

Statement of National Institution for Human Rights On the Publication of Photos and Names of Accused persons

30 April 2015

The National Institution for Human Rights monitored the publication by the Media Centre at Ministry of Interior, on its official (Twitter) account and some local daily newspapers of the photos and names of citizens accused of committing the heinous crime that occurred in Karbabad Village and resulted in the martyrdom of a policeman and the injury of others on duty.

The NIHR appreciates the critical circumstances in which the Ministry of Interior personnel are working to protect the security and stability and the preservation of civil peace, in addition to the prevention of intimidation of innocent citizens and residents. The NIHR also condemns the sinful, unjustified assault that took the life of the martyr of duty, officer Mohammed Tanweer. However, the NIHR regrets that the authorities concerned did not conform to the content of paragraph (C) of Article 20 of constitution which stipulates that “the accused is innocent until proven guilty in a legal trial at which the necessary guarantees for the exercise of the right of defense at all stages of investigation and trial, according to law.” This is in addition to the pledge by the Kingdom to abide by both article (11) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, states that “Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence,” and the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates in paragraph (2) of Article (14) that “Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law”

From this standpoint, the National Institution for Human Rights reiterates its categorical rejection of the publication of photos of the detained suspects prior to the issuance of a final judgment by the highest court in

the judicial system in Kingdom of Bahrain, and calls upon all official entities to adhere to the pledges made by the Kingdom in light of its ratification of the relevant international treaties. The NIHR also expects all local newspapers to abide by these commitments and to refrain from publishing the names and photos of suspects whose final case has not yet been determined by the judiciary.□

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