

## **Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) on the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**

Manama, June 26, 2012

On June 26, the anniversary of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, endorsed by UN General Assembly in its Resolution 52/149, dated 21 December 1997, the NIHR commends the the continuing efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the steps taken since the beginning of His Majesty the King's reform until the present time, particularly in light of the implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI). The NIHR also commends the effective role of all UN organizations, its specialized agencies, civil society, and rehabilitation centers of torture victims to prevent and combat torture and alleviate the suffering of its victims.

It is worth noting that the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1984, under the terms of Decree-by-Law No. 4 of 1998, which was issued on 18 February 1998. This was a sign of the Kingdom's support of the systems of human rights and condemnation of ant acts that harm human spirit and dignity. The United Nations has condemned torture as one of the most degrading acts committed by human beings against their fellow human beings. Torture is a crime under international law. The international community denounced torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948. To that end, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was established in order to finance organizations that provide humanitarian assistance to victims of torture and members of their families. The concept of prohibition of torture has had a strong impact in all societies for the development of standards and legal instruments aimed at guaranteeing human rights and freedoms.