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WELCOME

Selection of Manama as a seat for the Pan-Arab Human Rights Court is a tantamount to Arab and global recognition of the lofty status of human rights record in the Kingdom of Bahrain ever since the launch of the King's reform initiative.

The Arab rights system still stands in need for further development with a view to creating effective mechanisms for accountability and liability where the human rights are concerned. It is to ensure supremacy of the law designed to protect and preserve human rights. Consequently, the King's initiative which envisages the set up of an Arab Court for human rights comes within the context of pushing this system toward paying more attention to and protection of the various human right principles.

The establishment of the pan-Arab Human Rights Court comes in response to, and will serve, two considerations; the first is the development of the Arab regional human rights system by setting up a Court which will constitute a positive credit for the account of the Arab world. The second is that the foundation of an Arab court for human rights will assist in making up for the existing shortage in the Arab Human Rights Charter in terms of its content and implementation mechanisms.

The Pan-Arab Human Rights Court will be an initiative for the Arab initiative for the unification of the Arab nation, consolidation of the Arab brotherhood and integration of some of the shared laws between Arab countries. We aspire to have the court's modus operandi to be approved and published and that all Arab efforts are pooled to expedite the inauguration of the court.



NIHR's statement on the League of Arab States' approval of Bahrain's request to host the Headquarter of the Arab Court of Human Rights

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) lauded the decision taken by the Arab League Council in its 140th session at the level of Foreign Ministers, which was held on Sunday, September 1, 2013 at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, to approve the request of the Kingdom of Bahrain to host the Headquarter of the Arab Court of Human Rights.

NIHR stressed that the initiative of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al- Khalifa concerning the establishment of an Arab Court for Human Rights is considered an unprecedented step at the level of the Arab world. The initiative comes as a result of a wise and diligent vision regarding the introduction of an Arab mechanism in the field of human rights, adding a new dimension to joint Arab action in terms of respecting and protecting human rights as an important legal mechanism to boost human rights under the Arab League's framework. This reflects the extent of Bahrain's attention to keep abreast of modern transformations in the international arena in order to consolidate the pillars of human rights.

NIHR asserted that the Arab League's support of His Majesty the King's initiative comes to boost this initiative, which aims to accomplish aspirations and ambitions of Arab peoples in terms of reform, modernization, progress and sustainable development, and to cement the pillars of the state of laws, justice, equal opportunity, and respect of human rights and dignity; thanks to the far-sighted vision of His Majesty the King regarding the Arab status quo, current challenges and desired aspirations, so as to ensure a brightest future for the Arab peoples.

NIHR considers the Kingdom of Bahrain's hosting the Headquarter of the Arab Court of Human Rights as a gain for the Arab nation in general and Bahrain in particular. It highlights the essence of Bahrain's successful expertise in right-related aspects in order to develop Arab human rights mechanisms, which will definitely contribute to developing the regional Arab human rights system. Accordingly, this will create a mechanism to boost the work of Arab Human Rights Charter endorsed by the Arab League during its 16th session in the Tunisian Republic in 2004, and also help keep abreast of latest international developments in terms of encouraging the respect for and protection of human rights, and compensate for any shortcomings in the present Arab Human Rights Charter's content or implementation mechanisms.

NIHR's Council of Commissioners Holds 7th Ordinary Meeting



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Council of Commissioners held its seventh ordinary meeting chaired by Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul at NIHR's headquarters in Seef District.

The meeting endorsed the information technology regulations for NIHR's Secretariat, approved the proposed amendments to the organizational structure and job titles for the Secretariat's staff, and discussed and evaluated the activities organized by NIHR, which will be held in the upcoming period.

The meeting also discussed a proposal on amending some provisions of Decree-Law No. (17) for the year 1976 concerning the juvenile, and it was approved to be submitted to the concerned authorities.

NIHR's Chairman receives Director-General of MENA Affairs of German Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The Chairman of National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul, received the Director-General of Middle East and North Africa Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Boris Rogue.

During the meeting, Dr. Abul welcomed the visitor and his accompanying delegation and briefed them on NIHR's role in promoting and developing human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as the role of NIHR's committees represented by the Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee, and Civil and Political Rights Committee.

On his part, Mr. Rogue praised NIHR's important role played in disseminating the culture of human rights in the kingdom of Bahrain, and stressed the importance of maintaining coordination and exchange of views and visions between the two sides in the field of human rights.

NIHR's Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee Holds 8th Ordinary Meeting



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee held its 8th ordinary meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Al-Derazi and membership of Mr. Ahmed Abdul-Rahman Al-Sa'ati and Ms. Maria Antoine Khoury.

The meeting reviewed the course of the visit carried out by the Committee for the hearing session on the case of February 14 Organization that was held on September 5, 2013, and decided to attend the next hearing session.

The meeting also reviewed the complaints and assistance requests received by NIHR during the previous period and measures taken thereon. The Committee came out with a number of decisions to be implemented.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights held its 6th ordinary meeting



The National Institution for Human Rights' Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights convened its 6th ordinary meeting presided over by Dr. Fawziya Said Al-Saleh, and membership of Mr. Abdul Jabbar Ahmed Al-Tayyib, in NIHR's headquarters at Seef District.

The meeting discussed the report of the field visit carried out by the Committee to shed light on the environmental situation of the regions of Wadi Al-Buhair and Qalali. The Committee came out with a number of findings and recommendations on ensuring the provision of a safe environment to citizens and residents, and they will be presented to the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Civil and Political Rights Committee Holds its 7th Ordinary Meeting



NIHR's Civil and Political Rights Committee held its 7th ordinary meeting under the chairmanship of Ms. Jamila Ali Salman, and the membership of Mr. Farid Ghazi Rafea and Mr. Abdul Jabbar Ahmed Al-Tayyeb.

During the meeting, the Committee completed its discussions on the notes and recommendations on the National Strategy for Children (2013-2017), and reviewed a proposal on amending some provisions of Decree Law No. (17) for the year 1976 concerning the juvenile, where both subjects were decided to be submitted to the Council of Commissioners to take the necessary action.

NIHR and IBA organize a training session on “Basic Concepts of Human Rights”



The Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul, asserted in his opening speech NIHR's keenness to provide its personnel with training opportunities, especially regarding issues pertaining to promoting the culture of human rights.

Dr. Abul opened a training session on the basic concepts of human rights which is organized by NIHR in cooperation with the International Bar Association (IBA).

Dr. Abul said that National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has been keen since its inception on boosting the culture of human rights. He added that many workshops, lectures and seminars were organized on the concept of human rights and the role of National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) in promoting and protecting human rights in society. He also said that NIHR's personnel have received training through their participation in a number of human rights related training sessions and conferences held overseas.

He pointed out that more training sessions will be held in the future and that NIHR's Strategy 2013-2016 will be announced.

He stressed that the new strategy comprises many training programmes and sessions in order to reach the desired level of qualifying all people in the field of human rights and achieve the goals for which NIHR was established.

On its first day, the training session presented a general introduction on the concept of human rights, sources of such concept, and commitments imposed on countries under human rights charters and declarations, as well as the international efforts to protect human rights.

The session also reviewed some of the conventions ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain and the resulting obligations. It presented practical examples of political and civil human rights, and concluded its first day by holding an applied workshop on a case study related to the freedom of expression.

The training session is organized under a Memorandum of Understanding signed by NIHR and IBA's Human Rights Institute on June 26, thanks to the support of the European Union to NIHR's approach to boost cooperation with international human rights organizations and relevant bodies.

NIHR's delegation takes part in the 8th Arab-European Human Rights Dialogue



Members of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), namely, Mr. Ahmed Abdul-Rahman Al-Saati and Ms. Maria Khoury, took part in the Eighth Arab-European Human Rights Dialogue (AEHRD) themed “National Human Rights Institutions' Independence and Accountability,” which kick-started in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Mr. Al-Sa'ati said that this year's edition of the AEHRD, hosted by the Danish Institute for Human Rights, aims to consolidate and foster understanding between Europe and the Arab world on human rights issues, develop the work of NIHRs across the Arab and European regions, and build capacities in the field of human rights through partnerships and cooperation on issues of mutual interest.

The kingdom's delegation to the 8th AEHRD aimed to take optimum advantage of the experiences of other participating

delegations, especially those representing NIHRs and countries witnessing reforms in human rights, and of the remaining sessions of the event in order to develop NIHR's work in Bahrain and foster its independence and credibility. The delegation also aims to participate effectively in the sessions and present discussion papers along with other participants from Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, Switzerland, Lebanon and several other European countries.

Ms. Maria Khoury said the agenda of this year's AEHRD includes a number of issues related to the principles of independence and accountability, being two main principles governing the work and standards of NIHRs, as outlined by the Paris Principles, a set of international standards which frame and guide the work of National Human Rights Institutions. She added that the event would review NIHRs' independent work and commitment to accountability in order to be more effective in consolidating, protecting and monitoring human rights.

She noted that the experiences and best practices of NIHRs would also be highlighted through presenting the results reached with respect to the two principles of independence and accountability. The dialogue reviewed a discussion paper on human rights management in the League of Arab States, which focused on the challenges and reform priorities, including, mainly, the challenges facing development efforts in Arab countries, combating corruption, rule of the law and independence of the judiciary in order to ensure the efficiency of accountability.

NIHR Secretary-General receives Director of Legal Clinic at the Lebanese Sagesse University



At his office in NIHR headquarters in Seef District, HE Dr. Ahmed Abdulla Farhan, the Secretary-General of National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), received HE Dr. Ali Omar Masrati, Assistant Professor of International Law of Human Rights at Bahrain University, who introduced Dr. Karim Al-Mufti, Director of Legal Clinic at the Lebanese Sagesse University.

During the meeting, they reviewed the efforts exerted by NIHR in the field of human rights protection and preservation, and shed light on its role in disseminating a culture of human rights among the citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Secretary-General briefed them on NIHR's action plan, programs and activities intended to be implemented in various fields.

The meeting also reviewed ways to enhance cooperation and coordination between the two sides, and discussed the idea of starting the implementation of the project of human rights legal clinic at the University of Bahrain where NIHR will participate in training students practically on the way of receiving complaints and reporting.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Aseel Zimmo, legal expert in the American Bar Association's Department of the Middle East and North Africa, and Ms. Latifa Al-Jalahma, legal researcher at NIHR's Department of Legal Affairs and in charge of the legal clinic program.

NIHR commends the formation of the Commission of the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees

On behalf of the Council of Commissioners and Secretariat, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has welcomed Royal Decree No. 61 for the year 2013 issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa stipulating the establishment and terms of reference of the Commission of the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees.

On behalf of the Council of Commissioners, Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul, NIHR Chairman, welcomed this leading step, noting that the issuance of the Decree to establish and specify the terms of reference of the Commission of the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees is an unprecedented move and the first of its kind in the Arab countries. It evidence of the continuity of the State's efforts in supporting and developing the mechanisms of protecting human rights and integrating them within the policy that aims at activating the international conventions on the national level.

NIHR Chairman added that the issuance of the Decree comes to complete the updating process of the legislative and rights system by the State, and to express its commitment to the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Fact-Finding Commission. It also comes in line with the recommendations of the Human Rights Council in its periodical review and with the agreements signed and ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain, especially the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

He said that NIHR's Council of Commissioners shall nominate four members as stated in the Decree, provided

they include representatives of civil society organizations.

NIHR Chairman also stressed that the Council will discuss at its next meeting the mechanism for selecting members from the NIHR and civil society organizations, and will set up transparent controls to ensure maximum participation in the Commission in order to promote human rights practices in accordance with international standards in this regard. He added that NIHR has recently dispatched a number of its employees to participate in a training course on the supervision and inspection mechanism in prisons and detention centres set up by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons in the United Kingdom.

Marking the International Day of Support of Victims of Torture on June 26, 2013, NIHR called upon the esteemed government in its statement to establish an independent national mechanism to monitor the prisons, detention centres, care centres for juvenile, detainees and other places where people are likely to be kept such as hospitals and psychiatric centres. This is aimed to monitor the detainees' conditions and the treatment they receive to ensure that they are not subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as provided for within the Geneva Recommendations during the discussion of the second national report of the Kingdom of Bahrain under the framework of the comprehensive periodical review, which was held in May 2012, to complete the legal system in the country.

NIHR regrets the death of a member of security forces

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) expressed deep grief and profound regret for the death of Amer Abdul Khalid, one of the Interior Ministry's security forces personnel, while on duty as a result of a blast on August 17, 2013 in Al-Dair.

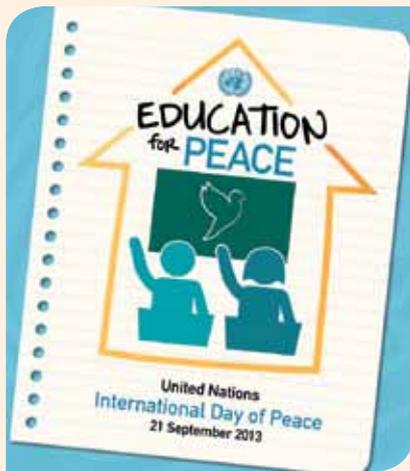
NIHR extends condolences to the family of the deceased and prays to Almighty Allah to grant his family patience and consolation.

NIHR stresses its rejection of the illegal acts that target the life of security forces, undermine security and stability, terrorize the peaceful citizens and residents, hinder human, cultural and economic development, and threaten civil security and peace.

Moreover, National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) calls upon various civil society organizations to take unified and effective positions to stop all illegal acts and to stand firmly in the face of acts harmful to the nation's security, which are incompatible with the values and principles of the Islamic religion, and all the norms and conventions and international conventions, and which are also alien to the Bahraini community known for encompassing the values of love, tolerance and rejection of violence and extremism.

A delegation from National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has recently visited the security men injured in the blast that took place in Al-Dair at the military hospital and King Hamad University Hospital.

NIHR's Statement on the International Day of Peace



The International Day of Peace (IDP) was established in 1981 by resolution 36/67 of the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with its opening session, which was held annually on the third Tuesday of September. The first Peace Day was observed in September 1982. In 2001, the General Assembly by unanimous vote adopted resolution 55/282, which established 21 September as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. The General

Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

This year's IDP will focus on "Education for Peace." The UN will review the role that can be played by education in boosting citizenship. Each year on this day, the United Nations invites all nations and peoples to honour a cessation of hostilities and to commemorate the day through activities that promote peace.

As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, said in his 100-day countdown message: "It is not enough to teach children how to read, write and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies."

On this occasion, NIHR affirmed the importance of the IDP because of the values and ideals it promotes amid the changes taking place in the world and which require collective local, regional and global efforts to establish democracy, achieve civil peace, safeguard security and stability within nations, confirm national cohesion, and renounce differences.

NIHR asserted that if the factors affecting global peace and security are diverse, then the ways to reach peace should also be so, including policies of disarmament and non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons, in addition to consolidating peaceful resolution of international conflicts, enhancing cooperation between countries and paying more attention to science and knowledge in order to build up a world in which peace and security prevail. It emphasizes that real peace should be based on justice, equality, rights and respect of the human rights and dignity of persons.

Further, NIHR called upon all social segments in Bahrain to join ranks and cooperate in order to emphasize respect of human rights and peace values, and direct all efforts towards development, rejection of sedition and extremism, and respect for the rule of the law. NIHR also values the efforts of the esteemed Government of Bahrain and civil society organizations to spread awareness of issues related to peace, democracy and human rights among the citizens and residents.

NIHR's Statement on the International Day of Democracy

Coincides with the celebrations by the United Nations of the International Day of Democracy observed on September 15 of each year. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly at its 62nd session and in its Resolution A/62/7 (December 13, 2007) to encourage governments to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy through increased bilateral, regional and international cooperation. The celebration of the International Day of Democracy reflects the common aspirations of people all over the world, as democracy is considered an indispensable means for achieving overall human development.

The values of freedom and respect for human rights, and the principle of honest rotational public elections are essential ingredients of democracy. These values are stipulated in Article (1), Paragraph (E), of the Bahraini Constitution, which states: Bahraini citizens, both males and females, have the right to participate in public affairs and enjoy political rights, including the right to elect and be elected according to this Constitution and the terms and conditions stipulated by law. No citizen may be deprived of the right to elect or be elected unless in compliance with the law." These values are also stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article (21), Paragraph (3), which states: "The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

Moreover, they are mentioned in detail in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which establishes a set of human rights and civil liberties that would support positive democracies.

In its statement, NIHR stressed the importance of democratic values and growing impact on all political, social, economic and developmental aspects in the Kingdom to ensure continuity of the democratic march, reform policies and institutional modernization adopted by the wise leadership.

NIHR lauded the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa regarding the comprehensive reform process in terms of consolidating the state of institutions and the law and the people's democratic participation so as to achieve the people's aspirations.

On this occasion, NIHR partakes in the celebrations of the International Day of Democracy, which is a cornerstone of the democratic process in the Kingdom of Bahrain, by boosting, developing and protecting human rights and values, spreading awareness thereof, and ensuring the practice thereof in compliance with Royal Decree No. 46 for the year 2009 (as amended by Royal Decree No. 28 for the year 2012). NIHR congratulated the Kingdom of Bahrain's political leadership and people on this international occasion, affirming the importance of collective efforts aimed to consolidate the values of democracy and attain development in all fields through legal and peaceful means.

Further, NIHR urged all the participating sides at the table of the National Dialogue (ND), being a democratic tool, to positively consider the existing opportunity and comply with constitutional frames and national consensus as a civilized representative pulpit to contribute to constitutional channels and promote homogenous pluralistic society. NIHR also calls to ensure a successful political dialogue as a democratic means that can help the country get out of the crisis it faces.

The National Institution For Human Rights Organizes A Presentation On The Right To Freedom Of Opinion And Expression



The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has organized a presentation on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression delivered by Dr. Mahmoud Kandil, member of the Arab Center for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Education (ACIHL), at the Diplomat Hotel.

An opening speech was given by Dr. Abdul Aziz Abul, Chairman of the NIHR. He emphasized importance of the presentation which is a part of the NIHR's annual plan to promote human rights in Bahrain through educational seminars and workshops for enhancing and developing the awareness of citizens and residents on human right issues.

Dr. Abul pointed out that the Council of Commissioners has approved the NIHR's strategy for the period 2013 through 2016, which focuses on disseminating human right culture by means of organizing workshops, presentations and seminars on human right practices within society.

"Such presentations and seminars aim also at attaining the fundamental objectives for the NIHR has been established, namely, the respect of human rights and adherence to international standards", he explained.

The Chairman noted that the freedom of expression currently experienced in the country, thanks to His Majesty the King, is quite different from those of any other time, taking into consideration that such freedom is not related only to the press and other media tools, but it includes the right to form political societies, trade unions and civil society organizations.

On his part, the NIHR's Secretary-General, Dr. Ahmed Abdulla Farhan, emphasized that the Kingdom of

Bahrain has scored a leading position in human rights within the Arabian Gulf region, and made a step forward that needs joint official and non-governmental support to further explain the principles and concepts of human rights to citizens and residents and to clarify the duties required from them. "The seminar on the right to freedom of opinion and expression focuses upon education on human rights in Bahrain society" he said.

Dr. Farhan interestingly noted the relatively large number of the audience which was more than 180 who came from different walks of life, including media and law professionals, as well as police, civil servants and unionist. "This variety of people clearly reflects the interest of many categories of community in learning and educating themselves in human rights and citizenship, and on the interaction between governments and citizens and the inter-state relations", he said. He pointed out that people are also interested in understanding more on the right of opinion and expression, the general controls regulating such freedom and preventing insults to the nation and to leaders. The Secretary-General said that this presence is an index of success by the NIHR in attracting such a number of people who are encouraged to become the nucleus of a wider range of freedoms, acceptance of opposite opinions, mutual respect and how such freedoms are responsibly exercised. "This is a desirable objective which we look forward to achieving and maintaining and a milestone in Bahrain's approach to human rights trend", Dr. Farahn explained. "As NIHR, we are pressingly required to organize more seminars and workshops on human rights", the Secretary-General concluded.

Dr. Mahmoud Kandil's topic covered the importance of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. He highlighted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. He also discussed the articles of the Bahrain Constitution on the freedom of opinion and expression.

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Ahmed Farhan presented Dr. Kandil with the NIHR Trophy.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (2 - 2)

Article (11)

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article (12)

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article (13)

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article (14)

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article (15)

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article (16)

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article (17)

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article (18)

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article (19)

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article (20)

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article (21)

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article (22)

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort

and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article (23)

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article (24)

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article (25)

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article (26)

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article (27)

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article (28)

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article (29)

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article (30)

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Yaser Al Shirawi: Assistant Secretary-General, NIHR



As part of its ongoing development and dynamization, the National Institute for Human Rights (NIHR) has appointed Yaser Saqr Al-Shirawi to the position of Assistant Secretary-General as of 1st October 2013.

Mr. Al-Shirawi joined the NIHR since its establishment as the Executive Director of Corporate Human Resources and Services. He is currently enrolled for Ph.D. in human resources at the University of Ain Shams, Arab Republic of Egypt. He holds master and bachelor degrees in business administration, majoring in accounting.

Previously, he occupied the position of Director of Administration and Finance at the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research (October 2004 – January 2011). He represented Bahrain at several meetings and conferences within and outside the country, and attended a number of training courses.

The Basic Principles For The Treatment Of Prisoners A New Guide Published By NIHR

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has recently published a brochure on the basic principles for the treatment of prisoners. The principles were originally adopted and declared by United Nations Resolution No. 45/111 dated 14 December 1990.

Comprising 11 articles, the principles provide as follows:

1. All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.
2. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
3. It is, however, desirable to respect the religious beliefs and cultural precepts of the group to which prisoners belong, whenever local conditions so require.
4. The responsibility of prisons for the custody of prisoners and for the protection of society against crime shall be discharged in keeping with a State's other social objectives and its fundamental responsibilities for promoting the well-being and development of all members of society.
5. Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants.
6. All prisoners shall have the right to take part in cultural activities and education aimed at the full development of the human personality.
7. Efforts addressed to the abolition of solitary confinement as a punishment, or to the restriction of its use, should be undertaken and encouraged.
8. Conditions shall be created enabling prisoners to undertake meaningful remunerated employment which will facilitate their reintegration into the country's labour market and permit them to contribute to their own financial support and to that of their families.
9. Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation.
10. With the participation and help of the community and social institution, and with due regard to the interests of victims, favourable conditions shall be created for the reintegration of the ex-prisoner into society under the best possible conditions.
11. The above Principles shall be applied impartially.

