



Building National Capacities to combat Trafficking in Persons through improved Criminal Investigations and Coordinated Efforts: IOM and the Kingdom of Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs organize a workshop to enhance and build cooperation in combating human trafficking and protecting victims

Manama, 10-11 June – The International Organization for Migration (IOM) jointly organized a two-day workshop on National Capacities in Controlling Trafficking in Persons Crimes and Criminal Investigations, in cooperation with Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The workshop was organized at the request of the Government of Bahrain and aimed to bring together a diverse group of participants from the government, civil society organization and international organizations to discuss, propose ways forward for and raise awareness of regional and international cooperation to combat human trafficking. Items covered on the agenda included the current state of trafficking in persons in Bahrain and how to develop appropriate responses, including measures to identify victims, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.

The sessions were led by three experts in the field: Sarah Craggs, IOM's Migrant Assistance and Counter-Trafficking Technical Specialist for the Middle East and North Africa Region; Dr. Mohamed Mattar, executive director of The Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies; and Judge Adel Maged, Vice President at the Court of Cassation and Honorary Professor of Law, Durham University, UK.

Professor Mohammed Mattar highlighted the legal shortcomings of a number international constitutions that need amendments to consolidate anti-trafficking legislation. Judge Maged urged States to adopt a comprehensive system to combat human trafficking including a launch of a national plan on combating hu-



Ministerial Officials and Participants engaged in the Workshop © IOM 2013

man trafficking that focuses on building national capabilities, laws enactment, extension of the umbrella of insurance to cover all human trafficking victims, alongside the strengthening of building national capabilities through training programs and leaflets.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary and The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, Chairman Ambassador Abdulla Abdullatif Abdulla reiterated the leadership of the Kingdom's commitment to enhancing Human Rights, as well as commended the national effort exerted to combat human trafficking and secure the expatriates rights.

It was recognized that the Kingdom of Bahrain has made significant progress in its steps to combat human trafficking. It is illegal to withhold passports and residency permits in Bahrain and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be coordinating with the Interior Ministry to bring those in contravention of the law to justice, reiterated Ambassador Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the National Committee on Combat Traf-

ficking in Persons.

Ambassador Abdullah went on to note that Bahrain had established the National Committee on Combating Trafficking in Persons, instituted special related programs, implemented an awareness campaign in fighting the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, discussed the national plan on combating trafficking in persons with the private sector's representatives, launched a hotline service, and provided psychological support services and shelters for victims of human trafficking.

The Royal directives of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Premier, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister and Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty and President of the Supreme Council for women, have called for intensifying efforts in fighting trafficking in persons, and protecting the individual as the corner stone of the Bahraini society.

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