

Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) on the International Day of Peace

In Manama on September 21, 2011

This year, the world's celebration of the International Day, scheduled on September 21 of each year, pursuant to the UN General Assembly Resolution No. (87 /36)-1981, coincides date of the opening session of General Assembly, which is held every year on the third Tuesday of the month of September, giving the celebrations on the occasion particular significance in light of the discussion of issues of peace , democracy and development in the world, especially in light of the developments witnessed in the international arena.

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the commemorating this day, the theme of celebrations this year is "Peace and Democracy: Make Your Voice Heard", in accordance with the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations in which stipulates that the purpose of the UN is to take effective collective measures for the prevention of international conflicts and resolve these by peaceful means to help establish a culture of peace in the world. The message of the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the occasion also carried a lot of meanings which emphasize the importance of democracy as one of the core values of the United Nations. Therefore, democracy is crucial for the establishment of human rights and it offers ways to settle disputes for the sake of social justice, freedom of the press, purification of the environment, empowerment of women and the rule of law.

On this occasion, the NIHR emphasizes the importance of this day due to the magnitude of its global values in light of the current situations experienced by the world, including transformations requiring international and community concerted efforts in order to establish democracy, achieve social peace, security and stability within the various States, in addition to achieving global peace and security in its comprehensive sense, reaffirming national cohesion and putting aside differences and bickering among citizens and between citizens and residents, as well as the work of governments to promote a culture of

peace and awareness of the role of the various authorities in this context.

Based on the foregoing, the NIHR calls for the need to evoke the achievements and contributions made both at the national and the global levels through the international conventions and treaties in this context. In the context, the NIHR also stresses the importance of the achievements and gains made in of Bahrain through the march reform initiated by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, may God protect him, in particular with respect to establishing the principles of democracy and human rights, and the focus on peace, security and stability of the community, as well as rejection of extremism, internal disagreements and quarrels despite the crisis experienced by the Kingdom of Bahrain during the past months.

In the same context , the NIHR calls on all actors in Bahrain, including civil society organizations, official authorities, all citizens and residents to cooperate to assert the respect for human rights and uphold the value of peace, in addition to directing efforts towards development in the political, economic, social, cultural fields through various possible and available ways the emphasis on the importance of the continuation of the democratic process pursued by His Majesty since taking the reins over power. Other factors worth stressing include the rejection of sedition, extremism and respect for community cultural, religious and confessional diversity and differences to work on improving Bahraini community and economic prosperity to solve many of the current problems.

The NIHR calls all the authorities concerned to expedite resolving the outstanding problems and respond to the NIHR's earlier statements on solving the problem of dismissed and suspended employees, and disposition of cases pending before the courts of national safety or civil courts, in order to assert the respect for the rule of law and establishment of justice in society. The NIHR also appreciates the efforts of the government, civil society institutions and individuals in the revival, education and raising awareness among citizens and residents of issues related to the concept of peace, democracy and human rights.