

# Human Rights Violations in Bahrain

On August 26th, the following statement was issued jointly by the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Bahrain, and the Committee for the Defense of Political Detainees in Bahrain.

Since Bahrain's independence on August 14, 1971, the government has systematically violated human rights as they are defined in the International Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution of the State of Bahrain, adopted by the Constituent Assembly and the government on June 9, 1973. As the people of Bahrain struggled for exercising their legitimate rights, democracy, real independence, justice and equality among citizens, they suffered repression from the security and intelligence apparatus which is directed by British officers - Lt. Col. Bell and Col. Henderson. In addition, there are a number of mercenaries of different nationalities who practice torture and terror against the people as a means of making a living.

Bahrain has witnessed waves of repression and arrest campaigns, where thousands of patriots of different social strata, males and females, were jailed. Many of them were exposed to physical and psychological torture; some were martyred under torture, while others suffered lasting physical and mental disabilities.

The situation of prisoners in Bahrain is miserable. Commonplace phenomena include: solitary confinement of long duration, denial of contact with the outside world, lack of minimal sanitary conditions, absence of supervision by any independent judicial or health authority. Detainees are systematically exposed to humiliation and torture, even after being sentenced.

In addition, the government of Bahrain resorts to other repressive measures which contradict human rights and the rights of Bahraini citizens. These include: stripping persons of their citizenship, deportation, deprival of employment and means of livelihood, and prohibition of return to the homeland. The violation of human rights and the practice of repression, arrest and torture, are the Bahraini government's official policy, as has been verified by Arab and international human rights committees.

The government's repressive policy has accelerated. Detainees, including many women, of different ages and backgrounds, were exposed to barbaric

physical and psychological torture, including sexual assault which grossly contravenes religious and human values. This policy incites the feelings of our people who possess militant traditions. It motivates their determination to safeguard their religious and national unity, led by religious and patriotic forces and personalities. It will motivate our people to confront the regime's terror, until securing dignity for the ordinary citizen and freedom for our country.

The Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Bahrain, and the Committee for the Defense of Political Detainees in Bahrain, express their gratitude for the solidarity rendered by different forces and personalities. At the same time, the two committees appeal to all political, religious and social forces, and to Arab and international organizations concerned with defending human rights, peace and democracy, to increase their solidarity in order to stop the terror sweeping our country, and save the lives and dignity of our citizens.

## International Terrorism

## Concepts and Roots

The highest rate of terrorism accompanied the emergence of the capitalist mode of production. The new relations of production promoted by the bourgeoisie would not have been imposed in Europe without violence and terrorism against the then powerful feudal authority. The bourgeoisie intentionally forgot its past history, and now contends that the revolutionary violence practiced by the proletariat and the national liberation move-

ments, to achieve their legitimate rights, is terrorism that threatens international peace.

«They accuse us of terrorism... However, the British bourgeoisie forgot 1845, while the French bourgeoisie completely ignored the year 1797... Terrorism was considered just and legitimate when they practiced it against the feudalists, while terrorism became a barbaric and criminal act when the poor workers and peasants dared to use it against their enemy, the

bourgeoisie.»<sup>(1)</sup>

### STATE TERRORISM

With the spread of colonialism, and capitalism's development into imperialism, the bourgeoisie imposed its hegemony over the peoples and resources of the world through violence against the domestic working class and even more massively against the people of the three continents. The phenomenon of state terrorism arose as a