

## **Statement by NIHR on Qatar's Violations of the Rights Bahraini Fishermen**

**Manama on December 13, 2020**

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has followed with great interest the issue of the suffering of Bahraini fishermen as a result of the Qatari Coast Guard patrols acts of pursuing them while fishing in various parts of the territorial waters of the Kingdom of Bahrain, as these acts resulted in physical, moral and material harm to them, and they were dealt with arbitrarily. This resulted in endangering their lives, depriving them of their freedom and personal safety, as well as costing them great material loss as a result of terminating their livelihood and the only livelihood source of their families. In addition, such actions violate all norms of humanity, neighborhood and brotherhood among the people of the same Gulf.

The NIHR expresses its regret for such actions by the Qatari authorities, which violate all the human principles and values approved by international conventions, not to mention their violation of the most important humanitarian principles, which is the principle of good neighborliness, as well as their violation of a set of basic human rights and freedoms, the most important of which are the right to life, the right to personal safety, the right to work and freedom of movement within the territorial borders of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which are guaranteed by international human rights instruments.

Accordingly, the NIHR states the importance of respecting human rights based on the principles contained in international human rights instruments and covenants, as what happened and its continuation is a clear violation of human rights that endangers the lives of innocent people, and calls on the concerned authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain to take all measures aimed at protecting the rights of citizen fishermen and seafarers and provide them with a safe environment to exercise their right to work and fish in the territorial waters of the Kingdom of Bahrain.