*13th January 2012*

# BAHRAIN MEDIA ROUNDUP

## Bahrain protests: Police use tear gas to break up march - 12/01/12



Security police have used tear gas and stun grenades to break up an anti-government march in Bahrain's capital, Manama.

The organisers say more than 3,000 people took part, in spite of a heavy security presence.

The government says the protest was illegal.

Activists from Bahrain's Shia Muslim majority have been demonstrating against the kingdom's ruling Sunni monarchy since last February.

Thursday's march in the centre of Manama was led by a prominent human rights activist, Nabeel Rajab.

"We are using the streets peacefully. We are marching for our rights," he told the BBC.

One activist tweeted: "Manama is filled with tear gas, protesters running in all directions, followed by shooting and riot police." **Read More**

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## Bahraini firm reinstates staff sacked after unrest - 12/01/12

Bahrain's main telecommunications firm on Thursday said it would re-employ workers sacked after strikes connected to pro-democracy protests, the second company to do so in as many days.

More than 2,000 mainly Shi'ite workers were sacked from state-controlled companies last year for taking part in strikes and protests against perceived discrimination and the dominance of the ruling Sunni Muslim al-Khalifa family.

Bahrain Telecommunications Co (Batelco) will take back axed workers "who agree to abide by Bahrain's labour law and Batelco internal policies", chairman Sheikh Hamad Bin Abdulla al-Khalifa said in a statement.

Despite moves to ease tensions, unrest continues in the Gulf island state. Shi'ites and police clash almost daily outside the capital, Manama.

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## Professor reflects on Shaikh Fawaz and Arab Uprisings - 12/01/12



We've been hearing this month about how the events of last year's Arab Spring are playing out around the world. The uprising that began in Bahrain nearly a year ago has been largely suppressed by the country's ruling family.

Ranjit Singh, a political science professor at the University of Mary Washington, is now using his own ties to the regime to make sense of its response. Singh's interest was trained on Shaikh Fawaz, a sort of minister of information whose job it was to defend the government crackdown. Twenty years ago, he was the Sheik's ghostwriter and found himself surrounded by the young, rich, powerful, and seemingly purposeless members of the Bahrain elite.

"He lived a very wealthy lifestyle," says Singh. "In the house in London, he had a manservant who catered to his needs. He had a number of cars, and he hung out with a retinue of other wealthy, young, Bahraini males, and they would talk about pop music, they would talk about ways to chat up pretty Saudi girls, they would talk about cologne, they would talk all the time about sports." **LISTEN HERE**

## Bahrain: Rights activist attacked - 13/01/12

Bahraini riot police beat a prominent human rights activist, Nabeel Rajab, head of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, as he was leaving a peaceful protest on January 6, 2012, Human Rights Watch said today. The Bahraini authorities should immediately halt attacks on peaceful protesters, Human Rights Watch said.

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## Bahrain promises to rebuild demolished mosques - 12/01/12

Bahrain says it will rebuild 12 Shiite mosques demolished by authorities during unrest against the Gulf nation's Sunni-led monarchy.
The work seeks to address allegations of abuses raised by an independent report on the uprising by the country's Shiite majority for greater rights. As part of the widespread crackdowns, Bahraini authorities razed Shiite mosques they claimed were built illegally or had other violations. **Read More**