



Statement by the National Institution for Human Rights on allegations by a number of NGOs regarding the status of a number of female inmates

Manama, 13 September 2019

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) in the Kingdom of Bahrain followed the allegations made by a number of overseas based NGOs during a seminar on the sidelines of the Human Rights Council session that a number of female prisoners are subjected to cruel, inhumane degrading treatment and punishment.

The NIHR wishes to make that it carries out on a regular basis announced and unannounced visits to all correctional and Rehabilitation Centers as well as to places of detention in accordance the NIIHR law. During these visits, the NIHR closely observes the conditions of prisoners in order to ensure that they have their rights protected and are not subjected to ill-treatment in accordance with United Nations minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners. The NIHR confirms it had previously and on more than one occasion interviewed a number of female prisoners and established that those allegations are unfounded. Those interviewed assured the NIHR that they were not subjected to any alleged violations. This was also confirmed by other national mechanisms through cooperative work and coordination to ensure that appropriate measures are taken in the event of mistreatment of any prisoners.

The NIHR is disappointed by the unfounded allegations of some NGOs which claim to be committed to defending human rights – some of the NGOs are motivated by adverse political positions promoted by these organizations exploiting certain human rights issues - through the publication of statements and reports that are not based on any evidence, lack objectivity and credibility, all of which are unfounded allegations derived from unreliable or unknown sources.



The NIHR asserts that although some of these NGOs have always contacted the NIHR to ask for assistance to a number of inmates, these NGOs did not address in their correspondence the allegations referred to above, nor did they specify the sources from which they derived their information. These NGOs have always published misleading statements, which in effect form a violation of human rights. Such organizations publish fabricated information based on a desperate attempt to discredit fact-based achievements of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain confirmed by a number of international reports.

The NIHR calls upon these organizations to conform to the high values and principles of human rights, apply the standards and norms set by the United Nations as a framework in accordance with the UN Community partnership system to obtain information from reliable sources, and to adhere to the principles appropriate to human rights work.

The National Institution reiterates that it firmly deals with any human rights abuses or violations in line with the competencies entrusted to it in the law of its establishment, and in a manner consistent with the obligations of the Kingdom of Bahrain resulting from its accession or ratification of the relevant international conventions. Meanwhile, the NIHR calls upon the organizations issuing such allegations to adhere to professionalism through verification of such allegations. The NIHR calls upon such NGOs communicate in the future with independent bodies in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in particular the NIHR, being independent of the executive branch, and a national mechanism accredited by the Global Alliance of National Institutions to verify any allegations prior to including them in their reports and statements. The NIHR is fully prepared to cooperate with all parties and organizations in order to disclose the truth and protect human rights.