



Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on the publication of the names and photographs of the suspects

Before a final court ruling

13 June 2013

National Institution for Human Rights renewed its firm rejection of the re-publication of the names and photographs of the suspects in the official media and local daily newspapers. It emphasizes the need for stakeholders adherence to the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, especially article 20, paragraph (c), that "the accused is innocent until proven guilty in a legal trial at which the necessary guarantees for the exercise of the right of defense at all stages of the investigation and the trial according to the law", as well as paragraph (d) of the same article states that: "It is prohibited to harm the accused physically or morally ", in addition to the commitment to the text of Article 83 of the Decree Law No. (46) for the year 2002 on the Code of Criminal Procedure that the investigation procedures and their results are considered "secrets."

National Institution also emphasizes that this is a clear violation of the first paragraph of Article 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulates that: "Everyone charged with a crime is presumed innocent until legally proven by a public trial at which he has had necessary guarantees for his defense" and the second paragraph of Article 14 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant of: "Everyone charged with a crime is presumed to be innocent until proved guilty according to law."



The National Institution considers the publication of the names and photographs of the suspects in the February 14 case contradicts with the acts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which observe the implementation of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This convention which was joined by the Kingdom of Bahrain under Decree-Law No. (8) for the year 1990 has explained in its adopted recommendations that the right to the presumption of innocence means that "the police authorities, judicial authorities and other public authorities, must be prevented from expressing their views publicly with respect to the guilt of the accused before the court reached a verdict in the case, more than that it must be prevented from raising suspicions in advance about people belonging to a particular sect or ethnic group.

It is incumbent upon the authorities to ensure that the media do not publish information that may stigmatize certain groups of people.

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