



Statement by NIHR on the Follow-up on Inmates in Reform and Rehabilitation Centers

Manama on August 29, 2019

In line with its human rights role, and to ensure that all inmates continue to practice their religious rites in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, which correspond with the relevant international human rights standards, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) shall continue to coordinate and cooperate with the Reform and Rehabilitation Centers by holding declared and undeclared visits, in accordance with the powers given to it in its Incorporation Law, to all the reform and rehabilitation centers during the upcoming Ashura season and various religious occasions throughout the year, in order to ensure that all inmates are exercising their rights in accordance with the laws and regulations in force, in a manner that does not prejudice or infringe the freedom and privacy of other inmates of all religions and sects in the exercise of their rights, and in a manner that ensures the security of the center and the safety of its inmates.

With regard to hunger strike of a number of inmates of the Reform and Rehabilitation Center (Jaw Prison) and solidarity of a number of other inmates with them, the NIHR is communicating with the Center's management and is following-up their health status on a daily basis to ensure that they have access to the necessary healthcare and that the Center is carrying out the NIHR's observations and recommendations.

With regard to the allegation by some inmates that they are being isolated from others, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners define solitary confinement as the confinement of a prisoner for 22 hours or more without meaningful human contact, which is contrary to what has been inspected and verified, as they are sharing a room with other inmates and received their established rights as other inmates, including going out, visiting the cafeteria and receiving phone calls and visits by their relatives as per applicable procedures. In all cases, the procedures for classifying and distributing the inmates are matters falling under the discretion of the Center's management as determined by the relevant rules and regulations applicable in that regard in such a way that ensures the maintenance of order within the Center and provides the necessary protection for the inmates, which is not considered a matter of exclusion or discrimination against them.

The NIHR is calling upon all concerned parties to continue towards further promotion and protection of religious rights and freedoms, as guaranteed by international instruments and applicable national laws and regulations, stressing that it will deal firmly with any human rights abuses or violations in accordance with its competences entrusted



to it by its Incorporation Law, in line with the obligations of the Kingdom of Bahrain resulting from its accession to or ratification of the relevant international conventions.