maxim more necessary than ever in Bahrain, as well as in all those countries subject to the arbitrariness of totalitarian regimes.

The conviction of the Bahraini people is that they live ruled by a monarchy that only plunders the wealth of the country for the benefit of a dynasty that in addition to taking over the administration of the state carry out businesses that multiply their wealth to the detriment of 1,700,000 inhabitants. It is the reality of a society made up of 50% Bahrainis and another 50% immigrants who are exploited to satisfy the desires of luxury and projects of a family caste, a government plagued by nepotism where wealth is possessed. The Al Khalifa of Bahrain, an absolute monarchy under the constitutional mantle, where the king, with four wives and 15 children, his powerful uncle and heir maintain an iron control of the money that enters through oil, gas, real estate investments and having turned the country into an international financial center, real estate investments.

Nothing is done in Bahrain without the approval of the Al Khalifa family. Even squandering money on events such as Bahrain's Formula I Grand Prix, international fashion events or donating to former King Juan Carlos of Spain two million dollars simply because he felt like it to the Al Khalifa. The liberalization of the economy and the privatization of basic services are detrimental to a population that pays high taxes while the ruling caste usually keeps its billions of dollars in foreign banks. Where there is also clear economic discrimination against the majority Shiite population along with the limited rights of migrant workers under the sponsorship system – kafala -. Wealth is only seen in the ruling family and the monarchical bureaucracy but the rest of society finds it difficult to access well-paid jobs, housing, with high inflation that affects the acquisition of basic goods and foodstuffs. That is, the Bahraini state neglects the economy, industry and this implies dwarfing the state, enlarging the presence of the private world that in turn responds to the monarchy.

If we add to the above the policy of permanent violation of the human rights of the majority Shiite population – proven by official investigations demanded since the bloody repression of 2011 – and that has not changed at all. Investigations of ill-treatment led to impunity for the perpetrators. The migrant working population suffered wage theft and, together with the prison population, violations of their right to health. The government violated the right to privacy through the use of invasive surveillance using the Pegasus program, an Israeli creation that has generated criticism from human rights organizations such as Amnesty International that has declared that Pegasus is an outrage on people's privacy and allows the surveillance of political leaders, presidents, human rights organizations, among others. Indeed, new investigations have revealed how NSO Group's notorious Pegasus spyware was used to infect the devices of three activists in Bahrain, highlighting once again the serious threat that Pegasus poses to those critical of repressive governments.

In general, when I deal with the situation in Bahrain, I note that this country has not changed one iota its reality of being considered a society ruled by a monarchical regime with constitutional makeup where an Arab people are massacred, but the press says nothing. Neither NATO nor the United States is coming to their aid. The United Nations is silent and this is for a very simple reason: Bahrain is a monarchy of petrodollars, lackey and satellite of American hegemony and this order should not be altered. With Bahrain the strategy of blindness is used, not listening and even less hearing the cries of a people with an air of freedom and yet it is being drowned by an internal monarchy and the eagerness of a monarchy with pretensions of regional power, which usually not only helps to repress its neighbors, but also to finance and support terrorist movements such as Al-Qaeda, Daesh and other Salafist movements opposed to Islam itself.

The Arab governments have hardly issued an opinion of support for the Bahraini people that is explained by the strong campaign against Shiism that is sponsored by the Saudi monarchy to which it enthusiastically joins Washington that sees in it its own objectives of hybrid war against Iran. Becoming an accomplice of Bahrain's royal family by downplaying the severity of repression and violence and has continued to invoke arguments to make Bahrain a special case. To clean up the image of this regime, it was ordered to create a special monarchical commission to investigate the facts denounced at the time as violations of human rights, concluding that neither the royal family nor its political system are responsible for the deterioration of human rights in that kingdom.

The so-called Bassiouni commission, as well as the recommendations made by the Human Rights Council, have not served to stop the repression against the Bahraini population, which continues to demonstrate in order to bring about significant changes in their political, religious and social situation. The events, actions and development of Tamarod in Bahrain show that this Commission, if it had been truly independent, would have had to conclude that the repression in Bahrain would not have been possible without the coverage of the United States and the European Union which, according to analyst Abu Khalil, "seems to love and care for Arabs, while watching with joy the slaughter of others."

The Saudi monarchy has intervened politically and militarily in Bahrain, fearful that the influence of the struggle in this small country, with a majority Shiite population, will spread with its fire of indignation to the east of the country, where a significant Shiite minority lives in the Al Qatif region, in the province of Al Sharqiya, around the cities of Dharhan and Awamiyah. Protests against the Al Khalifa monarchy and its Wahhabi support have intensified since November 2011, especially in the aforementioned eastern region of the country, which explains the strong repression against demands for greater political freedom, freedom of expression and mobilization as well as the end of economic and religious discrimination. This intervention, outside international legality, has meant not only strong internal repression, but also conflicts with the government of Iran, which supports the opposition movements in Bahrain belonging to the Shiite majority (2)

Since the beginning of Tamarod in Bahrain – in February 2011 – laws aimed at combating demonstrations by the population have intensified repression and the harsh prosecution of any act, which according to the Bahraini authorities, goes against public order and the legitimacy of the monarchy. So-called "Protection of the community against terrorist acts" laws applied against political opposition and human rights activists. For human rights groups, Bahrain is at risk of instability due to the level of human rights violations in the country and the impunity of the security forces for these abuses.

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