

Decree no. (28) for the year 2012
The foundation of an independent office for the Inspector General
and the National Security Agency professional standards office

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, after reviewing the constitution and the Decree no. (14) for the year 2002 of establishing a National Security Agency (NSA) and the decree amendments, and after reviewing the Bahrain Independent Commission for Inquiry (BICI) report, particularly recommendations no. (1718) and (1722), and upon deputy prime minister's proposal, order the following:

Article One

An independent office for the inspector general shall be established at the NSA and shall be specialized with receiving and examining complaints pertaining individual abuses and mistreatment by any of the NSA personnel, in addition to examining their violations to laws and international agreements embraced by the Kingdom of Bahrain. The inspector general office shall also undertake investigative procedures regarding these complaints against NSA personnel whom violate laws, agreements or abuse individuals whether on the occasion/because/during performing their duties, or for having any role or part in these violations or abuses.

Article Two

The inspector general shall be appointed via royal decree only at the level of "undersecretary" pursuant to NSA chief nomination and prime minister for five-year renewable term, provided that he/she meets the required experience, personal capabilities, neutrality and integrity.

Article Three

The inspector general shall exercise his powers and duties following utter independence from any direction or supervision by the NSA, that is in all the complaints referred to him/her and pertaining decisions, and he/she shall be able to:

- a) Safely reach certain persons and attain whatever information he deems fit to examine the complaints at hand as per complete accuracy and effectiveness. All respective ministries and officials connected to the NSA shall provide the information, data and documents the inspector general requires.
- b) Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the safety and security of those who file the complaints, siblings and all who are related to the complaints.

Article Four

The inspector general must:

- a) Preserve the confidentiality and security of the NSA information.
- b) Provide the complainant and the person complained against with a statement comprising proper and sufficient information, which include the steps taken to the examination of the complaint and its aftermath, unless the steps or results are classified.

- c) File a semi-annual report on his/her work to the NSA chief. The chief, in part, file the report after a term of 15 days since he/she received it to the prime minister in order for the latter to decide what he sees fit in regards to the report.
- d) Place the required instructions that shape the inspector general office's work, including the reception of complaints, restraints of the complaints and schedules for studying the complaints, in addition to ensuring the safety and security of the complainants, siblings and all who are involved with the subject of the complaint.

Article Five

The inspector general shall be relieved from his/her post according to a royal decree if he/she fails to address his duties, and upon NSA chief's recommendation and prime minister's consent.

Article Six

The inspector general shall be accompanied with sufficient number of experts and specialist to assist him/her with his/her duties.

Article Seven

The inspector general shall have two secured separate office as follows:

- a) An office at the NSA headquarters designated to preserve files, papers, documents and information pertaining complaints filed to him/her and arranged safely and independently away from those of the NSA. This office shall be the only place where the inspector general will conduct inquiries and investigations on NSA employees and on information related to the subject of the complaint.
- b) An office at the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs and Endowments headquarters, in which he will receive complaints, communications and information related to them and preserves papers and records of vital and secretive nature to guarantee the safety of those involved in the complaint.

Article Eight

Taking into consideration the jurisdictions and authorities of the Attorney General established under the relevant laws in force in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the inspector general shall coordinate with the attorney general's office in regards to implementing the provisions of this decree in a consistent manner with the laws in force in this matter.

Article Nine

A separate article in the NSA's budget shall be allocated to the inspector general's office to cover for its management. The inspector general alone shall have the authorization to manage these allocations designated for the abovementioned office.

Article Ten

The prime minister shall issue a resolution to initiate the establishment of the NSA professional standards office, which will be specialized in the following:

- a) Preparing the NSA professional standards office “code of conduct”, in accordance with a prime minister decision. The aforementioned code must include the human rights principles currently in effect locally and internationally and linked with the agency’s conduct.
- b) Preparing and executing constant programs and aptitude courses to train the NSA employees.
- c) Receiving and examining internal complaints, related to the NSA, and refer the aftermath of the studies and examinations to the respective authorities to adopt whatever they deem fit in this matter.

Article Eleven

Each and every text that collides with this decree shall be cancelled.

Article Twelve

The prime minister and NSA chief shall implement this decree starting the date in which it is published in the Official Gazette.

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain
Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Deputy Prime Minister
Muhammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa