

Statement by NIHR on Allegations by Mother of an Inmate at the Reform and Rehabilitation Center

Manama on February 25, 2019

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has been following up some allegations published on the social media about the death of one of the inmates of the Reform and Rehabilitation Center ((Jaw Prison), a Moroccan citizen, as a result of being subjected to ill-treatment by some of the inmates and officials of the Center, as reported by the mother of the deceased's inmate in a video interview.

Through its human rights position and its oversight responsibility, the NIHR immediately contacted officials at the Ministry of the Interior to find out the details of the incident and all its circumstances. It was found that the inmate was suffering from pain and was transferred to hospital for some necessary medical tests, where he remained under observation for four days. His health then deteriorated and he died as a result of severe blood deficiency.

In recognition of the principle of transparency and to guarantee truth and credibility, the NIHR states that it received a phone call from the mother of the inmate on 21 August 2017 stating that her son, sentenced to 15-year imprisonment in a criminal case (rape), was harassed by some of the inmates. He was moved, at his request, to another building, without his personal belongings being. So, she asked the NIHR to intervene to help her son in this regard. The NIHR addressed the competent authority to take the necessary action as per the rules and regulations.

Moreover, in early 2018, the NIHR received a letter from the National Council for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Morocco, within the framework of cooperation between the national human rights institutions, which stated that the inmate was subjected to harasses in the building, asking the NIHR to intervene to help move him to another building. The NIHR followed-up the case with the competent authority, which in turn cooperated and moved the inmate to another building. The National Council in Morocco was contacted at that time and briefed on what had been done. In this regard, the NIHR confirms that it has not received any allegations from either the inmate or his family indicating torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by the Center's administration.

It is worth mentioning that the NIHR receives complaints and applications for legal assistance either personally or via the toll-free hotline (80001144), the NIHR's website (www.nihr.org.bh), or the (NIHR Bahrain) smartphone application.