

# DT NEWS

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11th Hour

Hawar Development  
committee set up

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa has issued a decree (77 of 2017) establishing the High Committee for the Development of Hawar Islands. Supreme Council for the Environment President His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa will chair the panel with members from ministries, business community and the EDB.

# Amnesty's allegations false: Govt

DT News Network  
Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday rejected the allegations of an Amnesty International report on human rights situation in the Kingdom, saying what it called "suppression of opposition" as false.

"The country exerts utmost efforts to promote and protect human rights in spite of external interference in its affairs and sovereignty, sectarian and extremist dangers, regional conflicts and intolerance," the Ministry said in a report entitled "The Legal protection of Human Rights - Achievements and Challenges". Amnesty's accusation of "suppression of

'Suppression of opposition' not true

Kingdom respects human rights

the opposition" contained false allegations and interpretations, the Ministry said in the report, harshly criticising the erroneous methodology adopted by Amnesty to prepare their report.

The Ministry said that Amnesty did not even mention its method of verifying the credibility of its sources, and the objective indicators it had set for itself in reading media reports or other references. "Amnesty as a human rights

organization should review with the authorities concerned the information rather than level false allegations based on false information from vague sources," the Ministry said.

"It would be detrimental to the Organization to adopt its report as a method that deviates from a careful human rights concern," said the Ministry, harshly criticising the Amnesty report. The Ministry said that the Kingdom recognizes the process of promoting respect

for and protection of human rights, a process that is free of challenges and difficulties.

"Bahrain seeks, in accordance with the law, to confront and deal with these acts while safeguarding human rights by providing national protection mechanisms that monitor the respect of national laws and institutions without prejudice to individual rights in social, political and civil rights," the Ministry said.

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## No arbitrary detention in Kingdom

With regards to Amnesty International's recommendations on freedom of expression and arbitrary detention, the Ministry said that the Public Prosecution of the Kingdom performs its duties with full objectivity and in full compliance with the provisions of the law. No one is accused for exercising political activity established by the Constitution and the law, unless an offense is expressly committed by law.

The Ministry confirmed that after examining the legal status of the prisoners referred to in the report, it was found that they had been convicted under final judicial rulings in criminal cases unrelated to human rights and after a trial that met all standards of justice and transparency.

On Amnesty's recommendation, "Immediately stop harassment and targeting of human rights defenders," the report contained general and ambiguous terms that were not specific to the Ministry so that the Ministry could respond. The Ministry explained that legal means have been provided to ensure criminal and disciplinary accountability for those charged with committing acts of torture or cruel or degrading treatment. The Public Prosecution of Bahrain has affirmed its keenness to confront these facts as provided by the law and to conduct them in criminal liability, extending to the determination of disciplinary responsibility.



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Construction of  
Medical City to  
begin in 2018



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Jerusalem  
'should be  
Palestinian  
capital'



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Chelsea go  
second with  
easy win