



Statement by the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) regarding allegations made a number of non-governmental organizations abroad about the human rights situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain

Manama, December 18, 2020

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has monitored allegations and media statements issued by a number of non-governmental organizations abroad regarding the human rights situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and broadcast on the Qatari Al-Jazeera channel. These lack credibility and objectivity, concerning the democratic process, economic conditions, as well as freedom of expression and opinion in Bahrain.

In accordance with its wide scope of Human Rights as established by law in accordance with the Paris Principles, as well as its commitment to transparency, responsibility and credibility in relaying information related to monitoring and reporting the human rights situation in Bahrain, inside and outside detention facilities, the Kingdom of Bahrain has become a model for political reform, democracy, respect for human rights and public freedoms, and adherence to the rule of law and constitutional institutions under the prosperous reign of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The Kingdom has also received regional and international praise for its commitment to implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda as part of its national program. Since the launch of the reform project in 2001, His Majesty the King has stressed that the principle of respecting human rights is Bahrain's strategy to strengthen State institutions and rule of law in accordance with well-established national constants, which have been established throughout history, since the establishment of the modern state.

The NIHR believes that the responsibility assumed by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to protect the health and safety of society by raising the level of readiness to confront the Corona virus since its emergence through the launch of a wide range of decisions and precautionary measures, as well as carefully considered preventive measures which ensured preservation of all human rights, have greatly contributed to limiting and reducing adverse damage resulting from this virus. This reflects the extent of the political leadership's deep belief in the dignity of each and every human being, its respect for their rights and its commitment to protecting them. The political leadership spares no effort to preserve, respect and promote these rights.



The Kingdom of Bahrain's interest in human rights and commitment to promoting and protecting them are genuine, constant and continuous. National legislation reflects respect for rights and freedoms, especially legislation related to freedom of opinion and belief, guaranteeing the rights of national and expatriate workers, support for associations and unions, and criminalizing trafficking in persons.

In this regard, the NIHR questions the lack of objectivity and transparent reporting of these organizations and the Qatari media on Bahrain's achievements, legislation, and laws that protect and preserve the rights of citizens and residents? where is the transparent relay and comments on the Kingdom's compliance to regional and international conventions, including but not limited to the International Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Inhuman Treatment, and the Child Convention? What is the position of these organizations and media on Bahrain's promotion of democracy and political participation through the Parliament (and the Shura Council)?

The human rights endeavour in Bahrain continues, and the strategy of protection and promotion is rooted in the national mechanisms concerned with human rights. We also note the role of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) and its effective work in empowering women, and ensuring equality with men in accordance with the Constitution and national legislation.

The NIHR, based on its announced and unannounced regular and continuous visits to the reformation, rehabilitation and detention centres to closely monitor the conditions of male and female prisoners to ensure that they enjoy their established rights, and that they are not subjected to any forms of ill-treatment in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment Prisoners, denies categorically these non-governmental organizations' allegations , which are not based on any evidence, and are not objective and credible, confirming that such allegations are baseless.

In the same context, the NIHR expresses surprise that these organizations that claim to protect and defend human rights practice double standards in human rights work as they overlook serious violations of the right of the simple Bahraini citizen to his livelihood, and Qatar's dangerous practices against Bahraini fishermen, which are considered violations of all rights standards; human rights and the international human rights law. The NIHR reiterates its strong condemnation of the continuous Qatari targeting of fishermen in the territorial waters of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The NIHR regrets the practices of these non-governmental organizations, claiming to be committed to defending human rights while remaining silent on Qatari abuses with regard to their



gross violations of the principles of the international human rights law. Although some of these organizations are in continuous contact with the NIHR for assistance, it is unfortunate that they make misleading media statements that in themselves constitute a violation of human rights providing fabricated information based on a desperate attempt to distort the facts and human rights achievements in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The NIHR calls upon those organizations again, as it has many times before, to adhere to the supreme values and principles of human rights, apply the standards as set by the United Nations as framework in accordance with the system of community partnership, obtain information from reliable sources, and adhere to principles that are appropriate and honest principles of human rights work apart from political interests.

The NIHR affirms that it deals firmly with any human rights violations and in a manner consistent with the obligations of the Kingdom of Bahrain resulting from its compliance or ratification of the relevant international agreements. At the same time, the NIHR calls on the organizations that issued these misleading allegations to commit to professionalism and complete accuracy, and ensure they communicate in the future with independent bodies in the Kingdom of Bahrain, especially the NIHR as it is an independent body from the executive authority, and a national mechanism approved by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions to verify any allegations before including them in their reports and statements. The NIHR is fully prepared to cooperate with all bodies and organizations in order to reveal the truth and protect human rights.

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