



## Statement of NIHR on The Occasion of The International Day In support Of Victims of Torture

Manama- 26 June 2013

The statement coincides with the anniversary of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, held annually on June 26, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in its resolution No. 52/149 on December 12, 1997. The resolution aims to completely eradicate torture and ensure effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1984, where torture is considered a crime according to the international law, and is totally prohibited. Torture is also unjustifiable under any circumstances according to all relevant international conventions. Moreover, the prohibition of torture is part of the customary international law, as it is binding on all members of the international community without regard to whether the State has ratified the conventions that explicitly prohibit torture or not. and eliminated, especially that the Convention confirms that the crime of torture shall not lapse by prescription. The NIHR urges the government to speed up the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, under which the Sub-Committee against Torture was established. It also encourages the government to establish an independent national mechanism to monitor and visit the declared and non-declared places of detention, which came within the Geneva Recommendations during the discussion of the Bahrain's 2nd National Report in the Universal Periodical Review (UPR) held in May 2012, to complement the legal system in the Kingdom.

This request comes to complement the view of the national legislator under the amendment to the Penal Code, which was issued by Law No. (52) for the year 2012. The amendment Article (20), Paragraph (d), of Kingdom of Bahrain's covered the definition that torture in Articles (208) and (233) to of expressly



emphasize Constitution stipulated that "It is forbidden to harm an by prescription.

accused person physically or mentally" where Bahrain the crime of torture shall not lapse acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other The NIHR calls on the need for concerting all possible efforts Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, by the government and civil society organizations in addition under the Decree Law No. 4 for the year 1998 as evidence to various UN agencies to effectively work and cooperate of the Kingdom's support for human rights. The Kingdom to reinforce and protect human rights, work on combating integrates such rights within the policy that aims to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment activate the international conventions on the national level, and help and rehabilitate victims, punish perpetrators, and considering torture a serious crime that must be combated combat this crime at local, regional or international level.