



Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on the celebrations marking the National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Manama- 16 December 2013

The National Institution for Human Rights wishes to extend its heart-felt congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifah, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Royal Highness Amir Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Amir Salman ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Vice Prime Minister, and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the Kingdom's celebrations of the National Day on 16 and 17 December, commemorating the anniversary of the birth of the modern state of Bahrain in the era of the founder Ahmad al-Fatih in the year 1783, the 42nd anniversary of Bahrain as a full- fledged member state in the United Nations as well as the 14th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad's ascension to the throne. These celebrations incarnate a bright image of the nation in the light of His Majesty's Reform Initiative to build a modern state based on the principles of justice, equality, democracy and human rights.

The National Institution for Human Rights wishes to reaffirm the fact that the good efforts exerted by the wise leadership and the honorable government in the Kingdom of Bahrain to follow up on the steps of the Reform Initiative require support and backup by all political powers in the Kingdom and veritable solidarity by the various components of the Bahraini people in order to attain the hopes and aspirations for further progress and advancement.

The National Institution for Human Rights calls on all parties to preserve and protect the reform gains and support the democratic experiment through positive participation in the construction and modernization effort, protection of the nation and the citizens' security within the demands of respect for the



law, rejection of violence and counter violence, vandalism, and sectarian sedition as a way of preservation of the unity, cohesion and stability of the society and serve its aspirations to sustainable development and growth.

The National Institution for Human Rights also reaffirms that there is no substitute for dialogue but dialogue to achieve and reach agreement on the legitimate demands as a civilized and a win-win methodology for the establishment of nations and states, as dialogue will most likely consolidate the foundations of the Reform Initiative and realization of the hopes of the Bahrain people for sustained development and progress.

The National Institution for Human Rights appreciates the national role undertaken by the human right societies to promote the society's awareness of human rights culture, preservation of man's dignity and consolidation of the state of law and functioning institutions.

The National Institution for Human Rights demands the government to initiate an invitation for drawing up a comprehensive and total national strategy to promote human rights with the participation of all concerned sectors of the community in order to arrive at a unanimous and common national plan for implementation as the upcoming phase does call for consolidation of efforts and intensification of work to cover all aspects that would nurture, protect, promote and develop human rights to higher levels.