

**Commenting on a complaint by a detainee ill- treated in detention, « National Institution for Human Rights »: No one submitted a complaint to the NIHR about being abused.**

**Manama - National Institution for Human Rights**

The National Institution for Human Rights said in a statement on Sunday (28 August / August 2011) that during the period of declaration of the State of National Safety, the NIHR formed a working team to follow up the proceedings before the National Safety Courts, and during the trial proceedings the NIHR's delegates received no communication from any person about being subjected to any violation, despite the fact that the names of the NIHR's delegates charged with attending trial proceedings were mentioned in daily news bulletins, on radio and television .

This statement came in response to the news published in « Al-Wassat Newspaper » on Friday (26 August 2011) on page (5), in which it was stated that the Newspaper had received a letter from a detainee's family stating he was subjected to ill- treatment in detention. This came in response to the remarks made by the NIHR Secretary -General published on Sunday (21 August 2011).

The National Institution for Human Rights Said in the statement that « during the events on March 27 / March 2011, the NIHR set up an ad hoc committee to monitor, follow-up and receive complaints connected to the events, and issued a statement stating that it is ready to receive any complaint by e-mail, phone or fax to the NIHR. The statement was published in most daily newspapers in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The statement added that « Under the NIHR's terms of reference stipulated in the Royal Order No. (46)-2009, which created the NIHR, it is authorized, in accordance with paragraph (f) of Article (3) of that order, to (receive complaints relating to human rights, study such complaints and refer them as appropriate to the competent authorities, follow them up effectively, or enlighten stakeholders on the obligatory procedures they have to follow and assist them in the settlement of these complaints with the party concerned). Additionally, under the Royal Decree No. (28)-2011 on the establishment of the Independent

Royal Commission of Inquiry, set up to investigate the events that took place in the Kingdom of Bahrain during the months of February / February and March 2011, the Commission has the jurisdiction in accordance with Articles I and IV to conduct fact-finding and investigate the events that took place in the Kingdom of Bahrain during the months of February / March 2001, and the resulting repercussions.

The NIHR continued to explain... « So as to the jurisdiction over investigation and fact-finding concerning the current events that occurred during the months of February and March 2011 lie with the Independent Royal Commission of Inquiry , the NIHR issued a statement on June 30, 2011 expressing its willingness to cooperate with the Independent Royal Commission of Inquiry on the grounds that the NIHR and the Independent Royal Commission are two independent bodies conducting their work freely and independently with regard to violations of human rights » .

The NIHR concluded its statement by pointing out that the Royal Commission of inquiry, based on the Royal Order that created it, is the entity legally competent to investigate the events in the period between February and March. However, that does not prevent the NIHR from carrying out its duty to communicate with the State official institutions to obtain any information on any alleged violations connected to a complaint received by the Institution.

**Al-Wassat - No. 3278 - Monday, August 29, 2011, corresponding to 29 Ramadan 1432 H**

## **Detainee's family: Our son was subjected to ill treatment and we demand a visit by the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)**

Al-Wassat - Local Affairs Editor

A-Wassat newspaper received a letter from a detainee's family whose son is detained pending investigation into one of the cases. The letter came in response to the remarks made by the NIHR's Secretary-General Ahmed Farhan during an interview with « Al-Wassat » published last (21 August / August 2011).

The detainee's family comments on Farhan's recent statement on the procedures for trial of the accused in the recent events were as follows: « Our son is accused among the medics in currently in detention, and one of those subjected to ill-treatment in detention. He is suffering from a broken tailbone (coccyx). Although lawyer Hafez Hafez submitted a request to the judge requesting an examination by a forensic pathologist; and although our son appeared in court twice, this request has not been granted yet, which is incompatible with a statement by Farhan Court on the application of the provisions of the Code of Criminal procedure.

The family added: « in the second court hearing, and during the reading of the charges by the judge, Dr. Ali Al-Ekri pleaded not guilty and that he was subjected to ill-treatment, the same position repeated by Rula Al-Saffar, head of the Nursing Society. Dr. Zahra Al-Sammak was escorted outside the court after telling the judge that she was exposed to ill-treatment ».

The detainee's family went to on to ask: « What has the follow-up team done about the ill-treatment the detainees have been subjected to? Furthermore, and despite warning by the detainees more than once they have been subjected to ill -treatment, no re-investigation has been conducted nor have the charges been invalidated. It would have been more useful if the National Institution for Human rights had sent its representatives to the detainees to verify that none has exposed to legal and human rights violations.

The detainee's family also called on the NIHR to send a delegation to visit the medics at the Dry Dock prison to examine their conditions and the circumstances in which they went through in detention.

Al-Wassat - No. 3275- Friday, August 26, 2011, corresponding to 26 Ramadan 1432 H