

Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights

on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day

03 May 2014

The United Nations celebrates on 3 May each year the World Press Freedom Day, to commemorate the adoption of the historic Declaration of Windhoek during a meeting of African journalists organized by UNESCO and held in Namibia in May 3, 1991, which stipulates that: “ the freedom of the press cannot be achieved except by ensuring a free and independent media environment based on pluralism, which is a prerequisite to guarantee the security of journalists during the performance of their duties, and to ensure fast and accurate investigation of crimes against freedom of the press.”

The World Press Freedom Day, which kicks off this year under the slogan: " Media Freedom for a Better Future : Shaping the post-2015 Development Agenda", the World Press Freedom Day is the date to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, evaluate press freedom around the world, defend the media against what threatens its independence, and the expression of reverence for journalists who lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

National Institution for Human Rights in the World Press Freedom Day reaffirms the principle of the freedom of the press, opinion and expression,

according to the provisions of international conventions, and stresses the need to respect the rights and freedoms of the media and press.

National Institution for Human Rights expresses pride in the position reached by the Bahraini press in light of the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, and calls for the competent authorities to speed the adoption of Information Act, which would guarantee the rights of journalists and their freedom, and will contribute to the development of Media work.

National Institution for Human Rights in accordance with its strategy for the years 2013-2016 focused on the need to respect the right of opinion and expression, and adopted plans and training programs to disseminate and promote the culture of human rights and to promote awareness of those rights to the media and journalists.

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