NHRC Statement No. (05/2019)

on the deteriorating health situation of the Qatari student Abdel Aziz Said Abdullah

held in arbitrary detention by the Saudi authorities

The National Human Rights Committee received from reliable sources information indicating that the health situation of the Qatari student Abdel Aziz Said Abdullah, detained arbitrarily in the prisons of Saudi Arabia, has deteriorated due to the adverse conditions of his arbitrary detention and willful negligence he has been subjected to.

It is worth mentioning that the Qatari student has forcibly disappeared since July 6, 2018, before the Saudi authorities announced his whereabouts last May to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

According to the source, the Qatari student is placed in solitary confinement since the date of his arrest and is subjected to torture to force him to confess to acts he did not commit.

The NHRC expressed its concern about information indicating that his health has recently deteriorated due to the willful negligence he has been subjected to, without being examined by a doctor or taken to the hospital to be provided with health care and treatment.

The NHRC condemns the arbitrary detention of Abdel Aziz, which violates international laws and conventions, especially article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The NHRC holds the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fully responsible for the life of the Qatari student Abdul Aziz Saeed Abdullah and his health and physical integrity, and calls on the Saudi Authorities to release him immediately.

The NHRC calls on the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the UN Human Rights Council to intervene to stop these grave violations, and hold accountable those responsible for these violations, and immediately release the Qatari student Abdel Aziz Said Abdullah.

31 July 2019, 28 Dhu'l -Q 1440
Doha, Qatar