

"Together to create a better practice of Human Rights"

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National Institution for Human Rights



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WELCOME

The European Union, represented by Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Chair Person of the Political Affairs and Security Committee of the EU High Commission for Foreign Affairs and Security, lauded the active and significant role played by the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), which serves as a clear indication of the NIHR's success in achieving the objectives which have been established to consolidate, promote and protect human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, combined with the effort to inculcate the values of human rights, propagate awareness thereof and ensure that they are exercised with total freedom and independence.

This commendation by the European Union is a new recognition of the momentum leap made by the Kingdom of Bahrain in its democratic process and an admission of the success of the efforts made by the Kingdom in its entire policies as a whole to maintain and boost the hold of human rights which are further amplified by the reform initiative of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa. As such, it is no wonder that the Kingdom of Bahrain earns day after day international commendations and global recognitions which reflect the success of the efforts of the wise political leadership, government and civil society institutions in this regard.

We still have a long way to go and this calls on all of us to pool all our resources (both government and civil societies) to protect and strengthen the hold of human rights.



The European Union Commends the Active and Important Role of the National Institution for Human Rights

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy, lauded the active and important role of NIHR since its re-structure, and highlighted the importance of establishing such institutions to achieve tangible results that would earn the confidence of citizens.

This commendation came in a statement read by Mr. Michael Mann, the official speaker of the EU High Representative of the EU for Political Affairs and Security, and Vice Chairman of the High Representative.

Ashton also lauded the many and important steps which the Government of Bahrain has taken for implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Fact-Finding Commission.

The High Representative also specifically welcomed the inauguration of the functions of the Bureau of the General Secretariat for Grievances at the MOI, which is exercising its duties in an independent and effective fashion.

The communiqué reasserted that the Government of Bahrain had embraced commendable initiatives following the events of February and March 2011, such as the founding of the BIFFC, which had formulated two years ago its recommendations in the form of its final report.

The statement also cited the fact that the Kingdom of Bahrain established this BIFFC for the purposes of monitoring the status of prisoners and detainees and prevention of torture and abuse which renders Bahrain approach closer to ratification of the elective Protocol on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, whereby the Committee on Monitoring the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees would visit and monitor detention locations to prevent torture or abuse. This is regarded as another important Bahraini initiative in this regard.

The High Representative reconfirmed in its communiqué its support for all efforts undertaken by the Government of Bahrain to complete and finalize implementation of the recommendations of the BIFFC and within the required timeframe. The Commission is looking forward to having this step achieved in the third provisional report on implementation of the recommendation of the BIFFC due on the first of upcoming December.

The High Representative drove home the message that the success of the efforts of Bahrain in this regard would depend in a large measure to constructive cooperation on the part of the opposition and all Bahraini citizens. She called on all parties in Bahrain to take advantage of the quiet and unconditional dialogue channels and reject all forms of violence in order to achieve sustainable reconciliation.

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - EDITION 05 - NOV 2013

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The NIHR Council Of Commissioners Holds Its 8th Meeting



The Council of Commissioners of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) held its Meeting No. 8 at its head office, Seef District, under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul.

The Council discussed reports of the permanent committees and reviewed the monthly report of the Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee with respect to complaints and requests for assistance received by the Committee. The Council also discussed the comment of the Civil and Political Rights Committee with regard to the

Children's National Strategy for 2013-2017, and the report prepared by the committee concerned with pursuing the environmental situation and the field visit made by the committee to Wadi Al Buhair. It was agreed to submit a recommendation to the appropriate authorities.

The Council also discussed a proposal by the Legal, Economic, Social and Cultural Committee in connection with the workshop provided by the NIHR, and it was agreed to include it within the NIHR's strategy and action plan for 2014.

Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights meets the Ambassador of France

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul, Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights received at the offices of the National Institution in SEEF His Excellency Christian TESTOT, the Ambassador of the Republic of France to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the NIHR welcomed the French Ambassador and discussed with him ways and means of joint cooperation and exchanged views and visions between the two parties in the field of human rights.

The Chairman of the NIHR gave the French Ambassador a presentation on the role played by the National Institution in nurturing and promoting human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

On his part, His Excellency the Ambassador of France reasserted the importance of the role of the NIHR in the consolidation and protection of the rights of both the citizens and expatriates and highlighted the need for coordination and cooperation between the NIHR and the competent authorities in the French Republic for consolidation and protection of human rights.



The meeting was attended by His Excellency Chancellor Dr. Ahmed Abdulla Farhan, the Secretary General, and Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Al- Derazi, the Deputy Chairman of the NIHR and Head of the Grievances, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee.

Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights meets the US Ambassador



His Excellency Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul, Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights received at the offices of the NIHR in SEEF His Excellency Thomas Krajieski, The Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

During the meeting, His Excellency Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul, Chairman of the NIHR welcomed the US Ambassador and gave a presentation on the role

undertaken by the NIHR in spreading the culture of human rights in the consolidation and protection of the rights and the duties undertaken by the Institution, such as follow up on the citizens' and expatriates' complaints related to human rights.

His Excellency the Chairman of the National Committee addressed the role of the NIHR's follow up committees, including the Grievances, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee, the Civil and Political Rights Committee, and the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee.

On his part, the US Ambassador, Thomas Krajieski, commended the role of the NIHR and the way this role consolidates awareness of the human rights culture, while highlighting the importance of cooperation between the NIHR and the competent authorities concerned with human rights in the United States of America.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Fareed Ghazi, member of the Civil and Political Rights Committee, Mr. Yasser Saqr Al-Shirawi, Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Yasser Ghanim Shaheen, Director of the Legal Department and Mr. Nawar Abdulla Al-Mutawa, Director of the Corporate Communications Department.

Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-Up Committee Holds its 9th Meeting



The Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) held its ordinary Meeting No. 9 under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdulla Al-Derazi, and membership of Mr. Ahmed Al-Saati and Ms Maria Khoury.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the report prepared by the General Secretariat with respect to the court session of Sunday, 29 September 2013, at which sentence was passed in the case of the 14 February Organization.

Other complaints and requests for assistance received recently by the Committee were also discussed and action taken. The Committee has adopted several resolutions and recommendations which will be implemented in due course.

The Economic, Social and Cultural Committee holds its Seventh Ordinary Meeting



The Economic, Social and Cultural Committee of the NIHR held its seventh ordinary meeting under the chairmanship of Her Excellency Dr. Fawzia Said Al- Saleh, and membership of His Excellency Mr. Abdul Jabbar Ahmed Al-Tayyib at the NIHR's premises in SEEF.

The meeting endorsed and ratified the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting and discussed the report on the field visit paid by the committee concerned with the follow up on the environmental status at Wadi Al-Buhair area. The meeting also discussed the mechanism for implementation of the functions related to the economic, social and cultural rights at the National Institution for the upcoming period. It has been decided in the meeting to have the General Secretariat develop a project on this topic for presentation to the committee in its next meeting.

The Secretary General of the National Institution for Human Rights receives the Director-General of Administration and Media Policies at the Supreme Council for Woman



His Excellency Chancellor Dr. Ahmed Abdulla Farhan, the Secretary-General of the National Institution for Human Rights, received at the offices of the NIHR in SEEF His Excellency Mr. Izzuddin Al- Moayyed, Director-General of Administration and Media Policies at the Supreme Council for Woman

The two sides discussed during the meeting ways and means of cooperation and coordination between the National Institution for Human Rights and the Supreme Council for Woman for promotion of human rights in general and the women's right in particular. The two sides also discussed the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

On his part, Mr. Izzuddin Al-Moayyed explained that the Supreme Council for Women was seeking to form partnership with the State's ministries and organizations for the support of women causes and rights on the basis of the Council's vision and objectives.

The meeting was attended by Shaikha Dina Al-Khalifa and Mr. Mohammed Al-Faris from the Supreme Council for Women and Mr. Nawar Abdulla Al-Mutawa, Director of Corporate Communications at the National Institution for Human Rights

The Secretary General Heads Bahrain's Delegation to the Meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions

His Excellency Chancellor Dr. Ahmed Abdulla Farhan, Secretary-General of the National Institution for Human Rights, headed the delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions which was held at the Qatari capital, Doha.

The meeting passed the Arab Networks bylaws and discussed the slogan and the electronic website of the Network, besides some logistic issues as well as the status of human rights in the Arab world.

The meeting also addressed method of cooperation between the national human rights institutions in the Arab world on the one hand

and the regional and international networks on the other hand, in addition to the need for upgrading and development of the capacities of the cadre of the Arab Network for greater participation in the protection and consolidation of human rights in the Arab nations.

It is worth noting that the Executive Bureau of the Arab Network holds its meetings twice a year as well as on an as needed basis as provided for in the internal rules and the duties of the executive committee as set forth in the bylaws.

In a lecture of the National Institution for Human Rights ABUL: inauguration of the NIHR's strategy for the upcoming two years next December



The National Institution for Human Rights organized at Moevenpick Hotel in Muharraq a lecture under the title "Anti Torture Convention" delivered by Dr. Amjad Shamoot, Secretary General of the Arab Charter for Development and Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul, Chairman of the NIHR, announced in his keynote speech that the NIHR's strategy for the period 2013-2016 would be launched next December to coincide with the Kingdom's celebration of National Day.

Dr. Abul pointed out that the strategy would include many training programs and courses designed to reach the desired standards in the fields of human rights.

With respect to the lecture on Anti Torture Convention, the Chairman of the NIHR stated that the Kingdom had ascribed to the convention under Decree No. 4 for the year 1998 as evidence of the State's support for human rights and had incorporated such rights as part of the policy designed to enact the international charters at the national level.

Dr. Abul lauded the issuance by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al- Khalifa of Decree No. 61 for the year 2013 providing for the establishment and definition of the functions of the Commission for the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees, which is regarded as an unprecedented step and the first of its kind in the Arab countries. It stands out as evidence of the State's sustained efforts in support of the development of human rights mechanisms. He pointed out that this issue was an expression of the veracity of the commitment to implement the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Fact-Finding Committee and was in harmony with the recommendations of the Human Rights Council in its regular review as well as with the demands of the conventions that the Kingdom had already ratified. In another development, Lecturer Dr. Amjad Shamoot addressed the basic concepts and the nature of human rights as well as the most salient agreements related to human rights, including the international declaration of human rights.

He also addressed the Anti Torture Convention and associated protocols.

Secretary General of the National Institution for Human Rights receives the Secretary General of the Arab Charter for Development and Human Rights



His Excellency Chancellor Dr. Ahmed Abdulla Farhan, Secretary General of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), received at his Office in the premises of NIHR Dr. Amjad Bahjat Shamoot, Secretary General of the Arab Charter for Development and Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The meeting was attended by Chancellor Atif Al- Majali

The two sides discussed ways and means of cooperation and coordination between the NIHR and the Arab Charter for Development and Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in a way conducive to promoting Human Rights and spreading the concepts and culture of Human Rights.

The two sides also addressed the execution of a memorandum of understanding between the NIHR and the Arab Charter for Development and Human Rights by way of promoting the culture of human rights in society.

The Secretary General expressed his thanks to Dr. Amjad Shamoot for the valuable lecture he delivered last Saturday on the subject of "Anti Torture Convention".

On his part, Dr. Shamoot lauded the role of the NIHR in Bahrain in nurturing the promotion of human rights and spreading the culture of human rights in Bahrain society in particular as well as the Arab communities in general.

NIHR'S Statement on The Occasion of World Teachers' Day



In concurrence with the UN celebrations of the World Habitat Day which falls on October 1 of each year, the UN General Assembly decided by its Resolution (40/202) dated December 17, 1985 to announce the first Monday of October every year as the World Habitat Day. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world of its joint responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) shares the world its celebrations on this occasion through

its specialized international organizations, a commitment to the noble purposes of the UN for a more peaceful, prosperous and developed world.

NIHR recalls the event of granting His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, the Award of Honour for Outstanding Achievement in the field of urban development and housing by the UN Programme for Human Settlements in 2006. The award stands as an international acknowledgement that proves the ability of the Kingdom of Bahrain to establish a civilized role model in renaissance and progress. NIHR also commends the award financed by HRH the Prime Minister to be granted to the best researchers who have contributed or will contribute in areas that serve humanity, believing in the role of the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements, and its great impact on the lives of people.

Further, NIHR commends the integrated development vision adopted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, which has enjoyed a privileged and advanced position in the regional and international human development reports for several years.

NIHR calls upon the government to continue its efforts for development and reconstruction, and proceed challengingly, willingly and determinately to complete and reinforce the infrastructure within the limits of available resources, and improve the rates of overall development, level of the quality of educational, health and housing services, and standard of living of citizens in all respects.

NIHR's Statement on the Occasion of World Teachers' Day



The United Nations celebrates the World Teachers' Day annually on October 5th, which marks the anniversary of the adoption of UNESCO-ILO Recommendation of 1966 concerning the Status of Teachers. This comes in acknowledgment of teachers' vital role in building values and promoting science and in their leading role in the process of social, economic, intellectual and cultural construction in society. This Recommendation sets forth a

number of guidelines on the educational policies, educational programs, and teachers' training, employment and working conditions, and their participation in the decision-making process related to education. It also represents an occasion to recognize teachers, and draw attention to their status and working conditions, and to the needs of countries where the process of teachers' recruitment does not meet the rise in enrollment rates.

Teachers are the most important educational resources because no quality education can be provided without them. However, the current number of teachers does not correspond to what has been determined in the framework of the objectives of education for all. The aim of universal primary education by 2015 requires providing additional 1.2 million qualified teachers. This is the reason for the call extended by the UNESCO, along with its partners, to the international community and governments to increase teacher-related investments.

Estimates suggest that more than 1.7 million jobs for teachers should be made available in order to achieve the objectives of universal primary education by 2015. Along with the recruitment of new teachers, the quality of education should be improved and schools should be supported in their efforts to attract qualified teachers.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) commends the noble role played by teachers in spreading their sublime message aimed to illuminate minds with science, knowledge and awareness, instill values and morality in students, and raise generations on the values of citizenship, tolerance, brotherhood, coexistence in love and peace with everyone, and fraternal interdependence among all members of society. This comes in integration with the role of the family in education, which promotes citizens' intellectual openness, achieves their dreams to serve the nation, and keeps them away from any illegal acts that are not consistent with the teachings of our religion and with the international conventions and charters on children's rights.

NIHR calls upon the Government to improve the status of teachers and the services provided for them, as they represent the foundation on which any educational effort in all various locations is built.

Communiqué by the National Institution for Human Rights on the Occasion of the United Nations Day

On the 24th of October of every year, the world celebrates and commemorates the anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations Organization. The day marks the implementation of the United Nations Charter, coinciding with the UN's formation on 24 October 1945.

Resolution No. 168/2, of the United Nations' General Assembly was issued on 31 October 1947. The resolution provided for naming the 24th day of October of every year as the "United Nations Day" and as an occasion in which the governments and peoples of the word reassert their fast belief in the intents, purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

In his celebratory message on this international day, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the UN Secretary General, underscored the solidarity and unified stance of the UN member states related to the issues of disarmament, human rights, the environment and several other issues. He called on all parties to pledge to promote the optimal ideals on which the Organization is based and to work together to achieve and sustain peace, development and promotion of human rights.

On this occasion, the Bahrain's National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) extends its congratulations to the UN member states, the General Secretariat and all workers of the United states and lauds the significant role and effort exerted by the United Nations' agencies and commissions in the field of the development and advancement of the international community as a whole and prevention of disputes which may lead to global tensions and struggles.

The Bahrain's NIHR expresses its sincere congratulations and appreciation for the United Nations' organizations which are concerned with human rights at the global level and their effort to put an end to all forms of abuses and violations.

The NIHR also appreciates the United Nations' effort to combat poverty, eliminate epidemics, wars and political disputes and calls on all to lay the foundation for a new economic order which would allow for distribution of prosperity opportunities in a more equitable fashion and builds the bridges of confidence between all peoples of the world.

The Bahrain's NIHR is hopeful that the United Nations' organization will manage to promote its performance and operating methods and completion of its restructuring and reform processes in order to effectively and proactively deal with the various global and regional issues and consolidation of democracy and human rights principles and ideals. On its part, The Bahrain's NIHR is actively working on acquainting itself with all resolutions of the United Nations and its affiliate commissions that are concerned with human rights so as to ensure that the government and the civil society in the Kingdom of Bahrain are in effect committed to the conventions and protocols that the State had ratified or ascribed to, in addition to its role in Bahrain society by reinforcing its functions as provided for in Royal Order No. 46 for the year 2009, as amended by Royal Order No. 28 for the year



2012, which tasks the NIHR with "consolidation, promotion and protection of human rights, propagation of awareness thereof and ensure their active enforcement".

The NIHR is looking forward to engaging in its jurisdictions in Bahrain society in partnership with the United Nations' organizations that are concerned with human rights in line with Paris Declarations which spell out the prerogatives of the national organizations concerned with human rights.

Communiqué by The National Institution For Human Rights on The International Day of Non-Violence



The United Nations Organization observes the International Day of Non-Violence on 2nd October each year. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 61st Session by Resolution No. 61/271 dated 15 June 2007, which date coincides with the anniversary of the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the founder of the non-violence strategy philosophy and one of the advocates of the conception that non-violence is the greatest power available to mankind.

The day is seen as an occasion to disseminate the message of non-violence through education and public awareness. The resolution reaffirms the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence. It takes into account that non-violence, tolerance and full respect

of all human rights and basic freedoms for all, democracy, development, mutual understanding, cultural diversity are interrelated and interdependent matters. Non-violence was also emphasized in the United Nations Charter through promotion of tolerance, good neighborly and non-use of armed force. The United Nations endeavours to achieve these objectives in actual life through the enhancement of human rights, resolution of conflicts by peaceful means, elimination of violence against women, building of bridges among different cultures and combat of hatred and extremism everywhere.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) calls upon the community to adopt a policy of non-violence in various forms and to embrace the principle of dialogue and understanding as a means for resolving all society-besetting issues. It is through such policy, respect of others, dissemination of the culture of peace, tolerance and can be achieved and surrounding events wisely overcome.

The NIHR also calls upon local, regional and international organizations and associations to double their voluntary social role to disseminate the culture of non-violence and to integrate it as a respected and appreciated human value. This can be achieved through activities and functions conducive to communicating the message of observing heavenly religions that prevent torture and violence and by circulating the essence of relevant international treaties and conventions.