

NIHR Statement on Prevention of Violation of Privacy Rights

Manama, 17th August 2016

The National Institution for Human Rights lauds the directives issued by His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister to the competent authorities to develop suitable legislations that prevent the violation to the privacy of the individuals through the bad use of social media and any other media without obtaining the consent or authorization of the persons concerned, involving disrespecting the rights of the individuals resulting in infringes on their sanctities.

The directives of HE Prime Minister to develop the suitable legislations that aim at protecting the privacy of individuals and preventing the infringement thereof reflects the concern of the Government to direct the efforts of Kingdom of Bahrain to confirm its continued respect for human rights considering it as a commitment being practiced by it without any restrictions or pressures, reelecting the Constitution of Kingdom of Bahrain as stipulated in article (26) that **"The freedom of postal, telegraphic, telephonic and electronic communication is safeguarded and its confidentiality is guaranteed. Communications shall not be censored or their confidentiality breached except in exigencies specified by law and in accordance with procedures and under guarantees prescribed by law"**.

Accordingly, the National Institution for Human Rights stresses that the right to privacy is one of the fundamental human rights and is deemed as a basic element in a democratic society as it implies the assumption that independent development, interaction and freedom shall be guaranteed for the individual.

It is worth mentioning that international charters and conventions referred to guaranteeing the right to privacy; for instance article (12) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued in 1948 stipulates that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks". The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights issued on 1966 that the kingdom of Bahrain has joined thereto

according to the law No. (56) of 2006 issued on 20th September 2006 stipulated in paragraph (1) and (2) of article (17) thereof "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honor and reputation" and "Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks". Moreover, the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20th November 1980 that Kingdom of Bahrain has joined thereto by virtue of Decree by law No. (16) of 1991, in paragraphs (1) and (2) of article (16) " No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honor and reputation." and "The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks".

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