

Statement by the NIHR on the Trial of Three Clerics

Manama on May 22, 2017

In line with the NIHR's mission to monitor the proceedings and ensure their conformity with standards of fair trial, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) followed-up the trial of three clerics accused of collecting funds without authorization and money laundering. The NIHR attended a number of trial sessions in order to ensure the validity of judicial proceedings and bring about justice to the trial of the accused persons by virtue of the powers granted to it.

The NIHR believes that all the proceedings of the competent court and its dealing with the conduct of trial have taken into account the basic principles of human rights as well as legal controls and other matters in a civilized way. In addition, guarantees for fair trial have been activated, where it was taken into account to maintain the principle of the presumption of innocence, and that the accused person is innocent until proven guilty in a legal trial in which all the necessary guarantees for the exercise of the right to defense are secured to him in all stages of investigation as per law, and that every person accused of a felony must have a lawyer to defend him with his own consent, and that the right to litigation is safeguarded as per Article (20) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Article (14) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified by Law (56) of 2006.

The NIHR stresses its keenness on the judicial independence in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Accordingly, defendants have the right to appeal during the legal period, the matter which ensures their rights and gives the advocates a sufficient



opportunity to present their legal pleadings and evidence, since all rulings issued by the Court of First Instance are appealable.

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