

## **Ministry of Human Rights and the National Institution of Human Rights are Two Wings of Human Rights Work in Bahrain**

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The Minister of Human Rights, Salah Ali A. Rahman, said the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Institution of Human Rights (NIHR) are two wings for human rights in Bahrain and that collaboration between them will serve the country's interest of boosting human rights and spreading the culture of rights and obligations.

The statement was made when the minister received the Head Commissioner of the NIHR, A. Aziz Abul, in the presence of the secretary general and members of the Institution, at the minister's office in the BFH.

The minister welcomed the head and members of the NIHR, hailing the level of cooperation and coordination between the Ministry and the Institution, especially in the area of human rights.

The minister discussed a proposed legislation regarding the NIHR, which would guarantee more independence for the Institute, in accordance with the principles of Paris for establishing national institutions for human rights.

The participants discussed a draft of the National Plan for Human Rights, which is a roadmap for human rights work in Bahrain. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Ministry and the NIHR to achieve the plan's goals, particularly in spreading the culture of human rights among various community components, assuring a culture of law, maintaining rights, and respecting obligations in the country of constitutional citizenship.

The minister listened to the NIHR's efforts to obtain accreditation and the ongoing communication in this regard with the coordination committee of the National Institutions to Boost and Protect Human Rights. The minister reaffirmed the government's support for NIHR's accreditation, as the institution is the cornerstone of the independent human rights work in Bahrain, noting accreditation will indicate the independence and integrity of the NIHR in performing its duties and accomplishing the aspirations of the leadership and the people.

The minister reviewed the system for dealing with complaints submitted to NIHR, noting the Ministry is following the efforts exerted by NIHR's Complaints and Monitoring Committee. The minister said the Ministry will exert every effort to assist the complaints committee's through communication with ministries and governmental bodies, in order to protect the rights of everybody.

The minister discussed the mechanisms for cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Human Rights and NIHR nationally, regionally and internationally. He also discussed the mechanism of cooperation and coordination with the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, emphasizing the need to boost cooperation and coordination concerning communication with different human rights groups to convey a true, objective, neutral, and independent image of the human rights situation in Bahrain.

From his side, the head of NIHR welcomed the cooperation and coordination between the two parties, noting that they are complementary to one another. He thanked the minister for the meeting, and said he was looking forward to the continued communication and cooperation in all matters supporting the march of democracy and human rights.

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