



Statement of the National Institution of Human Rights On the Occasion of Human Rights Day

Manama- 10 December 2013

The world celebrates the Human Rights Day each year on 10 December, the day on which the United Nations' General Assembly approved by resolution No.(III) A 217, dated 10 December 1984 the international declaration of human rights as a criterion of the common achievements of all nations and countries. The international day of Human Rights is of special significance, particularly as this year marks the celebration of the 20th annual anniversary for the establishment of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The slogan for this year is "Twenty Years of Endeavor for the Sake of your Rights."

Since there is a pressing need for dealing responsibly with the issues of human rights, drawing up of policies related to nurturing, development and protection of human rights, considering the importance of promotion, conservation and uplifting the tenants and principles of human rights, His Majesty King Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifah, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, presented his initiative for setting up an Arab human rights court, which initiative was passed by the Arab League Council in its 24th cycle which was held in March 2013. This initiative is regarded as unprecedented at the Arab world level and it adds a new dimension to the joint Arab work in the area of human rights respect and protection as a necessary legal mechanism to support the human rights system within the framework of the Arab League. The initiative also highlights the extent of attention that the Kingdom of Bahrain pays to keeping pace with the contemporary shifts which is being experienced by the international arena in support of human rights.

At the local level, His Majesty King Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifah issued royal order No.46, for the year 2009, as amended by royal order No.28, for the year 2012, providing for the establishment of the National Institution of Human



Rights with the objective of consolidation, development and development of human rights and endeavor to inculcation of its values and propagation of awareness thereof to ensure that human rights are exercised with total freedom and independence.

The National Institution of Human Rights, represented by its commissioners' council, permanent committees and secretariat general, did realize a number of objectives during this year by following up on and review of complaints related to human rights, referral of the cases it deems necessary to the competent agencies, coaching those concerned on the procedures to be followed, assisting them in applying such measures or otherwise assist in their resolution with the concerned departments, in addition to participation in international and local circles as well as in the meetings of the international and regional organizations concerned with human rights, issuance of publications and reports, organization of conferences and symposia, issuance and publication of reports on the progress of the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of human rights and related national conditions. The National Institution of Human Rights has received more than 100 complaints from the citizens and expat residents and actively sought to resolve them, in addition to 70 requests for legal aid. It also attended a number of trial sessions to ensure their justice where all legal guarantees are satisfied. It made several visits to detention locations and visited some inmates to find out about their conditions, in addition to field visits to monitor the environmental status in WADI AL- BUHAIR and QALALI. Furthermore, the National Institution of Human Rights prepared a proposal on amendment of the nationality law by granting the Bahraini woman equal rights relative to the nationality of her children. It also generated a proposal providing for amendment of certain provisions of Decree by Law No.17, for the year 1976, on minors. The Institution also expressed some remarks regarding the National Strategy for Childhood for the years 2013- 2017.

On this occasion, the National Institution of Human Rights extends its congratulations to the United Nations' member states and commends the important role of the commissions, institutions and organizations concerned with human rights in the field of publication, awareness, education and protection of human rights at the global level and prevention of all forms of violations.



The National Institution of Human Rights also reconfirms its tireless and sustained effort in the Kingdom of Bahrain by exercising its prerogatives within the framework of partnership with the United Nations' human rights organizations in line with Paris Declaration. The Institution will monitor closely and review all resolutions passed by the United Nations and associated commissions concerned with human rights to ensure compliance by the government and civil society organizations in the Kingdom of Bahrain with the agreements and conventions that the State has ratified or subscribed to.

The National Institution of Human Rights will also stress the need for the international community to address the issue of human rights based on objectivity and transparency on the premise that such rights are indivisible, and that this should include all countries without discrimination, politicization or fabrication of human rights issues.

The National Institution of Human Rights calls on pooling of all official and private efforts to effectively cooperate to augment interest in nurturing, developing and protecting human rights, consolidation of their values and propagation of awareness therewith in order to apply the loftiest human right warranties on the territories of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The National Institution of Human Rights reasserts the fact that the more these efforts are combined together with those of concerned parties the more realizable the objective we seek to boost and protect the rights of both the citizen and the expatriate resident.