



HUMAN RIGHTS

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WELCOME

Human rights are the privileges and freedoms entitled to each human being just for standing as such. That is, the concept of human rights is founded on recognizing the value and dignity inherent in all humans. Moreover, human rights are the most important pillars that must be maintained, protected from violation, and promoted. Every human being has the right to enjoy, without discrimination, all rights and freedoms guaranteed by the laws applicable in the country he/she belongs to.

Human rights are inherent in all human beings, irrespective of their nationality, place of residence, gender, national, ethnic origin, colour, religion or language. We all have full right to get our human rights on an equal footing and without discrimination.

Further, human rights are universal and inalienable. The principle of universality of human rights is viewed as the cornerstone of the international law of human rights, while non-discrimination is a comprehensive principle in the international law, and it is present in all the main conventions on human rights, and constitutes the main theme of some of the international conventions on human rights.



The National Institution for Human Rights visits the Precautionary Detention Centre

A delegation from the National Institution for Human Rights, Headed by Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Al-Derazi, Vice Chairman of the NIHR and Chairman of the Complaints, Monitor and Follow-up Committee and Ms Maria Khoury, Member of the Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee, paid a visit to the Precautionary Detention Centre in the Dry Dock area.

The visit came in response to reports published in some social media communication channels and the press about a group of precautionary detained inmates at the Precautionary Detention Centre caused chaos in one of the wards and damaged its contents. Thereafter, the National Institution for Human Rights applied to the Ministry of the Interior for a permit to visit the detention centre to acquaint itself with what actually happened there and the Ministry of Interior responded to the NIHR's request directly on the same day.

The delegation of the National Institution for Human Rights had a meeting with Gen. Ibrahim Habeeb, the Inspector-General at the Ministry of the Interior, and officials of the Precautionary Detention Centre. The delegation also visited all precautionary detained inmates as well as some inmates individually in order to find out about the reality of what really happened, as well as investigate their current status and ensure that their rights are cared for and protected.

The officials of the precautionary detention said that the main cause for what happened was that an officer and policemen searched ward No. 10 following receipt of information regarding the existence of cellular phones in the ward. As soon as the cellular phones were seized, the inmates proceeded to engage in chaos, removed the doors and damaged some electrical appliances inside the ward and the case was dealt with by the order control forces.

Meeting with and examination of the inmates in all 14 cells of ward No. 10 revealed signs of torture and traces of maltreatment on the bodies of some inmates. They confirmed that no shotgun weapon or tear gas bombs were used and that only sound bombs and pepper spray were used.

The delegation listened to the demands of the precautionary detained inmates, namely humane treatment of the inmates in accordance with the international human right standards.

The Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights receives the Head of the French Geopolitical Studies Monitor



His Excellency Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul, Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights, received this morning Professor Charles San-Brou, President of the Geopolitical Studies Monitor in Paris and the accompanying delegation at the NIHR's premises in the Seef District.

The Chairman of the NIHR welcomed during the meeting the President and members of the Geopolitical Studies Monitor and explained to them the role undertaken by the NIHR in strengthening, developing and protecting the human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain as well as the most important mechanisms applied to achieve its objectives to protect all rights, besides the role undertaken by the committees of the Commission, namely the Complaints, Monitoring and Follow up Committee, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee and the Civil and Political Rights Committee.

The discussion addressed the rights status in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the role of the NIHR in dealing with it, and the ways and means of cooperation between the National Institution for Human Rights and the Geopolitical Studies Monitor and how to benefit from the experiences and experiments of the Monitor in the field of human rights. An agreement was reached to sign a memorandum of understanding between the two parties and to offer training programs to widespread the human rights culture.

On his part, Professor Charles San-Brou, President of the Geopolitical Studies Monitor, lauded the efforts exerted by the National Institution for Human Rights and reconfirmed the importance of sustained bilateral coordination and exchange of points of view and visions between the two sides in the field of human rights.

The meeting was attended by Ms Jameela Ali Salman, Chairperson of the Civil and Political Rights, Mr. Abdul Jabbar Ahmed Al-Tayib, Member of the Committee on Civil and Political Rights, and Dr. Ahmad Abdulla Farhan, Secretary-General. On the French side, the meeting was attended by Professor Christophe Butan, member of the Scientific Committee of the Monitor, and Ms Zainah Al-Taybi, Vice President of the Monitor.

The Chairperson of the Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-Up committee receives the Chairperson of the Migrant Workers' Protection Society



His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Al-Derazi, Vice Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights and Chairman of the Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee, received, at the Seef District, Ms Marietta Dias, Chairperson of the Migrant Worker's Protection Society (MWPS).

During the meeting, the Vice Chairman of the NIHR, informed the Chairperson of the Migrant Workers Protection Society, of the efforts being exerted by the NIHR base on its drive to protect the migrant workers, educate them and resolve the difficulties they may face while residing and working in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He lauded the role played by the Society and the services extended to the migrant workers in the various areas related to their rights and services, which are highly commendable and worthy of appreciation.

On her part, the Chairperson of the Migrant Workers Protection Society acquainted the Vice Chairman of the NIHR, with the activities and programs of the Society for the migrant workers. She expressed the Society's willingness and desire for further cooperation, coordination and participation in the activities and functions organized by the National Institution for Human Rights as a service to the migrant workers and providing them with the best ways and means for decent living in every respect. The meeting was attended by Mr. Yasser Shaheen, Director of Legal Affairs.

The Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee holds its seventh meeting



The Complaints, Monitoring and Follow-up Committee of the National Institution for Human Rights held its seventh meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Al-Derazi, and in the presence of Ahmad Abdul Rahman Al-Sa'ati and Ms Maria Khoury.

The meeting reviewed progress report on one of the trials that the committee had decided to attend, namely the trial of the 14 February Organization. A committee member has been tasked to attend the upcoming trial session to find out how it is unfolding.

The meeting also discussed the events of the Committee's visit, Saturday, 17 August 2013, to the Precautionary Detention Centre at the Dry Dock Area, relative to the recent events which took place inside the centre. The Committee came up with some recommendations in this regard which would be submitted in a report to the Ministry of the Interior.

The Committee members reviewed at their meeting the entire package of complaints and requests for assistance that the NIHR has received over the past period and the actions taken with respect thereto. The Committee reached a number of resolution which the committee will seek to implement.

The National Institution for Human Rights holds its third introductory symposium



The Institution for Human Rights organized a symposium entitled “The Role of the National Institution for Human Rights in Strengthening and Protection of Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain” by Dr. Ahmad Abdulla Farhan, Secretary General of the National Human Rights Commission, at the Moevenpick Hotel.

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Aziz Hassan Abul, Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights, opened the seminar by a speech in which he welcomed the participants in the seminar the purpose of which was to acquaint the participants with the role of the NIHR in the consolidation, development and protection of human rights, nurturing their values, spreading awareness and contribution to ensure engagement in its practice. He reasserted that the seminar came in response to the NIHR’s plan designed to propagate the culture of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain by virtue of educational seminars and workshops. He also confirmed that the NIHR would organize a series of seminars and workshops concerned with the status of human rights in sync with the United Nations’ related international days and events.



His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Abdulla Farhan, Secretary-General of the NIHR, presented the seminar, which addressed in part one the general principles of human rights, in addition to human rights, democracy, rule of the law and the state obligations arising from human rights.

The Secretary-General addressed in the second part of the seminar the historical backdrop and the legal framework of the national institutions for human rights, the position of the national institutions in the overall scheme of the state, their role in consolidating and protecting the human rights, the role of Paris Principle which regulates the operations of the national human rights organizations, and the International Coordination Committee (ICC) which grants accreditation to these organizations, in addition to an overall brief on 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 for Human Rights.

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) condemns and deplores the aggression on security men and innocent people.

This statement was made during the visit to the injured security men in Al Dair explosion

NIHR expressed in the strongest terms its condemnation of the illegal acts which targeted the life of security men and innocent people, thereby unsettling the security and stability, terrorizing the secure citizens and expatriates, impeding continuation of the human, cultural and economic development, threatening national security and peace and dragging the nation into unsavoury and incalculable consequences. NIHR appealed to and urged the various institutions of civil society to take unified and proactive stance and procedures to stop all such illegal acts and to stand firm in the face of these frivolous and senseless activities that threaten the security of the homeland and citizens and which clash with the age old values and principles of Islam, as well as incongruent with all traditions and international charters and conventions and alien to the loving nature of Bahrain society which is well known for its tolerance and rejection of violence and extremism.

A delegation of NIHR, headed by Mr. Abdulla Al-Derazi, Ms Maria Khoury and Dr. Ahmad Abdulla Farhan the Secretary General, visited at the Military Hospital and King Hamad University Hospital, the injured security men in the explosion which occurred recently in Al Dair village of a locally made bomb.

The delegation of NIHR was reassured of the conditions of the security men following the injuries they suffered. One of the injuries has been described as very serious while another injury is recovering slowly.

The delegation urged all parties concerned to reunite, consolidate the value of national unity and citizenship and fortify the social fabric and peaceful coexistence between the various and multiple Bahraini sects and groups. The delegation lauded the on-going and relentless efforts exerted by the security organisation and security men to curtail these lawless acts and expressed their wishes for a speedy recovery for the people injured in this painful incident.



Maria Khoury in a special interview on **Human Rights**

The Complaints, Monitor and Follow-Up Committee has received 80 complaints and we strove to resolve most of them, there is a good response by government agencies and we are looking forward for more



Interviewed by Aisha Al-Siddiqi

Human Rights had an interview with Ms. Maria Khoury, member of the Complaints, Monitor and Follow up Committee, to introduce the committee, its duties and activities.

Maria Khoury, Would You Please Tell Us About The Duties Of The Complaints, Monitor And Follow Up Committee?

The Complaints, Monitor and Follow up Committee is one of the committees of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) and a complementary to NIHR organization. It is mainly concerned with monitoring, and tracking cases and receiving complaints from both citizens and residents of Bahrain. Paragraph "e", Article 2 of Royal Order No. 46, for the year 2009, as amended by Royal Order No. 28 for the year 2012, on the establishment of the NIHR, provides for the jurisdictions of the NIHR to achieve its objectives, including receiving complaints and grievances. The paragraph provides for the NIHR's concerns to receive and review complaints related to human rights, refer what it seems appropriate to the competent authorities followed by proactive follow up

or otherwise draw the attention of those concerned, both citizens and residents, with the procedures to be followed, assist them in the pursuance thereof or help in resolving them with the concerned agencies.

The Complaints, Monitor and Follow up Committee tracks the realities and practices of human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, seeks to document and organize related information, generate reports on the data and indices of violations of human rights and submittal of such data to the NIHR Council for review and for taking the necessary action. The committee also generates the annual draft report to the NIHR on the number of complaints it has received, amplified by detailed information on the action taken, provide comment and recommendations on the national legislations related to the NIHR Council, conducts field visits to detention and other places where violations of human rights are likely to take place.

What Are The Most Prominent Cases Received By The Complaint, Monitor And Follow-Up Committee?

The complaints are diverse and varied; some of them involve withdrawal of residential units from citizens and follow up on applications for granting the nationality to the children of Bahraini women who are married to foreigners. Other complaints involve exposure to abuse or torture inside prison and places of detention or in the process of being arrested. Other complaints are filed by the inmates, while others are application for the release of an inmate, facilitation of visits, medical treatment and studies of detainees, dismissal from work, alleged arbitrary arrest, beatings, and also complaints relate to targeting individuals and exposing them to harassment for sectarian motives, maltreatments, discrimination on account of political opinions or syndication activities or arrest by civilians in the absence of a court order, exposure to beatings and abusive treatment, other claims of arbitrary arrests, entry of homes without permission, denial of treatment in addition to other complaints related to higher education. The Committee is generally concerned with receiving any complaint alleged to be attributed to human right violations.

Would You Please Elaborate On The Number Of Cases Received By The Committee Since Its Institution To Date?

Since the establishment of the new NIHR Council, the Committee has received close to 80 individual and mass complaints. Most of the complaints related to legal matters and issues related to the public prosecution, the Ministry of

Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and some various companies. We have seen that some of the citizens file complaints which mostly seek legal assistance. A form titled "Request for Assistance" has been prepared, and so far we have identified 60 cases seeking legal assistance. Also, the Committee receives complaints in the presence of a legal researcher who assists in the completion of the complaint form. It is this legal assistant who determines whether the complaint falls within the jurisdictions of the committee. If and when accepted, the case is directly investigated and contacts are maintained with the concerned agency for resolution of the complaint. Some cases received by the committee are of a very urgent nature. We directly get in touch by phone with the concerned agency. In fact we managed in many of the cases to get in direct contact with the agency and resolve some of the issues within hours in collaboration with the concerned establishments of the state. In most of the cases the concerned agency would be the Ministry of Interior. We effectively endeavour to cooperate with the authorities concerned to enforce and implement the policies of handling issues in a proper righteous manner.

Is There Any Cooperation Between You And The Concerned Agencies For Closing Cases?

We have in place cooperation with and good response from most of the agencies we approach. Any agency which is not responsive to an issue that involves aggression or default is followed. Our common objective is clear, transparent and independent in exercising human right activities in Bahrain.

What Are The Expectations Of The Committee For The Upcoming Period, Whether In The Area Of Resolving The Cases Or The Field Of Education And Educating Society?

The Committee is exerting efforts with a view to speed up resolution of cases. This depends on the speed of the response by the concerned agencies. Perhaps awareness and education of society about the role of the NIHR which cannot accept any tolerance on any of the human rights in Bahrain is an issue we are all seeking to achieve in the NIHR Council and the General Secretariat. There is urgent need for building bridges of trust in terms of the transparency and independence of the NIHR in handling human right issues for all members of society. Highlights must be shed on the current human rights situation in Bahrain, with special emphasis on creditable achievements, facing of challenges and arrangement of priorities.

Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

In tandem with the United Nations' celebration of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, corresponding to 30 August of each year, in implementation of the UN's General Assembly Resolution No. 133/47 "The United Nations' Declaration on the Protection of Persons against Enforced Disappearances, promulgated on 18 December 1992, as a set of principles whose implementation is mandatory on all nations. The International Convention on the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearances was approved on 20 December 2006. The convention aims at the prevention and incrimination of enforced disappearances of persons, penalization of the persons who commit this crime and protection of its victims. By its Resolution No. 65/209, promulgated on 21 December 2010, the UN General Assembly welcomed the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearances and approved 30 August of each year as an international day for the victims of enforced disappearances to be celebrated as of the year 2011".

Today coincides with the celebration of the intentional day for prevention of enforced disappearances. Enforced disappearance is regarded not only as the most serious and heinous crime but also an act which negates the essence of humanity and runs contrary to the loftiest of the values of any community. It is still being practiced in some countries to oppress and intimidate people from claiming their rights.

Enforced disappearance is regarded as serious violation of human rights. During the disappearance process, the civil and political rights of the individual can easily be violated and tramped on such as the right of a person to be recognized as a legal entity, the right to self-freedom and security, the right not to be subjected to torture or any other form of cruel, inhumane or abusive treatment, the right to life in the cases where the person may be killed, the right to his/her entity, the right to fair trial and judiciary warranties, the right to effective justice, including mitigation and compensation and the right to knowing the truth with respect to the circumstances of the disappearance.

The enforced disappearance also generally violates the economic, social and cultural rights of the victims and their families alike, such as the right to enjoy the protection and assistance of the family, the right to the appropriate standard of living, the right to health and the right to education.

On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights calls on all nations to eliminate this crime and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of Persons against Enforced Disappearances, and asks the Government of the Kingdom to ascribe to the convention, which features among the recommendations raised by the UN's Human Rights Council during the periodic and comprehensive review of the Kingdom of Bahrain so as to complement the package of legal systems of the international charters concerned with human rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1 - 2)

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge, Now, therefore, The General Assembly, Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article (1)

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article (2)

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article (3)

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article (4)

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article (5)

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article (6)

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article (7)

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article (8)

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article (9)

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article (10)

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

NIHR has published its Zero Issue of Bahrain Journal for Human Rights

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has published its Zero Issue of the Bahrain Journal for Human Rights. It is a biannual scientific compact publication covering mainly international law issues on human rights, and aims at disseminating, developing and promoting human rights culture. Published in Arabic and English, the NIHR's Zero Issue illustrates the journal's objectives, rules and procedure of contribution. It also explains specifications, printing, awards, financing and subscriptions. The first issue is tentatively scheduled for March 2014.

VISION

"Human rights culture is a lifestyle"

To believe that the human rights issue is of the national constants, and recognize that civil, political, economic, social and cultural, as well as individual or collective, rights and public freedoms represent a commitment to the values of justice, equality and human dignity of all human beings without discrimination.

MISSION

"Together to create a better practice of human rights"

Work on developing, promoting and protecting human rights of citizens and residents in the Kingdom of Bahrain, through providing protection and support for individuals, enabling them to gain various knowledge with regard to the exercise of their legitimate rights, and determining their needs and how to claim and defend them. This can be achieved by spreading the culture of human rights by all means available.



SUBMITTING A COMPLAINT

Dear citizen...

Dear resident,

If you wish to submit a complaint to the National Institution for Human Rights, simply choose one of the following methods to send the Complaint Form:

- 1) Fill in data and send online;
- 2) Fill in data in (PDF) format on the website, then print and send via fax, regular mail, email or in person to the NIHR headquarter in Al Seef District.

For more information or to request assistance, please call (+973 17 111 666) or complaint@nihr.org.bh

How to Reach Us?

