



Statement by NIHR on the Measures taken by the General Administration of Correction and Rehabilitation Against a Number of Prisoners

Manama on April 18, 2021

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has reviewed the statement by the General Administration of Correction and Rehabilitation regarding the measures it took against a limited number of prisoners due to their closure of passages and refusal to enter the wards over the past few days, which led to the disruption of services provided to other prisoners, including communications and health care.

In line with the NIHR's human rights and oversight role and its broad powers affirmed by the Establishment Law, a delegation from the NIHR conducted an announced field visit to the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre in Jaw region to review the human rights and health status of the inmates, inspect the buildings that witnessed these measures, meet with a number of Centre's officials, and view a visual recording of the incident.

By entering the buildings concerned and wards belonging to them, meeting with a number of prisoners who were randomly selected, and meeting with the Centre's doctor to talk about the general health status of the inmates, the NIHR states that the human rights and health status of the prisoners in general is reassuring, and that the allegations raised about their being beaten and transported to an unknown location are incorrect, indicating that all the prisoners are present in the buildings, which was seen during the actual visit.

The NIHR expresses its deep concern over the allegations aimed at creating a state of uncertainty among the prisoners' families, stressing that dealing with the prisoners is carried out in accordance with the law and civilized conduct and with a high degree of restraint.

In the same context, the NIHR strongly urges the prisoners to cooperate with it, in the event of any legitimate requests related to their rights, especially that the actions they have performed during the past three weeks have deprived the rest of the inmates of their right to enjoy health care and communicate with their families, according to the Centre's regulations, while some of them may be exposed to danger as a result of these actions.

Based on its commitment to transparency, responsibility, credibility, and the protection and promotion of human rights, the NIHR will also inspect the procedures and conditions in a timely manner, and transfer the human rights situation in Bahrain inside places of detention, by issuing a special report on the incident and submitting it to the concerned party.



The NIHR reiterates the guarantee of prisoners' continued enjoyment of their established rights and that they are not subjected to ill-treatment in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, at the same time calling on prisoners to abide by the provisions of the executive regulations of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law and not to harm or violate the rights and freedom of their fellow prisoners.