

المؤسسة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان  
National Institution for Human Rights



## Tenth Annual Report of the National Institution for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain

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**“The State shall endeavor to provide housing for citizens with limited income.”**

**Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain – Article (9/f)**

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### **(Vision)**

We hold the belief that the human rights issue is among national constants. Recognition of public rights and freedoms, civil, political, economic, social or cultural, whether individual or collective rights, is a commitment to the values of justice, equality and human dignity of all human beings without discrimination.

**“Human Rights Culture is a Lifestyle”**

### **(Mission)**

We strive to develop, promote and protect human rights of the citizens and residents of Bahrain by providing protection and support for individuals to enable them to gain diverse knowledge to exercise their legitimate rights, determine their needs, how to demand and defend these needs through spreading the culture of human rights by all means available.

**“Together to create a better practice of Human Rights”**

## Introduction

Given the importance of human rights and the significance of having policies related to their protection, promotion and preservation in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as pursuing to promote and advance human rights principles, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the great Monarch of the Country - may God protect him - issued Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights NIHR, as amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, to be a beacon of human rights awareness and a expertise and advice hub, with the goal of furthering democracy frameworks and upholding and strengthening the pillars of the rule of law.

Pursuant to Article No. (21) of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the NIHR, as amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, which stipulates that:

**“The Council of Commissioners shall produce an annual report on the efforts, activities and other work of the Institution. It shall include a section explaining the level of progress on the human rights situation in the Kingdom, as well as any observations and comments within its competency, identifying any obstacles to the Institution’s performance and the solutions adopted to circumvent such. The Council of Commissioners shall present the report to the King, the Council of Ministers, the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council; in parallel, it shall also present the report to the public.”**

The Tenth Annual Report consists of five chapters preceded by an introduction. The First Chapter outlines the development of the work and functions of the NIHR in terms of its legal framework and organizational structure, followed by the Second Chapter which reviews the level of progress made in human rights situation in the Kingdom by presenting the actions taken regarding the recommendations contained in the NIHR’s Ninth Annual Report for the year 2021 in addition to the NIHR’s recommendations arising from human rights

forums with civil society institutions and other related recommendations of seminars and round tables.

The Third Chapter addresses five topics that have influenced the human rights situation in the light of the received complaints, the submitted requests for legal aid and the cases monitored by the NIHR during the reporting period by reviewing the right to health for ordinary people and persons whose liberty is restricted, the right to communicate with the outside world for the latter and the right to an adequate standard of living by highlighting the right of ordinary people and those who are deprived of their liberty to housing and their right to food.

The Fourth Chapter covers the efforts undertaken by the NIHR and its activities in the field of protecting and promoting human rights, whereas the Fifth and final Chapter sheds light upon the advisory opinions, which the NIHR has submitted to the constitutional authorities.

The NIHR aspires that this report, as well as the previous reports, will act as enhancing tools that boost and improve the situation of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain in a manner consistent with the Kingdom's obligations

arising from regional or international human rights instruments or those related to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) through the Human Rights Council's Working Group to reach the best

practices in enjoying various public rights and freedoms, and make human rights a lifestyle.

## CHAPTER ONE - Development of the NIHR's Work

### Preface and Partitioning:

1. Driven by the insightful vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Monarch of the Country may God protect him, on the importance of monitoring, observing, promoting, and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain; and to continue His Majesty's comprehensive and enlightened reform project to advance the Kingdom of Bahrain making it one of the most prominent democracies in the region; Royal Order No. (48) of 2009 was issued to establish the National Institution for Human Rights, which was amended by Royal Order No. (28) of 2012, and the subsequent enactment of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights, which was amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016.
2. In view of that, this Chapter will briefly address the development of the NIHR's work since its inception in 2009 up to the present time. This will be accomplished by presenting the legal framework for NIHR's work, namely, the tasks, functions, and competences entrusted to it. In addition, the controls over appointing the members of the NIHR's Council of Commissioners will be reviewed under the First Topic, followed by the Second Topic, which deals with the organizational structure of the NIHR's work and presents the competencies conferred on its Council of Commissioners, and the role of the specific standing committees and the Secretariat-General.

## First Topic - Legal Framework of the Work of the National Institution for Human Rights

### Preface:

This topic will address the legal framework that regulates the work of the NIHR by outlining the tasks and competences conferred on it and contained in its establishing Law in addition to the controls over appointing the members of its Council of Commissioners in two successive requirements as follows:

### Requirement One Functions and Competencies of the NIHR Contained in its Establishment Law

#### Section One

##### The legal basis for the NIHR

1. To fulfill its voluntary commitments before the Human Rights Council during the Universal Periodic Review in April 2008, which included that the Kingdom of Bahrain “is committed to establishing a national human rights body at the earliest possible date, taking into account the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular the Paris Principles; in November 2007, a decision was issued by the Council of Ministers regarding the establishment of a national human rights body that is expected, after its establishment, to draw up a national plan to promote and protect human rights in the Kingdom”.<sup>1</sup>
2. Royal Decree No. (46) of 2009 was issued to establish the National Institution for Human Rights NIHR<sup>2</sup> as a beacon of human rights awareness and a

hub of expertise and advice. The Royal Decree included, in addition to the Preamble (15) articles dealing with the establishment of an independent institution called the “National Institution for Human Rights” that exercises its functions freely, impartially, and with full independence.

3. To underline the importance of supporting the work of the NIHR being the independent entity in the Kingdom of Bahrain regarding the promotion and protection of human rights, a law was enacted giving the NIHR real safeguard and independence, while granting it more powers and authorities in a manner consistent with the “Paris Principles” pertaining to the status of national institutions in promoting and protecting human rights. On 24 July 2014, his Majesty the King issued Law

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<sup>1</sup> First National Report of the Kingdom of Bahrain submitted to the Human Rights Council in the First Session held on 7-18 April 2008- Document Number (A/HRC/WG.6/1/BHR/1) in Arabic. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/115/42/PDF/G0811542.pdf?OpenElement> in English <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/115/44/PDF/G0811544.pdf?OpenElement> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review - Document No. A/HRC/8/19 in Arabic <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/136/05/PDF/G0813605.pdf?OpenElement> in English <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/136/07/PDF/G0813607.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>2</sup> Royal Decree No (46) of 2009 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights <https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/PDF/NHRI/O4609.pdf>

No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights<sup>3</sup>, after being approved by the legislative authority; the Law entered into force after its publication in the Official Gazette on 8 August 2014.

4. To ensure that the NIHR has greater autonomy in performing its work and to confirm its compliance with the relevant international resolutions, taking into account the observations of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the Law establishing the NIHR was amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016,<sup>4</sup> and entered into force after its publication in the Official Gazette on 7 October 2016.

## Section Two

### The broad mandate of the National Institution for Human Rights

1. The “Paris Principles” affirmed that “the national institution shall be vested with competence to promote and protect human rights,” and that “the national institution shall be given as broad a mandate as possible and clearly set forth in a constitutional or

legislative text that determine its establishment and the scope of its competence”,<sup>5</sup> which has the same meaning as that referred to in the general observations of the SCA emphasizing the need for the establishing law to assign specific functions to the national human rights institutions to “promote” and “protect” human rights.

2. Whereas, the SCA<sup>6</sup> recognizes that the concept of “promotion” includes the functions that national human rights institutions seek to perform in the field of information and knowledge dissemination, training, education and provision of advice on human rights issues to the general public or to specific target groups in order to instil a societal culture based on transforming knowledge of human rights into practical skills that are practiced on the ground, and that the concept of “protection” refers to its quasi-judicial authority to receive complaints pertaining to human rights and to monitor and observe anything that could undermine the right of individuals to enjoy their assigned rights and public freedoms, and to conduct field visits to places where human rights violations

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<sup>3</sup> Law No. (26) of 2014. In Arabic [https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/download/NIHR-Law\\_26\\_2014\\_OG\\_ar.pdf](https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/download/NIHR-Law_26_2014_OG_ar.pdf) in English [https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/Download/LawNo26-of2014\\_engl.pdf](https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/Download/LawNo26-of2014_engl.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Decree-Law No (20) of 2016, in Arabic [https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/download/Law-Decree\\_No\\_20\\_of\\_2016.pdf](https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/download/Law-Decree_No_20_of_2016.pdf) in English [https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/Download/LawDecree20-2016\\_amendingLaw26-2014.pdf](https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/Download/LawDecree20-2016_amendingLaw26-2014.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions for promoting and protecting human rights (competence and responsibilities) in Arabic [https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/PDF/01.%20ParisPrinciples\\_Ar.pdf](https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/PDF/01.%20ParisPrinciples_Ar.pdf) in English [https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/PDF/HR/01.%20ParisPrinciples\\_En.pdf](https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/PDF/HR/01.%20ParisPrinciples_En.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> General Observation of the SCA of GANHRI (1-2) Human Rights Mandate. In Arabic <https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/PDF/04.%20SCA%20GENERAL%20OBSERVATIONS%20ARABIC.pdf> in English <https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/PDF/HR/04.%20SCA%20GENERAL%20OBSERVATIONS%20ENGLISH.pdf>

has a likelihood of occurring. Moreover, the mandate of the national institution should be interpreted in a broad, free and targeted manner to promote a progressive definition of human rights that guarantees all rights enshrined in international, regional and national human rights instruments.

3. Referring to the provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014, it is noted that the Law has granted the NIHR a broad mandate in the field of human rights in Article No. (2), which stipulates that, **“An independent institution is established named the (National Institution for Human Rights) responsible for promoting, developing and protecting human rights, consolidating its values, disseminating a culture awareness and contributing to securing its practice; it will be based in the city of Manama and its building shall be adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities. The NIHR shall have a corporate personality that is financially and administratively independent, and shall conduct its mandates freely, impartially, and independently. The institution enjoys an independent legal personality, financial and administrative independence, and exercises its tasks freely, impartially and completely independent.”**
4. In addition to what is prescribed in Article No. (12) of the same Law, which grants the NIHR the freedom to comment on any human rights issue and to address any human rights case as it deems appropriate in order to achieve its objectives, the NIHR has the following mandates:
  - Participate in the development and

implementation of a national plan for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom;

- Examine human rights-related legislation and regulations in force in the Kingdom and recommend amendments as it deems suitable, particularly in connection with the compatibility of such legislation with the international obligations of the Kingdom in the human rights field. The NIHR shall be empowered to recommend enacting new legislation related to human rights.
- Review the consistency of legislation and regulations with regional and international conventions on human rights issues, and submit proposals and recommendations to the competent authorities in any matter that promotes and protects human rights, including recommendations concerning accession to regional and international conventions and treaties concerning human rights.
- Submit parallel reports, participate in the drafting and discussion of the reports, which the Kingdom is committed to submit periodically for the implementation of human rights’ regional and international conventions, and comment thereon, and publish such reports in the media.
- Monitor violation of human rights instances, conduct the necessary investigation, bring such to the attention of the competent authorities and provide them with proposals on initiatives to put an end to such violations and, where necessary, express

its opinion on the position and response of the competent authorities.

- Receive, examine, and consider complaints related to human rights, refer the complaints to the relevant authorities as the NIHR considers appropriate and necessary, follow-up the complaints effectively, or inform those concerned of the procedures that must be followed, help them out to take such actions, or assist in the settlement of complaints with the relevant authorities.
- Conduct announced and unannounced field visits in order to monitor human rights situations in correctional institutions, detention centers, labor gatherings, health and education centers, or any other public place in which it is suspected that human rights violations are being committed.
- Initiate cooperation with the competent authorities concerned with cultural, media and educational affairs, and submit proposals and recommendations in any undertaking that can disseminate and promote a culture of consciousness and respect of human rights.
- Cooperate with national bodies and regional and international organizations, as well as relevant institutions in other countries that are concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Hold joint meetings and events, and cooperate, coordinate and consult with relevant civil society institutions, non-governmental organizations, other diverse groups, and human rights defenders. In addition, communicate directly with those

who claim to have been subjected to any form of violation and submit reports thereon to the Council of Commissioners.

- Host conferences and organize seminars and training and educational events in the field of human rights and conduct research and studies in this regard.
  - Participate in national and international forums, as well as in the meetings of regional and international bodies concerned with human rights issues.
  - Issue newsletters, publications, data and special reports, and upload them on the website of the NIHR. The NIHR shall be entitled to address the public opinion directly or through any of the media outlets.
5. Therefore, the NIHR, pursuant to its Establishment Law No. (26) of 2014, has been guaranteed a broad mandate in the field of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, all of which leads to the promotion and protection of human rights, whether for citizens or residents of the Kingdom, regardless of his/her different legal status.
  6. Article No. (13) of the NIHR's Establishment Law has also granted it the authority to consider issues related to its mandate referred by His Majesty the King or any of the constitutional authorities of the State for consideration and opinion.
  7. Pursuant to Article No (14) of the same Law, the NIHR is entitled to **“request any information, reports, or documents which it considers necessary for the attainment of its goals or the performance of its mandates, from**

**the ministries and relevant bodies in the Kingdom. These ministries and bodies shall cooperate with the NIHR in the pursuit of its tasks, facilitate exercising its mandate, and provide it with the information requested in this regard in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable by these bodies.”**

8. In addition, the NIHR “**may inform the competent authorities in the case when the ministries and State institutions and apparatuses fail to cooperate and provide the NIHR with the requested information, reports and documents or prevent it from examining them, in order to take the necessary measures in accordance with the law.”**

**Requirement Two  
Mechanism for Selecting the Members of the NIHR’s Council of Commissioners and the Immunities Granted to them**

1. In response to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (GANHRI), which emphasized the need for the NHRI’s consultation and appointment process to be broad and transparent, and to include clear and standardized criteria for assessing the merit of all eligible candidates; where the SCA was of the view that the process of selecting and appointing the decision-making body in the national institution must be formalized, and that the law establishing the national institution should stipulate that full-time members must be among the members of the decision-making body, as this helps achieve

the independence of national institutions, eliminate actual or perceived conflict of interest, attain stable members’ term of office, realize organized and appropriate guidance of its personnel, and maintain the continuous and effective implementation of the functions of the institution.

2. Consequently, Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016 was enacted, amending several paragraphs contained in Law No. (26) of 2014 on the Establishment of the NIHR, for the purpose of creating a real legal safeguard towards the independence of the institution, while granting the NIHR more competencies and powers in a manner consistent with the Paris Principles pertaining to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and elevating its international ranking in a manner that exemplifies the Kingdom’s commitment to preserving and respecting human rights.
3. Perhaps the most prominent amendment contained in Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016 amending some provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the NIHR is providing for full-time members in the Council of Commissioners. Article No. (1) defines a full-time member as a member who works full-time to fulfill the duties of his/her mandate in the NIHR and is not committed to perform another work or profession while carrying out his/her membership duties. Article No (4) stipulates the membership provisions permitting the selection of the members of the Council of Commissioners from among the members of the legislative authority, provided they do not form a majority in the Council of Commissioners and that they can participate in the discussion as non-voting members.

The same Article stipulates that a Royal Decree shall be issued to determine the mechanism, procedures, and controls for selecting the members of the Council of Commissioners in order to enhance the transparency of consultations and appointments.

4. Moreover, to implement the provisions of Paragraph (a) of Article No (5) of the establishing Law, stating that, **“members of the Council of Commissioners shall be appointed by a Royal Decree for a period of four years, renewable for similar terms,”** it specified that these appointments take place **“after consultation with relevant bodies of civil society and other diverse organizations.”** Paragraph (b) of the same Article stated that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are to be elected from among the full-time members. Paragraph (c) of Article No (3) of Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016 stipulates that, **“A Royal decree shall be issued to determine the mechanisms, procedures, and the selection process of members of the Council of Commissioners;”** consequently, Royal Decree No. (17) of 2017 was issued determining the controls governing the appointment of members of the Council of Commissioners at the National Institution for Human Rights<sup>7</sup>, which required that, **“to ensure their independence, a member of NIHR’s Council of Commissioners, in addition to membership conditions stipulated in Article No (4) of Law No (26) of 2014 on the**

**Establishment of the NIHR, shall fulfill the following:**

1. **Not to belong to any political association, except for the members of the legislature who shall have the right to discussion without a vote;**
  2. **Have a higher academic qualification and shall speak one of the official languages of the United Nations in addition to the Arabic language for full-time members;**
  3. **For those appointed from civil society institutions and professional and trade union organizations, at least two years should have elapsed since becoming a member;**
  4. **For those appointed from academia, they shall have, as a minimum, the rank of an assistant professor;**
  5. **They shall have clear and concrete contributions in the area of human rights.”**
5. Article 2 of Royal Decree No (17) of 2017 affirmed that the selection process of the members of the Council of Commissioners shall ensure representation of the wide spectrum of society without any discrimination based on gender, origin, religion, creed, or disability. In addition, it shall ensure that women, as well as minorities, are adequately represented. It also required that among the previous categories, an appropriate number of specialists in the legal and human rights fields as well as other fields that fall into NIHR’s

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<sup>7</sup> Royal Decree No. (17) of 2017 was issued establishing the controls governing the appointment of members of the Council of Commissioners at the National Institution for Human Rights. In Arabic <https://www.nihr.org.bh/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/download/RoyalDecree17-2017.pdf> in English [https://www.nihr.org.bh/en/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/PDF/Royal%20Order%20No%20\(17\)%20of%202017%20English.pdf](https://www.nihr.org.bh/en/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/PDF/Royal%20Order%20No%20(17)%20of%202017%20English.pdf)

core work, shall be included bearing in mind preventing conflict of interests, either directly or indirectly. The Royal Order delegated the Royal Court Minister to carry out the necessary consultations for the nomination of the full-time and part-time members of the Council of Commissioners.

6. Furthermore, Article No (9) of the NIHR's Establishment Law stipulates that, **"No Member of the Council of Commissioners may be reproached for the opinions and ideas he/she expresses on matters that fall within**

**NIHR's mandates. An investigation with the Member shall not be conducted except after the approval of the Chairperson and in the presence of a representative of the Council of Commissioners.**

**The NIHR headquarters may not be inspected except by a judicial order and in the presence of a representative of the public prosecution, provided that the Chairperson is notified to this effect and a representative of the Chairperson is notified to attend the inspection."**

## Second Topic - Organizational Structure of the Work of the National Institution for Human Rights

### Preface:

This topic will address the organizational structure of the work of the NIHR by presenting the Council of Commissioners at the NIHR, the specific standing committees, and its executive body represented by the Secretariat-General, in three successive requirements as follows:

#### Requirement One NIHR's Council of Commissioners

1. Article No (3) of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the NIHR stipulates that, **“(a) The Institution shall have a Council of Commissioners composed of eleven members, including the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, known for their expertise and integrity.**  
**(b) Members of the Council of Commissioners shall be selected from advisory firms, academic organizations, civil society institutions, unions, social, economic and professional institutions, and human rights defenders, provided that women and minorities are properly represented. Members may be selected from the members of the legislative authorities, provided they shall not form a majority in the Council of Commissioners, and they can participate in the discussion as non-voting members.”**
2. Article No (5) follows to state that, **“a- Members of the Council of Commissioners shall be appointed by a Royal Decree for a period of four years, renewable for similar terms. Appointments shall take place after consultation with relevant bodies of civil society and various other organizations. The Royal Decree shall identify the full-time and part-time members, and the members shall perform their work in their personal capacity.”**
3. The NIHR's Establishment Law also incorporated the powers of the Chairperson, his/her representation of the NIHR before the judiciary as well as in its relations with third parties, the mechanism for organizing the meetings of the Council at least every three months, and the necessity to develop an internal regulation to govern the work of the Council of Commissioners. The Law also touched on the terms for the termination of membership, the prevention of conflict of interests, the immunity of members, not to reproach them for the opinions and ideas they express in matters that fall within the mandate of the NIHR, and the immunity of the Institution's headquarters.
4. The Council of Commissioners also adopted the Code of Conduct for the Members of the NIHR's Council of Commissioners, which aims to establish ethical standards and instill the values and principles that pertain to the NIHR Council's membership, through displaying work ethics of members while undertaking their duties and the rights arising from this membership.
5. The Code of Conduct is grounded in seven basic principles that are the essence of ethical duties of the conduct

of the members of the Council of Commissioners during their term of membership in the NIHR and even after its termination, as follows:

- Rule of law: abide by the NIHR's governing legal norms in accordance with the laws, regulations, or bylaws and instructions issued thereunder and in force in the Kingdom of Bahrain;
- Neutrality: commitment to complete impartiality in dealing with the public, and avoid factionalism and personal interests and concerns when providing services;
- Integrity: the confidence of the constitutional authorities and the public must be maintained and strengthened; the integrity of the NIHR must be asserted; the public interest must be upheld. Membership shall not be used for purposes other than those intended for. In addition, the general interest of the NIHR should prevail over personal interests in the event of a conflict between these interests arises;
- Equality: offer all the services provided by the NIHR to all citizens and residents, without discrimination between them on the grounds of gender, origin, language, religion or creed;
- Diligence: utmost care to perform the duties truthfully, honestly, and with dedication, and to be free of any considerations that might prejudice it, while adhering to the values of transparency and integrity, and carry out all duties required by the nature of work, in addition to duties im-

posed by the law, regulations and instructions of the NIHR;

- Confidentiality: Adherence to professional confidentiality with regard to work secrets or the private details of the beneficiaries of NIHR services, which was accessed by virtue of work, and not to disclose or use such information informally, other than as is stipulated by law.
  - Efficiency: ensure that public funds of the NIHR are not squandered, misused or used for purposes other than those designated for, with the need to manage all forms of available resources in such a way that leads to the preservation of general revenues while ensuring effective and high-quality service delivery.
6. The Code of Conduct also highlighted that the members shall not solicit, accept or take any gifts, directly or indirectly, to perform a task entrusted to them, or refrain from performing it. Members shall not accept any benefits that may have an impact on the exercise of their tasks, the performance of their duties, or on their decisions. In addition, members shall refrain from accepting a promise of such things and from placing themselves under any financial or other obligation that may have such an effect.
  7. To implement Paragraph (a) of Article No (5) of the Law establishing the NIHR, which states that, "**members of the Council of Commissioners shall be appointed by a Royal Decree,**" Royal Decree No (22) of 2021 was issued appointing the members of the Council of Commissioners of the NIHR. The Royal Decree took effect on 9 May 2021, and included the appointment of 11 members, of which four were appointed as

full-time members, five as part-time members, and two members represented the legislative authority from the House of Representatives and the Shura Council. From among the full-time and part-time members, five women members were appointed by the Royal Decree, of which one is a full-time member. The term of membership for all members is four years, subject to renewal.

8. In implementing Paragraph (b) of Article No (5) of the NIHR's Establishment Law, which stipulates that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

are to be elected from among the members of the Council of Commissioners in the first meeting, the Council of Commissioners held its first procedural meeting on Monday, 10 May 2021, during which the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson were elected. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-De-razi won the Chair of the Council of Commissioners by acclamation, while Mr. Khaled Abdulaziz Alsha'er won the position of Vice Chairperson.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Resume of members- in Arabic <https://www.nihr.org.bh/Organisation/CommissionerMain> in English <https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/Organisation/CommissionerMain>

5<sup>TH</sup> FORMATION التشكيل الخامس  
2025 - 2021

## الهيكل التنظيمي لمجلس المفوضين Council of Commissioners Structure

الرئيس  
Chairman



المهندس علي أحمد الدرزي  
Eng. Ali Ahmed Alderazi

### لجنة الشكاوى والرصد والمتابعة Complaint, Monitoring & Follow-up Committee



السيد خالد الشاعر  
Mr. Khaled Alshaer  
Vice-chairman, نائب الرئيس -



السيدة روضة العرادي  
Mrs. Rawdha Alaradi  
Head - رئيسة اللجنة -



السيد أحمد السلوم  
Mr. Ahmed Alsloom  
Member - عضو -



المحامية دينا اللطي  
Lawyer. Deena Alladhi  
Member - عضو -

### لجنة الحقوق والحريات العامة General Rights and Freedoms Committee



الدكتورة فوزية الصالح  
Dr. Fawzeya Alsaleh  
Head - رئيسة اللجنة -



الدكتور بدر عادل  
Dr. Bader Adel  
Member - عضو -



السيد مارك كوهين  
Mr. Daniel Cohen  
Member - عضو -

### لجنة زيارة أماكن الاحتجاز والمرافق Detention & Facilities Visitation Committee



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اللجان النوعية الدائمة

Standing Committees

## Requirement Two Specific Standing Committees of the NIHR

1. Pursuant to Paragraph (a) of Article No. (7) of the NIHR's Establishing Law, which stipulates that, **"the Council of Commissioners may form specific standing committees from its members to assume NIHR functions, and may form ad hoc committees, when the need arises,"** Article No. (32) of the Rules of Procedure on Regulating the Function of the Council of Commissioners<sup>9</sup> stipulates that, **"three standing committees shall be formed in the NIHR to assume the Institution's functions, namely: Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee, General Rights and Freedoms Committee, and Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee."**
2. The Rules of Procedure clarified that the number of members of each standing committee must not be less than three, provided no member shall be allowed to head more than one committee. Article No. (36) of the Rules of Procedure stipulates that, **"at its first meeting, each committee .... shall elect its Head from among its members, for a period of one year, renewable for similar terms."** Article No. (39) of the Rules of Procedure stipulates that, **"the Committees shall meet at least once a month."**
3. The Rules of Procedure on Regulating the Function of the Council of Commissioners entrusted the standing com-

mittees with a number of tasks and responsibilities, as follows:

### a) Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee

- Receive, assess, and consider complaints and grievances related to human rights made by citizens, residents and organizations through various means. Determine the best way to deal with such complaints.
- Enlighten concerned citizens and residents of procedures to be followed if there are complaints. Provide the complainants with the required legal assistance and advice, or assist in resolving the complaint with the concerned authorities.
- Monitor, observe and investigate the human rights situation in the Kingdom through media, various social media or other means. Study and examine the situation of human rights to determine the best ways to deal with it.
- Refer complaints, legal assistance and monitoring cases that have been identified, as the NIHR deems necessary, to the competent authorities through the Chairperson and follow-up effectively.
- Consider the complaints referred by the Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee from detained persons in correctional and rehabilitation institutions, pre-trial detention, and detention centers. Refer, as it may consider appropriate,

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<sup>9</sup> Rules of Procedure on Regulating the Function of the Council of Commissioners. In Arabic [https://www.nihr.org.bh/Organisation/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/PDF/Procedures\\_ARB2020.pdf](https://www.nihr.org.bh/Organisation/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/PDF/Procedures_ARB2020.pdf) In English [https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/PDF/Procedures\\_ENG2020.pdf](https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/MediaHandler/GenericHandler/documents/PDF/Procedures_ENG2020.pdf)

to the Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee to take the necessary action.

- Coordinate and follow up NIHR's attendance of trial hearings to ensure fair trial guarantees, and take the necessary action to finalize such attendance reports.
- Request any information or data from competent authorities in the Kingdom during or in connection with the exercise of its duties contained in this Article, through the Chairperson.
- Recommend to prepare and develop a guide on receiving complaints and the provided legal assistance and the mechanism for monitoring human rights situations. Provide insights on facilitating the work of the Committee through the electronic complaints system.
- Prepare statistics on complaints received by the NIHR, legal assistance provided, and monitoring cases through the media and social media, indicating the actions taken in their regard.
- Contribute to the preparation of draft parallel reports that the Kingdom undertakes to submit periodically, and comment thereon, in implementation of the relevant regional or international conventions.
- Any other competency referred to the Committee by the Chairperson,

or the Council Bureau, or the Council of Commissioners.

**b) General Rights and Freedoms Committee**

- Prepare proposals and recommendations on all matters that would promote and protect civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and submit such to the Council of Commissioners to take the necessary action.
- Express opinion on issues related to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, which are referred to the Committee by the Chairperson or the Council Bureau or by the Council of Commissioners.
- Review and evaluate the progress made in the exercise of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in the Kingdom and make observations thereon to advance it in accordance with regional and international standards, in coordination with the concerned competent authorities.
- Examine the consistency of legislation and regulations with regional and international conventions relating to human rights issues, make proposals and recommendations on any matter that would promote and protect human rights, including on accession to regional and international conventions on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Review the reservations made by the Kingdom on some of the provisions of the conventions to which it had already acceded.
- Review applicable legislation and regulations in the Kingdom on civil,

political, economic, social and cultural rights, recommend the appropriate amendments, express its views on the alignment of this legislation with international human rights standards, make necessary proposals on such, and recommend enacting new human rights legislation.

- Contribute to the preparation of draft parallel reports that the Kingdom undertakes to submit periodically and comment thereon, in implementation of the relevant regional or international conventions.
- Any other competency referred to the Committee by the Chairperson, or the Council Bureau, or the Council of Commissioners.

#### c) **Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee**

- Conduct announced and unannounced field visits in due manner to monitor human rights situation in correctional and rehabilitation institutions, detention centers, labor gatherings, health and education centers, or any other public place in which it is suspected that human rights violations might take place, and prepare the appropriate reports.
- Prepare reports on the status of persons deprived of their liberty within correctional and rehabilitation institutions and detention centers on a regular basis and make the necessary observations and recommendations.
- Refer the Committee's observations during its visits to correctional

and rehabilitation institutions and detention centers, as well as the complaints from persons deprived of their liberty in such institutions and centers, to the Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee.

- Review and appraise national legislation pertaining to correctional and rehabilitation institutions and the related regulations and decisions, and propose appropriate recommendations thereon. Follow-up the implementation of the relevant international conventions and treaties, make proposals, recommendations and observations thereon that are necessary for the proper application of such, and submit them to the Chairperson, or the Commission Bureau, or the Council of Commissioners.
- Contribute to the preparation of draft parallel reports that the Kingdom undertakes to submit periodically, and comment thereon, in implementation of the relevant regional or international conventions.
- Any other competency referred to the Committee by the Chairperson, or the Council Bureau, or the Council of Commissioners.

#### **Requirement Three**

##### **Secretariat General of the NIHR<sup>10</sup>**

1. Article No. (15) of the law establishing the NIHR stipulates that, **“the administrative apparatus of the NIHR shall be composed of a secretariat, which shall**

<sup>10</sup> In Arabic <https://www.nihr.org.bh/Organisation/SecretariatGeneral>

act as the NIHR's executive organ. The Secretariat shall have a sufficient number of consultants, experts, researchers and other staff of the Secretariat, who shall be appointed by a resolution of the Chairperson based on the recommendation of the Secretary General."

2. Article No. (17) of the law establishing the NIHR defines the responsibilities of the Secretary General, where "**the Secretary General shall manage the affairs of the Secretariat and supervise its work, and shall report directly to the Chairperson in performing the duties of his/her position. In particular, the Secretary General shall undertake the following tasks:**
  - a. **General supervision over the Secretariat, employees' affairs and financial and administrative matters in accordance with this Law and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto;**
  - b. **Attend the meetings of the Council of Commissioners and implement its decisions without having the right to**

**vote; prepare periodic reports every three months, which include the activities of the NIHR, progress of work at the General Secretariat, and the work that has been accomplished in accordance with the plans and programs drawn up.**

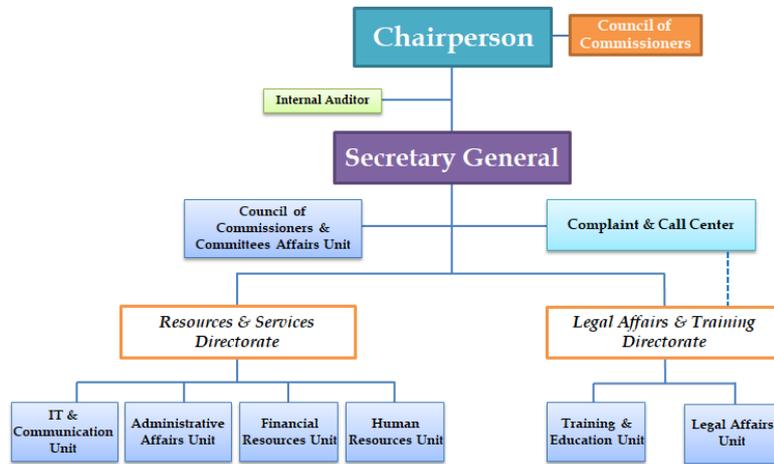
- c. **Attend the meetings of the Committees, follow up on their work, and provide what is needed to enable the Committees to exercise their competencies, without having the right to vote.**

**The Secretary General may delegate in writing any of his/her duties and powers to any of the Secretariat staff."**

Counselor Yasser Ghanim Shaheen, the Secretary General, oversees the work of the General Secretariat assisted by: Mr. Fahad Abdulla Al Mualla, Director of Resources and Services Directorate and Mrs. Latifa Rashed Al Jalahma, Director of Legal Affairs and Training Directorate.



## Organisational Chart of the General Secretariat National Institution for Human Rights



التعمير طلب



## **CHAPTER TWO - Progress Achieved in Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain**

### **Preface:**

1. The NIHR asserts that the recommendations contained in its annual reports and its various activities constitute a positive factor towards greater respect, promotion and protection of human rights in the national system. Keen to moving forward these recommendations, the NIHR disseminates them widely in the various media. In addition, it makes sure to obtain the views of the ministries and official bodies on such recommendations and determines the extent to which they could be realistically implemented or the progress made in their implementation.
2. Accordingly, this Chapter of the report includes three main topics. The first and second topics address the views and opinions of the ministries and the government apparatus regarding the recommendations of the NIHR contained in its Ninth Annual Report of 2021 as well as the recommendations of the forums organized by the NIHR with diverse civil society institutions. The third topic is devoted to follow up on the actions taken regarding the recommendations of the round table on the compatibility of urban planning with the right to a healthy and sustainable environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the recommendations of the seminar on women's rights and equal pay, in addition to the responses of the competent ministries and agencies to those recommendations.

## First Topic - Follow-up on the Recommendations of the NIHR Contained in its Ninth Annual Report of 2021

### Preface:

1. Within the framework of its enduring keenness to follow up on its recommendations contained in its annual and special reports, given that these recommendations and their essence form a road map towards further promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the NIHR contacted the competent ministries and government bodies to get their views on the recommendations, the extent to which such can be implemented, and the progress made in their implementation.
2. Hence, the NIHR has addressed five ministries and government bodies to obtain their views regarding the recommendations contained in its Ninth Annual Report for the year 2021. These bodies are as follows: the Public Prosecution, Ministry of Interior, public hospitals, Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Social Development. The NIHR extends its thanks to those ministries and official bodies that have interacted with and responded to its requests and whose responses have contributed to clarifying their role in the protection and promotion of human rights in the Kingdom.
3. It is worth mentioning that the total recommendations reached by the NIHR in its Ninth Annual Report for the year 2021 amounted to seventeen (17) recommendations covering five main issues, of which three recommendations pertained to the right to the highest attainable standard of health, three recommendations were connected with the right to communicate with the outside world, two recommendations dealt with the right to physical and moral integrity, six recommendations were related to the right of persons to an adequate standard of living and three recommendations concern the right to recognition as a person before the law.

## Requirement One

### Recommendations Relating to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health (the Right to Health)

#### 1) Text of the Recommendation:

Call upon the competent authorities to step up health care services for persons with disabilities, follow up on their affairs, give them additional facilities, and work towards developing radical solutions that guarantee their enjoyment of the right to health. This can be achieved, for example, by assigning specific offices for the persons with disabilities to receive their medications, exempting them from waiting queues at hospitals, or by creating a sustainable and continuous process through which their medication can be delivered to their residence.

- **Summary of public hospitals' response:**

The concerned entity stated that it has paid utmost attention to persons with disabilities by providing an online home delivery service for their medications through the website and has also provided them with a special platform at the pharmacy to give them priority in dispensing medicine as part of a package of special services that it seeks to provide them with.

#### 2) Text of the Recommendation:

Urge the competent authority to develop a monitoring system for drug stock and consumption rates to avoid drug shortages or unavailability in various pharmacies and short expiry dates. In addition to ensuring that the medicines are compatible with the needs of patients, especially those with chronic

diseases and persons with disabilities, while making sure that the modalities for obtaining them are easy and convenient.

- **Summary of public hospitals' response:**

The concerned entity reported that it has developed an integrated system to manage and monitor medicine stocks with the aim of controlling drug consumption rates, eliminating the phenomenon of wastage and lack of medicine, and inspecting drug expiration dates, through conducting an analytical study of patients' needs of medication and ensuring that it is constantly available.

#### 3) Text of the Recommendation:

Call for establishing a mini-hospital in reform and rehabilitation centers to be affiliated with the competent authority concerned with public hospitals and primary healthcare centers affairs, for transferring ailing inmates speedily, especially for urgent cases. In addition, provide the mini-hospital with specialized medical staff in various fields, including, for example, the rehabilitation and treatment of drug addicts, internal diseases, minor surgeries and dental clinics, in addition to providing a comprehensive pharmacy to avoid shortage or delay of medicines obtained from Salmaniya Medical Complex.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Interior's response:**

The concerned authority stated that the provision of health care to inmates in correction and rehabilitation centers falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, which is included in the framework of the health services

provided to all citizens and residents in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and that all inmates enjoy comprehensive health care around the clock by specialized medical staff from the Ministry of Health in coordination with the Ministry of Interior. In addition, medication is also provided to all inmate patients on a regular basis according to medical prescriptions, and an ambulance and a standby ambulance are always available. On September 18, 2022, the new medical clinic was opened for the inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, which is under the supervision of Ministry of Health.

- **Summary of public hospitals' response:**

No response was received during the timeframe of this report.

### **Requirement Two**

#### **Recommendations Related to the Right to Communicate with the Outside World**

##### **1) Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Authority:**

Take the necessary measures to avoid interruption of communication of children placed in social care homes or private hospitals with their families or lawyers.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Social Development's response:**

The concerned entity stated that it takes all the necessary measures that would guarantee children in social care homes maintain contact and communication with their families or lawyers, for example:

- Arrange for weekly visits of the families of children placed in social care homes at least once a week.
- Call the children placed in social care homes at least once a week.
- Call the children placed in social care homes before they go to the judicial authorities with their families and after they return to inform them of the latest developments.
- Arrange for home visits based on children's good behavior to encourage them to foster discipline and good conduct.
- Arrange for any other additional visits or communications depending on the case and when the child in the social care home needs it.

- **Summary of public hospitals' response:**

No response was received during the timeframe of this report.

##### **2) Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Authority:**

Reconsider promptly the suspension of in-person family visits to correction and rehabilitation centers by the competent authorities especially that the infection rates with the Corona virus are declining. In addition, call for increasing the number of video calls allowed to inmates or detainees, in particular those infected with the virus or in contact with them, as well as the quarantined and isolated inmates in designated buildings.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Interior's response:**

The concerned authority stated that the applicable law has guaranteed numerous legal and procedural guarantees for inmates, including communicating and family visits. Faced with the Covid-19 pandemic, videoconferencing was used as an alternative solution to visits in compliance with the preventive and precautionary measures recommended by the competent authorities. With the decline of the pandemic, reform and rehabilitation centers commenced receiving visitors and the categories that are legally allowed to visit, to ensure the inmates' rights to communicate with their families.

**3) Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Authority:**

Take the necessary measures to ensure that the inmates and detainees in correction and rehabilitation centers are granted the right to communicate immediately with any member of their family, as deemed appropriate, to inform them of what happened, and to enable them seek the assistance of a lawyer, whether in felonies or misdemeanors, while giving the lawyer sufficient time when meeting the inmate or the detainee.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Interior's response:**

The concerned authority stated that all the laws in force have guaranteed inmates and detainees the right to immediately contact any member of their families, as they deem appropriate, to inform them of what had happened, and enable them to seek the assistance of an attorney, whether in

felonies or misdemeanors, while allowing the lawyer an adequate period of time when meeting the inmate or the detainee. There is an electronic system installed in all security facilities that documents and registers all the actions taken with regard to the accused, including phone calls and visits. As for foreign inmates, they are granted the right to contact their country's embassy or their diplomatic or consular representative. These facilities have designated equipped rooms for such visits. If an inmate wishes to appoint a lawyer or a lawyer submits a power of attorney for an inmate, both are enabled to complete these procedures.

**Requirement Three  
Recommendations Related to the Right to Physical and Mental Integrity**

**1) Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Authority:**

Put law enforcement officers through comprehensive and extensive training programs using curricula that incorporate all the components of human rights, provided that the training modules include effective interrogation methods and proper techniques of obtaining information without resorting to coercive means such as torture or other forms of ill-treatment. In addition, exclude those law enforcement officers found to have mistreated detainees or convicted persons from service.

- **Summary of the Public Prosecution's response:**

The competent authority stated that it is training its members intensively in this field as part of its sustainable

plan by holding conferences, seminars, and specialized workshops, whether in the Kingdom or abroad, and that it coordinates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the American Bar Association, and the International Association of Prosecutors to train its members and provide them with the necessary skills and expertise in this regard, in addition to the countless activities and participations carried out by the Special Investigation Unit, all of which has resulted in holding (20) training and educational programs and events during the previous years. The competent authority attached a list of the training events in which the members of the Public Prosecution and its employees have participated during the period (2012-2022).

- **Summary of the Ministry of Interior's response:**

The concerned authority stated that it holds, organizes and participates in events related to human rights internally and externally in cooperation with the Royal Academy of Police. Moreover, the Academy regularly organizes such courses for the Ministry's employees, in addition to the availability of study programs such as the master's program with the University of Huddersfield and a diploma program in human rights.

The concerned authority explained that the General Directorate of Reformation and Rehabilitation is keen on developing a variety of training programs in cooperation with the Training Department at the Ministry or with independent bodies, such as the National Institution for Human

Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the participation and presence of a number of officers and individuals, to strengthen the theoretical and scientific competence and skills of those dealing with inmates and pretrial detainees and to inculcate a culture of respect for human rights. It also attached examples of the most important training events in which its employees have participated to instill the principle of respect for human rights.

## 2) Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Authority:

Explore the feasibility of establishing a specialized office in all the centers affiliated with the Ministry of Interior to be in charge of receiving complaints from inmates who claim that they have been subjected to ill-treatment, provided that such offices include personnel specialized in investigation and forensic medicine.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Interior's response:**

The concerned authority stated that inmates are entitled to bring complaints before independent judicial, security and oversight bodies under the current system, such as the General Secretariat Ombudsman, Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission, Special Investigation Unit, Public Prosecution Office and the National Institution for Human Rights. Two types of complaint receiving boxes are placed in a conspicuous place as prescribed in the executive regulations of the law in force.

The concerned authority added that it does not restrict inmates to a single complaint mechanism, but rather they have the freedom to choose the body to which the complaint is submitted and the method of submission (in writing, verbally, through direct contact, or through their relatives or legal representatives). It also explained that the Ministry is studying the establishment of specialized offices in all security facilities responsible for receiving complaints pertaining to the facilities' procedures and monitoring them.

**Requirement Four**  
**Recommendations Pertaining to the**  
**Right to an Adequate Standard of Living**  
**(the Right to Work)**

**1) Text of the Recommendation:**

Take the necessary measures to ensure the rapid replacement of foreign workers by national workers, especially in specialized fields that have an abundance of qualified nationals, while creating further job and training opportunities necessary to ensure that all citizens are employed in jobs commensurate with their educational qualifications.

**• Summary of the Ministry of Labor's response:**

The concerned entity stated that it operates within government policies and initiatives that aim at ensuring that Bahrainis have preference in employment in the private sector. These policies and initiatives build on a set of relevant programs, perhaps the most significant of which is the National Employment Program (2.0)

that aims to include national employment in the private sector and boost preference of Bahrainis in employment by allocating a budget of (120) million dinars to support employment and training over a period of three years by the Labor Fund (Tamkeen).

The concerned entity added that in order to achieve these goals, the initiatives of the Economic Recovery Plan (2022-2026) were launched, which included a set of programs that are summarized as follows:

- Provision of a wage subsidy support plan, whereby Bahraini workers receive a subsidy of up to 70% for the first year, 50% for the second year and 30% for the last year, in return for increasing the additional fee for issuing work permits under the Parallel System.
- Extension of the period of job vacancies announcements in the press to recruit expatriate workers from abroad for 3 weeks to keep them open to Bahrainis to allow them the opportunity to apply for the jobs.
- Marketing and promotion of the National Employment Program (2.0) to both employers and job seekers and introducing its advantages to increase the inflow of job vacancies to the Ministry.
- Launching an electronic system to register job seekers, update their data regularly, create a valid and accurate database and launch awareness campaigns to encourage and attract national job seekers.

- Activating remote work and part-time work for females.
- Developing a permanent electronic job expo.
- Training and rehabilitation of job seekers in coordination with training institutes.
- Coordinating with government entities to define and introduce the current requirements of the labor market and the most important training programs that maximizes the potential of job seekers.
- Launching the on-the-job training program for job seekers (Furas) to qualify job seekers with the necessary practical skills and experience.
- Initiating the training program with employment guarantee.
- Imposing Bahrainization rate on the private sector.

The National Employment Program has achieved and exceeded its stated goals by employing more than 26 thousand Bahrainis in the private sector in 2021 and training about 12 thousand Bahrainis. The Ministry, in cooperation with the concerned authorities, is working on implementing the stated goal of the Economic Recovery Plan, namely providing 20 thousand job opportunities and 10 thousand training opportunities annually for the period 2022 to 2026.

**2) Text of the Recommendation:**

Reconsider the requirements of employment procedures and resolve the difficulties facing job seekers, especially by reconsidering the types of jobs that, by their nature, require the submission of a security clearance (certificate of

good conduct) and those that do not.

**• Summary of the Ministry of Labor’s response:**

The entity reported that it does not have jurisdiction over this issue.

**3) Text of the Recommendation:**

Consider a mechanism that ensures the speedy processing of requests submitted by individuals pertaining to obtaining security clearance (certificate of good conduct). Ensure including a feature in the mechanism to notify the applicant of the outcome of his/her request, whether by approval to grant the certificate or refusal, and to inform him/her of the reasons for rejection based on the principle of transparency.

**• Summary of the Ministry of Interior’s response:**

The concerned authority reported that the competent department affiliated with the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence informs the applicant of the result of his/her application, whether by approval or rejection, as well as in the case of incomplete or missing documents. Currently, in cases related to public security, it notifies the applicant after the transaction is completed. The issuance of certificate of good conduct electronically has been recently launched.

**4) Text of the Recommendation:**

Make the necessary amendments to Resolution No. (3) of 2013 on Banning Work During Noon Time in open places for the months of July and August, based on the NIHR’s proposal sent to the concerned ministry, on extending the ban period to become three

months in each Gregorian year and five daytime hours, starting at eleven in the morning and ending at four in the afternoon.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Labor's response:**

The authority stated that based on extrapolation and analysis of the hourly recorded temperatures of one day for some days in the months of July and August, it was found that the temperature begins to rise to the maximum levels between 10:00 am until 4:00 pm after which it starts to decrease or stabilize for a short period.

It also added that after careful tracking, studying and analysis of the temperatures recorded in the past years during the months of June to September, it was observed that the temperatures recorded during the months of July and August are the highest during the year and pose adverse health effects.

Therefore, the authority is in the opinion that it is unnecessary to extend the duration of implementing the decision and the current ban hours, and that preventing workers from working under direct sunlight and open places for a period of (4) hours during the months of July and August of each year is sufficient to provide protection, although this does not mean that there is no danger for the rest of the summer. Here, implementing engineering and administrative measures and methods during the remaining periods controls these risks.

### 5) Text of the Recommendation:

Sensitize employers and employees on the content of Resolution No. (3) of 2013 on Banning Work During Noon Time in open places for the months of July and August, and the conditions to be met, mainly since the Resolution concerns working outdoors under direct sunlight, and not indoors or in shaded places.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Labor's response:**

The concerned authority stated that the substance of the recommendation is realized in practice, as the Ministry carries out intensive awareness campaigns on this matter to acquaint employers and workers with all the details contained in the Resolution. This is accomplished by presenting lectures and video clips and providing educational publications to the expatriate communities in their local languages, as well as covering the content of the Resolution and the ways to prevent the risks of summer in the media.

### 6) Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Authority:

Examine the economic effects and consequences on business owners resulting from the implementation of Resolution No. (3) of 2013 on Banning Work during Noon Time in open places for the months of July and August, and conduct a study on the mechanism for compensating them for damages, as the case may be.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Labor's response:**

The concerned authority reported that the implementation of the Resolution has reflected positively on enhancing productivity of workers and improving their morale, as well as contributing positively in reducing losses resulting from the work-related accidents and occupational diseases. It also stated that it found that the vast majority of business owners did not reduce the daily working hours, but rather shifted the work periods in open places to other periods of the day so as production continues in the work sites normally with higher productivity without incurring material losses or disrupting the progress of existing projects.

**Requirement Five**  
**Recommendations Pertaining to the**  
**Right to Recognition of Legal Personality**  
**(the Right to a Nationality)**

**1) Text of the Recommendation:**

Include provisions in the Bahraini Citizenship Act in force to grant Bahraini women the right to confer Bahraini nationality on their children subject to legal controls and in line with the relevant international human rights instruments and the commitments of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain before the Human Rights Council at the Universal Periodic Review, in a manner that takes into account national interest in this regard.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Interior's response:**

The entity stated that the legislative authority has an inherent jurisdiction

over this recommendation under the Constitution and that its implementation is beyond the competence of the Ministry. It explained that the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs receives citizenship applications for the children of Bahraini women and considers the cases and their status in coordination with the Supreme Council for Women and other concerned authorities in the Kingdom.

**2) Text of the Recommendation:**

Fast track the enforcement mechanism of judicial decisions issued by the competent courts, which establishes the obligation of the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs to issue and renew passports.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Interior's response:**

The entity reported that the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs ensures that the final and irrevocable judicial rulings submitted by the legal person or his/her legal representative that meet the legal requirements are executed, and that it always works hard to improve and develop its services in general to provide high quality services to the customers.

**3) Text of the Recommendation:**

Reconsider the issue of mandatory in-person presence to receive a passport once it is issued or renewed, and allow those who have a special, notarized or certified power of attorney to receive this document under this special power of attorney, especially in cases where there is no security restriction on the passport holder.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Interior's response:**

The concerned authority stated that the approval of the legal representative is required when issuing passports for the first time pursuant to the law, and that an application to issue a passport may be submitted and the passport received by whoever holds a special power of attorney to submit the application with all the re-

quired documents. Regarding renewal of passports, when the required documents and administrative procedures for renewal are fulfilled, the Directorate does not require the personal presence of the passport holder upon submitting the application or receiving the passport. In addition, electronic passport services were launched.

## Second Topic - Follow-up on the Recommendations of the NIHR Issued by Human Rights Forums with Civil society institutions

### Preface:

1. As part of its efforts to consolidate and strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations, the NIHR held a number of human rights forums to deepen community partnership with relevant civil society institutions, through which concrete developments and challenges in practice were highlighted and developmental solutions to advance the situation of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain were proposed.
2. The NIHR started by meeting with civil society institutions working in the field of human rights in general followed by meeting with organizations working in the field of environmental rights, followed by those working in the field of the right to health, leading to holding its national consultations with other organizations, particularly those working in the field of the rights of the most vulnerable groups (such as the child, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly). These human rights forums resulted in several relevant recommendations.
3. Consequently, the NIHR addressed eight ministries and official entities to obtain their views on the recommendations - within their terms of competence – namely: the Ministry of Health, government (public) hospitals, the Ministry of Social Development, and the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture (previously Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning), the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Oil and Environment, the Supreme Council of Health and the Supreme Council for Women. The NIHR informed the Cabinet of these recommendations.
4. The NIHR extends its sincere thanks to the three ministries and official bodies (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and Ministry of Industry and Trade) that reacted and took action regarding its requests, and whose responses have contributed to clarifying their roles in protecting and promoting human rights in the Kingdom. The NIHR have not received responses from the rest of the authorities during the time frame of this report.

## **Requirement One** **Recommendations Pertaining to Civil society institutions**

### **Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Entities:**

#### **1) Text of the Recommendation:**

Issue a new law regulating civil society institutions and their work, reflecting the suitable developments in human rights, and enhance it with all the guarantees that secure the exercise of the right to organize in line with the international human rights instruments, in order to strengthen the independence of these organizations, provide financial and human resources through clear and specific controls, and grant powers to these civil organizations to enable them play their role in the society.

#### **2) Text of the Recommendation:**

Amend Article (43) of the Law on Social Associations and Clubs, Cultural and Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth promulgated by Decree-Law No. (21) of 1986 to ensure lifting the participation ban on some citizens in the membership of the boards of directors of civil organizations being inactive members in dissolved political associations.

#### **3) Text of the Recommendation:**

Provide more logistical support to civil society institutions through the provision of adequate financial support to ensure their sustainability, together with designating specific locations to be their headquarters for a token pay-

ment to enable them to function according to their articles of association.

#### **4) Text of the Recommendation:**

Issue the legal tools necessary to urge business owners to maintain an appropriate and proper work environment that is suitable for the health status of those suffering from specific diseases, and that their health status is not taken as grounds for discrimination, exclusion or marginalization.

## **Requirement Two** **Recommendations Pertaining to the Environment**

### **1) Text of the Recommendation:**

Put more efforts into educating the civil society institutions and the public about the executive authority concerned with environmental issues and violations with the need to spread awareness about the entity concerned with receiving reports and complaints pertaining to environmental violations and the necessary procedures in this regard.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's (previously Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning) response:**

The concerned entity stated that awareness is one of the pillars of waste management in the Ministry and that public awareness workshops take place annually to raise awareness of the importance of sorting and segregating waste at source and recycling as well as to introduce the Department's waste recycling projects.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Oil and Environment's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

**2) Text of the Recommendation:**

Ensure regular monitoring and continuous follow-up and oversight of the work of the waste disposal management contractors and corroborate the transparency of the information and statistics provided by them.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's response:**

The concerned entity stated that it has set up a control room to follow up on the operations of cleaning companies (establishing a sustainability center) in 2017, and that tracking devices were installed on the vehicles of the cleaning companies and the inspectors affiliated with the Ministry to ensure best performance. Moreover, statistics in this regard are issued regularly.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Oil and Environment's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

**3) Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Authority:**

Organize awareness campaigns on the need to conserve food and the adverse environmental impacts of food waste, and encourage companies and restaurants to donate edible and safe excess

food to the poor and needy.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's response:**

The authority stated that it is currently preparing a cooperation agreement with the Conserving Bounties Association (food bank) because of the importance of conserving food and the environmental hazards of waste. Food recycling containers were provided free of charge to the residents of East Hidd City.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade's response:**

The entity reported that it lacks jurisdiction over this issue.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Oil and Environment's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

**4) Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Authority:**

Issue the necessary legal instruments to ensure reducing food waste and avoiding excessive waste, and include the appropriate penalties for violators.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's response:**

The authority stated that it will coordinate with the competent authorities represented by the Supreme Council for Environment in this regard.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade's response:**

The entity reported that it lacks jurisdiction over this issue.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Oil and Environment's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

### Requirement Three

#### Recommendations Pertaining to Women

##### Text of the Recommendations and the Response of the Concerned Authority

###### 1) Text of the Recommendation:

Introduce the necessary legislative amendments to achieve equality between women and men by enabling Bahraini women married to foreigners to grant their children the Bahraini nationality subject to clear and specific legal controls.

###### 2) Text of the Recommendation:

Revisit a number of reservations made by the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to which it has acceded under Decree-Law No. (5) of 2002.

###### 3) Text of the Recommendation:

Abrogate Article No. (353) of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976 regarding exempting the perpetrator of rape from criminal prosecution for his crime if a valid marriage is concluded between the rapist and the victim.

###### 4) Text of the Recommendation:

Reconsider Article (17) of Decree-Law No. (7) of 1986 promulgating the Guardianship of Money Law to grant the mother - in specific cases - the right of guardianship over the money of her

minor children.

###### 5) Text of the Recommendation:

Work on issuing a broadened personal status law that includes, in addition to family provisions, matters related to inheritance and will status, taking into account the specificity established for each of the two honorable sects.

###### 6) Text of the Recommendation:

Proceed towards the gradual enforcement of raising the age of marriage to (18) years pursuant to the provisions of Law No. (19) of 2017 promulgating the Family Law and amend the relevant ministerial decisions.

###### 7) Text of the Recommendation:

Issue the necessary legal tools to ensure that Bahraini women who are divorced or abandoned have the right to adequate housing.

###### 8) Text of the Recommendation:

Issue the legal instruments necessary for the inclusion of working Bahraini women as productive families or self-employed in the field of transport (delivery), home cooking, or otherwise in the social insurance system for those not registered in it.

###### 9) Text of the Recommendation:

Achieve equality between women and men in employment and address the obstacles hindering the realization of full empowerment of working women's rights. Take measures to absorb all unemployed women, particularly in the health and education sectors, by creating promising job opportunities that make Bahraini women the first choice for employers.

### Requirement Four

## Recommendations Pertaining to Health

### 1) Text of the Recommendation:

Expedite issuance of a law on medical liability to provide an integrated and overarching legislation specifically concerned with delineating the rights and duties of patients, doctors and healthcare providers, and the consequences of violations.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The concerned authority stated that there is a draft law on medical liability currently before the Council of Representatives, on which the Ministry of Health presented its views. The report of the competent committee was submitted to the Bureau of the Council. The National Health Regulatory Authority is the entity that is authorized to investigate and consider complaints about medical errors. It is also the body responsible for setting the standards for hiring physicians, nurses and pharmacists to ensure the quality of healthcare provided.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

### 2) Text of the Recommendation:

Generate further awareness and familiarize stakeholders with the rights of patients and doctors and their duties and responsibilities towards each other when providing healthcare, particularly in the freedom of the patient

to choose or refuse certain measures and in times of crisis.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The concerned authority stated that the Law on Practicing Human Medicine and Dentistry Profession regulates the rights and duties of patients, doctors, and healthcare professionals as it establishes maintaining the confidentiality of information and not divulging it except in cases regulated by law. Once the Medical Liability Law is issued, all aspects related to the rights and duties of patients and doctors will be addressed. Moreover, the Ministry undertakes awareness initiatives in this regard.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

### 3) Text of the Recommendation:

Develop alternatives for having a single medical complex that encompasses all medical specialties and receives all patients (citizens and residents) from the different regions of the Kingdom, which has resulted in the deterioration of provided healthcare services and decline of its quality.

### 4) Text of the Recommendation:

Increase the number of healthcare centers and maternity hospitals, as well as the medical staff in the governorates, so that it is proportionate to the number of patients attending them in each governorate to cope with the rapid population growth in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The concerned authority stated that a number of healthcare projects has been implemented, the most important of which are the establishment of the Kidney Dialysis Center in Al- Hunainiyah, the expansion of Al-Zallaq and Al-Hoora health centers, the establishment of the Physiotherapy Department at Hamad Health Center, the construction of a multi-level car parking building at the Salmaniya Medical Complex and the establishment of a number of new healthcare centers in Duraz, Sitra, Qalali and Askar. Work is underway to establish the Muharraq Medical Complex (long stay care center) and the Multiple Sclerosis Center.

In addition, the private sector has been called upon to provide services in areas where it can offer high added value services and ease pressure on the Ministry of Health.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

#### 5) Text of the Recommendation:

Raise community awareness, among secondary school female students, on the reproductive rights of women and girls.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The concerned authority stated that Public Health Law warrants maternal and child welfare by following up on

the health of pregnant women throughout pregnancy until the postpartum period, in addition to providing the services and means of family planning and providing diagnostic, preventive and treatment services related to women and child.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

#### 6) Text of the Recommendation:

Develop a drug stock and consumption rate control system by the competent authorities to avoid medicine shortages or unavailability in some government hospitals and primary healthcare centers, while finding drug alternatives in such cases.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The authority stated that a committee was formed upon the instructions of the government to implement the recommendations on drug control, where an operational plan was developed to improve the flow of dispensing and storing medicines in governmental pharmacies, and that work is underway to update the system to allow reading the drug stock electronically and alert before the inventory reaches a critical level to avoid shortage or depletion of medicines, especially the essential ones.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**

- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

**7) Text of the Recommendation:**

Raise awareness among the doctors and employees of health institutions to take notice when caring for pediatric patients that this category requires providing health care under the supervision of their parents, guardians, or relatives.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The concerned authority stated that the Public Health Law has guaranteed the provision of health care for the elderly, and the Law on Practicing Human Medicine and Dentistry Profession has placed some restrictions regarding children, such as the need to obtain the legal guardian's consent before commencing any examinations or surgical intervention, except in cases of emergency and life-saving procedures. The primary and secondary healthcare services in the Ministry also provide several routine health screening tests for the child aiming at early detection and prevention of diseases.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

**8) Text of the Recommendation:**

Clarify the measures taken to include multiple sclerosis (MS) in the category

of chronic diseases pursuant to the Cabinet's decision issued on February 3, 2020, which approved classifying multiple sclerosis as a chronic disease.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The concerned authority stated that multiple sclerosis has been accepted as a chronic disease immediately after the Cabinet issued its decision on February 3, 2020, and accordingly it is treated as a chronic disease and has an approved treatment protocol. Moreover, the project for establishing the Multiple Sclerosis Center, which is the first specialized center for this disease in the Gulf region for age groups (20-50) years, is underway.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

**9) Text of the Recommendation:**

Classify patients with multiple sclerosis as persons with disabilities, especially those who are relapsing and suffering from late stages of the disease.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The authority clarified that the issue of stocktaking and classifying the category of persons with disabilities is the task of the Ministry of Social Development. The Ministry, in cooperation with other governmental and private entities, provides social, health and cultural care for persons

with disabilities, including patients with multiple sclerosis.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

**10) Text of the Recommendation:**

Continue carrying out preventive testing and screening for couples considering marriage and students in schools by the competent authorities.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The concerned authority stated that Law No. (11) of 2004 on Pre-marital Screening has established controls for the necessity of conducting the required medical screening for those intending to get married and making it a prerequisite for concluding the marriage contract in accordance with the rules issued under the Ministry of Health's Resolution No. (3) of 2004 to improve reproductive health and puberty among the youth.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

**11) Text of the Recommendation:**

Specify and publish a list of blood tests that must be conducted for newborns, which includes testing of blood type and the most important hereditary diseases to provide the right treatment early on for sick children.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

No response was provided pertaining to this recommendation.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

**12) Text of the Recommendation and Summary of the Response of the Concerned Authority:**

Review periodically the classification of the category of persons with disabilities and introduce the necessary modifications so that patients with chronic disabilities are included in this category to ensure that all persons with disabilities are provided with suitable support.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Health's response:**

The authority stated that the issue of stocktaking and classifying the category of people with disabilities is a task of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development. Therefore, revisiting the classification is the responsibility of the entity entrusted with this task in the first place, and the health institutions provide healthcare to these categories on the basis of this classification.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Social Development's response:**
- **Summary of the Supreme Council of Health's response:**
- **Summary of public hospital's response:**

The NIHR have not received a reply during the time frame of this report.

## Third Topic - Follow-up on the Recommendations of the NIHR Issued at Seminars and Round Tables

### Preface:

1. Within the framework of its assigned role in the field of promoting human rights by strengthening cooperation ties between it and the official authorities on the one hand, and civil society institutions on the other hand, the NIHR organized a Round Table on “the Extent of Compatibility of Urban Planning with the Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain” and a Seminar on “Women’s Rights and Equal Pay”, resulting in a number of recommendations. The NIHR addressed the concerned authorities requesting clarifications regarding the extent of implementing such recommendations on the ground or the possibility of adopting them.
2. Regarding the Round Table, the NIHR addressed three ministries and official entities to obtain their views on these recommendations - each according to its jurisdiction - namely: the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning<sup>11</sup>, the Ministry of Education, and the Supreme Council for Environment (before the establishment of the Ministry of Oil and Environment). In addition, the NIHR informed the Cabinet of these recommendations.
3. The NIHR extends its thanks to those ministries and official bodies that have responded to the NIHR’s requests, and thus have contributed to clarifying their roles in protecting and promoting human rights in the Kingdom. As for the Seminar, the NIHR addressed the Supreme Council for Women, and informed the Cabinet of the recommendations, but it has not received a response from the Supreme Council for Women within the time frame of this report.

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<sup>11</sup> This was the name of the Ministry when the NIHR addressed it, and it later became three ministries: the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. The Ministry clarified that the response came from the Municipalities Affairs and from the Urban Planning and Development Authority.

**Requirement One**  
**Round Table Recommendations on “the**  
**Extent of Compatibility of Urban Planning**  
**with the Right to a Healthy and Sustainable**  
**Environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain”**

**First: Recommendations pertaining to the legislative and legal system**

**1) Text of the Recommendation:**

Develop the national legislative system to keep up with global developments, especially with regard to the Environment Law.

**2) Text of the Recommendation:**

Activate communication between civil society institutions and the legislative authority to coordinate urban issues, in order to draft laws that support the environment.

**3) Text of the Recommendation:**

Develop existing legislation pertaining to the establishment and formation of civil society institutions, particularly those related to the environment, to be a key and significant partner with the relevant official authorities.

- **Summary of the Urban Planning and Development Authority’s response:**

The concerned entity stated that it concurs with the recommendations, while emphasizing the primacy of observing the environmental aspect during reviewing or updating the laws or requirements regulating construction work.

- **Summary of the Municipalities Affairs’ response:**

The concerned authority reported that the Public Cleanliness Law was enacted to enhance the development of the national legislative system supporting the environment and sustainability. Moreover, it added that close cooperation and

collaboration with the Bahrain Society of Engineers exists at all levels to establish and form joint technical committees to become a key and significant partner with the relevant official authorities.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council for Environment’s response:**

The concerned entity indicated that there is a set of legislation, laws and resolutions related to the subject area of the above recommendations, and the Council coordinates with the Urban Planning and Development Authority regarding the new regulatory requirements for construction, defining protection zones and adding the requirements of construction.

**Second: Recommendations pertaining to the policies, strategies and action plans development system**

**1) Text of the Recommendation:**

Adhere to the requirements contained in the environmental guideline issued by the United Nations, protect habitats and ecosystems, and expand the concept of natural reserves.

**2) Text of the Recommendation:**

Integrate the right to a healthy environment in all the policies to achieve sustainable development goals, in particular pursue developing the National Sanitation Strategy in line with sustainable development goals.

**3) Text of the Recommendation:**

Participate effectively to develop policies pertaining to the right to a healthy environment by all governmental and non-governmental agencies.

**4) Text of the Recommendation:**

Review the requirements for construction to consider updating the decision on the

regulatory requirements, especially with regard to environmental needs.

**5) Text of the Recommendation:**

Focus on operationalizing environmental management of projects that are licensed to determine the environmental requirements and green spaces for new buildings.

**6) Text of the Recommendation:**

Link urban development with sustainable environment.

**7) Text of the Recommendation:**

Preserve wild and seasonal weeds and prevent uprooting them because they are useful for stabilizing the soil and preventing dust from flying in the air and play a vital role in the purification of the air.

- **Summary of the Urban Planning and Development Authority's response:**
  - The Authority, with regard to recommendations No. (1-3), stressed the importance of reflecting the environmental aspects in policies and strategies to support the attainment of sustainable environment and development.
  - Regarding recommendation No. (4), the Authority reported that the regulatory requirements for construction are currently being reviewed and updated to address all the challenges and meet the needs on an ongoing basis.
  - The Authority stated that it concurs with recommendation No. (5) and proposes to examine the recommendation when updating the Green Building Guide that was issued in 2019.
  - Regarding recommendation No. (6), the Authority stated that the National Detail Land Use Plan 2030 has

- given priority to sustainable development within Strategy No. (10) entitled "Promoting a Promising Future at a Steady Pace".
- With respect to recommendation No. (7), the Authority stated that it is outside its jurisdiction.
- **Summary of the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning's response:**
  - The concerned authority reported that municipal laws and regulations have been drawn up by following a set of guidelines, including the United Nations guidelines on the environment and protection of the natural environment and that there is active participation with the municipal councils in the four governorates. The authority added that it conducts periodic reviews of the requirements for construction while paying attention to the environmental aspect. In addition, specific percentages of land have been adopted and allocated for green spaces in new buildings, with a close link between urban development and sustainable environment. The authority also reported that it coordinates with the Supreme Council for Environment regarding preserving wild and seasonal weeds and preventing their uprooting due to its benefit in stabilizing soil and preventing dust from flying, as well as its vital role in the purification of air.
  - Regarding recommendation No. (6), the authority stated that the construction and maintenance sector ensures that best practices in the construction field are applied, through which resource efficiency is increased, including energy and water, and the impacts of construction

work on human health and the environment is reduced. Thus, the Green Buildings Guide was issued pursuant to Resolution No. (212) of 2019 so that construction work is carried out consistent with green requirements and specifications, which contributes to the optimal use of resources, increases efficiency and reduces the various adverse effects of construction work on the environment.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council for Environment's response:**

- The Supreme Council reported that the upgrade of Tubli Sewage Treatment Plant is being implemented by the Ministry of Works to develop and expand the Plant, which is expected to be completed in 2024. In addition, other current projects with the Ministry of Works are expected to contribute to improving water recharge in Tubli Bay and the environmental situation in the surrounding area. In addition, the Supreme Council is in the process of developing a sustainable policy for the management of sludge resulting from wastewater treatment in coordination with the Ministry of Works to reduce air pollution resulting from sludge treatment and disposal.
- The Supreme Council also added that it has launched the National Plan for Persistent Organic Chemical Pollutants (POPs) and has developed future policies to control and prevent the release of these pollutants in all sectors and the environment. Moreover, it has developed the Bahrain Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan, which involves reducing emissions, intensifying afforestation and expanding Mangroves areas, and supervises its implementation.

- The Supreme Council, in cooperation with the relevant government agencies, visited all service facilities located within the residential areas in the governorates in an initiative to rectify the conditions of residential neighborhoods close to these facilities.
- The Supreme Council has participated with Muharraq Municipality in surveying the old houses that contain hazardous asbestos sheets to ensure that they are dealt with in an environmentally sound manner.
- The Supreme Council has developed an air quality monitoring network and increased the number of its stations from (3) to (13) geographically spread stations, and has monitored the backfilling and dredging activities for a number of projects through field visits.

### **Third: Recommendations pertaining to the community partnership system**

#### **1) Text of the Recommendation:**

Prepare a reference guide to humanize cities and make them more sustainable.

#### **2) Text of the Recommendation:**

Rehabilitate cities whereby streets are improved by providing trails intended to be used by pedestrians and paths for bicycles to create a healthy and sustainable environment for all.

#### **3) Text of the Recommendation:**

Improve water quality.

#### **4) Text of the Recommendation:**

Preserve the heritage of the cities.

#### **5) Text of the Recommendation:**

Encourage the key sectors in the Kingdom to adopt proper and safe methods of waste

treatment and expedite the enforcement of implementing the best air quality standards for all citizens and residents alike.

**6) Text of the Recommendation:**

Pay more attention to the problem of sewage water and the odors resulting from it and propose solutions by upgrading the sewage network in conformity with the most environmentally sound systems.

**7) Text of the Recommendation:**

Allocate model parks in all the regions of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

**8) Text of the Recommendation:**

Adopt an approach that integrates the activities of the government and civil society institutions in matters related to the environment by activating the role of these organizations pertaining to monitoring and surveillance to take part in the protection of the environment.

**9) Text of the Recommendation:**

Step up the cooperation of the governmental agencies concerned with the environment with universities and research centers to contain the problem of human settlement, study the environmental impact, and conduct a study on natural water channels.

- **Summary of the Urban Planning and Development Authority's response:**
  - The Authority confirms recommendation No. (1). In addition, it has participated in the preparation of a reference guide on the same subject at the level of the Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).
  - The Authority concurs with recommendation No. (2).
  - Concerning recommendation No. (3), the Authority stated that it has

- participated in the preparation of a guide on the quality of life in the Gulf cities at the level of the Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).
- The Authority concurs with recommendation No. (4), and proposes to present the recommendation to the Authority for Culture and Antiquities.
- Regarding recommendations No. (5) and (6), the Authority indicated that they are outside its jurisdiction.
- Regarding recommendation No. (7), the Authority stated that it allocates sites for establishing public gardens and parks in the various locations in the Kingdom.
- Concerning recommendation No. (8), the Authority reported that the government exerts every effort to enhance integration between the public sector and civil society institutions.
- Regarding recommendation No. (9), the Authority clarified that it is outside its jurisdiction.
- **Summary of the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning's response:**
  - The concerned entity reported that there is a joint committee with specialists from the Ministry of Transportation to approve special paths designated for pedestrians and bicycles, and a special committee to study building facades to preserve the heritage character of cities. In addition, the concerned entity stated that it makes every effort to establish more gardens, trails and model parks. Moreover, the various municipalities together with the Capital Municipality have formed citizen volunteer teams, called the Friends

of the Gardens project, to ensure their participation in maintaining the cleanliness of the gardens in their areas. Joint projects were also undertaken to sort waste from source and use it for recycling.

- Regarding recommendation No. (2), the concerned entity stated that the construction and maintenance projects sector and the road construction sector take into account constructing special bicycles paths on the various streets of the Kingdom, for example Prince Saud Al-Faisal Street, Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Bridge, and the southern street in the Southern Governorate, and that there are plans to construct a cycle path along Bahrain Bay Street. With regard to residential areas, there are a number of proposals to provide a special bicycle path depending on the area that can be made available for this purpose within the roads. The concerned entity reported that it is keen to develop the transport road networks in the Kingdom of Bahrain to cope with traffic and contribute to improving and facilitating its flow in the various regions, and to work on initiatives pertaining to using other means of transportation, such as cycling, riding horses and walking, and spreading these cultures at the level of the Kingdom.
- On recommendation No. (3), the concerned entity stated that it put every effort to implement the best environmental practices in its projects to activate the right to a safe, secure and healthy environment by: reducing scattering dust by using water, managing work hours to reduce noise pollution, submitting en-

vironmental impact assessment reports for certain projects that are expected to have an impact on the surrounding environment, preparing waste management plans (construction waste) during executing projects, tree planting and beautification, using energy saving lamps for street lighting, in addition to using less expensive environmentally friendly asphalt in paving some internal roads.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council for Environment's response:**

- The Supreme Council reported that it has signed memorandums of understanding with several private companies to cooperate in the field of preserving mangroves due to its environmental significance in the Kingdom.
- The Supreme Council indicated that it has participated together with the competent authorities in the preparations for the adoption of healthy cities; the Cities of A'ali, Manama and Muharraq are recognized as healthy cities.
- The Supreme Council has also participated in the development of a smart phone application to inform everyone about real-time air quality indicators.
- The Supreme Council reported that it continues its meetings with the Bahrain Fishermen's Society and the Capital Municipal Council to discuss issues related to algae collection, tides and fish deaths.

**Fourth: Recommendations pertaining to the education, awareness and teaching system**

**1) Text of the Recommendation:**

Strengthen community culture to apply

best environmental practices and sensitize the community about environmental concepts to promote and protect the human right to a safe and healthy environment.

**2) Text of the Recommendation:**

Develop a module for all educational levels to promote the right to a healthy and sustainable environment in order to encourage initiatives in this area.

**3) Text of the Recommendation:**

Encourage tree planting to promote the right to a healthy and sustainable environment for all and encourage soilless agriculture.

**4) Text of the Recommendation:**

Provide support in guiding public opinion toward making the environment of the Kingdom of Bahrain more sustainable and safer.

**5) Text of the Recommendation:**

Increase the role of individuals who are active in the field of environment through setting up activities and organizing environment-related initiatives.

**6) Text of the Recommendation:**

Adopt awareness programs designed for policy and economic decision makers to create a healthy environment.

- **Summary of the Urban Planning and Development Authority's response:**
  - The Authority stated that it believes that educating the community on healthy environmental concepts and practices is of utmost importance, and that it concurs to modernizing the education and teaching system with awareness tools that are supportive of preserving the environment. It also consid-

ers it necessary to encourage the development and implementation of various activities or projects that enhance environment sustainability.

- **Summary of the Municipalities Affairs' response:**
  - The concerned entity stated that it carries out periodic awareness campaigns covering the various regions of Bahrain to boost community culture to implement best practices in the field of safe and healthy environment. It has also developed an all-inclusive strategy to encourage citizens to contribute to increase tree planting. In addition, the entity coordinates with the competent authorities to organize awareness programs to create a healthy environment, sorting and recycling of waste and benefiting from it in several areas.
- **Summary of the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning's response:**
  - Regarding recommendation No. (3), the concerned entity stated that it has launched an initiative to increase the number of trees through government projects at a rate of (140) thousand trees annually, while encouraging the private sector and community members to participate in this initiative. The entity is currently implementing a food security project through which the soilless cultivation technique is used. In addition, the concerned entity indicated that lanes and spaces within the cross-sections of new road projects are reserved whenever possible for the purpose of planting trees and beautification works, as well as the provision of pedestrian and cyclist trails and horse paths (in some areas) for wide streets (width of (20)

m or more). Large shade trees (canopy trees) have been adopted and used in the design of road networks to reduce noise, pollution and heat, especially in the summer.

- **Summary of the Ministry of Education's response:**

- The entity stated that it takes a keen interest in the issue of promoting societal culture and raising its awareness of environmental concepts through implementing a set of measures aimed at consolidating best practices related to the promotion of the right to a safe and healthy environment. Among those measures are: integrating environmental issues into the contents of educational curricula and courses, addressing this topic in core educational subjects, formulating new courses and lessons to promote the right to a safe and healthy environment, and implementing a set of programs and activities that encourage environmental best practices. The concerned entity explained that its educational curricula, programs and school activities aim to promote a culture of planting trees and agriculture.

- **Summary of the Supreme Council for Environment's response:**

- The Supreme Council indicated that it cooperates with the Ministry of Education in spreading environmental culture and boosting the role of teachers and students in preserving the environment, as well as in developing educational curricula to enhance those values among school students, while organizing educational trips to Qurum Nature Reserve and other environmental sites.

- The Council added that it gives awareness lectures related to the environment, especially on the problem of household waste and its management and planting trees, and it launches online awareness campaigns highlighting the responsibilities of the individual towards the environment and sponsors frequent campaigns to clean the islands and beaches.

## **Requirement Two**

### **Recommendations of the Seminar on "Women's Rights and Equal Pay"**

#### **1) Text of the Recommendation:**

Spread awareness among girls and women by raising the level of higher education in various fields such as information technology, mathematics and engineering.

#### **2) Text of the Recommendation:**

Follow-up and evaluate periodically the recommendations of the National Plan for the Advancement of Women, the implementation of its outputs, and the extent of progress achieved, and disseminate the recommendations through various media.

#### **3) Text of the Recommendation:**

Continue to strive for greater societal culture regarding not limiting certain jobs to a specific gender, color, race, or religion.

#### **4) Text of the Recommendation:**

Increase the involvement of the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly in the field of training, technology and science.

#### **5) Text of the Recommendation:**

Continue supporting the rights of women in the areas of training and capacity building, and take part in raising the minimum wage

for both sexes.

**6) Text of the Recommendation:**

Urge the private sector to employ women in the various sectors without exception by

providing the necessary supporting governmental facilitations, especially gradual wage subsidies until reaching full empowerment.

## **CHAPTER THREE - Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain**

### **Preface:**

1. The human rights situation is, as other situations, influenced by the circumstances and changes in the society, whether they are positive changes that advance the human rights situation in the country, or negative changes that make those rights vulnerable to violation. Such circumstances and changes may be the consequence of security, political or economic factors that befell the society in its entity, or a result of violations and abuses that affected its capabilities and achievements.
2. This chapter will address a number of issues that have a direct impact on the situation of human rights, which were selected because the rights associated therewith comprised a high percentage in terms of the number of complaints received by the NIHR, whether from persons whose freedom is restricted, or from ordinary cases, the legal assistance provided by the NIHR, or the cases monitored by the NIHR during this year.
3. Three rights were selected and divided into three topics, namely, the right of ordinary people and persons whose freedom is restricted to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health (the right to health), the right to communicate with the outside world, along with the right to an adequate standard of living (the right to adequate housing and the right to food).
4. The national and international grounds pertaining to each of the three human rights will be highlighted in the first section of each topic, then a selected number of complaints received by the NIHR, the legal assistance it has provided, and a number of cases that have been monitored and the measures taken by the NIHR thereon will be briefly introduced in the second section.
5. Noting that the complaints received by the NIHR, the assistance provided, or the violations monitored through the daily monitoring system with regard to the rest of the human rights can be found in Chapter Four of this Report.

## First Topic - The Right to Enjoy the Highest Attainable Standard of Health (the Right to Health)

### Preface:

1. The right to health is one of the most fundamental human rights. The enjoyment of individuals of this right is not only confined to access to health care and the absence of disease or disability, but also is closely related to the realization of other human rights, including the right to food, housing, work, education, human dignity, life, non-discrimination, equality, prohibition of torture, privacy, and the right to organize. These rights and freedoms, as well as other rights, are inseparable from the right to health, which altogether lead to the enjoyment of the highest level of health.
2. The World Health Organization has defined health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. States should guarantee freedoms and entitlements; freedoms include the right to control one's health and body, and to be free from interference, for example, free from torture and non-consensual medical treatment and experimentation. Entitlements include the right to use a system of health services, and access to suitable health care facilities, as well as for States to take adequate measures regarding the social and economic determinants of health such as food, water, sanitation, safe and healthy working conditions, housing, and poverty.<sup>12</sup>
3. Hence, this topic is addressed in two requirements, where the first requirement is intended to cover the international and national grounds related to the right to health, while the second requirement will highlight the NIHR's efforts in protecting the right to health.

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<sup>12</sup> General Comment No. (14) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Economic and Social Council, published on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/Issues/Health/Pages/AboutRightHealthandHR.aspx>

## Requirement One

### International and National Basis Relevant to the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health

#### (The Right to Health)

##### Section One

###### Ordinary people

1. The right to health is a fundamental right, which the state must take action to ensure that all its citizens enjoy the highest possible standards of it, as violation of the right to health affects the enjoyment of all other related rights, in addition to undermining the most important right, which is the right to life.
2. Regarding international human rights instruments, the First Paragraph of Article No. (25) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 confirms this stating that, **“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.”**
3. The First Paragraph of Article No. (12) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded under Law No. (10) of 2007, states that, **“The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”**
4. Paragraph (2-d) of Article No. (12) of the same Covenant, clarifies that the measures that the States parties

to the present Covenant must take to ensure the full exercise of this right, must include: **“The creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness.”**

5. On the national level, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees the right of everyone to live in a good environment that secures a healthy and safe life for him. Paragraph (a) of Article No. (8) of the Constitution affirms this right and states that, **“Every citizen is entitled to health care. The State is concerned with public health and it guarantees the means of prevention and treatment by establishing various types of hospitals and health care institutions.”**

##### Section Two

###### Persons whose freedom is restricted

1. The right to health care is an integral part of the duty of the authority in ensuring full respect for the inherent dignity of human beings. This obligation is enshrined in the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (The Nelson Mandela Rules) in principles (24) through (35) thereof; as it is firm that the principle of medical attention and the opportunity to receive medical care are among the rights guaranteed to every person, regardless of their legal status. Therefore, every detained or imprisoned person must have the opportunity to undergo an appropriate medical examination after being detained, while ensuring the provision of medical care and proper treatment, specialized and free treatment,

whenever the need arises.

2. In the same context, Paragraph (2) of Article No. (25) of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners indicated that every prisoner has the right to seek the services of a qualified dental officer.
3. Viewed regardless of the legal status of a person, the right is guaranteed under Paragraph (1) of Article No. (12) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which states that, **“the States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”** In addition, Paragraph (2-d) of Article No. (12) clarified that the measures to be taken by States parties to the present Covenant to ensure the full exercise of this right include those necessary to **“the creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness.”** Paragraph (a) of Article No. (8) of the Constitution affirms this right and considers that **“every citizen is entitled to health care”**.

#### Requirement Two

### NIHR’s Efforts in Protecting the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health (the Right to Health)

#### Section One

##### Received complaints

The NIHR played a major role in receiving complaints related to human rights of all types, examining them and referring what it deems necessary to the competent authorities, with effective

follow-up. The NIHR received (80) complaints, of which (30) complaints were related to the individual’s right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (the right to health). One of these complaints was lodged by an ordinary person, whereas the remaining (29) complaints were received from inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers or pre-trial detention centers.

The complaints received by the NIHR, and the actions taken thereon can be summarized as follows:

#### First: Ordinary people

1. The NIHR received a complaint from an individual with special needs - physical disability (F.A.A), about disregarding his condition when his medications are being dispensed at the Salmaniya Medical Complex, despite presenting his disability ID card, as the waiting time is too long when persons with special needs are treated in the same way as the rest of the patients in the waiting lines. Consequently, the NIHR sent a letter to the government hospitals to speedily consider finding a mechanism to make facilities available as much as possible (in general) for persons with special needs. The concerned entity responded that government hospitals are keen to provide all possible facilities with regard to the various services provided, and that the pharmacy provides medicine delivery service to homes, and the patient can benefit from such service instead of attending in person. Moreover, it explained that there is a specialized office at the outpatient pharmacy to help patients with disabilities and that it can extend its services to assist the patient with any related service. In

addition, patients can receive their medications from the primary healthcare center they are associated with if they wish to do so. The NIHR has followed up on the developments with the complainant, and he stated that he will request his medications to be home delivered.

**Second: Persons whose freedom is restricted**

1. The NIHR received (4) complaints from the families of the inmates (D.A.S.), (M.J.M.), (M.M.A.) and (H.A.K.), stating that they have not received treatment and health care for their chronic diseases. Immediately, the NIHR contacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center on behalf of one of inmates, and addressed government hospitals and the Ministry of Health on behalf of the others. The Administration responded that the inmate suffers from a number of chronic diseases and that an appointment was booked for him to see the chronic disease doctor and that he had also suffered from knee pain and given the necessary treatment; regarding the other inmates, the Administration is following up to ascertain they are referred for medical treatment.
2. The NIHR also received (2) complaints from the families of two inmates, (B.M.A.) and (T.Y.T.), in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center about having seizures and epilepsy. Accordingly, the NIHR contacted the Administration of the Center regarding one of the two inmates whose family pleaded to push the follow-up appointments forward. The Administration responded that the inmate has an appointment soon and he will be escorted to the clinic at the

specified date and time. The NIHR contacted the Ministry of Health regarding the other inmate whose family pleaded he be referred to a specialized physician. The NIHR have not received a response from the Ministry during the time frame of this report and is still awaiting its response.

3. Moreover, the NIHR received a complaint from the family of one of the inmates (H.A.A.) of the Pretrial Detention Center stating that the inmates with infectious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis C are not quarantined and contact and mix with the healthy inmates. The inmates with infectious diseases are the ones who distribute food to inmates. Immediately, the NIHR contacted the Administration of the Center, and it was found that the claim was not true.
4. In a related matter, the NIHR received (4) complaints from the relatives of the inmates (Z.M.M.), (E.Y.S.), (Y.A.Y.) and (H.A.M.) that the aforementioned inmates did not receive treatment and health care for their toothache. Immediately, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Health regarding (3) complaints and addressed the Ministry of Interior regarding one complaint. The NIHR found that two inmates were referred to the dental clinic to follow up on their health condition and they were given the necessary medicine and it is following up to ascertain that the other inmates are referred for treatment.
5. In the same context, the NIHR received a complaint from the sister of inmate (N.A.M.), stating that her brother did not receive treatment and health care for his urinary tract and bones diseases. Consequently, the NIHR con-

tacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to confirm the health situation of the inmate and follow it up. The NIHR ascertained that the inmate received the required health care and treatment.

6. In addition, the NIHR received (4) complaints from the families of the inmates (S.M.S.), (A.H.A.), (M.M.A.) and (H.E.M.) stating that they did not receive treatment and health care for their back pain. Accordingly, the NIHR contacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center regarding (3) complaints, and addressed the Ministry of Interior with regard to one complaint. As a result of the direct communication, appointments were set for the inmates and they received the required treatment. The NIHR received a response letter from the Ministry of the Interior stating that the allegation was not true, as the inmate's health condition is being followed up and he is receiving the necessary treatment and health care.
7. The NIHR received a complaint from the mother of inmate (A.A.N.), stating that he was suffering from kidney stones and he was not provided with the necessary treatment. Consequently, the NIHR immediately contacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to consider the complaint. The Administration responded that a consultant urologist checked the inmate and transferred him to the Salmaniya Medical Complex for medical treatment and medication.
8. The NIHR also received (5) complaints from the families of the inmates (Z.L.Y.), (A.M.A.), (H.A.H.), (A.A.M.), and (B.M.J.) that they need to see a

specialized doctor to receive the necessary treatment and health care for their diseases such as poor eyesight, headache, stomach pain, and leg injury. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Health to make sure that the inmates have received the necessary medical care, but it did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.

9. The NIHR received (2) complaints from the families of the two inmates (S.S.A.) and (A.A.A.) stating that they have allergic reactions and eczema on parts of their body and requested to refer the inmates to a specialist physician. Accordingly, the NIHR immediately communicated with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in this regard. The Administration responded that one of the inmates was isolated because of his allergy and then discharged from isolation after recovering and providing him with the necessary treatment. The NIHR followed up on the health status of the other inmate and found out that he was released from the Center after receiving a Royal pardon.
10. The NIHR also received (2) complaints from the families of the two inmates (M.A.R.) and (F.J.A.) stating that they have a tumor in their body and requested to refer them to a specialized physician. Accordingly, the NIHR immediately addressed the Ministry of Health in this regard to look into their case and make sure that they receive treatment and health care. However, the NIHR did not receive a response from the Ministry within the time frame of this Report.
11. In the same context, the NIHR received

one complaint from the sister of inmate (A.J.A.) stating that he has osteoporosis and needs prescription glasses. Accordingly, the NIHR communicated directly with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center and also addressed the Ministry of Health in this regard. The Administration responded that an appointment was booked for the inmate with an ophthalmologist and orthopedic consultant at the Center's clinic, while the NIHR did not receive a response from the Ministry of Health during the time frame of this Report.

12. IN addition, the NIHR received one complaint from the son of the inmate (H.A.M.) stating that he suffers from a chronic disease and needs his medication, in addition to his need to undergo a knee surgery and another surgery done for his teeth. Accordingly, the NIHR visited the inmate during his stay in the Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Health and Social Center to find out his health condition, and hear requests and observations; a detailed report on this case was submitted to the concerned authority. The NIHR contacted the Administration of the Center directly to follow up on his health status. The response indicated that the inmate's health condition is currently normal and has an appointment with the Orthopedic Department at King Hamad Hospital, and that his diabetes medications will be provided after purchasing them from the Procurement Division in the Health and Social Affairs Directorate.
13. The NIHR received one complaint from the aunt of inmate (J.M.A.) stating that he suffers from irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and was not referred to a specialist. Accordingly, the NIHR com-

municated directly with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. The response clarified that the necessary procedure for the inmate were taken as he was checked by the chronic disease physician in the Center's clinic and that the inmate asked for healthy meals.

## **Section Two**

### **Provided legal aid**

The NIHR provided (306) legal aid services, of which (59) legal aid services were related to the individual's right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (the right to health). One of the legal aid services was provided to ordinary people and (58) legal aid services were provided to inmates and detainees in correction and rehabilitation centers or remand centers (pre-trial detention centers).

The legal assistance provided by the NIHR and the actions taken thereon, can be summarized as follows:

#### **First: Ordinary people**

1. The NIHR provided legal assistance to (E.M.A.) who requested to get help to continue dispensing the medications he was getting from Al-Moayyed Unit for Treatment of Addicts in the Psychiatric Hospital. The NIHR followed up on the matter and found that the medications were being dispensed to him during his stay in the hospital and that he no longer needs them after his recovery and discharge, and that the continued dispensing of these drugs may put him at the risk of addiction. The NIHR informed him of the procedures followed in this regard, provided him with legal advice, and the case was filed for

the absence of a violated right.

**Second: Persons whose freedom is restricted**

1. The NIHR provided (58) legal aid services to the inmates and detainees of rehabilitation and reform centers and pre-trial detention centers, whether the inmates submitted the requests themselves or their families. The cases varied between requesting assistance in referring them to specialist physicians; or in following up their health status with physicians and booking their periodic appointments in various medical specialties, including dentistry, ophthalmology, internal medicine, heart; or obtaining an order to bring in medicines or medical supplies for the inmates who have chronic diseases, and so on. The NIHR reviewed and studied all the requests for legal assistance and took the necessary action in their regard, communicated directly with the administration of the correction and rehabilitation centers and pretrial detention centers to ascertain the health conditions of inmates and detainees, and reached appropriate solutions. The NIHR also addressed the competent authority regarding a number of cases.
2. The NIHR provided (5) legal aids to the inmates (M.N.Y.), (M.H.D.), (A.M.A.), (H.M.A.), and (B.A.M.) based on the request of their families to check on their health conditions and refer them to a chronic diseases specialist. The NIHR immediately communicated with the Administration of the Center and found out that the inmates were checked by a chronic disease physician, provided with the appropriate treatment and have upcoming medi-

cal appointments; also, one of the inmates is provided with healthy meals.

3. In addition, the NIHR provided (8) legal assistances to (M.A.M.), (H.A.A.), (A.A.J.), (H.A.M.), (A.H.H.), (M.S.S.), (Y.N.A.) and (A.S.J.) who did not receive treatment and health care for their toothache. Immediately, the NIHR contacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center with regard to three legal assistance cases to learn about their health status after being referred to the inpatient clinic. It also addressed the Ministry of Health regarding the other legal assistance cases. The Administration of the Center responded that the inmates were checked by the dentist and the necessary treatment was dispensed to them. However, one inmate needed tooth extraction, but he refused to do so. Meanwhile, the NIHR is following up the matter to make sure that the other inmates are referred for treatment, as it did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.
4. The NIHR also provided (5) legal assistances to (W.W.S.), (S.Y.A.), (M.A.A.), (F.A.A.), and (K.E.A.) requesting to be checked by a specialist physician regarding the allergies and eczema in the different parts of their body. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Health, but did not receive a response during the time frame of this Report. After following up on the health situation of one inmate with his family, the NIHR found that he was provided with the necessary treatment. During its field visits, the NIHR met with one of the aforementioned inmates and was told that he received the required treatment and health care. Meanwhile, the NIHR is following up the

matter to make sure that the other inmates are referred for treatment.

5. In addition, the NIHR provided (5) legal aids to (B.A.M.), (S.A.S.), (S.J.A.), (H.H.A.) and (J.A.N.) to obtain an order to bring in medicines and medical supplies such as prescription eyeglasses and eye lenses. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Health and communicated directly with the Administration of the Center in addition to addressing the Ministry of Interior with regard to one of the legal assistance cases. The response regarding one of cases indicated that the prescription issued by the attending physician was limited to sunglasses and not eyeglasses. The NIHR followed up on the other cases and found that the medicines were allowed in and that the inmates completed their necessary treatment and health care, and that one of them was released from the Center.
6. The NIHR provided (2) legal aids to (A.H.A.) and (H.A.H.) regarding completing their medical appointments for their back pain. The NIHR contacted the Administration of the Center and the Ministry of Health regarding this matter and it was confirmed that one of the inmates was referred to his medical appointments and followed up by the visiting orthopedic consultant from the Salmaniya Medical Complex; meanwhile, the NIHR is following up the matter to make sure that the other inmate's right to treatment and health care is fulfilled.
7. Moreover, the NIHR provided (2) legal aids to the families of the two inmates (M.M.A.) and (K.A.K.) regarding arranging a visit with the two inmates, as they are being hospitalized in the

Salmaniya Medical Complex from diseases such as back inflammation, high blood pressure and heart disease. The NIHR immediately communicated with the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to look into the matter. The Center responded that a visit is being arranged for the families of the two inmates, and that one of them was seen by the chronic diseases doctor at the Center's clinic, treatment was dispensed, and follow-up appointments were booked at the Salmaniya Medical Complex.

8. The NIHR also provided (3) legal aids to (M.H.A.), (A.S.M.) and (F.M.R.), regarding their request to look into resuming dispensing their epilepsy drugs after it was stopped although the prescription had not expired and to be checked by the specialist physician. Immediately, the NIHR contacted those concerned directly. The response regarding one of the inmates clarified that he was transferred to the Neurology Department in the Salmaniya Medical Complex and he is being followed up by the physicians at the Center's clinic. The NIHR also followed up on the health status of the other inmates and it was confirmed that their treatment was completed and their medicines dispensed. The assistance cases were filed as the result was achieved.
9. In another context, the NIHR provided (2) legal assistances to (F.T.R.) and (A.Y.A.), in which they requested access to treatment and health care for hepatitis C. The family of one of the inmates requested referring him to a psychiatrist. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Health to look into the matter, but it did not receive a response within the time frame of

this Report.

10. In the same regard, the NIHR provided (22) legal aids to a number of inmates regarding their need to see a specialist physician to receive treatment and health care for various diseases, including headaches, hallucinations, pelvic friction, irritable bowel syndrome, prostate problems, injuries to the legs and hands, eye pain, paresthesia in the body, glands in different parts of the body, as well as requests for surgery, CT scan of parts of the body, or requests for post-operative medical checkup. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Health and communicated directly with the Administration of the Center regarding some cases. The Administration of the Center responded that some of the inmates were checked by the specialist physician, appointments were booked for them, and they received the necessary medical care; it also reported that some claims were not true.
11. The NIHR also provided one legal assistance to the inmate (D.F.H.), regarding his right to be informed of his health condition and the reason for placing him in quarantine for a long time. The NIHR followed up on his health condition and it found that he was released from quarantine after he had recovered.
12. In another context, the NIHR provided one legal assistance to the detainee (M.K.A.), in which he requested to be kept in the Salmaniya Medical Complex and not be sent back to pretrial detention due to his health condition. The NIHR examined the complaint and concluded that the assessment of the health condition of the detainee or inmate and whether there is a need

to remain in the hospital is subject to the discretion of the attending physician, and accordingly the case was filed for lack of jurisdiction.

13. In addition, the NIHR provided one legal assistance to the family of the inmate (K.F.K.), requesting to know the reason for the delay in the results of the analysis, as a result of which he was placed in quarantine. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior, but did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.
14. The NIHR also provided one legal assistance to the inmate (Y.Y.A.), whose relatives requested that he be given the coronavirus vaccine after those concerned refused to because he is HIV-positive. The NIHR filed the case for lack of jurisdiction, as the matter is subject to the discretion of the physician. Legal advice was provided to the inmate and he was informed of the procedures to be followed and directed to the relevant concerned authorities. After follow-up, the NIHR found that the inmate was given the vaccine appropriate with his health condition.

### **Section Three**

#### **Monitoring the situation of human rights**

1. The NIHR is responsible for monitoring cases of human rights violations, investigating incidents, and conducting announced and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation in correctional institutions, places of detention, labor gatherings, health and educational centers, or any other public place suspected of being a site of human rights

violations. Furthermore, it is responsible for making suggestions pertaining to the initiatives aimed at putting an end to these violations, and when necessary, expressing its opinion on the position and reactions of those parties.

2. The NIHR has monitored (43) cases, of which (17) cases are connected with the individual's right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable level of health (the right to health), where (6) cases are for ordinary people and (11) cases are related to inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers or pretrial detention centers.

The monitoring cases and the actions taken thereon can be summarized as follows:

**First: Ordinary people**

1. The NIHR monitored news about the delay in the supply of medicines from the Ministry of Health to a Bahraini patient, which is difficult to obtain from abroad as its value is 1000 dinars per package, and the concerned patient needs two packages per month due to her poor health condition. Immediately, the NIHR contacted the patient's family to enquire about her health condition and the measures taken in this matter. It also communicated with the Ministry of Health, and concerted efforts were made to obtain the required medicines.
2. The NIHR monitored an appeal from the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Society pertaining to the unavailability of "multiple sclerosis" drugs in the Salmaniya Medical Complex, as these

drugs are not distributed to patients by the pharmacies of the government health centers, and selling them by the private sector pharmacies or through the Internet (online) and purchasing them from neighboring countries is prohibited, and if they are available, there is a delay in dispensing them to patients, which leads in some cases to handing patients drugs close to their expiration dates, thus cannot be used throughout the period of treatment specified on the prescription, thus, could have a serious impact on the patients' health. The NIHR addressed the government hospitals requesting them to look into solutions to prevent the shortage of medicines in the pharmacy of the Salmaniya Medical Complex in particular, and health centers in general, and investigate the reasons for the shortage of medicines and the delay in dispensing them.

3. The response of government hospitals explained that those concerned at the Salmaniya Medical Complex provide the pharmacy with more than twelve types of medicine for the treatment of multiple sclerosis patients. The consumption of each type varies on a case-by-case basis according to the medical condition, which is determined by holding weekly meetings between all neurologists to discuss multiple sclerosis cases to determine the treatment plan and appropriate medication for each case. Medications are provided according to the outcome of these meetings, but some patients refuse the type of medication that was approved for them during

such meetings and hold on to another medication prescribed to them by their private physicians, which are not available or included in the list of medications used in the Salmaniya Medical Complex pharmacy.

4. The response also added that the Salmaniya Medical Complex periodically reviews the quantities of multiple sclerosis medications and their consumption in coordination with the specialized physicians to ensure that all patients receive the appropriate medication for their condition and make sure that a reserve stock that covers the needs of all patients is available. In light of this, it was decided to increase the budget allocations for multiple sclerosis medications to cater for existing and future patients.
5. The NIHR monitored a case where a number of patients with sickle cell anemia (Sickler) were ill-treated by one of the physicians supervising their treatment at the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center in the Salmaniya Medical Complex, where he delayed their treatment for long hours and dealt with them in an improper and unprofessional manner. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the government hospitals to verify the incident, but did not receive a response during the time frame of this Report.
6. In the same context, the NIHR monitored news about a patient (J.A.), who suffers from sickle cell anemia (Sickler), going on a hunger strike because he was subjected to ill-treatment by one of those supervising his treatment at the Hereditary

Blood Disorder Center in Salmaniya Medical Complex. Accordingly, the NIHR immediately addressed the government hospitals in this regard. The response of the government hospitals reported that the patient received full medical care and attention and that his health condition is stable.

7. One of the cases monitored by the NIHR was about the significant decline in the number of medical personnel working in the Emergency Department at the Salmaniya Medical Complex due to the absence of an attractive work environment and the cancellation of many privileges and financial incentives. This has resulted in a large number of qualified employees quitting their jobs and has reflected on the quality of work. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed those concerned in the Ministry of Health in this regard. A bilateral meeting was held to discuss the issue to come up with solutions that would stabilize the overall situation of the medical staff in a way that does not affect the quality of medical services.
8. In addition, the NIHR monitored a case where a patient (H.M.H.) was subjected to medical negligence by one of the physicians at the Salmaniya Medical Complex, which resulted in giving him an unjust decision by the medical committees denying him early retirement. The NIHR guided the patient, provided him with legal advice, and informed him of the procedures to be followed to appeal the decision of the medical committees, and requested him to inform the NIHR of what has

been done in this regard.

**Second: Persons whose freedom is restricted**

1. The NIHR monitored news about inmate (K.S) who fell while taking a shower hitting his head; this caused difficulty getting to sleep because of the severe headaches he is suffering from. Immediately, the NIHR communicated with those concerned and it was confirmed that he was checked by the physician and received treatment and health care.
2. The NIHR also monitored a case via a phone call by inmate (Y.Y.A.) in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Dry Dock Area in which he explained that not all the inmates in the patients' building receive treatment and health care and that their medications are not being made available from the Salmaniya Medical Complex, and that there are existing cases of Covid-19 among the inmates, police, and nurses. The NIHR contacted the inmate's family and found that he was in quarantine for a period of 14 days. Accordingly, the NIHR communicated with the Administration of the Center and it was confirmed that the inmates received treatment and health care.
3. One of the cases monitored by the NIHR was on the escape of the inmate (M.A.M.), who is one of the convicts admitted to the Psychiatric Hospital, then finding him by the competent authorities. Afterwards, news was circulated that the inmate was infected with the new coronavirus variant. The NIHR communicated with the concerned authori-

ties to check on the inmate's condition and followed up on his health status.

4. On a related context, the NIHR monitored news about transferring a group of inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to the Al-Shamel Health Care Center after their treatment and health care was delayed, which led to the deterioration of their health condition. The NIHR conducted an inspection visit to the Jau Correction and Rehabilitation Center to learn about the requests of the inmates connected with the monitoring case and to ascertain their enjoyment of the rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards.

During the visit, the NIHR witnessed firsthand the conditions of the inmates and met with a number of them to make sure that they are enjoying their legally guaranteed rights, especially the rights pertaining to detention procedures, medical examination and prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases for the safety of the inmates in accordance with the measures taken thereon. Accordingly, the NIHR prepared a comprehensive report on the visit, including its observations and recommendations about the services provided to the inmates, and submitted it to the competent authority.

5. The NIHR monitored news on the appeal of the family of inmate (M.A.D.) requesting to check on him because he was infected with the new coronavirus variant. The NIHR conducted an inspection visit to the

Jau Correction and Rehabilitation Center to see how the inmate was doing. The NIHR prepared a comprehensive report on the visit, including its observations and recommendations, and submitted it to the competent authority.

6. Furthermore, the NIHR monitored news about the inmate (H.F.P.), who have not received medical treatment and health care for his kidney pain, and was transferred to the Center's clinic, but to no avail. The NIHR immediately contacted those concerned in the Center and found that the inmate was checked by the visiting nephrologist from the Salmaniya Medical Complex and the necessary treatment was dispensed to him. Accordingly, the case was filed as the results were achieved.
7. The NIHR monitored the case the inmate (Y.A.), who suffers from dizziness and inability to move and was being subjected to ill-treatment and medical negligence and did not receive medical treatment and health care. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Health to inquire about the health status of the inmate, but it did not receive a response from the Ministry within the time frame of this Report.
8. The NIHR also monitored news about the inmate (F.A.E.), who was subjected to medical negligence, which led to the exacerbation of the health problems he suffers from. The NIHR conducted a visit to the inmate to verify his health condition, and it was found that the inmate has several diseases and that he has received the necessary treatment

and has upcoming doctor's appointments. The NIHR is following up the case with those concerned to ensure that the inmate fully enjoys his right to treatment and health care. Accordingly, the NIHR prepared a comprehensive report on the visit, including its observations and recommendations, and submitted it to the concerned authority.

9. The NIHR also monitored news about the inmate (M.R.A.), who suffers from several health problems, including neck pain and swelling in the left side of his face, and did not receive medical treatment and health care for nearly two months. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Health to follow up on the health status of the inmate, but it did not receive a response from the Ministry during the time frame of this Report.
10. The NIHR monitored news about the case of inmate (A.R.M.) being subjected to medical negligence, as he suffers from severe headache and back pain. The NIHR conducted a visit to the inmate to check on his health condition and found that he suffers from several diseases, including bone pain and a benign tumor in his left foot. Accordingly, the NIHR prepared a comprehensive report on the visit, including its observations and recommendations, and submitted it to the concerned authorities.
11. Moreover, the NIHR monitored news about the inmate (S.A.M.) being subjected to medical negligence, as he suffers from severe back pain. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior to

confirm his health status, but it did not receive a response from the Ministry within the time frame of this Report.

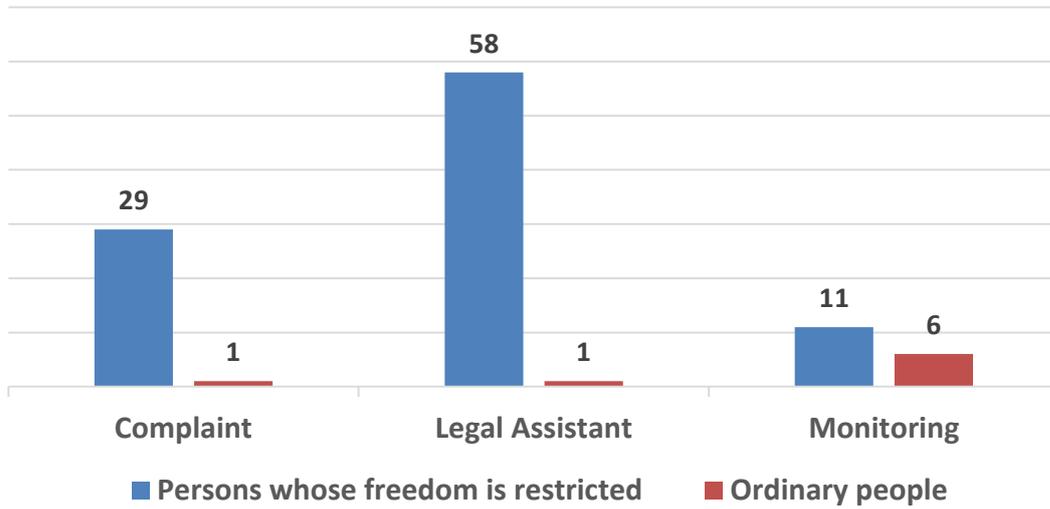
### Requirement Three

#### Recommendations Pertaining to the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health (the Right to Health)

**In view of the above, the NIHR recommends the following:**

1. Urge the competent authority to develop a monitoring system for drug stock and consumption rates, to avoid drug shortages or unavailability in various pharmacies and short expiry dates. In addition to ensuring that the medicines are compatible with the needs of patients, especially those with chronic diseases and people with disabilities, while making sure that the modalities for obtaining them are easy and convenient.
2. Call for establishing a mini-hospital in reform and rehabilitation centers and activating work procedures as soon as possible for transferring ailing inmates speedily, especially for urgent cases. In addition, provide the mini-hospital with specialized medical staff in various fields, including, for example, the rehabilitation and treatment of drug addicts, internal diseases, diagnostic services and treatment for mental illnesses as the case may be, minor surgeries and dental clinics, in addition to providing a comprehensive pharmacy to avoid shortage or delay of medicines obtained from Salmaniya Medical Complex, provided the mini-hospital is affiliated with the competent authority concerned with the affairs of public hospitals and primary healthcare centers.
3. Urge the Ministry of Health to appoint medical staff in the Emergency Department of the Salmaniya Medical Complex, proportionate with the number of patients and cases attended to achieve the right to health.
4. Call upon the competent authority to conduct medical checkups for all the convicts as soon as they are received by the correction and rehabilitation center or the detention center.
5. Grant inmates the right to seek a second medical opinion.
6. Urge the competent authority to expedite the transfer of sick inmates who cannot be treated in the correction and rehabilitation center, such as for mental illnesses, to a specialized hospital.

**Number of cases pertaining to the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health**



## Second Topic - The Right to Communicate with the Outside World

### Preface:

1. The right to communicate with the outside world is one of the most imperative minimum rights that must be recognized for persons whose freedom is restricted. This right contributes directly to supporting the mental health condition of the inmate and imparting reassurance and stability, which undoubtedly reflects on him/her and enhances his/her positive behavior. This can be achieved by granting the inmate the right to communicate with his/her family, friends, or those who are entitled to facilitate his/her daily life. The right to communicate with the outside world is an important element of social cohesion as well.
2. Given the importance of this right and its key role in the rehabilitation of inmates, this topic will be addressed in two requirements. The first requirement will be devoted to talking about international and national grounds related to the right to communicate with the outside world. The second requirement will highlight the NIHR's efforts in protecting the right to communicate with the outside world, while the relevant recommendations will be presented in the third requirement.

### Requirement One

#### International and National Basis Pertaining to the Right to Communicate with the Outside World

1. The right to communicate with the outside world is one of the most important minimum rights that must be recognized for inmates. This right contributes directly to supporting the inmate's mental health and serves to build his/her confidence and stability. It is achieved by granting the inmate the right to communicate with his/her family, friends, or whoever has the right to facilitate his/her daily affairs. It is an essential part of the social rehabilitation of the inmate and an important element to returning to his/her community.
2. The right to communicate with the outside world is also a basic guarantee that protects inmates from being subjected to violations such as torture and ill-treatment, as confirmed by several relevant international instruments, as well as the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the relevant national legislation.
3. Regarding international human rights instruments, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded under Law No. (56) of 2006, affirms, in Paragraph (b) of Article No. (14), this right by saying that, "Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees, in full equality: (b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense and to communicate with counsel of his own choosing."
4. In addition, Paragraph (3-a/b) of Article No. (14) of the same Covenant stipulates that, "Everyone charged

with a criminal offence shall be entitled during the consideration of his case to the following minimum guarantees, in full equality: (a) To be informed promptly and in detail in a language which he understands of the nature and cause of the charge against him; (b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense and to communicate with counsel of his own choosing.”

5. The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance affirms in Paragraph (2-d) of Article No. (17) that, “Each State Party shall, in its legislation: (d) Guarantee that any person deprived of liberty shall be authorized to communicate with and be visited by his or her family, counsel or any other person of his or her choice, subject only to the conditions established by law, or, if he or she is a foreigner, to communicate with his or her consular authorities, in accordance with applicable international law.”
6. The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners guarantees the right to communicate with the outside world, in Rule No. (37) stating that, “Prisoners shall be allowed under necessary supervision to communicate with their family and reputable friends at regular intervals, both by correspondence and by receiving visits.” Rule No. (38) states that, “(1) Prisoners who are foreign nationals shall be allowed reasonable facilities to communicate with the diplomatic and consular representatives of the State to which they belong. (2) Prisoners who are nationals of States

without diplomatic or consular representation in the country and refugees or stateless persons shall be allowed similar facilities to communicate with the diplomatic representative of the State which takes charge of their interests or any national or international authority whose task it is to protect such persons.”

7. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules) stipulates in Rule (85/1) that, “Prisoners shall be allowed, under necessary supervision, to communicate with their family and friends at regular intervals: (a) By corresponding in writing and using, where available, telecommunication, electronic, digital and other means; and (b) By receiving visits.”
8. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in the provision of Article No. (31), guarantees that the inmate enjoys the exercise of his/her right in a manner that does not undermine its essence and does not dispossess its value and purpose, while acknowledging the right of the competent authority to set regulatory controls, provided that they are not abused, are in line with legal frameworks and international standards adopted in this regard, and that such right is not subject to any restrictions or controls except to the extent necessary to attain the interests of justice and corresponding to the legal status of the detainee.
9. In addition, the Code of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Legisla-

tive Decree No. (46) of 2002 regarding criminal procedures, as amended, affirmed this right in Paragraph (2) of Article No. (61) thereof, by stating that, "Every person who is arrested shall be informed of the reasons for his/her arrest and shall have the right to contact any of his relatives to inform them of what has happened and to seek the aid of a lawyer."

10. Law No. (18) of 2014 on Correctional and Rehabilitation Institutions affirms this right in Article No. (15) thereof, by stating that, "if a detained or imprisoned person is held or transferred from one place of detention or imprisonment to another, he/she shall be entitled to communicate with his/her family to notify them of the transfer and of the place where he is kept in custody. If a detained or imprisoned person is a foreigner, he/she shall be entitled to communicate with the embassy of the State of which he/she is a national or his/her diplomatic or consular representative, as determined by the executive regulations."

### **Requirement Two**

#### **Efforts of the NIHR in the Area of the Right to Communicate with the Outside World**

This requirement will showcase the efforts of the NIHR in the field of protecting the right to communicate with the outside world for persons whose freedom is restricted in three consecutive sections. The first section will cover the complaints received pertaining to the right to communicate with the outside world for persons whose freedom is restricted, whereas the second section

will be devoted to highlight the legal assistance provided by the NIHR in connection with the said right, while the third section will cover the monitoring cases.

### **Section One**

#### **Received complaints**

1. The NIHR has taken an active part in receiving human rights complaints, studying them and referring what it deems appropriate to the competent authorities. It has also followed up on these complaints, informed those concerned of the procedures to be followed, helped them take action or assist them in settling the complaints with the concerned authorities. During the year 2022, the NIHR dealt with (80) complaints, of which (22) complaints were related to the right to communicate with the outside world and received from inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers or pretrial detention centers. The most significant complaints will be presented as well as the measures taken, as follows:
2. The NIHR received a complaint from the family of the inmate (A.F.A.) stating that he has stopped communicating with them for more than a week. The NIHR contacted directly the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center and found that the claim was not accurate, as the communication record of the inmate was reviewed and showed that he did his regular calls in accordance with the provisions contained in the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law

and its executive regulation.

3. Likewise, the NIHR received a complaint from the family of the inmate (Q.F.M.) stating that he has stopped communicating with them for more than three weeks. Upon communicating with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, the NIHR found that the inmate's penalty was commuted.
4. In the same context, the NIHR received a complaint from the family of the inmate (H.Y.B.) stating that he has stopped communicating with them for a period of 14 days after he was transferred to another ward. During the NIHR's communication with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, it received a call from the family of the inmate informing it that their son resumed communicating with them; thus, the complaint was filed due to the cessation of the violation.
5. The NIHR has also received (4) complaints from the families of inmates (A.A.A.), (A.J.A.), (Y.A.A.) and (H.A.A.) regarding the interruption of their communication with their families for varying periods. The NIHR contacted directly the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in this regard and found that a disciplinary penalty was imposed on two of the inmates and accordingly they were placed in solitary confinement, resulting in interrupted communication with their families, whereas the third and fourth inmates were placed in the quarantine building.
6. In addition, the NIHR received (13) complaints from the families of the

inmates (S.Z.H.), (A.M.M.), (F.A.A.), (M.J.D.), (H.A.A.), (H.A.M.), (M.A.M.), (S.M.M.), (M.A.J.), (H.A.A.), (B.M.J.), (M.J.A.) and (E.Y.A.) regarding stopping communicating with their families for varying periods. The NIHR contacted the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to find out the conditions of the inmates, after which the aforementioned inmates resumed calling their families on a regular basis, which was verified with their families.

7. In a related matter, the NIHR received (2) complaints from the families of the inmates (M.A.K) and (S.F.S.) stating that they have stopped communicating with them for a period of (6) days for the first inmate and (21) days for the other. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior regarding the matter. The response of the Ministry clarified that one of the inmates has committed a number of administrative violations, and thus, a disciplinary measure was imposed on him and he was deprived of some of the privileges; he was granted another visit.

## **Section Two**

### **Legal assistance provided regarding the right to communicate with the outside world for persons whose freedom is restricted**

1. During the year 2022, the NIHR provided (306) legal assistances, of which (4) legal assistance cases were related to the right to communicate with the outside world. These assistance cases and the measures taken will be presented,

as follows:

2. The NIHR provided one legal assistance to the family of the inmate (M.H.A.), who suffered from a health problem, and accordingly, was referred to the Salmaniya Medical Complex where he was kept for 6 days and was not able to communicate with his family. After following up with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, the NIHR found that the inmate's family was granted a private visit on the same day the complaint was submitted, and accordingly the case was filed as the result was achieved.
3. The NIHR also provided legal assistance to the family of the inmate (A.J.S.), to the effect that he had not communicated his family for more than 10 days. Accordingly, the NIHR directly contacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. The Center responded that a visit was arranged for the inmate; but because there was a tip that the inmate will attempt to escape, the visit was canceled and no new date of the visit has been set yet.
4. In addition, the NIHR provided legal assistance to the family of inmate (M.M.Z.), to the effect that the inmate underwent surgery at the Salmaniya Medical Complex and there has been no news of him since, and that his family wants to visit him and check on him. The NIHR contacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and a family visit to the inmate

was arranged the Salmaniya Medical Complex.

5. The NIHR received a phone from the United States of America from the relatives of one of the detainees (A.S.) of Nigerian nationality to the effect that the detainee stopped communicating with his family. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior regarding this matter. The Ministry responded that, after checking the internal records, it did not find any information about the abovementioned inmate.

### **Section Three**

#### **Monitoring the situation of human rights pertaining to the right to communicate with the outside world**

1. The NIHR is mandated to monitoring cases of human rights violations, conducting the necessary investigation, and carrying out announced and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation in correctional institutions, places of detention, labor gatherings, health and educational homes, or any other public place suspected of being a site of human rights violations, and submitting proposals related to initiatives aimed at putting an end to these cases, and when necessary, expressing an opinion on the position and reactions of those parties.
2. During the year 2022, the NIHR monitored (43) cases as of December 31, 2022, the subject of which varied in terms of the human rights allegedly violated, of which (4) monitoring cases were related to the right to communicate with the outside world for inmates in correction and rehabilitation centers. The

most important monitored cases and the measures taken in their regard will be reviewed, as follows:

3. The NIHR monitored news on a social media site about the inmate (H.A.M.) who has not been communicating with his family for 10 days, and that he was transferred to solitary confinement; his family demanded in the news being monitored to uncover his fate or whereabouts. Accordingly, the NIHR communicated directly with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, where it found that the inmate has already communicated with his family, and therefore, the case was filed because the violation ceased to exist.
4. The NIHR also monitored news on 28/6/2022 about the inmate (F.A.) who stopped communicating with her family for more than a week without explanation. Accordingly, the NIHR communicated directly with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center for female inmates on 17/7/2022. The Center responded on 18/7/2022 explaining that the inmate is communicating normally and continuously with her family, the last videocall was on 15/7/2022, and that she also has videocalls with her son, who is an inmate in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, every month. The NIHR filed the case because there is no violation of right.
5. The NIHR also monitored news about canceling the visit of inmate (M.A.A.) at the Correction and Rehabilitation Center and that his communication with his family has

stopped since August 10, 2022. It was mentioned in the news that the inmate was detained incommunicado and there has been no news of him altogether, as well as canceling his visit, which was scheduled for September 5, 2022. Accordingly, the NIHR contacted the Administration of the Center. The Center responded that a visit was arranged for the inmate on September 5, 2022, but because there was a tip that the inmate intends to escape, the visit was canceled.

6. The NIHR monitored news about the inmate (M.A.A.) to the effect that he had not communicated with his family since September 11, 2022, due to a breakdown in the communication system in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Building 7). Accordingly, the NIHR communicated with the Administration of the Center in this matter. The Center responded that the problem in the building has been fixed and that the phones dedicated to inmates are functioning well now.

### **Requirement Three**

#### **NIHR's Recommendations Related to the Right to Communicate with the Outside World**

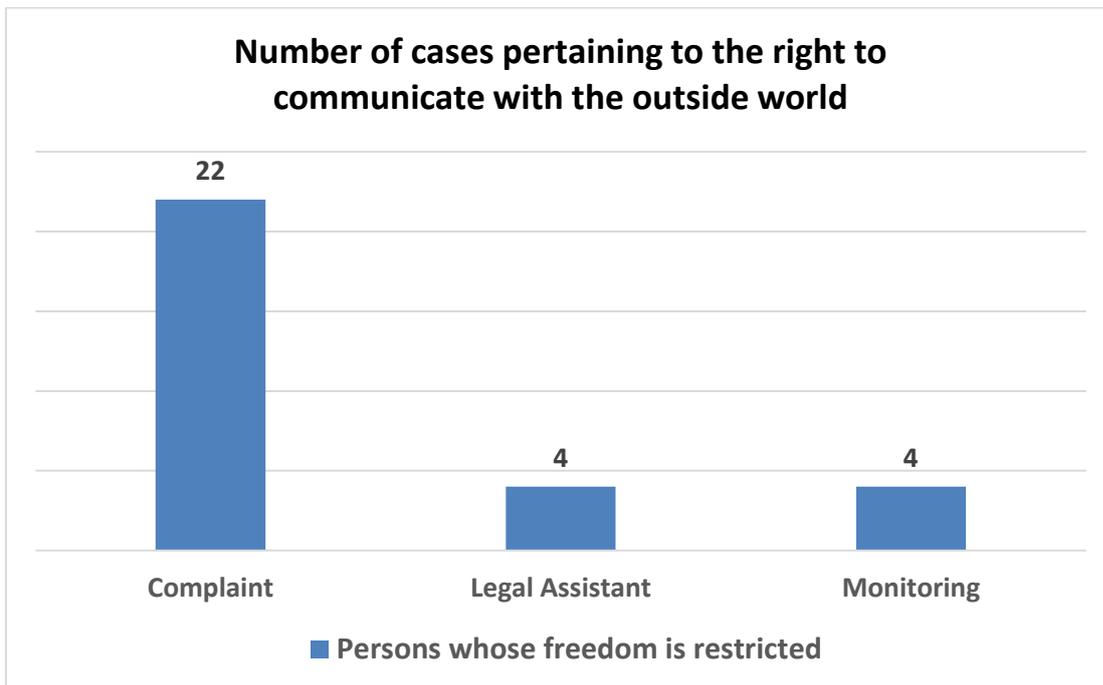
**In view of the foregoing, the NIHR recommends the following:**

1. Take the necessary measures to avoid interruption of communication of persons placed in pretrial detention centers or correction and rehabilitation centers.
2. Call for increasing the number of video calls allowed to inmates or

detainees, in particular those quarantined, have infectious diseases, or isolated in designated buildings.

3. Expedite taking the necessary measures to ensure that the inmates and detainees in correction and rehabilitation centers are granted the right to communicate immediately

with any member of their family to inform them of what happens, and to enable them seek the assistance of a lawyer, whether in felonies or misdemeanors, while giving the lawyer sufficient time when meeting the inmate or the detainee.



## Third Topic - The Right of Individuals to an Adequate Standard of Living

### Preface:

1. The right to an adequate standard of living is one of the most important human rights of all kinds. It is one of the requirements for the realization of every individual's human dignity. Providing everyone with the basic needs unconditionally enables achieving that adequate standard of living. Fundamental rights, such as the right to adequate housing and the right to access adequate water and food derive from the right to an adequate standard of living. People should be able to enjoy their basic needs in conditions of dignity through the enjoyment of a clean environment, clothing, and others.
2. In practice, it is the responsibility of the state to ensure the provision of the right to an adequate standard of living for a number of groups in society. The first category is ordinary people, including the most vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, children and people with disabilities, while the second category is persons whose freedom is restricted and their right to an adequate standard of living must be guaranteed in places of detention and correctional and rehabilitation centers.
3. Therefore, this topic will be dealt with over four requirements. The first requirement will cover the international and national grounds related to the right to an adequate standard of living for ordinary people and persons whose freedom is restricted. The second requirement will be devoted to highlighting the NIHR's efforts in protecting the right to an adequate standard of living (the right to housing) for ordinary people. The third requirement will showcase the NIHR's efforts in protecting the right to an adequate standard of living for persons whose freedom is restricted by providing the necessary subsistence rights such as food, clothing, and other rights within the reform and rehabilitation centers, which leads to the final and fourth requirement that includes the NIHR's relevant recommendations.

### Requirement One

#### International and National Basis Relevant to the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living

#### Section One

#### Ordinary people

1. The right to work is at the forefront of the rights to which international instruments and national legislation have provided legal cover as it is crucial for the lives of individuals, guaranteeing their enjoyment of a decent life, and upholding their human dignity. The right to an adequate standard of living includes

the right to adequate housing and the right to food, water and clothing.

2. Concerning international human rights instruments, Article No. (25) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 affirms the value of the right to an adequate standard of living, stating that, **"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of**

unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

3. The first paragraph of Article No. (11) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded pursuant to Law No. (10) of 2007, states that, **“The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent.”**
4. The Arab Charter on Human Rights has not overlooked to lay emphasis on this right, as Article No. (38) thereof stipulates, **“Every person has the right to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, which ensures their well-being and a decent life including food, clothing, housing, and services and the right to a healthy environment. The States Parties shall take the necessary measures commensurate with their resources to guarantee these rights.”**
5. On the national legislation level, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain is in harmony with these instruments, as Article No. (9-f) thereto stipulates that, **“The State shall endeavor to provide housing for citizens with limited income ...”**, and

Article No. (15-b) stipulates that, **“The law regulates exemption of low incomes from taxes in order to ensure that a minimum standard of living is safeguarded.”**

6. On the level of ordinary legislation, the legislator has provided the necessary legal cover to protect ordinary natural persons from poverty and the unavailability of the essential living standards for a life with dignity. Therefore, a number of laws were issued containing legal protection for this right, such as Decree-Law No. (10) of 1976 with respect to Housing and its amendments regulating all the issues related to housing services provided by the State; the Real Estate Expropriation Act for the Public Interest No. (39) of 2009, which includes the procedures for the expropriation of private property for public benefit in exchange for fair compensation that guarantees the owner the right to adequate housing. Regarding the right of individuals to access adequate food and water, Legislative Decree No. (18) of 1975 with respect to Fixing Prices and Control thereof, as amended by Legislative Decree No. (11) of 1977, was issued to lay down provisions pertaining to the control of local markets, prevention of monopolistic practices, adherence of merchants to set prices, prevention of manipulation of prices, in addition to specifying the government subsidized commodities and prescribing penalties

for violation.

## **Section Two**

### **Persons whose freedom is restricted**

1. The right to enjoy an adequate standard of living is an integral part of the authority's duty to ensure the full respect for the inherent dignity of the individual, especially persons whose freedom is restricted. This obligation has been established by the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in principles (12) to (22) thereof, setting out the measures to provide the fundamental living necessities for the inmate in places of detention, as every detained or imprisoned person must be provided with an adequate place to live in terms of clothing, food and drink.
2. In the same context, Paragraph (2) of Rule No. (22) of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, which was adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1955, pointed out the right of every prisoner to have access to drinking water whenever he needs it.

### **Requirement Two**

#### **NIHR's Efforts in Protecting the Right of Ordinary People to an Adequate Standard of Living (the Right to Housing)**

### **Section One**

#### **Received complaints**

1. In view of its role in the field of human rights protection, in particular, receiving complaints related to the various human rights, reviewing

them and referring what it deems necessary to the competent authorities with effective follow-up, the NIHR received (80) complaints, of which (2) complaints were submitted by ordinary people pertaining to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living (the right to housing). The complaints received by the NIHR as well as the action taken, can be summarized as follows:

2. The NIHR received one complaint from (Y.A.Y.) that his housing application has been frozen and he has not received the entitlement certificate like other applicants who have been waiting for the same number of years and yet were handed the certificate, due to his failure to renew his data for a year. The NIHR sent (3) letters to the Ministry of Housing to consider the matter, but it did not receive a response during the time frame of this Report.
3. In the same context, the NIHR received one complaint from (R.A.A.) to look into the reason why the Ministry of Housing suspended payment of his housing allowance. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Housing regarding the matter, and the Ministry responded that it resumed payment of housing allowance retrospectively for the above-mentioned complainant after completing the legal procedures.

## **Section Two**

### **Provided legal assistance**

1. The NIHR provided (306) legal assistance services, of which (8) legal aids, related to the right of the individual to enjoy an adequate standard of living (the right to housing)

for ordinary individuals. The assistance provided by the NIHR and the action taken can be summarized as follows:

2. The NIHR provided (3) legal assistance services to (F.H.A.), (A.A.A.) and (A.A.M.) regarding looking into their housing application and the reason for not granting them the housing unit after waiting for 15 to 25 years since submitting their applications. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Housing regarding one of these legal aid cases after all the documents have been completed. However, the NIHR did not receive a response from the Ministry during the time frame of this Report. As for the other assistance cases, the NIHR filed them because there was no violated right, considering that the applications of the concerned are proceeding properly in accordance with the general procedures of the Ministry of Housing.
3. In addition, the NIHR provided (2) legal aids to (S.A.A.) and (A.H.A.), regarding looking into the reason the Ministry of Housing stopped the disbursement of their housing allowance. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Housing on the matter; however, it did not receive a response during the time frame of this Report.
4. In connection with the right to housing, the NIHR provided one legal aid to (J.Y.M.), who is a person with a physical disability regarding his request to halt the construction of the residential building next to his house fearing that it will cause overcrowding in the area, which has

one single way in. The NIHR reviewed the request for legal assistance and informed the applicant of the procedures to be followed by filing a complaint with those concerned in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, or resorting to the competent court.

5. In another context, the NIHR provided one legal assistance to (H.K.A.), who has a disability, as she has a permanent disability in her leg, requesting assistance to change her housing application from an apartment to a housing unit (house). The NIHR studied the complaint and informed the above-mentioned of the procedures to be followed in this regard, and advised her to submit her request directly to the Ministry of Housing.
6. Moreover, the NIHR provided one legal assistance to (A.A.B.) requesting assistance in taking back her housing unit after she was evicted from it according to a lawsuit filed against her by someone. Accordingly, the NIHR studied the request for assistance and informed the above-mentioned of the necessary procedures to be followed and advised her to seek redress resort from the competent court.

### **Section Three**

#### **Monitoring the situation of human rights**

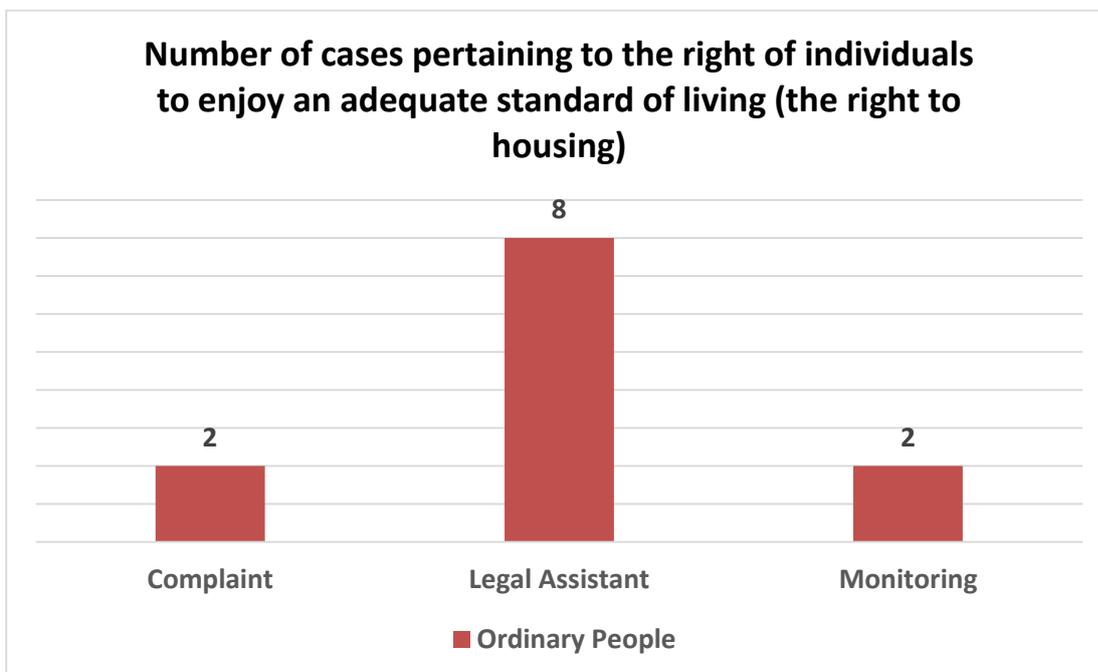
1. The NIHR is responsible for monitoring cases of human rights violations, conducting the necessary investigations, and carrying out announced and unannounced field visits to monitor human rights conditions in correctional institutions, places of detention,

labor gatherings, health and educational homes, or any other public place suspected of being a site of human rights violations, in addition to submitting proposals for initiatives aimed at putting an end to these cases, and when necessary expressing its opinion on the position and reactions of those parties.

2. The NIHR monitored (43) cases, of which (2) cases related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living (the right to housing) for ordinary individuals. The monitoring cases and the measures taken by the NIHR can be summarized as follows:
3. The NIHR monitored news on social media regarding a widow citizen, who was granted a housing unit. However, the Ministry of Housing withdrew the housing unit before handing over the keys to her after it was found that she has a share in

the inheritance of the house of her husband. The NIHR collected the required information and studied the case to determine if a violated right existed. The NIHR found that the reason for canceling benefiting from the housing unit was that her deceased husband had benefited from a previous housing service, and not as it was mentioned in the monitored news.

4. The NIHR monitored news related to rejecting an application for a category 3 housing submitted by a Bahraini family after the death of its family provider, although they are living in a dilapidated house, without stating the reasons. Accordingly, the NIHR followed up with the source of the published news, and it was found that the information was incorrect.



### Requirement Three

#### The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living for Persons Whose Freedom is Restricted by Providing Essential Living Necessities of Housing, Food, Clothing and Other Requirements

#### Inside the Correction and Rehabilitation Center

##### Section One

##### Received complaints

1. The NIHR played a significant role to ensure respect for the inherent dignity of persons whose freedom is restricted with effective follow up. The NIHR received (7) complaints related to the right of the individual to enjoy an adequate standard of living by providing essential living necessities of housing, food, clothing, etc. inside correction and rehabilitation centers. The complaints received by the NIHR and the action taken can be summarized as follows:
2. The NIHR received (3) complaints from the families of the detainees (M.A.M.), (H.J.H.) and (M.A.A.) to the effect that the food provided to them in the pretrial detention center was of poor quality. The NIHR conducted an inspection field visit to the Dry Dock Detention Center to verify the claim during which the observations, demands and opinions of the detainees were heard and written down. The NIHR prepared a comprehensive report on the visit that included its observations and recommendations about the services provided to the inmates and submitted it to the competent authority.
3. In addition, the NIHR received one complaint from the family of inmate (J.M.A.) at the Correction and Rehabilitation Center regarding his desire to buy new clothes from the store or to provide him with suitable clothes from his family. After following up on the matter, the NIHR made sure that the inmate got the new clothes.
4. The NIHR also received one complaint from the family of the inmate (A.Y.A.) regarding a malfunction in the air conditioners in the building. Accordingly, the NIHR contacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in this regard. After following up the matter, the NIHR made sure that the air conditioners were fixed.
5. The NIHR received one complaint from the family of the inmate (A.Y.S.) to the effect that the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center shuts off water coolers to maintain them from the morning until six o'clock in the evening without providing any other alternative drinking water source for the inmates. Immediately, the NIHR communicated with the Administration of the Center to ensure that the rights of the inmates are protected and preserved and that they are exercising their full rights at all times.
6. The NIHR also received one complaint from the family of the inmate (A.A.A.) to the effect that he was not provided with living necessities (such as: hygiene items (toiletries), bedding and accessories, clothes) in addition to his inability to go to the store (the inmate's shop) to buy such items since he was transferred

to the Jau Correction and Rehabilitation Center. The NIHR immediately communicated with the Administration of the Center, and made sure that the inmate had all his living necessities and that he went to the store to buy whatever he needed. The NIHR found that the inmate's health condition needs to be followed up by a psychiatrist; arrangements were made for the inmate to be checked by the psychiatrist at the Center's clinic.

## **Section Two**

### **Provided legal assistance**

1. The NIHR provided (8) legal aids related to the right of the individual to enjoy an adequate standard of living by providing essential living necessities of the place, food, clothing, etc. inside the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. The legal assistance provided by the NIHR and the measures taken can be summarized as follows:
  2. The NIHR provided one legal assistance to the inmate (K.H.M.) regarding his request to get hygiene items (toiletries). The NIHR contacted the Administration of the Center in this regard and it was found that the inmate was given a lost card replacement and that he purchased all personal needs and hygiene items.
  3. In the same regard, the NIHR provided one legal assistance to the inmate (A.H.A.) regarding a number of living requirements, such as getting a pillow, fixing the broken television set and the desire to go to the store to buy personal needs. The NIHR immediately communicated
- with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. The Administration responded that inmates are allowed to go to the store according to the schedule and hours approved for each building; regarding the television, one of the inmates broke the television screen and the administration has submitted a request to the concerned department to provide a new television set.
  4. The NIHR also provided one legal assistance to the inmate (H.H.J.) regarding the purchase of foodstuffs from the store. The NIHR communicated directly with the Administration of the Center in this regard. The response of the Center stated that the inmate will be allowed to purchase from the store according to the schedule and hours approved for each building.
  5. The NIHR provided one legal assistance to the detainee (R.A.A.), in which she requested to be allowed to get sums of money from her family to buy her own needs from the store. The NIHR immediately communicated with the Administration of the Women's Correction and Detention Center. After following up the matter, it was found that the detained woman was allowed to get the money.
  6. In addition, the NIHR provided one legal assistance to the detainee (A.F.Z.) to the effect that living conditions in detention are poor and that cleaning supplies are not available. Accordingly, the NIHR contacted the concerned body and made sure that all cleaning tools

and supplies are available.

7. The NIHR also provided legal assistance to the inmate (A.M.J.), to the effect that he was transferred to another ward without transferring his personal belongings consisting of a sleeping mat, clothes, and personal items. After following up the matter, the NIHR found that the inmate was released pursuant to the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law.
8. In the same context, the NIHR provided one legal assistance to the inmate (F.A.M.) who went on a hunger strike to protest the living conditions, including the lack of towels and inadequate provision of meals. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior regarding this issue, but it did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.
9. The NIHR also provided legal assistance to the inmate (E.Y.S.), to the effect that he was not taken to the inmate's shop in the correctional center to buy his personal needs, such as hygiene items, etc. Accordingly, the NIHR communicated with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. The response of the Center explained that the aforementioned inmate went to the store three times during the month of December 2022.

### **Section Three**

#### **Monitoring the situation of human rights**

1. The NIHR monitored (2) cases related to the individual's right to enjoy an adequate standard of living through the provision of living ne-

cessities for the place, food, clothing, etc. inside correction and rehabilitation centers. The monitoring cases and the procedures taken by the NIHR can be summarized as follows:

2. The NIHR monitored a phone call from a number of inmates to the effect that hot water is cut from Building No. (17) at the Dry Dock Correction and Rehabilitation Center. Accordingly, the NIHR contacted the Administration of the Center and made sure that the hot water problem was fixed.
3. In the same context, the NIHR monitored the case of the inmates of Building No. (1) Ward (6), who have not received hygiene items and were not allowed to go to the store to buy them. Accordingly, the NIHR communicated with the Administration of the Center, which responded that the inmates of the aforementioned building went to the store on 22/6/2022 and 7/7/2022 and were allowed to pur-

chase all they need, including hygiene items.

#### **Requirement Four**

#### **Recommendations Pertaining to the Right to Enjoy an Adequate Standard of Living**

**In view of the foregoing, the NIHR recommends the following:**

##### **First: Regarding ordinary people:**

1. Work on finding a mechanism to link information between the Ministry of Housing and other agencies in the Kingdom, in a way that ensures that citizens' databases are revised and updated periodically and guarantees that they receive their housing requests when they are due.
2. Reduce the waiting time for citizens to obtain housing services to ensure that they and their families enjoy the right to an adequate standard of living.
3. Coordinate with the legislative authority to enact a comprehensive housing law that prescribes benefits and services, and the grounds and conditions for canceling benefiting

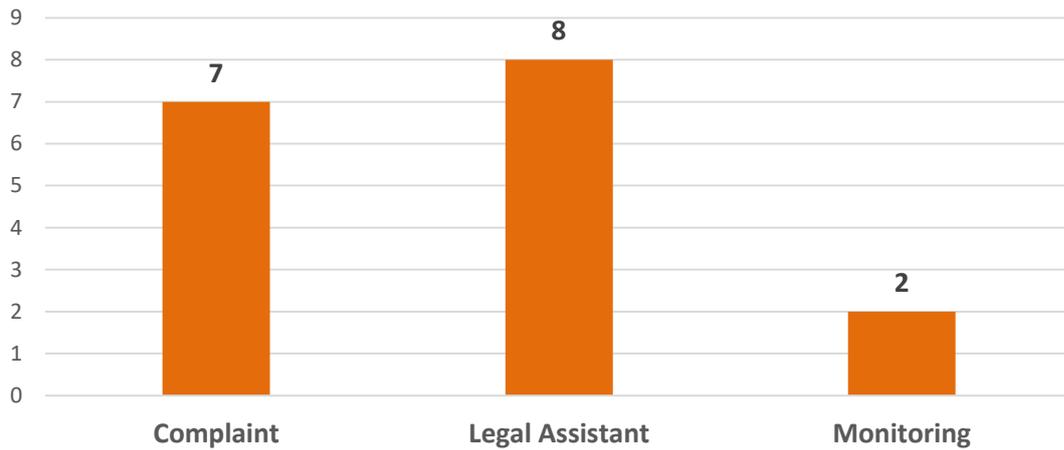
from the services.

4. Seek to involve the beneficiary of the provided housing service – once allocated to him - in developing the design in a manner that is compatible with his family's status and household needs.

##### **Second: Regarding persons whose freedom is restricted:**

1. Review the contents of the store (the inmate's shop) periodically and make sure that all the basic commodities such as clothes and sports shoes of all sizes, cleaning materials, personal care items, and food are available to enable all inmates to buy what they need when it is their turn to go to the store, in addition to the need to monitor prices to make sure they are appropriate and affordable for everyone.
2. Ensure that inmates are present within the appropriate classification in terms of type of criminal offenses, duration, and other criteria that guarantee the well-being of the accused and his compliance with reform and rehabilitation programs.
3. Intensify food inspection and control on a regular basis to ensure its quality and sufficiency, and to make sure that all inmates receive the meals at appropriate times and that they meet the requirements of the inmates' medical conditions, as the case may be.
4. Carry out periodic maintenance of water coolers, water heaters, and air conditioners on a regular basis for all inmates' buildings.

**Number of cases pertaining to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living for persons whose freedom is restricted by providing living necessities for the place, food, clothing, etc in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center**



## CHAPTER FOUR - Efforts Made by the National Institution for Human Rights NIHR to Protect and Promote Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain

### Preface:

1. The role of national human rights institutions is promoted through their constitutional or legislative mandate in the field of “promotion and protection of human rights”. This role is clearly demonstrated in the “Paris Principles” relating to the status of national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights as a constitution for their work and an active and constructive element in promoting and protection human rights in the state system.
2. The role of these institutions in “protecting” human rights is evident, as it is the fundamental pillar corresponding to the role of national institutions in promoting these rights. The role includes monitoring all that would affect the right of individuals to enjoy the rights and public freedoms granted to them, as the monitoring process is a necessary means to ensure the degree and extent of the state’s respect for its legal or international obligations related to human rights. Such protection also requires that national institutions conduct field visits to places where human rights violations are likely to occur.
3. “Promotion” by disseminating the culture of human rights through the various available means, includes conferences, training courses, workshops and lectures to the general public, or specific target groups, in addition to training in the field of human rights and publishing and printing educational leaflets related to the work of national institutions; as the lack of knowledge of the principles of human rights among all segments of society is a reason for their violation, while promoting the concepts of human rights and establishing awareness contributes to providing protection for all those rights.
4. Accordingly, the role played by the NIHR in the field of human rights protection and promotion will be discussed in this Chapter in two main topics: the first of which is dedicated to showcase its efforts in the field of human rights protection, while the second topic will be devoted to reviewing its efforts in the field of promoting those rights.

## First Topic - NIHR's Efforts to Protect Human Rights<sup>13</sup>

### Preface:

1. The provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the National Institution for Human Rights, amended by Decree Law No. (20) of 2016, affirm the role of the NIHR in the field of human rights protection by receiving complaints related to human rights, and conducting field visits to monitor human rights conditions.
2. As Article No. (12) of the same Law stipulates in paragraph (e) thereof that the NIHR has the competence to **“monitor cases of human rights violations, conduct the necessary investigation, and direct the attention of the competent authorities to them while submitting proposals related to initiatives aimed at putting an end to these cases, and, when necessary, to express an opinion on the position of those authorities and their reactions.”** Paragraph (f) of it stipulates its authority to **“receive, study and research complaints related to human rights, and refer what the NIHR deems to be referred to the competent authorities, while actively following up on them, or informing those concerned of procedures to be followed and assisting them in taking them or assisting in settling them with the concerned authorities.**
3. Regarding field visits being one of the monitoring methods granted to the NIHR, paragraph (g) of Article No. (12) thereof stipulates its mandate to **“carry out announced and unannounced field visits, to monitor human rights conditions in correctional institutions, places of detention, labor gatherings, and health and educational homes, or any other public place suspected of being a site of human rights violation.”** These terms of reference are entirely related to the role played by the NIHR in the field of human rights protection.
4. This text confirms the need to expand the competencies in the field of human rights protection in a manner consistent with international decisions in this regard, and that the required protection should not be limited to receiving complaints only, but extends to carrying out the process of tracking and monitoring the situation of human rights and documenting it by various means and methods, as the monitoring process is necessary to ascertain the degree and extent of the state's compliance with its legal or international obligations related to human rights.
5. In this Topic, the complaints received by the NIHR, the assistance it provided, and monitoring cases related to a few other human rights that were not covered in Chapter Three of this report will be addressed in five requirements, as follows:

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<sup>13</sup> A number of complaints received by the NIHR and assistance provided as well as monitoring cases pertaining to various human rights will be touched on under this topic, which are not included in Chapter Three of this Report.

## Requirement One

### Received Complaints

1. Emanating from the NIHR keenness to reach the highest levels of protection and promotion of human rights, mechanisms have been developed to communicate with citizens and residents and receive complaints through the call center service. The NIHR received complaints via its electronic services through the mobile phone application (NIHR BAHRAIN), or through its website ([www.nihr.org.bh](http://www.nihr.org.bh)), or via e-mail ([complaint@nihr.org.bh](mailto:complaint@nihr.org.bh)), or by toll-free hotline (80001144), in addition to receiving in-person complaints at the NIHR's headquarters.
2. Based on its broad mandate in the field of human rights protection, the NIHR dealt with (80) complaints during the year 2022. The most important complaints received by the NIHR related to economic, social, and cultural rights, of which five (5) complaints were related to the right of individuals to enjoy an adequate standard of living (the right to work). One of the complaints centered on the Ministry of Labor nominating a female citizen (N.P.K.) for a job that does not suit her being a person with a disability, which led to discontinuing the unemployment allowance granted to her without any explanation on the part of the Ministry as to the reasons that have led to this. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Labor to consider the matter and clarify the mechanism used in nomination for jobs, and whether the health status of the candidate, especially persons with disabilities, is considered when nominating them for jobs. The efforts of the NIHR have resulted in the Ministry of labor granting the complainant a job as a web page designer, considering her health conditions, being a person with a disability.
3. In addition, the NIHR received (2) complaints from (B.M.A.) and (D.J.D.) stating that they have submitted a request to help them find a job that matches their educational qualifications with the Ministry of Labor, and they were nominated for a number of jobs, but they were rejected by the employer without stating reasons, and when they last checked with the Ministry, they were surprised that their job file was closed, which resulted in the suspension of their unemployment allowance, and according to the procedures followed by the ministry, they submitted a grievance against the issued decision, but it was also rejected. Accordingly, the NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Labor to inquire about the details of the issue. The response to one of the cases was that the job file was closed after the complainant refused (6) job opportunities and failed to attend. The NIHR did not receive a response regarding the other complaint during the time frame of this Report.
4. Additionally, the NIHR received (2) complaints from (A.A.A.) and (H.S.S.), regarding the failure of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Forensic Evidence, and without any reason, to issue them a certificate of good conduct to complete their employment pro-

cedures in a government agency despite continuously checking with the Directorate, where they were always informed that their application is being processed. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior to consider the matter and discuss the possibility of granting them a certificate of good conduct if there is no legal impediment to this, but the NIHR did not receive a response within the time frame for this report.

5. The NIHR received (30) complaints related to individual's right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health (the right to health)<sup>14</sup>, of which (1) one complaint was from ordinary individuals and (29) complaints were from inmates in correction and rehabilitation centers or pre-trial detention centers.
6. On a related note, the NIHR received (9) complaints related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living (the right to housing)<sup>15</sup>. It has received (2) complaints from ordinary individuals about the right to housing, and (7) complaints related to the right of persons whose freedom is restricted to enjoy a decent standard of living through the provision of living necessities like place, food, clothing, within the correction and rehabilitation center.
7. With regard to civil and political rights, the NIHR received one complaint only related to the right to citizenship from citizen (S.S.S.) on the

failure of the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs to grant his grandson (A.H. S) Bahraini citizenship as he was born outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, despite ruling issued by the administrative courts obligating the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs to issue a passport. The ruling was not implemented, which prompted him to communicate with the NIHR, which addressed the Ministry of Interior to consider the matter. The Ministry replied that the concerned checked with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs for the implementation of the ruling in 2019, submitting a power of attorney issued by the Republic of Germany (Berlin) attached to it an uncertified Arabic translation by one of the translation offices in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Accordingly, the NIHR directed the complainant to the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs to submit a certified translation of the power of attorney issued by the Republic of Germany and to attach the necessary documents so that the concerned department can issue the passport.

8. Regarding the right to physical and moral integrity, the NIHR received (6) complaints related to the protection of the right to physical and moral integrity, including a complaint from (M.A.Z.), stating that he

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<sup>14</sup> This right was touched on in Chapter Three of this Report "Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain".

<sup>15</sup> These three rights were touched on in Chapter Three of this Report "Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain".

was ill-treated by a law enforcement officer when he made a statement at the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate. Accordingly, the NIHR provided him with legal advice, enlightened him on the procedures to be followed, and directed him to file a complaint with the Ombudsman General Secretariat, being the authority concerned with receiving complaints against any of the employees of the Ministry of Interior, whether military or civilian, in the event that one of them commits a punishable act during or because of the exercise of his powers, and inform the NIHR of the outcome.

9. In addition, the NIHR received a complaint from a woman (B.S.A.), stating that she was subjected to ill-treatment by a law enforcement officer while he was arresting her. Accordingly, the NIHR provided her with legal advice, informed her of the necessary procedures, and directed her to file a complaint with the Ombudsman General Secretariat, as it is the body concerned with receiving complaints against any of the employees of the Ministry of Interior, whether military or civilian, if one of them commits a punishable act during or because of the exercise of his powers. After continuous follow-up on the part of the NIHR, it was found that H.E. the Minister of Interior had directed those concerned to open an internal investigation into the matter, and all those who were in the patrols during her arrest were summoned, and she was presented to the Special Investigation Unit to provide her with

psychological support until she fully recovers.

10. In the same context, the NIHR received a complaint from the family of inmate (A.M.A.), to the effect that he was mistreated and beaten by a law enforcement officer because he requested to be transferred to the Center's clinic because he has elevated liver enzymes. Immediately, the NIHR addressed the Special Investigation Unit of the Public Prosecution, the Ombudsman Secretariat General and the Ministry of Interior regarding this issue. The only response was received from the Ministry of Interior, in which it explained that it had initiated investigation procedures into the complaint, and it was found that the inmate had violated the orders and instructions in force in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, as he was agitated and rebellious and created chaos in the building; thus, the matter was referred to the security center to complete the legal procedures. The Special Investigation Unit proceeded with the case after receiving all the information, facts, and security camera footage, and the inmate was presented before it. The NIHR did not receive a response from the Special Investigation Unit and the Ombudsman during the time frame of this Report.
11. The NIHR also received a complaint from the family of the inmate (A.M.J.), stating that the inmate was subjected to ill-treatment by officers conducting night searches and entering the toilets while the inmates were inside. Immediately, the NIHR contacted the Correction

and Rehabilitation Center regarding this matter. The Center responded that inspections were conducted in accordance with the procedures and controls in force in the Center, during which several violations were found that required an administrative penalty; and as a result, the inmates of the cell were denied outdoor time for a period of 4 days.

12. Moreover, the NIHR received a complaint from the family of the detainee (H.H.M.) to the effect that he was subjected to ill-treatment by some law enforcement officers in the Dry Dock Detention Center, in addition to forcing him, under threat, to confess to criminal acts he did not commit, and that he was interrogated by the Public Prosecution without having his lawyer present, contrary to the provisions of Article No. (134) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Immediately, the NIHR addressed the Special Investigation Unit of the Public Prosecution, the Ombudsman, and the Ministry of Interior in this regard. The investigation is still ongoing and is being considered by the Special Investigation Unit; the response, after the completion of the investigation, will be included in the next report.
13. The NIHR also received a complaint from the family of the inmate (H.A.M.), stating that he had been interrogated in the building of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Forensic Evidence, without knowing the reason for the investigation, explaining that he was ill-treated by some law enforcement officers. Immediately,

the NIHR sent a letter to the Inspector General Office of the National Security Agency to consider the matter. The Office responded that the complaint was referred to the Ombudsman Secretariat General pursuant to Article No. (81-bis) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

14. Regarding the right to enjoy fair trial guarantees, the NIHR received (3) complaints from inmates at the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, where the first complaint centered around failing to transport the inmate (J.D.S.) to attend the trial session on July 18, 2022, at the High Criminal Court of Appeal, whether in-person or remotely via videoconference technology. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the competent authorities, and it was found that the claim was incorrect, as there was no court session scheduled for the inmate on that date.
15. The second complaint was submitted by the family of the inmate (A.A.A.) regarding failure to allow their accused son to exercise the rights of defense during his appearance before the High Criminal Court. Accordingly, the NIHR attended the trial sessions of the complainant to make sure that the accused and his lawyer enjoyed the right to defence to verify fair trial guarantees in all its stages. The NIHR noted that the session was valid in terms of publicity of proceedings, the defence team was allowed to attend and question witnesses, and listen to their requests and statements, and the defendants were allowed to speak before the court.

16. The third complaint was from the family of the detainee (A.M.) to the effect that the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments did not provide an interpreter in the proceedings of one of the cases before the High Criminal Court of Appeal. Accordingly, the NIHR contacted the defendant's lawyer to validate the complaint; however, the lawyer stated that the complaint was not valid, and that the defendant has upcoming hearings.
17. The NIHR also received one complaint related to the right to freedom of movement, filed by (F.M.M.), stating that he was prevented from entering Bahrain upon his return via the King Fahd Causeway border crossing, without stating the reasons. Immediately, the NIHR contacted the Ministry of Interior to consider the matter; however, no response was received during the time frame of this Report.
18. In addition, the NIHR received one complaint related to the right to take part in public affairs (the right to be elected), submitted by citizen (H.M.H.), stating that the Supervisory Committee for the Safety of Parliamentary Elections prevented him from his right to run for parliamentary elections for the fifth and sixth legislative terms, despite the absence of any legal restrictions to his candidacy. The NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments to find out the reasons behind the Committee's decision; however, it did not receive a response in time for it to be published in this Report.
19. Regarding the complaints related to the right to communicate with the outside world, there were (22) complaints received from inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers or pre-trial detention centers.<sup>16</sup>
20. As for the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms, the NIHR received two complaints. The first complaint centered on the inability of the inmate (Z.J.M.) to complete the procedures for making a formal power of attorney. Immediately, the NIHR communicated with the Administration of the Center in this regard. After follow-up, it found that the required procedures for issuing the power of attorney have been completed.
21. The NIHR received a complaint from (A.A.M.), stating that he was not able to renew his identification documents (smart card) because he has amounts due to the Electricity and Water Authority. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Information and eGovernment Authority but did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.

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<sup>16</sup> This right was discussed in detail in Chapter Three of this Report "Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain".

Right	Total	Ordinary people	Persons whose freedom is restricted
Right to health <sup>17</sup>	30	1	29
Right to work	5	5	
Right to an adequate standard of living <sup>(13)</sup>	9	2	7
Right to social security			
Right to ownership			
Right to a healthy environment			
Right to nationality	1	1	
Right to physical and mental integrity	6	2	4
Right to communicate with the outside world <sup>(13)</sup>	22		22
Right to fair trial guarantees	3		3
Right to take part in public affairs- the right to be elected	1	1	
Right to freedom of movement	1	1	
Right to enjoy various rights and freedoms (civil and political rights)	2	1	1
<b>Total complaints</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>66</b>

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<sup>17</sup> These three rights were discussed in detail in Chapter Three of this Report “Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain”.

## Requirement Two Legal Aid Provided by the NIHR

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the NIHR, as amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, the NIHR takes a role in providing legal assistance to individuals or any party, whether be it filing a complaint where the NIHR is not competent to consider, or upon initially requesting legal aid, by providing information on the procedures to be followed and assistance in taking them before resorting to the NIHR. It is important that the legal aid seeker exhaust all administrative or legal remedies and grievances, as the case warrants, file a report to the competent authorities, or resort to another authority with inherent jurisdiction in view of the request.

In this regard, the NIHR provided (306) cases of legal aid during the year 2022, as follows:

2. In the field of economic, social, and cultural rights, the most important legal assistance provided by the NIHR reached (110) cases, of which (14) cases related to the right to work, the contents of which varied between claiming labor dues, arbitrary dismissal, and other related issues.
3. The total number of aid cases related to unpaid wages owed to workers was (8) cases, of which (6) cases were closed for lack of jurisdiction, with providing legal advice to those concerned, enlightening them of the procedures to be followed and directing them to file a complaint starting with the authorities with inherent jurisdiction, while

one legal aid case was closed at the request of its recipient.

4. Concerning one legal assistance case pertaining to unpaid wages owed, the NIHR communicated with those concerned in the Labor Market Regulatory Authority regarding it, to verify the legal status of the concerned person. The response explained that the concerned worker submitted a complaint to the Migrant Workers Protection Society that was referred to the Preventive Inspection Department of the Authority to debrief and take the necessary action; actions are being taken against the establishment after collecting information, and after it was revealed through the preliminary information that there is a suspicion of human trafficking. Accordingly, the NIHR closed the case for lack of jurisdiction, to be followed up by the competent authority.
5. Another legal aid case was the arbitrary dismissal of Mr. (V.P.V.) to and the refusal of the employer to pay him his due wages. Accordingly, the NIHR communicated directly with those concerned in the Labor Market Regulatory Authority. The Authority's response clarified that the employer submitted an employment leaving notice against the said worker in November of 2021, and that the worker has initiated complaint procedures against this notification; however, the Authority decided to reject the grievance and inform the concerned worker of the reasons and justifications for the rejection. Accordingly, the NIHR closed and filed the case for lack of

- jurisdiction while providing legal advice to the concerned person, enlightening him on the procedures to be followed, and directing him to file a lawsuit with the labor courts to consider the matter.
6. The NIHR provided aid to Mr. (M.N.B.), who was arbitrarily dismissed from his job, and requested the NIHR's assistance in reinstating him. Legal advice was provided, and he was informed of the legal procedures to be followed in this regard.
  7. Regarding the right to work, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mrs. (A.A.S.), to the effect that she was unable to recruit expatriate workers for her commercial register due to a ban imposed on her by the Labor Market Regulatory Authority. Accordingly, the NIHR made direct contact with those concerned in the Labor Market Regulatory Authority, and it was found that all the transactions are valid and there is no prohibition on her commercial register. The NIHR closed and filed the case for the absence of a violated right, and provided legal advice to the concerned, enlightening her of the procedures to be followed and directing her to file a complaint with the main branch of the Labor Market Regulatory Authority.
  8. The NIHR also provided legal aid to Mr. (S.J.S.) regarding his request to be reinstated following the end of his sentence with his previous employer, the University of Bahrain. Legal advice was provided to him, and he was informed of the procedures to be followed and directed him to submit a request to the civil service apparatus, being the body concerned with such matters.
  9. In addition, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mr. (H.S.A.) to the effect that the Ministry of Labor did not provide job opportunities for his son (A.H.S.) commensurate with his qualifications and health status, as he has a disability (mental and psychological disability). Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Labor to consider his issue from a humanitarian standpoint and suitable to him being a person with a disability, but the NIHR did not receive a response during the time frame of this Report.
  10. Within the same context, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mr. (A.A.A.) to the effect that he was arbitrarily dismissed in 2019, and that he submitted a request to help him get a job commensurate with his educational qualifications and practical experience with the Ministry of Labor; he was nominated for several jobs but rejected without stating the reasons. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Labor to consider the issue from a humanitarian standpoint but received no response within the time frame of this Report.
  11. In addition, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mrs. (M.A.M.) to the effect that her employer refused to allow her to take annual and sick leave for no reason. The NIHR closed and filed the case for lack of jurisdiction, however it provided legal advice to the concerned and informed her of the procedures to be followed and directed her to file a complaint with the Labor Complaints Department

at the Ministry of Labor to consider the matter.

12. In addition, the NIHR provided aid to (4) cases related to the right to social security. In one of the cases, Mr. (M.MA.) requested to help him obtain a cost-of-living allowance as he is the head of a family and does not have a monthly income. The NIHR closed and filed the case for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice to the concerned person was provided, he was informed of the procedures to be followed, and directed to submit the application to the Ministry of Social Development, and to attach all the necessary documents as required.
13. The other legal aid focused on the suspension of social support (cost of living allowance, housing allowance) for Mr. (A.J.T.) after the end of his sentence, even though he has submitted all the necessary documents. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning to consider the matter but received no response in time of preparing this Report.
14. The NIHR also provided legal aid to the convict (S.A.H.), who requested a cost-of-living allowance and meat subsidy, after his sentence was commuted, as he is a head of a family and does not have a monthly income. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Social Development to clarify the mechanism for receiving government support for convicts in general and those sentenced to alternative penalties; however, the NIHR did not receive a response

within the time frame of this Report.

15. Within the same context, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mr. (A.H.S.), as he requested assistance in obtaining 10% after his voluntary retirement. The NIHR filed the case due to lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was provided to the concerned. He was enlightened on the procedures to be followed and directed to submitting the application to the civil service apparatus, attaching all the necessary documents as required.
16. Regarding the right to education, the NIHR provided legal aid to (5) cases, including (2) cases for inmates (A.H.M.) and (A.A.A.), whose families requested they be assisted to complete their university studies while serving the sentence issued against them. The NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior to find out the rules of procedure regarding convicts who wish to complete their studies, and the conditions attached to it. The NIHR received a response regarding inmate (A. A. A.) explaining that the reasons for expelling him from the center was because he exceeded the absenteeism rate without an official excuse; however, it did not receive any response regarding the other inmate during the time frame for preparing this Report.
17. The NIHR also provided legal aid to a convict who was included in the list of convicts whose sentences were commuted, in order to integrate them into society, as he indicated his desire to complete his university studies at the University of

Bahrain, and that the concerned authority in the Ministry of Interior granted him a no-objection certificate to complete his studies, in line with the purposes of alternative sanctions to reintegrate convicts whose sentences have been commuted to be an active element in society. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the University of Bahrain who responded by accepting the student to be registered at the university.

18. In another context, the NIHR provided legal assistance to Mrs. (N.J.A.), an Arab national, who requested assistance in registering her daughter in a public school, where legal advice was provided to the concerned, enlightening her on the procedures to be followed and directing her to follow-up with the Ministry of Education.
19. While the other assistance was requested by Mr. (M.A.S.) to transfer his son (H.M.S.) from the National Private School to a public school due to his inability to pay the fees and costs of private education. Legal advice was given to the concerned, informing him of the procedures to be followed and directing him to follow up with the Directorate of Private School Education at the Ministry of Education.
20. In another context, the NIHR provided legal aid in two cases concerning the right to non-discrimination in enjoying the rights and freedoms related to economic and social rights. The first legal assistance was requested by Mr. (A.A.A.) to help in stopping the nuisance caused by the nightclub adjacent to

his building in the Capital Governorate. The NIHR filed the case for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was provided to the concerned person, informing him of the procedures to be followed, and directing him to file a complaint in this regard with the Ministry of Tourism.

21. The NIHR also provided assistance to the inmate (A.A.A.), to the effect that he was subjected to ill-treatment and discrimination by one of the inmates in charge of the ward in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, for reasons he described as sectarian; however, he asked the NIHR to dismiss the assistance and not take any action regarding it after the situation has improved between him and the other inmate.
22. Regarding the right to enjoy various economic, social, and cultural rights, the NIHR provided legal aid to (10) different cases either submitted by the persons themselves or by their families, of which, one requested obtaining a surety with the bank, after seizure of his accounts by the executing court. The assistance was filed due to lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was extended to the concerned, informing him of the procedures to be followed, and directing him to the relevant concerned authorities.
23. Legal assistance was also provided to Mrs. (Z.A.K.) regarding her request to keep her daughter with her because the latter refuses to go to her custodial father. Out of the principle of protecting the best interests of the child, the NIHR sent a letter to the Child Protection Center to

consider the matter, and the response indicated that the child is in her father's custody, and that the Child Protection Center is following up on the matter, as the child's mother was contacted to attend, but she did not respond.

24. The NIHR also provided legal assistance to Mr. (A.A.A.) regarding his request to obtain compensation for the material losses he suffered in 2012 because of the unfortunate events that the Kingdom of Bahrain went through. The assistance case was filed for lack of jurisdiction, while legal advice was provided to the concerned, informing him of the procedures to be followed and directing him to the relevant concerned authorities.
25. On the other hand, the NIHR provided legal assistance to Mrs. (A.M.A.) requesting the harassment she is subjected to by unknown persons be stopped. The NIHR filed the assistance case due to lack of jurisdiction; however, legal advice was extended to the concerned, informing her of the procedures to be followed, and directing her to the relevant authorities.
26. In addition, the NIHR provided legal assistance to Mr. (A.I.R.) requesting help in transferring him from his current workplace to a branch close to his residence. The assistance case was filed for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was provided to the concerned, enlightening him

on the necessary procedures to be followed, and directing him to the relevant concerned authorities.

27. The NIHR also provided legal aid to four cases from citizens requesting assistance in making a settlement with the Electricity and Water Authority regarding the unpaid outstanding amounts because of failure to pay the bills. The NIHR immediately addressed the Electricity and Water Authority but did not receive a response in time to be included in this report.
28. One of the aid cases centered on requesting financial aid for a family of four of a non-Bahraini father. The NIHR provided legal advice to the concerned woman and informed her of the procedures to be followed and the relevant concerned authorities to be contacted.
29. The NIHR received (59) legal aid cases related to the right of the individual to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health (the right to health)<sup>18</sup>, of which one assistance case was for ordinary people and (58) legal aid cases for inmates in correction and rehabilitation centers or pre-trial detention centers.
30. On a related note, the NIHR received (16) legal aid cases related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living (the right to housing)<sup>19</sup>, of which (8) cases were from ordinary people on the right to housing and eight (8) cases related

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<sup>18</sup> This right was discussed in detail in Chapter Three of this Report "Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain".

<sup>19</sup> This right was discussed in detail in Chapter Three of this Report "Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain".

to the right of persons whose freedom is restricted to enjoy an adequate standard of living by providing living necessities of the place, food, clothing and other needs in the correction and rehabilitation center.

31. The NIHR provided (196) legal aid related to different civil and political rights, including (14) related to the right to nationality, of which (7) cases from foreigners requesting Bahraini citizenship were filed for lack of jurisdiction, while providing legal advice to those concerned, and informing them of the procedures to be followed.
32. The NIHR also provided legal aid to Mrs. (H.A.A.), who requested assisting her granddaughter (F.M.L.) in obtaining the Bahraini nationality, being the daughter of a Bahraini citizen (the mother). Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior, who responded that there is an application filed for the said granddaughter to obtain Bahraini nationality among other applications from children of Bahraini women.
33. Another assistance was provided to Mrs. (H.M.A.), who requested that her "stateless" children be granted Bahraini nationality being children of a Bahraini citizen (the mother), and the response explained that granting nationality is an act of sovereignty.
34. On the same subject, the NIHR provided legal assistance to citizen (H.M.S.) to the effect that the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs did not hand over her passport, after

the issuance of a Royal Order granting her the honor of the Bahraini nationality. Assistance was filed for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was extended to the concerned, informing her of the procedures to be followed and directing her to file a lawsuit before the administrative courts.

35. Within the same context, the NIHR provided legal aid to inmate (M.A.H.) who requested assistance in renewing his identification documents – passport - and identity card. The NIHR made direct contact with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and its response explained that the passport renewal procedures are completed and that his passport was handed over to his relatives.
36. Also, the NIHR provided legal assistance to Mrs. (A.M.A.), who, on behalf of her child brother (F.S.S.), asked for assistance in renewing his identification documents - passport, indicating that their mother is in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center and that the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs requested the presence of the mother in person to complete the legal procedures. The NIHR filed the assistance due to lack of seriousness after contacting the concerned several times to complete the procedures and submit the necessary supporting documents, but she did not pick up the phone.
37. In addition, the NIHR provided legal assistance to Mrs. (A.R.S.), who asked the NIHR to assist her in obtaining a travel document for her

daughter (H.R.M.), who is stateless, so she can leave the Kingdom of Bahrain with her, being a daughter of a Bahraini mother, to meet her father residing in one of the Gulf countries. The NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior to consider the matter from a purely humanitarian standpoint and is still following up on it with the concerned authority.

38. The NIHR provided legal aid to Mrs. (Z.H.F.), who requested the assistance of the NIHR in obtaining Bahraini citizenship for her son being the child of a Bahraini citizen (the mother). The concerned mother was instructed to submit her request directly to the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs.
39. In another context, the NIHR provided legal aid to (6) cases related to the right to physical and moral integrity. One of the cases was about (H.P.A.), a person with a disability, being subjected to ill-treatment by unknown persons. The NIHR filed the case for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was provided to the concerned, informing him of the procedures that must be followed, and directing him to file a complaint with the Ministry of Interior to consider the matter.
40. On a related level, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mrs. (S.J.S.) to the effect that she was subjected to ill-treatment (domestic violence) by her husband. The aid was suspended due to lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was extended to the concerned, informing her of the

procedures to be followed and directing her to file a complaint with the Ministry of Interior to investigate the matter.

41. The NIHR also provided legal aid to Mr. (A.A.T.), who claimed that he was subjected to ill-treatment by some employees of an airline (he was prevented from boarding the plane due to his health condition). The NIHR filed the aid case for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice to the concerned person was provided, informing him of the procedures to be followed and directing him to file a lawsuit before the civil courts for compensation.
42. On the other hand, the NIHR provided legal aid to inmate (A.K.M.), who claimed to have been beaten by several inmates in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. The NIHR followed up the developments of the incident and monitored the news published by the Ministry of Interior, which included taking legal measures regarding the incident and notifying the Public Prosecution.
43. Within the same context, the NIHR provided legal aid to inmate (Y.A.A.) who claimed to have been subjected to ill-treatment (severe beating) by some members of law enforcement officers without a reason. The NIHR provided legal advice to the concerned person, and enlightened him on the necessary procedures to be followed and directed him to file a complaint with the Ombudsman Secretariat General, as it is the body concerned with receiving complaints submitted to it against any of the employees of the

Ministry of Interior, whether military or civilian, in the event that one of them commits a punishable act during or because of the exercise of his powers.

44. The NIHR also provided aid to Mr. (M.M.A.), who claimed to have been insulted and beaten by some law enforcement officers, without clear reasons. The case was filed because the applicant did not meet the eligibility condition, as it became clear that the person concerned was ineligible for assistance due to his mental incompetence.
45. Regarding the right to enjoy guarantees of a fair trial, the NIHR provided legal aid to one of the detainees (S.M.G.) regarding failing to transfer him to attend a scheduled trial session due to contact with a case infected with coronavirus. The NIHR made direct contact with the Administration of the Dry Dock Pre-trial Detention Center to follow up on the inmate's condition and ensure that he attends his trial sessions to guarantee his right to defense.
46. As to the right to freedom of movement, the NIHR provided legal aid to five cases. One of the aid cases pertained to preventing Mr. (H.N.B.) from entering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The NIHR filed the case due to lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was provided to the concerned, enlightening him on the procedures to be followed and directing him to the relevant concerned authorities.
47. The NIHR also provided legal aid to Mrs. (R.Y.G), who complained that she was not able to travel through

Bahrain International Airport for no reason. The NIHR immediately addressed the Ministry of Interior to consider the matter, and the response explained that the allegation is not true, as she had left Bahrain.

48. In another context, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mr. (J.M.A.), who complained that he was banned from traveling due to a pending criminal case against him before the criminal courts. The NIHR filed the case on the request of the applicant for assistance as the travel ban issued against him was lifted.
49. In addition, the NIHR provided legal aid to two people seeking to appeal a travel ban issued against them. Aid was suspended for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice to those concerned was extended. They were informed of procedures to be followed and directed to the relevant concerned authorities.
50. The NIHR provided legal aid to a local organization pertaining to the right to freedom of opinion and expression, seeking protection from being exposed to harassment on social media by some individuals because of their religious activity. The NIHR filed the assistance case for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was extended to them about procedures to be followed.
51. Regarding the right to practice religion (perform religious rites), the NIHR provided one legal aid to the effect that the administration of a mosque prevents worshippers from praying individually in the mosque courtyard, and invites them to pray

collectively, considering this is a restriction on their religious freedom. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments in this matter, but did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.

52. The share of legal aid related to the right to communicate with the outside world was (4) cases filed by families of inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers.<sup>20</sup>

53. The number of legal assistance cases provided by the NIHR pertaining to the right to enjoy the various civil and political rights and freedoms amounted to (164) cases filed either by the concerned or by their families on their behalf, of which (107) legal assistance cases concerned convicts who seek to commute the remainder period of their sentences. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior to consider commuting the sanctions pursuant to the stipulated conditions and regulations. The response of the Ministry explained that some of the convicts meet the commutation conditions and are eligible, whereas the others are not eligible due to not meeting some conditions, of form or of substance, stipulated in the regulating law.

54. The NIHR provided (2) legal assistances to inmates (S.M.M.) and (MA.), who requested assistance in reviewing the sentences issued against them. The NIHR file the cases for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was provided to those concerned, informing them of the

procedures to be followed and directing them to submit the request to the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments to consider the matter.

55. Two legal aid cases centered around a request by the families of inmates (S.M.) and (W.S.Y.) to intervene with the concerned authorities to release them. The assistance was filed for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice to the concerned persons was granted. They were informed of the procedures that must be followed and directed to follow-up with the competent authorities.

56. The NIHR also provided legal aid to (8) cases for inmates (A.H.M.), (Z.S.G.), (J.D.S.), (W.N.F.), (A.A.Y.), (A.A.J.), (Y.A.Y.) and (R.H.A.), requesting assistance in facilitating hiring an attorney or to make a power of attorney for their families. The NIHR contacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center regarding (6) cases and it was confirmed that the power of attorney was made. The Ministry of Interior was addressed regarding one case, and the response explained that the appointment to hire an attorney has not been set by the Documentation Department of the Ministry of Justice so far, and that the penalty of one of the inmates was commuted under the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law.

57. The NIHR also provided legal aid to a person with disability, requesting assistance in returning his vehicle confiscated by a court ruling in a

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<sup>20</sup> These legal assistance cases were touched on in detail in Chapter Three of this Report "Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain".

case against his son, or retrieving the device designated for people with disabilities that is installed in the vehicle. Accordingly, the NIHR sent a letter to the Public Prosecution to consider the matter from a purely humanitarian standpoint. However, no response was received within the time frame of this Report.

58. In addition, the NIHR provided legal aid in (6) cases, five of them entailed arranging private visits for inmates (M.H.A.), (A.K.T.), (H.M.N.) (M.M.A.) and (N.N.W.) with their families during their presence in the Salmaniya Medical Complex for treatment or in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. The NIHR contacted the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and visits were arranged. In addition, the NIHR provided legal assistance for one case related to inmate (A.A.A.) who requested help to be allowed to visit his disabled father. The NIHR made direct contact with the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, which responded that the inmate was transported to visit his father in their own home and then was returned to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center.

59. One legal aid case focused on inmate (HY.B.), who requested help in obtaining an order to be allowed to bring in winter coats because of his medical condition. Accordingly, the NIHR made direct contact with the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to investigate the matter, which resulted in allowing the inmate to buy the coat from the inmates' store; therefore, the assistance was

filed because the result was achieved.

60. The NIHR also provided legal aid in (4) cases concerning inmates (H.H.J.), (H.J.H.), (M.A.H.) and (S.H.A.) who requested to be transferred to another building in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. Although the transfer is an internal classification issue under the competence of the Administration of the Center according to the internal regulations, the NIHR communicated with the Administration from a humanitarian standpoint, and the response explained that the classification of inmates is subject to the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law. Accordingly, the NIHR filed the case for lack of jurisdiction.

61. In another context, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mr. (T.M.A.), who requested to obtain a report on the death of his son from the competent authorities. The NIHR filed the assistance case for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was provided to the concerned person, who was informed of the procedures to be followed to investigate the matter.

62. In another context, the NIHR provided legal aid to (R.K.K.), (J.S.Q.), (S.Y.M.) and (H.A.S.) regarding suspending deportations rulings. The NIHR filed the assistance case for lack of jurisdiction while legal advice was extended to the concerned, enlightening them on the procedures to be followed and directing them to communicate with the relevant authorities.

63. In addition, the NIHR provided legal aid in five cases related to the issue

of residency in the Kingdom of Bahrain to each of (A.M.M.), (A.M.S.), (H.J.M.), (A.F.A.) and (N.A.N.). Three of the cases involved assisting them in obtaining dependants residency permits for their foreign wives, one case requested a residence permit for himself being a husband of a Bahraini citizen, and one case petitioned for renewing her residence permit being the wife of a Bahraini citizen. The NIHR filed the assistance cases for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was extended to them, informing them of procedures to be followed. Regarding the latter, she has applied to renew the residency of her daughter, as she is a Bahraini mother, and waiver the accumulated fine due to the non-renewal. The NIHR addressed The Ministry of Interior, and the response of the Ministry explained that she was exempted from paying the amount of 2000 dinars.

64. The NIHR also provided legal assistance to the family of inmate (A.A.M.) who demanded to know the main cause of his death while he was serving his sentence in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and the reasons why they were not informed of transferring him to the hospital. Thus, the NIHR made direct contact with the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to investigate the matter. The Center responded that, according to his cell inmates, the deceased inmate lost consciousness and was transferred by ambulance to the Center's clinic where he was immediately treated, then transferred to the Salmaniya Medical Complex accompanied by a doctor, due to his deteriorating

health condition. But the inmate was declared dead before arriving at the Salmaniya Medical Complex, noting that the inmate suffered from several chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and was on neurological treatment drug.

65. In another context, the NIHR received a submission from the Supreme Council for Women regarding an appeal referred to them by the Riffa Women Cultural and Charity Society, about the possibility of amending the legal status of a foreign woman residing in the Kingdom, and her three children under her responsibility, after deporting her husband to Syria, his home country. Accordingly, the NIHR, and from a purely humanitarian standpoint, sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior, which responded that the concerned woman can amend her legal status by applying for a work visa on the Labor Market Regulatory Authority system, and then apply for a dependants visa for her children once their expired passports are renewed; in addition, one of her sons can apply for a work visa on the Labor Market Authority system, as he is 22 years old.

66. The NIHR also provided legal aid to Mr. (A.M.J.), regarding facilitating the entry of the children of his brother, who is serving a sentence in a correction and rehabilitation center in an Arab country. The NIHR filed the assistance case for lack of jurisdiction, while legal advice to the concerned was extended, enlightening him on the procedures to be followed and directing him to the relevant concerned authorities.

67. The NIHR also provided legal aid to Mr. (W.K.S.), requesting to remove the mosque's speakers, replace them with smaller ones, or reduce the volume. The NIHR filed the assistance case for lack of jurisdiction, while legal advice was provided to the concerned person, enlightening him on the procedures to be followed, and directing him to communicate with the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments.
68. In another context, the NIHR provided legal aid to five cases, regarding the request of inmates (M.H.Q.), (J.M.A.), (J.H.A.) and (F.E.A.) to be granted provisional release to attend burial and funeral ceremonies. The NIHR made direct contact with the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, which responded on one case explaining that it was not possible to temporarily release the inmate, but will be compensated by arranging a private visit for him as soon as possible, while the NIHR did not receive a response on the other assistance cases within the time frame of this Report.
69. In another context, the NIHR provided legal aid to inmate (Z.L.Y.), regarding his desire to renew his identification documents, such as his passport and identity card. Accordingly, the NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior and communicated directly with the Correction and Rehabilitation Center but did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.
70. The NIHR also provided legal aid to Mrs. (F.M.H.), requesting to obtain a travel document for her 3 months old daughter (R.M.S.), who was born in a neighboring country and suffers from a critical health condition since her birth. Accordingly, the NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior to consider the matter from a purely humanitarian standpoint. The response of the Ministry explained that the father of the child had already applied for the issuance of a travel document through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all legal and administrative procedures had been completed, and that a travel document was issued for the child.
71. The NIHR also provided legal assistance to Mr. (A.K.E.), regarding his request to enforce the visitation order to see his children who are with his ex-wife. The NIHR filed the assistance case for lack of jurisdiction, while providing legal advice to the concerned, informing him of the procedures to be followed and directing him to the relevant concerned authorities.
72. The NIHR also provided legal aid to three cases for inmates in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center regarding including them in the Royal Pardon, whereby legal advice was provided to the families of those concerned, enlightening them on the procedures to be followed and directing them to the relevant concerned authorities.
73. The NIHR also provided legal assistance to Mr. (A.A.A.), a Bahraini, requesting to facilitate the entry of his wife's daughter and her grandson into the Kingdom of Bahrain. Accordingly, the NIHR sent a letter to

the Ministry of Interior, and the efforts culminated in resolving the issue, and the child was allowed to enter with his mother.

74. In addition, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mr. (Z.S.S.) requesting assistance to notarize his marriage contract and issue a birth certificate for his son who was born in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The NIHR filed the assistance case for lack of jurisdiction, but legal advice was provided to the concerned, informing him of the procedures to follow and directing him to the relevant concerned authorities.
75. The NIHR provided legal assistance to Mrs. (F.A.H.), regarding her request for help in issuing a birth certificate for her children born outside the Kingdom of Bahrain from her husband whose nationality has been revoked. Accordingly, the NIHR informed her of the procedures to be followed, and the assistance case was filed for lack of jurisdiction.
76. In another context, the NIHR provided legal aid to inmate (A.Y.S.), regarding being subjected to collective punishment in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, even though he did not commit any violation. The NIHR communicated directly with the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, who responded that the daily program for the inmates of the building in which he lives was sus-

pending for causing chaos and destruction and was resumed afterwards for all residents of the building, including the concerned inmate who was granted a visit.

77. The NIHR also provided legal aid for two cases regarding expediting the procedures for their deportation to their home country. The NIHR filed the two cases for lack of jurisdiction, while legal advice was provided to those concerned, informing them of the procedures to be followed and directing them to the relevant concerned authorities.
78. In addition, the NIHR provided legal aid to (A.A.K.), regarding an expatriate worker residing in an apartment that he had leased, and who suffers from health problems. The NIHR filed the assistance case for lack of jurisdiction while providing legal advice to the concerned, informing him of the procedures that must be followed and directing him to the relevant concerned authorities.
79. In addition, the NIHR provided legal aid to Mr. (Y.Y.A.), who claimed that the Public Prosecution Office did not inform him of the measures taken and the results of the investigation pertaining to the two police reports he had lodged at the police station. Accordingly, the NIHR sent a letter to the Public Prosecution to investigate the matter, however, the NIHR did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.

The Right	Total	Ordinary people	Persons whose freedom is restricted
Right to health <sup>21</sup>	59	1	58
Right to employment	14	14	
Right to an adequate standard of living <sup>(17)</sup>	16	8	8
Right to social security	4	3	1
Right to education	5	2	3
Right to enjoy all rights and freedoms (economic, social, and cultural rights)	10	10	
Right to non-discrimination in the enjoyment of rights and freedoms (economic, social, and cultural rights)	2	1	1
Right to practice religious rites	1	1	
Right to nationality	14	13	1
Right to freedom of opinion and expression	1	1	
Right to physical and mental safety	6	4	2
Right to communicate with the outside world <sup>(17)</sup>	4		4
Right to Fair Trial Guarantees	1		1
Right to organize			
Right to freedom and personal security			
Right to enjoy all rights and freedoms (civil and political rights)	164	19	145
Right to freedom of movement	5	5	
Right to appeal			
<b>Total of Aid Cases</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>224</b>

<sup>21</sup> These three rights were discussed in detail in Chapter Three of this Report “Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain”.

### Requirement Three

#### Monitoring Human Rights Situation

1. The NIHR is mandated to monitor cases of human rights violations, conducting the necessary investigation, and carrying out announced and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation in correctional institutions, places of detention, labor gatherings, health and educational homes, or any other public place suspected of being a site of human rights violations, and submitting proposals related to initiatives aimed at putting an end to these cases, and when necessary, expressing an opinion on the position and reactions of those parties.
2. During the year 2022, the NIHR monitored a total of forty-three (43) cases that circulated in the media and social media, and they varied as follows:
3. Of the most important cases monitored by the NIHR, was published in local newspapers about a female citizen who resigned her job to join another with the Ministry of Health, upon the recommendation of the human resources staff in the Ministry. However, the Ministry refrained from completing the recruitment procedures because the concerned had voiced a complaint on a media program earlier. The NIHR contacted Al-Ayyam newspaper to obtain more information on the matter, but the newspaper did not respond to the NIHR communications.
4. The NIHR also monitored on a social network site news about a Bahraini citizen's appeal to those concerned in the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs to hand over his son's passport. The news item stated that the citizen had contacted the Directorate for (3) three years, hoping to obtain a response as to why the passport was not issued. The NIHR contacted the person concerned who stated that he had been contacted by the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs, and they are in the process of taking the necessary measures in this regard.
5. Regarding the right to enjoy the guarantees of a fair trial, the NIHR monitored, via a phone call from one of the detainees in the pre-trial detention center, that the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments did not provide an interpreter to a female detainee who is charged in the same case with him. The NIHR attended the trial session before the Court of Second Instance - appellate - to ensure that fair trial guarantees are observed for the detainee but found that the detainee was absent from the court hearing.
6. In another context, the NIHR monitored, via an e-mail received by a civil society organization outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, that (8) convicts in criminal cases were subjected to physical and psychological torture to extract incriminating confessions from them during the interrogation years ago. The NIHR conducted an inspection visit to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Jau region, to look into the torture allegations, the procedures that were taken in this regard, as well as to consider the requests of

the inmates concerned with the monitored case, check their general condition, verify the extent to which they enjoy the guarantees of a fair trial in the sentences issued against them, and the extent to which they enjoy their various rights in accordance with national legislation and international human rights instruments. The NIHR visited them, listened to their requests, wrote down their observations, submitted a report to the competent authority and followed up on that.

7. The NIHR also monitored news in a local newspaper, regarding the suicide of inmate (Y.A.M.) in the quarantine site located in the Pre-trial Detention Center in Dry Dock after he visited the Salmaniya Medical Complex. The monitored suicide news read that the inmate suffered from several mental illnesses and that he attempted suicide more than once. The NIHR has followed up the directives of His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, and the esteemed Prime Minister, to form an investigation committee into the circumstances of the death of the inmate, submit a report on the results of the investigation committee, and take legal measures regarding any violations related to non-compliance with the regulations.
8. Emanating from the NIHR's role in the field of human rights protection in accordance with the powers granted to it by virtue of its Establishment Law No. (26) of 2014 amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, the NIHR sent a letter to the

Ministry of Interior asking for detailed information about the suicide incident, how it occurred, and how it was known, the time of the suicide and the time the incident was discovered, whether the inmate was isolated from others, the extent to which there are surveillance cameras in the quarantine site, the number of police officers responsible for guarding the quarantine site, and the precautionary measures and other measures taken by the Administration, especially that there were previous attempts by the inmate to commit suicide according to the monitored news. The response of the Ministry of Interior explained that it had taken legal measures in this regard, as the Military Prosecution decided to imprison those proven to have failed to perform their jobs and refer them to the Military Court, and that a specialized committee was formed to ensure the safety of the Correction and Rehabilitating Center, maintaining its facilities on a regular basis, and equipping it according to approved international standards.

9. In addition, the NIHR monitored news via e-mail from a civil society organization outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, regarding a request to release inmate (H.A.), after he gathered with a group of people near a health center in solidarity with one of the inmates there. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior to inquire about the legal status of the inmate and to obtain more details about the incident.

10. The NIHR also monitored news on (3) cases related to the right to education in one of the local newspapers, of which (2) cases regarding outstanding students not getting scholarships for studying their first choices despite obtaining high grades. Accordingly, the NIHR contacted the newspaper to obtain more information on the subject; however, the newspaper did not respond.
11. In the same context, the NIHR monitored a story in a local newspaper, regarding a private school expelling a female student and refusing to allow her to re-test, even though the student's family filed a complaint with the Ministry of Education. Accordingly, the NIHR contacted the newspaper to obtain more information on the subject, but the newspaper did not have sufficient information.
12. Regarding the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms related to civil and political rights, the NIHR has monitored via e-mail from a civil society organization abroad that some inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center do not receive treatment and health care, and that some of them do not enjoy their right to fair trial guarantees. The NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior about the part related to the right to health for each of the inmates (J.S.) and (J.M.), but the NIHR did not receive a response in time for it to be included in this Report. The NIHR also made direct communication with the Ministry of Interior regarding the inmate (H.S.), and the response explained that the inmate's health condition is currently normal, and that he has an appointment scheduled at King Hamad University Hospital; as for his diabetes medications, he will be provided with it once purchased from the Procurement Division in the Health and Social Affairs Department.
13. Concerning the right to fair trial guarantees, the NIHR sent a letter to the Supreme Judicial Council regarding inmates (A.K.), (W.H.) and (H.M.) who do not enjoy the right to fair trial guarantees, but no response was received in time for it to be included in this Report.
14. Regarding the right to enjoy various rights and freedoms related to economic, social, and cultural rights, the NIHR monitored in a local newspaper news about the financial services female coordinators at the Ministry of Education not being able to take leave during the summer vacation. The NIHR contacted the newspaper to obtain more information on the subject, but the newspaper did not respond.
15. In the same context, the NIHR monitored news via e-mail from a civil society organization outside Bahrain, regarding the beating and ill-treatment of a citizen of their country by some law enforcement officers while he was serving his sentence in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center on probable cause. The NIHR sent a letter to the Special Investigation Unit of the Public Prosecution to obtain detailed information about the incident of beating and ill-treatment that the person concerned in the monitoring case was subjected to, and the

measures that were taken regarding the incident. The response came that the claim is unfounded as the inmate did not complain of torture before the Public Prosecution, or during his trial, and that he was checked by a specialized doctor when he was admitted to the Center and underwent a comprehensive medical examination that revealed no visible injuries, in addition to that he had benefited from the amnesty and had served his sentence and left the country.

16. The NIHR also monitored via e-mail from the representative of the European Union residing in Riyadh regarding three inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, in which he requested that the NIHR visit the inmates. The NIHR visited the inmates to find out their general conditions and ensure the extent to which they enjoy the rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards. The NIHR met with them, listened to their requests, wrote down their observations, submitted a report on them to the competent authority, and followed up on that.
17. In addition, the NIHR monitored through a phone call made by a woman, that (5) children in the Muharraq area were severely neglected by their father after the death of their mother, as he left them in the apartment with no supervision and was absent for long periods of time, in addition to drinking intoxicants and alcohol. Immediately, and to protect the interests of the children, the NIHR sent a letter to the Child Protection Center,

which responded that it would take the necessary legal measures.

18. In another context, the NIHR monitored news on a social media website regarding preventing a veiled woman from entering a tourist restaurant in Manama (Al-Adliya) because of her veil. Following up the matter with concerned parties, the NIHR found that the Licensing and Monitoring Department of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority took the necessary measures, as an administrative decision was issued to close the restaurant and take legal measures against it.
19. As for the right to physical and moral integrity, the NIHR monitored via an e-mail by a civil society organization that inmate (M.R.A.) has been subjected to ill-treatment - beating by employees of the Ministry of Interior as stated in the incoming e-mail - after he requested referral to the outpatient clinic to receive treatment and health care. The NIHR immediately sent a letter to the Special Investigation Unit to consider the matter; however, it did not receive a response in time for it to be included in this Report.
20. Concerning the right to a safe and healthy environment, the NIHR monitored news on a social media website, claiming the presence of emissions from a factory north of the island of Sitra, which aroused the dissatisfaction of several citizens residing in that area. The NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry Oil and Environment to investigate the issue because environmental damage can lead to violations of several

rights derived from the right to a sound environment, including the right to life, property, health, and others. However, the NIHR did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.

21. With regard to the right to perform religious rites (religion and belief), the NIHR monitored via e-mail by a civil society organization outside the Kingdom of Bahrain (BIRD), that a number of inmates of the Shiite sect have been subjected to multiple abuses inside the prison, which is inconsistent with their right to practice religious beliefs freely, as they were informed, according to a statement received by the Institute from the brother of one of the inmates, that they would not be able to perform the rituals of the month of Muharram as a result of the protest and sit-ins of some prisoners in the prison yard, and that as of July

29, 2022, outdoor time granted to them would be limited to 20 minutes only, in addition to preventing them from performing congregational prayers, and confiscating religious texts and books related to the Shiite sect since January 2017. The NIHR immediately contacted the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and the response came to the effect that the inmates have the right to practice their religious rituals and were not prevented in any way, and that a specialized team is present to follow up on matters of religious rituals in all buildings, in addition to granting them this right in accordance with the regulations that must be observed and without compromising public security inside the Center.

The Right	Total	Ordinary Persons	Persons whose Freedom is Restricted
Right to health <sup>22</sup>	17	6	11
Right to work	1	1	
Right to nationality	1	1	
Right to physical and mental integrity There are two cases, one is related to the right to health and is included in the health list.	1		1
Right to communicate with the outside world <sup>(21)</sup>	4		4
Right to adequate standard of living <sup>(21)</sup>	4	2	2
Right to fair trial guarantees	1		1
Right to freedom and personal security			
The Right to Enjoy All Rights and Freedoms (Civil and Political Rights)	4		4
The Right to Enjoy All Rights and Freedoms (Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)	5	4	1
Right to education	3	3	
Right to a healthy environment	1	1	
Right to practice religious rites (religion and belief)	1		1
<b>Total cases monitored</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>

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<sup>22</sup> These three rights were discussed in detail in Chapter Three of this Report “Key Issues with a Direct Impact on the Human Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain”.

## Requirement Four

### Attending Trial Sessions to Ensure Fair Trial Guarantees

1. The NIHR emphasizes that attending court hearings comes for the purpose of reviewing and verifying the validity of judicial procedures and providing fair trial guarantees in the trial of the accused. The NIHR would like to thank the Supreme Judicial Council for their consistent and incessant cooperation in facilitating the procedures for the NIHR's attendance of court hearings.
2. The NIHR also believes that the right to a fair trial is a criterion of international human rights law, aimed at protecting people from diminishing the rights related to their legal status before the judicial authority, and a fundamental pillar of fair trial stipulated in international instruments starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as Article No. (11/1) of it stipulates that: **"...at which he (i.e. the opponent) has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense."** Followed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as Article No. (14/1) states, **"All persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent, and impartial tribunal established by law."**
3. This was followed by Paragraph (3/b) of the same Article of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stating that, **"to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense."**  
The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain also affirmed the right to defense in Article No. (20/C) thereof by stipulating that, **"... he shall be secured with the guarantees necessary for the exercise of the right of defense..."**.
4. In this regard, the NIHR attended ten (10) trial sessions, including two (2) sessions for defendants in a criminal case pending before the Correctional Justice Courts, to review the course of the trial and monitor possible violations of any of the rights of the litigants under a fair trial framework in which all legal guarantees are available. The NIHR, while attending the session of the Great Correctional Court of Justice in its appellate capacity, was in the opinion that no suspicion of legal infractions related to compromising or violation of the right to fair trial guarantees existed, where all parties were heard, including the defendants, who were allowed to present their requests and defenses, and the court judge was cooperative with the parties to the case and did not refuse to hear any party.
5. It was also noted that when the inmates attended the court they were not shackled and security was not strict, and that security men were fully cooperating with the accused, as their families and lawyers were allowed to meet with them.
6. The NIHR also attended four (4) hearings for a number of defendants in a case of human trafficking, based on a complaint submitted to

the NIHR regarding the lack of fair trial guarantees, as the judge - according to what the complainant reported - rejected all proof, evidence, and witnesses testimony, despite its relation to the right to defense and its impact on stating the truth and proving his innocence. It was noticed that there was no suspicion of legal infraction related to compromising or violation of the right to fair trial guarantees in substance, given that the session was public, and all parties were heard, including the witnesses, which the complainant who previously submitted a complaint to the NIHR claimed that they were not able to present their testimonies in the case.

7. In addition, the NIHR attended (2) trial sessions to ensure the observance of fair trial guarantees for the parties to the case in general. It was noted that there was no suspicion of legal infractions related to compromising or violating the right to fair trial guarantees in substance, since the two sessions were public, and all parties were heard and allowed to present their requests and defense. It was noted that for the cases that needed an interpreter, they were informed to wait until his presence at the end of the session.
8. On another level, the NIHR attended a session in the trial of practicing prostitution and debauchery based on a case monitored to the effect that fair trial guarantees were absent for the accused because the judge - according to the monitored case - did not provide an interpreter to the foreign defendant at the trial stage; and it was

noted that the translator was present during the trial session, but the accused did not attend because she was not brought from her prison cell; and the judge decided to allow the translator to leave despite the presence of foreign appellants whose case was not considered. This is considered a violation of the rights of the appellant and of the other foreign appellants due to the absence of the interpreter.

9. The NIHR notes in this regard that it attends trial sessions comes to review and verify the validity of judicial procedures and providing guarantees for a fair trial. The NIHR also calls on the competent authorities - the party responsible for arranging trial sessions, and the party responsible for transferring the accused - to coordinate among themselves so that the right of defense for the accused is not wasted, and in the event that the accused could not be transferred from the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to the trial venue in the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, it is necessary to activate the provisions of Law No. (7) of 2020 amending some provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code regarding conducting the trial remotely via videoconference.
10. On another level, the NIHR attended a hearing in a money laundering case based on a complaint submitted to the NIHR regarding the lack of fair trial guarantees for the accused by not bringing the accused to the trial venue, which led to a violation of the right of the accused to a fair trial, specifically the right to defense and the right to

presumption of innocence. In this regard, the NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior - the concerned authority responsible for the transfer of the accused from detention center to court - and the Ministry's response explained that there was no trial session scheduled for the inmate on the date specified.

11. In addition, the NIHR noticed that the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments did not allocate places for persons with disabilities to facilitate presenting their defense comfortably; this may result in depriving litigants with disabilities of their right to enjoy guarantees of a fair trial, especially the right to present a defense, as Article (9/a) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that, **“To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, ...”**.

#### Requirement Five

##### Field Visits to Monitor Human Rights Situation

1. Pursuant to the role entrusted to the NIHR contained in Paragraph (g) of Article No. (12) of NIHR Establishment Law No. (26) of 2014, which states that one of the institution's competencies is, **“to carry out declared and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation in correctional institutions,**

**places of detention, labor gatherings, health and educational homes, or any other public place suspected of being a site of human rights violation.”** and in implementation of the inherent mandate of the NIHR's Committee on Visiting Detention Places and Facilities, the NIHR has played a major role in the field of human rights protection by carrying out declared and unannounced field visits to monitor the human rights situation.

2. Accordingly, during 2022, the NIHR conducted twenty-seven (27) inspection visits to verify the availability of human rights in various situations and occasions and the absence of any violations of these rights, as it visited several centers affiliated with the Ministry of Interior and followed with a visit to the Intensive Care Unit of the Bahrain Defense Force. In addition, the NIHR visited Dar Al-Aman for Women Victims of Domestic Violence, Dar Al-Karama for Social Welfare, and Child Welfare Home “Bat-elco Home” affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development. The NIHR also visited the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center of the Ministry of Health and Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Health and Social Center.

#### Section One

##### Visiting several centers affiliated with the Ministry of Interior

1. In realizing those competencies included in the provisions of the Law, the NIHR played a major role in the field of human rights protection, as it visited several centers affiliated

with the Ministry of Interior to closely examine the human rights situation in general, and medical care provided to inmates.

2. These visits reflect the NIHR's keenness to activate its oversight role in the field of protecting and promoting human rights, especially in conducting announced and unannounced field visits to correction and rehabilitation centers, health, social and educational care homes, foreign workers' housing, or any other place suspected of being site of human rights violations.
3. This topic deals with the visits made by the NIHR to the convicts' treatment unit in the Psychiatric Hospital, the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, the Pretrial Detention Center and the Juvenile Detention Center, the Capital Governorate Police Directorate, and the Detention of the General Directorate of Traffic and the Deportation Center for men and women, as follows:

#### **First: Treatment unit for convicts in the Psychiatric Hospital**

1. In implementation of the terms of reference included in the provisions of the law establishing the NIHR, the NIHR had a major role in the field of human rights protection, as it initiated its visits at the beginning of 2022 with an announced inspection visit to the treatment unit for convicts in the Psychiatric Hospital on 25 January 2022, in order to learn about the inmates' requests and remarks, ensure the extent to which they enjoy their rights guaranteed under national legislation

and international human rights standards.

2. The NIHR concluded several observations from its visit to the treatment unit for convicts in the Psychiatric Hospital, namely:
  - a) During interviews with some inmates, it became clear that there was a significant delay in preparing final reports regarding their illnesses and treatment. Unit officials stated that they receive the final reports from the specialist doctor and send them to the competent judge and the Ministry of Interior. However, the responses of these authorities take too long perhaps because of the type of case and the convictions of the officials of those authorities.
  - b) A number of inmates complained that they did not receive money to buy what they need and new clothes; those responsible stated that this is in compliance with the orders of the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center.
  - c) All inmates complained that they were denied visits for up to a year for some of them.
  - d) It was noticed that there was no specific process for allowing the inmates to go outdoors into the open air and be exposed to the sun, and when those responsible were asked, they stated that they were afraid that the inmates escape.
  - e) It was noticed that there were no entertainment and sports devices and tools, except for the TV, PlayStation, and carrom.

- f) One of the inmates complained that he was beaten by five members of the nursing staff. When the official responsible for the unit was asked about it, he stated that he did not receive a complaint in this regard. The visiting delegation asked the inmate to submit a complaint and hand it over to the official for investigation.
3. The NIHR addressed the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health regarding the observations made and the recommendations concluded. The NIHR received a response from the Ministry of Interior stating that health care provided to inmates falls within the scope of the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health responded stating that a meeting was held with those concerned in the Psychiatric Hospital, and the response was as follows:
1. Recommendation: Work on developing and implementing a specific mechanism for the inmates to go outdoors to be exposed to sunlight on a daily basis and engage in some sports activities.
    - Response of the concerned entity: We concur with the recommendation, as it was agreed with the Ministry of Interior to specify the outdoor times and activity programs to be implemented by the hospital, and that the Ministry of Interior will provide security and guards, noting that there are joint programs between nursing and rehabilitation departments to enhance wellness and physical activity. This service was limited during the pandemic due to the exceptional circumstances, but it was activated recently.
  2. Recommendation: Develop and implement a specific mechanism that guarantees inmates their right to communicate with the outside world through visits.
    - Response of the concerned entity: We concur with the recommendation, as visits were made routinely for all forensic patients, except for the inmates from Jau Prison. It was agreed that family visitation times would be set by the treating team, and that the Ministry of Interior will be notified of these times. The patient's health condition, in terms of risk to others, is taken into consideration. Noting that a system has been developed for weekly communication by phone for half an hour, divided into three days, for 10 minutes per call.
  3. Recommendation: Coordinate between hospital officials and the Ministry of Interior with respect to providing inmates with the money they need, or clothes sent to them by their families.
    - Response of the concerned entity: We concur with the recommendation, as the competent authority in the Rehabilitation and Correction Department in the Ministry of Interior was addressed, and it was agreed that the patient's personal belongings and money be received directly from the hospital, provided that they are inspected and that appropriate procedures are followed by the Ministry of Interior's security who are present in the hospital to

facilitate receiving the patient' necessities and items, especially personal hygiene items, in a shorter time and easiest way, to avoid diseases and infections. We were informed by those concerned in the Ministry of Interior, that we will be informed of developments and procedures after discussion with officials.

4. Recommendation: Develop and implement a specific way for inmates to communicate with national human rights mechanisms, for example (the National Institution for Human Rights, the Secretariat General of the Ombudsman, and the Special Investigation Unit).
  - Response of the concerned entity: We agree with the recommendation, and a mechanism has been established to coordinate with a nurse to give the patient the right to communicate in full transparency with the authorities, while preserving confidentiality, privacy, and observing the procedures in place.
5. Recommendation: Work to provide more sports, mental and recreational equipment, and games.
  - Response of the concerned entity: We appreciate shedding light on this important aspect related to the psychological well-being of patients, noting that, through the Rehabilitation Department and the specialists in the Occupational Therapy and Recreation Program, recreational and mental programs are provided, and that a set of tools and games are used for that purpose. In addition, and based on the recommendation, we considered providing more modern tools and games

in line with the digital world and artificial intelligence applications to monitor the impact of the programs provided.

6. Recommendation: Allot a room for reading, with useful books and studies that contribute to the treatment of the inmates and qualifies them to integrate into society.
  - Response of the concerned entity: We fully agree with the importance of the recommendation, and we would like to inform you that a multi-purpose hall was recently opened in the Psychiatric Hospital, which includes a library equipped with books selected according to specific criteria, and work is underway to expand the supply of these books and available resources to a larger segment of the beneficiaries of the services of the Psychiatric Hospital, including the patient inmates.
7. Recommendation: Assign a room for prayers, reading the Qur'an and other religious matters.
  - Response of the concerned entity: We are working on expanding this aspect, and currently, within what is available, patients have the freedom of worship and reading the Qur'an. Work is underway to implement mini projects to upgrade the building and allocate facilities in a manner compatible with the various needs of the beneficiaries of the Psychiatric Hospital.
8. Recommendation: Work on coordination between the Hospital, the Ministry of Interior, and the Supreme Judicial Council to expedite

the preparation of final reports issued by the specialist doctors and the speedy decision of the judiciary on these reports once presented to it.

- Response of the concerned entity: We commend this valuable recommendation and express our gratitude to the partners from the Ministry of Interior and the Supreme Judicial Council for working in a patriotic spirit to strengthen all supporting mechanisms to speed up the pace of procedures. The Administration of the Psychiatric Hospital has taken the initiative to pursue this issue because of its importance to the Hospital due to the limited number of beds in this unit and the need to expedite coordination between the three parties to develop a mechanism that preserves the rights of all patients and achieves a common quality service. Work is underway to form a tripartite standing committee to follow up on all cases referred to by the judiciary and the Public Prosecution.
9. Recommendation: Work to increase the number of rooms allocated to inmates by designating another floor in the same building or moving to a floor that can accommodate a larger number of inmates.
- Response of the concerned entity: Indeed, we find that this matter is necessary for several reasons, such as the increase in population, the need to develop efficient services, and the need to increase the medical and nursing staff, which is being worked on within the Ministry of Health's Strategy (2022-2025) and

the Strategy of the Psychiatric Hospital (2022-2025) on the development of medical services provided by the Hospital.

10. Recommendation: Provide additional fire extinguishers in the corridors, in addition to first aid equipment.
- Response of the concerned entity: The occupational, environmental health, and safety aspects are top priority, and the Psychiatric Hospital is keen on conducting periodic comprehensive review of the availability of all basic resources to ensure the safety of lives and property. In addition, we have requested intensifying and re-conducting the review by occupational health and safety specialists and provide us with a full report to act. Noting that first aid equipment and fire extinguishers were provided in the hospital facilities.
11. Recommendation: Find a quick mechanism to coordinate with the Ministry of Interior so that convicts who are in the Hospital for treatment access all the rights mentioned above and to provide them with various necessities.
- Response of the concerned entity: We value the recommendations presented in this report and we fully believe in the importance of partnership and continuous coordination with the NIHR and all partners, including bodies, institutions, and ministries, to ensure that health care and the rights of individuals are fulfilled in an integrated and comprehensive methodology. In view of the recommendations, we will en-

hance work and coordination meetings, at all levels and with relevant parties, to develop the services provided and improve their quality with strategic, operational and research mechanisms in line with the wise government's directives and institutional programs.

### **Second: Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Jau area**

In implementation of the terms of reference included in the provisions of the law establishing the NIHR, especially with regard to conducting field visits, announced and unannounced, the NIHR paid, during the year 2022, (10) visits to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Jau region, whether based on complaints received by the NIHR, because of a monitoring case, or based on the periodic visits that the NIHR makes to the Center. The following is a summary of the most important visits and what was done during the mentioned period.

#### **First visit: (7 April 2022)**

1. Reacting to what was monitored on a social network website about the transfer of a group of inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to Al-Shamel Health Care Center after the delay in receiving treatment and health care, which led to the deterioration of their health condition:
2. The NIHR conducted an inspection visit to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Jau region on Thursday, 7 April 2022, to investigate the demands of the inmates of

the monitored case, check the extent to which they enjoy the rights guaranteed to them under national legislation and international human rights standards, and to meet the physician in charge of the health centers of the Ministry of Interior.

3. The inmates met, made some remarks, and the NIHR concluded several recommendations during the visit, which can be summarized as follows:

#### **Inmates' Remarks:**

- a) The place where the inmates are (Building No. 2, Ward No. 7) is not suitable from a health point of view, as insects and rodents (mice) are present. The officials were notified of this more than once, but there was no action.
- b) Failure to give due attention to the health condition of inmates, as all of them suffer from pain at times, but this is overlooked and they are not always referred to specialists; and if they are, the transfer takes place after a long time and the specialists do not pay good attention to their health condition, as they only give them some painkillers in most cases, and their need to receive psychiatric treatment (transfer to The Psychiatric Hospital) is ignored, as they are addicts.
- c) Inmates reported that some of them have urinary tract problems, as well as brain, nerves, and bones issues, but the necessary measures to refer them to specialists are not being taken, and (HIB) treatment has been stopped for a long time.

- d) Inmates reported that medicines are not dispensed to them until several months after the order to dispense them is issued.
- e) Only two days are assigned for visiting the clinic for (5-10) inmates, which represents a great challenge, as in some cases when the Center's official does not cooperate with the inmates who need to visit the clinic, they are forced to wait for relatively long periods (another week) until it is their turn to go to the clinic.
- f) Regarding the infection with the emerging coronavirus (Covid-19), the inmates reported that at first, symptoms of infection showed on one inmate of Asian nationality; at that time, the inmates asked the officials at the Center to take the necessary measures as soon as possible, but the Administration was late in transferring the inmate and examining him, as he was transferred after a period of (5) days and after he had spread the infection to (40) other inmates.
- g) The inmates reported that on the same day that the infected inmate was transferred, an examination was carried out on (8) other inmates, and it became clear that they were all infected with the virus; then after (3) days had passed, the rest of the inmates, (40) in total, were examined and it was found that they were all infected with the virus.
- h) The inmates also reported that a group of other inmates were quarantined, and others were transferred to the Al-Shamel Health Center to receive treatment and health care. They were transferred to

Building No. (3) and quarantined after the end of the treatment period with the rest of the inmates, where they were distributed ten inmates to a cell. Afterwards, they were returned to Building No. (2) - their original building - which was found to be completely unsuitable from a health point of view.

- i) It was noticed that the main reason for the spread of infection is the inadequacy of the quarters, as there are no cells, but rather a hall accommodating many inmates without any partitions between them.

Subsequently, the doctor supervising the health centers was met, and he reported the following:

- a) There is a system in place and predetermined dates for visiting the clinic that must be adhered to.
- b) A new system has been implemented, where several specialist physicians visit patients at the Center's clinic; therefore, specialists are present on an almost daily basis.
- c) In addition to the above, coordination has been established with the Salmaniya Medical Complex regarding the presence of the visiting consultant twice a month; during the coronavirus pandemic, communication took place via videoconference.
- d) The delay in treatment, receiving medications, and referral to specialists is due to a shortage of nurses, and the nursing staff is not trained to work in correction and rehabilitation centers and to deal with inmates.

- e) The cleanliness of the buildings is the responsibility of the Administration of the Center, and the observation on the poor condition of the building will be conveyed to the Administration.
- f) The medical services in the Ministry have taken all necessary precautionary measures from the onset of the pandemic, whether in terms of providing vaccines or protective equipment, and a field hospital and a quarantine center were established in Building No. (3), in addition to the daily testing of workers, providing health education for all inmates, and transferring serious cases to public hospitals.

**Recommendations:**

- a) The need to move all inmates from the unsuitable Building No. (2) to one of the new buildings.
- b) Urge the Center's Administration not to confine a large group of inmates into small spaces without partitions or health precautions, especially considering the spread of the coronavirus or any other infectious disease.
- c) Increase the number of specialized medical staff.
- d) Urge the Ministry of the Interior to employ qualified doctors and medical personnel to deal with inmates, or work on preparing and qualifying the current staff.
- e) Expedite taking necessary measures if those concerned receive a notification that an inmate has been infected with a contagious disease or symptoms begin to show on him.
- f) Work to provide medicines and treatments as soon as possible, es-

pecially regarding prescriptions provided by specialists in public hospitals.

To complement the above, the NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior containing the above observations and recommendations; noting that the Ministry explained that health care provided to inmates falls within the responsibility of the Ministry of Health since June 26, 2022.

**Second visit: (29 June 2022)**

1. The NIHR conducted an inspection visit to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in Jau on June 29, 2022, based on the letter sent to the NIHR via e-mail by the international organization (Human Rights Watch) regarding the physical and psychological torture of (8) convicts in criminal cases to extract incriminating confessions from them during the interrogation stage in previous years.
2. All the inmates were interviewed individually to ascertain they enjoy their legally guaranteed rights in accordance with national legislation and international human rights instruments, especially regarding the veracity of their claims that they had been tortured during the interrogation phase, and to ascertain the extent to which they enjoyed fair trial guarantees in the ruling issued against them.
3. After the visit to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in Jau, the NIHR reached several recommendations that can be summarized as follows:

**Recommendations:**

- a) Urge the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to consider providing a private visit for the inmates with their families and know the procedures to be followed in this regard.
  - b) Fix the ventilation problem in Building No. (1), Ward (3).
  - c) Work on maintaining drinking water supply equipment in all buildings on a regular basis.
  - d) Increase the contact numbers and the duration of calls for inmates.
  - e) Work to ease shackling of inmates during their transfer within the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution, whether for a visit, or to the inpatient clinic, or other transfers within the Correction Institution.
  - f) Provide treatment and health care for all inmates and transfer them to the Salmaniya Medical Complex when their health condition requires that.
  - g) Examine the issue that was raised by some inmates regarding the new evidence found, which the judge did not hear during the reconsideration session, which would have changed the course of the rulings issued against them, in line with the guarantees of fair trials, and clarify the actions in this regard.
  - h) Notify about the outcome of the investigation in the complaints raised by the (8) inmates before the Special Investigation Unit, and whether there is an applicable procedure for informing the inmate of what is being done about the complaints he submits.
4. To complement the above, the NIHR sent two letters to the Ministry of Interior and the Special Investigation Unit of the Public Prosecution, that included the above recommendations. The response of the Special Investigation Unit is as follows:
- Inmate (M.A.A.): He was arrested on 19 February 2013, after resisting the police fiercely, which prompted them to use the necessary legal force to control him. He was interrogated by the Public Prosecution, but denied the accusation attributed to him and claimed to have been tortured. No apparent injuries were noticed. He was presented to the forensic doctor on 25 February 2022, and no injuries consistent with his claim were proven, and it was found that he suffers from two abrasions of undefined shape, with dimensions of about (1 cm x 1 cm) below the left forearm and the left elbow. The Unit reviewed the final rulings issued against him, which responded to the initial defense from his legal agent that his confession is null and void because it was obtained under coercion, that the injuries contained in the forensic medical report do not exist in the papers or in the report itself that indicate that they were inflicted on the accused in order to force him to confess, just as there is no connection between these injuries and the statements of the accused, whether in the records of evidence collection or in the investigations of the Public Prosecution - in which he adhered to denial - and then reassurance of the statements of the accused and their validity as well, in addition to

other testimonial and physical evidence incriminating him and the rest of the defendants, which was supported by the Court of Cassation; the Unit filed the papers due to lack of evidence, because the claim was baseless and not supported by any other evidence.

- Inmate (F.A.A.): The unit began investigating the incident by questioning the complainant about the details of his complaint, as well as asking his mother, who submitted the complaint to the Secretariat General of the Ombudsman. It reviewed the forensic doctor's report which showed no injuries consistent with his claim. The unit completed its investigations by questioning members of the Public Security Forces who dealt with the complainant, and they denied the claim, and concluded by reserving the papers due to lack of evidence, since his statements were unfounded and not supported by any other evidence.
- Inmate (H.A.M.): The Unit began investigating by questioning the mentioned complainant - in two incidences - about the details of the incident, and by presenting him to the forensic doctor and an ENT consultant according to the first recommendation – and no injuries were found consistent with his claim. The Unit completed its investigations by questioning members of the public security forces dealing with the complainant who denied what was alleged, and concluded with keeping the papers due to the absence of evidence because his statements

were baseless, and no injuries were proven.

- Inmate (H.E.A.): The Unit began investigating the incident by questioning the complainant about the details of his complaint, and by presenting him to the forensic doctor, where no injuries were found consistent with his claim, and then the Unit questioned the members of the Public security Forces who arrested and questioned him, who denied his claim. The papers were filed due to the absence of evidence, because his statements were sent and were not supported by other evidence.
- Inmate (S.A.A.): On March 1, 2015, the Special Investigation Unit received the papers for examining the complaint referred to it by the Secretariat General of the Ombudsman and submitted by the sister of the mentioned inmate, which included an allegation that he was assaulted by a police officer during his arrest in a criminal case. The Unit summoned the sister to question her about the complaint, but she declined to attend. It then proceeded to question the claimant regarding the alleged incident, but he refused to talk about it and dropped his complaint. Accordingly, the Unit ordered to file the complaint due to lack of evidence based on the claimant's lack of cooperation with the Unit in the investigation of the complaint.
- Inmate (Z.I.J.): On April 1, 2022, the inmate's wife submitted a complaint to the Unit, which received another complaint from the Secretariat General of the Ombudsman,

claiming that he was tortured to make him confess. By questioning the inmate on January 2, 2018, he had testified that he was subjected to physical and moral torture during his presence in the Criminal Investigation Department, which prompted him to confess to the charges against him. After he was checked by the forensic doctor of the Unit on April 10, 2018, with the forensic report of the medical examination carried on him on November 22, 2017, and the medical examination report on November 2, 2018, issued by the Health and Social Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Interior, it was concluded that the claimant does not suffer from any injuries consistent with his claim. In addition, the investigations of the judicial police did not reach any information regarding the claimant's allegations, and members of the Public Security Forces in charge of apprehending and questioning him denied these allegations, so the Unit ordered the papers to be filed due to lack of evidence.

- The two inmates (M.R.A.) and (H.A.M.): The Special Investigation Unit began its investigation procedures in two complaints referred to it by the Secretariat General of the Ombudsman regarding the allegation that the two inmates were subjected to torture to extract confession, after they were sentenced to death for committing the crimes of killing a policeman and attempting to kill other police personnel by carrying out a terrorist bombing. The Unit proceeded to carry out an investigation regarding the alleged

facts, and concluded with proposing reconsideration of the verdict issued against them on grounds of the new evidence that emerged from its investigations that was not known at the time of the trial and the issuance of the verdict, namely, the examination reports of the convict (H.A.M.) by the doctors of the Ministry of Interior, which was not presented to the subject matter court in its two levels and under its sight when issuing its judgment, nor was it presented to the Court of Appeal.

- Despite the fact that the verdict issued against the two convicts was based on other numerous evidence, other than their statements, including the text messages extracted from the mobile phones of some of the defendants on agreeing to go out to the streets and instigate acts of assault and vandalism, as well as monitoring the movements of the law enforcement forces; and the statements by other defendants in the records of evidence collection and investigations of the Public Prosecution; and what was proven in the report of the Crime Scene Division and the report of the criminal investigation and physical and chemical research laboratory of the samples taken from the scene; and the forensic report of the autopsy of the victim's body; and the medical reports of the victim; and the photographs and photographic examination of the representation of the crime; and what was proven from the criminal records of some of the defendants who were previously sentenced in terrorist cases; and from the testimony of members of

the public security forces, in addition to the fact that the convict, Hussein Ali Musa, had previously been examined by the forensic doctor and no injuries were proven to support his complaint except for the wrist abrasions from the metal handcuffs. Although the convict (M.R.A.) did not originally admit to the crime of murder and participation in the bombing, the Unit, after obtaining medical reports issued by doctors of the Ministry of Interior, which had not been previously presented, and in implementation of the requirements of justice, H.E. the Attorney General referred the matter to H.E. the Minister of Justice to consider the initial proposal from the Special Investigation Unit to request a reconsideration of that ruling by virtue of his jurisdiction established by the Court of Cassation Law. After the Ministry of Justice studied the matter, H.E. the Minister of Justice decided to submit a request to the President of the Court of Cassation to reconsider the ruling, as the Court of Cassation Law entitles the Minister of Justice to request a review of final rulings in certain cases.

- On 22 October 2022, the Court of Cassation issued its ruling on the request to reconsider the death sentence issued against the two convicts, as it decided to accept the request for reconsideration in form and in substance, to cancel the ruling of the Court of Appeal and to retry them again before a court composed of other judges. On 8 January 2020, the Court of Appeal unanimously decided to uphold the death sentence, and the reasons for the

ruling stated that the marks proven by the medical reports are not simultaneous and do not keep pace with the procedures of the police or the Public Prosecution and have no effect on the statements made with free and conscious will without subjecting the convicts to any material or moral coercion. Additionally, that confession was congruent with the truth and consistent with the facts of the incident and the statements of the prosecution witnesses and other evidence.

- Based on the requirements of the law, the ruling was presented to the Court of Cassation, which approved it on July 13, 2020, after verifying its integrity and consistency with the provisions of the law.
- As for the issue raised by the convict (M.R.A.) to the effect that he was being subjected to psychological torture, the Unit monitored on 2 September 2020 an allegation in a report by a group of rapporteurs affiliated with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, that the convicts were subjected to moral torture and ill-treatment, by knocking on the doors of their isolation ward and making frightening sounds and hinting that the date of execution is imminent. Accordingly, the Unit initiated investigation procedures by asking the claimants for details, conducted an inspection of their cell in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and ordered the convict (M.R. P.) to be checked by the psychiatrist who, in his technical opinion, concluded that: the aforementioned had no

previous or current acute psychological diseases or symptoms and does not need follow-up, while the convict (H.A.M.) refused the psychiatric examination. The Unit requested investigations carried out by the judicial police, which did not obtain any information or evidence regarding what was alleged and concluded with preserving the papers due to lack of evidence of the alleged incident.

- The Unit communicates with complainants within the framework of the legislative amendments introduced to the Code of Criminal Procedure pursuant to Law No. (7) of 2020 regarding procedures and means to protect victims, witnesses, and informers from any harm that may befall them. Resolution No. (1) of 2021 was issued to establish a specialized division in the Special Investigation Unit called the "Victims and Witnesses Affairs Division", which is mandated to receive and study requests to impose protection measures stipulated in the Criminal Procedure Law, and to communicate with victims, their families, witnesses, and informers in cases of concern to the Unit, in order to inform them of the legal procedures taken and the progress of the investigation in accordance with the provisions of the law, noting that the last paragraph of Article No. (160) of the Code of Criminal Procedure limited the notice of the order for considering lack of grounds for bringing a legal action in felonies shall be given to the plaintiff who claims civil rights.

The response from the Ministry of Interior stated the following:

- Regarding providing a private family visit to inmates, the right to visit is guaranteed to each inmate individually and without exception, bearing in mind that private visits to inmates are coordinated with their families in accordance with the provisions of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law and its executive regulations.
- Regarding the ventilation problem in Building No. (1) Ward (3), the observation has been submitted to the competent body to carry out the necessary maintenance; the matter is being followed up by those in charge at the Correction and Rehabilitation Center.
- Concerning the periodic maintenance of drinking water devices in all buildings, please be informed that periodic maintenance of water desalination equipment inside the buildings is carried out in coordination with the competent bodies.
- With regard to increasing the call numbers and the duration of calls for inmates, each inmate has the right to call his family for a total of (30) minutes per week, as stipulated in Article No. (28) of the Executive Regulations of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law. The same Article also gives the inmate the right to receive phone calls in necessary cases at the discretion of the head of the Center or his representative; the inmate is also entitled to make an exceptional telephone call with the permission of the head of

the Center or his representative after looking into the reasons for the request.

- As for easing the use of restraining shackles during transfer of inmates within the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution, whether for a visit or to the in-patient clinic, and other matters within the Correctional Institution, the Center is diligent to preserve and maintain security when inmates move inside the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. From this standpoint, the process of restraining movement is subject to evaluation on a case-by-case basis, in proportion to the security risk the inmate poses.
- With regard to providing treatment and health care for all inmates and transferring them to the Salmaniya Medical Complex whenever their health condition requires, health care provided to inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and is part of the health services provided to all citizens and residents in the Kingdom of Bahrain. All inmates enjoy integrated health care around the clock by specialized medical staff from the Ministry of Health, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, and treatment is provided to all inmate patients on a regular basis as per the medical prescription. An ambulance and a backup ambulance are available on an ongoing basis. The medical services provided to inmates of correction and rehabilitation centers, are under the supervision of the Ministry of Health for cases warranting remote medical consultations, while implementing a

visiting program in which specialized senior consultants with expertise in different specializations from the Ministry of Health follow up the health status of inmates and provide the highest level of medical service and treatment.

- It is worth mentioning that health care is provided by medical staff consisting of consultants and doctors specialized in various branches of medicine, with the provision of necessary medicines and medical examinations through specialized clinics, in addition to linking all medical clinics in the correction and rehabilitation centers through an integrated medical information exchange system.
- The Center's clinic operates around the clock with specialized medical staff. Inmates are checked by doctors according to a certain timetable, and after evaluating the health status of each inmate separately, it is decided if they need to be referred to an external hospital. Note that inmate (H.A.M.) has an appointment at Salmaniya Medical Hospital scheduled on 22/12/2022 and had a previous appointment on 1/9/2022.
- With regard to the issue raised about emerging new evidence that the judge had not previously heard that would change the course of the rulings issued against them, we would like to inform you that the Execution Prosecution has been addressed regarding presenting the evidence in the possession of inmate (M.R.A.), and the request of inmate (M.A.A.) has also been lodged with the Special Investigation Unit.

- Regarding the results of the investigation of the complaints raised by the eight inmates before the Special Investigation Unit, and whether informing inmates of the outcome of complaints filed by them is a common practice, the submission of complaints by inmates to the competent authorities is an inherent right of the inmates that achieves the purpose of the reform project of His Majesty the King, may God protect and preserve him.
- In addition, the Correction and Rehabilitation Center gives high priority to cooperate with the oversight and relevant authorities to achieve justice and integrity, as stipulated in Article No. (47) of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, which states:  

“The inmate has the right to resort to the competent judicial authorities, and to submit complaints and demands to the director of the institution or his representative; the executive regulations shall specify the procedures to do so.”
- The inmate has the right to submit complaints to the independent judicial, security and oversight authorities in the Kingdom, which include the Ombudsman, the Commission for the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees, the Special Investigation Unit, the Public Prosecution, the Internal Audit and Investigation Department, and the National Institution for Human Rights. The Administration places two types of boxes in a visible place to receive complaints in accordance with the provision of Article No. (30) of the Executive Reg-

ulations of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law. It is worth mentioning that the Ministry did not restrict the inmate to a single mechanism, as he is free to choose the entity to which the complaint is to be submitted and the method of submission. Likewise, he may submit the complaint in written form, verbally, or even by direct contact with the concerned authority, or submit it through his relatives or his legal representative. The complainant is notified of the outcome; if the complaint is submitted to the Center's Administration, the inmate is contacted, his complaint is examined, and he is informed of the Administration's findings. If the complaint is submitted to external parties, such as the Ombudsman, then it, in turn, contacts the inmate and questions him about the complaint, as it is the party that was addressed.

- Regarding the freedom to practice religious rites, and in response to the request of the inmate (M.R.A.), contained in the attached visit report, to be granted the right to attend a Radoud (religious chanter) or preacher during the practice of their religious rites during the Ashura season, we inform you that the practice of religious rites is guaranteed to all inmates and remand detainees without exception, in compliance with the provision of Article No. (28) of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, which states, **“The center management shall ensure respect for the feelings of the inmates and remand detainees by giving them the right to perform their religious rituals on time, provided that**

**this does not compromise the security and order of the center.”**

- This is confirmed in Article No. (51) of the Executive Regulations of the aforementioned Law, which stipulates that, “The inmate and remand detainee has the right to perform their religious rituals on time, provided that this does not compromise the security and order of the center, and the management of the center shall respect the religious feelings of the inmates who follow monotheistic religions, and enable them to perform their religious rites in accordance with the controls set by the institution, and coinciding with the advent of various religious occasions that require more revival and celebration, all inmates and remand detainees shall be permitted to practice their religious rites in a manner that does not disturb public order and is consistent with the law.”
- For the special sanctity of religion, the constitutional legislator guaranteed this right and explicitly stipulated this freedom in Article No. (22) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which states that, “Freedom of conscience is absolute. The State guarantees the inviolability of worship, and the freedom to perform religious rites and hold religious parades and meetings in accordance with the customs observed in the country.” From this point of view, all correction and rehabilitation centers are diligent to enable inmates and pretrial detainees to practice their religious rituals in the occasions pertaining to the different religions and beliefs, as it is a constitutional right guaranteed by

law to everyone without discrimination, and because the Center integrates and braces the religious aspect through correctional and rehabilitation programs to strengthen religious faith and guide inmates toward the right path and approach. Accordingly, those programs offered to inmates and remand detainees include the following: memorizing and reciting the Qur’an in coordination with the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, where contests are held, and prizes are presented to participating inmates.

- Religious lectures in coordination with the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, and arrange for preachers and religious guides (for the Sunni and Ja’afari sects) to deliver religious lectures and lessons.
- Celebrating and commemorating various religious events, which include, but are not limited to: Ashura season revival, where those concerned in reform and rehabilitation centers coordinate with public security markets to provide special items and food, open religious TV channels covering these rituals, and enable inmates to perform their rituals whether collectively or individually, without compromising order and security within the center.
- Ramadan gatherings, Tarawih prayers, and Hussein readings. Freedom to practice religious rites for non-Muslims is guaranteed, as they are allowed to practice their different and diverse rites, by the acquisition of books and religious publications.

- Several clergymen make regular visits, meet with them, and give them lessons freely.
- During the outbreak of the coronavirus and the strict precautionary measures that were taken to contain the pandemic and preserve the health and safety of everyone, videoconference communication was used so inmates and remand detainees were not prevented from practicing their religious rites.
- With regard to the canceled housing application for the inmate (Z.A.J.), we inform you that this matter is not within the competence of the Ministry of Interior, and the inmate can appoint a lawyer to follow up the matter with the competent authorities (Ministry of Housing or address the Minors Funds and Affairs Directorate) in this regard.
- Regarding the request of inmate (S.A.A.) to the effect that the inmates' store (shop) does not sell them water and requires a medical prescription to allow them to buy it, and that the water in the building is not clean.
- It confirms that all living needs are available in the inmates' shop, and that periodic maintenance of water desalination equipment inside the buildings is carried out in coordination with the competent authorities.
- With regard to the request of inmate (H.I.M.) to get assistance in allowing his parents to obtain his passport as he, and several other convicts, had their Bahraini nationality restored, which had been revoked earlier,

pursuant to the issuance of the Royal Decree.

- The inmate will be handed his passport after obtaining his consent and completing the required procedures in this regard.

### **Third visit (3 August 2022)**

1. To ensure that all inmates enjoy the freedom to practice religious rites without compromising the precautionary measures, a delegation from the NIHR made a number of visits to correction and rehabilitation centers during the Ashura season 1444 H (2022 AD) to closely monitor the extent to which inmates practice their religious rites during the Ashura season.
2. A delegation from the NIHR made (3) visits to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Jau area to make sure that the inmates practice their religious rituals during the Ashura season.
3. During the delegation's visit on 3 August 2022, the concerned officials at the Center were met, and they stated that relevant internal instructions and regulations, which are conditions and controls related to practicing religious rites and represent general instructions for the inmates, are implemented, and explained that all the inmates are aware of these instructions and regulations, as they were briefed on them.
4. The NIHR delegation toured the facilities of the Center, where they entered (3) buildings (numbers 9-11-12) to ensure that the inmates

practice religious rites to the fullest, where several inmates were practicing religious rites totally freely. It was also noted that there was a reader and listeners in each ward.

5. During the inspection tour, several inmates were met in the following buildings:

**Building No. (11):**

1. Several inmates were met and asked about the freedom to practice rituals; they reported that there was no problem. In addition, the mosque in the building was visited, and at the time of arrival there was a collective supplication reading and from the beginning of the Hussein Majlis; there were relevant religious signs posted outside and inside the mosque.
2. During the visit, one of the inmates stated that the Administration of the Center does not provide a water heater to prepare tea for the mourners, as the water heater is brought at four o'clock and taken back at half past five.

**Building No. (12):**

3. When entering the building, it was observed that an inmate was reading Hussaini Majlis (from a brochure) to one of the inmates who is in isolation, with a clear voice and without disturbance.
4. The delegation entered the mosque and noticed that there was an open mourning service available to the guests, it had banners and slogans on the occasion of Ashura.
5. In a side conversation between the official of the Center and a member

of the visiting delegation, the former stated that there is a TV set in each room broadcasting 5 channels that operate throughout the year. When the delegation member asked if there was a religious channel among those channels that broadcast Ashura ceremonies, the official replied: No.

6. In the mosque of the second floor in the same building, it was noticed that there was a Hussaini condolence council, and a table hung on the door that included the times of revival ceremonies from (1-13) Muharram and another schedule for religious lectures; there was another sign announcing Hussaini Majlis at 2 pm.
7. It was noticed that there were water bottles, glasses of water, some sandwiches, pies, and cakes, which seemed to be intended for distribution after the completion of the rituals.

**Building No. (9):**

8. The delegation visited Building No. (9) and went to the mosque where there was an open condolence gathering for inmates, where there were banners and slogans commensurate with the occasion of Ashura. It was also noted that there was a Hussaini condolence Majlis, and a schedule hung on the door for the times of revival night ceremonies from (1-11) Muharram, and a schedule of religious lectures (day and night).
9. It was noticed that the mosque was overcrowded, as the number of inmates inside the mosque, who were practicing rituals, exceeded its capacity.

**Clinic building:**

10. The clinic building was clean in general.
11. It was noticed that there were 3 inmates in the clinic, and by asking one of them, he said that he has a headache and asked to be transferred to the clinic.
12. It was reported by the Center's official that one doctor is on duty for the night shift, while two doctors are on duty for the day shift.
13. It was observed that there is a quarantine room close to the clinic building.
14. It was noticed that there was an ambulance for the clinic inside the Center.

**Fourth visit (5 August 2022):**

On August 5, 2022, a delegation from the NIHR paid an inspection visit to buildings 6 and 8.

**Building No. (6):**

15. When the NIHR's delegation tried to enter the first floor of the building, there was a gathering of several inmates outside their designated wards. The Center's officials explained that the mourning ceremonies had ended, and that it was the turn of other inmates to attend, which necessitated moving to the second and third floors.
16. There were banners and slogans hanging in the room where Ashura rituals are revived, in addition to a schedule showing the nights designated for holding councils and mourning and the name of the preacher and the Radoud.

**Building No. (8):**

17. The first and second floors of the building were visited, and it coincided with the inmates practicing their religious rituals.
18. There were banners and slogans hanging in the room dedicated to holding rituals inspired by the Ashura season, in addition to a schedule showing the nights designated for holding councils and mourning and the name of the preacher and the Radoud.
19. One of the inmates, named (A.A.), when asked if he had any remarks, he stated that in 2014, the Administration of the Center, responding to inmates' requests, provided meals (rice with stew) to the inmates during Ashura, but this praiseworthy habit was discontinued years ago, and hoped that it would be resumed. He also wondered about the possibility of providing loudspeakers for the preacher and the Radoud during the practice of rituals and indicated that the hanging black banners and the slogans show the mutual trust between the inmates and the Administration of the Center, and they would be removed after the Ashura season for use next year.
20. It was noticed that there were several inmates inside the wards or the external hallways, and officials of the Center explained that it's because they do not wish to participate in the practice of rituals.

**Fifth visit (8 August 2022):**

1. Continuing its efforts in the field of monitoring, the NIHR conducted an inspection visit on 8 August 2022 to

buildings No. 4 and 5, where it was noted that the Center's Administration had designated the mosque to hold religious rituals with banners and slogans inspired by the Ashura season hanging in the room allocated for performing the rituals, as well as a timetable showing the nights designated for holding majlis and mourning and the name of the Khatib and Radoud.

2. The delegation met with several inmates in the building, who confirmed that the Administration of the Center is cooperating with them in terms of allocating enough time to practice rituals and to eat and allowed them to practice their religious rituals on the morning of the tenth of Muharram in the place allocated for inmates' exposure to sun.
3. Concluding observations and recommendations of the three visits (related to the general situation):

**General Observations:**

• **Building No. (11):**

- a) The inmate (K.A.) was met. He stated that he served his sentence two months and 10 days ago and was not released because of a fine imposed on him. The fine was not settled by the Administration until then, and he requested intervention with the execution judge to pay the fine in installments to release him.
- b) The inmate also stated that the delay in providing treatment constitutes a problem (if the inmate needed medication on Thursday, it

would not be provided until Sunday) because the Center's clinic pharmacy closes from Thursday to Saturday of each week.

- c) Another inmate, (S.A.M.), was met. He stated that he completed his sentence 15 days ago but has not been released until then. A member of the security forces asked the representatives of the Secretariat for the personal number of the inmate, and after inquiring, it was found that the inmate was sentenced to life imprisonment.
- d) The representative of the NIHR asked the Center's official if the black T-shirts were available, but the center official replied that they were not available. One of the inmates commented that even regular clothes for the new inmates are not available inside the store. He added that inmates even donate clothes to new inmates as they are not allowed by the Administration of the Center to buy them. When inquiring about the reason, the Center's official replied that they were informed of such an order but did not explain.
- e) The NIHR's delegation noticed that there were many questions and inquiries from inmates about alternative punishments and open prison system and the mechanism of their application, requesting the NIHR to intervene on the matter.
- f) One of the inmates complained that clean drinking water is not available except by purchasing from the store, because tap water designated for drinking is salty (high concentration of dissolved salts) that is

not suitable for drinking, according to his testimony.

- g) Several inmates complained that they could not buy (bottled) mineral water from the store without a medical prescription.
- h) All inmates requested the assistance of the NIHR to consider if they could benefit from alternative punishments. The NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior to investigate the matter, which resulted in commuting sentences for some of them.

- **Building No. (6):**

- a) It is one of the new buildings in the Center. The NIHR's delegation noticed that the building was generally clean, even though some garbage bags were piled by the interior doors of the building; it seems that they are to be removed later.
- b) The inmate (A.M.) said that he had not received the assigned religious books since last year and that drinking water was of poor quality, mineral water was not sold in the Center's store, and that bathing water was sometimes unavailable.

**General Recommendations:**

- a) Urge the Administration of the Center to make the pharmacy available throughout the week, so that inmates can get their medicines when needed, and not to wait three days during which the pharmacy is closed.
- b) Allow inmates to purchase mineral water from the Center's store without the need for a prescription and explain the relationship between

buying mineral water and the need for a medical prescription for doing so.

- c) Urge the Administration of the Center to consider providing regular clothes for new inmates in the store, providing shoes of different and large sizes, and the possibility of purchasing them at reasonable prices, or allow inmates to bring them from outside while taking the necessary security measures.
- d) Urge the Administration of the Center to consider cleaning water filters periodically and ensure its suitability for use.
- e) The Administration of the Center should explain and clarify the mechanism and conditions for applying for alternative sanctions and open prisons for inmates.

**Recommendations related to the Ashura season:**

- a) Make available a spacious place for inmates to practice their religious rites to avoid overcrowding that currently exists in the buildings.
- b) Prevent delays in the delivery of religious books to inmates.
- c) Make use of the live broadcasts of mourning licensed by the Ja'afari Endowments Directorate through YouTube channel, by allowing inmates to watch it and follow the Hussein reading.
- d) Arrange for one of the moderate clerics accredited by the Ja'afari Endowments Directorate to deliver unified discourse and disseminate moderate culture to inmates through video communication.

4. Continuing the above, the NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior containing its observations and recommendations. The Ministry responded regarding the general observations and recommendations on the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Jau area, as follows:

**(1) Response to the observations pertaining to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau area):**

- (a) With regard to the inmate (K.A.), we note that this person is exercising physical coercion due to his failure to pay the fine, noting that his request to pay the fine in installment was rejected by the execution judge.
- (b) Regarding the delay in dispensing medicines from the Center's pharmacy, we note that it operates according to the working hours set by the Department of Health and Social Affairs, i.e., from Sunday to Thursday, except that it is different for the weekends due to the shortage of pharmacists, which may lead to failure or delay in dispensing of medicines during these days. However, the matter will be referred to the competent authorities to study the possibility of extending the working days of the pharmacy throughout the week. As for the clinic affiliated to the Dry Dock Pre-trial Detention Center and the Juvenile Building, the Health Affairs Department covers work during official working days as well as during official holidays, and during the official weekends, pharmacists are keen to dispense medicines at

Obada Pharmacy in the Public Security Health Center, and dispatch them with nursing staff on the same day. The stock of medicines is also monitored regularly with the concerned authorities to ensure that medicines do not run out and to be able to provide them speedily to patients.

- (c) As for buying clothes from the shop for new inmates, we note that this is nothing but an unfounded claim, as all inmates' needs are available in the store; therefore, all inmates without exception, including new inmates, have the right to purchase all their necessities according to the applicable purchase mechanism.
- (d) Regarding the lack of clean drinking water, we note that potable water is available in all facilities of the Center, including buildings that contain water desalination devices, which are maintained periodically in coordination with the competent authorities.
- (e) With regard to the inmate (F.A.), we note that no inmate with the mentioned data was registered in the records of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center.
- (f) Regarding not receiving religious books, we note that religious books are allowed for all inmates according to the mechanism for receiving deposits.
- (g) With regard to the existing clothes and shoes sizes, coordination has been made with the inmates' store to provide the appropriate sizes for inmates as soon as possible.

**(2) Response to the recommendations pertaining to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau area):**

- (a) With regard to increasing working days of the pharmacy throughout the week, coordination is made with the Health Affairs Department in this matter to provide the best means of health and medical care for all inmates.
- (b) As for allowing inmates to purchase mineral water from the store, we note that, as previously mentioned and clarified, that potable water is provided in all facilities, and that the purchase of mineral water is not done by prescription as it is not within the competence of the medical staff to issue any permit to allow inmates to buy mineral water from the Center's store as claimed.
- (c) Coordination has been made with the inmate's shop to provide all the needs of inmates, including regular clothes and the provision of shoes of suitable sizes.
- (d) The Center is keen to carry out periodic maintenance and cleaning of water filters.
- (e) Inmates are allowed to practice their religious rites depending on the available resources in the Center and considering security issues. Accordingly, a Religion Guidance Office and a religious guide (Murshid) have been assigned to communicate with those concerned and coordinate in this regard. The Center's Administration is also keen to arrange religious lectures in coordination with the Ja'afari Endowments to provide moderate clerics lecturers for advice and guidance.

All these efforts are made to provide an appropriate environment for inmates' religious feelings and their sanctity.

- (f) Books are delivered to all inmates in accordance with the procedures and system in force at the Correction and Rehabilitation Center.
5. Responding to the general observations and recommendations of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Pretrial Detention Centre):

**Responding to general comments:**

- (a) The inmate, (H.A.), was transferred to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center; he has follow-up medical appointments with a cardiologist at Salmaniya Medical Complex, and he is regularly checked by chronic disease doctors to follow up on his health condition and conduct the necessary laboratory tests.
- (b) The health condition of the mentioned, (M.H.), is monitored regularly by chronic disease specialists affiliated with the medical clinic; he was transferred (20) times to the cardiology clinic in the Salmaniya Medical Complex and the Royal Medical Services Hospital while he was in the Pretrial Detention Center. His medications are dispensed on a regular basis, including those for heart diseases.

**Response to the general recommendations (pertaining to the Pre-trial Detention Center):**

- (a) The health aspect is of utmost priority, as all cases are checked by the doctor on duty. Coordination is also made with the competent security agencies and directorates to transport detainees to their medical

- appointments. In the event of emergencies, the detainee is transported immediately by the ambulance designated for this matter. As for medicines, coordination is carried out periodically with the concerned authorities to provide all their needs and requirements in a manner that guarantees the safety and stability of their health condition.
- (b) The detainee (R.Z.) will be interviewed, and if he wishes, he can submit a request. Accordingly, the competent authorities of the Center's Administration will take the request to the concerned authorities, following the set procedures.
  - (c) The Administration of the Center is in the process of completing rebuilding and upgrading the Center as a whole in accordance with the recently issued directives pertaining to constructing buildings with modern specifications that meet all the needs of the Center.
  - (d) This is observed periodically, and the Center is working on reducing the numbers according to the weekly and daily statistics of the new detainees.
  - (e) The new detainees are placed in wards and rooms designated for quarantine until the results of their medical examinations are out. In the event of a suspected case among the detainees, they are immediately quarantined and subjected to further medical examinations in coordination with the Department of Health and Social Affairs at the Ministry.
  - (f) The concerned authorities have been addressed, as well as the regular and continuous coordination with them to ensure the provision of necessary health care for everyone without exception, especially those suffering from chronic diseases. The Department of Health and Social Affairs distributed the necessary chronic disease medications, such as insulin needles for patients with diabetes, to inmates in the buildings. It also coordinates with those concerned in the medical clinics affiliated to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center through the drugs warehouse department to provide the needed medicines for patients, whether this is done through purchasing them from drug stores or bringing in fast and urgent orders for the mentioned clinics to overcome the problems of lack of medicines.
  - (g) All medical prescriptions issued by the consultant doctors come from the Salmaniya Medical Complex and are dispensed by the Center's pharmacy. In the event that the medicine is not available, it is purchased through the incidental costs for medicines. The Ministry of Health has also been contacted to install the (I-SEHA) system for dispensing medicines, and the matter is being followed up with those concerned. Based on the mechanism in place, there is no delay in dispensing medicines by the pharmacy, because the staff do their work even on weekends and public holidays at the Jau Correction and Rehabilitation Center clinic.

- (h) Instructions and guidelines are placed in all wards, and the damaged ones are replaced periodically.

**Response to the recommendations pertaining to the (young) convicts building:**

- (a) Regarding instructions and guidelines, they are circulated in coordination with the detainees who are authorized to sign an undertaking. The inmates are given full freedom to practice these religious rites in accordance with the applicable regulations and they are also provided with copies of them.
- (b) As for the absence of any instructions, written or hung on the walls, regarding religious rites, we note that some guiding and instructional phrases for mourners have been written. Instructions for this occasion as well as others will be placed and fixed on the walls in the future to be viewed by all inmates present in the building. Noting that all inmates can revive their religious rituals through the presence of the Radoud, as the latter is allowed to move from one floor to another inside the Center to be present with all the inmates on this special religious occasion, according to what is explicitly stipulated in Article (51) of the Executive Regulations of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, that the inmate and remand detainee has the right to perform their religious rituals on time, provided that this does not compromise the security and order of the center, and the management of the center shall respect the religious feelings of the inmates who follow monotheistic religions, and enable them to perform their religious rites

in accordance with the controls set by the institution.

- (c) As for the inmate (G.A.), he was placed in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center for Young Inmates on 15/11/2018, where he was classified to Building No. (16), which is the building designated for the age groups ranging from 15 years to less than 18 years old, since his age at that time was less than (18) years. After reaching the age of 18 years, he was transferred to Building No. (17) to more than one room, based on his classification within the rooms.
- (d) Noting that a room (cell) for “solitary confinement” for a period of 3 years does not exist in the buildings of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center for young inmates, because this is in violation of the provisions of Resolution No. (131) of 2015 regarding the Executive Regulations of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, especially of Paragraph (9) of Article No. (65) thereof, which explicitly stipulates that solitary confinement shall be for a period not exceeding seven days. In fact, he was placed in one of the rooms in the building with other inmates of the same age and the same offense. The fact that the inmate was not normal and committed administrative violations had nothing to do with him being placed in a room isolated from the rest of the inmates, but rather he was placed in this room according to the applicable classification.
- (e) Concerning the observation about the desire of the inmates of (the first and second wards) to be in two

separate rooms on the second floor, a number of them are distributed between the TV room and the prayer room, where the Radoud is placed between the two rooms for those who wish to revive religious rituals. From a practical point of view, inmates of the same ward stay in two or more rooms to revive religious rites. Merging first floor rooms with second floor ones, or vice versa, will constitute a security threat to the Center and the safety of the police personnel as the total number of inmates in these rooms exceeds the number of workers in the Center. Moreover, each floor is designated for a specific age group. The upper floor is designated for the age group ranging from 18 to less than 21 years, while the lower floor is designated for inmates of the age group ranging from 15 to less than 18 years old, and according to the orders and instructions in place, inmates of different age groups are strictly forbidden from mixing with each other.

- (f) Work is underway to increase the number of on duty employees depending on the resources and mechanisms available in the Ministry.
- (g) Regarding the conditions for the application of alternative sanctions and open prisons for inmates, the Directorate General for Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sanctions communicates directly with the inmates. Inmates can submit a request to commute their sentence, and if all the legal conditions are met, the names are presented to the execution judge to issue deci-

sions replacing the original sanctions with alternative ones. Then, the Alternative Sanctions Department takes measures to implement the alternative penalties issued to the beneficiaries. Lectures, seminars, and conferences are held through which the mechanism and conditions for applying for alternative penalties are clarified. In addition, the Administration is in the process of preparing special lectures for the inmates in this regard.

- (h) With regard to the open prisons program, it is a training and rehabilitation program for convicts in accordance with the provisions of Law No. (18) of 2017 regarding Alternative Sanctions and Measures and is subject to the conditions stipulated in the Law. It consists of several phases, as the first stage of the program started on 21/8/2022.

**Sixth visit (September 18, 2022):**

1. On September 18, 2022, the NIHR visited the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, acting on a complaint submitted by inmate (A.A.A.)'s family, to consider re-opening the places of worship (the mosque) after its closure, and to consider the inmate's status to be included with the beneficiaries of the Alternative Sanctions and Measures Law to commute the remainder of their sentences. In addition, a case was monitored on social media to the effect that the inmate (F.A.I.) is not exercising his right to medical treatment and health care for the illnesses he has, which led to the worsening of his health problems.
2. During its visit, the NIHR made some observations and concluded

several recommendations that can be summarized as follows:

▪ **Regarding inmate (P.P.P.):**

**Observations:**

- (a) The inmate stated that he is the only son to his mother, and that she needs him to be present by her side due to her deteriorating health condition, and he pleads to be considered for commuting his sentence for humanitarian purposes.
- (b) The inmate explained that the Center's Administration closed the places of worship (the mosque) after some inmates living in another building caused riots and asked to consider reopening it.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Address the Ministry of Interior regarding the possibility of the person benefiting from the alternative penalties system.
- (b) Urge the competent authority in the Ministry to continue opening places of worship in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and that administrative punishment must be imposed on the individual, personal punishment, who causes riots and violates the applicable laws and regulations.

▪ **Regarding inmate (F.A.E.):**

**Observations:**

- (a) The inmate stated that he is suffering from medical negligence, as he has several health problems (body pain, cough, hepatitis C, hearing impairment).
- (b) The inmate explained that there is a delay in obtaining health care when

needed, especially regarding medical services provided by specialists.

- (c) It was noted that the inmate suffers from some psychological problems, but his general health is good.
- (d) According to information provided by the person in charge of the inmate:
  - During the past two years, the inmate visited Salmaniya Hospital three times.
  - The inmate visited the Center's clinic (68) times since 2017.
  - The inmate visited Al-Qala' Clinic (Ministry of Interior) (9) times.
  - The last visit with the doctor was on September 11, 2022.
  - His next appointment with the doctor (internal medicine department) is at the beginning of October 2022.
  - The inmate committed some minor violations, but his general behavior is good.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Prompt provision of necessary health care and follow-up with specialists in hospitals.
- (b) Fast track transferring the responsibility for following up the medical files of inmates in the Centers affiliated with the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Health.

**Seventh visit (September 29, 2022):**

- 1. Based on the NIHR's monitoring of news published on Twitter, and the complaint it received via e-mail from a civil society organization outside the Kingdom of Bahrain,

Bahrain Institute For Rights & Democracy (BIRD), regarding the inmate (A.M.) being mistreated by some law enforcement officers in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and what was reported in the news about not receiving the appropriate treatment and health care, in addition to the sit-in staged by inmates from buildings No. (5, 6, 7, 8, and 9), the NIHR conducted a field visit on September 29, 2022 to verify the matter.

2. The NIHR noted several observations and made a number of recommendations during its visit, as follows:

**Observations:**

- (a) It was noted that there were no signs of beating on the interviewed inmates. None of them reported being beaten.
- (b) It was noticed that there were no surveillance cameras in the room where the inmates were interviewed.
- (c) It was observed that one of the employees of the Ministry entered the room in which the interview took place at precisely 19:24, for a few seconds, and then left.
- (d) It was noted that all those interviewed cooperated with the NIHR's delegation.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) When selecting police personnel who deal with inmates in all correction, rehabilitation, detention, and remand centers, it must be ascertained that they have the necessary characteristics of self-control, tolerance, patience, and good treatment

of various inmates regardless of the crimes committed.

- (b) Intensify training and lectures for all employees of the Ministry of Interior dealing with inmates, detainees and arrested individuals on the principles and standards of human rights and the need to always observe these rights, as well as intensify supervision over them.
- (c) Reconsider the shift system in place in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center and other places of detention and arrest, as the length of shift hours significantly affects the psyche of police personnel, which is reflected in their dealings and interactions with inmates in one way or another, as one shift currently lasts up to 12 hours, and it is advisable to be shortened to 8 hours only.
- (d) Simultaneously, increase the number of personnel per shift to reduce work pressures, which will reflect positively on their dealings with inmates.
- (e) Provide private visits in accordance with the provisions of Law No. (18) promulgating the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, including not only relatives of the first degree, but also relatives up to the second degree, as Article No. (41) thereof stipulates that, "the inmate or his relatives up to the second degree can request an exceptional visit if there is a reason for it, and the warden of the center shall consider the circumstances of each case".
- (f) Affirm the right of the inmate to conjugal visitation in accordance

with the provisions of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, whereby Article No. (43) thereof stipulates that, “the inmate is entitled to conjugal visitation, and he may conclude his marriage procedures, in accordance with the procedures and controls set forth in the executive regulations.”

- (g) Consider the possibility of extending the right to exceptional visits, without a barrier, to the inmate's children, as such measures correspond to the standards of international instruments related to the rights of the child, serve the best interest of the child, and conform with the culture and nature of Bahraini society.
- (h) Perform psychological evaluation of the inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center and consider the eligibility of each inmate to stay in the Center or be referred to the Psychiatric Hospital, as it was alleged that an inmate assaulted other inmates endangering himself and others.
- (i) Therefore, all inmates receive integrated health care based on recommendations of specialized doctors who provide high quality medical care and continuous medical review, through the medical clinic at the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, which operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Health. The Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center is always devoted to its mission of providing comprehensive care to inmates and is fully committed to enforcing the Correction and Reha-

bilitation Institution Law and its Executive Regulations as well as all the standards related to human rights of detainees, by focusing on the health of inmates, their healthy lifestyles, and prevention of diseases and epidemics in partnership with the relevant authorities represented by the Ministry of Health and the Directorate of Health and Social Affairs.

- (j) Increase the number of security cameras and ensure they are installed in cars designated for transporting inmates and inside buildings and outside, especially hallways.
  - (k) Consider with competent authorities the right to housing, and the entitlement to a housing allowance for the families of convicts, emphasizing the principle that punishment is personal and should not be extended to the rest of family members.
  - (l) Consider expanding the use of alternative sanctions for inmates with chronic diseases and the elderly.
3. Continuing the above, the NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior containing its observations and recommendations. The NIHR received a response from the Ministry of Interior which included the following:
- (a) Regarding the NIHR's recommendation that when selecting police personnel who deal with inmates in all correctional, rehabilitation, detention, and confinement centers it must be ascertained that they have the necessary characteristics of self-control, tolerance, patience, and

good treatment of various inmates regardless of the crimes committed; Article No. (24) of the Public Security Forces Law sets forth the requirements for appointing non-commissioned officers, individuals, and guards. On the other hand, the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center urges police personnel, daily, to exercise restraint and treat inmates well, and this matter is always monitored by officers. Additionally, the behaviour of workers is observed by monitoring and human rights bodies on a permanent and continuous basis.

- (b) Concerning the NIHR's recommendation on the importance of intensifying trainings and lectures for all employees of the Ministry of Interior who deal with inmates, detainees, and the confined on the principles and standards of human rights and observing such rights at all times and tightening supervision over them; the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center devotes most of its attention toward intensifying courses and lectures for all ranks in coordination with the relevant authorities, on a number of topics on the principles and standards of human rights, in addition to monitoring them closely, whether by officers or surveillance cameras. In addition, the behavior of the workers in the Center is monitored by human rights bodies on a permanent and continuous basis.
- (c) Regarding the recommendation of the NIHR to reconsider the shift system in place in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center and other

places of detention and confinement, where the currently long shift of up to 12 hours can affect the psyche of the police personnel, which reflects on their dealing with the inmates in one way or another, and that it must be shortened to 8 hours only, and the number of personnel per shift should be increased to alleviate pressures on them, which should reflect positively on their treatment of inmates. The Correction and Rehabilitation Center already experience shortages of human resources because of the opening of the new buildings and distributing the inmates to reduce overcrowding, which makes it currently impossible to amend the shift system. The Administration is constantly striving to solve this problem according to the available resources, and when sufficient manpower is available, the shift system will be modified.

- (d) As to the recommendation of the NIHR to provide private visits in accordance with the provisions of Law No. (18) promulgating the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, including not only relatives of the first degree, but also relatives up to the second degree, as Article No. (41) thereof states that the inmate or his relatives up to the second degree can request an exceptional visit if there is a reason for it, and the warden of the center shall consider the circumstances of each case; The Administration of the Center does not object to granting the inmate an exceptional visit when the conditions and justifications allowing this are available and in accordance with the law.

- (e) Regarding the recommendation of the NIHR affirming the right of the inmate to conjugal visitation in accordance with the provisions of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, whereby Article No. (43) thereof states that the inmate is entitled to conjugal visitation, and he may conclude his marriage procedures, in accordance with the procedures and controls set forth in the executive regulations; the Administration of the Center does not object to conjugal visitation once a conjugal facility that meets all standards and conditions is available, and qualified staff, psychologist, and medical staff to run the facility are available as stipulated in the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law and its Executive Regulations.
- (f) With regard to the recommendation of the NIHR to consider the possibility of extending the right to exceptional visits, without a barrier, to the inmate's children, as such measures correspond to the standards of international instruments related to the rights of the child, serve the best interest of the child, and conform with the culture and nature of Bahraini society; the Administration of the Center endeavors to strengthen the bonds between the inmate and his family with all available resources and means, whether through regular phone calls, videoconference, or by meeting his family in the visitation building; it also allows the inmate to complete the visit without the glass barrier if the conditions and justifications are met.
- (g) Regarding the recommendation of the NIHR pertaining to conducting psychological assessment of the inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and to determine the eligibility of each inmate to remain in the Center or be referred to the Psychiatric Hospital, since the allegations that an inmate continued to assault other inmates endangering himself and the rest of the inmates; the Administration of the Center takes it upon itself to provide health and psychological care to all inmates, and when it appears that one of the inmates requires care in a reformatory (special treatment facility), the Center's clinic transfers him to the Psychiatric Hospital. The health care provided to inmates in correction and rehabilitation centers falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and comes within the framework of health services provided to all citizens and residents in the Kingdom of Bahrain, where all inmates enjoy integrated health care around the clock by specialized medical staff from the Ministry of Health in coordination with the Ministry of Interior. Medications for all inmate patients is provided on a regular basis according to the medical prescription for each inmate, and an ambulance and a stand-by ambulance are available on an ongoing basis.
- (h) Healthcare services in the correction and rehabilitation centers conform with all medical standards; among the services provided to inmates are primary health care services, specialized medical services, psychiatric services, psychological and social care, follow-up of chronic

diseases, and medical support services, such as medical laboratory and physiotherapy, in addition to the medical services provided under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, represented in “remote” medical consultations and the visiting consultant program in which visiting senior consultants with expertise from the Ministry of Health in various specializations follows up on the health status of inmates, and provide the highest level of medical service and treatment. Health care for inmates is provided by a medical staff consisting of consultants and doctors specialized in various branches of medicine with the provision of medication and necessary medical examinations through specialized clinics, in addition to linking all medical clinics in the correction and rehabilitation centers through an integrated medical information exchange system.

- (i) Therefore, all inmates receive integrated health care in accordance with the recommendations of specialized doctors through high quality medical care and continuous medical checkups, which is done through the medical clinic at the Correction and Rehabilitation Center, that works to oversee the health of inmates. The Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center is dedicated to its mission of providing comprehensive care to inmates, is fully committed to enforcing the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law and its Executive Regulations, all human rights standards, and the rights of detainees, by focusing on the health of inmates and their lifestyle and

prevention of all diseases and epidemics in partnership with the relevant authorities represented by the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health and Social Affairs.

- (j) Regarding the NIHR recommendation to increase the number of security cameras and to ensure that they are placed in cars designated for transporting inmates, and across the buildings, inside and outside, especially hallways; the Center’s Administration has recently installed security cameras in all the Center’s buildings and facilities, but the inmates have, intentionally, destroyed, broke, and disabled the security cameras in most of the buildings, and the matter was reported to the concerned authorities. As for the placing security cameras in the vehicles, the concerned authorities were addressed to provide the Security and Protection Department with security cameras for this purpose.
- (k) Regarding the recommendation of the NIHR on the importance of reviewing, with competent authorities, the right to housing and entitlement to a housing allowance for families of convicts, emphasizing the principle of the personal nature of the punishment and that it should not extend to the rest of the members of the family; the Center’s Administration, whenever it receives a request from an inmate in this regard, addresses the competent authorities with its recommendations. As for expanding the possibility of benefiting from alternative sanctions for those with chronic diseases and the elderly, the Administration identified those inmates

and submitted the list to the competent authority, noting that several inmates benefited from alternative sanctions, and the Administration continues in this approach.

**Eighth visit (October 12, 2022):**

1. Based on a complaint submitted to the NIHR from the family of the inmate (A.A.A.), about living conditions related to the lack of clean drinking water, the unavailability of clothes made of cotton, not allocating places for prayer, and the unsuitability of the isolation room, the NIHR, on October 12, 2022 conducted a field inspection visit to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Jau region to verify this.
2. During its visit, the NIHR made a number of observations and concluded several recommendations that can be summarized as follows:

**Observations:**

- (a) It was noted that inmates are in good health, with the shackles loosened during their interview (except for the inmate (A.A.A.), who was not shackled in the first place).
- (b) It was noticed that the Center's Administration provides clothes and shoes in different sizes.
- (c) It was noticed that drinking water is clean.
- (d) It was noted that the lighting and air conditioner in the isolation room are good.
- (e) It was noticed that one of the inmates was able to meet his family without shackles and in an open place, and he was able to carry his

daughter and sit comfortably with her.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Increase the number of water coolers for the inmates to ensure that there is continuous supply of cold drinking water, as only one device was noticed.
- (b) Provide books for inmates to raise their awareness and knowledge in a way that contributes to their reform and integration into society, and not be satisfied with daily newspapers, despite their importance.
- (c) The need to meet with inmates without the presence of any employee of the Ministry of Interior, whether an officer, military personnel, civilians, or administrators, as this would affect the statement of the inmate.
- (d) Strengthen internet transmission in Building No. (5) Ward No. (3), as the statement of the Ministry of Interior's employees indicate that inmates face problems communicating with their families if it is a video call, considering that video calls serve as actual visits, and that any interruption results in compromising the inmate's right to communicate with the outside world. In addition, this weak internet has a negative impact on the Ministry's employees, as it may delay communication between the warden and his employees.
- (e) Provide the inmate in the isolation room with books and magazines because of the positive impact of reading on his psyche. In addition, the reasons for isolation and its duration must be told to the inmate;

and the isolated inmate must be referred to the attending physician quickly if the isolation is due to a contagious disease.

- (f) Increase outdoor hours for inmates, and encourage them to exercise, especially walking, as it has a positive impact on the health of the inmates.
- (g) Increase open visits for inmates, especially parents with their children, and enable the children to sit and see their father without restrictions or barriers.

**Ninth visit (October 27, 2022):**

1. Acting on the complaint submitted by the family of inmate (A.J.M.) family, regarding not providing him with appropriate treatment and health care, failure to provide the needed living necessities such as clothing, denying him to get books in, and assisting him to be reclassified.
2. And based on the NIHR monitoring news posted on Twitter, and a complaint it received via e-mail from a civil society organization outside the Kingdom of Bahrain (BIRD) regarding the inmate (M.R.A.) being mistreated by some employees of the Ministry of Interior and denied treatment and appropriate health care.
3. And based on the complaint received from the family of inmate (F.J.A.), regarding his hunger strike for not being provided with adequate treatment and health care.
4. A delegation from the NIHR visited the Correction and Rehabilitation

Center on October 27, 2022, to meet the above-mentioned inmates.

5. During its visit, the NIHR made several observations and concluded a number of recommendations that can be summarized as follows:

**Observations:**

- (a) It was noted that there were no signs of beating on the interviewed inmates.
- (b) There were surveillance cameras in the room where the inmates were interviewed.
- (c) All interviewed inmates cooperated with the NIHR's delegation.
- (d) It was noticed that the Administration provided interpreters for foreign convicts.
- (e) It was noticed that there was great cooperation on the part of the employees of the Ministry of Interior, including officers and police personnel, which enabled the delegation to meet with inmates comfortably and listen to all statements without hindrance.
- (f) The delegation appreciates the Administration's efforts in following up the file of the inmate (F.J.A.) and assisting in providing him with appropriate health care and all the necessary supplies to enjoy the right to health.
- (g) The delegation appreciates the Centre's efforts in enabling inmates to submit their power of attorney through videoconference, but it was noticed that during the transaction, the inmates' hands were shackled, making it difficult for

them to complete the procedures and sign.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) When selecting police personnel who deal with inmates in all correction, rehabilitation, detention, and remand centers, it must be ascertained that they have the necessary characteristics of self-control, tolerance, patience, and good treatment of various inmates regardless of the crimes committed.
- (b) Intensify training and lectures for all employees of the Ministry of Interior dealing with inmates, detainees and arrested individuals on the principles and standards of human rights and the need to always observe these rights, as well as intensify supervision over them.
- (c) Regarding appropriate treatment and health care, the right to health is one of the most important human rights, especially for inmates in correctional, rehabilitation and detention centers. All parties must act to ensure that all necessary conditions are provided to enjoy this right and guarantee its continuance, including the provision of specialized doctors and qualified nursing staff, medications, and equipment to preserve the health of everyone until achieving the highest possible level of health, in addition to providing all the facilities for individuals to enjoy this right, in implementation of the provision of Article No. (8-a) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which states that, "Every citizen is entitled to health care. The State cares for public health and the State ensures the means of prevention and treatment by establishing a

variety of hospitals and health care institutions."

- (d) Inmate's (M.R.A.) request for treatment at his own expense constitutes a violation of his right to health, and a violation of the provisions of Law No. (18) of 2014 issuing the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, which stipulates in Article No. (28) thereof that, "the Institution provides free health care for inmates and those held in pre-trial detention, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, and the executive regulations specify the provisions regulating this." Therefore, the NIHR underlines the importance of expediting the transfer of the provision of health care to inmates to the Ministry of Health completely, and make available all necessary medicines and instruments, including the attendance of specialized doctors and consultants on specific days of the week. Until then, the efficiency of the clinics in correction and rehabilitation centers must be increased in all aspects and must be supported by an appropriate number of consultants, doctors and nurses, in addition to linking the electronic system of those clinics with the database of the Ministry of Health, which makes it easier for doctors to view the medical history of inmates in order to provide appropriate treatment and health care.
- (e) Increase inmates' outdoor hours and enable them to work out in accordance with the provision of Article No. (35) of the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, which stipulates that, "The inmate and remand prisoner are entitled to

practice free exercise in the open air during a suitable period of time daily, and the management of the center shall provide the necessary places, supplies, and equipment for these activities.”

- (f) Enable inmates to bring in the books they are allowed to own, due to the importance of knowledge in the reform process of inmates, in accordance with the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, which stipulates in Article No. (24) thereof that, “a library for inmates shall be established in every center containing books and publications that are permitted to be circulated in the institution and some newspapers and magazines that aim to educate and discipline the inmates. They are also entitled to obtain books, newspapers and magazines that are not available in the library at their own expense as set forth in the executive regulations.”
- (g) With regard to completing the power of attorney procedures via visual communication, the NIHR’s delegation values the Center’s efforts in providing this service to the inmates and recommends that the inmates complete this paperwork without being handcuffed to facilitate signing the transaction, if possible.
- (h) The possibility of expanding the use of alternative punishments for people with chronic diseases and the elderly, especially those who do not pose a threat to public security.
- (i) Consider transferring an inmate (A.J.M.) to the appropriate building in which those who have committed similar crimes are present, if

such does not constitute a danger to him and those around him and does not constitute a breach of security and safety.

#### **Tenth visit (December 7, 2022):**

1. Acting on a complaint received by the NIHR from the family of the inmate (A.J.S.) regarding poor living conditions for him and the rest of the inmates in Building No. (3), insufficient meals provided to the inmates, being shackled when they go outdoor for fresh air, and another complaint related to visual communication, in addition to receiving a complaint from the family of inmate (F.A.A.) related to the right to health and the poor quality of food provided for inmates in building No. (10).
2. On December 7, 2022, the NIHR visited the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to meet the inmates and verify the extent to which they enjoy their guaranteed rights.
3. During its visit, the NIHR made a number of observations and concluded several recommendations that can be summarized as follows:

#### **Observations:**

- (a) All interviewed inmates cooperated with the NIHR’s visiting delegation.
- (b) It was noticed that there was great cooperation on the part of the employees of the Ministry of Interior, including officers and police personnel, which enabled the delegation to meet with inmates comfortably and listen to all statements without hindrance.

- (c) There was a consensus among inmates on the poor quality of the food provided and lack of variety.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Coordinate medical appointments for inmates in such a way that does not create conflicts between appointments with more than one doctor for the inmate at the same time, to the extent possible. Ensure that visiting specialists and consultants on is facilitated, while giving priority to critical cases that need urgent and necessary action.
- (b) Meet with the company that supplies the meals to consider improving the quality, freshness, and validity of the meals, ensure that they contain all the necessary elements (carbohydrates, vitamins, proteins), and special diets for medical conditions of the inmates, and present all the observations made by the inmates to avoid them in the future.
- (c) Consider replacing legumes from the meals provided to inmates with healthy alternatives suitable to the general condition of the inmates and investigate the possibility of conducting an opinion poll to find out what the inmates wish to eat and their observations regarding the food provided, if possible.
- (d) Consider arranging for continuing school and university education for inmates who wish so and implement adequate mental, physical, and artistic activities that contribute to reforming and rehabilitating the inmates and allow them engage their time in a useful way that helps them to easily integrate into society upon the end of their sentence.

- (e) Ensure that each inmate gets his own meal, considering that some inmates stated that the number of meals provided is less than the number of inmates present in the building in some cases.
- (f) Activate private visits to the extent possible and increase visual communication between inmates and their families, as these have positive impact on the mental health of inmates.
- (g) Ensure that water coolers are in good condition and that the water is clean; maintain them periodically and replace broken ones in a manner that guarantees that inmates enjoy clean water.
- (h) Ensure safety of special meals and that they are healthy and suitable for the inmate's condition.
- (i) Increase the outdoor hours for inmates and enable them to work out in accordance with what is stated in the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law, while considering the removal of cuffs and iron shackles during this outdoor period.

**Third: Pretrial Detention Center and Juvenile Detention Center in the Dry Dock area**

1. To activate the NIHR's oversight role as stated in its Establishment Law; and based on its Action Plan to follow up on the implementation of the standards related to the protection and promotion of human rights in places of detention in line with the powers granted to it, a delegation from the NIHR made (3) visits to the Pretrial Detention Center and

the Juvenile Center in the Dry Dock area.

2. The three were conducted to determine the extent to which the inmates of these centers enjoy the freedom to practice their religious rites in line with international standards related to protecting the rights of inmates and detainees and ensuring their enjoyment of all basic rights, with an emphasis on observing the laws and regulations of correction and rehabilitation centers.

**First visit (July 4, 2022):**

1. The NIHR conducted an inspection field visit to the Pretrial Detention Center in the Dry Dock area on 4 July 2022, after receiving complaints from the families of a group of inmates in the Center, specifically Building No. (17), about the inadequacy of the meals provided for the inmates, its poor quality, and limited variety.
2. The visit to Building No. (17) concluded with the following observations and recommendations:

**Observations:**

- a. It was observed that the food provided is varied and sufficient and that special meals are provided for patients or inmates who are vegetarians.
- b. It was observed that the lunch meal was varied and included salads, fruits, and juices.
- c. It was noticed that the salad was stored poorly, placed in plastic bags, and was not diversified.

d. Some inmates explained the following:

- The variety of the ingredients of the salads is limited, and they requested adding some additional ingredients such as onions and others.
- Sometimes the ingredients of the salads are not washed well as sand or mud can be found on them.
- Sometimes, dinner meals are not consumed because of its effect on the inmates' health as it is considered a heavy meal for the evening period, (the meal consisted of broth (saloon), and they asked to replace it with light sandwiches of cheese, chicken, or hamburger.
- Replace the beans meal with eggs and tomatoes, and replace the white beans with red beans, because they do not like it.
- The chicken used for preparing the meals is big and hard to chew and demanded replacing it with small and soft chicken.
- The way tea is served makes it get cold by the time it reaches the inmates as it is better to keep it in a thermos.
- Storing food in aluminum utensils creates moisture inside the container and affects the taste and quality of rice.
- Regarding the method of serving food, the inmates requested that it be changed from closed pre-prepared containers to the open buffet system, and the provision of divided (compartment) plates made of stainless steel that are usually used for inmates.

- Regarding special meals, inmates reported that a variety of juices was not available.
- e. During the visit, inmates of Ward No. 2 and Ward No. 10, who are in Building No. (17), complained about the broken television sets in the wards. The warden of the Pretrial Detention Center stated that he submitted a request last November to the concerned authority regarding the provision of (12) TV sets for the various wards and is still waiting to receive them.

**The second visit (August 3, 2022) - Ashura season**

1. On August 3, 2022, the NIHR visited the Pretrial Detention Center. During the visit, it inspected Ward No. (10-5). The visit concluded with several observations, summarized as follows:

**Ward No. (10):**

**Observations of Warden:**

- The Warden explained that the ward consists of 10 cells for detainees of different nationalities and several of them are members of the Shiite community, most of whom practice religious rites, while others do not want to.
- When asked about the mechanism for practicing the rituals collectively, he explained that gathering in the cells is not allowed because of the precautionary measures adopted to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, as well as for security reasons, as several detainees may refuse to return to their cells after practicing rituals collectively,

which constitutes a threat to security.

**Observations of ward supervisor (Radoud):**

- "Turbah" is provided by the Administration of the Center sometime before the season and the inmates are allowed to perform religious rites, except that in some shifts the Radoud is not allowed to leave his cell, so he reads religious rites from inside the cell, which makes it difficult to hear for detainees in other cells.
- Inmates need a clear mechanism, instructions, and a written program for practicing religious rites to be implemented in all shifts.
- Consider allowing all detainees to gather in the mosque to perform rituals, or to provide a TV set to broadcast sermons directly. He stated that the TV set in the Pretrial Detention Center has not been working for about a month.

**Observations of several inmates from the Shiite community:**

- Meals change on the ninth and tenth of Muharram and served at an appropriate time with the performance of rituals.
- One of the inmates asked to be transferred from his cell to another cell, indicating that he was the only Shiite in the cell.

**Ward No. (5):**

**Observations of the Warden:**

The Warden explained that the number of prisoners who perform religious rites ranges from 15 to 20 inmates.

**Observations of ward supervisor (Radoud):**

- Allow all inmates to gather in one place to perform religious rites and increase the specific allotted time for them by one hour at their request.
  - Allow inmates to use extra money during the Ashura season to buy whatever they need from the store to be offered after the mourning.
2. Afterwards, the NIHR toured the facilities of the building for young convicts accompanied by several of the Center's employees. Observations were obtained from:

**Observations of the Warden:**

The Warden explained that the total capacity of the Center is 194 inmates, and currently accommodates about 80 inmates.

**Observations of ward supervisor:**

- He stated that the inmates practice their rituals freely and that all their needs are provided, and they do not have any complaints.
  - He explained that the number of inmates who perform religious rites is around 22 inmates.
3. Then, the NIHR visited the place where religious rituals are revived:

**Observations of the supervisor of the wards:**

- The rituals are revived for two hours, from seven until nine in the

evening (one hour for reading supplications, and one hour for mourning).

- Food and hospitality are served after the completion of the rituals.
  - Religious and other books are provided, where one of the inmates is in charge of borrowing books.
4. A closing meeting was held with the Warden, where the NIHR's delegation underlined the following:
- The importance of allowing the detainees to perform religious rites in one place, or at least allowing the Radoud to leave his cell.
  - The need to write and post instructions, regulations, and guidelines in a visible place for detainees and inmates.

**General observations:**

- (a) It was noticed that there were no instructions written or posted on the walls regarding religious rituals or the rights and duties of the detainees in Wards No. 5 and No. 10.
- (b) It was noticed that there is insufficient ventilation, air conditioning and lighting in Wards No. 5 and No.10.
- (c) It was noticed that there is a mosque in Ward No. (10), however, it is not used for practicing religious rituals during the Ashura season, though it can be used to prevent overcrowding.
- (d) It was noticed that the TV room was allocated as a place for practicing religious rituals, which was found to be appropriately sized.

- (e) A sign reading “Mourning Hospitality” was posted in the room dedicated for reviving religious rites.
- (f) Religious rites were completed at nine o’clock in the evening.
- (g) The building was generally clean.
- (h) Before leaving Ward No. (10), the Radoud began reciting rituals, and it was noticed that he was walking down the hallway to serve all cells and reading from handwritten papers. When the NIHR’s delegation inquired, Radoud stated that he collects supplications from books or mobile.
- (i) An ambulance was present at the Center.

**Third visit (August 5, 2022) - Ashura season:**

1. On August 5, 2022, the NIHR visited the building of young convicts. The visit concluded with a set of observations, which are summarized as follows:

**Observations of the Warden:**

The Warden explained that the building’s total capacity is 180 inmates. Currently, there are 80 inmates distributed in two wards: Ward No. (1) on the first floor and Ward No. (2) on the second floor. Each ward has (12) rooms, in addition to one isolation room.

**Observations of the supervisor of the wards (inmate):**

- He said that they have no complaints regarding the freedom to practice religious rites as all inmate needs are provided. However, he requested that inmates in the first

and second wards who wish to revive the rituals be gathered in two separate rooms on the second floor and distribute them between the TV room and the prayer room, so that the Radoud can be stay between the two rooms.

- He explained that the number of inmates who perform religious rites is 23 inmates.
- Rituals are revived for two hours, from seven to nine o’clock in the evening (one hour for reading supplications and one hour for mourning).
- Food and hospitality is served after the completion of the rituals (it was ordered from a specialized bakery upon the request of the inmates, and consisted of sandwiches).
- Inmates have religious and cultural programs and contests in Arabic and English languages.
- The TV room on the second floor, which is the place where religious rituals are revived, was visited, where the inmates were performing rituals.

**General observations:**

- (a) The building is generally clean, tidy, and quiet.
- (b) It was found that there were no instructions written or hung on the walls regarding religious rituals.
- (c) A small sign containing instructions on the rights and duties of inmates was noticed.
- (d) During the visit, it was noticed that there was tea and water in the hallway, in addition to a variety of

snacks on a table that carried a sign reading “mourning hospitality”.

**Fourth visit (8 August 2022) - Ashura season:**

1. On August 8, 2022, the NIHR visited the Pretrial Detention Center and the juvenile building (Dry Dock), specifically Ward No. (2). The visit concluded with a set of observations, which are summarized as follows:

**(1) Pretrial Detention Center**

**Observations of the Warden:**

It was noticed that all the cells were open. The Warden explained that the detainees have greater advantages, as they are over forty years old and none of them is imprisoned pending a criminal case.

**General observations:**

- (a) The building was generally clean.
- (b) During the visit, the NIHR’s delegation found that detainees were freely practicing their religious rites.
- (c) Several detainees were met, where the NIHR’s delegation inquired about the conditions during the month of Muharram as well as their needs. They stated that they are allowed to perform religious rites and that “Turbah” is provided by the Administration of the Center.
- (d) It was noticed that there were no instructions written or hung on the walls regarding religious rituals.

- (e) The delegation was handed a printed copy of the “Pledge of Detainees Desiring to Revive Religious Rituals”, in which the controls for practicing religious rites in the Pretrial Detention Center, the date and time of performing religious rites, the detainees’ names and personal number, and the ward and the room numbers were indicated, as well as a place for signature and fingerprint. The Pledge stated the following:

- Practicing religious rituals should not result in a breach of security and public health inside the ward.
- The purpose of practicing religious rituals should be strictly religious and spiritual, and not to achieve other purposes such as spreading hostility and hatred among the detainees or inciting chaos and rebellion inside the ward.
- Religious rites should be practiced in the place specified by the Administration.
- Practicing religious rituals by a group of prisoners must not disturb other inmates.
- Must not force a detainee or a group of detainees to convert to a particular religion through physical and moral coercion by another group.
- In all cases, these rituals and religious rites must not include anything that violates public order and public morals. In such a case, the Warden of the Pretrial Detention Center or his representative has the right to prevent practicing religious rituals to maintain public order.
- Adherence to the allotted times for practicing religious rituals.

- (f) The number of officers and police in charge of internal security in the Pretrial Detention Center is insufficient, as they cannot control the detainees if a riot breaks out.
- (g) The absence of any instructions written or hung on the walls regarding religious rituals in the Pretrial Detention Center.

## **(2) Young Convicts Building**

### **Observations of two ward supervisors:**

- They stated that all the needs of the inmates are provided and that they do not have complaints regarding the freedom to practice religious rites.
- They explained that the number of inmates who perform religious rites is 23 young inmates.
- They stated that the duration of religious rituals is two hours, from seven until nine o'clock in the evening, where supplications are recited for one hour followed by mourning for another hour. They added that the inmates request to increase the duration.
- They explained that food and hospitality are provided after the completion of the rituals. It was found during the tour that tea was served in the hallway.
- Regarding religious books, they stated that some books are available, but they do not know the titles of those books.

### **General observations:**

- (a) The building was generally clean, tidy, and quiet.

- (b) It was noticed that there were no instructions written or hung on the walls regarding religious rituals.
  - (c) The NIHR's delegation asked the first ward supervisor who was met during the second visit on Friday, August 5, 2022, whether the issue of gathering inmates to perform religious rituals on one floor, and distributing them to two rooms, was considered, and he answered yes.
2. Concluding observations and recommendations of the three visits to the Pretrial Detention Center and Young Convicts (3, 5, 8 August 2022 - Ashura season):

### **Observations:**

#### **Pretrial Detention Center:**

- (a) One of the detainees complained that he was not transferred to his appointments at the hospital, while others complained that the judge extended his detention frequently.
- (b) One of the detainees (R.M.H.) asked to be admitted to the (addiction recovery program) indicating that the judge always postpones this matter.
- (c) Several detainees were met and some of them complained about the mechanism of adding phone numbers for communication and that it takes a long time to obtain approval from the Center's Administration.
- (d) One of the detainees in Ward No. (5) complained about the presence of insects in the cell.
- (e) Another detainee complained that they only have one hour to make phone calls, wash clothes, and be in

the open air outdoors, which is not enough to do all these things, and asked for more time.

- (f) Overcrowding was observed in some cells in Ward No. 5.
- (g) A detainee suspected of having tuberculosis was found with other detainees in one cell in Ward No. 5.
- (h) It was noted that there are no guidelines on the rights and duties of detainees posted in all wards.
- (i) It was noticed that the TV set is broken in Wards No. 5 and 10.
- (j) Several of the detainees complained about the extension of the duration of pretrial detention by the judge, and continuous renewal of detention, and requested to consider the matter.
- (k) The detainee (M.H.), who has heart disease, complained that he was unable to go to his appointments at the hospital. He pleaded to be seen by a cardiologist and have his medications dispensed.
- (l) Another detainee, (H.A.), requested that his medication be dispensed because he also suffers from heart disease and requested to be seen by a cardiologist, as he is being checked currently by a general practitioner.
- (m) From its interview with the detainees, the NIHR's delegation understood from their statements that there was a delay in dispensing medicine despite the medical orders. Upon inquiring from the Warden of the Center, he stated that the delay is caused by the competent authorities and not by the Center's Administration.

- (n) The inability of a number of detainees to go to their appointments at the hospital, as several of them suffer from heart disease, especially those whose detention is renewed for long periods by the Public Prosecution.

- (o) Delay in dispensing medicines.

#### **Minor Convicts Building:**

- (a) It was observed that there was a TV set in every cell in the minor's building.
- (b) There was an electronic game (PlayStation) in the TV room.
- (c) There were guidelines on the rights and duties of inmates posted in the building (small posters).
- (d) It was noticed that there was a significant shortage in the number of shift employees.

#### **▪ Recommendations:**

##### **Pretrial Detention Center:**

- (a) The need to have written instructions posted on the walls regarding religious rituals or the rights and duties of detainees, especially in Wards No. 5 and 10.
- (b) The importance of adequate ventilation, air conditioning, and lighting, especially in Wards No. 5 and 10.
- (c) Maintain the cleanliness of wards and cells.
- (d) Consider using the mosque in Ward No. (10) to practice religious rituals during the Ashura season to prevent overcrowding.
- (e) The number of officers and police in charge of internal security in the

pretrial detention center is insufficient, as they cannot control the detainees if a riot breaks out.

- (f) Establish a mechanism, clear instructions, and a written program for religious rites to be implemented in all shifts.
- (g) Reach an agreement with one of the moderate clerics accredited by the Ja'afari Endowments Department to present a unified discourse and disseminate moderate culture to inmates, through video communication.
- (h) Benefit from the live broadcast of Ashoura mourning licensed by the Ja'afari Endowments Department through the YouTube channel, by allowing inmates to watch it and follow the Hussein reading.
- (i) Transfer detainees to hospital appointments on time, as a number of them suffer from chronic diseases (such as heart disease), which affects their health, especially those whose detention is being renewed for long periods.
- (j) Consider the request of the detainee (R.M.Z.) regarding admitting him to the (addiction recovery program).
- (k) Consider increasing the time for communication, washing clothes and going outdoors (as the one hour currently granted is not sufficient.)
- (l) Consider avoiding overcrowding in cells (especially in Ward No. 5).
- (m) Make sure that there are no detainees infected with contagious diseases (it was noted that there was a

prisoner suspected of having tuberculosis with other detainees in one cell, in Ward No. (5).

- (n) Ensure that TV sets in all wards are functional, as it was noticed that they were broken in Wards No. 5 and 10.
- (o) Put in place a mechanism to regulate health affairs inside the prison and to facilitate and expedite the dispensing of medications for detainees with chronic diseases to avoid deterioration of their health condition. The health condition of detainees, especially those whose detention is renewed for long periods by the Public Prosecution, must be considered.
- (p) Find a solution to the problem of delay in dispensing medicines.
- (q) Have written instructions, regulations, and guidance posted in visible places for detainees.

#### **Young Convicts Building:**

- (a) Ensure that instructions on religious rituals are written and posted on the walls (Ward No. 2).
- (b) Benefit from the live broadcast of mourning licensed by the Ja'afari Endowments Department through the YouTube channel, by allowing inmates to watch it and follow the Hussein reading.
- (c) Reach an agreement with one of the moderate clerics accredited by the Ja'afari Endowments Department to present a unified discourse and disseminate moderate culture to inmates, through video communication.

(d) Post instructions related to the rights and duties of inmates in a large and clear size in all wards.

(e) Increase the number of on duty staff.

▪ **Common recommendations:**

(a) Coordinate between the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center and the food supplying company (catering), in the following:

- Provide light meals at dinner time and replace the broth (saloon) and beans meal currently provided with light sandwiches of cheese, chicken, or hamburger, and add milk, yogurt, and eggs with tomatoes.
- Use regular canned red beans instead of white beans.
- Improve the quality of salads by adding more ingredients, place it in containers instead of plastic bags, and make sure that the company cleans and washes the fresh ingredients properly.
- Provide various juices with special meals (vegetable meals).
- Ensure the quality of the chicken used and its source.
- Take the necessary measures to ensure that hot drinks (tea) reach detainees before they cool down.

(b) Study the possibility of changing the way meals are presented, such as the open buffet system, and providing meals in divided (compartment) stainless steel plates usually used by inmates.

(c) Expedite repairing or providing new TV sets, based on a request previously submitted by the Center's Administration in this regard.

**Fourth: Detention of the General Directorate of Traffic**

1. In order to activate the NIHR's role in conducting announced and unannounced field visits to correction and rehabilitation centers and places of pretrial and detention, to monitor human rights conditions and to ensure that detainees enjoy their prescribed rights, whether before, during or after the arrest, the NIHR carried out, on September 20, 2022, an inspection visit to the detention of the General Directorate of Traffic to verify the above.
2. The standards of the visit centered on the following:

**Humanitarian treatment standard and verification of the conditions of the place:**

- It was verified that awareness of the instructions, regulations, guidelines and the penalties for violating such by detainees was ensured, as the official explained that the General Directorate of Traffic has issued a form in several different languages (Arabic - English - Hindi - Urdu), and this form is presented to the detained person to clarify all his rights and obligations during detention period, and he is required to sign it as an indication of acknowledgment.
- As to the extent to which the Directorate provides detainees with contact numbers to communicate with

- human rights bodies, the official explained that the communication service is available around the clock in detention, and every detainee has the right to call any party or person freely.
- As for the detainees with special needs and the elderly, the delegation noted that there were no detainees of this category. The NIHR's delegation also noted the readiness of the staff at the Center to deal with any detainee with special needs, in terms of the availability of needed equipment (wheelchairs - crutches).
  - Commitment to the gradual escalation of use of force in cases of riots and strikes was observed, as the Major explained that they follow a special guide for dealing with detainees regarding the methods of controlling detainees and protecting them and the security men from danger when necessary.
  - With regard to health services, the official explained that all detainees, in the event of any health symptoms, are referred directly to the Public Security clinic; if there is an emergency, the national ambulance service is called to transfer them to the Salmaniya Medical Complex.
  - Regarding separating inmates according to their health conditions, the NIHR's delegation made sure that the Administration of the Center separates the inmates from each other if one of them contracted an infectious disease (such as: HIV, emerging coronavirus Covid-19, and other infectious diseases).
- It was verified that, regarding the available vaccinations against infectious disease, the Administration of the Center gives the inmate the freedom to accept or reject the vaccination and to choose the type of vaccination if he accepts to be vaccinated.
  - It was noticed that the Administration follows precautionary measures to combat the spread of infectious diseases, including social distancing, wearing masks, disinfectants, and disinfection of buildings.
  - The cleanliness and availability of beds, pillows, and blankets was verified. In addition, the availability of toilets next to the rooms, their number, the number of shower rooms designated for inmates, in addition to the availability of windows, exhaust fans, and sufficient lighting was verified. However, the delegation noticed that there were no washing machines. The Major explained that detainees do not need to wash clothes, as they spend only 48 hours, then they are released or transferred to a remand detention center.
  - It was noticed that the detention is intended for male detainees only. As for women, they are not detained in the Center. In the event a female is arrested in a traffic crime, all procedures related to the case are carried out in the detention building, then they are immediately referred to the Correction, Rehabilitation and Detention Center for Female Inmates located in Isa Town.

**Safety standard:**

- The condition of the place was verified, as the size of the cells was commensurate with the number of inmates present, with no overcrowding.
- It was verified that appropriate lighting is available in the wards, cells and gathering places.
- Regarding the verification of safety conditions and the related availability of fire-fighting equipment, gas, smoke and fire detectors, and the report from the Civil Defense on the safety of the building, the NIHR's delegation noticed that all was well established.
- The level of safety and security in the design of the building, cells, windows, and outdoor courtyards was verified. It was noticed that there are no sharp edges and corners and that there are emergency exits equipped with a lighting system designated for emergencies, especially when the electricity is cut off, and a few doors, as well as an emergency evacuation plan on which all staff members are adequately trained.
- It was established that first aid is available, but there was no attending physician. The Major explained that detainees do not stay in the Detention Center for more than 48 hours, and that some policemen are trained on first aid.
- The presence of surveillance cameras was also established, and the official indicated that the Center had asked the Ministry to provide

them with additional security cameras, and they are in the process of receiving them.

- According to the Major, the Directorate sends its employees to attend specialized courses in the field of human rights.
- The official explained that a special room has been designated to all preliminary investigation procedures that are completed via remote technologies, so that there is no need to transfer the detainees to the investigation headquarters.

**Standard for verifying the existence of a mechanism for complaints:**

- As to allowing inmates to file a complaint with the Directorate, it was established that the mechanism for submitting complaints exists and is appropriate, in addition, the NIHR's delegation verified the existence of a mechanism for investigation and redress based on evidence, and in a manner that takes into account the principles of justice.
- Regarding the extent to which a mechanism for inmates to communicate (by telephone) with human rights bodies without obtaining prior permission from the Directorate exists, the NIHR's delegation noted that this was activated.
- It was confirmed that there is a box for detainees to submit their complaints to the Secretariat General of Ombudsman and the Internal Audit and Investigation Department. The Major explained that the Directorate is waiting for the NIHR to bring its own complaints box.

**Adequate food and sufficient drinking water indicators:**

- It was verified that the food and drinking water provided to the detainees were adequate in terms of quality and quantity, as the detainees were met during lunch.
- It was established that there are suitable sized dining rooms for inmates.
- Fixed times for serving meals to inmates, the variety of foods, the reasonable quantity provided, and the availability of drinking water coolers in the hallways in sufficient number in relation to the number of inmates, were all established.

**Indicator of achieving the standard for rehabilitation and learning:**

- It was found that the Directorate has provided religious books in various languages. In addition, the official explained that all detainees have the right to bring any book with them into detention in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

**Lawfulness of placement and legal rights indicator:**

- The lawfulness of placement of inmates was verified and the documents upon which the person was placed in the Center were available. The NIHR's delegation found that the Administration separated inmates according to the type of crime and age groups. It was verified that there is a specific mechanism for inmates to communicate with their families or lawyers.
- Regarding the freedom to receive letters, read newspapers, listen to

the radio, and watch television, it was noted that there are no newspapers, radio, or television. The NIHR's delegation made a note regarding the provision of a TV in the dining room. However, the official explained that most detainees are charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, and that the provision of a television may cause danger to their lives and the lives of the rest of the detainees.

- It was verified that all inmates enjoy the right to outdoor time.
  - It was noticed that there are no private rooms for worship and practicing religious rites. The official stated that the detainees have the right to perform worship in their rooms or in the dining room.
  - As to solitary confinement, the official explained that there are precautionary measures that are taken in exceptional cases to preserve the safety of the detainee himself and the safety of the rest of the detainees.
  - The legality of the detention, the reasons for it, the adherence to the detention period, and the suitability of the place in terms of cleanliness and ventilation were all established.
  - As to ensuring that the detainee does not stay in the police station for a period longer than the period established by law, the official stated that the Center is committed to the legal periods of detention.
3. The NIHR's delegation, from its visit to the detention centers of the Gen-

eral Directorate of Traffic, concluded a number of observations and recommendations that can be summarized as follows:

**Concluding observations and recommendations:**

▪ **Observations:**

- (a) It was noticed that there were no elderly detainees or detainees with special needs in the Center.
- (b) The commitment to the gradual escalation of use of force in cases of riots and strikes was observed, as there is a special guide for dealing with detainees on the methods for controlling the detainee and preventing him from endangering himself and the security forces.
- (c) It was noticed that some policemen are not trained on first aid.
- (d) It was noticed that the Center needed more security cameras.
- (e) It was noticed that the Directorate sends employees to attend specialized courses in the field of human rights.
- (f) It was noticed that there is no complaints box for the NIHR.
- (g) It was noticed that there are no newspapers, radios, or television sets.
- (h) It was observed that there are no private rooms for worship and practicing religious rites, and that detainees have the right to perform worship in their rooms or in the dining room.
- (i) It was noticed that the Administration washes sheets and blankets

and changes them on an ongoing basis.

▪ **Recommendations**

- (a) Train all policemen on first aid.
- (b) Expedite installation of security cameras, as required.
- (c) Urge the Center to provide means of entertainment for detainees, such as television sets, radios, and newspapers.
- (d) Urge the Administration of the Center to allocate a special room for performing worship and practicing religious rites.
- (e) Provide a nurse in the Center to ensure the safety of the detainees when needed.

**Fifth: Capital Governorate Police Directorate**

1. In implementing its role in conducting announced and unannounced field visits to correction and rehabilitation centers and places of pre-trial, detention, and confinement, to monitor human rights conditions, the NIHR made an inspection visit to the Capital Governorate Police Directorate on May 16, 2022, to assess the human rights situation and to ensure that detainees enjoy their prescribed rights, whether before, during or after the arrest procedures.
2. Accordingly, the standards of the visit centered on the following:

**Humanitarian treatment standard and verification of the conditions of the place:**

- It has been established that all inmates are aware of the instructions, regulations, guidelines, and the penalties for violating such.
  - It was noted that there is a need to improve the services related to meeting the needs of inmates with disabilities and the elderly.
  - The commitment to gradual escalation of use of force was noted in cases of riots and strikes.
  - It was noted that the Directorate sends its employees to attend specialized courses in the field of human rights.
  - It was verified that surveillance cameras are installed.
  - Regarding health services, the NIHR's delegation confirmed their availability by interviewing the physician, to verify the quality of the medical care provided and the availability of medicines, as it was found that the detainee is referred to the health center in the Ministry upon arresting him.
  - Regarding separating inmates according to their health condition, the NIHR's delegation made sure that the Administration of the Center separates inmates in the event an inmate contracts an infectious disease (such as, HIV, emerging coronavirus (Covid-19), and other infectious diseases).
  - It was verified that the Administration of the Center gives the inmate the freedom to accept or reject vaccinations, while allowing him to choose the type of vaccination if he accepts to be vaccinated, regarding the available vaccinations against any infectious disease.
  - It was noticed that the Administration follows the precautionary measures to combat the spread of infectious diseases, including social distancing, wearing masks, disinfectants, and disinfection of buildings.
  - Cleanliness and availability of beds, pillows, and blankets were established, also the presence of toilets next to the rooms, their number, the number of shower rooms designated for inmates, the availability of windows, exhaust fans, and sufficient lighting. However, the delegation noticed that there was no washing machine for inmates' clothes and washing clothes was done manually.
  - It was noted that the Directorate is for detention of men only and all working staff members are males. As for women, they are detained in Isa Town Center.
- Safety standard:**
- The condition of the place was verified, as the size of cells is commensurate with the number of inmates they accommodate, with no overcrowding.
  - It was verified that appropriate lighting was provided in the wards, cells and gathering places.
  - The delegation noted that safety conditions and measures in terms of the availability of fire-fighting equipment, and gas, smoke and fire detectors, and the report of the Civil Defense on the safety of the building, are well established.
  - On the safety and security aspect in the design of the building, cells, windows, and outdoor courtyards,

it was noted that there are no sharp edges and corners, and it was also found that there are emergency exits equipped with a lighting system designated for emergencies, especially in the event of a power outage, with doors that operate automatically when a fire breaks out, and that there is an Emergency Evacuation Plan, on which the staff are adequately trained.

- The availability of first aid and the presence of a physician on duty in the clinic was confirmed, as it was noted that there was a mini-clinic and that the policemen were trained on first aid.
- The readiness, safety and security of transport vehicles that are used to transport inmates to the reform and rehabilitation center, hospitals, courts, etc., was noted; it was also established that the inmates do not have to wait for long periods in the vehicle.

**Standard for verifying the existence of a mechanism for complaints:**

- Regarding the possibility of the inmate filing a complaint with the Administration, it was confirmed that the mechanism for submitting complaints is appropriate. In addition, the NIHR's delegation verified the existence of a mechanism for investigation and redress based on evidence, and in a manner that considers the principles of justice.
- As to the extent to which there is a mechanism for inmates to communicate (by telephone) with human rights bodies without obtain-

ing prior permission from the Administration, the NIHR's delegation noted that there is no such thing.

- It was confirmed that there is a box for inmates to submit complaints to the Secretariat General of Ombudsman only.

**Adequate food and sufficient drinking water indicators:**

- The NIHR's delegation could not confirm the adequacy of the food and drinking water provided to the inmates in terms of quality and quantity, but the detainees reported that the quality and adequacy of the food was good.
- It was verified that there are suitable sized dining rooms for inmates.
- Fixed times for serving meals to inmates, the variety of foods, the reasonable quantity provided, and the availability of drinking water coolers in the hallways in sufficient number in relation to the number of inmates, were all established.

**Indicator of achieving the standard for rehabilitation and learning:**

It was found that there are no plans or programs to rehabilitate the inmates, and the Administration does not provide various physical exercises, reading or writing.

**Lawfulness of placement and legal rights indicator:**

- The legality of placement of inmates was verified and the documents upon which the person was placed in the Center were available. The NIHR's delegation found that the Administration separated inmates according to the type of crime and age groups.

- It was verified that there is a specific mechanism for inmates to communicate with their families or lawyers.
  - Regarding freedom to receive letters, read newspapers, listen to radio, and watch television, it was noted that there are no newspapers or radio, only television set.
  - It was noticed that phone calls are provided to the detainees free of charge.
  - It was verified that all inmates receive adequate daily exposure to the sun.
  - It was verified that there are special rooms for worship and practicing religious rites, as well as the availability of books and religious supplies for practicing various acts of worship, but this needs improvement.
  - As to solitary confinement, the NIHR's delegation verified the legality of confinement, the reasons for it, adherence to the duration, and the suitability of its place in terms of cleanliness and ventilation.
  - About ensuring that the detainee does not stay in the police station for a period longer than the legally prescribed period, the NIHR's delegation was briefed on the details.
3. The NIHR concluded its visit to the Capital Governorate Police Directorate with several observations and recommendations that are summarized as follows:

**Observations:**

- (a) Drug addict detainees, who suffer from behavioral disorders, constitute a danger to themselves and the rest of the inmates, which requires

immediate and urgent measures to be taken to ensure their safety and the safety of detainees and staff members, such as keeping them in centers or hospitals temporarily, or keeping them under continuous observation and control.

- (b) The cases referred by the Directorate to both Dar Al-Aman and Dar Al-Karama reoffend after leaving the home, repeating the same offense for which they were detained (abuse and begging).
- (c) The presence of specialized and trained guards was verified.
- (d) Toilets need maintenance and improved cleaning.
- (e) It was noted that a detainee on a criminal fine claim had served his sentence but was unable to pay the fine.
- (f) The presence of a person who has been detained for more than 48 hours, which is legally prescribed, in the Center under the pretext of bringing him before the Public Prosecution Office on other cases.
- (g) With regard to the electronic reporting program for criminal complaints, notifications were received that differ from the working hours of the Center, which requires amending the reporting system and the working hours to include morning and evening shifts.
- (h) The center receives reports on cases and memoranda circulated before the judicial authority, and reports related to the parties to a case or their attorneys.

**Recommendations**

- (a) Take immediate and urgent measures to ensure the safety of drug addict detainees who suffer from behavioral disorders, and the safety of the detainees and staff members around them, such as keeping them temporarily in centers or hospitals, or keeping them under constant observation and control.
- (b) Appoint a nurse in the Center around the clock for acute and emergency cases.
- (c) Urge the Administration to maintain the inmates' restrooms.
- (d) Urge the Administration to wash sheets and blankets and replace them on an ongoing basis.
- (e) Activate the notification and appointments system of the electronic reporting program for criminal complaints to include the morning and evening periods.
- (f) Adhere to the provisions of Article No. (57) of Decree-Law No. (46) of 2002 issuing the Code of Criminal Procedure and its amendments, so that the detention duration does not exceed (48) hours.

#### **Sixth: Deportation Center in the Hidd area**

1. Based on the complaints received by the NIHR pertaining to the living conditions, in addition to several complaints within the same context related to the right to health and focusing on the lack of medications and health care, a delegation from the NIHR paid two visits to the Deportation Center for male and female detainees in the Hidd area on

November 8, 2022, and November 16, 2022.

2. The NIHR reached several observations and recommendations after the visit that are summarized as follows:

#### **Observations:**

##### **(1) Observations of first visit (November 8, 2022):**

- (a) The presence of a box for submitting complaints to the Secretariat General of the Ombudsman and to the competent department at the Ministry of Interior.
- (b) The availability of a sufficient number of fire extinguishers.
- (c) A washing machine is available in each building, in addition to an appropriate number of restrooms.
- (d) There are no special rooms for detainees with disabilities; however, the Administration of the detention building has allocated a waiting room with wheelchairs to be used if a person with a disability is present.
- (e) It was noted that there are no restrooms for persons with disabilities.
- (f) A list with the names of the detainees was posted on the wall in the women's building, while a similar list was not present in the men's building.
- (g) There was water leakage in the women's restroom.
- (h) There are delays in the deportation process.
- (i) Some of the detainees are not aware of the latest developments regarding the length of their stay in

the Detention Center (whether because of a passport, a ticket, or court procedures).

- (j) It was noticed that there is an unpleasant odor in the area where the inmates' beds and sleeping accessories are (Male and female). Upon inquiring from those concerned, it was evident that the windows were sealed and locked because the deportees threw their garbage out of these windows.

**(2) Observations of the second visit (November 16, 2022):**

- (a) There is cockroach infestation (small cockroaches) in the second-floor kitchen. (Men's Deportation Center)
- (b) Absence of a place for hanging laundry, as clothes are spread on the walls of bathrooms. (Deportation Center for men and women)
- (c) Bathrooms are not clean, the sanitary fixtures are worn out, the insulated wooden walls are eroded, and the trash bin is full. (Deportation Center for men and women)
- (d) Absence of television sets as means of entertainment, especially since many of the detained men and women may stay in the Center for a long time. (Deportation Center for men and women).
- (e) There is a significant and obvious shortage of beds and absence of pillows and sheets, as it was noticed that most detainees sleep on foam mattresses. When asked about this matter, the officials stated that some detainees break the beds, and that there is a request to provide an alternative to these beds.

**(3) Joint recommendations of the first and second visits to the Deportation Center for men and women:**

- (a) The need to inform deportees of their deportation procedures and what has been done in this regard, according to the latest developments.
- (b) Maintain the restrooms urgently and replace the worn sanitary fixtures.
- (c) Maintain the kitchens and use insecticides on a regular basis to exterminate all kinds of insects.
- (d) Put in place a suitable mechanism to ensure proper ventilation of all rooms and replace sleeping accessories on a regular basis.
- (e) Provide beds, sheets, and pillows for all detainees.
- (f) Avoid delays in the deportation process by establishing a specific mechanism that directly links the two Deportation Centers with embassies, various government agencies, and courts.
- (g) Coordinate with the NIHR to place a special box for complaints.

**Second Section**

**Visiting the centers affiliated to the Ministry of Health, government hospitals and the Bahrain Defense Force**

1. To activate the NIHR's oversight role stipulated in its Establishment Law, and to complement its plan to follow up the implementation of standards related to the protection and promotion aspect, and to emphasize its basic role stipulated in the Law regarding announced and unannounced field visits to monitor

human rights conditions in places of detention, labor gatherings, health and educational centers or any other place suspected of being a site of violation of human rights, on the one hand; and to find out, on the ground, the services and facilities provided to individuals and convicts in medical settings to preserve their health and the health of their families on the other hand; in addition to follow up on observing the various human rights in such circumstances in accordance with international conventions and instruments.

2. This section will address the visits made by the NIHR to the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center (Sickler), the field ICU in the car park building and the Sitra Island quarantine of the Bahrain Defense Force, in addition to a visit to an inmate at the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center, and a visit to one of the inmates housed in Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Health and Social Center, as follows:

#### **First: Hereditary Blood Disorder Center (Sickler)**

1. The NIHR conducted an inspection visit to the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center (Sickler) on February 28, 2022, to find out the general conditions of patients and get their remarks, and to make sure they enjoy their rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards, followed by another visit to the Center on March 8, 2022 to check on the health condition of the inmate (H.A.A.) who is in the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center (Sickler).

2. During the two visits, the NIHR made several observations and reached a number of recommendations that were communicated to public hospitals, and their response was as follows:

- (a) Observation: The building is for men aged 18 years and over, whereas women and children are treated in private wards in the Salmaniya Medical Complex building. There is a shortage of medical staff, therefore, there is one specialist to treat men, another for women and one more specialist treats children. Therefore, the committee recommends urging public hospitals to add one or two floors to the current Center designated for men to accommodate women and children instead of distributing women and children to the wards of the Salmaniya complex.

- Response of the concerned authority: Adding one or two floors to the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center is already included in the expansion plan of government hospitals to increase the capacity of the Center and raise the level of medical services provided in government hospitals, and until the completion of this project, wards (21 and 66) have been allocated to Sickler female patients, ward (54) for Sickler male adolescents, ward (56) has been allocated for Sickler female adolescents, and ward (31) has been allocated for pediatric diabetics.

- (b) Observation: There is treatment delay upon arrival at the emergency of the Center, as some patients waited for two hours and others for three hours sitting on the chair, despite

- their poor health and feeling of pain.
- Response of the concerned authority: According to the “triage” method used to assess the severity of illness of patients within a short time after their arrival at the emergency department, the patients are classified, where patients with severe pain or life-threatening condition are given priority in receiving the necessary health care. By examining the records to check if there were any delays or negligence, it was evident that all the staff dealt with patients according to the approved classification, and there was no evidence of any delay in receiving the necessary treatment.
- (c) Observation: Some patients want to dictate to the attending physician the type and quantity of medication they need.
- Response of the concerned authority: All physicians are committed to the treatment plan based on the assessment of the patient’s condition only, without regard to his/he desire.
- (d) Observation: The number of patients with sickle cell anemia (Sickler) is (9000) patients, while the number of those receiving injection therapy is (300) patients only, and physicians are trying to replace these injections with regular medicines.
- Response of the concerned authority: the program of replacing daily injections with oral medications is considered one of the greatest successes and achievements of the medical team, as it has led to a significant improvement in the quality of life of patients.
- (e) Observation: Patients sometimes do not get a bed in the emergency department until they are examined, diagnosed, and receive appropriate treatment, which is due to the small number of medical and nursing staff in the emergency department. Therefore, the committee recommends that priority should be given to patients with sickle cell anemia (Sickler) at the hospital upon their arrival at the emergency department and to complete their diagnosis and treatment procedures as soon as possible.
- Response of the concerned authority: The Department of Accidents and Emergency is currently in the process of expansion and upgrading, and plans have been made to dedicate a special path for Sickler patients, same as other emergency patients for whom a special path will also be dedicated.
- (f) Observation: All patients interviewed complained about the poor quality of food provided to them, and it was also noted that the quantity and variety of food and the way it was prepared needed improvement, which is why the committee recommends urging government hospitals to improve the way food is prepared, taking into account its variety and quantity provided to each patient.
- Response of the concerned authority: Quantity and quality of meals for sickle cell patients are deter-

mined by a nutritionist in government hospitals to suit the nature of the disease and the treatment provided to them, and we are constantly working to improve the quality of food provided; recently, we concluded a contract with a private company to provide meals for patients.

- (g) Observation: There is a room in the Center equipped with a number of beds and medical equipment, which is not used because of a shortage of staff and the need to increase the nursing staff to be able to use these beds and increase the number of patients received for treatment. Therefore, the committee urges government hospitals to increase the number of specialist medical and nursing staff at the Center for Hereditary Blood Disorder (Sickler).
- Response of the concerned authority: Work is currently underway to increase the number of medical and nursing staff of the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center, where a psychological support consultant has been appointed recently, and work is underway to provide all the required staff.
- (h) Observation: There is no library equipped with books and magazines.
- Response of the concerned authority: The Center has a unit for learning, which is fully equipped for digital reading and learning.
- (i) Observation: There was a convict shackled in iron chains under tight security. The committee recommends that the Center coordinates

with the Ministry of Interior to consider the possibility of replacing iron shackles and cuffs with other tools that have a lesser impact because the inmate is undergoing medical treatment.

- Response of the concerned authority: Procedures for transferring convicts to the Center to receive treatment and the precautionary measures that entail imposition of strict security for fear of escaping, and restricting the patient with iron shackles are matters of the Ministry of Interior. Noting that all these precautionary and restrictive measures do not prevent or interfere with the provision of our medical services to convicted patients with the same quality and speed provided to other patients. Coordination will be made with the Ministry of Interior to explore the possibility of replacing these restrictions with lesser impact ones.
- (j) Recommendation: Allow the concerned (convicted patient) to contact his family and relatives as soon as possible, given that he is going through difficult health conditions. In addition to this being one of his guaranteed rights, it is a humanitarian issue given his poor health condition.
- Response of the concerned authority: It must be clarified that the concerned is a convict and is subject to the authority and oversight of the Ministry of Interior, and the role of the Center is limited to providing him with medical treatment in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, and therefore we call on your honorable committee to submit its

observations in this regard to the competent authority.

- (k) Recommendation: The need to find a specific mechanism to guard the concerned (convicted patient) and others infected with this disease (Sickler), as well as convicts infected with rhinitis, as the presence of three security men in the room may expose them to the risk of infection with the germ and then spread it on a large scale in the country, especially since it is contagious.
- Response of the concerned authority: As mentioned above, determining the precautionary measures of convicts' guarding mechanism and the number of security men accompanying convicted patients is within the competence of the Ministry of Interior. As for infection control measures, the Center trains guards on infection control procedures, and provides them with all the necessary equipment for prevention and urges them to abide by it. Therefore, we call on your honorable committee to submit its observations in this regard to the competent authority.

### **Second: The Intensive Care Unit and the Sitra Island Quarantine of the Bahrain Defense Force**

1. The NIHR conducted an announced inspection visit to the field intensive care unit in the parking lot building and the Sitra Island quarantine of the Bahrain Defense Force on Thursday, June 2, 2022, to review its achievements in light of the coronavirus pandemic, and to stand on the

preparations of health care facilities in emergencies and crises.

2. During its visit to the Intensive Care Unit and the Sitra Island quarantine of the Bahrain Defense Force, the NIHR concluded a number of observations and recommendations that can be summarized as follows:

#### **Observations:**

#### **Regarding the Intensive Care Unit in the Medical Services of the Military Hospital of the Bahrain Defense Force:**

- (a) Currently, there are no patients in the Unit, and upon inquiry, it was found that the last patient had recovered and was discharged from the Unit in April 2022, but the Unit continues as a proactive plan for emergencies.
- (b) The Unit consists of one floor divided into several sections; a section for emergencies and critical cases and another for the cases that have improved.
- (c) Readiness of advanced medical equipment was noticed.
- (d) It was noticed that there are a number of pipes extended in the ceiling, and when inquiring about them, it was found that these were pipes for firefighting, and they are already present in the car parks; oxygen pipes were installed at each bed while other pipes are for electricity and ventilation.
- (e) It was noticed that there is spacing between beds.
- (f) It was noticed that there are few toilets near the beds, but after inquiry it was found that there are a larger number of toilets on the upper floor of the building.

**Regarding the Sitra Island quarantine of the Bahrain Defense Force:**

- (a) There were no quarantined inpatients to confirm the information, but those in charge of the quarantine made it clear that all inpatients are aware of the instructions, regulations, guidelines, and penalties for violating such, and that the quarantined patients are informed of all instructions upon their entry and the procedures required upon leaving the quarantine.
- (b) From the photographs presented, it was clear that the beds, pillows, and blankets are clean and available when patients were quarantined, but the place is currently deserted and needs to be re-cleaned for use again.
- (c) Regarding the availability and proximity of the restroom for quarantined, the delegation noticed that toilets are available, but they are located a little far from the sleeping tents.
- (d) As to health services, it was noted from the explanation of those in charge, that the available health services are a clinic and first aid in every area of the quarantine, in addition to the main clinic and the emergency clinic, which is available on an ongoing basis.
- (e) Regarding the classification of quarantined patients according to their health condition, the delegation noted, through the explanation of those in charge, that there is a room to isolate persons with infectious diseases such as HIV.
- (f) It was established that precautionary measures were followed to

combat the spread of infectious diseases, including social distancing, masks, disinfectants, disinfecting the premises. The delegation was informed of this during the inspection tour of the quarantine, where beds were separated from each other.

- (g) From the explanation of those concerned, it was confirmed that there is a team of female physicians and nurses, but there is no female staff that undertakes monitoring and supervising the quarantined patients because they are all males, as the quarantined females are referred to other health facilities such as the International (Al-Dawly) Hospital and al-Salmaniya Hospital.
- (h) It was also noted from the explanation of those concerned that there were no residents with special needs. Despite this, it was noted during the inspection tour of the quarantine that there were insufficient measures to meet the needs of quarantined patients with special needs and the elderly, especially that the floor is uneven, and the toilets are located far from the sleeping tent.
- (i) The pictures showed the cleanliness of the place during the period when there were quarantined patients, but it was noticed, during the inspection tour of the quarry, that there were no security or safety equipment because they were removed after the end of the coronavirus pandemic.
- (j) It was noticed during the inspection tour of the quarantine that these devices were not available because

it is difficult to install smoke detectors in tents.

- (k) There are surveillance cameras in all facilities, officials are aware of all their duties, and some officials speak several languages to communicate with residents.
- (l) It was noted, from the explanation of those in charge, that there is a mechanism for submitting complaints, as there was a contact number posted in all tents to submit complaints, and there are teams to ensure that the complaints received are resolved. As for the extent to which there is a mechanism for the quarantined patients to communicate with human rights bodies without obtaining prior permission from the Administration, it was also understood from the explanation of those in charge that they are free to communicate with external bodies such as embassies to submit complaints through their mobile phones.
- (m) The concerned official explained the suitability of the food and drinking water provided to quarantine patients in terms of quality and quantity, showing pictures to the NIHR's delegation.
- (n) It was noticed, from the pictures, that there is a free canteen for the quarantine patients in which all foods are available, and it was also noticed that there are no kitchens available.
- (o) Those concerned confirmed that food is varied and suitable for everyone.
- (p) From the explanation of those in charge, it became clear that there

are some educational programs, such as showing educational videos about the coronavirus in all languages that were sent over the mobile.

- (q) During the inspection tour of the quarantine, it was noted that there are sports grounds.
- (r) Regarding the legal documents under which the quarantine residents are placed, it was found through the explanation of those concerned that there is a clear mechanism for placement, and bracelets are placed for all quarantined patients. In addition, it was evident that there is a clear mechanism when the quarantined leave as transportation was provided to several areas.
- (s) It was noted, through the explanation of those concerned, that communication is guaranteed through their mobile phones, and the availability of free internet service was also noted.
- (t) It was noted, through the explanation of those concerned, that there are special rooms for performing worship and practicing religious rites.
- (u) It was noted, through the explanation of those concerned, that there is no library equipped with books and magazines.
- (v) It was noted, through the explanation of those concerned, that there are no means to help the quarantined patients with special needs such as the blind and persons with special needs, because they are not received in this quarantine.

(w) With regard to the availability of the items needed by women related to motherhood and child-raising, it was clear that these items are not available because, as explained by those in charge, the quarantine does not receive women.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Increase entertainment facilities in the Sitra quarantine, such as TV viewing halls and some mental and entertaining games.
  - (b) Develop a specific mechanism for placing toilets close to tents.
  - (c) Increase the number of fire extinguishers in tents and train patients on how to use them in case of fire.
  - (d) Consider replacing tents with fully equipped buildings, in anticipation of any other conditions and pandemics in the future.
1. In following up of the above, the NIHR sent a letter to the Head of the Royal Medical Services including the observations and recommendations of the NIHR but did not receive a response within the time frame of this Report.

**Third: Salmaniya Medical Complex (Emergency Department):**

1. The NIHR conducted an inspection visit to the Salmaniya Medical Complex (Emergency Department) on October 4, 2022, to check out the procedures for patient check up by physicians when they arrive at an emergency department, in addition to the extent to which staff members in the emergency department enjoy their rights guaranteed under

national legislation and international human rights standards.

2. During its visit, the NIHR reached some observations and made several recommendations that are summarized as follows:

**Observations:**

- (a) Beds, pillows, and covers need more cleaning and care, and several patients complained about the cold air conditioning and the lack of clean blankets.
- (b) The toilettes are not clean in all the departments visited; this is confirmed by complaints from the patients.
- (c) There are few physicians and nurses in some emergency divisions and need to be increased; some divisions are overcrowded with patients (this may be due to the expansion work currently being carried out).
- (d) Some patients complained about the delay in seeing the physician.
- (e) The classification section "Triage" is a long, narrow hallway with many patients and a registration office with poor ventilation. (This situation is temporary due to the expansion work that is currently under way).
- (f) A female nurse was interviewed. She stated that she has been working in the Department for two years and has not obtained annual leave until now, nor has she received any promotions. She also requested considering increasing the number of the medical staff.

- (g) Another nurse was interviewed, and she demanded an increase in the training courses offered.
- (h) A physician in one of the departments was interviewed. He reported that there is great pressure on physicians in the emergency department, and that the department needs to increase the number of medical staff.
- (i) A female sickle cell anemia patient was interviewed, and she reported that the waiting room is not suitable, the services are slow, and the treatment needs to be modified.
- (j) The companions of one of the inpatients in the emergency department were interviewed, and they reported that the patient had an accident while he was brought to the emergency room when he was on the transportable bed, as his leg collided with the bed due to lack of attention and care, which caused some bruises and wounds that were not treated, and they do not know if he was in pain, indicating that he has not received any treatment so far, and is currently in a coma.
- (k) Several nurses who were interviewed stated that the results of the laboratory tests arrive late.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Develop an appropriate mechanism to educate patients about the nature of the work of emergency departments and the classification system of emergency cases “Triage”, where emergency cases that require rapid intervention have priority, to reduce overcrowding in emergency departments.

- (b) Urge the Ministry of Health to increase the number of physicians and nurses in the emergency department, to avoid any delay in classifying cases and to ensure patients receive treatment services as soon as possible.
- (c) Intensify training courses for medical personnel and improve work conditions, in terms of psychological comfort by obtaining various job benefits, especially annual leaves on time, because of its positive impact on work efficiency and improving the level of services provided to patients.
- (d) More Coordination is needed between the emergency department and the laboratories in the hospital to ensure that the results of various tests arrive in record time.
- (e) Pay more attention to the issue of cleanliness in general in the emergency department, and in particular the cleanliness of bed and bathroom equipment.
- (f) Take needed measures to reduce patients’ waiting period to see the attending physician to the shortest possible period.

**Fourth: Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Health and Social Center**

1. Acting upon a complaint received by the NIHR concerning the inmate (H.M.) to the effect that he did not receive treatment and health care while hospitalized at the Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Health and Social Center, in addition to the poor living conditions, the NIHR visited the Center on November 28, 2022, to

inspect the condition of the concerned inmate, and verify the content of the complaint received.

2. The NIHR concluded the visit with observations and recommendations that are summarized as follows:

**Observations:**

- (a) The inmate was not shackled during his interview.
- (b) The management of the center provides all the medications to the inmate, those related to diabetes and other illnesses, as he reported that he takes 15 pills a day.
- (c) There is a refrigerator, a television set, a water heater, a place for prayer, and two wardrobes with one door and drawers.
- (d) The lighting and air conditioning in the room are good.
- (e) Lack of privacy during the delegation's meeting with the inmate, as two policemen accompanied the delegation inside the room.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) The inmate must urgently be checked by a dentist.
- (b) The inmate must be checked by an orthopedic doctor to follow up the procedures for preparing the inmate for knee surgery, for fear of a deterioration in his health condition.
- (c) Provide the inmate with books and magazines to read because of their positive impact on his psyche and consider the possibility of returning confiscated books that do not violate laws and regulations.

- (d) Consider allowing continuous visits by the inmate's family and include his grandchildren and nephews in the visits.
  - (e) Consider the possibility of adding news channels, and returning the channels that were removed at an earlier time.
  - (f) Consider the possibility of allowing the inmate to make a video call.
  - (g) Return the inmate's personal items that are in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center.
3. Through the direct contacts between the Chairperson of the NIHR and those concerned in government hospitals, the inmate was examined by doctors and the tv receiver was set.

**Fifth: Visit to King Hamad University Hospital:**

1. The NIHR conducted an inspection visit to King Hamad Hospital on December 1, 2022, to check out the general services provided to patients, and the extent to which they enjoy their right to treatment and health care in accordance with national legislation and international human rights standards.
2. The NIHR concluded the visit with a number of observations and recommendations that are summarized as follows:

**Observations:**

- (a) The departments and hallways of the hospital are clean and equipped with fire extinguishers.

- (b) There are posters with instructions posted in all hospital hallways and elevators.
- (c) There is medical staff with more than one specialization in various departments.
- (d) The hospital is prepared to receive many cases.
- (e) Patient waiting areas are available.
- (f) There is a school inside the hospital to provide academic support for sick children who are not able to attend school because they are admitted to the hospital.
- (g) There is no library for patients with prolonged stay in the hospital, and the absence of mental activities, which is compensated for by physical activities and television.
- (h) The Emergency Department has more than one entrance.
- (i) A patient complained of the long waiting period, which may extend for two hours or more, from the initial examination until the results of the blood test are out.
- (j) Physicians of the pediatric department noted that the hospital needs to expand the department to meet the challenge of increasing the number of sick children during the period of spread of diseases and viruses.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Develop a mechanism to ensure the provision of magazines and books to patients, especially patients whose health condition requires them to stay in the hospital for a long period.

- (b) Urge the hospital administration to consider increasing the capacity of the pediatric department.
- (c) Reconsider the waiting period for patients awaiting lab results to make it as short as possible.
- (d) Urge the hospital administration to increase the number of initial examination rooms (checkup) in the emergency department, as on some days and certain times the current number is not sufficient and causes great pressure on the medical staff and provokes complaints of patients as a result of the long wait.

**Third Section**

**Visits to several centers affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development**

1. Within the framework of the NIHR's work to protect the rights of persons placed in social care centers, to ensure that all segments of society, especially beggars, homeless people, victims of domestic violence and their companions, receive the services provided to them to the fullest.
2. The NIHR conducted an inspection visit to Dar Al-Karama for Social Services, Dar Al-Aman for Women Victims of Domestic Violence, and Child Welfare Home (Batelco Home), to check out the general conditions of the residents and their observations, and to ascertain the extent to which they enjoy their rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards.

### **First: Dar Al-Karama for Social Services**

1. Based on the broad mandate granted to the NIHR in the field of protection and promotion of human rights, and the jurisdiction granted to it under the provisions of its Establishment Law, the NIHR made an inspection visit to Dar Al-Karama for Social Services on February 6, 2022, to check out the general conditions of the residents and their observations, and to ascertain the extent to which they enjoy their rights guaranteed by national legislation and international human rights standards.
2. The visit emanated from the NIHR's keenness to activate its oversight role in the field of protecting and promoting human rights, especially regarding conducting announced and unannounced field visits to correctional and rehabilitation institutions, detention centers, labor gatherings, health and education centers, or any other public place in which it is suspected that human rights violations might take place.
3. The NIHR concluded its visit to Dar Al-Karama for Social Services with several observations and recommendations that are summarized as follows:

#### **Observations:**

- (a) Lack of rooms to isolate cases with infectious diseases.
- (b) Dar Al-Karama does not provide a special mechanism to individualize treatment or to meet the needs of residents with special needs and the elderly.

- (c) The absence of a mechanism for residents to communicate with human rights bodies to file complaints without obtaining prior permission from the administration.
- (d) The building is not suitable and there is no place for outdoor exposure to sun and sports, in addition to the absence of any activities.
- (e) The Director of Dar Al-Karama, Mr. Saad Sultan, requested to consider the possibility to sign a memorandum of understanding with the NIHR, to look into the obstacles facing them, where the lack of the necessary capabilities makes it difficult for them to solve the problems of the residents with the concerned authorities, as the concerned authorities that orders their placement does not follow up on their affairs or solve their problems.
- (f) Dar Al-Karama will move to a new building for social care in Hamad Town area during the coming period.

#### **Recommendations:**

- (a) Make special rooms to isolate cases with infectious disease.
- (b) Develop a special mechanism to meet the needs of residents with special needs and the elderly.
- (c) Devise a mechanism that enables residents to communicate with human rights bodies to file complaints without obtaining prior permission from the administration.
- (d) Designate an outdoor place for exposure to sunlight and sports.

## **Second: Visit to Dar Al-Aman for Women Victims of Domestic Violence**

1. Based on the broad mandate granted to the NIHR in the field of protection and promotion of human rights, and the jurisdiction granted to it under the provisions of its establishment law, the NIHR made an inspection visit to Dar Al-Aman for Women Victims of Domestic Violence affiliated to the Ministry of Labor and Social Development on February 7, 2022, to check out the conditions of residents and their observations, and to ensure that they enjoy their rights guaranteed by national legislation and international human rights standards.
2. The NIHR concluded its visit to Dar Al-Aman with several observations and recommendations that are summarized as follows:

### **Observations:**

- (a) The delegation was unable to ascertain the cleanliness and availability of beds, pillows, and blankets, nor was it able to know the number of shower rooms allocated to residents.
- (b) The building is not suitable, and there is no place for outdoor time and sports, in addition to the absence of any activities.
- (c) There are no plans or programs for the rehabilitation of residents, as well as provision of physical exercises, or reading and writing.
- (d) Lack of health services and absence of rooms to isolate residents if they contract any infectious disease.

- (e) It was understood that Dar Al-Aman is in the process of changing the building and moving to a new building for social care in the Hamad Town area in the coming period.
- (f) Dar Al-Aman did not provide a special mechanism to individualize treatment to meet the needs of residents with special needs and the elderly.
- (g) Fire-fighting equipment and gas, smoke and fire detectors located next to the administration building need maintenance or replacement.
- (h) Absence of a mechanism for submitting complaints, or a mechanism for residents to communicate with human rights bodies.
- (i) Cooperation exists between Dar Al-Aman and the Ministry of Interior to provide community service police only in the morning; however, those in charge in reported that they have asked the Ministry of Interior to provide police during the evening period as well.
- (j) While interviewing a resident with her son, it was found that there is no mechanism or legal representative to resolve the issues of the residents, and that after completing the period allowed to stay in the Dar, they return because their main problems, for which they were placed in the Dar, are not solved.
- (k) During an interview with a resident, she stated that she is used to stay in Dar Al-Aman because there are no procedures to address her legal or family situation, as it was found that there was no legal possibility to handle the cases in terms of filing

lawsuits (Sharia) or any litigation procedure.

- (l) The delegation was unable to verify whether there are surveillance cameras in all of the facilities of the building.
- (m) The delegation was unable to verify if there are training programs.
- (n) The delegation was unable to verify the suitability of food and drinking water provided to the residents in terms of quality and quantity, in addition to the delegation's inability to ascertain if meals were served to the residents at fixed times, the variety of food, and whether the quantity provided is reasonable.
- (o) The delegation was unable to examine the legality of the placement of residents and the availability of the documents according to which the person was placed in the Dar.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Designate a suitable place for exposure to outdoor sunlight and sports and make plans for the rehabilitation of residents.
- (b) Provide nurses around the clock and a room for quarantine.
- (c) Set up a special mechanism to individualize treatment and meet the needs of residents with special needs and the elderly.
- (d) Replace or maintain fire-fighting equipment and gas, smoke and fire detectors located near the administration building.
- (e) Develop a mechanism that enables residents to communicate with human rights bodies to file complaints

without obtaining prior permission from the administration.

- (f) Provide a specific mechanism to assist inmates legally regarding various family matters.
3. In following up of the above, the NIHR sent a letter to the Ministry of Labor and Social Development (under its previous name) containing the NIHR's observations and recommendations but did not receive a response in time for it to be included in this Report.

**Third: Visit to Child Welfare Home "Batelco Home"**

- 1. Based on the broad mandate granted to the NIHR in the field of protection and promotion of human rights, and the jurisdiction granted to it under the provisions of its Establishment Law, it conducted an inspection visit to the Child Welfare Home (Batelco Home) on October 30, 2022, to check out the general conditions of residents, record their observations, and ensure that they enjoy their rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards
- 2. The NIHR concluded its visit to the "Batelco Home" with a number of observations and recommendations that are summarized as follows:

**Observations:**

- (a) There is no room for isolating cases with infectious diseases.
- (b) Absence of a mechanism for residents to communicate with human rights bodies to file complaints

without obtaining prior permission from the administration.

- (c) The doors of the rooms do not have knobs, therefore there is no privacy whether in the toilets or the rooms.
- (d) The cabinets and ceilings of the kitchen need maintenance.
- (e) Children's games are old and new up-to-date games need to be bought to keep up with the games of the current generation and their peers in society.
- (f) Children's shoes are stacked in one basket on top of each other without order, which may cause the spread of dirt and fungus.
- (g) Infants' rooms are dusty.

- (h) Some of the children's beds are broken.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Designate special rooms to isolate cases with infectious diseases.
- (b) Set up a mechanism that enables residents to communicate with human rights bodies to file complaints without obtaining prior permission from the administration.
- (c) Work to increase the level of hygiene.
- (d) Maintain the building.
- (e) Provide new toys for infants and change television entertainment channels.

#	Field Visit	Date
1	Convicts Treatment Unit at the Psychiatric Hospital	25 January 2022
2	Dar Al Karama for Social Welfare	6 February 2022
3	Dar Al-Aman for Women Victims of Domestic Violence	7 February 2022
4	Hereditary Blood Disorder Center (Sickler)	28 February 2022
5	Visit an inmate at the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center (Sickler)	8 March 2022
6	Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau)	7 April 2022
7	Capital Governorate Police Directorate	16 May 2022
8	Field Intensive Care Unit in the parking lot building - Sitra Island Quarantine of the Bahrain Defense Force	2 June 2022
9	Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau)	29 June 2022
10	Pretrial Detention Center (Dry Dock) Building No. (17)	4 July 2022
11	Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau) (Ashura)	3 August 2022
12	Pretrial Detention Center and Juvenile Detention (Ashura)	3 August 2022
13	Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau) (Ashura)	5 August 2022
14	Pretrial Detention Center and Juvenile Detention (Ashura)	5 August 2022
15	Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau) (Ashura)	8 August 2022
16	Pretrial Detention Center and Juvenile Detention (Ashura)	8 August 2022
17	Traffic Detention - General Directorate of Traffic	20 September 2022

#	Field Visit	Date
18	Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau)	18 September 2022
19	Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau)	29 September 2022
20	Salmaniya Medical Complex (Emergency Department)	4 October 2022
21	Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau)	12 October 2022
22	Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau)	27 October 2022
23	Child Welfare Home "Batelco Home"	30 October 2022
24	Deportation Center in the Hidd area (for male and female detainees)	8 November 2022
25	Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Health and Social Center to visit an inmate of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center (Jau)	28 November 2022
26	King Hamad University Hospital	1 December 2022
27	Correction and Rehabilitation Center at Jau	7 December 2022

## Second Topic - NIHR's Efforts to Promote Human Rights

### Preface:

1. The provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the NIHR, as amended by Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, affirms its role in the field of promoting human rights, as Article No. (12) thereof prescribes a set of competencies for the NIHR to achieve its objectives in this field through its participation in the development and implementation of a national plan to promote human rights at the national level, studying the applicable legislations and regulations related to human rights and recommending amendments that it deems appropriate, especially with regard to the consistency of this legislation with the Kingdom's international commitments to human rights, and recommending new legislation pertaining to human rights.
2. These provisions also entrust the NIHR with holding conferences, organizing seminars and educational and training courses in the field of human rights, conducting research and studies in this regard, participating in local and international forums, and in meetings of regional and international organizations, as well as issuing bulletins, publications, statements, and special reports and displaying them on its website.
3. To give effect to those mandates contained in the provisions of the Law, the NIHR has been active in the field of promoting human rights by issuing a number of educational publications and publications related to human rights, holding a number of seminars and lectures, and concluding a number of memoranda of understanding with various civil society institutions and relevant regional bodies. It has also played an active role in the field of legislative review in cooperation with the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council and has issued several statements commemorating international days or events, in addition to its participation in many seminars, workshops, training courses and conferences related to its work at regional and international levels.
4. This Topic is divided into seven requirements, as follows:

## Requirement One

### Strategy and Action Plan of the NIHR (2022-2025)

1. The NIHR has launched its Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2025)<sup>23</sup> this year, which are fully consistent with the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to enhance cooperation with regional and international organizations in the field of human rights, especially in view of the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19), which resulted in grave challenges in every area. The Strategy and Action Plan took into account the recent approval of the Kingdom to sign a memorandum of understanding between the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which aims to strengthen cooperative work between the two sides in the areas of technical assistance, capacity building and programs for promoting a culture of human rights, which will have a significant effect on progress towards achieving all the strategic objectives.
2. During the time frame of its previous Strategy and Action Plan, the NIHR was able to successfully achieve (92%) of its objectives, in a manner that meets the performance standards and indicators set in this regard, despite the exceptional circumstances the world has undergone due to the spread of the new coronavirus, and the subsequent precautionary measures taken by the concerned authorities in the Kingdom.
3. The NIHR has focused its efforts in its Strategy for the years (2022-2025) on

four strategic objectives, as follows:

#### **First Objective: the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on national economy and entrepreneurship**

The national economy is the primary source to guarantee that everyone enjoys their economic, social and cultural rights, as harmonizing economic growth with the protection of human rights principles is one of the main goals that must be pursued in order to achieve human dignity. The State must ensure that entrepreneurship enterprises enjoy their rights stipulated in the Constitution and relevant national legislation, and respect the principles of human rights during the impact of the pandemic. Through this strategic objective, the NIHR looks forward to:

- 1) Work on the compatibility of national economy with economic, social and cultural rights.
- 2) Enhance awareness of the importance of the entrepreneurship sector and its consistency with human rights principles.
- 3) Continue monitoring the effects of the pandemic on the individuals' right to work, and ensure that companies and commercial establishments respect the rights of their employees.

#### **Second Objective: education and the propagation of human rights culture**

Given the fundamental importance and value of education in the field of human rights, and considering that it is a basic guarantee to enable, strengthen and exercise the other related rights, the Kingdom of Bahrain has attached the highest priority to education by developing the sciences that the individual receives at all academic levels, which includes the reinforcement of

<sup>23</sup> To review the Strategy and Action Plan, click this link: In Arabic [Strategy 2022-2025.pdf](#)

[\(nhr.org.bh\)](#) In English [Strategy and Action Plan NIHR 22-EN.pdf](#)

the concepts of respect for human rights and basic freedoms, and enabling the individual to take on a proactive and useful role in the society. Through this strategic objective, the NIHR looks forward to:

- 1) Spread awareness of human rights principles through students in schools, institutes, and public and private academic institutions.
- 2) Work on integrating human rights principles and concepts into the educational curricula of public and private institutions.
- 3) Monitor the impact of crises and exceptional circumstances on the practices carried out by educational, training and rehabilitation institutions to ensure that everyone enjoys the right to education.

### **Third Objective: Achieving equal treatment and gender equality**

The fifth and tenth goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (2030) pertaining to achieving gender equality and reducing inequalities, respectively, are closely related to the enjoyment of all human rights, as this Objective is the cornerstone for the realization of women's rights, especially their fundamental rights such as work, equal pay, and adequate housing. Through this strategic objective, the NIHR looks forward to:

- 1) Shed light on the link between women's rights and all economic, social and cultural rights, especially the right to adequate housing and equal pay.
- 2) Cooperate with civil society institutions, especially those aimed at supporting women in the fields of civil, political, economic, social and cultural

rights.

- 3) Encourage the public and private sectors to apply best practices related to the promotion and protection of women's rights.

### **Fourth Objective: enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health for all**

The right to health is one of the most fundamental human rights. Individuals enjoy this right not only through access to healthcare and absence of disease or disability, but also through the physical, psychological and social integrity of the individual. Persons whose freedom is restricted must also enjoy this right, especially in times of crises, exceptional circumstances and pandemics. Through this strategic objective, the NIHR looks forward to:

- 1) Promote the enjoyment by all of the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and social health.
- 2) Monitor and follow up the conditions of individuals within health institutions, including institutions located within correctional and rehabilitation centers, to ensure that everyone enjoys their health rights.
- 3) Study the impact of pandemics on the individuals' enjoyment of the highest level of healthcare.

### **Requirement Two**

#### **Parallel Reports Submitted to International and Regional Bodies**

1. The provisions of the NIHR's establishing Law granted it the power to examine the compatibility of legislative and regulatory texts with regional and international treaties concerned with human rights issues, recommend joining relevant regional and international conventions, submit parallel reports, con-

tribute to the drafting and discussion of reports that the Kingdom undertakes to submit periodically and express observations thereon in implementation of regional and international conventions on human rights and publicise them in the media, cooperate with national, regional and international organizations, and relevant institutions in other countries concerned with the promotion of human rights.

2. Based on the above, the NIHR submitted - during the time frame of the Report - a total of (4) parallel reports, (3) of which were submitted to the United Nations Treaty Bodies (TB), and one report was submitted to the Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review process (UPR).
3. The NIHR submitted its parallel report on the Kingdom of Bahrain's Initial National Report on the progress made in implementing the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, submitted to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)<sup>24</sup>, in which it highlighted a number of the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, namely: the right to equality and non-discrimination, Article (3); the right to work, insurance against unemployment, and to

<sup>24</sup> To view the parallel report submitted by the NIHR to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in Arabic <https://www.nihr.org.bh/About/Reports/R1> in English <https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/About/Reports/R1>

form and join trade unions, Articles (6-10); the right to an adequate standard of living, Article (11); the right to health, Article (12); and the right to education, Articles (13-15). It concluded with a set of relevant recommendations.

4. Taking note of the change of the dates assigned for discussion of some of the national reports submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain to a number of United Nations Treaty Bodies following the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19), the NIHR submitted its (updated) Parallel Report on the combined eighth to fourteenth periodic report on progress made in implementing the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)<sup>25</sup>, in which it highlighted combating racial discrimination in the national human rights system in the Kingdom in the areas of national legislation, strategies, action plans, initiatives and practice, and displayed the NIHR's efforts in the field of promoting and protecting the right to equality and combating racial discrimination, up to providing appropriate relevant recommendations.
5. For the same previously mentioned

<sup>25</sup> To view the Parallel Report submitted by the NIHR to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), in Arabic <https://www.nihr.org.bh/About/Reports/R1> in English <https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/About/Reports/R1>

reasons, the NIHR submitted its (updated) report on the Parallel Report on the Fourth Periodic Report of the Kingdom of Bahrain submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)<sup>26</sup>. The report covered the role of the NIHR in the field of promoting and protecting women's rights, and the progress achieved in implementing the provisions of the Convention on issues of violence against women, trafficking and exploitation, participation in political life, working women and expatriate and domestic workers, the right to health, marriage and family relations, and the economic consequences of divorce. Lastly, the efforts of the NIHR that are contained in its annual reports was reviewed, as well as its constructive cooperation with the Supreme Council for Women in the promotion and protection of women's rights.

6. In addition, the NIHR participated in the meetings of the (41<sup>st</sup>) session of the working group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Geneva, Switzerland, where the NIHR presented its Parallel Report to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism<sup>27</sup>. In its Report, the NIHR highlighted issues related to criminal justice, nationality, child

rights, rights of persons with disabilities, matters pertaining to family law, national mechanisms and institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, and other issues related to equality in employment and work, international human rights treaties and mechanisms, issues related to strengthening the protection of expatriate workers and combating human trafficking, as well as other issues related to human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations, up to issues pertaining to the death sentence. The NIHR concluded its report with a set of recommendations, that in its views, would push for further promotion and respect for human rights in the national system. It is worth noting that the NIHR organized its observations in its Parallel Report in the same topic order as in the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. It included adding opinions on conclusions, recommendations, voluntary commitments and responses submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is contained in Document No. (A/HRC/36/3/Add.1), taking into account the government's position on the progress in implementing the recommendations contained in the Third Voluntary Quarterly Report submitted in September 2019.

<sup>26</sup> To view the Parallel Report submitted by the NIHR to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in Arabic <https://www.nihr.org.bh/About/Reports/R1> In English <https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/About/Reports/R1>

<sup>27</sup> To view the NIHR's report submitted to the fourth UPR cycle in Arabic <https://www.nihr.org.bh/About/Reports/R2> in English <https://www.nihr.org.bh/EN/About/Reports/R2>

### Requirement Three

#### Cooperation with International and Regional Organizations

1. In implementation of the NIHR's mandate to enhance cooperation with national bodies, regional and international organizations, and the competent bodies concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights to support relations and contribute jointly to the peace system in achieving human rights principles on the ground.
2. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, met with Mr. Zoran Pašalić, Head of the Ombudsman for the Protection of Citizens in the Republic of Serbia, via videoconferencing, where the two sides discussed issues of common interest and ways to enhance cooperation in the field of human rights between the NIHR and the Ombudsman's Secretariat in Serbia, in



particular in the fields of training, education and exchange experiences to put into effect the memorandum of understanding concluded between the two sides, and in a way that supports the common goals of protecting and promoting human rights.

3. In the same context, H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, received Mr. Perry Calderwood, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Canada to the Kingdom of Bahrain, residing in Riyadh, in the

presence of Dr. Malallah Al-Hammadi and Mr. Daniel Cohen, members of the Council of Commissioners, at the NIHR's headquarters in the Seef district. During the meeting, the close friendly relations existing between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Canada were reaffirmed, stressing the importance of devel-



oping these relations and advancing them to a greater level for the benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples.

4. The NIHR also received Ms. Margaret Nardi, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain, where they discussed ways to enhance cooperation and coordination between the NIHR and the American Embassy in the Kingdom to meet common aspi-



rations and goals, in addition to discussing a number of issues of mutual interest.

5. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also received Mr. Angelus Linus, First Secretary of the European Union Delegation accredited to the Kingdom of



Bahrain and residing in Riyadh. The two sides discussed a number of issues of mutual concern as well as ways to enhance coordination and cooperation between the NIHR and the EU Delegation.

6. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, received Lord Tariq Ahmed, Special Representative of the Prime Minister and Minister for South Asia and United Nations and the Commonwealth at



the Foreign Ministry, Commonwealth and Development in the United Kingdom, on the occasion of his visit to the Kingdom. The meeting stressed the depth of historical relations between the two friendly countries and the need to continue strengthening bilateral relations between them in various fields, particularly with regard to exchange of experiences in the human rights field and developing the human rights system and putting it into practice according to the internationally and regionally established regulations and rules.

7. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also met with Mr. Najeeb Freiji, Director of the Regional Office of the International Peace Institute for the Middle East and North Africa in Manama, where the two sides touched upon a series of issues of mutual interest



and discussed ways of enhancing cooperation in the areas of human rights training and education and the exchange of expertise in a way that supports efforts aimed at realizing common goals to strengthen the human rights system in the

Kingdom of Bahrain.

8. The NIHR also received a delegation of a number of employees of the US House of Representatives and Senate as part of the delegation's visit



to the Kingdom of Bahrain. A number of the members of the Council of Commissioners were present. During the meeting, the role of the NIHR in dealing with human rights situations in the Kingdom in accordance with the Law establishing it and its advisory role in making recommendations related to human right were reviewed.

9. The NIHR also received a delegation comprising a number of employees



of the US House of Representatives and Senate on the occasion of the delegation's visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain, in the presence of a number of members of the Council of Commissioners. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the

NIHR, briefed the delegation on the role the NIHR undertakes in dealing with the human rights situation in the Kingdom in accordance with the Institution's Establishment Law, as well as the advisory role of the NIHR in making recommendations related to human rights, while stressing the importance of such visits to see first-hand the comprehensive renaissance in the human rights field in the Kingdom of Bahrain through promoting rights and freedoms for all citizens and residents.

10. In the same context, the NIHR received Mr. Carl Hallergard, Deputy Managing Director in the Middle East and North Africa Department of the European External Action Service, where the two sides touched upon a number of issues of mutual concern, in addition to discussing ways of coordination and



cooperation between the NIHR and the delegation of the European Union.

11. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also met with Ambassador Moushira Khat-

tab, President of the National Council for Human Rights in the Arab Republic of Egypt, at the Council's headquarters in Cairo, on the sidelines



of his visit to the Egyptian capital, Cairo, to sign a joint cooperation agreement with the Arab Observatory for Human Rights of the Arab Parliament. Both sides emphasized the distinguished bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, and the importance of continuing to strengthen these relations, especially in the field of human rights, in a way that meets the desired aspirations and goals.

12. On the sidelines of his visit to the Arab Observatory for Human Rights affiliated to the Arab Parliament in



the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, met Professor Alaa Shalaby, President of the Arab Organization for Human Rights in

Cairo, where they discussed ways to enhance cooperation and coordination, especially in preparing programs on human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

13. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also received H.E. Mr. Steven Bondy, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the occasion of his appointment as his country's new ambassador to the Kingdom, where they discussed



a number of issues of mutual interest, and the role of the NIHR in dealing with the human rights situation in the Kingdom in cooperation with all concerned parties, whether official or civil society institutions, which is an essential partner and key driver for the strengthening of state institutions.

14. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, received Mr. Kai Thamo Boeckmann, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the occasion of the end of his tenure in the Kingdom. During the meeting, the two sides re-

viewed the existing relations between the two friendly countries, and Al-Derazi expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for Mr. Boeckmann's efforts to enhance



and develop the areas of cooperation between the NIHR and the Embassy, especially in fields related to human rights, wishing him success in his upcoming assignments.

15. In the same context, H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, received H.E. Ms. Natalie Breton, Chargé d'Affairs of the Canadian Embassy accredited to the Kingdom of Bahrain, residing in Riyadh. The two sides discussed the progress made in the human rights issue in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and how to strengthen the human rights system in line with international standards in this field, as well as effective communication with the United Nations and its special-



ized agencies and other international organizations, with the aim of studying and analyzing the decisions or recommendations issued by those bodies, and preparing the necessary reports and recommendations in this regard in cooperation with the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

16. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also received H.E. Mr. Mark Donovan, Aus-



tralian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, residing in Riyadh, where Al-Derazi welcomed Mr. Donovan and provided an overview of the work of the NIHR, its objectives and terms of reference as stipulated in its establishing Law. They also discussed ways of joint coordination and cooperation between the two sides with regard to human rights issues.

17. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also met with Mr. Muhammad Abu Harthiya, an expert in the Universal Periodic Review Department of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, where the two sides discussed the role of the NIHR in following up on the recommendations of the Working Group on

the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), having its 4th phase scheduled to start next November, as the Kingdom of Bahrain will be the first country to be reviewed through this mechanism, which began in 2008. They also discussed ways to enhance coordination and cooperation between the NIHR and the High Commissioner, in order to support the efforts of the NIHR in protecting



and promoting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

18. H.E. Eng. Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, held a meeting with Mr. Hassan Musa Shafi'i, Minister Plenipotentiary and Human Rights Adviser to the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations in Geneva, where they discussed joint coordination between the NIHR and



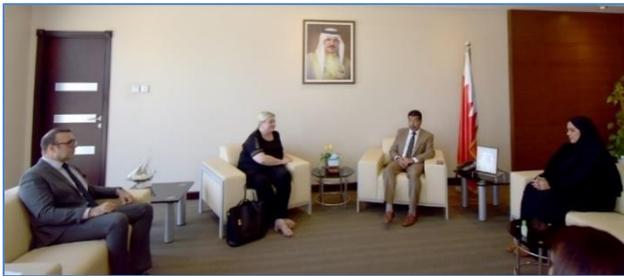
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by touching on means of bolstering and enhancing cooperation between the Permanent Mission of

the Kingdom of Bahrain in Geneva and the NIHR in the field of human rights, especially during the upcoming participation of the NIHR in the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which will be held in the Human Rights Council in Geneva next November.

19. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, received H.E. Mr. Jerome Cochard, Ambassador of the French Republic, and H.E. Ms. Paola Amadi, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, accredited to the Kingdom of Bahrain. During the meeting, Al-Derazi welcomed the ambassadors and discussed with them a number of issues related to the human rights situation in general, and the role of the NIHR in dealing with the human rights situation in the Kingdom, looking forward to strengthening ways of cooperation with the embassies of France and Italy through exchange of expertise and experience in the human rights and legal fields to support the efforts aimed at achieving common goals. The ambassadors valued the effective role of the NIHR in protecting human rights and its endeavors to promote a hu-

man rights culture in Bahrain, wishing the Kingdom and its people continued progress.

20. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also received Mrs. Paula Jack, Criminal Justice Specialist at NYCO Institution in the United Kingdom. The meeting was attended by Mr. Stuart Summers, Deputy British Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The two parties discussed ways of enhancing joint cooperation and exchange-



ing expertise and experiences with regard to implementing the Law on Corrective Justice of Children and



their Protection from Abuse, as well as the Law on Alternative Sanctions and Measures and the international best practices in this regard.

21. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, received Mr. Firas Gharaibeh, the Acting Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Kingdom of Bahrain,

where they discussed aspects of



joint cooperation between the two sides in fields related to human rights and sustainable development programs. Al-Derazi praised the efforts of the UNDP in supporting the goals and efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain in sustainable development, and stressed NIHR's keenness to strengthen areas of cooperation with the UNDP and to benefit from its distinguished expertise and the initiatives it launches in related fields.

22. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, underscored the role of the NIHR and its tasks and responsibilities in pro-



moting and protecting human rights, consolidating its values,

spreading awareness, and contributing to guaranteeing that it is practiced freely and independently in the Kingdom Bahrain, in accordance with its broad powers contained in its establishing Law, dur-



ing his reception to Mrs. Elizabeth Hatting, Head of the Political and Economic Affairs at the Embassy of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at the headquarters of the NIHR in the Seef district, where he welcomed her and reviewed with her a number of issues related to human rights and the role of the NIHR in dealing with these topics.

23. The National Institution for Human Rights also received a delegation comprising a number of employees of the US House of Representatives and Senate on the occasion of the visit of the delegation to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The delegation held a meeting with members of the Council of Commissioners, during which Ms. Hala Ramzi, member of the Council of Commissioners, welcomed the visiting delegation and placed emphasis on the importance of such visits to look at the comprehensive advancement in the human rights field in the Kingdom of Bahrain by promoting the rights

and freedoms of all citizens and residents.



24. The NIHR received H.E. Ms. Marianne Nissilä, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the Kingdom of Bahrain, residing in Abu Dhabi, in the presence of Ms. Eto Salmi, Deputy Ambassador, at the NIHR's headquarters in the Seef district. The meeting touched on defining the role of the NIHR in dealing with human rights issues, as well as ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two sides, especially on human rights.



25. In addition, the NIHR received a delegation of employees of the US House of Representatives and Senate as part of a visit by the delegation to the Kingdom of Bahrain. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, briefed the delegation on part of the actualized human rights gains in the Kingdom in the past period, primarily the establishment of the Na-



tional Institution for Human Rights under the flourishing era and the comprehensive development process witnessed by the Kingdom of Bahrain, which were achieved throughout the course of human rights and democratic processes under the leadership of His Majesty the King of the Country, may God protect and preserve him, according to international standards and national methodology.

26. H.E. Eng. Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also received H.E. Mr. Laurens Westhoff, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Kingdom of Bahrain, residing in the State of Kuwait, in the presence of Ms. Simone Landhuis, Deputy Ambassador, at the headquarters of the NIHR in Seef District. During the meeting, Al-Derazi presented an overview of the

NIHR and the role it plays in protecting and promoting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain in accordance with its Establishment Law and the competences conferred on it. Al-Derazi highlighted the most important achievements of the NIHR during the past period, the announced and unannounced visits conducted by the members of the Council of Commissioners to reform and rehabilitation centers periodically, as well as the training programs it offers to enhance awareness regarding human rights. The meeting also touched on Sanctions and Alternative Measures and the mechanism for effective implementation by providing appropriate rehabilitation programs for convicts, and reviewed the outcomes of the International Conference on Alternative Penalties recently organized by the NIHR.



27. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, received H.E. Ms. Anna-Maria Panagiotakopoulou, Head of the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Division of the European Union's External Action Service, and her accompanying delegation. Al-Derazi welcomed the

visiting delegation, praising the progress made at all levels and the de-



velopment of the bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the European Union, stressing the importance of such visits to be informed about the progress and advances in many fields in the Kingdom, especially on the human rights track, which is abound with numerous achievements that has actualized during the reform era of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa the great king of the Country, may God protect and preserve him.

28. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, held a meeting with Ambassador Federico Villegas, President of the UN Human Rights Council, Permanent Representative of Argentine Mis-



sion to the United Nations at Ge-

neva. During the meeting, the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Kingdom of Bahrain that took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November and chaired by the President of the Human Rights Council, was discussed, as well as the measures taken in its regard through the interactive dialogue between the delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the members of the Working Group on the UPR. In addition, the Parallel Report of the NIHR that was submitted to the Human Rights Council, and the recommendations it contained covering many areas, namely social justice, nationality, children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, family law, the right to work, accession to international treaties and instruments concerned with human rights or those related to combating trafficking in persons, supporting human rights defenders, the independence of the NIHR and supporting its role and competencies in protecting and promoting human rights were touched on.

29. On the sidelines of the NIHR delegation's participation in the Universal



Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Geneva, the delegation, headed by Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, met with the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations in Geneva, Dr. Yousef Abdulkarim

Bucheery, in the presence of Mrs. Rawda Al-Aradi, Head of the Committee on Complaints, Monitoring and follow-up and NIHR's Secretary-General Counselor Yasser Shaheen. During the meeting, the frameworks for cooperation and support provided by the Kingdom to enable the NIHR carry out the role it is entrusted with pursuant to its establishing Law were discussed. Al-Derazi praised the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, which commenced in 2008 with the review of the Kingdom of Bahrain as the first country to be reviewed, and the subsequent UPR's ending with the 4<sup>th</sup> phase that took place on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Al-Derazi added that the NIHR followed up on the previous recommendations by issuing its parallel reports and will follow up on the recommendations that will be officially approved at the end of this year. He iterated that the NIHR will work with all partners, official authorities or civil entities, to ensure the implementation of the recommendations and reveal the human rights side of the Kingdom of Bahrain in all fields.

30. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also met with H.E. Ambassador Adel Issa Al Mahri, Permanent Observer of the



GCC Permanent Mission at the offices of the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, on the sidelines of the NIHR delegation's visit to attend the Universal Periodic Review session for the Kingdom of Bahrain. During the meeting, the mechanisms and methods of activating cooperation between the NIHR and the Human Rights Office of the Secretariat-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, through participation in the programs and events held by the two sides, were discussed, in addition to proposing mechanisms for capacity building and actuating technical cooperation in the areas of human rights protection and promotion by supporting the work of national institutions in the Gulf and raising the efficiency of their employees.

31. At the end of the NIHR delegation's visit to Geneva to attend the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, met with H.E. Ambassador Thomas Wagner, Deputy Permanent Representative of the European Union (EU) delegation in Geneva. During the meeting, Al-Derazi presented an overview of the role and competences of the NIHR contained in its Establishment



Law, and its power to consider all relevant issues, receive and study complaints, and communicate with the concerned authorities to find the best ways of solving them. Al-Derazi also briefed the meeting of the recently held international conference entitled “Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law: A Qualitative Experience in Bahraini Legislation”, with the participation of more than 300 participants, representing a number of official and private entities in the Kingdom, in addition to representatives of a number of Arab and foreign national human rights institutions and a number of accredited ambassadors, which concluded with a number of recommendations that support the concept of alternative sanctions and measures, urge to integrate convicts into society and expand the circle of beneficiaries. During the meeting, technical cooperation and capacity building programs offered by the European Union for the advancement of national institutions and civil society institutions were discussed.

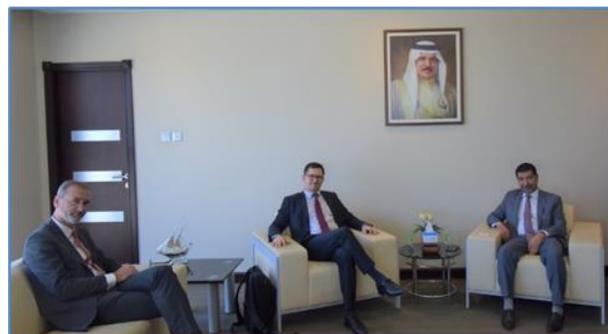
32. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also met with Mr. Marc Gerritsen, Director of Political Affairs in the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Laurens Westhoff, Ambassador of the Netherlands accredited to the Kingdom of Bahrain, residing in the State of Kuwait. During the meeting, the two sides touched on several issues of mutual interest and the role played by the NIHR in dealing with these issues to identify the key facts and outcomes, as well

as the mechanism of work of the NIHR and its role in disseminating, promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, along with the continuous coordi-



nation with the competent official authorities and civil society institutions in conducting training programs to enhance human rights awareness among all segments of the community.

33. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, received Mr. Gregory Beledjian, Head of the Middle East Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Clemens



Hatch, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany accredited to the Kingdom of Bahrain, where the two sides discussed a number of issues of mutual interest and the importance of strengthening cooperation between the two sides in the human rights and legal fields, especially with regard to organizing

workshops, exchanging expertise and successful experiences, and training of national employees in the field of spreading the culture of human rights.

34. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, received Ms. Camelia Akoush, representative of the Canadian Embassy in the



Kingdom of Bahrain, residing in Riyadh. Al-Derazi gave an overview about the mechanism of the work of the NIHR and its role in disseminating, promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, touching on a number of issues of mutual interest, the role of the NIHR in dealing with these issues to find out the key facts and outcomes, as well as the continuous coordination with the competent official authorities in cooperation and coordination with civil society institutions in conducting training programs to enhance human rights awareness across the society. In addition, Al-Derazi touched on Sanctions and Alternative Measures and effective implementation mechanism by providing appropriate rehabilitation programs for convicts, and presented the outcome of the International Conference on Alternative Sanctions organized by the NIHR.

35. In the same regard, H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of

the NIHR, received Mr. Firas Gharai-beh, the Acting Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the



Kingdom of Bahrain, where Al-Derazi praised the existing cooperation between the NIHR and the UNDP, stressing the importance of continuing cooperation between both sides to realize the common goals, whilst also noting the efforts of the UNDP in supporting the sustainable development goals and efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain. In addition, Al-Derazi emphasized the keenness of the NIHR to consolidate areas of cooperation with the UNDP and benefit from its expertise and initiatives in related fields, in particular providing support to the NIHR in organizing the upcoming conference on environmental protection to be held next year as part of the Institution's strategy to protect human rights and the right to live in a healthy environment, as well as assisting in building the capacity of the NIHR.

36. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also received Dr. Waleed Al-Manea, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health. During the meeting, Al-Derazi praised the close and distinguished relations

between the NIHR and the Ministry of Health and expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by the Ministry of Health, especially in the field of promoting the right to health and the provision of health care to all the citizens and residents in the King-



dom of Bahrain. The two sides also discussed ways to enhance joint cooperation and coordination with regard to issues related to human rights to meet the desired aspirations.

#### Requirement Four Cooperation with Civil society institutions and Human Rights Defenders

1. Within the framework of the NIHR's cooperation with civil society institutions, it received the Chairwoman and members of the Bahrain Women Union. During the meeting, several issues were discussed such as ways to enhance joint cooperation and coordination between the NIHR and the Union to increase awareness of the importance of empowering women to participate effectively at the political, economic and cultural levels, being an active and key partner in the sustaina-

ble development process of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



2. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also received members of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Bar Association headed by Mr. Hassan Bedaiwi, on the occasion of the election of the new Board of Directors of the Association. Al-Derazi congratulated the new members of the Board of Directors, noting the role and contributions of Bahraini lawyers in the legal and human rights field, stressing the NIHR's keenness to promote synergies between the two sides and exchange experiences.



3. Stemming from its pioneering role in promoting and disseminating the culture of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain and building bridges of cooperation with civil society institutions, the NIHR organized the Second Forum for Civil society institutions Operating in the Field of Preserving the Right to an Appropriate Environment

through videoconference, where representatives of a number of environmental civil society institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain participated in the Forum.

4. The Forum, which was moderated by the Vice Chairperson of the NIHR, included three main themes through which the community partnership between civil society institutions, the competent official bodies and the NIHR were highlighted to develop ways to exercise all rights, especially the right to maintaining an appropriate environment. Cooperation



between the NIHR and civil society institutions was identified in the first theme, particularly in the field of receiving complaints, providing legal assistance and building the capacity of workers in these organizations by organizing training courses and exchanging expertise and experiences in the field of human rights and the environment.

5. In addition, the NIHR organized the Third Forum for Civil society institutions Working in the Field of Health through videoconference. The first theme addressed identifying the aspects of cooperation between the NIHR and civil society institutions, especially in the field of receiving complaints and providing legal assistance,

and building the capacities of workers in these institutions by organizing training courses and exchanging expertise and experiences in the field of human rights, including the right to health.

6. The second theme addressed the mechanism to examine the conformity of legislative and regulatory texts with regional and international treaties on issues related to the right to health, recommend legislative amendments that it deems appropriate, and hold consultative meetings and seminars with the concerned national authorities to resolve important issues in the field of health.
7. The third and final theme dealt with identifying the difficulties and challenges encountered by civil society institutions - each within its competence - and the role of the NIHR in providing support and assistance to these institutions to advance them and, at the same time, to encourage the government to provide them with more support.

At the Forum's conclusion, the discussions yielded several outcomes and recommendations aimed at strengthening and activating community partnership with civil society institutions, promoting and spreading awareness



in matters related to health, developing health services, and activating continuous communication with the concerned authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

8. The NIHR also organized the Fourth Forum for Civil society institutions Operating in the Field of Women's and Children's Rights through videoconference, as part of its Strategy and Action Plan to activate cooperation with civil society institutions with the participation of the representatives of a number of civil society institutions concerned with women's and children's rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
9. The first theme discussed aspects of cooperation between the NIHR and civil society institutions, especially in the field of receiving complaints and providing legal aid, and building the capacities of workers in those organizations through conducting training courses and exchanging expertise and experiences in the field of women's rights. In addition, the theme touched on ways to activate cooperation in the field of enlightening and sensitizing stakeholders to contribute to the promotion and protection of women's rights, especially battered

(abused) women.

10. The second theme discussed the process of communication between civil society institutions and official authorities to examine the appropriateness of legislative and regulatory texts and their conformity with regional and international treaties on women and children, and to recommend legislative amendments that they deem appropriate, by holding seminars and consultative meetings with the concerned national authorities with the aim of resolving important issues affecting the rights of women and the child.
11. The third and final theme discussed the difficulties and challenges facing civil society institutions - each within its competence - and how to support advancing them on the one hand, and urge the government to provide more support to civil society institutions on the other hand.



12. As part of its pivotal role in observing and monitoring the electoral process, and eager to consolidate the bonds of community partnership with regard to the promotion and advancement of civil and political rights, and in implementation of the National Human

Rights Plan (2022-2026), in particular the third strategic objective related to consolidating and strengthening democracy in the Kingdom of Bahrain in accordance with human rights instruments and international best practices, as this objective included a special clause related to qualifying and training members of local civil society institutions in the field of monitoring general elections according to best practice standards and methods, the NIHR held a workshop on “Monitoring the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections of 2022” for civil society institutions that participated in monitoring and observing the parliamentary and municipal elections in previous years, and those that expressed their desire



to participate in monitoring the elections for this year 2022, simultaneously with the start of the preparations for the parliamentary and municipal elections.

13. The Workshop, which was attended by more than 150 participants, aimed to shed light - in general - on the election monitoring mechanism and its guarantees that are established in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the relevant national legislation, as well as to provide an opportunity for exchanging experiences and best practices with regard to election observation, to contribute to ensuring the success of the electoral process by consolidating national efforts in this regard.
14. Under the broad mandate of the NIHR in the field of promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with the relevant Paris Principles; and within the framework of the NIHR’s keenness on the importance of bridging relations with stakeholders and human rights defenders; and in implementation of the outputs of human rights forums held by the NIHR with civil society institutions operating in the field of human rights; the NIHR organized, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Kingdom of Bahrain, a training program to build the capacities of civil society institutions in the Kingdom in the field of human rights monitoring during the period (27-30) November 2022.

15. This training program has been key to the success of building the capacities of civil society institutions and



defenders in the area of monitoring and documentation by understanding the main concepts of human rights, learning about the various techniques in this field, identifying the stages of the monitoring and documentation processes and human rights indicators in accordance with the United Nations methodology, leading to strengthening capacities in drafting reports that constitute an outcome that can be presented in the field of monitoring and documentation.

**Requirement Five**  
**Attendance and Representation in International,**  
**Regional and National Forums**

1. Continuing steadily in its active participation in human rights forums, especially in the meetings of regional and



international human rights organizations, the NIHR participated in the “International Solidarity, the Agenda 2030 and the pivotal importance of SDG16” “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”, which was held in the Egyptian capital Cairo for two consecutive days, with broad participation of representatives of member national institutions of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the United Nations Development Program.

2. The NIHR also participated in the annual meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) for the year 2022, which was held via videoconference. During the meeting, the appointment of four new members in the office of the Alliance, who represent the national institutions of Finland, Albania, Bulgaria and Norway, was ratified. The Head of the Finance Committee, the representative of the National Institution for Human Rights in India, presented the financial report, and the Alliance’s



final account for 2021 and the budget for 2022 were approved and adopted. The heads of the four regional groupings (Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe) gave a summary of the

work and achievements of their groups during the past year, the challenges that national institutions faced during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, and how they were overcome. The NIHR also participated in the meeting that was held on the second day on the exchange of knowledge and experiences and the role of national institutions in digital technology and how it can be leveraged to protect and promote human rights.

3. In addition, the Secretariat-General of the NIHR participated in the regional dialogue symposium entitled “The Independence of the Judiciary in the Middle East and North Africa in light of International Human Rights Standards”, which was held virtually, organized by the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Human Rights.



4. A number of employees of the Secretariat-General of the NIHR also participated in the round table between the European Parliament and national human rights institutions titled “European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders”, which was held vir-

tually, organized by the European Parliament and supported by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), to review how to implement the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, document experiences and good practices regarding those principles, and assess their impact on human rights defenders and protect them from the perspective of the functions of national institutions for human rights.



5. The NIHR, represented by Dr. Malallah Al-Hammadi, member of the NIHR’s Council of Commissioners and Head of the Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee, participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which was held for two consecutive days at the headquarters of the Secretariat-General of the OIC in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



- In the same context, the Secretariat-General of the NIHR participated in the training program on the “International Mechanisms for the Protection of Women's Rights”, which was organized by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, Switzerland, on the sidelines of the 82<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the discussion of the periodic reports of the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.



- The Secretariat-General of the NIHR participated in a workshop on “The Prevention of Torture in Public Gathering Context”, organized by Amnesty International in cooperation with the Association for the Prevention of Torture in Geneva, with the participation of a number of specialists and experts in the field of human rights and the relevant authorities. During the workshop, a number of topics related to the prevention of torture in public gatherings were deliberated, in addition to discussing the role of preventive mechanisms in providing information to the Sub-committee on its mandate and performance, the main challenges and good practices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the legal framework for the prevention of torture, and the

role of national human rights institutions in preventing torture.

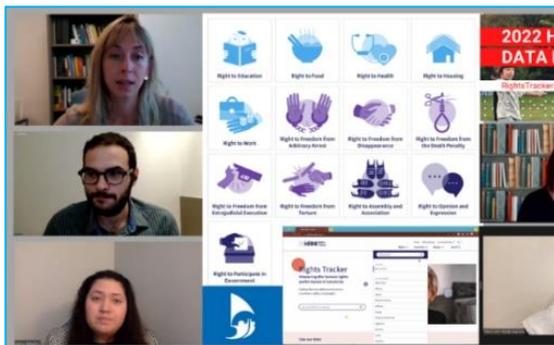


- The Secretariat-General of the NIHR also participated in the training program entitled “Involvement of National Human Rights Institutions in the 4th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Nations Human Rights Council”, which was organized remotely by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions ( GANHRI), with the participation of a number of specialists and experts in the field of human rights and the competent authorities.



- The Secretariat-General of the NIHR also participated remotely, over a two-day period, in the launching of the results of the Human Rights Measurement Initiative aimed at tracking different rights (Rights Tracker) for the year 2022, which was launched by the

Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Institute in New Zealand with the support of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF). It is the first global initiative to systematically track the human rights performance of countries, as it aims to measure the performance of the country for each of the human rights contained in international law.



10. The Secretariat-General of the NIHR participated virtually in the regional training course organized by the Arab Organization for Human Rights entitled “Promoting Girls’ and Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health through Human Rights Mechanisms”. The course discussed violations of a set of sexual and reproductive rights through approaching human rights and studying the stages of development of sexual and reproductive health rights.



11. The NIHR also participated in the third virtual dialogue, organized by the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) in cooperation with the National Human Rights Commission in India, where the role of national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities was highlighted. The participants presented and discussed the experiences and practices of their countries in the field of promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. A number of topics were deliberated, most notably the importance of the participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life, and the challenges and obstacles that they may encounter by integrating them into society, in addition to the role of artificial intelligence in promoting accessibility for people with disabilities.



12. The NIHR also participated in public discussions on “Discrimination against women and girls”, organized by the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination against Women or Girls and the Asia Pacific Forum (APF). The event, in which many human rights experts and practitioners took part, aimed to experience the opinions of experts and workers of the Asia Pacific Forum and national human rights institutions with regard to discrimination against women or girls, given that they are the groups that became threatened in light of the circumstances of COVID-19, due to the reassessment of prevailing ideologies. The



event concluded by proposing a number of recommendations for countries and stakeholders to protect social and economic security of women and girls, and to consider the report that will be submitted to the 2023 United Nations Summit to bridge these gaps and formulate recommendations for reshaping a gender and just post pandemic world, and to support, promote and

guarantee social and economic human security for women and girls.

13. The NIHR also participated in the 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), which was held virtually over two consecutive days from Sydney, Australia, with the participation of 25 national institutions from the regional groupings. The APF’s performance report, monitoring data, and performance evaluation aimed at fulfilling the outcomes of its strategic plan were reviewed. In addition, a report on the strategy on gender equality was presented and the audited financial accounts report for the year ending on June 30, 2021 was approved and adopted. During the meeting, the membership of a number of national human rights institutions was approved and the membership of a number of others was suspended, in addition to the election of the members of the APF’s Governance Committee. A report on the activities of the Alliance for the past year was submitted and the nomination of a number of national institutions to fill two positions in GANHRI Bureau was approved, to represent the APF for a period of two years starting from March 2023. The nominations will be submitted for final approval by the GANHRI at the annual meeting to be held next year. On the sidelines of the meeting, an event entitled: “A universal human right to a healthy, sustainable environment – the role of NHRIs”, was organized and included a presentation by Dr. Ian Fry, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the context of Climate Change, in which he touched on the impact of climate change on human rights. In addition, a

number of national institutions gave presentations on the impact of climate change on the human rights situation in their countries.



14. The NIHR participated in a panel discussion entitled “Older Persons in the Arab World: Current Reality and Prospects for Protection and Empowerment”, which was held via video conference and organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)’s Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). During its participation, the NIHR reviewed the steps taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to protect and promote the rights of older persons, from the enactment of national legislation that protects the rights of the elderly, to



the development of national strategies, plans and initiatives that contributed to improving the quality of life of the elderly and their effective and continuous participation in society and raising awareness of the

rights of this group, presenting the practical reality of the elderly in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the services and facilities provided to them.

15. In the same context, the Secretariat-General of the NIHR, represented by Mr. Muhammad Al-Najjar, Head of the Legal Affairs Unit, and Ms. Marwa Ali, Research Assistant at the Call and Complaints Center, participated in the TOT course on “Designing, Managing and Providing Training in the Area of Human Rights”, organized by the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions in cooperation with the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation for Southwest Asia and Arab Region in Doha and the National Council for Human Rights in Algeria, and held in Algeria. The TOT aimed to enable participants to plan a training program, in terms of analyzing the general context, assessing training needs, designing courses, organizing and delivering training, including the use of training tools and methods, sharpening participants’ skills by providing the material and interacting with the target group, in addition to follow-up activities and evaluation of the impact of the training, exchanging experiences and best practices between participants and trainers, in a way that enhances the capabilities in preparing training courses, building and raising the capacities of the mem-



bers of these national human rights institutions.

16. The Secretariat-General of the NIHR also participated in the panel discussion organized by the Office of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), entitled “Protecting Environmental Human Rights Defenders and Promoting Meaningful Participation in Climate Talks – The Role of National Human Rights Institutions”, where a number of topics related to the importance of living in a healthy climate, the role of human rights defenders in issues related to the environment and the challenges and risks they face, and the progress made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the field of climate and the environment.



17. The NIHR participated in the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which commenced its first session with a review of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The NIHR’s delegation met with Ambassador Marc Pecsteen, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to the United Nations in Geneva, where an overview of the establishment of the NIHR and its role and



competences in the protection and promotion of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain was presented. The Belgian Ambassador, for his part, thanked the NIHR for the visit and expressed his interest in its role. addressing cooperation and provision of technical support mechanisms to improve the work of the NIHR in the field of human rights protection.

18. In addition, the NIHR participated, via videoconference, in the Sixth In-

ternational conference on the Protection of Human Rights in Eurasia, under the slogan “Human Rights Protection in Eurasia: Exchange of the Best Practices of Ombudsmen”, which was held by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Moscow, the Russian Federation. During the conference, several issues were addressed, namely national and international practices on topics related to the protection of the rights of youth, ensuring their right to access education, work and housing, the importance of supporting youth in



developing entrepreneurship and participation in voluntary activities, as well as giving them ample opportunities to participate in the development and construction of the country. A number of representatives of national human rights institutions around the world participated in the Conference, as well as the representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and representatives of the academic and scientific community, to exchange best practices and listen to the experiences of other institutions and bodies to enrich and enhance experiences among international

governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights.

19. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also participated in the hearing allocated to national human rights institutions by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, for the purpose of reviewing the NIHR’s parallel report submitted to the Committee on the report submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain on the progress made in implementing the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Committee commended the NIHR for submitting its parallel report, which contained an account of its activities, efforts, and related challenges in the field of eliminating all forms of discrimination, as well as concluding recommendations that form in its entirety optimization tools toward the application of international best practices in the field of human rights. Al-Derazi also provided comprehensive answers clarifying the inquiries raised by the Committee during the session on issues related to the work of the NIHR.



20. The Secretariat-General of the NIHR participated in the training program organized by the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions in cooperation with the United Nations

Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in cooperation with Lebanon's National Commission for Human Rights on "The Techniques of Receiving and Following up the Complaints, Visiting the Detention Centers and Preparing Monitoring Reports", with the participation of a number of human rights specialists and experts and the competent authorities. The Training Course discussed a number of topics related to the basic principles of human rights monitoring and documentation, collecting and verifying information, in addition to techniques of receiving and following up complaints and identifying their types. Participants were also trained on oversight mechanism of trials, administration of justice, and best practices in monitoring court hearings. The best practices for court oversight were discussed, and the experiences of national human rights institutions in this field were presented



GANHRI's four regional groupings participated in the event.

21. The NIHR also participated in the awareness event organized by the Working Group on Business and Human Rights of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), to deliberate the protection of human rights defenders working in the field of business and human rights, which was held remotely via videoconference. A number of national human rights institutions from

**Requirement Six**  
**Interaction with International, Regional**  
**and National Human Rights Events and**  
**Days**

1. The NIHR was definitely not far from interacting with international and regional occasions and days pertaining to the promotion of human rights. During

2022, the NIHR issued seventeen statements on a number of international, regional and national days, aimed to introduce those days and occasions of all kinds and their importance, as follows:

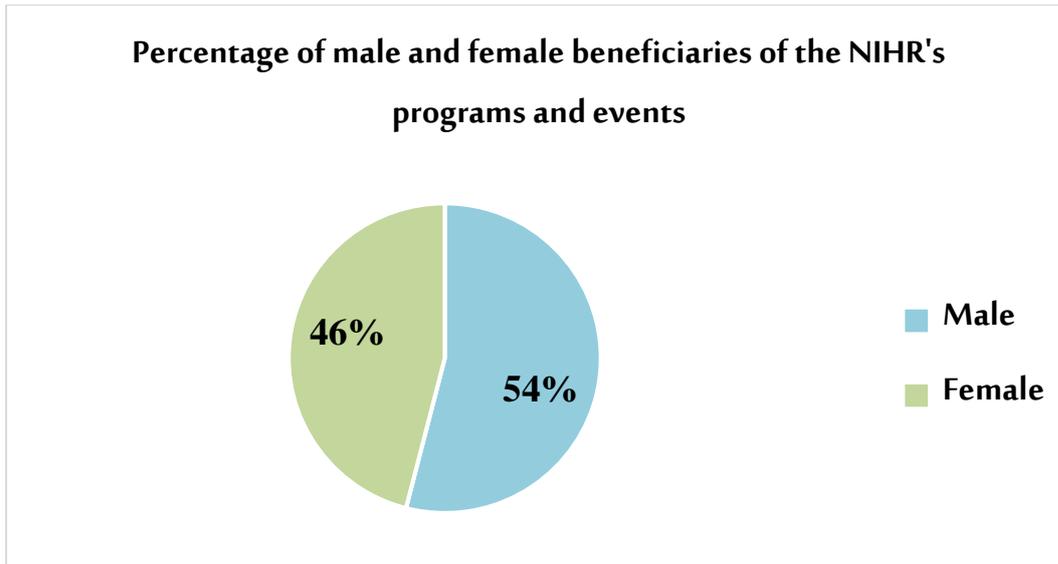
Statements	Occasion	Date
<b>International</b>	International Women’s Day	March 2022 8
	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 2022 21
	World Health Day	April 2022 7
	International Workers’ Day	May 2022 1
	World Press Freedom Day	May 2022 3
	World Environment Day	June 2022 5
	International Day Against Trafficking in Persons	July 2022 30
	International Day of Democracy	September 2022 15
	International Day of Older Persons	October 2022 1
	International Day of the Girl Child	October 2022 11
	United Nations Day	October 2022 24
	International Children’s Day	November 2022 20
	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	November 2022 25
	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	December 2022 3

	Human Rights Day	December 2022 10
<b>National</b>	Thirteenth Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights	November 2022 9
	Bahraini Women’s Day	December 2022 1

2. Within this context, the NIHR issued a statement welcoming the report issued by the US Department of State for the year 2022 on the classification of countries with regard to combating trafficking in persons, in which it praised the keenness of the Kingdom of Bahrain to draw up policies to combat this crime through the continuous development of legislative, procedural and administrative tools to accommodate the development of crime within an integrated protection system based on cooperation and coordination with various government agencies, and the serious steps undertaken by the Kingdom to hold those who are involved in crimes of trafficking in persons accountable and refer them to the judicial authority, up to conviction and serving justice, and supporting and assisting victims in overcoming the psychological and social repercussions, as well as the efforts to protect expatriate workers by introducing several procedures and mechanisms.

3. Within its monitoring participation – in its capacity as an independent body according to its Establishment Law - in the course of the parliamentary and municipal elections that were held during the year 2022; and based on the initial report of the monitoring team - consisting of members of the Council of Commissioners and a number of employees of the Secretariat-General - concerned with monitoring and observation of the elections through field follow-up of the electoral process, evaluation of its organizational and procedural conditions, and ensuring it respects constitutional norms, legislative and regulatory texts related to elections, and international standards; the NIHR issued two statements, one on the day of the elections and the other on the run-off election day. The NIHR announced that the electoral process was transparent and fair in terms of the procedures followed in the sub-committees and general committees.

**Requirement Seven**  
**Training and Education in the Field of Human Rights**



**Section One**

**Participation in the legal clinic and human rights program in cooperation with the University of Bahrain**

1. During 2022, the NIHR has received



two groups of students who joined the Legal Clinic and Human Rights Program of the College of Law at the University of Bahrain in the second semester of the academic year 2021-2022, and the first semester

of the academic year 2022-2023. The training program included holding a number of events, whether in person or remotely.

2. The Program covered several topics on providing general information on human rights and fundamental freedoms, national, regional, and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, and the

role of the NIHR in protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The students participating in the Program, in the course of 19 training sessions for each group, were introduced to the key services provided by the NIHR, and its role in protecting and promoting human



rights at the local and international levels.

3. Over a period of three consecutive months, the participating students were also acquainted with the key services provided by the NIHR and its role in protecting and promoting human rights, whether at the local or international level.
4. This program is part of the core competencies of the NIHR in the field of promoting and disseminating human rights through conducting training and educational courses for all segments of society, especially university students, on issues related to human rights.

### Section Two

#### Participation in the fourth edition of the training program for the staff of the National Intelligence Agency on human rights

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the training program for National Intelligent Agency (NIA) staff on human rights was launched via videoconference, where the NIHR presented a set of

lectures in the area of human rights during this program, which continued until February 2022.

2. The first lecture of the program, which was presented by Mr. Muhammed Al-Najjar, Head of the NIHR Legal Affairs Unit, covered the role of the NIHR in the promotion and protection of human rights. It



included a number of themes, most notably the emergence of national mechanisms, the role they play, and the underlying legal guarantees on which the human rights institutions carry out their role in an integrated manner.

3. The second lecture, which was presented by Dr. Bader Mohamed Adel, member of the NIHR Council of Commissioners, addressed the concepts of human rights between international and national laws. It covered several themes, including general concepts on human rights, the International Bill of Human Rights, and the legal value of international agreements on human

rights and ways to implement them.

4. The third lecture dealt with the legal guarantees regulating the right to physical and moral integrity. As for the fourth lecture, it shed light on the United Nations standard rules on the rights of persons whose liberty is restricted. The fifth and final lecture focused on the guarantees provided for persons deprived of liberty in the Correction and Rehabilitation Institution Law and its implementing regulation.
5. This program is implemented in activation of the memorandum of understanding signed between the NIHR and Office of the Inspector-General of the National Intelligent Agency on the basis of societal partnership with all actors of community to achieve the integration necessary for the successful application of best practices related to human rights.

### Section Three

#### Participation in organizing a symposium on “The Role of the NIHR in Activating Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law”

1. Coinciding with the anniversary of the National Charter Day, the NIHR organized a symposium entitled “The Role of the NIHR in Activating the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law”, which was moderated by Dr. Bader Muhammad Adel, member of the NIHR’s Council of Commissioners, via videoconference. Representatives of a number of government and private agencies, local civil society institutions, and several international organiza-

tions participated in the Symposium.

2. On behalf of the Chairperson of the NIHR, Dr. Bader Muhammad Adel opened the Symposium by commending the outstanding accomplishments of the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, may God protect and preserve him, in terms of advancement and development, which is a translation of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the National



Action Charter. He explained that this event is intended to shed light on how to implement the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law, law enforcement agencies, the role of supporting agencies in activating the Law, as well as clarifying the nature of the work that is assigned to convicts and pretrial detainees in light of the efforts of the Kingdom in the development of criminal justice.

3. The Symposium consisted of two main sessions, during which light was shed on the impact of the application of alternative sanctions and measures on integrating the persons whose freedom is restricted into society. The first session, entitled “Application of Alternative Sanctions and Measures in Light of

the Provisions of the Law”, included two working papers; the first paper was presented by H.E. Judge Jassim Muhammed Ajlan, Deputy of the Supreme Civil Court, Execution Judge -the representative of the Supreme Judicial Council - in which he spoke about the role of the ad hoc judge and the punishment execution judge in replacing the original sanction with an alternative one. First Lieutenant Nasser Sultan Al-Rumaihi, representative of the Ministry of Interior, presented the second paper in which he talked about the role of the Ministry of the Interior in the commutation of penalties.

4. The second session included a working paper presented by H.E. Mr. Muhammad Salih Al-Musallam, Chief Criminal Enforcement Prosecutor, representing the Public Prosecution, in which he talked about the role of the Public Prosecution in implementing alternative measures and indicated their impact on convicts and pretrial detainees.
5. This event is part of the strategy and action plan of the NIHR as it activates its role in the field of promoting and spreading the culture of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and supporting broader application of alternative penalties, in a way that contributes to the rehabilitation of convicts, and drives them away from repeating the offence.

#### Section Four

##### **The NIHR receives the participants in the Legal Clinic Program for Vocational Rehabilitation at the University of Bahrain**

1. The NIHR received, at its headquarters in Al-Seef district, a number of students participating in the Legal Clinic Program for Vocational Rehabilitation for the students of the Faculty of Law at the University of Bahrain, as part of actuating the



principle of community partnership between the NIHR and educational institutions, and based on its role in spreading awareness and promoting the culture of respect for human rights.

2. A number of specialized staff from the Department of Legal Affairs and Training, and the Complaints and Call Center at the NIHR, participated in the implementation of the program. The program contained a number of themes related to the competencies and role of the NIHR in the human rights field and the

preparation of human rights reports. In addition, a detailed explanation about the mechanism for receiving complaints and providing legal assistance through the Complaints and Call Center was explained fully.

### Section Five

#### The NIHR organizes a number of lectures and training workshops for participants in the Human Rights Fellowship Program

1. During 2022, the NIHR received two groups of those interested in research in the field of human rights, who have graduated from various universities whether in the Kingdom or abroad, as well as a number of those who have joined “Furas” program of the Ministry of Labor



#### برنامج الزمالة البحثية في مجال حقوق الإنسان Human Rights Fellowship Program

and Social Development. Specialists in law and human rights from the NIHR presented the lectures, which touched on the competencies of the NIHR, its work mechanism, its role in the field of promoting and protecting human rights in the King-

dom of Bahrain, the services it provides to citizens and residents and the legal grounds of its work, as well as the most important achievements it has achieved in the field of promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom. The program extended over a period of six weeks.

2. It is worth mentioning that the NIHR launched the Human Rights Fellowship Program in 2019. More than (150) individuals have applied to



the program since its inception from several agencies and with various specializations. The research program targets academics, university students, human rights advocates and defenders, and all those interested in research in the field of human rights. The Fellowship Program is among the priorities of the NIHR’s programs to contribute to the intellectual and research movement in the Kingdom of Bahrain and to partner with international organizations and universities working in the field of human rights, bearing in mind that registration is open throughout the year for those who wish to participate in the program by visiting the link <http://www.nihr.org.bh/fellowship>.

## Section Six

### **The NIHR participates in the Royal Police Academy program on “The Role of Public Security Forces in Ensuring Safety and Security of the Electoral Process”**

1. The NIHR, represented by Dr. Bader Mohamed Adel, member of the Council of Commissioners, participated in the training program organized by the Royal Police Academy for a number of officers of the Ministry of Interior, entitled “The Role of Public Security Forces in Ensuring the Safety and Security of the Electoral Process.”
2. During the event, which lasted for two consecutive days, Dr. Bader Mohamed Adel gave a presentation explaining the role of the NIHR in observing the electoral process, in which he touched on the legal basis for election monitoring by the NIHR and its experience in this field, as well as the legal basis of elections in general in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
3. The programme also contained important themes on ensuring the safety and security of the elections, including the administration of the electoral process from advertising to the announcement of the election results, the role of security men in electoral committees, Bahrain’s electoral experience in the democratic field, the environment of the electoral process in Bahrain, simulation scenarios on an Elections Committee and the common mistakes therein, guidelines for the electoral process, guarantees and standards of the electoral environment, inclusion of women’s needs during the

stages of monitoring and controlling the security and safety of the electoral process, and the role of the NIHR in the elections.

4. Colonel Faisal Al-Arjani, General Coordinator of Parliamentary and Municipal Elections, members of the Academy’s teaching staff, the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission, the Supreme Council for Women, the NIHR and the Bahrain Institute for Political Development participated in presenting the Program.

## Section Seven

### **The NIHR Participates in the Summer Program “Colors of Happiness” organized by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation**

1. As part of its effective community partnership with all parties, whether official bodies or civil society organisations that are a key partner and essential tributary for the promotion and dissemination of a culture of human rights for all segments of society, the NIHR has participated in the summer program “Colors of Happiness” organized by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation



for orphaned children cared for by the Foundation. The Program featured several events and activities

centered around the rights of the child.

2. A series of cultural contests related to the NIHR and its role in protecting and promoting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain were held, and children were informed about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in a simplified manner.

### Section Eight

#### The NIHR launches its Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2025)

1. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, inaugurated the NIHR's Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2025), via videoconference, with the wide participation of Their Excellencies members of the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council, senior officials from official bodies, Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to Bahrain, representatives of civil society institutions, the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, the Asia Pacific Forum, human rights defenders, and local and international media.



2. The NIHR in its Strategy (2022-2025) focuses on four strategic objectives, as follows:
3. **First Strategic Objective:** The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national economy and entrepreneurship, which will be achieved through work on the compatibility of national economy with economic, social and cultural rights, work to enhance awareness of the importance of the entrepreneurship sector and its consistency with human rights principles, monitoring the effects of the pandemic on individuals' enjoyment of their right to work, and ensuring that companies and commercial establishments observe the rights of their employees.
4. **Second Strategic Objective:** Education and the propagation of human rights culture, which will focus on spreading awareness of human rights principles through students in schools, institutes, and public and private academic institutions.
5. **Third Strategic Objective:** Achieving equal treatment and gender equality, which will highlight the link between women's rights and all economic, social and cultural rights, boost cooperation with civil society institutions, and focus on encouraging the public and private sectors to apply best practices related to the promotion and protection of women's rights.
6. **Fourth Strategic Objective:** Enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, which will pursue promoting the enjoyment by all of the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and social health. monitoring and following up

the conditions of individuals within health institutions, including those located within correctional and rehabilitation centers, to ensure that everyone enjoys their health rights,

rights and their relevance to the development and support of economic decision-makers and entrepreneurs through a series of workshops.



and studying the impact of pandemics on the individuals' enjoyment of the highest level of healthcare.

### Section Nine

#### **The NIHR and the Bahrain Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Society conclude the First National Conference on Human Rights in Entrepreneurship**

1. The NIHR, in cooperation with the Bahrain Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Society, organized the First National Conference on Human Rights in Entrepreneurship, over two consecutive days, under the theme, "Entrepreneurship as a Human Rights Based Approach: A Theoretical Analysis of Sustainability and Development". The Conference was attended in-person for the first time since the start of Covid-19 in 2020, thanks to the national efforts of the Bahrain Team for safeguarding the health and safety of all citizens and residents.
2. The Conference aimed at shedding light on the right of entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium enterprises to innovate, create and set-up projects, and discussed these
3. The opening session, moderated by Dr. Fawzeya Saeed Al-Saleh, Member of the NIHR Council of Commissioners and Head of the NIHR Committee on Public Rights and Freedoms, covered four themes. The first theme addressed the projects and achievements of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development to promote entrepreneurship and human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, presented by Mrs. Aisha Al-Zayed, representative of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development, Director of Family and Childhood Development. In the second theme, Dr. Jamila Al-Salman, representative of the Ministry of Health, Head of Medical Services for Internal Departments at Salmaniya Medical Complex, explained the precautionary measures imposed to combat Covid-19 and their impact on support and continuity of businesses.
4. Dr. Hashim Suleiman Hussein, representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (Head of the UNIDO

Office – Office of Promotion of Investment and Technology), in the third theme, talked about the mechanisms for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship – Kingdom of Bahrain as a Model. This theme focused on the experience of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of entrepreneurship and human rights, stressing that the Kingdom of Bahrain firmly believes in the importance of strengthening genuine partnership to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights not only at the national level, but also at the regional and international levels. Therefore, the Kingdom of Bahrain cooperates closely with all parties, especially the various UN agencies and bodies.

5. In the fourth theme, Mr. Ahmed Sabah Al-Saloom, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bahrain SMEs Society - member of the NIHR, touched on the rights and duties of entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium enterprises. The fourth theme focused on the promotion of the rights of entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium enterprises and empowering them to develop the national economy. In addition, the role of entrepreneurs in innovation, creativity and establishing projects and the right of employees to an appropriate healthy environment were emphasized.
6. The events of the second day of the Conference included holding three workshops. The first workshop discussed promoting sustainable development in the field of human rights and entrepreneurship, which was presented by a representative

of the Gulf Center for Governance and Sustainable Development. The second workshop touched on the impact of integrating beneficiaries of alternative sanctions and measures in the labor market on national economy, with the participation of the Ministry of Interior.

7. During the closing session, a number of recommendations were made emphasizing the importance of expanding the activities allowed within “Khatwa” home-based businesses program of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development, reiterating the need to support the productive home projects under the “Khatwa” Program. The Conference also recommended to provide full support for the ambitious Bahraini youth to come up with innovative initiatives in entrepreneurship, as young people are the foundation for the success of any society. The Conference also underscored the importance of the alignment of all the adopted health decisions with economic aspects, especially in times of crisis, underlining the significant efforts on the part of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of entrepreneurship and human rights in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030. In addition, the Kingdom’s plan to implement the Law on Alternative Sanctions and Measures that contributed to strengthening the right to work by emphasizing the importance of the concerted efforts of official, private and civil society institutions in the implementation of this Law was touched on. Then, the participants in the Conference were honored.

8. At the conclusion of the Conference, Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, expressed his thanks and appreciation to all the participants for their lasting and fruitful cooperation with the NIHR to achieve its goals and mission, pointing out that this event falls within the NIHR's broad partnerships with various entities and diverse sectors in Bahraini society to realize its vision and mission, especially civil society institutions for their effective role in promoting human rights and basic freedoms, particularly with regard to preserving rights in business. Al-Derazi reiterated the NIHR's keenness to continue to monitor compliance with human rights international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain, including those on economic rights.
9. On his part, Member of Parliament Mr. Ahmed Sabah Al-Saloom, Head of the Bahrain SMEs Society, praised the organization of this Conference, which is the first collaboration activity between the NIHR and the Bahrain SMEs Society, adding that the theme of the Conference is in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and its impact on entrepreneurship and human rights. He highlighted the right of entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium enterprises to innovate, create, set-up projects and support economic policy makers and entrepreneurs.

## Section Ten

### The NIHR carries out a virtual tour for the students of Zainab Preparatory School for Girls

1. Operating on the principle of community partnership with various educational institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the NIHR, in cooperation with Zainab Preparatory School for Girls, carried out a virtual tour of the NIHR headquarters to school students via visual communication technology. A short video featuring the mechanism of the NIHR's work and its facilities and divisions was shown, in addition to reviewing the key publications and leaflets on the rights of the child that were issued by the NIHR with the aim of spreading awareness and promoting a culture of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
2. In the presence of Ms. Laila Abdul Rahman, the School Principal, and a number of administrative and educational staff, and with the participation of approximately 210 students, an awareness lecture was also presented on the role of the



NIHR in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in addition to providing an overview of the rights of the child.

## Section Eleven

### The NIHR and the Supreme Council for Environment Organize a Dialogue Forum on the Right to a Sustainable Healthy Environment

1. The NIHR, in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Environment, organized a Dialogue Forum for public and private sectors' employees on the "Right to a Sustainable Healthy Environment", to introduce the right to a sound healthy environment, the key national environmental legislation, and the role and efforts of government agencies in promoting sustainable development.



2. During his opening speech, Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, emphasized that this event reflects the NIHR's belief in the necessity to establish broad partnerships with various actors and sectors in the Bahraini society to realize its vision and mission, particularly with regard to spreading awareness of the principles of human rights. He pointed out that this Forum contributes to the protection of the right to an adequate and healthy environment, being the basic framework of life for the suc-

cessive generations and emphasizes the right to a healthy environment considering the challenges of climate change. Al-Derazi added that environment and its protection are urgent and critical issues at both the national and international levels, being one of the basic requirements of human rights and because it is linked to the right to life.

3. Al-Derazi pointed out that the Kingdom of Bahrain devotes special attention to the environment through providing support and care to promote and protect the right to a sound and healthy environment, especially with the rising challenges of climate change and the emergence of new environmental problem. He

added that the Kingdom launched development initiatives and programs in line with sustainable development goals.

4. Al-Derazi touched on the legislative and regulatory measures and actions undertaken by the Kingdom to



reduce pollution, and the many regional and international conventions, treaties and protocols on protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development that are ratified by the Kingdom.

5. At the conclusion of the Forum, the deliberations resulted in a number of findings and recommendations aimed at strengthening and activating community partnership with civil society institutions, focusing on the harmonizing national legislation with the provisions contained in the international conventions on human rights, especially those related to the right to a healthy and clean environment, prioritizing human rights in all policies and strategies, to make cities more sustainable for all, updating the regulatory requirements for construction, strengthening societal culture to implement best practices related to the environment, and raising awareness of environmental concepts.

### Section Twelve

#### Participation in career fairs

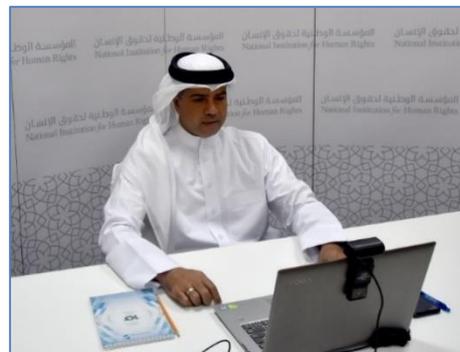
1. As part of its efforts to spread and promote a culture of human rights among all segments of society, and its full encouragement of the educational and academic process in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the NIHR's Secretariat-General participated in the eleventh edition of Career Day, organized by the Gulf University, at the University's headquarters, which aims to introduce university students to job and training opportunities offered by the participating entities.

2. During their participation in the Career Day, the representatives of the NIHR gave an overview of the NIHR's Human Rights Fellowship Program, which targets academics, university students, human rights defenders, and all those interested in research in the field of human rights, and presented a number of the NIHR's publications on human rights.

### Section Thirteen

#### NIHR Organizes a Lecture for Inspection Staff at Customs points of entry

1. In cooperation with Customs Affairs, the NIHR organized a virtual lecture entitled "Concepts of Human Rights between International and National Law", in which a number of inspection staff members at customs ports participated.
2. The lecture was presented by Dr. Bader Mohamed Adel, member of the NIHR's Council of Commissioners, in which he touched on three themes, which addressed general concepts on human rights and public rights and freedoms, including basic human rights principles, International Bill of human rights, and the legal value of international agreements on human rights and ways to implement them.



3. This event is part of the NIHR's strategy, action plan and competencies in the area of promoting and disseminating a culture of human rights by holding training and educational lectures and courses for all segments of society on themes related to human rights.

#### Section Fourteen

##### The NIHR organizes a lecture for the employees of Aluminium Bahrain (Alba)

1. The NIHR, in cooperation with Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), has organized a virtual lecture entitled "NIHR - Roles and Missions", with the participation of a number of company officials and employees.
2. Dr. Malallah Al-Hammadi, Head of the NIHR's Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee, presented the lecture, in which he discussed NIHR's strategy, action plan and legal framework, and outlined the In-



ternational Bill of Human Rights, which includes human rights and fundamental freedoms.

3. This event falls within the NIHR's strategy, action plan and competencies in the field of promoting and disseminating a culture of human rights by holding lectures and training and educational courses for all

segments of society on topics related to human rights.

#### Section Fifteen

##### Lecture on "Peace and Human Rights" on the occasion of the International Day of Peace

1. The Beacon Private School hosted the NIHR, where Ms. Maryam Al-Khaja (Administrative Assistant - Librarian) and Ms. Amani Al-Haddad (Researcher - Legal Affairs) gave a lecture to high school students on human rights and the rights of the child, focusing on the importance of world peace and our role in achieving it. The students appreciated and benefited from the lecture and there was a huge interaction among them by participating in asking questions that reflected their critical thinking and inquiry skills and open-mindedness.

#### Section Sixteen

##### The NIHR Participates in Youth City 2030 Events

1. The NIHR participated in Youth City 2030 events, organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in collaboration with the Labor Fund



"TAMKEEN", as part of its strategy and action plan that aims to build a

culture of human rights in the society and develop the relevant knowledge, skills and values.

2. More than 150 young men and women of different ages participated in the NIHR's pavilion. They were introduced to the NIHR's role in protecting and promoting a culture of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In addition, a series of awareness lectures on the concepts of human rights in general, and the rights of the child in particular, were presented to enhance the intellectual and cultural awareness of the participants.
3. This event is part of the NIHR community partnership programs, which aim to spread and strengthen awareness of human rights principles for all segments of society, and to advance Bahraini youth and children and develop their capacities and capabilities by including them in human rights programs and events of international standards.

### **Section Seventeen**

#### **Launching the International Conference on "Alternative Sanctions and Measures" in Manama**

1. The International Conference "Alternative Sanctions and Measures Law: A Qualitative Experience in Criminal Legislation", organized by the NIHR in the Kingdom of Bahrain, was launched in the Bahraini capital, Manama, with broad and effective local, regional and international participation from the human rights sector.
2. The Conference deliberated on how to apply the Alternative Sanctions and Measures Law, the applications

and the authorities concerned with enforcing this Law, the role of support agencies in activating the law, in addition to the nature of the work assigned to convicts, in light of the efforts made by the Kingdom of Bahrain to develop criminal justice.

3. The Conference was attended by more than 300 participants, including a number of ministries and official authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain, such as the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs and Endowments, the Supreme Judicial Council, Public Prosecution, the Board of Trustees of the Arab Observatory for Human Rights, the President of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI), and representatives of national human rights institutions members of the ANNHRI, representatives of national human rights institutions in the Executive Office of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), as well as representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders.

4. In his opening speech, H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR in the Kingdom of Bahrain, explained that this Conference was organized in light of the remarkable progress Bahrain is witnessing in the field of human rights, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, may God preserve and protect him, and the extreme interest shown by the esteemed Government headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, may God protect him, and as a result of the gen-

is a punitive and reform system at the same time.

5. H.E. the Chairperson of the NIHR pointed out the great role played by the Ministry of the Interior in implementing the procedures related to the alternative sanctions system, as a paradigm shift in the development and strengthening of the human rights system, which contributes to bolstering society and family stability and entrenches the humanistic and human rights approach by rehabilitating the convicts to make them active members of society.



uine and serious desire of the NIHR - which has taken upon itself as of its establishment to implement the provisions of various legislations in its capacity as one of the independent national mechanisms concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights in Bahrain - and all partners in activating the alternative sanctions system, through which Bahrain was able to be in the same category of developed countries in terms of its legislative, judicial and human rights systems, as it

6. At the end of his speech, H.E. the Chairperson of the NIHR called for solidarity and cooperation to put more efforts to boost awareness among all of the importance of participating in activating the provisions of the Law on Sanctions and Alternative Measures, so that these entities become a true partner in rehabilitating convicts to be accepted by society. He expressed his hope that the Conference would come out with recommendations and an action plan to follow up on

their implementation in a manner that meets the desired aspirations.

7. For his part, H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Director General of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing, said that the Ministry of Interior has implemented the Royal vision on consolidating rights and freedoms on the ground, as the Ministry has sought during the past years to build an integrated strategy to observe human rights by caring for the human element of its affiliates, especially security officers concerned with the enforcement and application of the law.
8. H.E. also stressed the Ministry's keenness to expand and advance the scope of application of the Law, develop the mechanisms used and build up productive partnerships for further advancement and achievement. H.E. expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the NIHR for organizing this Conference, which reflects the level of importance posed by alternative sanctions and their positive impact in practice in strengthening reform and protecting rights, freedoms and the rule of law in accordance with international standards, agreements, covenants and protocols, since its initial implementation in 2017.
9. H.E. Mr. Adel bin Abdul Rahman Al-Assoumi, President of the Arab Parliament, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Observatory for Human Rights, expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the NIHR for organizing this Confer-

ence, for the noble messages it embodies pertaining to defending, promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. He pointed out that the experience of the Kingdom of Bahrain in applying the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law gave it a head start and leading position in the region and at the international level. Moreover, it represents an unprecedented civilizational shift that symbolizes the noble humanistic meanings rooted in Bahraini society and a new accomplishment in the process of developing and modernizing legislation within the comprehensive development process in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is a reflection of the enlightened Royal vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the great King of the Country, may God protect and preserve him, toward promoting human rights' values and principles in the national legislation, in a manner that contributes to realizing social stability in its broadest sense, and manifestation of the humanistic approach adopted by His Majesty towards the human rights portfolio.

10. H.E. the President of the Arab Parliament praised the incessant efforts of the Bahrain Ministry of Interior under the leadership of H.E. Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain, to translate the objectives and visions of the Law on Alternative Sanctions and Measures and the open prisons program into enforcement policies on the ground, hoping that the discussions

that will take place during the Conference will achieve its noble goals and objectives.

11. For his part, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Salem Bouhoubeyni, President of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, emphasized the importance of alternative measures of criminal sanctions, referring to the experiences of some countries that have adopted alternatives to custodial sentences, such as community service and others, which showed very positive results manifested in the remarkable decline in crime in general, the reduction in the number of detainees in prisons, and the spread of peace and security among the population.
12. The President of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions reiterated the importance of the well-chosen subject of this conference, which reflects clarity of vision and foresight. He pointed out that many studies have shown that there is a low rate of re-offending among convicted delinquents receiving alternative sentencing compared to those who were subjected to the traditional imprisonment, underlining the importance of looking to the future and not to the past, towards actions to be done and the results to be obtained, rather than the crime committed.
13. Mr. Alaa Shalaby, President of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, referred to the stated desire of the Kingdom of Bahrain to continue the reform and modernization process in general, and in the human rights field in particular, as the Conference

represents a milestone in activating this.

14. Mr. Shalaby pointed out that the NIHR's initiative to hold this Conference will deepen the discussion on this significant experience, and will contribute opinions on ways to enrich and advance it, as well as in terms of the lessons learned in other arenas, especially in the Arab region. At the end of his speech, he stressed the need to boost respect and protection of human rights, which is no longer a luxury, and the overwhelming importance of human rights in the success of development efforts and the elevation of their benefits.
15. The Conference aims to converge view and achieve integration among the authorities responsible for the implementation of this Law by highlighting the role required of each of the relevant authorities to fully implement the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law and its amendments, while identifying the challenges facing those entities in implementing the Law and reviewing and benefiting from the experiences of other countries in the same field.
16. On the first day, the Conference discussed the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law and the efforts of the various authorities in this regard. The first session included five themes touching on the efforts of the Ministry of Interior in implementing and applying sanctions and alternative measures, the role of the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments in rehabilitation and training programs for

those sentenced to alternative penalties and procedures for implementing thereof, the efforts of the Supreme Judicial Council in developing the judicial work system through the role of the trial judge in replacing the original sentence with an alternative penalty and how to enhance criminal justice procedures in the Public Prosecution, in addition to implementing the open prison system and its role in integrating the beneficiaries of the Law in society. The second session discussed the role of a number of Arab and foreign national human rights institutions in following up the implementation of the sanctions and alternative measures law. This session included five themes touching on the experiences of the countries of those institutions in implementing the law on sanctions and alternative measures.

17. The sessions held on the second day discussed the challenges facing the law-enforcement agencies and those convicted in its application. This will be followed by a joint dialogue session entitled: "Visions of civil society institutions in the application of the sanctions and alternative measures law and the most important challenges facing its implementation". The last session will include discussion and adoption of the final recommendations of the Conference.

### **Section Eighteen**

#### **The NIHR delivers an educational lecture on breast cancer**

1. Coinciding with the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, organized annu-

ally in October, the Secretariat-General of the NIHR, in cooperation with Al-Salam Specialist Hospital, delivered an educational lecture for the NIHR female employees on the importance of early detection of breast cancer presented by Dr. Zahra Khalifa, Family Medicine Consultant at Al-Salam Hospital.

2. During the lecture, Dr. Zahra pointed out the importance of organizing this event on an annual basis to raise women's awareness of the risks of this disease, its stages and ways to prevent it, in addition to the importance of having regular check-ups as this provide an opportunity for early detection of the disease and obtain of the necessary treatment to reach high survival rates.



3. The lecture touched on the causes and symptoms of the disease, how to perform self-examination, and highlighted the importance of prevention through regular check-ups, healthy food and exercising.
4. This event is part of the NIHR's partnership with health institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which aims to enhance the preventive aspect and early detection of diseases to

raise awareness about health issues among female employees.



### Section Nineteen

#### The NIHR receives a number of students from Kingdom University

1. Within the framework of joint cooperation with educational and academic institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the NIHR received a number of students enrolled in the Human Rights Course at Kingdom University, where an introductory lecture was presented on the NIHR's role in the field of promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
2. The lecture was presented by Mr. Muhammad Al-Najjar, Head of the NIHR's Legal Affairs Unit, in which he gave a brief description about the NIHR and its Establishment Law, the services it provides to citizens and residents to protect and promote human rights, the legal framework for its work, and the mechanism for receiving complaints and handling them.
3. This event is part of the NIHR's strategy and action plan in the field

of promoting and disseminating a culture of human rights among all segments of society and refining students' experience in the field of protecting and promoting human rights.

### Section Twenty

#### The NIHR presents an introductory lecture on the role and competences of national institutions

1. The NIHR organized a lecture on the role of national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights for the staff of the Legal Affairs and Training Directorate and Complaint and Call Center of the NIHR, to introduce them to the key competences and roles assigned to national human rights institutions.
2. The lecture was presented by Mr. Walid Al-Sheikh, Attorney and Director of the Central West Bank Office at the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine, and Mrs. Samisha Riyaha, Program Officer of the Arab Institute for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Morocco, where they discussed the role of national human rights institutions in strengthening the relationship between governments and



civil society institutions and the legal framework regulating their work, as well as the main challenges facing national institutions at all levels. They also presented an overview of the mechanism for activating the role of the NIHR in the field of reviewing the recommendations of the working group of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

### Section Twenty-One

#### An overview of the NIHR and the rights of the child

The NIHR gave an awareness lecture on the National Institution for Human Rights and the rights of the child to secondary school students at Sheikha Mozah bint Hamad Al Khalifa Comprehensive School for Girls, where students from the Legal Clinic and Human Rights Program of the College of Law at the University of Bahrain were called upon to deliver the lecture. The lecture shed light on the competences and functions of the NIHR and introduced the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the key rights contained therein.

### Section Twenty-Two

#### Signing Memoranda of Understanding

1. In pursuit of strengthening joint coordination and cooperation pertaining to consolidating the principles of human rights, and promoting, encouraging, disseminating and developing their implementation, Eng. Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, and Dr. Hala bint Mazyad Al-Tuwaijri, President of the Human Rights Commission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the NIHR and the

Commission, aimed at deepening cooperation in the field of promoting human rights, within the terms of reference determined by the national legislation for each party, in addition to exchanging information and technical cooperation between the two sides. The technical cooperation comprises the exchange of



visits, legal and human rights consultation, publications and relevant literature and studies. In addition, the MOU aimed at organizing workshops in the field of human rights and holding joint events and conferences, especially with regard to human rights.

2. On the sidelines of their participation in the International Conference on International Solidarity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was held in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, and H.E. Ambassador Jassim Mubarak Al-Mubarak, Chairman of National Bureau for Human Rights of the State of Kuwait, signed a memorandum of understanding between The NIHR and



the National Bureau, with the aim of deepening cooperation in the field of promoting human rights, within the terms of reference determined by the national legislation of each party, in addition to exchanging information and technical cooperation between the two sides.

3. In addition, a memorandum of understanding was also signed in the Egypt's capital Cairo between the Arab Observatory for Human Rights of the Arab Parliament headed by Mr. Adel bin Abdul Rahman Al-As-soumi, President of the Arab Parliament and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Observatory, and the NIHR in the Kingdom of Bahrain represented by Engineer Ali



Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR. The terms of the MOU underlined building bridges and strengthening bonds of cooperation with the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of human rights, given the proud and creditable human rights record of the Kingdom in protecting human rights. The MOU reflects the serious and meaningful steps taken by the Observatory to establish qualitative and effective Arab initiatives with the national structures concerned

with human rights in the Arab countries, to meet the endeavors of the Arab countries and their constant enthusiasm to advance and develop the Arab human rights portfolio.

4. Moreover, Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, and Dr. Moushira Khattab, President of the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt, signed a memorandum of understanding between the NIHR and the National Council, with the aim of expanding cooperation in the field of promoting human rights, within the terms of reference established by the national legislation of each party, as well as exchange of information and



technical cooperation between the two sides.

5. As a consequence of the meetings held with the Federal Republic of Germany, and the discussions on the ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and increase coordination during the next stage pertaining to files of common interest and issues related to human rights in the manner that meets common aspirations and goals, Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, and H.E. Mr. Clemens Hatch, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of



Germany accredited to the Kingdom of Bahrain, signed an agreement between the two sides to cooperate in the field of promoting human rights, within the terms of reference determined by the national legislation of each party, in addition to exchange of information and technical cooperation between the two sides.

#### Section Twenty-Four

#### Participating in Bahrain Summer Festival 2022

1. The NIHR participated in the press conference held by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, during which it announced the program activities of the “Bahrain Summer Festival” for the year 2022 in its fourteenth edition, under the slogan “Bahrain Summer, Gold for the Eye.”
2. The NIHR participated in Bahrain Summer Festival in its 14<sup>th</sup> edition, under the theme “Bahrain Summer, Gold for the Eye”, for three consecutive days, by delivering a number of workshops, in which various recreational activities were offered on the most basic rights of the child that are stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), being the first international legal instrument to define the basic rights and

freedoms of children, with the intention of transforming knowledge of human rights into practice and daily behavior, in an attempt to find out the best ways to exercise human rights and freedoms and ensure they are protected against any violation.



3. The workshops, which lasted for three consecutive days, focused, in the first workshop, on the right to a healthy sustainable environment, during which the children were briefed about recycling; and the second workshop addressed children’s rights, in which a number of stories on the subject matter were read to the children; whereas the third workshop was entitled “The Creative Young Jurist”, in which a certain human rights problem was presented to the children and its solution found.
4. The workshops were presented by a group of employees of the NIHR’s Secretariat-General with long expertise and special skills in dealing with children. They focused on the practical aspect by including contests, reading stories and playing various games suitable for the age group (8-12 years).



environment without risk to health, the NIHR launched, for the third year in a row, an initiative to report breaches of the ban on outdoor work in the heat of the sun between



12 noon and 4 pm during July and August, in implementation of Decision No. (3) of 2013 of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development regarding prohibiting noon work in open places during the prescribed ban hours.



**Section Twenty-Four**  
**Launching “Monitoring the Noon Work Ban” initiative**

1. Given its role in promoting and protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, and in view of the importance of the right to a safe work



The NIHR has allowed everybody to monitor violations, determine their location and time, and publish such on social networks using the hashtag #Ensure\_YourRight (#اضمن\_حقوقك). The public could also share the violations and media material through the NIHR's WhatsApp at 17111666, or report these violations through the free hotline 80001144.

2. Through this initiative that aims to boost community culture to stand by workers' rights in support of the efforts of the government to address any breaches, the NIHR called on employers to respect the law, protect workers' rights, create decent work environments, and take the necessary measures to adapt to the decision in accordance with international standards.

#### **Section Twenty-five**

#### **Participation in the Legal Training Program for students of the College of Law at the University of Bahrain**

1. The NIHR has participated in delivering the legal training program for students at the College of Law at the University of Bahrain, which

was organized by the College of Law over two consecutive days, as part of bilateral cooperation between the NIHR and the University. The training program aims to develop legal and human rights skills for students by introducing them to the principles and concepts of human rights and practical training that enables them to acquire these skills.

2. On the first day, the NIHR introduced the definition of the concept of human rights in general and its divisions and explained the key international agreements and obligations in the field of human rights



and international instruments ratified by the Kingdom of Bahrain, in addition to the general rights and duties enshrined in the Constitution of Bahrain. It also presented an overview of the NIHR's work and specializations in accordance with its establishing Law and the services it provides to citizens and residents. On the second day, the main focus was on introducing detention and rehabilitation centers, the legal framework for visitation mechanism, standards for visiting prisons and detention places, in addition to the basic principles for the treatment of prisoners.

#### **Section Twenty-Six**

#### **Building the capacity of the staff of the NIHR's General-Secretariat**

1. The NIHR engaged its employees in

a number of training programs and various events to build their capacities in various fields, especially those related to human rights. The most important topics that the employees of the NIHR's General-Secretariat have been trained on are as follows: effective benchmarking of gender employment and dealing with complaints and investigations in the field of human rights. In addition, they were engaged in regional consultations on sustainable development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; an introductory workshop on government tendering and auction procedures; a symposium on civil and political rights; the specialized training program on mediation in criminal matters; a closed interactive meeting on the role of the International Court of Justice in resolving global disputes; a lecture on mental health in light of administrative recovery.

2. They were also involved in the following: a lecture on the recent retirement amendments in accordance with Law No. (13) of 2022, amending some provisions of Law No. (13) of 1975 regarding the Regulation of Pension and Retirement Benefits for Government Employees; a workshop on "Electronic Financial Analysis"; the third regional training course "The Amin Makki Course" on mechanisms for the protection of human rights; Ta'sees Program - batch 54, the national training program to enhance the capacities of those concerned with the protection of human rights in

the criminal justice system; a workshop on national action plans to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms; a lecture on criminal protection for public office; the symposium of the Office of Financial and Administrative Control; the virtual round table on statelessness; Bina' Program – batch 26; the Mohamed Fayek 3 course on the international human rights system; Ta'sees Program - batch 5 6; Human Rights Diplomacy, organized by the Royal Academy of Police in cooperation with the Mubarak bin Mohammed Academy.

### **Section Twenty-Seven**

#### **Posting tweets and awareness messages on social media**

The NIHR interacted with the public on its Twitter<sup>28</sup> account by posting a number of tweets this year that revolved around the following:

- The #National\_Institution\_for\_Human\_Rights monitored a post on social media about transferring of a group of inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to Al-Shamel Health Care Center after delay in receiving treatment and health care, which led to the deterioration of their health.



By authority of its mandate to conduct field visits to ensure availability

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<sup>28</sup> Tweets can be viewed on the NIHR's Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/nihrbh>

of basic human rights, #National\_Institution\_for\_Human\_Rights delegation conducted an inspection visit to the #Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Jau, to find out the demands of the inmates concerned with the monitoring case, and to ensure that they enjoy their rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards.

During the visit, the delegation explored the conditions of the inmates and met with a number of them to ensure that they are exercising their legally guaranteed rights, especially with regard to detention procedures, medical examination and prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases for the safety of the inmates, according to the measures taken in this regard.

- Based on the broad mandate granted to the NIHR in the field of protection and promotion of human rights, and the competences granted under the provisions of its Establishment Law, the Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee of the NIHR conducted an inspection visit to the convicts treatment unit in the Psychiatric Hospital, to find out about the requests and observations of the inmates, and to make sure that they enjoy their rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards.

During the visit, the NIHR's delegation inspected the buildings and facilities that are equipped to serve the inmates. A number of inmates, who were randomly selected, were

interviewed separately and their observations were noted. The NIHR reiterates that the concerned authorities must continue to implement the appropriate standards for the treatment of inmates and detainees.

The #National\_Institution\_for\_Human\_Rights can be contacted through the free hotline (80001144), or via the NIHR Bahrain mobile application, or its website: <http://nihr.org.bh>.

- Based on the broad mandate granted to the NIHR in the field of protection and promotion of human rights, and the competences granted under the provisions of its Establishment Law, the Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee of the NIHR conducted an inspection visit to Dar Al-Aman for Women Victims of Domestic Violence affiliated to the Ministry of Labor and Social Development in order to examine the general conditions of the residents and take note of their observations, and to ensure that they enjoy their rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards.

During the inspection visit, the NIHR's delegation toured the facilities of Dar Al-Aman and listened to a briefing on the role of Al-Dar in securing temporary shelter for families subjected to domestic violence, whether during the shelter period or after it end, and the most important procedures in this regard, mentioning the efforts of those in charge of Al-Dar in providing the necessary protection and various

types of living, social, health, psychological, recreational and legal services for the concerned cases.

The NIHR can be contacted through the free hotline (80001144), or via the NIHR Bahrain mobile application, or its website: <http://nihr.org.bh>.

- Based on the broad mandate granted to the NIHR in the field of protection and promotion of human rights, and the competences granted under the provisions of its Establishment Law, the Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee of the NIHR conducted an inspection visit to Dar Al Karama for Social Welfare affiliated to the Ministry of Labor and Social Development in order to find out the general conditions of the residents and take note of their observations, and to ensure that they enjoy their rights guaranteed by national legislation and international human rights standards.

During the inspection visit, the NIHR's delegation toured the facilities of Dar Al Karama and listened to a briefing on the role of Dar Al Karama in combating beggary and homelessness and the most important measures related to this matter, mentioning the efforts of Dar Al Karama in the provision of care and various services for first time beggars and homeless.

The NIHR can be contacted through the free hotline (80001144), or via the NIHR Bahrain mobile application, or its website: <http://nihr.org.bh>.

- In its effort to provide all facilities to individuals, the NIHR reassures

those who need its services that it continues to receive complaints and provide legal assistance, especially in circumstances when one cannot attend in person, through the free hotline service (80001144) or by e-mail [complaint@nihr.org.bh](mailto:complaint@nihr.org.bh) or via NIHR's social media @NIHRBH or through the mobile application to receive complaints NIHR Bahrain.

- Dear voters, the National Institution for Human Rights urges you to make sure that your name is on the voters' lists during the period from 15-21 September 2022, to be able to participate in the electoral process by visiting the following link: <http://vote.bh>.
- Dear voters, to ensure your participation in the upcoming parliamentary elections, you can make sure that your name is included in the voters' lists by visiting the supervisory center of your governorate, before 21 September 2022, between 5 to 9 pm.
- If your voting residence is in the Capital Governorate, you can visit the supervisory center located at Khawla Secondary School for Girls to verify your data in the voters' lists to make sure you can participate in the parliamentary elections.
- If your voting residence is in the Northern Governorate, you can visit the supervisory center located at Yathrib Preparatory School for Girls, to verify your data in the voters' lists, to make sure you can participate in the parliamentary and municipal elections.
- If your voting residence is in Muharraq Governorate, you can visit the

supervisory center located at Al-Hidaya Al-Khalifia Secondary School for Boys, to verify your data in the voters' lists, to make sure you can participate in the parliamentary and municipal elections.

- If your voting residence is in the Southern Governorate, you can visit the supervisory center at Al-Mustaqbal Primary School for Girls, to verify your data in the voters' lists, to make sure you can participate in the parliamentary and municipal elections.
- The Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee of the NIHR carried out an inspection visit to the Hereditary Blood Disorder Center (Sickler) in the Salmaniya Medical Complex, in order to find out the conditions of patients and follow up on their remarks, and to ensure that they enjoy their rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards.

During the visit, the health care provided to patients was looked into to find out their situation and make sure that they enjoy their legally guaranteed rights. In addition, the procedures followed at the Emergency Center upon arrival of patients to be treated by the physicians were reviewed.

A number of randomly selected patients were interviewed individually during the inspection visit, where they had a number of comments, which will be submitted to the concerned authorities.

The NIHR can be contacted through the free hotline (80001144), or via

the NIHR Bahrain mobile application, or its website: <http://nihr.org.bh>.

- Dear voters, application form for objection or correction available online (electronically) or in person are free of charge, whereas there is a fee for filing an appeal to challenge the decisions of supervisory committees if they reject the applications.
- You can appeal the decisions issued by the supervisory committees in the event they reject the applications for objection or correction before the competent court within a maximum period of three days from the date of its issuance; the court will rule on the appeal within seven days from the date of filing the case with a final and unappealable ruling.
- Dear candidate, nominations to the membership of the Council of Representatives and municipal councils opens from 5-9 October 2022; submissions of nominations for candidacy in various electoral districts are submitted to the competent committees.
- Dear candidate and voter, the elections of the members of the Council of Representatives will take place in all four governorates of the Kingdom (the Capital, the Northern, Muharraq and the Southern governorates), while the elections of the members of the municipal councils will take place in the Northern Governorate, Muharraq Governorate and the Southern Governorate only.
- #Election\_Awareness\_Election Dates, (5-9 October 2022) the door

for nomination for membership of the Council of Representatives and municipal councils opens.

- (10-12) October 2022, lists of candidates are presented; applications for correction and objection are filed.
- (10-15) October 2022, Supervision Committees adjudicate on applications for correction and objection, and appeal against the Supervisory Committee's decisions before the Court of Cassation and the court settles appeals.
- (26 October 2022) Announcing final lists of candidates for membership of the Council of Representatives and municipal councils.
- (2 November 2022) The deadline to submit notice to withdraw candidature.
- Dear candidate, make sure that your name is on the list of candidates displayed in your constituency within the three days following the close of nominations.
- Dear candidate, you have the right to appeal the decision of the competent committee in the event that it rejects your application to include your name in the list of candidates, or to object to the inclusion of the name of another candidate in those lists, before the competent court within a period not exceeding three days from the date of issuing the rejection decision; the court decides on the appeal within seven days from the date of filing the lawsuit with a final unappealable decision.
- Dear Candidate and Voter, the final lists of candidates' names shall be

displayed each at the headquarters of his/her constituency; these names shall be announced in one of the local media outlets.

- Dear candidate, you have the right, after displaying the final lists of candidates, to obtain one official copy of the list of voters in your constituency.
- Dear candidate, if you are an employee, the law guarantees you an unpaid leave - if you do not have enough leave days left - starting from the day following the close of nomination and your official registration, until the end of the elections.
- Voting abroad  
(8 November 2022) Voting to elect members of the Council of Representatives and municipal councils abroad.  
(15 November 2022) Voting in the cases that require re-run (runoff elections) abroad.
- Voting in the Kingdom of Bahrain  
(12 November 2022) Voting to elect members of the Council of Representatives and municipal councils in the Kingdom of Bahrain.  
(19 November 2022) Voting in the cases that require re-run (runoff elections) in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Within the framework of its supervisory participation – in its capacity as an independent body under its Establishment Law - on the course of the parliamentary and municipal elections 2022, which were held on Saturday, November 12, 2022; and

based on the initial report of the NIHR's monitoring team consisting of members of the Council of Commissioners and a number of employees of the Secretariat-General, which is involved in observing and monitoring the elections through field follow-up of the electoral process and evaluating its organizational conditions, procedures, and the extent to which it observes constitutional rules, legislative and regulatory provisions related to elections, and international standards.

Accordingly, the NIHR announces that the elections were characterized by transparency and integrity in terms of the procedures followed in the sub-committees and general committees. The NIHR's monitoring process concluded the following:

- Polling centers opened at 8 am in the presence of members of the judiciary and committee employees who were present at the centers earlier than the time specified by law.
- The ballot boxes were inspected to make sure they were empty of any ballot papers before voting; in addition, the boxes were transparent to show what is inside them.
- Secrecy of the ballot was guaranteed.
- Ballot papers were shuffled to change their number sequence.
- Polling ended and ballot boxes were sealed at 8 pm, while allowing observers to be present in the polling and counting room to monitor the closing procedures.

In general, the NIHR affirms that the initial level of the electoral process was well organized and contributed to facilitating the casting of votes by citizens, and that no significant violations were recorded inside the polling stations of the committees, whether sub-committees or general, and that a few insignificant violations were observed that did not affect the electoral process. The violations were reported to the competent authorities and action was taken to rectify them in accordance with the law, and they will be contained in the recommendations of a special report that will be issued and published later and will be made available to all.

- Based on the complaints submitted by the families of a number of inmates of the Correction and Rehabilitation Center to the effect that they are not receiving the needed treatment and health care, as well as securing the basic necessities of life, in addition to a complaint that one of the inmates was subjected to ill-treatment, a delegation from the NIHR conducted an inspection visit to the Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the Jau area to look into the requests of the concerned inmates and ensure that they enjoy their rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards.

During the visit, the NIHR's delegation met with the concerned inmates, listened to their requests and took note of their remarks in preparation for submitting them to the competent authority.

The NIHR can be contacted through the free hotline (80001144), or via the NIHR Bahrain mobile application, or its website: <http://nihr.org.bh>.

- Given the broad mandate granted to the NIHR in the field of protection and promotion of human rights, and its competences pursuant to the provisions of its Establishment Law, the NIHR's Detention and Facilities Visitation Committee conducted an inspection visit to the Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Health and Social Center on November 28, 2022 to establish the health condition of an inmate from the Correction and Rehabilitation Center during his stay in the Medical Center, and to ensure that he enjoys his rights guaranteed under national legislation and international human rights standards.

During the visit, the Committee met with the inmate and listened to his remarks and requests, whether those related to his health status or to general issues pertaining to his rights as an inmate in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center. The NIHR dealt with the case and submitted a report thereon to the relevant authority, and is following up on the health status of the inmate.

## **Section Twenty-Nine**

### **Press releases and news<sup>29</sup>**

#### **First: Press Releases**

1. During this year, the NIHR issued a number of press releases, the most

prominent of which was a statement on "Continued Cooperation with Regional and International Organizations in the Human Rights File", in which the NIHR emphasized that foreign human rights organizations must obtain accurate information to avoid repeatedly and systematically publishing information that is either untrue or misrepresents reality, which is detrimental to the human rights system.

2. The NIHR also issued a statement welcoming the continued expansion of the application of the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law and embarking on implementing the open prisons program. The NIHR embraced the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, may God protect him, pertaining to continuing broader application of the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law in parallel with the implementation of the open prisons program, affirming that these measures are in line with international standards and the protocols contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with regard to treating persons deprived of their liberty with humanity and respect for human dignity.
3. The NIHR also issued a statement appreciating dedicating a day for sports for the employees of the public and private sectors, emphasizing that the designation of a sports day in the Kingdom of Bah-

<sup>29</sup> Press releases can be viewed on the NIHR's Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/nihrbh/>

rain reflects the interest of leadership and government in encouraging citizens and residents to exercise and do sports, whether with co-workers or family members, to build a healthy and active community.

4. The NIHR issued a statement emphasizing that “the National Action Charter is a national civilized model, which has set the ground rules for human rights work.” Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, on his behalf and on behalf of the members of the Council of Commissioners, the Secretary-General and the staff of the Secretariat-General, extended highest congratulations and blessings to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the great monarch of the Country, may God protect and preserve him, and to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, may God protect him, and to the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of the adoption of The National Action Charter, celebrated on the fourteenth of February every year, as a reminder of an honorable page in the history of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
5. The Chairperson of the NIHR also issued a statement highly appreciating the Royal Directives to provide housing services to the families of some convicts and beneficiaries of “alternative sanctions”, emphasizing that this Royal initiative clearly reflects the humanitarian value in its all-inclusive concept of the wise leadership, and its continuous approach to support all members of

community in such a manner that guarantees family stability and society cohesion, regardless of religion, color, culture, belief and race. He stressed that His Majesty the King’s limitless interest in the citizen - being the key pillar of comprehensive development - and the vigorous follow-up of His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, may God protect him, on the needs of the citizens as well as His Highness’s relentless efforts to preserve national unity, gains and achievements to reach a better future for the country and the citizen, are a source of pride and honor.

6. In a related context, Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, the Chairperson of the NIHR, issued a statement underlining the effective role of the Kingdom of Bahrain in supporting and fostering the right to a safe and healthy environment, especially with the challenges of climate change, explaining that Bahrain has attached particular importance to addressing environmental problems, and has adopted development initiatives and programs that are consistent with the goals of sustainable development according to a progressive national strategy to protect the environment. In his statement, Engineer Al-Derazi also touched on the legislative actions and measures Bahrain has taken to control pollution from various sources, as well as its ratification of several regional and international conventions, treaties and protocols concerned with environmental protection and sustainable development, stressing that such efforts

continue to preserve the right of future generations to achieve global environmental security.

7. In addition, the Chairperson of the NIHR issued a statement praising the directives of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to consider Wadi Al-Buhair a natural reserve, whereby he appreciated the efforts of the Kingdom in providing infrastructure and services to preserve protected areas of ecological and environmental importance, whether in Doha Arad, Tubli Bay, or the Hair Bulthama area, which were previously declared nature reserves, as well as Wadi Al-Bahir. These measures reflect the Kingdom's commitment to the international standards of human rights and the national, regional and international resolutions upholding everyone's right to a healthy, suitable and sound environment, especially the Kingdom of Bahrain's recent ratification of the Statute of the Arab Federation of Nature Reserves, which was issued last April under Law No. (11) of 2022.
8. The Chairperson of the NIHR also issued a statement praising the role of the Supreme Council for Women in supporting Bahraini women and advancing their status in various fields, as Bahraini women actively contribute to the national development process and the building and advancement of the Country. Engineer Al-Derazi expressed great pride in the progression of Bahraini women, who are a role model for all their successes, raising the name of the Kingdom of Bahrain in various

Arab, regional and international forums.

9. On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, the Chairperson of the NIHR issued a statement in which he expressed the NIHR's great appreciation for the efforts of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Great Kingdom of Bahrain, in consolidating democracy through the Reform Project that established a state of institutions under the rule of law. He underlined the importance of public participation to achieve the aspirations of the citizens, and valued Royal Decree No. (26) of 2022 setting the date for election and nomination for membership in the Council of Representatives and the Ministerial Resolution setting the date for election and nomination for membership to municipal councils. In addition, he stressed the concern of the NIHR, given its human rights position, that the goals, objectives and values of democracy are achieved through respect for human rights and the principle of organizing periodic and fair elections by direct, secret, public suffrage, which constitute the elements of democracy and are contained in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the principles of the National Action Charter, as affirmed by the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16 on spreading peace, justice and democracy.
10. The Chairperson of the NIHR also issued a statement on the occasion of

Human Rights Day, in which he appreciated the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to international conventions and treaties on human rights, and its spectacular achievements in the field of preserving and protecting human rights and maintaining the dignity of its citizens and residents under the constitutional and legal frameworks, while stressing that the NIHR continues to follow up and monitor compliance with international agreements and treaties ratified by the Kingdom on human rights.

11. The NIHR also issued a statement confirming that the open prison system, in addition to being a major transition in the field of reform and rehabilitation in the Kingdom of Bahrain, will greatly help in expanding the application of the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law in the general context of updating and improving the security system humanely towards individuals against whom judicial rulings for various crimes and misdemeanors are applied, in line with international standards related to human rights.

### **Second: TV and Radio interviews<sup>30</sup>**

In a related context, the NIHR participated in a number of television and radio interviews to promote a culture of human rights and raise awareness of the NIHR's in promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. These interviews addressed a number of topics, including: "The NIHR's role in supporting and protect-

ing human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain", "Expanding the application of the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law", "The National Action Charter and its role in the promotion and protection of human rights", "National Action Charter Day", "Signing an agreement with the Arab Observatory for Human Rights", "The highlights of the Ninth Annual Report of the NIHR for the year 2021", "The Kingdom of Bahrain maintains its position in the Tier 1 category in combating trafficking in persons", "The NIHR graciously receives the US Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Report", "The introductory meeting held by the Joint Working Group with private sector companies to present the mechanism for implementing the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law", "The electoral process and its compatibility with international standards", "The International Conference Alternative Sanctions and Measures Law: A Qualitative Experience in Criminal Legislation", and "Women's Participation in the 2022 Elections".

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<sup>30</sup> Interviews can be viewed on the NIHR's YouTube account: <https://www.youtube.com/user/NIHRBH>

### Third: Press news<sup>31</sup>

1. To enhance cooperation with national entities associated with human rights, and to extend communication with governmental and non-governmental agencies and individuals interested in the field of human rights, the NIHR organized a visit to Nasser Center for Rehabilitation and Vocational Training to get acquainted with the educational, training and vocational programs provided by the Center in addition to carrying out an exploratory tour



of the facilities accompanied by the Executive Director and a number of the Center's officials. The two sides discussed the role of the Center and its effective contribution to rehabilitating the convicts - on whom the alternative sanctions and measures were applied- to positively integrate them into the community to enhance the stability of society.

2. On the other hand, the Joint Working Group held a coordination meeting to develop a mechanism for implementing the provisions of the Sanctions and Alternative measures Law with the participation of private sector companies,

headed by the NIHR, and the membership of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labor, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Bahrain Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Society, the Labor Market Regulatory Authority, and "Tamkeen" Labor Fund.

3. At the outset of the meeting, H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR and Head of the Joint Working Group, valued the Royal Directives to continue expanding the application of the provisions of the Sanctions and Alternative Measures Law, in line with



international standards and protocols contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights pertaining to the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, in a humane manner and with respect for human rights and dignity.

4. The Chairperson of the NIHR praised the outstanding role of the Ministry of Interior in implementing the provisions of the Law, which contributes to integrating those convicts benefiting from the Law into society and actualizes prevention of crime and its recurrence, which strengthens the human rights system in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
5. During the meeting, Al-Derazi pointed out the importance of the

<sup>31</sup> News can be viewed on the NIHR's website: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/News>

participation of the private sector in the application of sanctions and alternative measures by providing employment opportunities and work that can be assigned to the convicts, or through entrepreneurship programs, or rehabilitation and training, considering that the “private” sector is a key partner in supporting sustainable development. In this regard, Al-Derazi praised the pioneering role of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

6. During the meeting, it was agreed to hold an informational meeting with private sector’s companies to present the mechanism for implementing alternative sanctions and their role therein at the headquarters of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
7. H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairperson of the NIHR, also received H.E. MP Ali Ahmed Zayed, Second Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives, where a number of issues related to human



rights were touched on, in addition to continuing the joint cooperation between the NIHR and the Council of Representatives to serve citizens and residents by strengthening, protecting and advancing the human rights system.

#### **Fourth: Monthly newsletters, and periodic news on the work of the Special Standing Committees.**

1. The NIHR has continued to issue monthly newsletters that include a summary of all the news, meetings, events and activities of the NIHR during each month, which can be viewed on the following link:  
<http://www.nihr.org.bh/eLibrary/?category=69>
2. The NIHR, as of October 2021, has started publishing quarterly periodical news that include the most important decisions and recommendations issued by the three Standing Committees in the NIHR (the General Rights and Freedoms Committee, the Detention and Facilities Visitations Committee, and the Complaint, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee), which can be viewed on the following link:

<http://www.nihr.org.bh/About/Periodical%20news/>

## CHAPTER FIVE - Advisory Opinions Submitted by the National Institution for Human Rights to the Constitutional Authorities

### Preface:

1. Referring to the provisions of Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the NIHR, we find that Paragraph (b) of Article No. (12) thereof stipulates that the NIHR shall, **“examine legislation and regulations enforced in the Kingdom which are related to human rights, and recommend amendments as it deems fit, particularly in connection with the consistency of such regulations with the Kingdom's international obligations in the human rights field. The NIHR shall be empowered to recommend enacting new legislation related to human rights.”**
2. To activate these competencies, the NIHR has expressed its views on several issues referred to it by the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council. The total number of advisory opinions during the timeframe of this report is (7) advisory opinions, of which (5) advisory opinions were submitted to the Shura Council, while (2) views were submitted to the Council of Representatives.<sup>32</sup>
3. In this chapter, the advisory opinions submitted by the NIHR to the constitutional authorities will be discussed in two main topics: the first topic is devoted to reviewing a summary of its views referred to the Council of Representatives, while the second topic includes a summary of its views referred to the Shura Council, on the topics that the NIHR considers have a direct impact on human rights and fundamental freedoms, bearing in mind the provisions of the Constitution and the relevant regional and international instruments and standards.

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<sup>32</sup> To view the advisory opinions, in detail, submitted by the NIHR to the constitutional authorities during the period (2013-2022), please check the NIHR's website, Consultative Opinions, on the following link: <https://www.nihr.org.bh/Consultative>

## First Topic - Advisory Opinions Submitted by the NIHR to the Council of Representatives

During the time frame of this report, the NIHR presented to the House of Representatives two advisory opinions, the significant points contained therein can be summarized as follows:

### Requirement One

#### Bill amending Article No. (7) of Law No. (27) of 2005 regarding Education

1. The NIHR expressed its advisory opinion regarding a bill amending Article No. (7) of Law No. (27) of 2005 regarding Education, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article includes replacing the text of Article No. (7) of the Law regarding Education, while the second article is executive.
2. The replaced Article No. (7) of the bill stipulates that **“Basic and secondary education shall be free in the Kingdom’s schools for Bahrainis and citizens of the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC). A fee of no less than one hundred dinars per month shall be imposed on every non-Bahraini public-school student who is not a citizen of the countries of the GCC”**.
3. The NIHR concluded that it values the foundations and principles upon which the bill rests, represented in creating a new source of financial resources for the general budget by imposing fees on educational services provided by the Kingdom to foreigners who are not citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. However, the bill as formulated constitutes a setback, on the part of the Kingdom of Bahrain,

in fulfilling its international obligations contained in the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and other relevant international resolutions.

### Requirement Two

#### Draft bill on amending Article No. (21) of the Civil Service Law

#### Issued by Decree-Law No. (48) of 2010

1. The NIHR expressed its advisory opinion on a draft bill regarding the amendment of Article No. (21) of the Civil Service Law promulgated by Decree-Law No. (48) of 2010, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles, the first article includes the addition of a second paragraph to Article No. (21) of the Service Law civil, while the second article is executive.
2. The second paragraph of Article No. (21) of the draft bill stipulates that **“An employee may propagate his/her views on public issues through all forms of media, and may criticize the government’s policies, decisions, programs and services, provided that he/she does not address matters that cause controversy in the society or threaten national unity”**.
3. The NIHR concluded that it concurs with the goals and objectives of the draft bill, represented in entitling the public employee to publish

his/her views through all forms of media regarding public issues and that he/she may criticize the government's policies, decisions, programs and services, provided that he/she does not cause controversy in the society or threaten national unity. The NIHR affirms that this amendment does not constitute a

violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that it is in line with the provisions of the Constitution and the essence of international instruments related to human rights.

## Second Topic - Advisory Opinions Submitted by the NIHR to the Shura Council

The NIHR submitted to the Shura Council during the timeframe of this report, a total of five advisory opinions, the significant points contained therein can be summarized in the following five requirements:

### Requirement One

#### Decree-Law No. (16) of 2021 amending some provisions of the Labor and Private Sector Law promulgated by Law No. (36) of 2021

1. The NIHR expressed its advisory opinion regarding Decree-Law No. (16) of 2021 amending some provisions of the Labor and Private Sector Law promulgated by Law No. (36) of 2021, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of three articles, the first article includes the addition of a second paragraph to Article No. (39) of the same law; the second article repeals Articles No. (30) and (31) of the same law, while the third article is an executive article.
2. The second paragraph added to Article No. (39) of the bill stipulates that **“and discrimination in wages between male and female workers in work of equal value is prohibited.”** As for the omitted Articles No. (30) and (31) of the same law, they respectively stipulated that, **“The Minister shall issue a decision specifying the conditions, jobs and events in which it is not permissible to employ women at night”**, and **“The Minister shall, upon obtaining the opinion of the concerned authorities, issue a resolution determining the occupations for which the employment of women is prohibited”**.

3. The NIHR concluded that it agrees with the goals and objectives of the Decree-Law aiming to ensure gender equality in the private sector by prohibiting discrimination in wages between male and female workers for work of equal value, and cancelling some provisions that justify the gender gap, such as granting the Minister the authority to determine the conditions, occupations and works in which the employment of women is prohibited, or employment of women for night work. These amendments - whether addition or cancellation - in their entirety are consistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the one hand, and international and regional human rights resolutions on the other hand, to harmonize national legislation with relevant United Nations standards in fulfillment of its human rights obligations in this regard.

### Requirement Two

#### Bill adding a new Article No. (318 bis) to the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976 accompanying Legislative Decree No. (46) of 2021

1. The NIHR expressed its advisory opinion regarding a bill adding a new Article No. (318 bis) to the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976 accompanying Legislative Decree No. (46) of 2021,

which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles, the first article includes the addition of a new Article No. (318 bis) to the Penal Code, while the second article is executive.

2. The new Article No. (318 bis) added to the bill stipulates that **“Any person who refuses, without excuse, to enable the person who has the right to visit a child being cared for under the child custody (hadhanah) arrangement shall be punished with imprisonment or a fine.”**
3. The NIHR concluded that it agrees with the goals and objectives that the bill aims to achieve, represented in imposing a penalty of imprisonment or a fine on anyone who, without excuse, refuses to enable the person granted visitation rights of the child to visit him/her, as adopting the approach set out in the new article is in line with the essence of international and regional instruments and resolutions on human rights, considering it prevents the possibility of arbitrary refusal, without excuse, of enabling the holder of visitation right to visit and see the fostered child, thus serving the best interests of the child, which is the cornerstone of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded under Decree-Law No. (16) of 1991.

### Requirement Three

#### Bill amending Paragraph (a) of Article No. (25) of Law No. (19) of 2006 regarding the Regulation of the Labor Market

1. The NIHR expressed its advisory opinion regarding a bill amending Paragraph (a) of Article No. (25) of Law No. (19) of 2006 regarding the Regulation of the Labor Market, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article includes the amendment of Paragraph (a) of Article No. (25) of Regulation of the Labor Market Law, while the second article is executive.
2. Paragraph (a) of Article No. (25) as contained in the bill (after the amendments of the Council of Representatives) stipulates that, **“Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Article, a foreign worker, without the consent of his employer, has the right to transfer to another employer, without infringement of the legal rights of the employer under the provisions of the law or the terms of the contract between the two parties, provided that the foreign worker has spent at least two calendar years in his current job. The Authority shall grant a foreign worker upon expiry or cancellation of his work permit a reasonable time to transfer –if he wishes- to another employer, and obtain a work permit in connection to the latter. During this period, the worker is not allowed to engage in any work. The Board of Directors, shall issue a resolution to regulate the procedure of transfer of foreign workers and the rules for granting the notice period and the length of such a period.”**
3. The NIHR concluded that it agrees, in principle, with the goals and objectives that the bill aims to achieve,

represented in providing stability to the employer and attaining balance between the rights of workers and employers in accordance with the principle of social justice, as the approach adopted by the new article is in line with the international and regional human rights instruments and resolutions, and setting a commitment period for the worker in the contract before he may transfer to another employer without the consent of the first employer, is not considered a form of forced or compulsory labor, as it provides stability to the employer by increasing the period to which the foreign worker is committed to work before he is entitled to transfer to another employer without the approval of the first employer, where the period is set in the existing text at (one year), which is considered a rather short period, not sufficient to compensate for the losses and expenses incurred by the employer to recruit and train the worker.

4. The NIHR considers that the two-year commitment period prescribed in the bill as a precondition for entitling the foreign worker to transfer to another employer, is aligned with the validity period of the work permit, which is two years. Therefore, it is appropriate to amend in the bill the period of commitment of the foreign worker after which he has the right to transfer to another employer without the approval of the first employer for a period of two years instead of one year.
5. The NIHR also demanded, during reviewing this bill - and regardless of

the period prescribed for allowing the transfer of the foreign worker to another employer - to take into account that this transfer must be conditional, and subject to either the consent of the parties to the contract, or the expiry of the period stipulated in the contract concluded between both parties (the foreign worker and the old employer) in order to protect the interests of both parties to the employment contract.

#### **Requirement Four**

#### **Bill amending Article No. (231) of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976**

1. The NIHR expressed its advisory opinion regarding a bill amending Article No. (231) of the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law No. (15) of 1976, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of two articles. The first article includes replacing the text of Article No. (231) of the Penal Code, while the second article is executive.
2. Article No. (231) of the bill stipulates, as concluded in the decision of the Council of Representatives, that "A punishment of imprisonment or fine or one of these two penalties, shall be imposed on any person who in the course of a medical or health practice examines a deceased person or treats a person with a serious injury showing signs indicating that his death or injury is caused by a felony or misdemeanor, or if there are other circumstances giving rise to suspecting the cause thereof, but has failed to report it to the public authorities."

3. The NIHR concluded that it agrees with the goals and objectives that the bill aims to achieve, which intends to introduce harsher punishments for failure of health and medical workers, including physicians, consulting doctors and nurses, to report crimes they detect, by virtue of their work that often puts them in a position to examine and diagnose the deceased or the injured, to achieve mandatory obligation to report crimes, as the currently existing punishment is not commensurate with the nature of the crime and the impact of not reporting crimes, which prejudices the justice process and retribution against the perpetrator of the felony or misdemeanor.
4. The NIHR endorses the esteemed Parliament's decision to amend the penalty prescribed for the crime to become (imprisonment or a fine, or one of these two penalties), as the amendment of the penalty is more proportional and suited to the criminal act, without excessiveness or aggravation. In addition, it grants the trial court broader discretion in determining the appropriate punishment based on the facts of the criminal case presented.

### Requirement Five

#### Bill on mental health, accompanying Decree No. (80) of 2013

1. The NIHR expressed its advisory opinion regarding a bill on mental health, accompanying Decree No. (80) of 2013, which, in addition to the preamble, consists of seven chapters contained in (66) articles. The first chapter includes definitions and description of mental health facilities and the second chapter sets forth the rights and duties of the patient and the relevant medical professionals. The third chapter identifies the competent bodies for following up the implementation of the provisions of the law, the fourth chapter deals with the admission of patients to mental health facilities, and the fifth chapter addresses the treatment of the patient. The sixth chapter prescribes the penalties for violating the provisions of the law, and the seventh chapter includes final provisions.
2. The NIHR concluded that it agrees with all the legal provisions adopted in the decision of the House of Representatives regarding the bill in general, emphasizing to expedite the issuance of this law as it protects the rights and duties of the parties to the psychiatry sector. However, the NIHR is of the opinion that it must be explicitly stipulated that the legal representative of the patient is the one who has a special power of attorney rather than a general one, wherever it is mentioned in the bill, as a guarantee for obtaining the written freely informed consent of the patient.

**“States should adopt legislation to protect, respect and fulfil the right to adequate housing without discrimination. They should, in addition:**

**(a) Incorporate the right to adequate housing in national climate action plans, national determined contributions and national adaptations plans.”**

**Report of the Special Rapporteur  
on adequate housing as a  
component of the right to an  
adequate standard of living,  
Human Rights Session – 51**

**Para. 67 – Document  
(A/HRC/52/28)**