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Bahrain Human Rights Record Hailed

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MANAMA: Efforts to monitor conditions of Bahraini detainees in Guantanamo Bay X-ray Camp and ensure their quick release were yesterday reviewed as Interior Minister Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa visited the human rights department.

Commenting on Bahrain Human Rights Society (BHRS) field visits to prisons, he hailed the positive co-operation, giving his instructions for BHRS to be allowed to assess the prison inmates' conditions in total transparency.

Shaikh Rashid also hailed human rights strides which have won Bahrain international recognition under the reform project led by His Majesty King Hamad.

He refuted claims of restrictions on freedoms.

Such claims, he said, would only harm Bahrain's image in an era of political openness and democracy.

"Freedom of opinion is not the recipe for chaos and defamation and should rather be exercised in total respect of the law, people's rights and society, not to sabotage public order or compromise the national interests", he said.

Shaikh Rashid also vowed to crack down on lawbreakers, regardless of their nationalities, whether inside or abroad.

"We will use all legal measures against those who target Bahrain through inciting hatred, sedition or sabotaging public and national security". He also visited the legal affairs directorate and met officials and legal researchers, inspecting the different departments.