



National Institution for Human Rights reiterate its categorical rejection for repeated publication of the photographs and names of the defendants

Manama on January 29, 2015

National Institution for Human Rights spotted that the Ministry of Interior through its official account on the social networking (Twitter) and some local daily newspapers, continues to publish names and photographs of the accused of committing social media abuse crime, as stated by the Ministry of Interior.

The National Institution reiterates its categorical rejection to repeat this approach, emphasizing the need for the ministry's adherence to the provisions of the Constitution, particularly Article (20) of paragraph (c), which stipulates that "the accused is innocent until proven guilty in a legal trial at which the necessary guarantees for the exercise of the right of defense in All stages of the investigation and the trial according to the law", as well as the text of Article 83 of the Decree Law No. (46) for the year 2002 on the Code of Criminal Procedure, which considered that the investigation procedures and their results are considered "secrets".

In the same context, the National Institution reminds that this publication is a clear violation of the first paragraph of Article 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulates that "every person charged with a crime is presumed innocent until legally proven by a public trial at which he has had the necessary guarantees for his defense ", The second paragraph of Article 14 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant "everyone charged with a criminal offense shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law."



While the national institution rejects any actions criminalized by the law, it considers that the publication of the names and photographs of the suspects before a definite court ruling as a clear violation of the principle of presumption of innocence, and prejudices the human dignity of the accused. This because the international human rights instruments unequivocally proves the necessity of commitment to those in charge of law enforcement, either at the stage of collecting evidence or the stage of preliminary investigation or during the proceedings before the courts, not to express their views openly with respect to the guilt of the accused before the highest degree court reaches to a final definite verdict in the case, it should even prevent it from pre raise suspicions about people belonging to a particular ethnic group or sect, since such a publication and raising suspicions have a direct impact on public opinion, which may generate conviction that affects the proceedings. This was referred to by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerned with the follow-up of the states parties to the international conventions for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination joined the Kingdom of Bahrain under Decree-Law No. (8) for the year 1995

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