

# ENGLISH ARTICLES

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## A Personal Mission Statement

As I was growing up, I was the kind of child, who questioned everything and everyone around her. For years I sought to unlock what I saw as the mysteries of life but hard as I tried those secrets remained tight lipped.

When I became a mother some things, like my responsibilities, became clear but I still had no answers to the many pressing questions that still haunted me. Essentially, I felt I wanted to make a difference but I didn't know how and where to start.

As I reached the golden age of 40 it was as if I had woken from a long sleep. Everything became crystal clear. I knew what I had to do. I had to embark on a journey of reform, first in my personal life and then in my public life.

The first step was to leave an unhappy marriage and take full responsibility for my five children. Once I experienced reform in my private life, I wanted to see it everywhere. I especially wanted to see it in my country, Saudi Arabia, whose problems I was no longer afraid to highlight.

But my country was only a starting point and increasingly I felt the need to promote respect and freedoms within all societies and between genders.

My message is global. I have taken upon myself this responsibility and I invite you to join me on this momentous journey. My mission is to promote peace, prosperity and dignity, not war. We live in an age of cynicism where no one feels they can make a difference. It's time we all stood up to our responsibilities, pooled our efforts together and pushed for a better, more equitable world.

This quest needs to be undertaken with wisdom and with a faith that we can make a difference. For the sake of our future generations, we must fear no one but God in our effort to bring prosperity, transparency, respect, equality and freedom.

## ▪ Biography :

Princess Basmah Bint Saud Bin Abdulaziz is the granddaughter of King Abdulaziz (1876-1953) reigned 1932 – 1953 founder of the modern Saudi state and the 115th daughter of his son King Saud (1902–1969); reigned 1953–1964. The state of Saudi Arabia was established in 1932 after Princess Basmah's father and grandfather succeeded in uniting the disparate and warring tribes that populated the deserts of Arabia.

King Saud was instrumental in bringing Saudi Arabia to the modern age. He built up the infrastructure of the country inaugurating the first roads, airports, schools and universities. In 1962 he succeeded in abolishing slavery which was still rife in the kingdom and worked hard to draft a Constitution. However before he could do that he was overthrown by his brother Prince Faisal, later King Faisal (reigned 1964-1975). History was rewritten and all achievements previously attributed to King Saud were transferred to King Faisal.

King Saud was portrayed as a wasteful King who mismanaged his country's finances and all mention of him in The Official History of Saudi Arabia was crossed out. His daughter Princess Basmah has taken over the mantle of reform from her father and is a tireless advocate of peaceful but essential reform in the Kingdom and elsewhere.

## Establishing a roadmap: The Fourth Way

The Fourth Way is about tackling the root causes of discontent with sound leadership, respect and foresight, and creating the conditions necessary to bring access to opportunity to all.

The Fourth Way is a global constitution, one that features a bedrock of guarantees for all people, but which can also be tailored to fit different social contexts and local circumstances. It is both a statement of ideals, and a compromise document.

There are certain fundamentals of life that provide all citizens with the dignity and composure to live life in peace, fundamentals which resonate both in the corridors of power in a capital city and in the most traditional and most distant community in the land.

Those are: security, freedom, equality and education.

In breaking down and addressing each of these fundamentals in turn, The Fourth Way distils rights to their core, so they become a platform that can be built upon depending on the national, regional, social and historical context. One size does not fit all, of course – the Fourth Way is a platform to build on, offering a core of rights that all find acceptable. From there, each place tailors it to their particular context.

Many of the rights cut across categories and support one another, and have application in different categories. None contradict or preclude each other.

**BIOGRAPHY :**

Born in Riyadh to the Saudi Royal family, Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Basmah is the daughter of King Saud, and the granddaughter of King Abdel Aziz, the founder of the modern state of Saudi Arabia in 1932.

HRH Princess Basmah is a keen and gifted writer, columnist, and humanitarian advocate with excellent insight into the Arab world and its interaction with the international community in its social, political, and religious dimensions. She devotes a lot of her time and energies to raising awareness and creating understanding about pressing social issues in Saudi Arabia, the wider Middle East, and the world.

**2006-2011**

HRH Princess Basmah Bint Saud started her brave and often outspoken journalism from Saudi Arabia in 2006, when she started writing for newspapers across the Middle East, such as Al-Medina Weekly, Al-Hayat, Al-Ahram, and Sayidaty.

HRH, a conservative reformist, is still considered a bold and articulate writer with an insightful pen, who is not afraid to ruffle feathers with her well observed but balanced criticism in pursuit of justice, human rights, and individual freedom for people in the Arab world and beyond. These characteristics stand out all the more given her position not only as a woman from a conservative society, but also as a member of the Saudi royal family. She is an advocate for women's rights and is sensitive to the cultural constraints in which women's lives are limited.

During this initial period in Saudi Arabia, Princess Basmah established Inseed Holdings, the company through which she manages her various work interests, including Princess Basmah

Bint Al Saud Government / Corporate political and Risk Consultancy, which supports and motivates people using a wide range of communications techniques; and a successful chain of restaurants in Saudi Arabia, showcasing her unique entrepreneurship skills that combine the creativity and distinction of top-quality restaurants.

Princess Basmah is the chairman of the board of Invireo Company for environmental solutions and international Saudi Life Echo Centre. She is the CEO and founder of Basmah Comprehensive Centre for Women's Security Training. Her Royal Highness is also a member for WAGE Global Advisory Committee, which promotes women's leadership in designing and advancing the green economy. The WAGE campaign was born out of one overarching reality: the scarcity of women players in bodies that govern and shape our economy, specifically in approaching global solutions to climate change.

HRH Princess Basmah not only established herself as a keen analyst in political and social issues and a humanitarian activist, but also a sports development enthusiast, playing a leading role in the Arab world and particularly in her own culture. Furthermore, HRH is a patron of Saudi art and artists and has dedicated efforts to the empowerment of Islamic women's art.

## **2011 – 2014**

In 2011, HRH Princess Basmah moved to London and successfully established Inseed Holding Company. Inseed is an umbrella which spans her business interests, and is intended to become a leading company in Europe, if not the world.

Under the Inseed umbrella, HRH Princess Basmah Bint al-Saud established Global United Lanterns (UGL), her humanitarian organization which works to solve humanity's gravest problems;

and Global United Research Centre (GURA), a research arm of UGL.

HRH Princess Basmah Bint Saud continued to excel in her business ambitions in expanding her successful restaurant chain to London by opening a branch of Les Artistes in Notting Hill.

Her Highness established the Fourth Way Law during this period, as a global constitution created to usher the world through this period of instability. It aims at tackling the root causes of discontent with sound leadership, respect and foresight, and creates the conditions necessary to bring access to opportunity to all and a way out of the threatening turbulence of recent years.

During her time in London, HRH Princess Basmah has also focused on her humanitarian work. In May 2013, HRH Princess Basmah paid a humanitarian visit to the Middle East, during which she visited Syrian refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon, shedding light on their needs and addressing their concerns.

HRH Princess Basmah Bint al Saud established herself in London as a base for her conference engagements. During these three years she has spoken at various conferences and events including Women Leaders Forum, Yale Club of New York, International Symposium on Human Rights in Saudi Arabia, Arab - Israeli Peace Initiative in Doha, European Policy Center, The University of Cambridge, Madeleine Korbelt Albright Institute, Oxford University Union, The University of St. Andrews, Women's National Republican Club, UCLA, Chatham House, The Middle East University, Amman, The Arab Bridge Center for Human Rights, Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future VIII, 4th Gulf Education Conference 2014 and Urban Muslim Woman Show. HRH Princess Basmah has been a participant at conferences including Munich Security Conference, 3rd Berlin Foreign Policy Forum and Trust Women Conference as well as an honorary guest at South-South Awards, United Nations General Assembly, The

Pearl Initiative, United Nations Women's Leaders Forum, New York Fashion Week, International Media Awards, Sexual Violence Summit and The Saudi-UK Investment Forum.

During this time, Her Royal Highness also continued her career as an influential media icon, regularly featuring on channels such as the BBC, Sky News, CNN, ANB TV (Lebanon), Bloomberg, France 24, Al Hurrah TV, Focus TV, Radio Jordan, The Voice of the People, Sheffield Live as well as articles in publications such as The Independent, Perfil, Argentinian Newspaper, Yo Dona Magazine, Vanity Fair and The Huffington Post.

### **2014 to present**

Her Royal Highness Princess Basmah Bint Saud recently moved back home to Saudi Arabia to settle with her children. HRH will be operating her businesses from the heart of the Middle East, where she feels she is needed most.

HRH Princess Basmah Bint Saud will continue to manage Inseed Holdings as a successful businesswomen from Saudi Arabia, as well as running her offices in London. HRH Princess Basmah recognises the need for objective research, so she continues to operate GURA from Saudi Arabia. HRH Princess Basmah intends to establish the G-Lounge in Saudi Arabia, to act as a leading think tank in the region.

On a lighter note, as a keen and gifted cook, HRH Princess Basmah also continues to operate her restaurant chains through Les Artistes and Dibage and intends to further expand this business throughout the Middle East.

Often complemented for her eye for fashion, HRH Princess Basmah continues to market her RB Line, which also includes her own tea and perfume brands.

## Key Skills

**Performance Management:** Princess Basmah energises, supports and motivates people by deploying a variety of communication techniques – company-wide meetings, face to face and joint communication, training and development meetings, electronic communication and intranet. She is experienced in tactfully cascading key information encompassing policy, compliance, technical matters, changes in corporate governance and structure. She ensures clear communication and understanding of corporate objectives and alignment of function, team and individual goal setting and performance reviews. She establishes clear recognition structures to champion success including financial incentives/rewards, career development and raising the profile of those responsible.

**Leadership:** Princess Basmah is a situational leader with core values in active communication, integrity, collaboration, enthusiasm and driving solutions. Understands the value of earning respect and trust from others, achieving it through the continual building/fostering of collaboration and understanding. She strives to empower and remain as approachable and accessible as possible, and actively leads and promotes creative thinking within a compliance framework, particularly with the political, economic and social dimensions.

**Innovation:** Princess Basmah both generates and encourages innovative approaches to bring new products to the UK market from their Arabic origins, and establishes a competitive edge. She always tests the merits of others' ideas to develop robust solutions to the organisation's end goals. She applies a tenacious approach to getting ideas accepted, delivering plans with authority and conviction, and gaining credibility through effective implementation.

## Key Achievements

Head of Inseed Holdings which specializes in restaurants, entertainment and marketing.

Head of the Board of “Invireo Company” for environmental solutions.

Head of the Board of International Saudi Life Echo Centre.

Established Basmah Comprehensive Centre for Women’s Security Training.

Her Highness intends to establish the “Basmah International School Centre for Children” which will carry out the Canadian curriculum.

Her Highness established the Fourth Way Law as a global constitution created to usher the world through this period of instability.

Furthermore, HRH Basmah is an observer of humanitarian and legal activities in Saudi Arabia and the international scene. Her Highness was recognised for her excellence by the French Parliament, when they awarded her with a medal.

Her Highness is keen to promote the Saudi Art Movement in the West, and takes extra interest in women’s sport events in Jeddah, in addition to her special interest in charities caring for special needs and the handicapped.

Her Highness seeks to build up an equal civil and social movement to support and develop levels of public awareness of the whole social infrastructure of Saudi society. She also works to encourage women to join the political, economical and social spheres and play an equal role in leadership and executive positions within Saudi society and government, whether locally or globally.

Her Highness interacts with the public through social media tools, and has over 200,000 followers through Facebook and Twitter.

## **Education & Qualifications**

Studied the elementary stage and part of the intermediate stage at the Christian Sisters School in Beirut, Lebanon.

Graduated from Oxford College, UK where she finished her studies in both O and A levels, which are equivalent to secondary certificate and first year in the university while she was only sixteen years old.

Studied sociology for one year in Richmond College, UK and transferred to the American University in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Studied two years in psychology at the Arab Beirut University, then left for her mother's birth place, Syria, in Allaziqiah province. She studied one year in the faculty of medicine and one additional year in English literature in Tishreen University in Syria.

## **Languages**

In addition to her mother tongue, Arabic, Princess Basmah has mastered both the English and French languages.

## **Professional Memberships & Associations**

Board Member of Chatham House

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

The Center for Middle East Development (CMED)

The Next Century Foundation

The International Media Awards

Munich Security Conference (MSC)

Berlin Security Conference

Saudi Canadian Business Council

Saudi Philippine Business Council

Saudi Chinese Business Council

Saudi Syrian Business Council



Saudi Lebanese Business Council  
Saudi Tunisian Business Council  
Saudi Singaporean Business Council  
Saudi British Business Council  
Saudi Swiss Business Council  
Saudi Japanese Business Council  
Saudi Indian Business Council  
Saudi Egyptian Business Council  
Member of the Clinton Global Initiative  
Observer at the UN Assembly  
Annual Honorary Guest to the Jordan Media Institute  
South South News Awards

**Websites :**

[www.basmahbintsaud.com](http://www.basmahbintsaud.com)

[www.guracentre.com](http://www.guracentre.com)

[www.globalunitedlanterns.com](http://www.globalunitedlanterns.com)

[www.thelanterns-g-lounge.com](http://www.thelanterns-g-lounge.com)

Youtube Channel : <http://goo.gl/CnTSiQ>

HRH Visit to Jordan and Lebanon : <http://goo.gl/C16tcw>

HRH Fourth Way Law : <http://goo.gl/gDfcDn>

Twitter : @PrincessBasmah (Arabic)

Facebook : [facebook.com/princessbasmah.bintsaud](https://www.facebook.com/princessbasmah.bintsaud)

## The Minister and his Hat

Monday, May 18, 2009

Two weeks ago, a photo of the Minister of Labour was published in newspapers, 'the doctor,' 'the poet,' 'the diplomat', 'the novelist,' 'the well-known Saudi author, Abo Yara', as he likes to call himself. As described also by Asharq Al Awsat newspaper in an interview on Thursday 05.07.2009, when he was wearing a McDonald's hat over his traditional head-scarf, as if he was in a commercial for McDonald's. This is the same as what Abu Suhail did for a branch of the American restaurant chain Fuddruckers in Jeddah last year in wearing their uniform. We were also honoured to see and hear the minister at UNESCO, commenting on Saudization and employment. His Excellency also expressed, in a press interview, his dissatisfaction or, rather, his wishes that a Saudi Arabian citizen does not have to hold on to the highest salaries whilst climbing the career ladder. His Excellency portrays different signals through the media. Sometimes, he calls for Saudization, sometimes he highlights the conditions of Saudis and the Arab nation, and at others he promotes various foreign companies by wearing their hats or uniforms.

What is the correct equation Mr Minister? What does the minister's statement in the Middle Eastern newspaper mean that officials, who are also writers, have produced more literature than full-time writers and where did this statistic come from? In the same interview, His Excellency discussed the Arab countries' policies and the Palestinian issue. He criticized the, "fossilized Arab minds," saying that they are waiting for paint to dry. He, also, nominated the Somali capital Mogadishu as being the strongest Arab capital. He noted that it can give a shape to Arabism at a time he described as reflecting Arab restriction, mocking the Arabs, to whom he belongs. He said that they are waiting for paint to dry and leaving Jerusalem to be walked over, as if it were at cross roads.

Where is your capital Mr minister, Riyadh? Why did you not choose it? What about King Abdullah's initiatives that have not been preceded by any president or king at that time? What about the solutions and the reforms, which the King has fixed since the beginning of his reign? What about surviving the global conditions, which have affected every Arab country? Thanks to God and the wisdom of our king, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah, Crown Prince and the second Deputy, we defeated terrorism. We set an example by which all countries, including the United States, requested expertise, assistance and advice drawing from what we have enforced in our country. Was it not natural, fair, loyal and true to nominate our capital, country and leader? The problem is that the minister was busy with the media and the media was busy with him. Barely a week will pass when he is not mentioned in a newspaper headline, a statement, an interview or a decree. Does the minister have time to plan or review? Does he have an integrated team that performs and works, but does not see, hear or speak? Our reality can't be delayed. The citizens' affairs have been put on hold so some can live, see and breathe poetry and culture. I wish the minister would take a big step in the field of work, as in our sister country Bahrain, where the labour minister acknowledged a new work system, which has been reviewed since 2004 by labour ministers in the Gulf. This new system cancelled the sponsorship system, to put the recommendations of the Human Rights Council in to force, which stop workers from being controlled or from being treated like personal possessions. It stopped unlicensed labour, illegal visas and the control of the Ministry of Labour over the people. This bold step satisfied the national interests and eliminated the personal interests of businessmen for visas. There are shameful reports in Human Rights files about the situation of workers in this region. So, how about the citizen who has no reports except those held eternally in the drawers of ministries? Saudization, citizenship and work can only be accomplished by combined efforts, not a word, news report or poem.

## The People's Revolution

Monday, December 7, 2009

This is an urgent appeal to the sons and daughters of the nation, to our young people and to our society. The advisers have written, pens have dried out, all capacities have been exhausted and minds fell silent. Have reformers not called for a religious revival? Have they not been warned of God's signs? Have they not screamed? Have they not written? Have they not advised? It is as if we are calling on the dead. I write for everyone and I only fear God. When I address officials, everyone applauds and encourages me, but when I warn people of our negative understanding of faith, I only receive a few responses. People, rise against the traditions of ignorance, rise young men and protect your homeland rather than your social prestige or your bank account. The homeland will only be built by the hands of its youth. The situation will only be rectified by the sons of the homeland's efforts. It is high time to break free from the foreigners and take their jobs. Even if it means drilling streets, litter picking or bricklaying to build houses. The situation now is an inevitable result of rejecting the inferior jobs and giving them to foreigners; to Indians, Filipinos, Pakistanis and various other nationalities. This has led to the collapse of our entity altogether. The fund has begun to open, mites and worms have started to spread from it in front of everyone and every eye in the world. Our fund is full of social rot, administrative corruption and moral decay. Were our good ancestors not playing with firewood? Was the Messenger of the Ummah, peace be upon him, not a shepherd? Was David, peace be upon him, not a blacksmith? Was Zakariya, peace be upon him, not a carpenter? Has our society forgotten the recent era of our ancestors' efforts in nation-building in all professions without reluctance and pride? Did we not reach China thanks to the sons of the Ummah? Did not we have religious

protection, piety, faith and certainty? Has Mohammed bin Abdullah (PBUH) not been an example to us? We should stop blaming others for our tragedies because they reached such a level of corruption due to selfishness. The flood awaits us at our doors, as it has passed the doors of others. The earthquakes and epidemics surround us from every side. Is it not the time for the people's revolution against tradition? Does a people's revolution come from the depths of the corridors of globalization and blind capitalism? Is not it time for a parent's awakening to bring their children up and to save themselves and their community from an education based on heritage and not religion? Is it not time for the rich to let their children marry the poor to help another class to create balance, to put things right and to have people helping one another. Is not it time for our daughters and their mothers to stop appreciating a man for his profession and not his morals? Is not it time for fathers to choose for their sons young girls regardless of their income or tribes and only consider their religion? Is not it time for our young people to roll up their sleeves to take the work and jobs of our homeland, no matter how low the wages are? So they can prove that they are up to the responsibility, commitment and perseverance to reach and enter the realm of life to its fullest and challenges armed with religion and the prophet's Sunnah? Is not it time for officials to wake up and revive themselves whether followers or followed? There are superpowers and neighboring countries that are collapsing in front of us, one after the other because of corruption and mismanagement, why can't we understand the lesson? Let's have a people's revolution against obsolete traditions, against the corrupting globalization, against useless science, against a greedy belly, against high posts without deeds. Let our revolution be a revival against all who call and preach without knowledge, against each of the corrupt. Let our revolution be against all the moral corruption that has spread in the body of our nation. We missed the verses of our Lord, and we avoided them. Let's change ourselves, our traditions, our ignorance and arrogance against the teachings of our religion before we

become like the nations of Aad and Thamud. There are disasters surrounding us from every side of corruption, diseases, floods, earthquakes and wars. What are we waiting for? Nations remain as long as they have morals but if morals disappear, nations will fade away. I address my appeal to my homeland and my people. I address my appeal to all people who hear but do not listen. Be aware before it is too late! .

▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

- (God does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.) Thunder: 11
- Umar ibn al-Khattab said, "You should commit to honesty even if it kills you."

## History, Authority and Credibility

Friday, April 30, 2010

I searched thoroughly and deeply throughout the pages of history, and within the books of the Prophet's and his followers' biographies, but I did not find any mention of the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. I only found it mentioned in the Quran in a generic way, "commanding of virtue and forbidding of vice." God used this generic term to guide all Muslims. As for, "Promotion of Virtue", I ask; what does the word, "virtue" mean in the Quran and the Arabic language? The word indicates tenderness, gentleness and various kinds of dialogue in ways the public has learnt from Islamic prophetic literature and good treatment. In "The Prevention of Vice", the word prevention means ending, and stopping others, through gentle persuasion, from all that is evil and denied for any reason, morals and what was clearly forbidden in the Quran and the Prophet's biography. I repeat here that it is a generic term for all Muslims and the entire world in all religious teachings. On the map of the Islamic world, east to west, north to south, I did not find a body or governmental entity that has been established to work in this field. The Islamic governments have left this issue to upbringing, morals and religious culture. The illiterate Prophet said, peace be upon him, "I was sent to complete good morals," not to impose ethics, "to spark open debate," not to catch people in the act, beat them severely or create scandals and fatal accidents. I will leave you here for a few moments to reflect on these words and their impact on man. God created the world and the universe with a single word "Be," and so they were. In spite of all these divine reasons and prophetic clarifications, compassionate words of the Quran and its evident verses and threats with God's severest penalties, some people still terrorise in the name of religion. They ignore what happened in

Afghanistan and with the Taliban, turn a blind eye to the acts that have been threatened with the severest punishment and bad consequences. They are walking down a dark path with men who have not studied Islamic jurisprudence in the correct way, nor have they read the Prophet's biography carefully or considered the Qur'an and Sunnah. They are young. They want, in good faith, to correct what the international media and globalization has destroyed. Yet, they do this in a disoriented way that does not reflect a good awareness, organisation or even considerate treatment. They consider females as being in the wrong until the contrary is proven. They also consider all legal meetings, among scientists, scholars and even conferences, to have a sexual meaning. Is this way of thinking capable of imposing morality, goodwill and decency? Do they not know that evil, seduction and sin are in the corridors and beds of secret houses? Do they not know that those who want to be immoral will not do so in broad daylight, in restaurants or on the side roads, but they will when they hide behind high walls or towering fences? Do they not know that they will not be able to reach the dens of sin, and that God sees you though you don't see Him? Have we not learnt that reform and guidance is in God's hands? Did we not read enough stories through history about men and women who led a life of sin? Has the Quran not told us stories that teach us to believe that God guides whomever He wants, lets whomever He wants stray and that He has all goodness and is Almighty? How have we strayed so far from these wonderful immortal words? Or are those words only for whom can find their way?

It is better for our committee to learn that corruption is fought from within, and that those in the official circles of our inner systems have a broader and more comprehensive mission. Can they not help our wise government eradicate neglect, looting and stealing public funds, to establish justice to assist judges and to mend relations instead of spending their time running and chasing women and men in a brutal way that was neither recommended by God nor by the Prophet? Oh committee, how far have we strayed

from Islam? How far have we strayed from moderation, the prophetic Sunnah and the divine jurisprudence with which our prophet Muhammad bin Abdullah was sent to make eternal law, and to govern the world through straight morals. This makes the world respect us and long to enter Islam, rather than rejecting everything related to the word Islam. This has been the result of certain behaviour and what is openly happening in our religious authority. Therefore, I appeal to the Supreme Head of the religious authority to fix what has been destroyed by the local and international media. We are in a tragic position as a result some people who misunderstand Islam and its application, so they follow their own desires ignoring our principles and image in front of the world as if we are following a different religion. Besides the issue of applying justice and trial, they boldly assassinate others even in front of the military to an extent that we do not know who controls justice in our society. It has become either too strict or too lax, there is no moderation. The result is, inevitably, known from our twofaced position and abnormal vision.

#### ▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

- {Surely Allah enjoins the doing of justice and the doing of good [to others] and the giving to the kindred, and He forbids indecency and evil and rebellion; He admonishes you that you may be mindful. }- **Surah An-Nahl 90**

-{Thus it is due to mercy from Allah that you deal with them gently, and had you been rough, hard hearted, they would certainly have dispersed from around you; pardon them therefore and ask pardon for them, } - **Surah Aal-'Imran 159**

## Talk Time

Friday, May 7, 2010

“And we made you nations and tribes so as to know,” God Almighty has spoken the truth. The story of the mixing of the sexes in the Saudi Arabian society and I mean the Saudi Arabian society and not the Muslim, has recently sparked controversy. For nearly forty years, this subject was not significant, because it was natural for women to be next to men and for children to play with each other without feeling guilty or even acknowledging the presence of a third party. This is simply because the difference between men and women had not been planted in their minds during their childhood. Nor had the idea that if a man and woman met, the third party would be Satan. Did they not know at that time that the devil runs in the human blood stream? Or, were they protected due to religious commitment and sound education? They were away from threats and intimidation, hiding behind high walls, which did not exist between neighbours. There was moderation in life. The mixing of men and women is forbidden when they have lustful intentions. The mixing of families; men and women during work, or whilst studying, was not prevented. We used to see boys in the alleyways of the narrow streets, but they were big in the hearts of residents and visitors. Girls were behind them and they all studied the Quran together. They listened to the prophetic stories in wonder and Muhammad’s biography with great curiosity. These hours were used as a chance to play innocently away from their parents’ eyes and virtuous educators who planted the meanings of Halal and Haram with all self-respect between the folds of these tiny hearts. They wanted to graduate from institutes and schools as generations of moderation and dedication to work, clear opinions and life. Not to be threatened with hell as a consequence of speaking with their uncle or auntie’s daughter without a guardian.

Was the first generation different from our race? Or is it our individual understanding of the haram, halal and mixing of the sexes; the new term used by some distinguished sheikhs to fight whoever dares to reject it. This term did not originally exist in Islam. The old fashioned minds that see with one eye, hear with one ear and refuse dialogue, debate and moderation. There are a lot of misconceptions in the Islamic world, publicised by Sheikhs and only few are following the right path. So, why do we always regard ourselves as being unaccountable? Why do we think we are the only ones who hold the keys to the heavens and to the gates of hell, can we push whoever we want to hell and let whoever we want into paradise without judgment? Did Sheikh Aznar and our Sheikhs dare to say they're right, and the religious advisors of other countries from east to west are in error? Is the Islamic jurisprudence not aware that, while our society that grew up to look at women as loins, seduction, and as a means to play with on the forbidden strings of religion. How can our young people grow up if they are cooked on the fire of quiet extremism and an incorrect understanding of religion? They have become soft and vulnerable to be eaten by the extremist religious parties. We all now know their sources and targets, which clearly produce a deep rift between all classes of society. Some are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Some are the most virulent and dangerous are the religious extremists because they waste what God has forbidden, such as the blood of Muslims.

Why are we excited and nervous like the waves of Atlantic oceans and seas? Why did we bother ourselves, our consciences, our studies and our attack? When will we stop being swept, in the name of religion, into the abyss of extremism, ignorance and ages of ignorance which we call the Golden Age of Islam? When are we going to be captured by the whims of some who changed our society that was once characterized by moderation and Islamic methodology. After the events of 09/11, Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, some of us have become a tool shaking left and right according to the mood of al-Qaeda and its officials, according to

writers across the Internet, television network and external opposition; such as al-Faqih and his likes. Have we not learnt our lesson yet? We Saudis were respectful of others, and all the countries of the world would welcome us unconditionally, with no alert or scrutiny. After the events of the “brave,” “courageous,” “warrior” Osama bin Laden! The owner exhibitions and the Faqih, we became unwanted, monitored everywhere and not granted visas. We cannot enter any country without lengthy procedures, why? Because some volunteered to serve the interests of bin Laden and others. They served his political goals, and severed relations with others at the expense of our system, stability and security. They, simply, could not control us before, so they spread corruption, extremism and strict ideas. They point their arrows to the inside and separate the sons and daughters of the homeland without wars, nor equipment. They’re convinced that explosives would not change society, but would turn people against them. So, we watch the media spreading misconceptions. Extremist groups are infiltrating our society, through religious organizations. This is the only ideal way to get their final result, which is the destruction of Saudi society inside and raising us against each other. This is what we, unfortunately, experience in our daily lives. They have forgotten that, ” Who deceives will bring his deceit with him on the Day of Resurrection.” .

#### ▪ **The Week’s Whisper :**

If we have the crescent of Islam in our hands, what can we see in the stars? We should protect the blessing of Islam and security in our country before it is too late.

## Actors on the stage of international tragedy

Sunday, July 18, 2010

Maliki, the actor, makes us laugh, and Maliki the political makes us cry. What is the common denominator between them? In my opinion both are actors; the first on the stages of the world and the second on the stage of political tragedy. A Scene that is repeated every day, roles are made and formed in a scenario which the greatest international authors can't make or perfect its details. It is an international game and the players are capable. Hasn't policy always been the theater and the text writer? It moves the older before the younger, in the eternal story in a historic prison of oppression and authority and decision-making.

Pages of history witness, and movies tell stories of history, confirm that these two industries are one in the global scene. How many authors, geniuses and artists have changed the history? Haven't we understood that politics is the most important among arts? It is taught in the finest universities and behind the walls of palaces. How to earn the charisma that affects peoples, how to address the masses, how to affect and make the decision, and make it though unfair, of the best accepted decisions. Publicity is made behind closed doors. Media armies are recruited to serve politicians, and made them stars and heroes. We walk behind them like cattle surrendering to the fates.

Who controls decision-making? There are democracy, socialism, communism, and these terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda. What's the difference? Names taught and kept through the ages but at the end it is a war over power, no matter how different names.

Playing roles on the stage of the world politics, this is the answer. The names are various but the role is one; the decision – makers. The quality of the actors is what determines the path, not honesty

and bearing responsibility; which are neither required nor desirable.

We deceive ourselves if we say this is a warrior and that is a deceiver, because the result is the same, namely: there is an author and director manipulating actors on the international stages and by his hand – and only his hand – takes the light from this and substitute that. He makes a character evil, heroic, or surrendering, or appeasing, but the title of the story is one, and it is always in the writer's hand not the reader's; the hand of the one who actually translates the story and acts it on the stage of real life.

For whose benefit is the recent threat of al-Qaeda? Who arranged this timing? Iran? America? Or are they one single authority, playing with us on the strings of guitar tones of opposition and hostility. Is this all acting? Nothing surprises me any longer at the time of upside-down scales. Everyone pulls the world to fly with it on a carpet above the wind. There is one with democratic moods and another with sectarian trends, and the last with terroristic directions, all follow a different curriculum but the meaning is the same, and the stage is the same, because the denominator is common and the goals and the same. It is to attract the world's attention delude it from the truth. But who controls the truth? Who is the decision -maker?

Iran threatens with the expected Mahdi, although the Prophet's biography predicted the emergence of the Antichrist of Isfahan. America threatens doom, destruction and horrible things if any other country possesses mass destructive weapons although she can destroy the Earth as a whole. So, where are consistency and logic in this minds enigmatic scene? Al-Qaeda threatens overthrow regimes to establish the doctrine of bloodshed. It calls for being martyrs, and that Islam was built on the support of your brother, right or wrong, and stopped bloodshed, except for the one who drive you out of your land and break out wars.

Where is the common denominator among these international plays? Who is the director? Although we know who the executer

is, who is the mastermind behind all these humanitarian disasters and inhuman policies in the century of earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, natural incurable diseases, and the emergence of modern epidemics which has no medication and no cure? Who owns the decision and solutions? It is a Whirlpool that storms our compassionate simple minds that do not understand the international conspiracies; so we have become a story ready for change at every stage show, according to the moods of the author, and the political atmosphere conducive to impose change.

Why do we spend our time in the analysis? Why do writers race to write about political philosophies and interpretation? The history is written, and the way has been paved long ago. Is it human lasting love for the game; a game on the stage of life, though his role is small, and is not serious to what has already been decided in the corridors of decision-makers, and signed by the history writers. Who works for the benefit of whom? Who manages the world in absolute cruelty and silence? What is the use of words and lines in a book that has been written and finished a long time ago?

## Investment in architecture or in humans

Sunday, July 25, 2010

The plane flew over the capital of sky scrapers buildings. I wondered what I'd see when the plane landed and I got shocked by facts. Would I look to this city in an abstract way, or I'll look to it as a city that I hate visiting it. Why do I hate it? Is it because it is a example of western occupation in the Gulf region, an example of slavery, and money laundering, and exit from all Islamic principles , Arab chivalry, the traditions and roots of inherited through centuries of vigor, respect and proud spirit ?

What did I find here and in the Gulf region? There are buildings hugging clouds, well-arranged architecture, paved roads and enviable model infrastructure in some cities. But, where is man among all these architectures? He is forgotten, just a false number in population. We eagerly compete to enumerate our population and eagerly compete in the architecture. It is a local competition to win the prize which is a medal and international satisfaction and pleasure of the United Nations. While human rights are wasted daily in the unknown markets. Where is man in our region? Where are wasted values and confiscated rights? Where is the truth? Where is the truth in the communities which abandoned identity and lost in the corridors of international politics, and can no longer find their place except in getting higher architecture, but man? Why don't we in our Arab nations invest in human before infrastructure, towering buildings, crops and singing orchards, while man suffers ignorance, poverty and being forgotten in any junction of roads? We wasted identity, high goals, and human rights. In Which forgotten era did we waste our Arab trait, and the forgotten neglected culture? In which way did we slip down and become no longer able to stand again, promote afterward, climb

mountains, stand on our heads, or raise the banner of victory and faith in God? Then, in which era of world wars did we lost identity and our compass needle become unable to know the four directions and became spinning and spinning in a non-stop search for the East, which no longer has the existence in decision making but to invest in architecture, wasting man and his identity. There is no longer anyone except the brothers from Asian countries to build, work, and taking away the national funds. And after all this we ask ourselves about the reasons for unemployment and the extreme poverty which is not believed by those who describe the region as a well of black oil, which has no decision. It is an international policy to drain the Arab brains from the sources and spring to the end, and then to become the ultimate drops that barely satisfy a thirst citizen. To apply the proverb that says: "the water dried up in the lane of water suppliers ". The current water from the funds is no longer to build human minds upon which civilizations arose. Man has no longer any value in our tragic region but for the construction of the structure and rivalry between the classes to lay hands on plots of the land that dried up and no longer produces anything but money. These are the human values in our Arab region; human remains. This is our current condition; minds programmed to dull and drift according to the previously set path. We have become telling jokes about global brains and their prices. We did not know that the magic turned against the magician and that minds we have become the world's joke. Coming generations are with empty except for the most famous star and the best song in the global market stock. Curricula are programmed not to enrich the minds of our children, but to divert and waste them in the depths of ignorance prisons that have become characteristic not a casual thing that hit our dear children whose hands became soft white unable to bear fatigue, work, and have no traces of liquid pens known in past as a sing of our previous civilization civilizations. The feather of our civilization has a clear mark in the most previous beautiful paintings in the world. Our efforts to enrich our minds and human around us failed, because the heads

got freed by the urgent wealth and the earned money became the new method to our children. The one who excel in transactions and stocks gets his winning prizes and money paid. And, who advises to breastfeed the elderly and wean the young to increase children and merciful linking of lineages that wastes identity. We become brothers and sisters in the breast, a thing that brings about depravity and debauchery and turned us into one nation built on brotherhood, Arab chivalry and modern preaches. Horrible silence and quietness are surrounding us from everywhere while we are helpless and powerless; these awaken us from the dreams and fly with us above the clouds. Thus, silence in the life of the nation has turned into banging, and ideas have sounds screaming to go out to write the defeat of the civilizations which preferred architecture to man. Then, found ourselves in a space that has no echo or reflection. The condition of our Arab system is now beautiful cities, wasted humanity and deserted minds.

## A New Minister: The Tsunami of Work

Friday, September 3, 2010

The Ministry of Labour; everyone knows that it delayed its declaration and recognition of the existence of a black market for two years, as if it could eliminate its full responsibility by such recognition. The declaration coincided with the death of its minister, God have mercy on him, Dr. Ghazi Algozaibi, a few days before, who was bedridden for over a year and a half, due to illness. Why did the ministry delay this declaration for two years? It should be noted that the Deputy Minister of Labour phoned me two years ago to comment on one of my articles. He denied the existence of a black market for visas. He wanted me to hand over the names of those who sell them and argued that the ministry has no responsibility for the deterioration of the situation, or, the failure of the Saudization of the system. He blamed business owners and other ministries for this failure in claiming they have caused the phenomenon and tragic situation in the labour sector. Dr Ghazi Algozaibi, may God have mercy on him, wrote on his sickbed and here I convey some of what came in his sad poem, "I spent my life, as I return, little is left. God knows I am a believer from the depths of my heart and I fear God. No matter what ugliness prevails, beautiful guidance remains. I am homeless today, God. The Lord forgives a poor slave who shed tears of repentance yesterday and tears are still flowing on my checks. I wish I was still a child, experiencing the natural beauty of palm trees in my eyes." What beautiful wonderful words of a slave on their deathbed asking for repentance and compassion. These words affected me deeply on a clear Ramadan night. I am using them in my article, not to insult the late minister, may God have mercy on him, but to use as a lesson for the next one. The new minister has received files which are stronger and more heated than the tsunami of

Jeddah. He received a legacy of sterile laws that are only fit for teaching and in lectures, not for enforcement or initiatives. They are suitable for hopeful dreams and documentaries, but not reality. These laws left a grey atmosphere, such as work without workers, jobs without employees and initiatives without enforcement. They made citizens look at residents as if they were enemies fighting for livelihood, without capabilities or rights. Thus, the atmosphere of employment became clouded with racism and uncivil language even during Ramadan. If the late minister had involved us in politics, thinking, poetry and literature, what will the next one do? Will he involve us in tsunami projects or in new systems for Jeddah? Will his history be a hindrance or a motive for a fair jurist to prove the invalidity of all the accusations during his administration of the secretariat of Jeddah? Let's cry like Fairuz in her famous song, "Hey Mayor..." From the secretariat to action, it is a sudden, qualitative leap. Is it to remove him from the danger zone and to exclude him from confronting fate? Or is it to give him a chance to achieve a goal? Whatever the reason is, all eyes are on the new minister to prove to us what is new in the field of work. Will you add to this or just put on a new loose robe and design a ministry of work for our nation with laws that make us abandon our demands? Appointments, promises, plans and initiatives, a lot of fatigue from developing five-year plans and long-term goals, but will fate grant enough time to reach the aspirations of citizens and residents and fulfil their demands? Or will the Ministry of Labour be managed like an investment company according to the desire of whoever spends more and receives a prize or membership? The Ministry of Labour, what do you know about it? It should work hard to fulfil the hopes of the nation, to make the majority find work, for citizens to live and generate earnings to satisfy their hunger and human dignity, and, to help residents restore their worth as human beings. Then, we will feel that we really live in the Kingdom of the King of humanity who is referred to as the leader of the Ummah of Islam. He feels the suffering of his people and of every person in our homeland honoured by God under the greatest

religion. I also hope the new mayor of Jeddah will not fall into the trap of hopes and media institutions, which are now on the lips of every official in making our cities global. The villages which we deserted are suffering as a result of being neglected as well as mass emigration. This is due to the lack of resources and basic humanitarian needs. Our beautiful cities need infrastructure and immediate solutions to natural disasters. Our reservoirs and valleys are full of chemical waste. It is better, and, more important to address our eternal and primitive problems before even thinking about the local ones, then what about universal ones? Or has it become a global phenomenon we have learnt, like the art of media to attract local votes and purify the industrial air of all that hinders officials from achieving narcissistic agendas and goals that only serve their own interests.

▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

Nothing remains from man except their memory. May God have mercy on Ghazi Algosabi. May God help Adel Faqih. May God help us to help the new mayor of Jeddah act honestly and to tell the truth, even if it is hard.

# HRH Princess Basmah Bint Saud Speech in Istanbul

on 15th of October 2010

## ▪ Globalization and Security

His Excellency the foreign minister of Turkey, ladies and gentlemen, may peace and God's blessings be upon you all.

Let me introduce myself, as most of you may be wondering who I am, and what I represent.

First, I'm a Muslim, and second, I'm a Saudi citizen. I'm a universal pacifist who believes that our planet can be shared by all nations, races and religions without wars, and that we can all share the wealth and beauty that God has bestowed on us without discrimination or racism.

I'm honored to have been given the opening word of this conference. I sincerely hope I'll provide a major contribution and different approach to regional security, and an insight to what we can contribute as journalists and scholars who've taken the time and effort to come here today.

If ever globalization and the rapid pace of development in societies worldwide suggested a loss of individualism and identity, it is clear that we as members of the human race have resisted that out of deep attachment for our origins.

If globalization and the internet have meant an increase in knowledge about the world, it has not necessarily meant that we are any smarter in using that knowledge for the greater good, nor have we become adept in converting it into trust among countries.

Hence we still have the need to regularly hold discussions about “security” before, during and after conflicts. Today, we are doing so in Turkey.

People seem frequently to ask: Does Turkey face East or West? How can we know where its loyalties lie? This is true of voices both in the East and the West.

Turkey occupies a unique position. I see an ostensibly secular country, a member of NATO in the process of joining the EU, a significant trade partner with Europe. At the same time, Turkey borders Syria and Iraq, has trade and diplomatic links flourishing across the region, not just the GCC, and has a historical relationship with the Middle East like no other.

Many Turkey watchers, myself included, have taken note of the diplomatic activism with which Turkey has approached conflicts in the region, and it is encouraging to see such efforts being made with our Arab brothers and sisters, the beneficiaries of the Turkish diplomatic focus in the Middle East.

You are to be congratulated on the reputation you have developed for being a conduit of peaceful overtures.

It saddens me, therefore, to hear suggestions that Turkey must choose one or the other, the West or the East, as if the perceived strengthening of ties with the Middle East necessarily results in the weakening of those with the West, and vice versa. To me, this merely follows the flawed and costly logic of the so-called War on Terror: “You’re either with us or against us.”

To me, as a global citizen, co-existence and mutual benefit should be able to override suspicion, but of course this is not always the way. Of course, it is Turkey’s willingness to engage with foes of the West that causes eyebrows to rise in their capitals – but I view this as a strength.

The realpolitik of our international relations dictates that perceptions are all important, and though I would be disheartened if a loss of trust among Western allies resulted from increased cooperation with the Middle East, I as an Arab, a Saudi and a

member of the GCC, would assert that there is no need: Turkey should be seen as an honest broker in the Middle East that has certain advantages and confidences that others lack, derived not least from proximity, poise and purpose. I would certainly encourage increased Turkish participation.

But we must deal with the situation how it is, not how we would like it to be. This is an insecure neighborhood, something for which we are unfortunately famous, but we must make best use of all diplomatic tools we have at our disposal to ensure regional stability while managing expectations.

Although Turkey may follow the principle of “zero problems” to guide its foreign policy with its regional counterparts, it is sad to note that some of these places, for whatever reason, have problems with not only their neighbours but citizens also.

I don't want to get bogged down too much in debates about Israel, but must not that power be accompanied by responsibility? As a nation equipped with power not only greater than the Palestinians but greater than many other nations besides, it is not possible for them to demonstrate commitment to peace by exercising the responsibility they have towards their own people as well others?

The world's diplomats may conduct “proximity talks”, and come up with “shelf agreements” in air-conditioned 5 star hotels, but every day the ordinary Palestinian looks up and sees the high walls of the ever-expanding settlements built on land that should be where the Palestinian instead enjoys dignity and freedom.

It is possible to demonstrate commitment to peace and to live harmoniously with one's neighbours, and I am still wondering why the Arab Initiative of 2002 lies gathering dust on some government desk in Israel.

An analysis of security in the region cannot only identify the open wound of Palestine, but it must also address the grievances and individual rights of every citizen in the Middle East. It is not enough to denounce the treatment of Muslims by the West, we must look at our conduct as well. One and all must be humanized.

National stability must surely be the building block of regional stability. It is possible to point at the West and argue that their policies towards the region are designed to promote stability whatever the cost to individual rights of our citizenry. Yes, the free flow of oil and Arab strongmen in power to maintain it suit their purposes, but it is not enough analyse ourselves in reaction to the behavior of others.

Haven't we learned that through all the messages and messengers of God, there should be equality within any social structure? Though I might add that every human should obtain his due and position in society through his own efforts – but the playing field must be level.

There are many among us who have reaped the benefits of globalization and economic liberalization, but those who have benefitted from the globalizing direction in which the world has turned must in turn pass on the fruits of their hard work and good fortune on to others.

I do not feel Machiavellian by quoting Machiavelli:

“There is nothing more difficult to manage, more dubious to accomplish, nor more doubtful of success . . . than to initiate a new order of things. The reformer has enemies in all those who profit from the old order and only lukewarm defenders in all those who would profit from the new order.”

A healthy economy must be reflected in a healthy political economy. We must take responsibility for our own futures, and accept that political participation is a right for every individual regardless of religion, political belief or what side of the fence we think the individual sits. That they have been born into our countries should be enough to grant them inalienable rights to which access must be guaranteed.

In this, the age of the internet, people worldwide no longer believe everything the authorities say. Yes, the internet also bombards us with a large amount of rubbish and sometimes willful misinformation, but we must view it as a positive influence which

empowers the individual, not the authorities. Social disparity is not as accepted as it was. Along with this should come a free press, a symptom of a strong and healthy society, unafraid to monitor the centres of power.

If the times are changing, then so must we, and to start we must release ourselves from these mind-forged manacles that are holding us back.

It's not enough to talk a good game, nor is it wise to set our sights too high. Nor should we naively assume that growing economic interdependence will necessarily convert into political alliance. We must accept there is no silver bullet that will cure our problems.

As a wealth of nations, we are much better at communicating on a state-to-state basis, though increasingly demand is for good communications among people and groups – non-state actors, in the jargon – who simultaneously have differing but also strong identities other than nationhood. Nonetheless, they are included in our social group and we must find a way to accommodate all of our people.

Our region needs a reassessment of the relationships between governments and their people, and between governments themselves. Islam's message seeks to unite the world rather than split it. Reach within to ensure the security of the region. As it says in the Qu'ran: "Repel evil with what is better and your enemy will become as close as an old and valued friend [41:34]."

By ensuring the honesty, equality and prosperity of our systems and citizens, by giving equitable rights to all, by ensuring that everyone has access to the tools necessary for a dignified life, we can progress.

Regional – and global – security will only be achieved when we stop dominating people because of their skin color, gender or religious beliefs. All of us have a responsibility as human beings to help the world achieve harmony rather than war, poverty and ignorance. Only when we fight for the underdog all around the

world will we sleep peacefully each night, knowing that we contributed to easing misery rather than creating or sustaining it.

I remain hopeful that stability in our region can improve, and call on all of us, not just Turkey, to take the diplomatic initiative to achieve this. This starts with an honest look at ourselves. Perhaps next time we meet we shall not be discussing conflict alone, but progress as well.

God be with us, but it is foretold in the Quran that God's hand will only be with those who unite for humanity and world peace. May the peace and mercy of God be upon all of you.

## Saudi princess says No one immune from Arab spring

(Reuters)

LONDON Thu Jun 30, 2011 12:01am BST

(Reporting by Avril Ormsby; Editing by Louise Ireland)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2011/06/29/uk-gulf-britain-princess-idUKTRE75S83Q20110629>

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- A Saudi Arabian princess said no Arab country is immune from change and that countries should grant freedoms before being forced to.

"No one is immune from the seasonal geographical winds of change that are sweeping our Arab homeland. Those who say we are immune are wrong," Princess Basma bint Saud, a niece of King Abdullah and a social activist and prominent supporter of women's issues in Saudi Arabia, told BBC Arabic late on Tuesday. Her comments were later translated into English.

Princess Basma also said the work of the country's moral police had changed from its original remit of preventing corruption to inflicting social pressure, particularly against women, creating a society that lived in fear.

"Everyone is prone and everyone should heed and must be aware that we must open national dialogue on the table and not wait for the challenges to grow. Let us grant freedom before it turns into challenge."

Democratic movements have resulted in regime change in Tunisia and Egypt, and uprisings in Libya, Yemen and Syria, popularly known as the Arab spring.

Saudi Arabia is ruled by an absolute monarchy which applies an austere version of Sunni Islam. Religious police patrol the streets to ensure public segregation between men and women.

The princess suggested the initial intention for the Authority for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice had become distorted and she has denounced it for hounding women.

"When my late father, may God bless his soul, founded it, it was for this goal; to monitor civil society in as much as to enable citizens to live an honourable existence, in dignity and without corruption or bribes," she said.

"This has changed somewhat to a social pressure with the Saudi woman as its primary target.

"They became distracted by her face, her gloves and mixing with other race.

"They were absorbed in issues that led to dire consequences we witness today in our society, to the extent that we have now become society which lives in fear."

There have been some signs of rebellion in Saudi Arabia. Some women appeared to have protested against a ban on driving earlier this month, posting accounts and pictures of themselves behind the wheel.

Besides a ban on driving, women in Saudi Arabia must have written approval from a male guardian -- a father, husband, brother or son -- to leave the country, work or even undergo certain medical operations.

## Untitled

Monday, December 10, 2012

What is poverty? Is it a case of “abortion” or “clinical death”? Is it “poverty of conscience” or “money”? We have become titles without an identity and identities without titles in each geographic location. There are headlines, advertisements and global campaigns to save humanity and the world from drowning, without playing a role in saving humanity from a state of worldwide intellectual, mental, emotional and physical poverty.

“Why poverty?” is a campaign launched by a well-known channel in the Arab world in participation with large, global television channels. They do not realize that we know that they are a part and cause of “global poverty”. It is poverty of information about truth, real economic conditions, content and credibility, and falsified media in the interests of national and international agendas. They ask questions and search for reasons. They attract the spotlight, to shed it upon others. They do not know or let others know that they are a big part of an international game, and that we, as people, know the plans that are made to politicize the news and campaigns to make us proceed like sheep behind what they call the global media. They argue in front of the world but agree, behind closed doors, to win, not only one battle, but many.

I begin this week with my participation in Women’s Day sponsored by the International Herald Tribune. So many people attended from various groups, the media and prominent female personalities, who, I thought, would shed light on what’s happening. The entire symposium was directed against Islam and Sharia law, intending to expose public and famous figures in the Muslim world, as well as women with local issues, not Islamic or political ones. They wanted to mould all these issues into an attack

against Islam by women, most of whom did not understand the issue. I was there amongst the media and global humanitarian women, but I realized the true intention the moment I entered the hall. I was listening to the Iranian lawyer, Nasreen Abada, when she was giving examples, which, I would describe, as having nothing to do with Islam. I asked the Human Rights representative about the absence of my articles and humanitarian works in addressing the concerns of those who attended to defend driving.

Then, I referred to a message that I received from one of our sisters in the UAE, Dubai to be precise. She asked me about travel conditions. I asked her about the Dubai economic and human rights conditions. Her answers shocked me. She said that the Gulf Treaty between member states addresses sending text messages commenting on what women do, even driving must be approved by a guardian. This Treaty is in force in all of the Gulf countries. I wonder why the humanitarians did not speak about it. I think they intend to focus on the Kingdom. I realised this when I left the symposium and a journalist asked me about the working class, "How are they treated in the Kingdom?" I answered, "The same way they are treated everywhere in the region." Why is the Kingdom focused on when all treaties are signed and implemented in the Gulf? This does not justify the local suffering but it is regional, not only in our country.

Now, I will move on to the Mufti of our kingdom, who began to give advice on foreign policy. He allows others to do what he doesn't allow in our country, like expressing opinions, exchanging power, free elections and giving a voice to the people. This information is accessible in newspapers throughout the world. It is not a secret because it is widely mocked. Everyone knows what's going on regarding laws in our beloved kingdom. Why make these fiery statements now? They are not needed in these rocky times, in which we fear the ground could shake under the feet of the Mufti of the Covenant and of the promises.

Then, I turn to the courts of Jeddah and Shobok, which have made me feel exhausted in recent days. I have received too many

complaints on this subject. I can't say enough, or, stay silent as it makes me regarded as being insulting or shy. So, I must say out loud, to the ministers of the country and districts, "Untie the nets from around necks and human rights by giving back their territory. You must not take all that belongs to the citizen, if you want to survive, without complex calculations, when it is time to be judged by Almighty God or perhaps earlier."

Many issues and sterile problems inflict me with a condition of mental and interactive poverty. I can't say more than that the nation is in a state of collective poverty and the world looks at poverty through a blurred vision. Instead of issuing new laws, laws must be activated for citizens to consider their real impact on the ground. Reality can no longer depend on interpretation or evasive and devious methods. Modern techniques can enable us to defy the concerned ministry's security and mental abilities. Although the ministry tries to stop it, it won't be able to.

Here, I have to mention a treaty that passed, unnoticed. It talks of love between a citizen and governor after the Foreign Security Treaty. By chance, I found all of the treaty's documents. I read them all thoughtfully and considerably. I discovered that all security matters became Gulf matters, including text messages to guardians, the necessity of a woman's guardian, in all countries of the region, to getting a driving or travel license and even to issue any identity papers. This takes place in our country, Dubai, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain. They all agreed, at that time, on serious points concerning every woman and person. They agreed on the confiscation of rights and thoughts even if they are not in their native country, and to hand them over to the local authorities no matter how hard they strive in other democratic Gulf states. "Be alert citizens", you are being watched everywhere, all the time. Even your minds became are followed by someone other than the Merciful and Gracious God. So, I hope the officials consider the matter very seriously and realistically. Now, we won't be able to hold a person in a certain place or a time. Borders will collapse on the heads of those who created the siege of humanity.

At the end of this article, to sum up primarily and comment on what has been announced on TV and in the newspapers, “The Kingdom occupies the seventh place in transparency on a global scale.” Here, I will clarify, asking readers to review the report on International Transparency, and to read it on its website, to discover that the statement was reversed to mislead people. The reality of the report is that the kingdom took nine steps back and became, with our sister country Kuwait, at the bottom of the list. This is just so it’s acknowledged.

Beware, ministers because there is someone behind you tracking the global reports with full transparency and credibility.

#### ▪ **The Week’s Whisper :**

Titles differ but only the title of poverty remains to lead revolution and seize opportunities to attack what is left of security in this era in an attempt to destabilize the entire region.

#### ▪ **My Blame :**

I blame all channels and billionaires who point fingers at others, for help, from the poor to help them abolish poverty, which they were of the first to cause. They should feel ashamed and start to spend their money before it is inherited by younger generations with power and authority, without reform or faith which promotes “no to poverty”. These funds should be spent on human development instead of fake campaigns which we have had enough of. They have become a toxic substance in the body of the Arab countries.

## Hopes, Dreams and the Media

Saturday, December 17, 2011

“650 billion riyal to make a person,” this is the title Okaz used for the next budget. They are providing four spring flowers to our traditional problems in the cabinet. It has welcomed four new ministers. I knew their names a long time ago. Anyway, it was not expected that we would have new people or pump new blood into the cabinet that, for decades, only used to include the famous names of relatives who are well-known for complete loyalty “to the extent of making no change or expression.” This is so the fragile relations between the leader or president and the subordinate or follower are not effected simply because no one dares to tell the truth. If they did, it would lead to a sad ending and banishment from the tribe or clan that shelters them, as well as and providing dates, honey and fresh water from local wells. The tribe created a comfortable chair that awaits every minister, so they can be showered in billions of riyals. They no longer feel the poor struggling even for a slight increase in the low-wages which the average citizen would not dare to ask for. They wouldn’t even ask for housing and medical allowances, a cure for deadly diseases, which have become endemic, or to fight the corruption spreading in our society. The intellectuals no longer acknowledge this and have suddenly become leaders and ministers adopting the same views. They have become protectors of the homeland speaking the language of leaders and ministers. Perhaps they were promised posts that have become gifts for everyone who promotes their case and provides them with delicious dishes which have become the only means and openly understandable language to buy minds and sell posts. The most obedient occupies the first place to change the colours of his council, the tone of his voice and the letters of his pen to join what we call the democratic game with bureaucratic

conditions. It is now difficult to find what we used to claim was not for sale. It has become a rare currency that does not exist in our local markets, evening sessions, hasty decisions or local declarations which have become like a commodity given and taken on global whims and by local stock markets. They distract us with names so we forget that the basis of the ministerial structure is that the minister should have the power to able to decide the fate of millions of people, to handle billions without becoming one of the corrupt in the end and to address the problems of construction and new foundations. Unfortunately, all our local ministries must be reconstructed, as indicated by our king, to focus on supporting people. I have written about this in numerous articles a long time ago. I have shed the light on people's needs and not only places. In comparison with the existing quantities of buildings and new equipment, we do not recognise the ability to deal with them by human specification and capacities that unfortunately lack local capacity and don't have the moral courage to admit that we do not have the global culture to deal with all the modern technology. Most of those with scholarships do not return with scientific certificates that enable them to run and update our primitive systems. They travel to study superficial skills that do not help in any way. When we require training to use technology and weapons, we look to the West as if we, in spite of all the billions we have made over the years, are not even able to use our weapons in our brave army camps or Saher programs which have become our main concern. So, we begin another year full of billions of media headlines and fresh flowers to fill our minds with pipe dreams for another year of bureaucracy and dormant, forgotten ideas in a world with a violent language of dark red colours and a clearly visible agenda for a change which benefits the people. Not to benefit those in high posts who have been distracted with 'patriotism' for decades. Now, the language is different, agendas have developed and the divine power has given the final say. Now, we have to work for future generations that monitor us and expect a nation capable of controlling their own minds and rejecting any

strange and unacceptable things from extravagant figures who are only connected through sports, TV channels and local newspapers. An expert observer, who knows the details, realizes that there will be no radical or realistic change in main problems we are suffering from, such as housing and low salaries in both governmental and non-governmental jobs. The language has not changed and, unfortunately, things are going to get worse as voices are not heard by those in high positions. Things will stay the same as the local hawks and western eagles want. In the same vein, Hollywood movies brainwash our minds which have become white from its frequency and programming by MBC channels that did not leave an unused language to erase what we have left of moral whispers.

#### ▪ **My Word This Week :**

I say in the dialect of all the dear Saudi people and to the homeland, "Wake up!" Today, agendas and conspiracies exist to destabilize the security in Saudi Arabia and the entire Arab nation in general.

I hope everyone does wake up because survival will only be for those who are aware of what is going on around them.

#### ▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

Media channels are no longer merely means of entertainment but executive agendas for future wars and those who sit on the executive chairs.

## The Acton princess calling for reform in Saudi Arabia

( Independent )

Tuesday 03 January 2012

(Cahal Milmo)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/news/the-acton-princess-calling-for-reform-in-saudi-arabia-6284225.html>

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Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Saud Bin Abdul Aziz is one of the more unlikely critics of the élite that runs Saudi Arabia. The oil state boasts a 15,000-strong royal family but it is rare for a voice from within its ranks to become part of the growing clamour for reform in the desert kingdom.

As the youngest daughter of the country's second king and niece to its current ruler, she is from the highest echelons of the Saudi monarchy. Just as her privileged status gives her considerable authority in the debate about change, so this carefully dissenting royal has much to lose if her actions incur the displeasure of Saudi Arabia's ultra-conservative regime.

But then Basma Bint Saud is no ordinary Saudi princess.

A 47-year-old divorcee and a successful businesswoman, she has spent the last five years in the country building a parallel career as a journalist and a blogger, confronting head on sensitive subjects from the abuse of women and poverty in the world's second biggest oil exporter to the chilling effect of the mutawa, the kingdom's draconian religious police.

Such has been her success at shining a light on the problems in Saudi society (a Facebook fan page has 25,000 followers), she now conducts her campaign not from her birthplace in the capital, Riyadh, or her previous home in Jeddah but a recently-acquired house in the west London suburb of Acton which she shares with three of her five children.

The princess underlines that she was not forced to leave Saudi Arabia and goes out of her way to emphasise that her criticisms do not relate to her octogenarian uncle, King Abdullah, or the other senior members of the monarchy. Instead, the focus of her anger is the tier of governors, administrators and plutocrats who run the country day to day.

Amnesty International this month accused the Saudi authorities of conducting a campaign of repression against protesters and reformists in the kingdom in the wake of revolutions sweeping the Arab world, during which Riyadh sent troops into neighbouring Bahrain while protests for greater political freedom among Shi'ites were stamped out. The impression of increased authoritarianism was not allayed by detention in October of three young Saudi film makers who posted on the internet a documentary about poverty in Riyadh.

The princess insists she is no "rebel" nor an advocate of regime change. But in an interview *The Independent*, she equally does not pull her punches when it comes to the question of who bears responsibility for the ills that she considers beset her country.

Sat in a living room decorated with Saudi artefacts and in front of a table carrying a plate of Saudi dates ("the best in the world"), she said: "The problems are because of the ruling ministers. We have ministers who are incapable of doing what has been ordered from above because there is no follow up, because there are no consequences. If you are poor man and you steal, your hand is cut off after three offences. But if you are a rich man, nobody will say anything to you."

She added: "We have 15,000 royals and around 13,000 don't enjoy the wealth of the 2,000. You have 2,000 who are multi-millionaires, who have all the power, all the wealth and no-one can even utter a word against it because they are afraid to lose what they have."

Asked if her decision to speak out means she risks losing what she has, she replied: "Oh, definitely. Definitely."

Speaking fluently with a neutral English accent picked up as a teenager in the Home Counties, Basma is the first to admit she is the product of a not only a privileged upbringing but also an atypical one for a Saudi princess. She is the 115th - and last - child of King Saud, the eldest surviving son of Saudi Arabia's founding monarch Abdul Aziz.

King Saud was overthrown in 1964 by his brother, Faisal, and left for exile in Europe. Basma's mother, a Syrian-born woman who was chosen for her future husband when she visited Mecca on the haj at the age of 10, took her children to the Middle East's then most cosmopolitan city, the Lebanese capital of Beirut, where the young princess was schooled by French nuns among Christians, Jews and Muslims who did not adhere to the austere Wahhabi branch of Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia.

When Lebanon's civil war broke out in 1975, the family fled for Britain where she attended a Hertfordshire girls' school and an international college in Oxford before spending two years studying in Switzerland. It was a very different existence from the closeted upbringing normally led by young Saudi royals.

She explained how, at the age of 17, she joined one of the first visits to post-Mao China by foreign students, describing vividly how her group were taken to a farm and treated to a delicacy in the form of the brains of a live monkey chained and slaughtered at the table. She said: "Some girls screamed and fainted. Others were sick. I went to the car and refused to go back into the building. China was like visiting the moon."

Equally alien was the land of her birth when she returned in early 1980s. Upon entering the royal court ("I was very careful, very nervous to behave correctly"), she found a cut-off society which, paradoxically, was more relaxed than present-day Saudi Arabia.

She said: "If China was like the moon, then arriving in Saudi Arabia was Mars. At least you can see the moon from Earth. It was a completely secluded society but I wouldn't say backward - not as backward as it is now. It was much more open and tolerant. You wouldn't hear people saying 'go to prayer', 'go and do this and that'.

"This is the atmosphere you have now. It is such a non-tolerant atmosphere, even of other sects. Any other sect that doesn't actually belong to our community is thought to be - I'm not going to be sharp but very specific - not the true Islam."

It is an intolerance which she claims pervades Saudi society, fronted by the mutawa, otherwise known as the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vices, ironically founded her father to act as a check on traders charging inflated prices.

The princess said: "Our religious police has the most dangerous effect on society - the segregation of genders, putting the wrong ideas in the heads of men and women, producing psychological diseases that never existed in our country before, like fanaticism. The mutawa are everywhere, trying to lead society to a very virtuous life that doesn't exist. Everything is now behind closed doors."

Amid regular accounts of executions - Amnesty International last week described as "truly appalling" the death penalty carried out on a Saudi woman for "sorcery and witchcraft - Basma makes the point that human rights abuses happen to both genders but fall disproportionately on women.

As a result, she is slightly bewildered by the focus on the continuing prohibition on Saudi women, who cannot go to

university or take a job without a male guardian's permission, from being allowed to drive.

She said: "Why don't we actually fight for a woman's right even to complain about being beaten up. That is more important than driving. If a woman is beaten, they are told to go back to their homes - their fathers, husbands, brothers - to be beaten up again and locked up in the house. No law, no police will protect them.

"We are overlooking essential rights of a human being - the right to mix between the sexes, to talk and study freely... We have got human rights but they are paralysed. They are completely abstract, for the media and the western world."

The princess, who divorced from her Saudi husband six years ago and went into business setting up a series of restaurant chains which she now intends to expand into Britain, has not been afraid to air similar views in Saudi Arabia, writing in newspapers and websites on issues from the mutawa, to women's prisons and clothing. She eschews what she describes as the expected "sleep by day, live at night" leisured life of Saudi princesses and is instead setting up a charity to fight poverty in the Arab world by offering a Fair Trade-type deal to artisans which will include access to education and health care.

But in a country where doctrine and adherence to orthodoxy can be everything, Princess Basma is aware of the hostility generated by a woman speaking out. She has studied Islam in depth, becoming a scholar of the faith's great texts to give her the authority to challenge the teachings of Saudi imams. Armed with the evidence of scripture, she has rebuked the authorities in writing on issues from driving to the doctrinal basis for the requirement that women cover up in public.

But the eruption of democracy movements in Tunisia, Egypt and Syria has brought an abrupt end to her reporting from Saudi Arabia. This summer, officials began to suggest she "edit" her work. She said: "The first time they took out some sentences. The second time, paragraphs. The last time, they told me to change the

whole article or the editor who published it would go to prison. I didn't want to send anyone to prison on my behalf."

Even though she insists her work was carried out until recently with the blessing of King Abdullah, here is a princess treading a narrow line.

Following the death in October of Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdel Aziz, the 86-year-old heir to the throne, Saudi Arabia is still ruled by the ageing and conservative generation of her uncles, who she says have given her "very strong hints" that her criticisms are not currently being met with approval.

Sitting close to a photomontage of the Saud dynasty which shows her father as a young man next to her grandfather and beside the boy Prince Nayef, the 78-year-old head of the interior ministry who is de facto ruler, Basma underlines her respect for her father's ruling brothers.

She said: "I am still an obedient citizen and I will always be behind the royal family. But I will never be quiet about what is happening on the ground. The unfairness of the distribution of wealth, about the power that has been unevenly given to people because they have complete obedience to those above them.

"I owe my uncles everything and what I owe them most is to tell them the truth. My mistake, my ruin is going to be insisting on telling the truth even if they don't like it. Because I think they need to hear it, especially from one of their loyal, royal own."

## International Women's Day 2012

### Sierra Leone



Princess Basmah bint Saud spent this year's International Women's Day in the West African Republic of Sierra Leone. She spent 4 days in the capital Freetown, visiting a number of institutions as well as meeting with the President and the First lady. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Princess Basmah found the trip life changing. The country and its people, left a deep and unexpected impression on her. She felt greatly energised by the strength and warmth of her hosts.

### Sierra Leone

A former British Colony lying on the West coast of Africa, Sierra Leone has immense natural resources. However despite the vast mines of diamond, titanium and gold, 70% of its people live in poverty. An 11 year civil war between 1991 and 2002 left the country devastated with more than 50 000 dead and much of the infrastructure in ruin. A great deal of work is needed to rebuild the country.

## **Women in Sierra Leone**

Women and girls in Sierra Leone face enormous challenges; less than a third of them are literate and girls are often subjected to genital mutilation and early marriage. Infant mortality is very high and maternal deaths are the highest in the world. This is especially the case for girls who live in rural areas. However, with a government focus on education, health and empowering women, things are slowly changing for the better.

### **Princess Basmah on empowering women**

Princess Basmah has a strong belief that in Sierra Leone, like many other countries in similar positions, aid, in the traditional sense, is not the solution. It has been tried for generations. It strips away a nation's self-respect and dignity and still its people remain in poverty. More creative solutions are needed and with that goal in mind Princess Basmah has committed to put to use her access to networks and systems to highlight the plight of the people of Sierra Leone but more than that to help them find their voice, to develop new industries and find new markets for their goods.

# Saudi Arabia: Readers respond to princess's call for reform

( BBC )

18 April 2012

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-17726934>

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Last week, Princess Basma bint Saud bin Abdulaziz set out five ways she thought Saudi Arabia could change for the better.

She focused on the constitution, divorce laws, education system, social services and the custom of women having a chaperone.

There was a huge response from readers to the princess's article. Many cheered her on, but some opposed her ideas. Here are some emails from those who disagree with her.

Don't dilute our values

Basma has raised a few good points which need attention by the local authorities, namely, the constitution and divorce laws.

Continue reading the main story

What the princess asked for:

- Constitution that enshrines gender equality
- Make it easier for women to file for divorce
- An overhaul of the education system
- Reform of social services, such as introducing independent women's refuges
- Increase women's freedom of movement by removing necessity for male chaperone
- Princess: What I'd change about my country

However, some of her remarks are incendiary to the masses living here.

For example, the masses of people love the Prophet Muhammad and take his words and deeds seriously. For us, Islam is a way of life, a way prescribed to us by the divine which is better than all human systems. For somebody to mock the words of the Prophet as "wasting time on learning quotations" is obnoxious.

I agree that there should be educational reforms to keep at par with the world; however, that should not be at the expense of watering down our own values and beliefs. We will not allow that to happen. Islam believes in separation of responsibilities of men and women and that ensures a healthy society. When this institution is broken, we see broken families, incoherent societies, old age homes etc as evident in many countries.

With regards to a woman travelling with a chaperone, it is a universal law applicable even today. It is for her safety and protection.

One piece of advice for Basma. Please read and analyse the divine texts without any preconceived biases to be able to come to a right conclusion. You are trying to superimpose Western secular liberalism on Islam and trying to push that as a system here which, in my opinion, is unreasonable.

Hassan Mahfooz, Jeddah

Real injustice is drivers' wages

I live in Saudi Arabia, and Princess Basma's comments are not totally accurate to the realities of the country. Women frequently do move around without male chaperones, to go shopping or to travel to and from work or school. Whether or not they are allowed to is largely irrelevant, because they do it and nobody stops them. The second point is that, yes, they cannot drive, but the overwhelming majority of Saudi families have a driver to whom they pay a pittance. Even if women could drive by law, they mostly wouldn't. The real social injustice in Saudi is the

disgustingly low wages paid to family drivers who are on call 24/7 and are treated like slaves by their employers.

Paul, Riyadh

Women have more freedom now

The princess's comments give a somewhat blurred picture of the current situation in Saudi Arabia. I am an expatriate living in this country since my childhood days. What I am seeing now is a totally different scenario, in terms of women's education and rights. Saudi women today are enjoying and practising their (allowable) freedom ever more than before. They are getting a good education, starting to work and are constantly developing. I agree with the princess on the issue of women driving; Saudi society is just not prepared for that ethically and traditionally.

Vasic Soton, expat living in Jeddah

Don't take religion out of education

Yes, the educational systems will benefit from a revision and development plan, but I strongly disagree with the limitation of the religious courses. Islam in its golden times was never against creativity or tolerance, and the examples on that are many. Decreasing the amount of religious content in the curriculum is not the way to improve the quality of the educational system product, but infusing more sciences and applying new models of education is.

Saudi Arabia spends somewhere between one-quarter and one-third of its budget every year for the last seven years on education and training, giving scholarships to thousands of students every year to study abroad. The latest statistics indicate that there are more than 130,000 Saudi students abroad, studying languages, doing undergrad or graduate degrees, with around 17,000 in the UK. Chances in these programmes are given to both men and women.

Yes, of course, the picture is not always pretty and rosy, but I think that there is a lot of progress there that deserves looking at. I come

from a relatively conservative family but that didn't stop any of my sisters or female cousins (and they are many) from getting their higher education completed, and working in different institutions and being independent caring mothers and loving spouses.

For a country that was torn apart by tribal conflicts and harsh living conditions less than 90 years ago, only those who have witnessed the dramatic change can give a good perspective.

## HRH Basmah Bint Saud in Doha

Princess Basmah was honoured to participate in this year's Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future Conference in Doha, Qatar which took place on 20-22 May 2012.

The conference provides an internationally recognized forum for scholars, dignitaries, and investors to discuss pressing issues related to global policy.

As the region grapples with the events of the Arab Spring and the strains of the global financial crisis a variety of new global and regional issues were this year addressed at the conference looking for ways to overcome the challenges and encourage economic success in the region.

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Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to talk to you this afternoon, and my thanks must go to the organisers for this also.

There is one main issue I would like to touch upon in my brief contribution: Israel / Palestine in the aftermath of the so-called Arab Spring, and individual human rights.

I'd like to start with a brief vignette about the Arab Spring, and what I think has changed - and to what end.

It would seem that by any measure, the Arab world has long been newsworthy. But this past year and more, new heights have been reached.

But now a certain narrative has really entrenched itself: revolution, hope, followed by politics that are painfully slow to deliver on the

promise of liberation. For a while, even, the term ‘counter-revolution’ became popular in the global media.

There may be some truth in this. We look at the countries that experienced the worst of the upheaval, those who removed their authoritarian leaders by popular uprising.

Some observe that in the aftermath, their political arenas are characterised by division, not decision, and by delay and creeping disquiet: hardly the cornerstones of an equitable future.

But we must remind ourselves of how all this came about: it was the mass mobilisation of the people and the exercise of collective power from below.

Never before has the man or woman on the street mattered in this way; and there can be no status quo ante.

I would add that for these countries, dealing with the social and political consequences of authoritarianism is no overnight task. This will take a while longer.

But to designate this region merely as the location of Arab Spring is to ignore other pressing issues that have been dragging on and festering for decades.

While the world has been talking about the Arab Spring, Palestine has been starving for attention.

This is not to say that attention or publicity is the key to solving the most difficult issues, but that progress in individual human rights has not been visited all over the region, and Palestine demonstrates this more keenly than anywhere else.

As I say, individual human rights were earned on the streets and the squares of the Middle East, where the hitherto faceless masses distinguished themselves. The young particularly have been enfranchised in the political process; “we matter”, has been the message.

With these incontrovertible truths in mind, I believe that a new sense of urgency must be applied to the issue of Israel / Palestine.

It has long been an issue that has caused despair, and a long list of failed peace initiatives lie in its wake, despite the best efforts of the well-intentioned and the worst efforts of the political spoilers. What those in the trade like to call ‘confidence-building measures’ have built nothing of the kind.

So what can be done that hasn’t been done before, when so many paths have been trodden with little positive result?

In fact, this isn’t quite the right question to ask.

I believe it is not substance, but good faith in negotiation which informs the way forward.

Can it be that in the whole history of Israel / Palestine, no one has come up with anything that could form the basis of a lasting peace?

Proposed by my king, King Abdallah of Saudi Arabia, The Arab Initiative of 2002, re-endorsed at the 2007 Riyadh Summit of the League of Arab States, was groundbreaking for the support it received from across the Arab Islamic world.

I believe this Initiative remains pivotal. It is not a broken record. It is not an ultimatum.

I believe that from an Arab perspective, the substance is there - and that approached with good faith in negotiation, it can form the basis of a durable and equitable peace.

Let’s blow away the dust that it has gathered while sitting on some government desk in Israel, and re-engage.

The good faith in negotiation I speak about manifests itself in leadership, both Arab and Israeli, and we must not forget that leadership can be taught and nurtured. The young have earned their place at the table, so let’s enfranchise those who will consolidate and sustain peace in the years to come.

And what of the urgency I mentioned? Whether in circumstances of omission or commission, the rights of the individual glare out like never before, and we see clearly that Palestine is hungry for them.

For so long we heard that Israel was the only democracy in the Middle East.

Now, a lot of Arab blood has been spilt trying to bring political equality to the region. Surely this must be worth something. As individual voices are being heard all over the region, surely Israel must hear them too.

Reform, not revolution is the way forward.

Israel should see and plan for the changes that are sweeping the region, engage meaningfully with its neighbours, review its behaviour, and accept that King Abdullah's plan, which has been approved by so many, provides a way to channel the powerful demographic and political tide into a positive future for Palestine and Israel.

Of course, in the Arab world, there is still a long way to go. But two sides can get their houses in order concurrently.

We should not waste this opportunity to lead and to decide.

Surely the sacrifices made over the last 18 months have made that much possible.

Thank you.

## The Golden Triangle:

### The Saudi Royal Family reigning for the future

Thursday, July 5, 2012

A short while back, the Economist published a report about hierarchy and succession among the elder Royals of Saudi Arabia, the direct line of sons of King Abdul Aziz, the Kingdom's founder and father to 63 children of whom most are males.

My astonishment and wonder came not from the report itself - though I am a granddaughter of the founder, and also the youngest child of the eldest son and first king, King Saud. Instead it came from finding out that almost all of them are in their seventies, with the rest about to reach this age.

It hit me that if things don't change dramatically and swiftly, then we will be in big trouble. I know I myself will be in big trouble for even suggesting it, but I am always vocal, explicit and realistic - and I am definitely a nationalist who would like to see her country kept safe from painful revolutions, guided by a smart Council made up of Royals which would agree on a clear agenda that would clarify and make transparent the line of succession for the people and the nation.

We stand now on a very dark path where everybody is speculating who is going to be next, either in death or in control.

Given the overall context of revolution and upheaval in the Arab region, if we fail to resolve our differences within the family and declare the younger generation in line of succession, then everything is lost. We will see other forces taking advantage of these mysterious, murky processes and fill the gap by pursuing an agenda that would fulfil their narrow aims yet superficially please

the public, whose needs and rights have not been met or resolved during the reign of Elders.

On the contrary, this lack of transparency has promoted corruption within the government and the Ministers, because the great wealth in the country passes the minorities by - and even the unequal distribution of wealth within the Royal Family itself contributes to the current situation in which the whole country is lost and angry.

But even this anger has no target because there are many currents in the arena, with everyone aiming for a different target, a situation that will certainly cause chaos which we are beginning to see now.

So what is the magic potion that could maintain the reign of the Royal Family in Saudi Arabia? Important to ask, because I think they will not be able to withstand the public's pressure – even with the support of their allies abroad, and even if the allies sell \$6-7 billion worth of arms to Saudi, nor even if they occupy it physically!

In my humble opinion, I would suggest it is time for Saudi Arabia to institute the clear divisions between the three branches of government, underpinned by a constitution derived via popular consultations. This is the golden triangle that would save the country from revolution and destruction, in particular:

- a clear constitution underpinned by an independent judiciary;
- a clear and articulated line of succession comprised of second generation Royals, of whom there are many educated and worthy of the positions held by the existing ones, including those who have not yet been given the chance to take part in the decision making process;
- a board of Ministers completely different to the ones existing now, who are not chosen according to their allegiance to certain Royals, but who nonetheless have integrity and experience in these fields;

- an elected Parliament by the people for the people so we can ensure the execution of the government's mandated agenda in a clear and transparent way;
- a just and revised wealth distribution of the country's resources between the people and the royal family;
- a real health, education and social welfare system that no Minister has the right to change.

This is why a clear constitution is the first necessity.

## A statement from HRH Princess Basmah

10 July 2012

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has expressed their condolences upon the death of my eldest brother, Mohammed bin Saud, who will be sadly missed.

Secondly, on Sunday 8 July 2012 a story appeared in the Sunday Telegraph, a British newspaper, about Princess Sara bint Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who is seeking political asylum in the United Kingdom. I have received many phone calls and emails asking me whether I intend to do the same, so I would like to clarify my position and set the record straight in this statement.

I wish to make it clear that I will not, and have never intended to, claim political asylum anywhere. I am a proud and devoted citizen of Saudi Arabia, a country which my grandfather, Abdel Aziz, and my father, Saud, were founders of. I have never been threatened by the Saudi authorities, and nor will I ever consider relinquishing my right to hold a Saudi diplomatic passport.

Through my articles and activities over the last 7 years, I have been promoting reform and humanitarian compassion in Saudi Arabia, the Arab world and beyond, and will not launder any personal problems I may or may not have in the media.

I am also a businesswoman who provides for herself and her family far from any disputes that other royals may be having, so I personally bear no part of any scandal that may befall the royal family – much less the prospect of political asylum.

I have never encountered any threats, nor do I ever wish to, but I realise I have taken an unusual career path, especially as a member of the Saudi royal family. Therefore I wished to avoid any

confusion with other and separate issues relating to the royal family and clarify the situation.

I am the director of The Lanterns Global Organization, a not-for-profit organisation that builds contacts, promotes the work of other humanitarians and provides, and encourages a “reform not revolution” agenda. The Lanterns provides moral and logistical support to men and women in many different fields and many different countries across the world who work tirelessly and fearlessly in support of humanitarian issues.

I wished to clarify that this is my role in life, and to underline my total devotion to my King and country, not forgetting that my grandfather and father were the founders of Saudi Arabia. I feel privileged to be part of such a history and heritage, but do despair at the levels of injustice and corruption that can be seen in some areas. This is why I am committed to my cause both in Saudi and globally.

I feel privileged to be part of such a history and heritage, although like any country, Saudi Arabia has its challenges and I will continue to call for reform where I see injustice and corruption. This is why I am committed to my cause both in Saudi Arabia and globally.

All work I do is as a proud Saudi citizen who wants to support and help her King and country.

# **HRH Basmah Bint Saud in in Istanbul**

## **6th International Turkish-Asian Congress**

**in Istanbul on 7-8 June**

### **Conference opening remarks**

Princess Basmah was delighted to speak at the 6th International Turkish-Asian Congress in Istanbul on 7-8 June, whose theme was: Asian Union? Parameters of Politics, Security, Economy and Culture.

While the general theme was Turkish-Asian integration, the Princess gave an introduction at the start of the conference, and moderated a session on the role of think tanks and NGOs in integration.

It was an eye-opening conference overall, with central Asia, and Azerbaijan in particular, seeming set to rise in geo-political prominence.

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Good morning everyone.

It gives me great pleasure to be back in Istanbul, and I carry with me fond memories from all the times I have had occasion to visit Turkey. So I must express my gratitude to the conference organisers for their efforts, and for the honour of inviting me to speak, among friends once again.

I would just like to say a few opening remarks.

The last time I spoke here, in October 2010 at Yildiz University, I closed my speech with the statement:

“Only when we fight for the underdog all around the world will we sleep peacefully each night, knowing that we contributed to easing misery rather than creating or sustaining it.”

And I added, perhaps somewhat optimistically, “Perhaps next time we meet we shall not be discussing conflict alone, but progress as well.”

So much for progress. It took barely six weeks from my last speech for the underdog to begin his fight back – in Tunisia, then in Egypt, and then right across the region. The underdog could see that no one was fighting for him, and so out of desperation, the tragic Mohammed Bouazizi set himself on fire on 17 December 2010, outside the governor’s office in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia. If only he could have known in life quite what his actions that day would trigger across the Middle East.

Are we gathered here again to discuss security in a region that has very little? It is a disheartening prospect. Last time, I touched with great interest and hope on Turkey’s much-cited foreign policy, ‘zero problems with the neighbours’. Sadly the experience today is of plenty of problems with all the neighbours.

But I think that as we discuss the varied and important topics that are on the agenda over the coming two days, it is essential to retain a sense of realism about what lies ahead, and to allow our expectations not to get ahead of themselves, but to be tempered by the frank appraisal of the scale of the problems we face today.

Last time, I also took the opportunity to quote Machiavelli’s Law of Reform, a quotation some 500 years old:

"There is nothing more difficult to manage, more dubious to accomplish, nor more doubtful of success . . . than to initiate a new order of things. The reformer has enemies in all those who profit from the old order and only lukewarm defenders in all those who would profit from the new order."

I return to that quote today to highlight that reform is not easy, but instead is a long and arduous road.

But at any rate, this is still preferable to the road taken in Libya, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, and so on. I am pleased to hear talk of reformers, as opposed to revolutionaries. Enough blood has been spilt over the past few years, and any path forward we decide to take must be the peaceful one. The trick for us is to establish how we get to it. I hope we get a good deal closer to that over the coming days.

I wish you all a lively, challenging and fruitful conference.

# A Cambridge speech of HRH Princess Basmah Bint Saud

10 October 2012



## From Arab Spring to European Spring to global crisis: The New Way

Ladies and Gentleman,

Thank you for inviting me to speak at the Cambridge Union. It is a great honour for me to speak in such a hall, where so many great people have spoken before. I am humbled to be included amongst the speakers who have gone before me. I hope it will inspire me to go out and seek the change of which I speak with more energy and determination. I am speaking in a place of learning, where the youth come to listen and learn, and I hope that we can look to the youth for a better future and leadership and I am sure that I , too, will learn from this experience.

By birth, I am a member of the Saudi Royal family, and by experience, an advocate of reform. I say reform and not revolution, because the flames of the Middle East today show that revolution has not been the catalyst for lasting change that so many of us hoped for.

Across the world in recent years a lot has happened, but we have not seen change proportional to the upheaval. The charitable view is that the revolutions have been about sowing the seeds of ideas in people's minds about how real change can come - but it is now the time for reform to make the lasting changes, and central to all this is the field of leadership.

No country can avoid the winds of change whether in the Arab World or anywhere else.

You will hear that I mention mainly Europe and the Middle East today - but I could pluck examples from the world over to illustrate these points. What we are facing is a global issue, and I hope we can find a New Way.

The world is not the same as it was before. No matter how slow we are at realising it, there is no leveller like global economic meltdown. And this one has been pretty spectacular.

Financial markets were given new levels of independence from national governments - without any of the much-needed accountability - and of course, things went very wrong. Europe, and particularly southern Europe, is paying a steep price.

The European project is failing because economic union in the good times only papered over the cracks that the lack of political union inevitably created. "A rising tide lifts all boats", as Kennedy pointed out in a speech in Arkansas almost 50 years ago, and as we have discovered to our cost, only the strong survive the storm. The tide has turned in Europe - what good is a single market of 500 million when no one is buying?

In my region, the issues are very fundamental. We had people on the streets, the youth of today and tomorrow, asserting their rights. It was about claiming simple human rights that were denied to

millions, it was about access to even the most basic of economic opportunities.

For my country, one whose traditions and culture I value greatly, I do not shy away from suggesting we need a constitution to institute and then safeguard the rights that to so many are painfully slow in coming. But at the same time, I do not join the chorus of universal condemnation. Results are best achieved when you work with, and not against.

Furthermore, at the cultural level, people's lives and rights change without the help of laws of bills of rights. This is much harder to perceive from afar, but no society is cast in stone: they all live and breathe, though all with differing degrees of latitude as they do so. But my main point here is that what governs societies are variables, not absolutes.

In our globalised world of today, what happens in the Middle East has an effect on Europe: the world over, no one is immune to these upheavals and crises. Your problem is my problem, and vice versa. However, it seems that the ideas needed to take us forward are slow in coming.

We need fresh ideas, we need fresh YOUNG leaders, and we need to accept that the failures within the political systems we have been using to manage international and domestic cooperation are showing signs of serious distress - to the extent that admitting defeat must surely be making its way up our 'to do' list.

Approach and mindset to the future are key.

In the post-War world, capitalism took the spoils, and socialism's bastions crumbled. Capitalism is now finding out what that is like in a way that was unthinkable just five years ago. However, it is no longer a question of being aligned to any ideology in particular. It has been a long time coming, but the playing field is levelling in new ways. Nevertheless, what we build now has to mean something for the generations to come. It cannot merely be a recasting of the old systems.

We can no longer afford to think in terms of exceptionalism - the idea that somehow, a region's or a country's problems are neatly parcelled up and cause trouble to them alone. On our increasingly levelled playing field, our global problems are inextricably linked. Exceptionalism seems only to make differences stand out, when what I am talking about is drawing out the common ground, accepting mutual interdependence, not mutual siege.

As things stand now, the future is uncertain, and dangerously so. There is instability in many corners of the world, with conflicts demonstrating a particular ability to draw in neighbouring countries.

My region of course has seen some serious upheaval. When I saw the first Middle Eastern country, Tunisia, begin its revolt, I felt sure that the rest would follow. Bit by bit, they are doing so. Even my country, Saudi Arabia, one that seemed robust, if only for its perceived wealth, is vulnerable.

Those countries that have been resisting the compelling call for change will either reform voluntarily, or face revolt by populations who look around the region, and find that their expectations have been changed to demand better, and whose confidence has grown immeasurably when faced down by their state's security services.

Out of the ruins of all this, what will emerge? This is where my concerns lie. The access to opportunity and basic human rights that so many fought for are slow in coming.

Granted, such were the accumulations of decades of autocracy that there was never any realistic chance that the transition would be smooth. But while patience is certainly required, this is not to say passivity is required.

We need to approach the future with vigour as we set about the process of rebuilding. Expressing it in its most basic form, I am talking about moving forward and building upon the mistakes of the past and the sacrifices of so many.

We in the Middle East are not the only ones rebuilding; Europe has little choice in the matter. This is about reform being the preferable

course of action, when it is undeniable that some sort of action must be taken.

Yes we have nations, regions, tribes, pressure groups, social classes, political parties, borders, financial systems that divide and discriminate, but why do we allow the things that divide us to stop us enjoying and benefiting from the things that unite us.

Let's focus on the positive, on the things that unite us, and the starting point must be an understanding of the fundamental rights and laws that should apply everywhere. They do not have to start as complicated legal systems of which there are many examples the world over - they need to be simple, and not so broad as to exclude anyone with different value systems and cultural contexts.

As examples, respect for each other, the right to a name, a right to education, a right to health, gender equality are all, in my view, fundamental rights. Practically, there are many things to be considered. Social structures and balances, economic linkages and distribution, management of cyberspace, systems in place to ensure rights are respected, whether at an individual, national, or transnational level.

This requires a new global charter along with human rights provisions that will guarantee economic, social, ethnic and religious equality. I dream of a new approach for new generations tailored to each country and social context including the very important but scarcely governed frontier of cyberspace.

There is much to discuss there, naturally.

I mentioned leadership. This is a crucial. The youth have faded away following the revolutions, and the subsequent politics have been conducted by people who cut their teeth under the previous autocratic regimes. The mechanics of government, the Ministries and institutions, continue to run inefficiently, and unreformed to any noticeable extent. In other words, the moving parts in governments were designed to serve one master, and such institutional memory remains.

Of course, one cannot simply wish history away - but at the same time, one must not simply wish the future wasn't coming. The youth who have been forgotten in the aftermath must be seen as central to global peace and co-operative governance, not adversarial politics.

From their ranks the leaders of later on today must emerge. While they must be helped to learn from differing contexts, from differing experiences, their own stamp is crucial. After all, there are so many more of them and their peers than there are grey men in suits - and the grey men in suits must willingly cede their knowledge and experience to them in the spirit of learning and compassion for the future.

The way forward starts with dialogue, which will not be easy or substantive without good leadership, but we hope it will be guided and decided upon by good and legitimate leaders.

At our most fundamental level, the similarities between people are greater than the differences. Reaching consensus is a wonderful thing: it can provide the common ground, the platform from which wider success and greater progress can be tackled - basic human rights, equitable distribution of wealth, and gender equality at a minimum.

A new way is needed everywhere so let us start building and writing it for now and future generations.

## The Fourth Law

October, 2012

In this article, I am summarizing and abbreviating my Shuttle travels in alphabetic letters, to present to my readers a realistic view and picture of what is going on behind the doors of governments and the international communities.

I will begin from New York, which included a lot among its ribs, spectra and multiple skin layers. I will dive in The World Fashion Week, the occasion on which the world's ladies from all countries and nations come together to provide assistance to girls of every colour and race. They provide also material and moral support for women's development each in her homeland. I will do this on the stages of New York within this week, which everyone thinks of as only for designers, but it is a powerful platform for women to lay the foundation stone for her name to support non-profit organizations in her home country, a thing that not everyone knows.

I have completed important agreements for this mission, and started to negotiate in order to set up a centre in New York for the benefit of the citizen regardless of gender in Jeddah, Riyadh and afterwards all over the Kingdom, if I am allowed to. Here, I put a big question mark for those who want to rely on oil income for the country, and become blinded by the ministries to find business opportunities while projects exist but delayed if one doesn't suit the minister's taste who wants to take his share of the savings

So, pray for me, and give me a hand to be able to break the mould and to prove to the entire world the citizen's ability to innovate in all fields.

Then, the politics and deception trip, when I went at the invitation of the French parliament hosted by Center for Studies in the Middle East. This was an opportunity for those who want me to fall, as I was surprised by the sudden & unexpected change of the title from “Universal Human Rights”, to “Human Rights in Saudi Arabia and its Relationship to Wahhabism!”. And here I stopped for a moment; I wondered whether to give up and leave the platform or to exploit it to turn the situation against the host. Since I was created to fight, I chose the latter solution, which is to stand on the stage next to the heads of opposition movements, and took the helm and began to show and explain that the human rights are wasted everywhere, even in France and Europe, and that this is the general case that must be studied in its global and deep form. I pointed out that we must stop directing accusations while bargains are made under table without any consideration to human rights.

Then I went back to New York, where there was the United Nations meeting , the nations that unite only for cameras, while behind the scenes, each works for his own, and plays for his role. Peoples have awakened and there must be solutions to quell burning consciences, and inventing new myths and new scenarios to lose directions again and to be confused in selecting the right way for the next stage. I witnessed alliances that can't be seen by the man who watched the world through technology. I witnessed the painful reality that few people know .So, I felt sad about the currently existing constitutions and regulations .I felt sorry for the democracy that is used to slaughter man, and for which regimes are removed. I felt sorry for to the Republic which derives its name from the public, which does not belong to it, not from far or from nearby, and also for other names that history proved their failure, and that they are no longer valid except for the academic people and those in control of the scene.

Then, I attended the Clinton's conference and saw celebrities racing to sit at the president's table. They approach anyone with global name, voice and picture, so as to become highly important. Madeleine Albright, Donna Karen and Amera Eltaweel were

among those I sat with and I listened carefully to what they said, and then I said that things must change, and we must begin plans for a new exchange of dialogue, cultures and experiences. Then, returned “empty-handed” after Presidents Obama and Morsi gave their speeches, as if they were on the election table, but the difference is that Obama was speaking with confidence, and Morsi spoke like a merchant who came to sell and not to buy.

Thus, I finished my trip to sit on the stage of Nations in the Concert of ” Conscience of the World Organization “, which was the only party that has dealt with the global situation transparently, explaining that the world is going through a crisis of confidence in the secular and religious fields , in settlement, and in the globalization of the world, and proposing solutions hand by hand strongly without racial or religious discrimination to pave a new way to create a world coping up with the new generation in everything from technology to thinking and learning, and this is what I call ”THE FOURTH LAW”, with which I will start my journey in the coming years, God willing, to establish new rules for a world that we aren’t adapted to, but went deeply in without tools or education. We invented the game and played before we put laws.

So, we must recast universal laws to start a new phase so that we can play the global game with the commitment that their laws should be written and respected by all sides, including humanity, justice, and government, in all corners of the globe. The world has become a small village, so, we should do a deep study for a Constitution that includes all the new and so as not to waste the future generations who expect us to make the fact beautiful, not painful, and who expect our dialogue and understanding before we get down to the track, in order not to make it the arena for rivalry rather than the centre of honest competition , and to achieve the aspirations and prove worthiness, and for the distribution of roles, and wealth, until wars stop. We keep the gains, and harvest the results of the spring, not the Arab spring, but the global spring, which we should start steadily and strongly towards a better world for us and for future generations.

## ▪ **Whisper in the wind**

The Fourth Law is coming, and the real spring is when we plant new laws derived from the divine books of humanity.

## ▪ **Message**

TO anyone who tries to stop the march of youth global reform, to anyone who put himself /herself as a “god” judges people as ignorant, and considers himself a judge in the World’s trial and appointed himself guardian of the youth and Nations’ morality, it is better each one to begin with reforming his home, and with openness, and with extending the hand of peace to the world until we begin the journey the “Fourth Law.”

## ▪ **Objective**

Currently, a new study is being done to put roots for a new global constitution that keeps human rights everywhere, in order to stop the bloodshed and waste of public money. This will be global and not just local. I, from my position, open the door for each academic, historian and man of religion to put imprint changing modern history, so as to have philosophers who can mimic the new generation and new technology everywhere, while maintaining the privacy of all the peoples of the world as an essential base for our present and future generations to come.

In my article next week, God willing, I will explain the basis of this study, which I started with a lecture on the theatre of the most prestigious global university which is Cambridge.

## “No”. The Fourth Law

Monday, October 22, 2012

People said “no” in all countries of the world this week: “no” to tyranny and the repressive policies towards the poor and the young. The word “no” could be heard all the way from the continent of the so-called Arab Spring, to a continent filled with free, equal and democratically governed countries.

In the recent past, the word “no” was just something whispered to the wind, a word that would get people thrown into the unknown prisons of autocratic governments.

The Chief Prosecutor in Egypt, Abdel Meguid Mahmoud, said “no” in an episode that will go down in the history of contemporary injustice in the Arab nations, tyranny and the one man monopoly of power that completely neglects all written constitutions of peoples and rulers.

The Prosecutor set an example that should be followed by anyone in a position of authority who speaks truth to power by refusing submission or surrender to the tyranny of the Pharaoh of these times, regardless of their background and history.

The word “no” was present last week here in London, where different people come together with different religions, sects and ethnicities. They demonstrated as unions, institutions, children, women and the elderly to support the ordinary man against the austerity budget, something now manifest in all countries of the European Union. This Union, long considered the cradle of the European heritage and progress in all fields, has begun to collapse.

Somewhere along the way, the EU deviated to become an economic superpower at the expense of poor man, and sided with the rich. So, its collapse began, as did that of its collective economy when Europe’s borders were opened without deep and

long-term study, and became involved in paying the debts of countries which only in the recent past had been under decades of communist rule. It opened its doors without fully understanding the issues of those countries.

Now it is reaping what it sowed. Economies are collapsing everywhere, but those who are really paying the price are the people who let the leaders control everything, and who in return sided with the elites. Thus the rich became richer, and the poor became much poorer while the middle classes began to fade away and the balance became upset.

Administrative corruption took root, something sadly familiar to us in our regions, but the difference here is that constitutions protected the rights of the poor to say no and to apply pressure on governments and individuals to fix what they corrupted.

But with hope and popular sovereignty, there will be a shining start without bloodshed, or finger pointing. In Europe, power can be taken away by the ballot box according to the laws and constitutions in a way that protects the public and national gains, and without touching the sovereignty of the law or the heads of leaders.

The people said “no” last week in our dear neighbouring country Kuwait when the Parliament was dissolved. Citizens gathered for the first time in front of the ruler’s palace to say “no” to the poor conditions in this ancient country which was and is still the most civilized Arab country in terms of political processes and democracy. In Kuwait, the idea of the Islamic Shura began, and was applied for decades smoothly. A department was created to administer local issues without fear of excluding the local authorities, and solutions arrived at following in-depth study were implemented on the ground immediately.

This country was a model that should have been followed by other countries. Yet, it is no longer enough as some figures of authority within Islamic Shura diverted power for their own personal benefit, and began the privatization of projects. Here, corrupting hands

interfered to spoil everything that people had built since ancient times. Unless Shura and the people say “no” and unite to crack down on corruption and restore sovereignty to the people, Kuwait faces the same fate as other countries in the region.

It is the same case in all countries, whether regional or global. In fact, wherever we look, and on every news channel, we see revolutions at various stages, from America to Europe, Africa to Latin America, and from the Middle East to the Far East. Across the class divides, peoples have got up together to say “no” – but at this point I stop for a moment and say: “Where is the alternative?”

The word “no” is a simple idea, but where are the plans, the alternatives, that can be applied to real life to make moderation prevail, to divide wealth among different classes, to ensure human rights, and to establish a base from which we can progress which fits everywhere and everyone in this global village?

Governments are an established fact ever since the beginning of Athenian democracy two and a half thousand years ago. Since then, we have tried all sorts of alternative systems, so man becomes just an experiment in the international laboratory of politics.

If all previous solutions and systems failed because they are unsuitable, out of date and bankrupt, what then is the solution? The twenty-first century is quite unlike any that has gone before, socially, economically or scientifically.

Here I stop to say that we must develop a new global constitution and law as a foundation for men everywhere to ensure their divine and human rights ordered by God in all religions. Man was ignorant and ignored these orders, and so chaos prevails as history repeats itself.

So, nations and empires fall and rise, but what difference does that make, if history goes only to repeat itself? Wars break out among us, and we trade in human beings and slavery.

In my opinion, we should create a new global system based on five main points:

- 1) Freedom of thought and expression that is guaranteed everywhere, supported by developing laws and regulations, both universal and local;
- 2) Civil rights: health, educational and social insurance from the state;
- 3) The complete independence of the judiciary the world over;
- 4) A constitution which regulates the application of punishment and sanction;
- 5) Investing popular power in governments derived from the people, so that governments become properly responsible for all specialized management and reconstruction to be monitored by Parliaments as nations re-build themselves.

These are the ideas that sit at the beginning of my path as I set about writing the Charter of the Nations for the Fourth Way of the twenty-first century. I assert that all the regimes collapsed because of corruption which came of absolute power.

Absolute power corrupts man. Corruption permeates through society if it is present in the higher authorities. It is time to say “no” with quiet insight to everything that impedes our progress, we must see that we should adopt the alternative at a time of peace and not war. We must build not tear down, reform not revolt, and enter into dialogue without resorting to wars. This earth is enough to embrace everyone on equal footing, while maintaining privacy and recognizing the traditions and ethics of each place.

But we should agree on the first step, which is to say “no” to corruption, wars, division, bloodshed, and sedition. First, we must say “no” to those who refuse to allow equality, rights, and justice... say “no” to corrupting minds, say “no” to anyone who wants slavery and subservience to others, and say “no” to unequal distribution of collective national wealth by the elites.

For generations, we have said “yes” – but now we must say “no”.

Let’s prove to the world that we are able to develop the law of a new world that is governed according to good conscience. People

act with impunity, some are rewarded for corruption while others are punished for telling the truth and sent to unknown prisons – just because they said “No to corruption.” .

### ▪ **The Week’s Whisper :**

The word “no” is the right word in the face of tyranny.

### ▪ **The Week’s Blame :**

To all those who fake news and publish sedition everywhere with a careless pen, whether it is a report or a movie...

To all those who seek power and corruption at the expense of the people sacrificing all ethical conduct...

To all those who already have that power, and to all those who believe the incredible deception that they deserve it, and walk with the herd to the guillotine of history.

### ▪ **Word :**

I will continue on my way and will not surrender, I will not allow anyone to interrupt and explain my approach in an evil or ungrateful way, because I simply defend human rights everywhere, and for generations to come: “sedition is as bad as murder”. My word is that I will not surrender, and I will go steadily and determinedly on my way.

The determination of the youth is solid and strong enough to achieve real gains, to eliminate epidemics and previously incurable diseases, determined enough that we may begin our long journey steadily, and with planning, justice and equality.

## Block

Sunday, November 11, 2012

Happy New Year. Each year, Mohammad's followers sing of peace, justice and harmony without blood, destruction or separation.

God willing, this year no one will be "blocked" or "vetoed", except those who insult the literary work and teachings of Muhammad, messenger of the Muslim community, in their tweets. I have been accused of attacking sheikhs. I only wish to discuss important and pressing issues, as well as clarifying the bigger picture. If I were to make a mistake, as long as I question what I have learnt from continuing to read each doctrine and interpretation of the Quran, it is only because more and more questions are raised.

So, I seek answers as our Prophet, peace be upon him, taught us, through reading his biography. I do not do so by reading fabricated hadith or traditions, adhered to by many despite the long trail of people they were recalled to. The Quran has been left in our hands and is more important than any fabricated hadith. We have been following sheikhs on various affiliations and persuasions no questions, no discussions, no objections, until they became idols of ignorance and priests of the past. Their words have been glorified and worshiped. God forbid you question, or, disregard their fabricated hadith, which purely serve their own hidden agendas. If we do not obey their teachings, we are branded as infidels, sentenced to hell and a destiny of suffering. At the moment, we follow their visions and knowledge, without understanding the Quran. It is as if they were kings or sultans, not teachers, reformers or messengers of Islam. Peace must not be separated from Islam, but they are now being held together by a fine, scrawny, weak thread. We must not continue to remain silent when "blocked".

How many decrees have been “blocked” by ministers and princes? How many projects have been “blocked” without asking the king or crown prince? How many “blocks” are hidden under the darkness of the night? How many “blocks” are publicly announced, without coyness or piety? “Blocks” are no longer restricted to Twitter, they have become larger, broader and more severe. I believe, this has existed for ages, but we were unable to express ourselves in our tweets. We were at risk of falling victim to weapons and snipers. Now, tweeting has become a profession, life, legends, fiction, poetry, parliament, judge, executioner, matchmaker, marriage, children, scandals, lying and deceit. This mixture has become one and it is impossible to distinguish right from wrong. Who is behind this? The jurisprudence? Sheiks? Deception? Only the almighty all seeing God knows. He gives the kingdom to whomever He wishes, so they can distinguish friend from foe and who tweets for and against them. How many people have a team for Twitter and Facebook, as well as for their statements and “blocks”? We are continuing, without analysing, understanding or affiliating to the theory. Worshipers, you must understand, most of those who tweet have supporters to write about them in accordance with their agenda. They are followed by millions; I would even say to an extent that their numbers exceed the constraints of the human mind.

We have been striving in this scene for years. Everyone knows who writes, who builds, who breaks promises and who decides the fate of a country and its citizens. Those who don’t know can read the newspapers, “Alwaseela,” “Alfadyla” and “Mokhatatat Araedy,” as well as the magazines “Alrasd” and “Sebaak”. Everyone knows who finances them behind the scenes, as well as who buried inventors and creative channels in order to control the minds of citizens.

I am only saying “Sufficient for us is Allah, and [He is] the best Disposer of affairs,” the only One who no person, or president can “block” His calls against the unjust. Nor can anyone push whom

God swore to protect even, “If all mankind and jinn come together.”

In the coming weeks, I will publish some of my articles during my journey with the “Al Madina” newspaper, which ended when I blocked those who wanted me to remain silent and to stop telling the truth. My readers will know how much effort I have put into standing against the might and pride of many ministries and ministers, as well as the campaigns I initiated that were stopped from the beginning. They will also discover my thwarted attempts to create and establish rules to help the country and citizens, for both sexes, and to create jobs for hundreds of thousands of them. These solutions were not easy and have faded quickly to leave nothing in real life.

#### ▪ **The Week’s Whisper :**

From now, no one will be able to “block” on my account anymore, because my account is with the Almighty, the only king of the night and day.

#### ▪ **The Week’s Balme :**

I blame everyone who excluded me, from the borders of my country and homeland, from helping to improve the homeland and citizens, to a degree that suits our nation, our wealth, our heritage and our religion.

I blame everyone who attacked me to pursue their personal interests. For agendas prepared to silence voices, that have the best interests of the homeland and citizens at heart, as well as agendas, which conceal the tweets from our king. May God protect him and his crown prince.

Today, I blame everyone who compromises the security of the homeland and citizens for a few dirhams.

I blame everyone, who “blocks” the interests of the homeland and its citizens. They are following what will destroy not build, devastate not fix and separate not unite. The good intentions have been lost and only a few people remain who speak out, from behind the covers and masks of those afraid even to stand against tyranny in a clear and transparent way.

I blame them more because, “Are those who know equal to those who do not know?” Here, I wanted to say, that I will publish all my articles clearly. They will become tweets and like breezes that enter without permission and “block” the conscience of the nation, not the conscience of illiterates, who do not know “the hidden secret” .

▪ **A Word and A Lesson :**

I pray to God that, in the current circumstances, the new appointment and selection by our beloved king, which I know after writing this article, is a glimmer of hope for a new dawn in our nation which has had the honour of having the Two Holy Alharian within its borders.

## Embracing the World at the Core of a Nation

Sunday, November 18, 2012

We have spoken a lot about everything that is passing, will happen and what is purely done in the name of God, the Lord of all creation. The world is moving towards an abyss and only the Lord of the Worlds knows its fate. God created the earth, creatures, sun and moon for our benefit. Yet, the universe cannot grasp the wisdom of a woman? With only empty dialogue and attacks, it appears people are listening but not responding. Weapons of mass destruction are sold both under the table and openly in markets. Money is paid to billionaires. Institutions have been chosen that cannot address the travails of the world. New thinking is embraced at the core of a nation that is not prepared. 'The Forth Law,' however, acts to close the gap between the rich and the poor by granting equal rights and abolishing discrimination. It will not strip anyone of power or sovereignty. Keeping the existing authorities in power would be more beneficial. It would mean avoiding sterile revolutions which only serve Western interests. A simple structure could not even be followed without getting caught up in complexities that do not help the average man or woman. If the equation was in armament and forces, the strongest would be emphasised.

Agreements are made to take liberties as well as to curb voices on the streets. That is if there was originally freedom of speech or even an exchange of advice. Everyone follows the "art" of America, where laws of protection, threats and intimidation are used against whoever dares to say something to expose those in a higher position or their attitudes. The clearest evidence of this is the resignation of the CIA chief who refused to accept the development of new concepts or to portray matters in a different light. So, it was necessary to remove him in the same vein as what

happens globally. This is well known, even if you are in a very remote country.

Why is this idea global? Everyone is either afraid or has immunity against any new system. I believe the fear is of feeding a network that makes countless billions for its owners, who do not want it to stop. Consequently, the rest of humanity revolts and hands are tarnished with innocent blood.

The Forth law is simple; it neither increases nor decreases, unless everyone wants to abort the last hope. In the West, where decisions are made, they have started listening to and, in effect, benefitting from ideas that will become reality, thanks to God. These ideas will create a path that protects everyone, planting seeds free of chemicals or pollutants, to let the generations of Twitter and Messenger begin their lives and respect human dignity that has been neglected due to tyranny and corruption. It does not matter who enacted this law. It is simply important to apply and derive basic laws from the holy books, which promote equal human rights.

Fake geographical barriers are still part of the plan to protect local authorities, unable to understand the 'secret sauce' and the new local and global 'taste'. They are no longer able to stand in the way of change unless they embrace their nations from the core through good policies, which meet demands for human rights.

I am writing these words due to a feeling of responsibility and extremely unquestionable patriotism. But, and I always will say but, this is not to make my arguments ambiguous. It is, however, to tackle solutions for the problems experienced today on a global scale. There is common ground for these problems, because poverty, unemployment and corruption are rife. I will let the people decide the rest of the legislation in their countries, according to their religion, legacy and basic elements.

Nobody wants a simple solution anymore, because they do not require studies that cost billions of dollars. Everyone is looking for complexities so as not to solve the matter in a simple way. They do

not want to restore calm, nor do they want the days of mercy, justice and law to come back.

From Gaza, Damascus, passing through Homs, Oman, Lebanon, Bahrain, Tunisia, Egypt – Mother of the World, Kuwait, the UAE, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, France, and America, crossing the black continent, the red, the yellow and the green, everyone is suffering from the same disease. This is the medicine, the law and the final solution for a phase that has lasted for a long time. It has become a part of people's lives and is characterised as surrender and corruption, even for those who God commanded to be his successors. They lost their way and nations were wasted due to greed, disputes and scrambling to get positions.

#### ▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

Let's embrace the world with both arms and establish a global constitution from the core of this nation. This will happen, God willing, even if I were to stand alone in front of the world's powers calling for peace and for the rights others wasted. This has to come from the core of our nation.

#### ▪ **My Blame :**

There is no longer a 'blame'. Every minute the news shocks me and it makes me forget to blame and obliges me to call upon everyone to wake up from the dream that nations are still governed by geographical boundaries. They should realize that we travelled to Mars through Twitter, which has become like a Parliament, a Consultative Council, judiciary, sentences and ministries. They should realise this change. All treaties, initiatives and conventional weapons will not protect them. If people were to start to reject them, nothing would stop them except Luqman's wisdom, the behaviour of Dhul-Qarnayn and the miracle of Solomon, peace be upon him.

**▪ My Call :**

Think about it and fly in the skies that were created by the one and only God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. God can change a person's situation in a blink of an eyelid. God can make us extend our wings to fly together and to be strong in the demarcation of freedom. No technology, power, nor human can imprison the human mind or thoughts. Prison is only inside our minds and we are the only ones who can decode the formula, which is simple and easy to understand, "The Fourth Law." We can write it together for a better life on planet Earth.

## An Age of Ice and Freezing

Monday, November 26, 2012

I thought a lot about choosing the title for this article during this extremely controversial week. It appears that frozen consciences and freezing decrees are in the morgue of one of the hospitals that has closed recently.

The streets are boiling while decrees are released and explode over people's heads. In contrast, we can see clear features of glaciation surrounding the current age, which threatens consciences and feelings with frost. It is as if officials were living on a third planet, whilst we are living in a first or a second planet and everything in between is a wide world of frost. It even freezes the news which reaches the ears of the remaining good people on the scene. Ice freezes up words and news so as not to reach the third level of the cloudy sky where the decision-makers live.

The coming ice age will freeze all who thought and think of restoring the bite of frost. It is as if they thought they are able to be at the head of the nation at a time of fire, when they are experiencing a time of ice and frost.

Brains have been frozen. Nothing is left apart from a frost which is spreading all over the Arab body. It is frozen and does not respond to change in the earth's crust, which has been shaken by devastating earthquakes. Rivers of lava were thrown over a land that was, in the past, a cradle of stability, singing, tranquillity and faith for the whole world. What happened? What is this mystery which froze minds and caused the glaciation of emotions and feelings? What is the secret that has brought an era, unprecedented in human history? In terms of technical glaciation, it is no longer a tool for culture but a tool for insults without any sense of responsibility, respect or religious ethics. I am not saying Muhammadiyah ethics, but humanitarian because they are public,

not private for a single nation. They are in every continent and nation, including Bedouin areas. What is the solution for melting emotions and freezing them to sub-zero degrees? Decrees are taken without the smallest sense of responsibility towards nations and people who mostly live below the poverty line around the globe. What is the decision-makers' secret in making decisions that freeze them in their places? They are placing history in a condition of corruption, that will not be eliminated by people's fire or the decision-makers' betrayal on a global scale. We raise yellow, green, and red cards in the face of arbitrary decisions, but to no avail. It has become a global game. We invent new colours, new chapters, new patterns and even new "temperatures" for it. They did not exist on earth before. It is a game of space, controlled by new worlds unknown throughout history. It exists for wars of words. Sterile revolutions are breaking out, or, revolutions without roots or affiliations. The game has become exposed to anyone who wants a vision. Matters are no longer frozen under tables or in drawers, but frozen in minds which have begun fighting others without limits or ethics.

There is an incident that we have never seen before in our beloved country. The Minister of Labour releases a decree, which he knows well. It will incite wide protests amongst businessmen and the young, who will be affected by the decree. There will, however, be no problems for those at the top, because they are above the law. Does the Minister of Labour have an Iranian policy; to make people revolt like people in Jordan because of the high prices of gasoline and fuel during the coming time of ice and frost? What is the purpose of his decree? I wonder what the purpose of his decree is when our king is recovering from illness, and needs people to pray for him, not against him. Whose agenda is the minister following? Since he was in Jeddah, there have been disasters such as devastating deluges for the people of Jeddah, and later the catastrophic deluges for the kingdom in passing laws that destroy the composition of the citizens. These citizens do not belong to the same category as the minister, who froze their emotions and minds

at the borders of billionaires, those who cannot count their fortunes, which exceed what could be imagined by average citizens. So, when the minister passes a law, his thinking and mentality does not see the first and the second layers of the earth, because he is in the third layer with six and seven digit figures. These unbelievable figures were frozen by the large amount of rainfall from each accident. The minister was no longer able to focus on freezing what is flammable.

The Ministries were in a frozen condition long ago. I do not see a way out for them except if a high temperature lens was to remove frost from their chairs, which have been frozen for a long time. Then, we may remove them from the chairs after removing the frost. They did not want to be warm with human feelings that provide psychological comfort to anyone who wants to meet God with good intentions, without any barriers between them and their Creator, without a state of frozen consciences or the ice age of feelings.

I am saying this for the good of our beloved country, so the king will quickly recover. I hope God will facilitate the decrees that have been frozen by the frost. We want heat to insist on change. I, also, want to draw everyone's attention to watching and listening to what is happening in Egypt and Tunisia in the collapse of the so-called democracy. They originally came in the name of Islam, religion, and did not in the name of God and man, which is used by these regimes to become new Pharaohs using a culture and a religion that disappeared long ago.

### ▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

I do not have crying whispers this week, only storms to break these freezing conditions that threaten us with an ice age.

**▪ My Blame :**

I blame all those who broadcast my name and my mother's name in the media as having Jewish affiliations. I blame everyone who does not respect others, and permanently freezes ethics. Maybe my mother was a mere toy in their hands, but she is under the protection of God. Her family and affiliations are well known in Syria. If they have to pretend I am from a Jewish family, perhaps I can persuade Netanyahu to facilitate peace amongst the Palestinians, Arabs and Jews. These attacks and insults could be used as tools for the world and local peace. Perhaps it would have a silver lining. For this I will write and say, "God is my only agent," but I will also say, "Every cloud has a silver lining." Peace be upon those who follow guidance.

## The Angels Munkar and Nakir

Monday, December 17, 2012

Munkar portrays information as it is, complete and perfect, to change destiny. Nakir confirms arrivals and records everything with a clear conscience.

We are currently living in an era of Munkar and Nakir. We are in denial of everything that makes us afraid of the powerful and officials, but we do not fear the Lord of mankind, the Merciful. He is the only One, who can decide the fate of His slaves. We are not like others who are lost within the worlds of Twitter and Facebook. They do not have an identity. They hide behind false names to write unconsciously about their aggressive feelings capable of burning everything and everybody. To them, Munkar means nothing, and this is how they act as being courageous and self-determined.

Nakir represents a difficult task. He confirms facts and only fears God. He enters the stage and fights, claiming victory over injustice and aggression. This is regardless of how various actors and scenes differ, regardless of their position or vast numbers of dark armies, regardless of cost, because the final reward is not here on earth. The process is to help slaves find their way so they can unlock the door. The reward is there, with God, His Kaaba, and His messenger who was sent to perfect morals and to represent mercy to the world, in the ancient city of Thebes. The light shines like a star in the dark sky to light the way for people who have become weary of poverty, hunger and nepotism. These people have become lost within the culture of Munkar and Nakir and within a tribe which, if stripped from its position, would be worth nothing.

Generations grow in a weary soil weakened by toxic substances, which are planted in the consciences of those, who are playing the drums. Why are families within various households dancing to drums with a loss of direction in reaching their goals? Due to the loud noise and drumming, they have become deaf. They do not even want to dance to harmonious rhythms to reach the peak of the towering mountain, which awaits everyone with a clear conscience.

Generations grow and die as a result of incentives. The teachers of future generations knock on doors along the way, begging for clean earnings to protect themselves and their families and to teach the generations that are lost within pictures, which play on their minds. They become a tool of ignorance and disbelief, rather than tools of culture and education. Our teachers have been busy claiming their rights that were taken from them in front of the eyes of the minister. There is no denial. There is no one to uncover the truth of their inadequacy for years. It is as if they are suffering from an illness, marginalizing and crushing the minds of the nation, on sapphire stones and a Jasmine. Our culture has turned in to love, lovers, sex, violence, and thrilling tales behind the walls of nothing.

Do officials have consciences? We, as writers, have nothing but pens. Yet, as long as this phase persists, we will have to replace pens with knives, to cut the silence which denies what is happening to the sons and daughters of our dear country.

Views and freedoms are banned. Munkar and Nakir are merely approved and those who are excluded and put in boxes are forgotten. These fragile boxes, made from paper and cork, cannot hold iron. The proud, righteous and stubborn prisoners must be like iron. Iron melts and can change shape and colour but always remains the same material.

Why are there inconsistencies and denial that we have rivers and oceans of sterile corruption and a disease that struck the nation called Munkar and Nakir? Diversity has to exist, as we were

created with it. Or do we want to change our Creator's work and words? We were created with freedom, not as slaves. If we say "There is no God but Allah," witness that "Muhammad is the Messenger of God," and be just with the resources God gave to us. If they were evenly distributed to every continent, there would be enough to feed the young and the old, and provide enough money for everybody's comfort.

It is a startling condition that requires people of authority and power to meditate and to realize that the world and honesty stretches further than their abilities. So, we should openly devote ourselves to self-determination, and developing new honest ways to stop deception. We should light the way to credibility and transparency for everyone, without fearing what is coming next. The most important thing is that Nakir writes and records nations' needs that should normally be given before being taken. History will only record this with dark words that will not please either the decision maker or their assistants.

I am writing these letters and words to denounce and reject anyone who wants to try to destabilize our nation, the security of our country, and the fate of our homeland, for a few mere dirhams, a waste land and for a handful of soil. This would not be useful in the current time, during which people are playing the drums of war everywhere, nor after the end of this transient world.

Everyone must be alert and listen to Munkar and Nakir before they become too deaf to hear the call to prayer or their hearts solidify. People are in search of another just world in which people live with a clear conscience, and, with honey for food and Salsabil water to drink.

#### ▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

I appeal to everyone; students, doctors, advisors and everyone who has a conscience, to listen to Munkar and Nakir before they lose the sense of hearing.

**▪ My Blame :**

This week I blame everyone who has behaved badly and tossed fuel on fire to ignite it.

Everyone must listen to the appeal to our consciences because it is a universal as well as a local call. This universal appeal will make ears deaf and will blind the strong believers' vision with its strong light. Then people will become like feathers in the wind.

## Where did you get that from ?

Monday, December 31, 2012

God said in His holy book, “Don’t undervalue people’s things,” but we still begrudge others and ask what was created first, chickens or eggs. We are neither satisfied with truth nor imagination. We want to create a world that amuses us personally, even if it is like a movie we are directing or acting in and has no connection with the real world. It heals us and entertains our senses, which have been forgotten. A new sense has been born through the age of Twitter, the sense of taking enjoyment in defamatory remarks, insults and raising unworthy questions from behind masks and vain faces. They would not even dare to disclose their names whether they are righteous or not, or even if a direct question is intended.

This sense began to grow and emerge, especially by Sheikhs who are on Twitter asking everyone ”Where did you get that from?”. They take offense and use millions of followers to dare to ask us, ”Where did you get that from?” It is clear that, as usual in the world, I have annual allowances, but what about the Sheikh, God protect him, what are his allowances? Which agenda does he belong to? Every day he is on a different channel even if it broadcasts religiously forbidden material such as songs and movies etc. They present everything known as being religiously forbidden, except when they present the Sheikh, only then does everything about the channel become good. How can we stop ourselves from asking, “Where did you get that from?”, while he is asking us, boldly, expecting us to remain silent and not to respond because he is speaking in Arabic and uses religion as a law and a sword over people’s necks. Sometimes we see our sheikh in Paris, and other times he goes to Sweden. Both places have agendas of rubies,

emeralds and gold, as well as a catapult ready to attack anyone who may ask them undesirable questions.

They will ask me, “Where did you get that from?” So I start talking, praying for the best creature Mohammed, the master of all humans and the light that lit the world with his morals and his miracle, the Qur’an. We have begun to forget this now as the countdown to the end of the world has begun in the calculation of the Mayan civilization. They predicted the end of the world during the current solar year. I agree with this, it is the end of the world, this solar year, because we were born again, and we will start again. With God’s permission, we will erase ignorance, poverty, aggression, and all who speak in the name of religion and the Qur’an, to control the creatures unjustly. We will destroy everyone who is wearing the robe of Islam to distort minds before hearts. I am telling them the same prediction as the Mayan civilization. The past time has ended and now it is time for, “The Fourth Law,” the only solution. Expect a new start soon because the end of this world has come for those who wanted to slaughter people with poverty, ignorance and slavery. They will be first victims of the slaughter house which will become crowded, including those who write in the wide space of technology. In reality, he only has a weapon ‘to surrender to reality’. “The fourth number” is coming.”

Where did we get that from? And where did you get that from? A question that is asked daily on Twitter, during my interviews, and finally on Facebook, so I have begun to ask the same question to others. I didn’t feel embarrassed to say and announce to everyone publicly where I got this. Since I was born, I have had allowances from the Royal Court, being daughter of the first king after the founder of modern day Saudi Arabia and the granddaughter of the founder. This is the same all over the world in any royal country, such as London, Monaco, Denmark, Sweden, and many other countries, even in the Far East such as Brunei. I have only heard a few people in my life insult their royal family. On the contrary, most people respect, honour and feel proud of their royal families except in the Arab world, especially Saudi Arabia. Although royal

families abroad have mansions, jewellery and land which is considered priceless because of their originality, and the astronomical figures that equate to nine and ten digit figures rather than six or seven.

What is the punishment in the name of Islam that has turned us away from the peak of humanity into the depths of ignorance? What are your allowances? What are your revenues? How did you get your land and car? Why did you travel? Who did you give it to? What is missing? Will they ask me where I get oxygen to breathe or where I get the blood in my veins?! Here I say to all, including my family, if anyone believes he has information about my wealth and where I got it from, I hope they could please answer what I am writing in the following sentences. I am the last of the sons and daughters of King Saud, may God have mercy on him. I do not have any land, and I did not get any grants from the government like other people. If it is proved I have any, I hope whoever knows its limits tells me. My bank account does not include any zeros. I am prepared for anyone who disputes this in complete western transparency as my bank statement doesn't include the millions which everyone thinks I own. I say to everyone without fear or warning, without Munkar or Nakir, but through actual evidence. Whoever says that I transferred it overseas, should give proof, and I am ready to stand before the court of millions and admit any guilt, tyranny, and lying to the homeland.

So from now on, I invite everyone that publishes, "Where did you get that from?" to read this article. However, no one can ask me about the money I will make in the future from my businesses that I have moved. This is so the profits will only be shared with the poor, the needy, and development projects in my country and the entire world. These profits are the result of my hardwork, sleepless nights and travelling around the world responding to invitations from international organizations and companies that want to benefit from my knowledge and my practical, scientific, intellectual and humanitarian experiences. This pays for my salary,

travel and accommodation costs, and modest expenses, as this is part of my job. So, I wanted to be accurate in my explanation in order to close the door on the rumours which are surfacing around the world.

Since I have made my confession, I will pose the same question to the figures, who have made business from religion and used it to accuse others of disbelief. They have gained a lot from being subservient and submissive to power and decisions. They used the holy places as platforms for preaching to take land. If people from their districts were to inquire, they would discover, that land is owned by the vast majority of people with beards, speeches and magic pious voices whose tapes are sold in all the corridors and alleys of the poor world. Those voices are listened to in a humble and submissive way which has not only torn hearts but also pockets. The majority of the sub-continent has been put in their names, because of their loud voices from the highest platform in this world and existence. Don't ask me why I pose the question, "where did you get that from?" Because people ask me the same and so I ask everyone, "Where did we get that from?" .

#### ▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

What is the truth and what is made up? A moment of silence, a minute of worship, and an era of awaking a conscience that had died between reality and falsehood.

#### ▪ **The Week's Blame :**

- My blame this week is as big as the universe for everyone who lives in God's land. They have left who should be punished behind, and know who acts in the interests of human rights.
- My blame this week is not on the officials, because we are responsible for them. They are my wealth. I aspire for them to be

victorious like Rahman. He revealed the Quran and the statement to understand, and not to trade in, the constraints of the policy of Bani Omya and Bani Osman. Those who support Osman's cause, resemble those who support "Basmah" and her sisters as they are in search of reform whilst others are spreading mischief in the land. We pave the way which will lead us to the end of this world to strip people of their wrongdoings in the name of religion and tribes.

▪ **The Word of This Year :**

Knowing the truth is a treasure. So, I hope that we have treasures of truth.

## The Hunger Games

Each week, I go to the movies with my children, who I might add, are not children anymore. They are quite grown up, even the youngest of them who is fourteen but sounds to me like he could be forty – full of wisdom and business plans.

He already has had his first encounter with the real world – if that is the right word – or perhaps the ‘YouTube’ world. I found out that he has created his own video clips of wrestling, and is ready to sell them to other wrestling fans. Quite fascinating I must say, to see this generation launching themselves into the game before their time has even begun.

Anyway, we saw the movie ‘The Hunger Games’, a fantasy-thriller with a dystopian view both on reality television and the future, where the distinctions between sport and violence are blurred. I was mesmerised during the whole movie, by the theme, script, ideas, and implications. I felt that the film was very simply stating the facts about what is really going on in the world we live in, particularly among the upper classes who live in a bubble, where everything is a game. Theirs is rather a dull life, so they have to invent scandals on a daily basis to keep themselves entertained.

On the other hand, you have the underdog, who suffers under the abuse as their adversary enjoys the game and does nothing to change it: so the underdog lives his life in anger, going round and round in circles of abuse, addiction, and ignorance.

We place ourselves between two sets of classes and species: the elites, and the ordinary people. Between the two, some enterprising people are trying to save the world, but to no avail... So the battles continue. The first battle – the revolutions – was won, but there is no better equilibrium as a result. Whether a meaningful shift has begun, we have yet to see.

On a similar theme but in a completely different way, we see ‘The Ides of March’ movie, where the American style of politics is depicted.

Personally, I think regardless of the systems, all politics continue to feature the same thing: corruption on the grandest scale. These are hunger games where everybody is hungry either for power or money, while billions are suffering around the world. Only the elites enjoy the privilege of setting the rules of the game.

Hollywood is doing us a great favour by revealing the truth in a theatrical frame, keeping our adrenalin high (but their pockets full). In the end, who is going to profit from the scenario?

We are going out there to start something that will make us feel human again, unburdening history for the generations to come. This is instead of joining the masses in the hunger and other games that have ruined humanity’s deeper meaning, now devoid of its essence and purpose, drowned out by the games that distract us from the real issues in life.

What really matters in the end is to protect what we have left, and plant a new seed in this moment of history, spreading honesty and authenticity rather than just selling ideas to the masses and creating unobtainable dreams.

But we will always have to believe that words and thoughts will prevail, not hard power or swords. The pen is mightier than the sword.

## A Call for Responsibility

There can be no defending the short film that has sparked all this unrest. It is worthy only of our condemnation. Freedom of speech is nothing without responsibility, and this film is an insulting, gratuitously provocative production, designed expressly to cause the trouble and outrage that it has.

The auteur of this film's crime is his complete lack of responsibility toward other people, and I sincerely hope that this man will be brought to justice.

But the indefensible must not be met by the indefensible.

The loss of life in the film's aftermath cannot be justified, and it is criminal to hijack the protests for narrow political aims, as seems to case in some circumstances. As I write, the death toll is rising in different countries in the Muslim world, but it is also Muslim blood that is being spilled.

It is clearly no accident that these events began on 11 September, something which must alert us to the chaos and trouble that some are trying to propagate.

All the progress, all the understanding that we have made in the course of the past 11 years in terms of inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue must not be allowed to be forgotten.

This is a serious point in time, and one that calls for restraint and good leadership on all sides.

We as Muslims must of course express ourselves and demand justice, but we must do so with a sense of responsibility, even if this basic and elemental part of one's personality is missing in the man who made the film.

## A New dawn

May be because I belong to the system, the 'Arab culture power hungry' system, I can see through our leaders. I cringe as I watch their futile attempts at hanging on to power the only way they know how to: Bloodshed, bribery, macho posturing and a badly staged pantomime of changes in the law.

In the interest of this absolute quest for power, people are thrown in jail for the simple fact that they dare voice their opinions. The mere act of thinking aloud attracts the wrath of the 'Gods' that are our leaders.

I cringe when I see how they have deformed our sacred religion. How they have hijacked it in an effort to gain popular support. How on the one hand they preach the most sacred and on the other they live a life of unbridled corruption. A schizophrenic life where all that is forbidden in our religion, and more, is practiced behind closed doors and as soon as they jump on their private jets heading West.

Alliances with the devil, this is what they call the West, the powers that support them, not knowing that their behaviour has surpassed what even the devil is capable of.

They claim that they are defenders of the Faith and of humanity when they have total disregard for the most basic of human rights. When confronted they hide behind slogans of culture and demand that this culture be respected. No culture, East or West, permits these abuses. These are but excuses.

But what troubles me the most is how, despite apparent international pressure, they get away with it. It appears that those tasked with protecting humanity are themselves inhumane. It seems that the rights of some are more precious than the rights of others.

At the end we are all hypocrites. The global systems we have put in place are just for show.

If I were to tell the truth about what kind of life the Arab world really lives in, the world would be horrified. The extent of the tyranny is only now becoming apparent after 2 centuries of being successfully kept under wraps in Pandora's tightly shut box. What these citizens have endured over the centuries is a deeply shameful episode in human history. This shame is not the Middle East's alone but it belongs to all of humanity. The whole world bears responsibility for the current state of affairs.

Every citizen in the West when they wake up, they go about their daily business, feeling snug and smug in the safety net of their secure system of justice, forgetting that life for a great number of people is a daily struggle for the most basic of rights. Every one of us needs to take stock and think of others for just one moment. Others who are being tortured, kidnapped, hungry, scared, and homeless, and then we need to speak up. It is a duty on all of us to change the global attitudes, the political, ethical and religious systems that are ruining humanity and our precious planet.

In an effort to ignite this global responsibility, we are starting 'the lantern', the first step towards creating global lanterns that will shine the light on injustice wherever it is.

# Oil or Gas; who will be a Millionaire

May 2013

- "The article was written by HRH princess Basmah Bint Saud on her way back from Doha after attending the Enriching the Middle East's Economic Future VIII Conference and the Munich Security Conference."

This was a question posed frequently at the Doha Economic Forum and the Munich Security conference. I was present in mind, body and soul at both of them.

My sixth sense was on overdrive, trying to pinpoint the impairing security, economic and social risks our region was going to face.

Unfortunately, I heard what I had expected to hear. It was brain freezing, nerve wrecking and vision blurring to the point of making me see red, let that be a clue to the state of which the Arab nation is in as a whole.

Clear indications surfaced of the deep and serious conflict surrounding us and running between the people of our region.

Instead of joining together and uniting, which is required of us now, as you see at Arabian horse races and beauty pageants we see a one pole tent instead of four poles. Four would balance and bring stability to building our future home, a futile debate which questions who is responsible? Who has caused it? And what is the solution?!

It is as if there is a magnetic force being drawn towards the region. What we can clearly see in this plot, a word used so much to the point of becoming an Arab not foreign term, is all the criteria of a mathematical equation that begins with one and ends in four.

This time, I writing to you in, sometimes, vague and others clear words, as I am trying to express what I feel inside, strange feelings of imbalance because I see with my eyes and hear with my ears and I sense a "great disaster" coming. At the same time, we are

singing Syrian songs whilst dancing as in the gulf to the sounds of war drums, otherwise known as the Arab revolutions.

What saddens me is that everything I hear is like an out of tune symphony playing a religious chord dressed as Islam, being made responsible for the major Historic changes in the nations of the region.

What we fail to see is that this geographical area is being torn due to natural energy sources in the region and not what we see as a need for democracy and humanity.

I visited the Zaatari refugee camp and refugee camps in Lebanon and have seen, with my own eyes, the ill treatment received by the refugees fleeing to these camps, no morality, no humanity, it is not even Islamic. I saw an appalling lack of humanity in the name of democracy.

The United Nations? Only there in name.

A \$25 monthly coupon per family, a bag of bread per family of 7 issued to 600 of the actual 1600 families living in a small village on the Lebanese-Syrian Borders, all from the Qatari State.

Although the Camp suffers from a serious lack of humanitarian management, it's riddled with poor health conditions leaving the camp full of incurable diseases. The screams of women and children go unheard by the outside world. They are the means and tools used in the world's agenda (plot) to take over and rid the world of the Arab race. Forget about Bashar's Syria, Mubarak's Egypt or even Gadhafi's Libya, even Yemen is a ridicule in itself, out goes Abdullah Saleh and we still hear shouts and screams for freedom and democracy.

We return as previous regimes, used as a key to act as the voice of change, wanting change in neighboring regions and demanding military intervention. This is nothing but a way of being programed systematically to repeat the words which are actually input by the forces wanting intervention in Syria. This is a way of getting in to facilitate a future path of entering the region and neighboring countries.

This is an Arab tragedy by all accounts, and will take in the world as a whole. This is what my senses tell me and it is something that they have not calculated or accounted for.

As I was sitting on the plane writing this article I noticed in the newspapers the British coverage of the tragedy that happened in London, a massacre my senses told me would happen.

The security issue is much more serious than anything else at the moment, because ignorance fills the Arab and African nation. Lack of vision amongst the Europeans and Americans obscures them from seeing that the security risks in our area will overflow to areas that surround us and make way for them as we can see it beginning to happen once again.

Bombings in London and America, victims as we see in so called revolutions, although there its called terrorism, here we call it REVOLUTION.

It is now time for the world to put emergency plans in place due to the situation we are in, marked by inconsistency and imbalance between the act, the actor and the subject mater.

Dear readers, the issue here is much larger than democracy and humanitarian rights. The main issue is that our nations are missing basic infrastructure, while at the same time the west is missing logical, intellectual and rational structure.

This world has become a playground for magicians waving their wands to change the word of religion to those of terrorism, changing humans to not have the ability to recognize the difference between friend and foe, to not know how to distinguish between the aggressor and aggressed, changing the earth in a way leaving us on solid land and losing the soil and orchards of beauty, totally abolishing something which once was called ethical thinking.

What was once a daydream to people of our nations has been taken and twisted into dreams of others we thought could never happen. This has, however, become the painful truth.

Magically they have come to take power in positions systematically programed to reach goals required from long times ago.

I write these simple words as I am between the sky and earth traveling by plane from the gulf where my love and loyalty lays, from my Arab region that travels with me wherever I go, to the Anglo-Saxon Islands, then to China and its neighbor's, crossing the oceans finally Landing at Uncle Sam's who has left us with a heavy burden of work we need to acknowledge in giving us a chance in passing and succeeding the world's test. As a result I have come to in this historic time, as a person on a journey writing the fourth way (LAW), the one pole tent, the tapered point of a pyramid and the hanging gardens of Babylon.

As a result of these visits I have seen the urgency to write the fourth way, a constitution needed urgently as we have become riddled with ignorance in the entire world.

#### ▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

Upon reflection, someone I met at my last stop, where unfortunately I realized that the prize she received was never intended for peace but in fact to start wars for energy and wealth, not revolution and humanity, but for the promises of Solomon's (PBUH) treasures, this will be written in history as she will one day meet the Creator, the Unseen God who is never unjust.

#### ▪ **Pity of the Week :**

I pity everyone trading in humanity whilst advocating human rights.

I pity those leading people to seek refuge whilst becoming strangers in their own home,

I pity the users of the name of Islam and religion who at the same time are blind to the creator.

## Hold Your Fire!

Wednesday, October 09, 2013

The tentacles of the Syrian conflict reach far and caustically across countries, sects, denominations and almost every other kind of social grouping imaginable, making this fight very difficult to analyze, let alone offer solutions to. "Our biggest problem is ignorance; we're pretty ignorant about Syria," said Ryan C. Crocker, a former ambassador to Syria and Lebanon, who has served in Iraq and Afghanistan and is dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University.

A "limited, narrow" strike in Syria, as President Obama described it, would only be limited and narrow to those who choose to define it as that -- the president and those who support him in this proposed military strike.

Military action would bring us no closer to peace, it would only lessen its chances. Its consequences would be sprawling and shapeless, injecting malignant opportunity into a situation where power is being channelled to those who frantically grab what they can in a vicious circle of diminishing returns.

Why after two years are we talking about military action now, when from my perspective, there has been unwillingness on the part of the international community to act with resolve since the conflict in Syria began?

Resolving the civil war in Syria, the land of my mother and much of my education, requires sitting down and talking to Iran (among many others) -- and coming to some sort of agreement with them.

To the West and particularly the U.S. that is unpalatable, and so up to 100,000 have died in over two years of ongoing fighting. However, these deaths, though vastly greater in number, have not

provoked the reaction that the abhorrent deaths from chemical weapons in a Damascus suburb have.

So something has changed. Rather than seem uncaring and unflinching in the face of tragic civil war, the West's rhetoric involved describing the existence of a red line, which was the use of chemical weapons. Now it has been crossed, the making of a decision while the world watches has been forced to the forefront.

But to me, there is a fundamental assumption which skewers this whole debate. And that is, it is assumed that a military strike will achieve the moral objectives being debated. President Assad will be punished, and no more people will die as a result of chemical weapons.

But how can this be known? Is Assad the kind to be easily chastened by the wagging finger of a Tomahawk missile? Only taking him out directly would do that, and then the U.S. would be back in the business of regime change in the Middle East, an act the ramifications of which are multi-generational in length and depth of anti-feeling.

There is no question that chemical weapons attacks are a heinous abuse of humanity and power. But to assume that military strikes are an effective retribution for the crime committed is wrong.

You can target a building or an installation accurately perhaps, but you cannot target the opinions of millions of Arabs across the region accurately. No matter what the justifications for military action presented are, that will be a hard sell to a Middle Eastern public who have been burned in the past by moral debates lacking in evidence but catastrophic in consequence.

Why now, who benefits, and who appoints themselves arbiter of the law? It is lost on no one in the region that in this case the issue of evidence -- cold, hard and free from the Hollywood romanticism of saving the day -- is blurred.

Counter-claims that rebels were responsible for the chemical attack, if only by accident, already circulate. The fact is that when the Fog of War descends, the objective truth recedes and loses its

sense of justice, and the UN weapons inspectors were only tasked with establishing whether or not chemical weapons were used, not by whom.

So the whole question of whether to strike and with what justification becomes a debate about commitment to moral absolutes, and not cold hard fact. Assad has few friends, but his crucial position in a delicate Middle Eastern power balance is appreciated by the region's inhabitants, the ones who will be left with the consequences of a military strike.

In the toolkit available to world leaders, in which the military is but one option, we must push hard for diplomatic solutions using all the political weight and relationships the key players have in that region. Dr. Martin L. King, whose historic March was memorialized last week, reminds us in his Letter from Birmingham Jail, that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Dr. King's ammunition was not lethal retaliation but conversation and policy-making.

President Obama along with other world leaders, including those in the Arab world who sadly seem to be playing parochial and self-interested games, has the ability to define the outcome much more positively. The scale of cooperation he will encounter across the world will far exceed that he can amass for military action.

Syria cannot withstand a constant war zone lifestyle, and America cannot afford to enter a war it cannot win. I agree with Mr. Crocker who says it is best to come with a response that leaves the Syrians, the region, and the United States in a better position rather than entwined in an uncertain outcome.

## **Resistance and Terrorism are Two Sides of the Same Coin**

Al-Qaeda and resistance are two sides of the same coin. They both insight the same dangers. Everywhere, they promote targets that only serve foreign interests to destabilize the security of our good country which God granted security, not available for the super powers. God threatened those who disturb its security with eternal punishment in the Quran which came to earth on a blessed night, better than a thousand months. This week's newspapers brought several serious indicators to light. They exposed a list of those who desire to spread corruption and destabilize our country. The list was headed by Saad al-Faqih, the voice of external resistance. He uses every possible opportunity to stir trouble and to bring these destructive groups together to destabilize the security of the country under the banner of reform, goodness and national protection. I have arrived at the answer that these two groups belong to one single source and receive orders from one authority. Everyone is aware of this source and authority even if they cry out across various destinations, select different locations, objectives and statements. They serve our eternal enemy The 'international' Mossad, who insight and fund these entities through various possible means to destroy us completely. They spread separation and conflict among the children of our nation, which now reproduces these misled factions and gives birth to segments which do not have a stable base and were deceived by various figures for fighting to breach the security of our country. Who is financing these voices? Who funds the breach of security in our country? There is only one entity that does not want our country to be safe or stable. This entity is playing on the strings of fake targets built for personal, not national, interests. They fill their pockets and their dead consciences with foreign money to reach their goals to

devastate our national identity, our stability and clean living. They want to corrupt everything. This is very evident to those who know how to read between the lines and who clearly see how things happen. There is a huge difference between those who sincerely want to help the governors of this country fix our internal issues and those who use their pens to highlight social problems and the use words of words in the interests of personal desires to destabilize the security of our good country. It is clear every recent event that al-Qaeda, the party that calls itself the Patriotic Reform, and above all Saad al-Faqih's supporters, who deal with the international al-Qaeda funded by the worst enemies of the Arab people. They bring about new ideas which do not have a connection to Islam and the Mohammedan message. They perceive this as being the only way to play with the strings of the people to hit their non-Muslim and non-national targets. Their flawed goal is to make us puppets in the hands of those who strive for our disunity and for civil wars to break out. They do not want us to become an international force, but to separate through internal divisions. They want us to go back to the times of boycotting, and to stop our progress as an international force with local and international reliable Arab identity. They want to change the world's view about our country as a role model that has a strong stance on the international field.

They are demanding, dangerous, foreign voices who represent a party calling for reform and announcing specific inappropriate targets to destabilize the security of our good country under various names and with targets known to all. They are financed by one source, hostile to the Arab people. Sometimes we are subjected to Houthi attacks. Sometimes we hear Osama bin Laden claiming his objectives are Islamic. At other times the voice of Saad al-Faqih is broadcasted across satellite channels declaring that our country is in chaos and that their mission is to repair and free it from national hands. They want to take control over everything and take us back to the seas of darkness. They wanted the hostile forces to achieve their eternal historical geographical objectives in

splitting our countries and separating our people to make them victims of sectarianism. This aims to suppress the Islamic nation that has become an international power in replacing it with ideas that do not belong to the Arab and Islamic nation. They are funded and supported by our historic enemies who will not stop trying to further their historic hopes in seizing our national territory to succeed in raising their symbol of the Star of David over our Muhammadiyah territory. Let us be ready for them, help our rulers, unite our goals and clear our vision that al-Qaeda and the so-called reform is only two faces of one coin, funded and supported by one side but under different names. To grasp the thread and know their true identity, let's take off their masks. They put them on to hide facts and to give our children and generations destructive ideas within our communities. Communities which are led into the light, to progress and to civilized fruitful worlds by our leaders. Our enemies want us to go back to the days of fighting, fragmentation and sectarian strife. They wanted to move us to an unknown future and to a society with sparse identities and goals until they achieve their goals set for them to get their hands on national wealth. Most notably, they wanted to destabilise our good country which has become a target of those hostile entities that want to destroy us. They want to establish their country in our stable country which our rules strive to keep safe, a thing which is a blessing from God. The Ministry of Interior headed by prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz, and his assistants Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz and Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdul Aziz stay up at night to preserve security. They know the invisible hands of the international people who want to destabilize the security of this country which God blessed with the Two Holy Mosques. They really fight against the destructive goals that seek to disturb our security and corrupt our youth by making them raise the banner of fighting against our homeland in the name of Islam. Islam is really far from their goals which are funded by the enemies of our religion. They use religion because they know our national psychology, our hearts and our affiliation to our religion that does not accept compromises but only under basic

principles. Let's pull up our sleeves and help our leaders in every house and every stone in this country for turning in these enemies and silence those who are calling for reform from behind the sea and oceans; funded by entities who do only want disunity and destabilization for this nation in order to take power and achieve hostile targets funded by inexhaustible sources. A huge wealth was given to these cells and bodies to reach their goals. Let us stand by our rulers against our enemies to show them that they are not able to separate us or to exploit our writings for hostile goals funded by unified sources such as various masks and channels of Zionists.

I invite everyone from the Asir Mountains to the territory of Najd and Hijaz, which God blessed with the two holly Mosques, and all territorial boundaries to unite against these attacks, calling for external reform and threatening our security by terrorist cells. We should tell our generation and our citizens that they are two sides of the same coin. Their goal is to destroy our communities from Egypt, which is now a goal for destructive deeds, to Syria, Yemen, our sister Iraq, beautiful Lebanon, and Sudan which was possible to be handed a basket of the world's food. Let's look around ourselves and remove the fog to see the objectives of everything that is happening in the Arab arena so as to protect our national soil. I am telling them all, all movements in various names: we are not a game in your hands and we will work as one hand; people and leaders to erase you from this world. God is with us not with you because our goals are noble but yours are based on corrupting Arab societies safely.

#### ▪ **The Week's Whisper :**

God's hand is with the group... Let's have a united national march against all those who wish to play on the strings of our progress and mission. Let's stand like one man supporting our king and our rulers to confront all threats to us from various geographic trends that have clear objectives against the Islamic and Arab people.

## But Mohammad and the prophets

A Cloud of Fog has enfolded the world, we went through a dark tunnel; we have prepared for a path with no return. Wars have begun, but not revolutions and other wars are yet to come and continue. The colonies began to woven their yarns around the orbits of the globe and around the geographic lines.

Dark clouds and hot winds had set on the world, algid polar atmosphere with no ethics or Islamic, Christian or Jewish examples to follow and they do not belong to a worldly religion. All Prophets and Messengers are exposed to humiliation, cursing and insulting from the public even Muslims with no deterrent. They did not remember the last ten verses in Al-Baqrah sura in Quran and alfurqan verses as advised by the mercy prophet Mohammad.

I will repeat this here to everyone and I will translate it to all languages and meanings to leave no excuse to justify what is happening now for all the encroachment on the divine sanctuaries in the name of Islam and the Islamic or Jewish creed. Moreover, what is occurring in the region between Shias and Sunnis and this entire dispute is due extremist doctrine wars. Prophet Mohammed and his Sunnah are not responsible for the verbal and physical violation occurring by those who do not believe in any religion or ethnicity.

I start this campaign “Except Mohammed and the Prophets” by saying a prayer as I always do. I have looked into the past in an attempt to interpret the current events. This campaign is aiming to highlight and emphasis on the importance of respecting and appreciation to all Prophets and Messengers through the past decades; and all the heavenly religions and beliefs. The content of the message is the same; there is only one God that deserved to be

worshiped and worshipping is nothing but morals, ethics and intentions. God is the creator of all and we are all Adam and Eve.

My call: Dear citizen please do not neglect this campaign “Except Mohammad and the Prophets” as it will be international call for all. This campaign will be an international gathering in every humanly spot with an international minute of silence for all the victims of religious and sectarian violence and tribal extremism. This is for every drop of Arabic and Islamic blood that was wasted on the Palestinian grounds and for all those who do not believe in Islam and wanted to deprive us from safety in our country with our governors. In addition, this is for the posterity that can see nothing but blood, disputes, sedition, vilify and slaughtering. There will be no peace in Palestine or in Israel, retrieval of Golan Heights except by reconciliation of humans and punish those who insult religions and Prophets.

Generations gathering from every place on the earth with an international minute of silence in the respect of all religions and beliefs form the biggest message to start the journey of a thousand mile we want to establish. Please join me in this initiative which will circulate the globe in the hands of young people and will be spread and broadcasted in you tube and in international media. Perhaps the campaign results reach where previous attempts throughout past times and wars have failed to accomplish.

**Date: Arafa Day**

The campaign bulletins will be broadcasted internationally along with the calendar year.

# The Shift

## The dangers of globalisation and tyranny of Wall Street

As we look around the world, we see a palpable shift in power. Our television screens are not short of economic tsunamis to fill the airwaves with from the US, to the UK, Portugal, Greece and Ireland. The list goes on.

While we in the Arab World are clearly in the throes of revolution, the Western world is also, perhaps less obviously but just as radically, going through its own seismic change. Demonstrations are erupting all over Western capitals, some peaceful, others bloody and fraught with clashes.

What exactly is going on? What is the common factor? Is it the demolishing of the Middle

Classes who tend to give stability to a society? Or is it the economic uncertainty that has spared no one; an uncertainty that is largely caused by an overdependence on “Wall Street” and the Federal Bank?

If these key institutions fail, the entire economic system crumbles. We can already see the domino effect now in evidence in all the capitals of the major democracies, where the unthinkable has happened: previously solid companies and major banks, even entire governments have collapsed overnight and people have been left to fend for themselves.

There is an expectation that people who are losing their livelihoods must remain silent and accepting as they see their jobs fly across the oceans to other countries where the work force is cheaper and profits are greater. The feeling is that even if these dispensable people starve, it is for the greater good of their country so they must keep a stiff upper lip.

Globalisation is causing everyone to get angrier. It is on a rampage, trampling over everyone's heritage and devouring people's national identities, making everything and everyone look and feel the same. It is a system that has resulted in the poor getting poorer and the rich getting richer and the shrinking of the Middle classes. This is a sign that this system is failing.

The shift in power is so palpable that if things don't change, it will only be a matter of time before a revolution sweeps up the old ways and a new era is born.

An obvious question therefore arises: isn't there a new more balanced economic system that isn't always about winners and losers, conquerors and slaves; a healthy economic eco-system system?

## Those who draw up destiny write the headlines

Every trip I make, however brief or far-reaching its implications may be, increases my awareness of the true meaning of things and my ability to read between the lines.

Among the many headlines that I scan, one about “Determining Destiny” stays with me.

A month or two ago, I was in Turkey where I took part in an international conference – and what a coincidence (or perhaps not?) to find that the fate of the entire Middle East region was being decided at other conferences in nearby hotels. All the axes of power were represented there, drawing lines and borders, writing in the space between the lines and shaking hands (or maybe uniting them) while people died on the streets.

The blood of the Arab nation is gushing out under a knife that severs the artery which pumps Peace and Faith (of Islam) into the ailing body.

In Istanbul that week, you had the major powers determining destinies while we... we don't even read the headlines. And yet we sing. We draw inspiration from western songs, like Manal al-Sharif who described how she was inspired by The Back Street Boys song “Show me the meaning of being lonely.”

Instead of “Fayrouz” or “Um Kulthoom” or other names and things that have left their indelible mark on Arabic identity, new names were brought forward that could never represent the Arabic identity. In any case, current singers have nothing to do with art or

authentic singing. Lyrics by Arab poets which used to inject our proud people with inspiration and faith shall never be replaced.

But in their stead, we are given poets who don't practise what they preach, and who cloud the arena with empty words that don't represent our times and don't reflect the realities of the atrocities and destruction that engulf the region.

Our generations, present and future, need to wake up and see what is happening around them.

Our world sinks while the feelings and freedoms we all dream of amidst the darkness are slow to arrive from our artists. Our world speaks the language of sectarianism and racial divisions, and writes a sombre history that only reflects total ignorance of what is really happening beyond the high walls we built – and the catapults we use to defend them, like a pre-modern version of ballistic missiles.

And while on missiles... Missiles can be formed of language, creating a deep current capable of dividing a nation and erasing the map, so that we lose the way.

After that, we will no longer see where we're going. Is it to the hanging rope of history? Is it towards the fate of the Greeks? Or is it to become a mass with no effect, without a single ray of light and with no name or identity that could provide a glimpse of what we once were?

Past generations have built a tradition of beauty, generosity and unity, even as they differ in the tone of their words. Words and alphabets are now replaced with symbols and codes that are good for nothing. We have no protection against famine or fire, especially the fire spreading fast across the entire Arabic and Islamic nations.

Nothing will remain except dust, sprinkled on the pages of the various agendas that shall never rest until they have wiped out the entire nation of Mohammad, and until they silence the language of “Al-Dhad” (Arabic), the language that united the vast corners of what was once known as the ‘Arab World’.

I express my friendly reproach to my sister Manal al-Sharif who became an icon looked upon by many young men and women in our beloved country. They consider her a brave ‘cavalier’ who defies all obstacles and returns safely to her homeland. Who’s protecting her? That’s what I cannot understand in the strange tale of this courageous person!

She drew power from a strange song that has nothing to do with our struggle except for raising a question mark on how the West can offer us solutions. Even inspiration has lost its Islamic aspect and its Arab identity.

Instead, Manal should have carefully read her Koran which gave women everything, and provided her following with the language of God who gave us in the Koran what he gave no one else. Manal should have cited the holy verses and ‘Sunna’ (the example of the Prophet), showcasing to the West the wisdom of Islam and greatness of the Prophet who offered her every right she could have asked for.

The vice is not in our society, nor in our Faith or government, but in the foreign agendas aimed at derailing our nation and diverting our identity towards a kind of globalisation that portrays us as terrorists, or other kinds of terms. Shabiha, liberals, activist, are all terms that even Obama and our own leaders in the Arab and Islamic Worlds don’t miss.

Our cause is one. Manal al-Sharif and others, including those who disagree with her, have lost both their way and the main point: give the people their rights instead of wasting them.

It is inconceivable that a nation is destroyed in order to build another on its ruins that shall deliver those rights. Most important now is to reform and renovate the concepts without recourse outside ourselves. Reform should begin, fuelled from within, by going back to our roots and glorious history.

Without this, our nations shall give birth to a weak and withdrawn generation, which is nonetheless true even if it brandishes machine guns and wields the language of aggression. What we need is to unify our efforts, leaving aside divisions and wishing ill to other nations. Let us start to rebuild from within in order to counter-balance the power struggles and fighting for wealth or reputation.

The current generation begins life with a clouded vision of what reform and change should be. We need to go back to the books of ancient history before we inaugurate a new one, for history is but a collection of stories that go round, only to repeat themselves in a novel shape and through new names. However, we see that it's always in the same circles of the same imperialistic plans, the many forms of which the World has endured for centuries.

Let us go back to the calm and measured discourse about our common ground, capable of giving each person their rights. A discourse where we are all equals in rights and duties, and let us discard the robes of lies and hypocrisy and replace them with the banners of transparency, however dark what is revealed. A good start would always be to acknowledge what's right, a virtue instilled in us by our religion and our Prophet, who was sent to complete morals and not religion.

Let us proclaim and assert that only God writes destiny, and not the agendas that achieve nothing more than misleading the blind, but which once exposed, allow the discerning to distinguish between righteousness and sin.

The headlines, however, change every day as a result of greed and open profligacy.

Today's exciting headline is tomorrow's lesson for every recalcitrant tyrant.

Such people do not realise that everyone is responsible for their choices and what's written in their own copybook, and that they will have to answer for what they've done to The One they forgot and ignored. Their hearts have become insulated, and they no longer listen or observe, except to the mountains of cash siphoned away at the expense of their hard-working people.

We have lost touch with a generation that has bequeathed the deepest of all meanings: our being on this earth. And yet, we gradually disappear from earth's memory, as if it was never known we were here except by a name that soon vanishes and gets forgotten as if it were that of a pharaoh.

At the end, the one true meaning that survives is the last of the headlines. The entire world is mortal. Only He who writes destiny, He who created this world and determined its storyline reigns. A storyline we will only be able to see when our eyes are no more.

# 4th Gulf education Conference 2014

March 31th-April 1st in London

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you here today, to the 4th Gulf Education Conference and Exhibition.

The event has steadily established itself as a key meeting place for my colleagues from the MENA region and the academic community of UK, Europe and USA, and I'm sure we all thank the UK for hosting us in London on this occasion.

We are extremely fortunate that the global academic community as a whole are excellent communicators and sharers of information, leading to many successful partnerships, co-operatives and projects that are all contributing to the advancement of education universally. This conference is another example of that.

But I think that over the millennia, the world has always shared information well, passing learning down through the ages.

In the Middle East, we have always valued education highly. For example, so many precious ancient Greek texts would have been lost had it not been for the hard work of Arab scholars to preserve the learning of the past. All the while, the fields of philosophy, science, medicine, and mathematics were advanced by the keen instincts our scholars.

Of course, the ancient Library of Alexandria, built in the 3rd century BC, needs no introduction as an unparalleled centre of learning. All the various contributions that different corners of the world have made to humanity's learning tell us one thing: that education doesn't stand still. We must adapt to our times.

Looking to the future, the shape of education, and the world, is fast changing as technology advancements continually leap ahead and

influence every aspect of learning – from basic communication to student productivity and all the tools with which we achieve these.

In today's conference we are looking at the Vision of 2020 – ensuring that we head into the future with eyes wide open.

The world of today is turbulent and dangerous. To so many in the world, education seems a luxury when security is absent. But education is crucial to stability in the long term.

Furthermore, education is one field where gender equality can be seen to be real, another reason why it must be championed.

This is why I have created the Fourth Way Law. It is a global constitution I have developed to usher the world through this period of instability, based on addressing humanity's need for security, freedom, equality and education above all other considerations. We need to give the people their basic human rights, and that includes education and gender quality. This is the dignity which all human beings should have. And without security in particular, education and equality will remain a luxury in the eyes of countless millions.

I hope to discuss this topic, The Fourth Way Law, in greater depth with the many distinguished guests that are present here today as the conference proceeds.

Thank you all for the huge commitment and innovation and generosity that you all display in participating at this event; at sharing your views and expertise; at driving the standards and infrastructure of education provision to reach new heights – both in your own country and others.

Thank you to the all of you who support this conference and make it happen, from the Advisory Board to the speakers, delegates, and exhibitors alike – it is a valuable event in the education calendar for the Middle East region.

I wish you all every success and hope that you will leave this event having formed important and enlightening partnerships and relationships to take you into 2020.

## Media ethics and government

9 May, 2014

I think a discussion about ethics in the media is always a good thing, and of course this particular seminar comes at a time when there is a high profile court case examining how a big part of the British media has been conducting itself.

Some individuals are in court defending themselves against charges that they spied on people to sell newspapers. With the hacking scandal, we have all the elements of a great story: celebrities, affairs, trickery, deceit – and facing the music.

Perhaps we are all here today because we realise that it is not just the defendants in the hacking case who should face some music. The point is that we imagine we hold ourselves to a greater standard of media ethics than we actually do.

So I don't see that a discussion on ethics in the media can take place without noting that media ethics are at a low ebb, and that credibility is something that needs to be built back up.

But how can this be done? What would the criteria be?

To me, in the media as in many other parts of life, people need certain things: security, freedom, equality and Education.

This is the basis of my Fourth Way Law, a global constitution which I have designed.

It is a mechanism which identifies, categorises and distributes basic human rights in as simple a way as possible, one which dovetails with existing legal systems and allows for local cultural tastes to prevail.

8. Security, freedom, equality and education are what I view as the fundamental categories of basic human rights which people need to live their lives in peace.

The media has an important role to play in entrenching these rights, making people aware of them, and protecting them from abuse from governments and other powers.

In so many places in the world, however, these things are lacking, and I think that what needs to happen is a realisation within the global media industry that more can be achieved with the tools available, and the determination to do so.

It is not an altruistic aim so much as one that is linked to survival. In recent years, especially in my region, people have been getting good at rising up and fighting and overthrowing the powers that oppress them.

While newspapers are interested in who slept with who, the gap between rich and poor increases, poverty increases, violence and conflict increases, the gender gap increases, food waste increases, and people are alienated further from the processes of government which are supposed to serve them.

The media must serve all, particularly the ordinary citizen who does not have the resources of capacity to fight for himself.

Now, it might sound odd to hear a member of the Saudi Royal Family say these things, and my region and the West are at different stages of the evolutionary scale for sure – but these principles remain true for everyone.

My region is undergoing some very important changes, and I realise just how important ethics in the media are. They are not just something that is nice to have. You need them immediately, even in the throes of revolution.

They are crucial to a nation's stability in many different ways, and in my Fourth Way Law I set out the case for human right and stability, which is underpinned by the media.

It is a huge responsibility, and I think that the hacking case in court right now is a demonstration that so much more can be done – if only because this case shows we are not doing it.

Thank you.