



Question: How do you deal with Iran's policy aimed at achieving sectarian isolation?

In short, our approach to countering this movement is based on a firm policy of national integration among all citizens without discrimination. The Ministry of Interior is vigilant in monitoring any external attempts to promote sectarian isolation. It addresses them in their early stages, thus preventing any external targeting from having any real impact on the cohesion of Bahraini society. Furthermore, the deep-rooted national awareness among citizens constitutes the first line of defence that thwarts such attempts. A complementary objective of the policy of sectarian isolation is to address attempts to undermine national confidence through dealing with these schemes, which, in reality, have only strengthened and solidified loyalty to HM the King.

Question: You mentioned that members of the Wilayat al-Faqih group have tried to infiltrate education, media, and social media. Will any entities or platforms that are being exploited to spread this ideology be announced soon?

Any educational or media entity or platform proven to be exploiting this ideology to spread the Wilayat al-Faqih ideology will be subject to investigation and the necessary legal procedures, based on established evidence. Once the investigation is complete and responsibilities are established, the law will take its course, ensuring a balance between protecting societal security and safeguarding individual rights.

Question: The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of 41 individuals belonging to a main group linked to the Wilayat al-Faqih and Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Later, there was talk about their operational roles. Are we dealing with a hierarchical, organised group, and what does this case reveal about its danger?

The security efforts constituted a proactive step to thwart these terrorist plots. The arrests targeted members of the main group linked to the Wilayat al-Faqih of Iran and the IRGC. These individuals, Iran's agents in Bahrain, worked covertly to spread the ideology of the Wilayat al-Faqih through a plan aimed at destabilising the state and forming an opposition front loyal to foreign powers. They also worked to influence citizens, especially youth and adolescents, to engage in illegal activities, using methods such as social infiltration and planting cells to advance the agendas of illegitimate entities. They also worked to collect large

sums of money and hide them in their homes to use in financing terrorist acts and sending them abroad for terrorist purposes, not to mention exaggerating social and economic problems and building elements loyal to the IRGC and training them in camps on the use of weapons and explosives that helped them carry out smuggling operations, in addition to infiltrating education, media and social media to spread the Wilayat al-Faqih ideology of, as well as media disinformation campaigns and fueling sectarianism within Bahraini society.

Question: The Ministry of Interior has achieved remarkable successes, having apprehended terrorist groups operating on behalf of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. Would you like to shed light on these successes?

These measures are the result of accumulated security expertise and continuous monitoring. These security efforts were proactive, not reactive, in anticipation of potential attacks. These operations have helped protect lives and property and secure vital installations, confirming that Bahrain deals with any attempt to compromise its security with constant readiness and vigilance, using a proactive and highly professional approach.

Question: We would like to shed light on the legal and security measures imposed on any person or entity that expresses support for or promotes the Wilayat al-Faqih ideology or groups affiliated with the IRGC?

The law is clear on this matter. All actions that go beyond expressing an opinion and constitute incitement or promotion of banned organisations, support for hostile entities, unlicensed collection of funds, or communication and recruitment on their behalf are subject to legal accountability.

No one is held accountable for their religious beliefs. However, anyone who uses their religious beliefs to serve a foreign political agenda or promotes groups affiliated with the IRGC, or any other entity, is subject to legal accountability.

Question: You mentioned that investing in education, awareness, and digital literacy is a key line of defence. What programmes does the Ministry of Interior implement to enhance security and digital awareness among young people?

The sources of danger facing young people have shifted from the physical to the digital world, through anonymous platforms and accounts, and targeted content that employs indirect persuasion techniques. Therefore, digital literacy constitutes a fundamental component of national security. The Ministry's

programmes in this area focus on raising awareness, promoting legal culture, and clarifying methods of recruitment, disinformation, and online funding, in partnership with educational, media, and civil society institutions. The aim is to empower young people to distinguish between news and rumours, and between opinion and incitement. The Ministry has accumulated experience in this field, and this issue receives significant attention from the relevant directorates within the Ministry.

Question: How has the Ministry of Interior's role in cybersecurity evolved?

Cybersecurity has become a fundamental aspect of national sovereignty, given the vastness of threats, including digital networks and accounts, electronic financial transactions, and information campaigns. The Ministry of Interior's role in this area has expanded to cover monitoring, analysis, combating cybercrime, and protecting society from online exploitation.

Addressing cybercrime relies on early detection, technical analysis, rapid response (which I would describe as "instantaneous"), and coordination among relevant authorities, based on the principle of early prevention.

Question: How are attempts to exert external influence over Bahraini domestic affairs addressed?

Attempts at external influence may take indirect forms, through media, funding, organisations, religious discourse, or digital accounts. Security agencies address these attempts using a comprehensive methodology, paving the way for appropriate legal action.

Question: The Ministry of Interior has banned travel to Iran and Iraq. Is there a plan to add other countries, and what are the reasons behind this decision?

The decision to ban travel to certain regions was made as a precautionary measure to protect citizens, especially young people, and to prevent the exploitation of travel for training, financing, recruitment, or communication with hostile entities. The addition of any other countries is subject to the discretion of the relevant authorities, based on security data, to uphold the principle of prevention before harm occurs.

Question: In light of escalating cross-border threats, do you see a need to elevate joint Gulf security cooperation beyond its current state?

These exceptional circumstances and the challenges we have faced necessitate that the GCC states move from cooperation and coordination to security integration. The evolving nature of threats demands the continuous development of this system, rather than being content with its current level. Shared threats, from illicit financing to cross-border recruitment networks, and recent developments, require deeper integration in information exchange and the unification of response mechanisms among Gulf security agencies. The Ministry of Interior is continuously working with its counterparts in the GCC states to enhance this integration through joint monitoring and analysis mechanisms, keeping pace with the rapid evolution of threat tools and achieving the highest levels of collective readiness. The GCC states have learned, through history and lived experience, that our resilience stems from our

ability to coordinate our stances and visions.

Question: In light of your recent visit to Syria, how do you assess the outcomes of the visit and its impact on the course of bilateral security cooperation?

This visit was part of the Kingdom of Bahrain's keenness to strengthen cooperation with Syria in a way that serves common interests and supports efforts to promote regional stability. During the visit, I conveyed a fraternal message from HM the King to his brother, Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, emphasising Syria's role in the Arab world and in maintaining regional security and stability. There was also an opportunity to meet with the Syrian Minister of Interior and the Minister of Emergency and Disaster Management, during which we discussed ways to enhance security cooperation and the latest security developments in the region, and agreed to activate security cooperation and to continue consultations, communication, coordination, and the exchange of expertise. A joint memorandum of understanding was also signed regarding cooperation in disaster risk reduction and civil protection.

Question: You affirmed that security and development are two sides of the same coin. How does this vision reflect on the Ministry of Interior's plans?

Security is a fundamental pillar of development, providing the stability necessary for the growth of the economy, education, and society. It directly impacts investor confidence, community activity, and the continuity of the development process. Accordingly, the Ministry of Interior's plans focus on prevention before intervention, capacity building before risks occur, modernising security systems, and strengthening community partnerships.

The indicators of security and stability in Bahrain reflect a strategic vision established by HM the King. This vision is based on placing the Bahraini citizen at the heart of development, citizenship as the foundation of the state, and the rule of law as the guarantee of justice. The directives of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister have further strengthened this approach by integrating institutional performance with development planning. This contributes to the cohesion of the national work system and the integration of the responsibilities of state institutions.

Question: With the development of media and the rapid spread of information, what is the Ministry's plan for crisis management, and what role does police media play in countering disinformation campaigns in light of the advancements in artificial intelligence technologies?

Dealing with crises requires a swift and clear media presence, as any delay in official information creates fertile ground for rumours and misinformation. The Ministry's plan in this regard is based on the principles of initiative and accuracy, without haste. National media is a key partner in crisis management and in protecting society from its repercussions, especially given the growing risks posed by misleading content resulting from the irresponsible use of artificial intelligence technologies. The Ministry aims to strengthen the role of police media in clarifying facts and building societal resilience against these risks.

Key points highlighted by HE Interior Minister:

- Iranian terrorist attacks are not a border war but cover all areas of Bahrain.
- How can there be cooperation with a regime that has violated our security and sovereignty and threatened our present and future?
- Bahrain has succeeded in exposing the intentions and dangers of the extremist ideology of the Wilayat al-Faqih, which has created unacceptable negative concepts, and in thwarting its destructive plans.
- There is no place for "parallel patriotism" in a country of authenticity, loyalty, and national belonging.
- The Wilayat al-Faqih is a transnational political project that focuses on distancing religious and civil institutions from state authority and exploiting the collection of funds illegally to reward opponents of the state.
- The wisdom and leadership of HM the King represent the unifying national framework around which the people, in all their diversity, rally.
- The security, sovereignty, and stability of the nation are non-negotiable pillars, and anyone who crosses these boundaries places themselves in direct confrontation with the law and the state.
- The comprehensive measures taken by the government, headed by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, have contributed to addressing the challenges of this difficult period through a comprehensive and advanced system and vision.
- The Shiite component in Bahrain is an integral part of the national fabric, historically predating these organisations and far broader than can be reduced to them.
- The Ulema (Scholars) Council was a religious front for an Iranian project, and it was dealt with within the framework of the law.
- The arrest of the Wilayat al-Faqih group revealed a plot to destabilise the state and form an opposing front that pledges allegiance to foreign powers.
- These exceptional circumstances and heinous attacks require the GCC countries to move from cooperation and coordination to a state of security integration.
- Community security is a fundamental pillar for preserving national unity and the values of coexistence in Bahrain.

Question: Bahrain is characterised by a cohesive social fabric based on coexistence, tolerance, and pluralism. What is the importance of preserving this heritage?

Bahrain's legacy of coexistence, historically rooted in pluralism and diversity, is a cornerstone of national stability and an integral part of Bahraini identity and its true richness. The Ministry of Interior contributes to protecting this heritage through the firm application of the law, the strengthening of community partnerships, and the prevention of any discourse that transforms differences into hostility or diversity into division, considering the preservation of national unity an ongoing responsibility.

Question: What is your vision for the future of community security in Bahrain amid evolving regional challenges?

The future of community security in Bahrain hinges on a shift from immediate response to continuous prevention and from sporadic engagement to lasting partnership, within a comprehensive security framework that covers awareness, media, education, the digital sphere, the family, and civil society. The Ministry of Interior views security as a shared responsibility between the state and society. It forms the framework through which national identity is preserved, societal sta-

bility and citizens' interests are protected, and future generations are safeguarded from attempts at intellectual polarisation and external allegiances that could undermine the social fabric Bahrain has cultivated over decades of coexistence and harmony. While the tools for addressing security challenges evolve to keep pace with regional changes, loyalty to HM the King, allegiance to the Kingdom of Bahrain and its leadership, respect for the law, and the preservation of national unity remain unwavering principles.

Question: In light of recent events, the importance of national unity as a first line of defence has become evident. How do you assess the level of national awareness today, and what factors have contributed to strengthening this cohesion?

Recent events have demonstrated a firm level of national awareness among the majority of Bahraini society. This cohesion stems from the convergence of several factors, most notably the wisdom of leadership, the strength of national institutions, and a long historical experience that has promoted the values of civil peace and national unity within society. Perhaps the most splendid example of national unity was recently witnessed with the renewal of the pledge of allegiance to HM the King and the signing of the Pledge of Allegiance document by all of individuals in Bahrain.