



Statement by the NIHR On the Occasion of the Arab Human Rights Day

Manama, 16 March 2026

The Arab States commemorate Arab Human Rights Day on 16 March each year, marking the anniversary of the entry into force of the Arab Charter on Human Rights in 2008, following its adoption at the Tunis Summit in 2004. This occasion reaffirms the commitment of Arab States to strengthening the human rights system, protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, and safeguarding human dignity.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) affirms the importance of adhering to the provisions of the Arab Charter on Human Rights and promoting a culture of respect for rights and freedoms, in line with the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international conventions. It further emphasizes that respect for the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law constitutes a fundamental obligation aimed at protecting civilians and civilian objects and preserving human dignity.

In this context, NIHR expresses its condemnation of the attacks carried out by Iran against the Kingdom of Bahrain, which constitute a violation of the principles of international humanitarian law and a threat to the security and stability of the region. The Institution stresses that targeting civilians or placing their lives at risk represents a clear violation of the rules of international humanitarian law.

NIHR calls upon the international community and human rights organizations, as well as Arab States, particularly the member states of the League of Arab States, to assume their responsibilities in condemning these attacks and to reaffirm the necessity of respecting the sovereignty of states and adhering to the rules of international law, in a manner that contributes to the protection of civilians and the promotion of security and stability in the region.

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