



Statement by NIHR

Manama on April 22, 2018

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has followed up on reports released by some foreign entities addressing the human rights situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The NIHR states its respect for all relevant opinions and welcomes the views that would promote and protect human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. However, based on its broad mandate in accordance with its Establishment Law, it affirms the following:

- I. The independence of the judiciary authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain in accordance with national constitutional and legal frameworks and in line with the principles provided for in international and regional human rights instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Arab Charter on Human Rights and the Declaration of Human Rights for the Gulf Cooperation Council States.
- II. Through its declared and undeclared visits to correction, rehabilitation and pretrial centres, the NIHR states that there is no systematic policy of torture in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and that there is a special investigation unit, which is a competent and independent judiciary unit entrusted to review the investigation in claims of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- III. The NIHR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Inspector-General of the National Security Agency with the aim to train NSA employees on basic human rights principles, and the first group of employees are currently being trained this year.
- IV. Through its specific permanent committees and the relevant work teams, the NIHR continues to follow-up on the health conditions of prisoners and inmates and to receive complaints and requests for assistance in this regard, stating the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior and other relevant authorities to provide appropriate healthcare.
- V. The NIHR welcomes constructive cooperation with the Professional Standards Office of the National Security Agency and the Code of Professional Conduct for NSA employees, in order to raise their capacities on human rights and public freedoms.

The NIHR reiterates its welcome for constructive cooperation with all internal and external bodies with regard to obtaining any information, data, figures or facts related to the human rights situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain.