

"Together to create a better practice of Human Rights"

المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان
National Institution for Human Rights



HUMAN RIGHTS

ISSN 2210 - 1276

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS | EDITION (9) - September 2014



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received the NIHR's 2013 annual report

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received on 7 September 2014, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Chairperson, Dr. Abdulaziz Abul, and the Council of Commissioners, who presented HM the King with the NIHR's 2013 annual report.

HM the King praised the achievements and activities included in the NIHR's 2013 annual report at both local and international levels aimed at promoting human rights in Bahrain, and cooperation and communication established with international organizations and bodies on the protection and consolidation of human rights.

HM the King hailed the role played by the NIHR's Council of Commissioners and General Secretariat in promoting and disseminating awareness of human rights.

He highlighted Bahrain's resolve to promote and protect human rights in line with international laws and conventions.

He wished the NIHR's delegation success and to continue carrying out their national duty in reinforcing principles of human rights.

Dr. Abul said that HM the King, during the meeting,



directed the Council of Commissioners to consider all proposals that NIHR deems compatible with the obligations of the Kingdom of Bahrain and in conformity with Islamic principles, Arab values and international conventions.

HE Dr Ahmed Abdulla Farhan, the Secretary General, Mr Yaser Sager Al Shirawi, Deputy Secretary General, and Mr Yasser Ghanim Shaheen, Director of Legal Affairs also attended the meeting.

www.nihr.org.bh



nihrbh



+973 396 366 43

HRH Premier receives NIHR's annual report

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has affirmed that human rights achievements and positive developments have reached advanced stages in the kingdom, expressing pride in Bahrain's commitment to protecting all the rights of its citizens.

He emphasised that the government's efforts to ensure civil and political rights and support and protect the economic, social and cultural ones have been recognised by the International Community, and exposed the distortion and falsity campaigns staged against the kingdom to affect its human rights situation.

"Stand up for human rights, particularly the right of the Bahraini citizens to live without fear of terrorism and saboteurs, and the right of your country to enjoy security and stability," he said.

This came as HRH Premier received here today the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Chairperson Dr. Abdulaziz Abul and Members, who handed over to him the NIHR's annual report.

HRH the Prime Minister highlighted the government's comprehensive strategy in dealing with human rights, which is based on all rights, including the requirements of decent living through adopting citizen-oriented economic, social and service programmes.

He outlined the government's vision on promoting human rights' values and principles through the creation of an economic system that ensures the citizens tranquility and stability in the present and future.

He stressed that Bahrain has enhanced its cooperation with all international human rights organisations with which it shares sincere desire to consolidate the principles of human rights,



and use them as a tool to build nations, and not a pretext to disseminate fallacies that undermine their security and stability.

He said that right to security, safety and stability has been emphasised by all religions, and, therefore, the government will not tolerate any efforts to affect it.

The NIHR's Chairman and Members expressed pride in submitting the NIHR's first annual report to HRH Premier, praising his directives on human rights in Bahrain and visions on the government's way of dealing with them in a comprehensive approach.

They affirmed that HRH Premier is statesman of the first class, who had devised a strategy of dealing with human rights in a comprehensive way based on improving the citizens' standards of living by ensuring their right to live in security and stability and providing them quality services in all fields.

HRH Crown Prince meets NIHR President



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, met in Riffa with Dr. Abdulaziz Abul, Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR).

Dr. Abul presented His Royal Highness with NIHR's 2013 annual report which outlines its action plan for the next three years and highlights its role in enhancing human rights protection in the Kingdom. The annual report also includes several other initiatives regarding improved coordination and collaboration with government bodies as well as with specialised human rights institutions across the world.

At the start of the meeting, HRH Crown Prince highlighted Bahrain's commitment to strengthening all mechanisms that

support the protection of human rights in the country. He particularly stressed the significance of national efforts aimed at improving Bahrain's human rights record.

In this regard, HRH Crown Prince emphasised His Majesty King Hamad's firm commitment to the ongoing development of human rights in the Kingdom.

Furthermore, he highlighted the role played by national institutions in effectively and efficiently implementing human rights standards amidst complex local circumstances. HRH Crown Prince went on to add these types of strong institutions are necessary components of modern and advanced societies.

HRH Crown Prince praised the quality of the NIHR's report, underlining its impartiality and accountability. He further underscored NIHR's key role in continuing to enhance human rights protection in the Kingdom, and emphasised Dr. Abul's significant contributions to the development of NIHR's strategies and policies.

HRH Crown Prince also emphasised the importance of improving coordination between the NIHR, government bodies and specialised human rights institutions to continue to develop Bahrain's laws that fully align human rights protection mechanisms with international best practice.

For his part, Dr. Abul expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with HRH Crown Prince, and noted the wide support provided to the NIHR to fulfil its role. He continued to reaffirm the NIHR's commitment to enhancing and promoting human rights in the Kingdom.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa also attended the meeting.

National Institution for Human Rights* launches its first annual report for 2013



The National Institution for Human Rights held a press conference on Monday, September 8th, 2014 for the launch of its first annual report for 2013, in the presence of the Chairperson of the National Institution HE Dr Abdulaziz Hassan Abul, the Vice-Chairperson HE Abdullah Ahmed Alderazi and the Secretary-General HE Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Farhan.

The Chairperson of the National Institution Dr Abdulaziz Hassan Abul highlighted the reception of His Majesty the King to the Members of the NIHR Council of Commissioners and to presentation of the first annual report of the institution to His Majesty represent the biggest support to them in order to move forward in their work, adding that His Majesty the King gave the Council of Commissioners a strong push to do more of effort in this file and directed them to unexceptionally raise all the proposals that are in favor of promoting Human Rights in the kingdom.

The Vice Chairperson of the National Institution HE Abdullah Alderazi brought to light the preparations of the National Institution to approach the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) concerned with National Institutions during its meeting planned to be held in March 2015 for the International Accreditation.

In addition, the Secretary-General HE Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Farhan asserted that the report of the National Institution was based on transparency and complete independence, away from any political, sectarian or ethnic affinity, stressing that the report was published on the national institution website immediately after handed over to His Majesty the King as it has been stated by law No. (26) for the year 2014 to establish the National Institution for Human Rights.

The Secretary-General confirmed that the report has been drawn up in accordance with international standards for reports of international organizations concerned with Human Rights.

For his part, the Chairperson of the National Institution urged political associations and civil society organizations to enlighten the National Institution on their ambitions, suggestions and comments that will improve the national institution's performance.

Meanwhile, the Secretary General asserted that this report is the first document, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, to monitor Human Rights in a public form since the start of the reform project of His Majesty the King, pointing out that this report is a reference for anyone interested to know the situation of Human Rights in the Kingdom being based on transparency and complete independence, adding that the national institution is aware that they do not differ in the terms of reference from all national institutions in the world, where it monitors cases of Human Rights violations and make appropriate recommendations to deal with them.

His Majesty the King issued a law establishing the National Institution for Human Rights*

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain issued Law No. 26 of 2014 on the Establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights, Published in the Official Gazette, Supp. Issue no. 3168, Vol. 67, 7 August 2014.

The following is the text of the law:

We Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, After reviewing the Constitution,

And Treaties and Conventions on human rights to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded or ratified,

And Royal Decree No. 46 of 2009 on the Establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights amended by the Royal Decree No. 28 of 2012;

And taking into account the Paris Principles on National Institutions to protect and promote human rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993;

The Nuwab Council and the Shura Council have decided on the following law and we have approved and promulgated it:

Article 1

In application of the provisions of this law, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning set out next to them, unless the provision states otherwise:

A- Institution - the National Institution for Human Rights.

B- Council of Commissioners - the Council of Commissioners of the Institution.

C- Chairperson - The Chairperson (he/she) of the Council of

Commissioners of the Institution.

D- Vice Chairperson - the Vice Chairperson (he/she) of the Council of Commissioners of the Institution.

E- Member - a Member of the Council of Commissioners of the Institution.

F- Members - the Members of the Council of Commissioners of the Institution.

G- Committees - the standing and *ad-hoc* Committees of the Institution.

H- Secretary General - the Secretary General of the Institution.

Article 2

An independent Institution is established named "The National Institution for Human Rights" responsible for promoting and protecting human rights, and consolidating its values and contributing to securing its practice. It shall be located in the city of Manama.

The Institution shall have independent legal personality, as well as financial and administrative independence, and shall carry out its duties freely, neutrality and independently.

Article 3

The Institution shall have a Council of Commissioners composed of eleven Members, including the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson. They shall be known for their competence and integrity. They shall be selected from consultancy firms, academic organizations, civil society organizations, unions, social, economic and professional institutions, provided that woman and minorities are adequately represented.

* Unofficial Translation

Article 4

Individual appointed Members of the Council of Commissioners shall fulfill the following conditions:

- A- Holding Bahraini nationality.
- B- Not under the age of thirty years.
- C- Having familiarity and interest in Human Rights issues.
- D- Being of good conduct and reputation.
- E- Have not been convicted of a criminal punishment, or freedom restraining penalty in a crime related to moral baseness or dishonesty, unless (he/she) has been rehabilitated.

Article 5

Members shall be appointed by Royal Decree for a period of four years, renewable for similar periods. Appointments shall take place after consultation with relevant bodies of civil society and various other organizations. The Members shall undertake their work in their personal capacity.

- A- The Council of Commissioners shall convene its first meeting under the chairmanship of the most senior Member to elect a Chairperson and vice Chairperson from amongst them for a similar period of their appointment. The position shall be elected by a relative majority of Members present. If no one achieves a relative majority, the selection shall be done by casting lots. If the number of the candidates is not in excess of the number required, election will be declared by acclamation.
- B- The Chairperson shall represent the institution to the judiciary, and in its relationships with others. The Chairperson may delegate some of (his/her) function to other Members. The Vice Chairperson shall replace the Chairperson to undertake all (his/her) duties during (his/her) absence or any matter that prevent (him/her) from attending.

Article 6

- C- The Council of Commissioners shall meet at least once every three months, on the basis of an invitation from the Chairperson. The Chairperson may, or on the basis of a request from a majority of the Members, call an exceptional meeting of the Council of Commissioners at any time.
- D- The Council of Commissioners meeting shall be considered valid if attended by the majority of its Members, provided the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson is present. The resolutions of the Council of Commissioners shall be passed by the majority votes of Members present, and in case of a tie, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

The Council of Commissioners may invite to attend its meeting anyone from whose opinion or experience it may benefit in relation to a topic proposed for a research or discussion, without giving them the right to vote.

Article 7

- A- The Council of Commissioners shall form permanent Committees from its Members to undertake the institution functions. It may form ad-hoc Committees, if necessary.
- B- The permanent Committees meet once every month at least. A Member of the Council of Commissioners shall undertake the chairmanship of each Committee and such Committee may seek the assistance of experts upon discussing any of the topics entrusted thereto without having a right to vote.
- C- The Committees shall meet after being called to do so by their respective head. The Chairperson may also invite any of the Committees to convene to discuss an issue (he/she) deems important. (he/she) shall chair the meeting of Committees (he/she) attends. (he/she) may also entrust one

of the Members to research or investigate a certain subject.

Article 8

The Council of Commissioners shall promulgate Executive Statute to regulate and govern its meeting and the Committees and their competencies as well as other issues related to the affairs of the Members. The Statute shall be promulgated on the basis of a resolution of the chairperson after the approval of a majority of the Members.

Article 9

A Member may not hold accountable for (his/her) opinion and ideas on issues that fall within the competence of the Institution. A Member may not be questioned without the consent of the Chairperson, and it must be done in the presence of the representative of the Council of Commissioners.

The headquarter of the Institution may not be searched except after obtaining a judicial order and in the presence of a representative of the Public Prosecution. The Chairperson must be notified of this and a representative for the Chairperson must be invited to be present during the search.

In all cases, any process that contravenes this will be considered null and void.

Article 10

First: Membership of the Council of Commissioners shall come to an end in any of the following circumstances:

- A- In case of death or disability preventing the performance of the Member's functions.
- B- Resignation.
- C- If the Member no longer fulfill one of the conditions provided for in sub-paragraphs (a) or (e) of article 4 of this law.

Second: Membership may be brought to termination before the end of its term by a Royal Decree promulgated pursuant to a request from the Council of Commissioners passed by a two-third majority in the following circumstances:

- A- If (he/she) has contravened the provisions of this law or the regulations and decisions promulgated in implementation thereof.
- B- If (he/she) takes actions conflicting with the goals of the Institution, or if (his/her) action is intended to hinder its tasks and specialism.
- C- If (he/she) repeatedly fails to attend five meetings of the Council of Commissioners or the Committees without an excuse acceptable to the Chairperson despite the fact that (he/she) has been notified of it in writing in accordance with the executive statute.
- D- If the Member no longer fulfills the condition provided for in sub-paragraph (d) of Article 4 of this law.

In all circumstances, if the position of one of the Members is vacant for any of the preceding reasons, another Member shall take over (his/her) place in accordance with the provisions of this law and the new Member shall complete the term of (his/her) predecessor.

Article 11

The remuneration of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members shall be set by Royal Decree.

Article 12

In pursuing its goals the Institution is free to comment on any question related to human rights, and to take any human rights issues, as it sees fit. It has the following competencies:

- A- To participate in the production and implementation of a

national plan for the promotion and protection of Human Rights in the Kingdom.

- B- To Study legislation and regulations enforced in the Kingdom which come under the human rights areas together with recommending amendments it deems fit in this respect particularly those consistent with such legislations and the Kingdom's international obligations in the human rights field. The Institution shall be empowered to recommend issuing new legislation related to human rights.
- C- To study the conformity of legislation and organization of regional and international treaties related to human right, submit proposals and recommendations to concerned authorities in any matter that re-enforces and protect human rights, support and develop to a better level including recommendations to join regional and international conventions and treaties concerned with human rights.
- D- To submit parallel reports, and participate in the drafting and discussion of the reports which the Kingdom is obliged to periodically submit for the implementation of regional and international conventions concerning human rights together with notifying about such reports in the proper media means.
- E- To monitor violation of human rights, conduct the necessary investigation, draw the attention of the competent authorities and provide them with proposals on initiatives to put an end to such violations and, where necessary, to express an opinion on the reactions and positions of the competent authorities.
- F- To receive, examine and research complaints related to human rights and refer them, if necessary, to the relevant authorities with effective follow-up, or enlightening those concerned with most-follow procedures and help them to implement them, or asset in the settlement with relevant authorities.
- G- To conduct field visits in accordance with applicable practice, to monitor human rights situation in reform institutes, detention centers, labor gathering, health and education centres, or any other public place in which it is suspected that human rights violations are taking place.
- H- To cooperate with competence authorities concerned with cultural, media and educational affairs, to submit proposals and recommendations in any matter in order to spread, propagate and strengthen a culture of awareness and respect for human rights.
- I- To cooperate with national bodies and regional and international organizations, as well as relevant institutions in other countries that work for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- J- To host conferences and to organize training and educational events in the field of human rights and conduct related research and studies.
- K- To participate in national and international forums, as well as in meetings of regional and international bodies concerned with human rights issues.
- L- To issue newsletters, printed material, data and special reports, and upload them on the Institution website. It is entitled to directly approach the public opinion or through the any of the media.

Article 13

The King and any Constitutional State Authorities may refer to the Institution any issues they see fit and which come within its competency for its consideration and opinion.

Article 14

A- The Institution may request any information, reports or

documents which it considers necessary for the attainment of its goals or the performance of its functions from the ministries and relevant bodies in the Kingdom. These ministries and bodies shall cooperate with the Institution in the pursuit of its tasks and facilitate the conduct of its competency and provide it with what it requests in this regard in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations.

- B- The Institution may inform the competent authorities in case the ministries and bodies fail to cooperate and provide the Institution with the requested information, reports and documents or prevent it from examining them, so that the competent authorities take the necessary steps in accordance with the law.

Article 15

The administrative body of the Institution shall consist of a General Secretariat which shall act as its executive organ and a sufficient number of consultants, experts, researchers and others shall be in the General Secretariat. They shall be appointed by resolution of the Chairperson on the basis of a request from the Secretary- General.

Article 16

The Secretary General shall be appointed by resolution of the Chairperson on the basis of the Consent of a majority of the Members. The appointment shall be for a period of four years and eligible for renewal similar terms. The candidate shall be an individual's known for competence, integrity and independence who have obtains at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent and who has relevant experience, in addition to fulfilling the conditions required of Member under Article 4 of this law.

Article 17

The Secretary General shall supervise and oversee the affairs of the General Secretariat. (he/she) shall be directly responsible to the Chairperson for the performance of these duties, which shall include:

- A- General supervision over the General Secretariat, the affairs of the employees and financial and administrative matters in accordance with this law and the rules and regulations promulgated in implementation of it.
- B- Attendance at meetings of the Council of Commissioners, without having the right to vote, and the implementation of its decisions, as well as the drafting of periodic reports every three months which incorporate the activities of the Institution and the work of the General Secretariat, including which work has been completed according to plans and programs.
- C- Attendance at meetings of Committees, following up on their work and giving them the requisite support to pursue their specialisms, without having the right to vote.

The Secretary General may delegate, in writing, some of (his/her) tasks and responsibilities to employees in the General Secretariat.

Article 18

The Institution shall have internal statute promulgated by a resolution of the Chairperson on the basis of the agreement of a majority of the Members. It shall include, in particular, the organizational structure of the General Secretariat and it shall regulate the affairs of its employees, according to the related laws and regulations in force in the Kingdom.

The Institution shall also have a financial statute regulating its accounting and financial affairs.

Article 19

Members and those working in the General Secretariat shall maintain the confidentiality information, reports and documents

they receive or see in the course of their work unless otherwise ordered by the Public Prosecution or a competent court. This provision shall continue to apply even after the end of the Membership or service.

Article 20

The Institution shall have sufficient financial resources to enable it to promote its aims and tasks assigned to it in the best possible way, and these resources shall consist of:

A- Financial resources allocated to the Institution in a separate ledger on the general state budget; and

B- Donation and aid that the Council of Commissioners decides to accept in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the Kingdom.

The Institution shall manage and control its financial resources with complete independence. Its accounts shall be subject to the supervision of the National Audit Office.

Article 21

The Council of Commissioners shall produce an annual report on the efforts, activities and work streams of the Institution, as well as any observations and comments within its competency, identifying any obstacles to the Institution's performance and

the solutions adopted to circumvent them. The Council of Commissioners shall present the report to the King, the prime Minister, the Nuwab Council, and the Shura Council. The report shall be presented to the public in parallel.

Article 22

Royal Decree No. 46 of 2009 for the Establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights, as amended by Royal Decree No. 28 of 2012, shall be cancelled, as well as all provisions conflicting with the provisions of this law.

Article 23

The Prime Minister and the Ministers, within their competence, shall implement this law, which shall come into force on the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

Signed:

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Issued at Riffa Palace,

On: 26 Ramadan, 1435 Hijra,

Corresponding to: 24 July 2014

Secretary General of the National Institution for Human Rights receives Assistant Secretary-General of the Supreme Judicial Council



The Secretary-General of the National Foundation for Human Rights, HE Dr Ahmad Abdullah Farhan received the Assistant Secretary-General of the Supreme Judicial Council, HE Mr. Khalifa Mahboub Alwardi at the headquarters of the National Institution in AlSeef District.

At the beginning of the visit, the Secretary-General of the National Institution welcomed the Guest and his accompanying delegation, affirming the importance of exchanging and taking advantage of such visits to strengthen cooperation between the national institution and the Supreme Judicial Council, especially in relation to the national judiciary to come near the international conventions on human rights, which acceded to the Kingdom of Bahrain and the role of the judiciary in the promotion of fundamental freedoms and the protection

of the individuals rights in accordance with the best international standards for fair trial guarantees.

For his part, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Supreme Judicial Council the efforts exerted by the National Institution in the promotion and protection of human rights, looking to take advantage of them at the level of judicial training, whether for active judges or judges admitted in the future judges project, in line with the Council's vision and objectives.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Yasser Shaeen, Director of Legal Affairs, Mr. Fadel Habib, Acting Director of Communications and Ms. Eman Ali Ahmed, Acting Head of the Committees' Affairs Unit in the National Institution for Human Rights.

His Excellency the Secretary General meets the Chairwoman of the Bahrain Association for Strategic Planning

The Secretary-General of the National Institution for Human Rights HE Dr Ahmad Abdullah Farhan, received the Chairwoman of the Bahrain Association for Strategic Planning Dr. Hala Badr Sulaibeekh and a number of the association's board of directors Members at the headquarters of the National Institution in Al-Seef Distrecty.

During the meeting, HE the Secretary General of the National Institution expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by the association complementing the specialized administrative work at the level of civil society organizations. He stressed the importance of research and experiences exchange and holding joint training sessions to spread the culture of strategic planning in the field of human rights.

For her part, the Chairwoman of the Bahraini Association for Strategic Planning praised putting the strategic plan into effect for the years (2013-2016)



by the National Institution for Human Rights after the launch of its executive program for 2014, which includes all activities, events and target groups and their expected outcome.

Chairperson and Secretary-General of the National Institution participate in the National Unity Gathering symposium

The Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights HE Dr Abdulaziz Hassan Abul and the Secretary-General of the Institution HE Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Farhan Participated at the symposium panel discussion organized by the National Unity Gathering at their headquarters in Busaiteen. The discussion focused on the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council on Bahrain which coincides with the convening of its 27th session being held on 8-26 September.

HE Dr Abdulaziz Abul said: "The issue of Law No. 26 of 2014 by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to establish the National Institution for Human Rights placed the Kingdom of Bahrain in a very advanced juristic position, whether at the level of the Gulf States or the Arab countries"

He added that the law takes into account the Paris Principles for Human Rights as it has been praised by the High Commissioner for Human Rights. He pointed out that the national institution is working for the benefit of future generations, and that the issue of human rights in the Kingdom is moving forward, and must deal with it in a truly realistic way.

On the other hand, HE the Secretary-General said that the Human Rights Council of the United Nations makes recommendations and does not impose decisions over

the states, thus there is no problem for the states not considering those recommendations, but problems come when the state commits itself to implementing the recommendations.

The Secretary-General added that the voluntary report to be submitted by Bahrain during the month of August in front of the Human Rights Council is not debatable or reviewable by the Member States in the Council. He explained that the provision of Bahrain for this voluntary report marks the seriousness of the state in implementing the required recommendations.

He asserted the need for cooperation of the national institution and civil society organizations to build a real solid relationship based on trust with the state, highlighting the importance of the human rights file to the state and the institution. He added that the state should intensify meetings with us and enable us to look at all developments and steps carried out in this file so we become aware of them offer recommendations consistent with those of the state.

He also added: "The National Institution for Human Rights has prepared a report on the recommendations of the Human Rights Council on Bahrain, and that the institution will disclose this report only after the State has presented its report first".

The National Institution for Human Rights Council of Commissioners holds the fifth extraordinary meeting



The Board of Commissioners of the national institution for human rights held its 5th extraordinary meeting under the chairmanship of Dr Abdulaziz Hassan Abul, the Chairperson of the National Institution, on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at the headquarters of the National Institution in AlSeef.

The Council of Commissioners was briefed on the main points of law No. (26) for the year 2014 to establish the National Institution for Human Rights, and adopted its rules and Regulations, after re-arranging their articles on the basis of the new Law of the institution.

The course of matters relating to the annual report of the National Institution for Human Rights in 2013 has also been presented as well as discussing the formation of a drafting committee to prepare for the annual report of the National Institution for the year 2014.

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Institution for Human Rights and the Ministry of Human Rights Affairs

The National Institution for Human Rights and the Ministry of Human Rights Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding in order to encourage and enhance ties of coordination and cooperation between the two sides. This comes to activate the competencies of the institution and the ministry in spreading the culture of human rights and strengthen cooperation with regional, national and international organizations to promote and protect human rights.

The memorandum was signed by the Minister of Human Rights Affairs Dr. Salah Bin Ali Abdul Rahman and Chairperson of the National Institution HE Dr. Abdulaziz Hassan Abul.

Stating that the memorandum of understanding will contribute to the strengthening of the human rights institutional work in Bahrain, as all bodies concerned with human rights integrate and share in national roles assigned to them, the Chairperson of the National Institution expressed thanks and appreciation to the Minister for agreeing to sign the memorandum of understanding.

For his part, the Minister of Human Rights Affairs welcomed the formation of a joint committee between the Ministry and the institution meeting periodically to develop an executable joint cooperation work program.

The minister said that the memorandum of understanding will contribute to the promotion of joint action to spread a culture of human rights in society and the establishment of a new phase in the teamwork between the relevant authorities in the field of human rights in order to develop human rights work at the



national level.

He added that the ministry will provide all possible facilities for the success of the joint activities between the two sides in light of the competence assigned to the ministry.

The memorandum of understanding consists of 8 items to serve human rights work and to establish the principles of human rights, preservation of dignity, exchange of expertise and capacity building in the two sides. It contains cooperation in various aspects of mutual interest, including instilling the principles of human rights exchanging of experience, visits, consultations, publications and studies, organization of training courses and workshops, holding of joint conferences and events, and contributing to coordinated support in human rights fields.

Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights receives Chairman and Members of the Arab Human Rights Committee



The Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights HE Dr Abdulaziz Hassan Abul received at the headquarters of the National Institution in AlSeef the Chairman and Members of the Arab Human Rights Committee (Charter Committee), who are currently visiting the Kingdom of Bahrain at the invitation of the Ministry of Human Rights to hold a series of workshops for the public and private sectors during the period from 1-4 September 2014.

During the meeting, HE the Chairperson of the National Institution was briefed on the competencies and functions of the Arab Human Rights Committee and the mechanism of action within the framework of its originator, the Arab Charter for Human Rights which Bahrain is a party to it being a regional agreement in the framework of the League of Arab States.

HE the Chairperson of the National Institution also presented to the Members of the Committee a detailed explanation of the role played by the National Institution, its achievements in the field of human rights, and aspired role in the promotion and protection of human rights, especially after the approval of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain ratifying law No. 26 of 2014 to establish the National Institution for human Rights.

HE the Chairperson of the National Institution also reviewed with the chairman and Members of the committee the prospects of cooperation and coordination between the two sides in the field of human rights.

On their part, the Chairman and Members of the Arab Human Rights Committee (Charter Committee) were expressed their content to visit the Kingdom to be aware of the role and efforts of the National Institution for Human Rights in the promotion and development of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

National Institution for Human Rights signed an agreement of cooperation with the Supreme Judicial Council

The National Institution for Human Rights signed an agreement of cooperation with the Supreme Judicial Council to promote the principles of human rights and exchange of expertise on Thursday, August 28, 2014 at the headquarters of the Supreme Judicial Council.

The agreement aims to establish a mechanism for mutual cooperation through the organization of training courses and workshops.

The Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights HE Dr Abdulaziz Hassan Abul said that the cooperation between the Council and the institution is ceaseless and the institution continues to communicate with the council providing the most prominent complaints received by the institution with respect to human rights in some cases.

He added that the memorandum of understanding came to complete previously taken steps in the field of human rights, which is considered the core of justice.

For his part, the head of the Supreme Judicial Council, Chairman of the Court of Cassation HE Chancellor Salem Al Kuwari, stated that the Agreement aims to promote the principles of human rights and the litigant human dignity, since the agreement will have an important role to play as part of the national strategy through which the Supreme Judicial Council trains future judges 2014 by providing them with



judicial standards and human rights at the same time, as well as preparing them to be conversant with human rights and dignity.

On the other hand, NIHR Secretary-General HE Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Farhan said that the Institution will form a working group in cooperation with the Council to develop a strategy and training program of human rights principles for the formation of a modern vision of the judiciary corps.

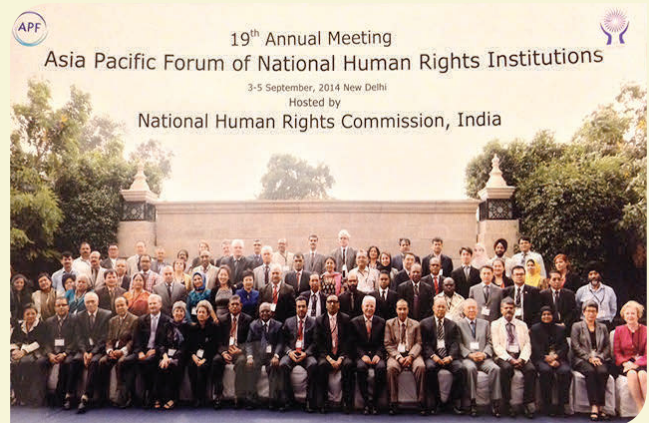
He continued by saying: "The institution spotted recently some of the judicial ruling which touched on its own merits to the Convention and the international treaties showing the extent of knowledge of the Bahraini judge on those international conventions."

Participation of the National Institution for Human Rights in the annual meeting of the Asia and the Pacific Forum (APF)



The Secretary-General of the National Institution for Human Rights HE Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Farhan and the Director of Legal Affairs Mr. Yasser Ghanim Shaheen, Participated in the opening session of the 19th annual meeting of the Asia and the Pacific Forum for National Institutions for Human Rights, which was held in New Delhi, Republic of India on Wednesday, September 3rd 2014 for three days.

As planned, the meeting discussed a number of topics, including the review of the report of the International Coordinating Committee, and the report of the Sub-Committee for approval, and decides the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. Also, the forum's Secretariat General will provide the financial report and the report of the external auditor.



The meeting discussed also the strategy and priorities for the work of the Asia-Pacific Forum for 2015-2020 which included the strategic objectives of the forum, the mechanism to achieve them, and of financial support resources. In addition, the program of work on the rights of women and girls will be addressed.

It is worth mentioning that the National Institution for Human Rights got the Forum Membership as an observer and is working to obtain full Membership in the coming months.

National Institution for Human Rights organizes Lecture “human rights standards for police work”



The Secretary-General of the National Institution for Human Rights, HE Dr Ahmad Abdullah Farhan asserted that human rights must be dealt with as a lifestyle and its principles as the right of human to avail human dignity.

This came in a lecture about the human rights standards for police work, organized by the National Institution for Human Rights in cooperation with the southern Governorate Police Directorate in the Ministry of the Interior on Wednesday August 6th 2014 at the headquarters of the Directorate, in the presence of Brigadier General Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Director General of the Southern Governorate Police Directorate, and the participation of a group of officers of the Directorate.

The organization of this lecture comes within the strategic plan and the National Institution for human Rights for the years 2013-2016 aiming to spread and protect human rights culture in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

During the lecture, HE the Secretary General said: “We, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, would like to improve the culture of human rights and law enforcement, the fact that human rights are a set of individual and collective rights specified in the constitutions of states and international law.”

HE Dr. Ahmed Farhan added that human rights is linked to life, politics, economy and the prestige associated with the state, also working in the field of human rights needs believing in the principle which is associated with the personal faith to promote the concept of human rights.

HE the Secretary General addressed the history and the emergence of the idea of human rights and the evolution of the concept, in addition to the basic principles of human rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is the official document of human rights, touching on the concept of democracy and human rights.

For his part, the Vice Chairperson of the National Institution for Human Rights, Head of the complaints, monitoring and follow-up Committee HE Mr Abdullah Ahmed Alderazi went into the role of the National Institution in the promotion and protection of human rights as these institutions are official organizations established by the states, according to the Paris Principles and aim to promote and protect human rights, they are official entities that have constitutional basis and subject to of local and international supervision and given accreditation.

HE Vice Chairperson discussed the Paris Principles, stating that it is an extensive jurisdiction, managed independently from government, independency, diversity, adequate resources and sufficient powers to investigate.

HE Mr. Abdullah Alderazi pointed out to the human rights status monitoring mechanism in the Kingdom, and reports related to the work of the institution, along with focusing on the law establishing the National Institution for Human Rights which was approved by His Majesty the King last July.

In a related development, HE the deputy chairman of the Institution, and His Excellency the Secretary General with Brigadier General Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, toured the detention centers and interrogation rooms in the southern Governorate Police Directorate where he praised the Directorate commitment to high standards for detention centers and interrogation rooms and their compatibility with human rights standards.

In the same context, the Introductory lecture on the standards of human rights of the Police work was concluded on Thursday, August 7th, with a paper on the role of the police in the protection of human rights during the performance of their duty in general. The paper was presented by HE the Secretary-General in which he explained the respect for the right to life, and that any attack on personal freedoms or sanctity of human being private life and other public rights and freedoms guaranteed by the law is a crime that does not abate the criminal or civil lawsuit arising out of it, and the National Authority guarantees fair compensation for those who suffered the consequential damage.

HE Dr Ahmad Farhan pointed out to the right not to be exposed to torture, abuse or degrading treatment. Thus Article 208 of the Penal Code has been amended to ensure the maintenance of the dignity of detainees and not exposing them to torture.

At the end of the lecture, certificates were distributed to participants, and mementos were presented to HE the Deputy Chairman of the Institution, Head of complaints, monitoring and follow-up committee and to HE the Secretary General of the Institution, praising their efforts and the efforts of the National Institution on the success of this lecture.