

Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) on the "National Compensation Fund" for those affected by events that took place in February and March 2011"

Manama, September 23, 2011

The National Institution for Human Rights lauded the noble initiative of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa by represented by Royal Order No. (30)-2011, issued on 20 September 2011, on the establishment of a " National Compensation Fund" for those affected by the events that occurred in February and march 2011. The fund, which shall enjoy an independent legal capacity, is charged with assisting to compensate those affected as a result of the violence that occurred during the months of February and March 2011 in the Kingdom of Bahrain or as a result of violent incidents similar in nature that occurred after this date.

The NIHR also pointed out that the compensation to be given by the National Compensation Fund to the victims as stipulated in the Royal Order is a right guaranteed by international treaties and conventions - in the event of proven harm- pursuant of the right to a remedy and reparation for victims of gross violations of international human rights, and serious violations International Humanitarian Law, issued by the UN General Assembly Resolution No. (60/147) dated 16 December 2005.

Accordingly, the NIHR pays tribute to this blessed step, stressing at same time its importance in the context of the Kingdom's keenness to respect all international treaties and conventions ratified by the Kingdom in the field of human rights and the impact of this positive step in enhancing confidence and achieving justice and fairness within the Bahraini community.

The NIHR also reaffirms its full readiness for cooperation and coordination with the minister representing the National Compensation Fund "before the judiciary ". This is line with the NIHR's terms of reference stated in the Royal Order No. (46) - 2009 on the establishment

of the Institution, in particular Articles I and III, which refer to its role in the promotion, development and protection of human Rights, in addition to receiving complaints, forwarding them to the authorities concerned and cooperating and coordinating with relevant agencies concerned with human rights.