



Statement by the NIHR on the Occasion of International Day in Support of the Victims of Torture

Manama on June 26, 2017

The UN General Assembly declared the 26th of June to be the UN International Day in Support of the Victims of Torture, the day on which the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment entered into force in 1987, with an aim to the total elimination of torture and seeking redress for the victims of torture, and in activation of the role of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to achieve its desired goals, since torture is deemed a crime under international law and is totally prohibited under all relevant instruments being a crime that is unjustifiable under any conditions, and the practice of which on a regular basis and in a large-scale is deemed a crime against humanity.

On this occasion, the NIHR calls on all countries, organizations and human rights defenders to further cooperate and consolidate their efforts to support the victims of torture through prohibiting and non-accepting the commitment of acts of torture, including cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which can only be achieved by doubling the efforts to prevent torture.

For its part, the NIHR praises the high ranking achieved by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of combating torture in all its forms and varieties, under the reform project of His Majesty the King of Bahrain, may God protect him. This was recently pointed out by the NIHR during its participation in the meeting of the Committee against Torture (CAT)



at its 60th session and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), where the NIHR presented its parallel reports, which detailed the main legislative and other measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain for the sake of complying with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain is a party in accordance with the Decree – Law No. (4) of 1998. The most important of these measures is the amendment of the definition of the torture crime in the Bahraini Law in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. For example, the Law No. (52) of 2012 amended Articles (208) and (232) of the Penal Code issued on 9 October 2012, and Law No. (18) of 2014 was promulgated issuing the Reform and Rehabilitation Institution Law in July 2014, which came in response to the NIHR's recommendation in its first annual report for 2013, where the NIHR recommended the acceleration of the issuance of an integrated legislation for reform, rehabilitation and pre-detention centers that corresponds with the international standards in the treatment of prisoners and detainees. In addition, the National Fund for the Compensation of Victims was established under the Decree – Law No. (30) of 2011, which is deemed a positive step in the implementation of the basic principles and guidelines on the right to a just remedy and reparation for the victims of serious violations of human rights or international humanitarian law alike.

The NIHR also mentioned in its report the measures taken by it in this area, which were represented in its annual training programs, e.g. the Police Training Program in cooperation with the Royal Police Academy, the Human Rights Program for junior lawyers and the Future Judges project in cooperation with the Supreme Judicial Council.

In conclusion, the NIHR asserts its continuous and vigorous efforts to promote and protect human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in cooperation with all partners and stakeholders, at local and national levels, in order to activate its role in this area, through dealing responsibly with all the issues related to combating torture and contributing to the development of policies that emphasize cooperation with international and regional mechanisms on relevant topics.