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**Legislative Decree No.(5) 1990 regarding Civil Defence**

We, Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Emiri Order No. (4) of 1975;

Legislative Decree No. (27) of 1981 regarding Martial Law;

And Emiri Decree No. (11) of 1985 Establishing a New Department Under the Name of the Civil Defence and Fire Department at the Ministry of Interior;

And upon the submission of the Minister of Interior,

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article One:**

Civil defence is taking the necessary measures to protect civilians, ensure the safety of transportation, protect public buildings, facilities, institutions, projects, and private property, and maintaining artefacts and relics from the dangers of air raids and other acts of war and sabotage, mitigating their effects, and providing assistance to those affected by these acts. In general, ensuring the continuation of regular and steady work progress in public facilities in cases of war, peace, emergency circumstances, general disasters or martial law while ensuring tranquillity, stability, and national security.

**Article Two**

Civil defence can be achieved by taking all measures and means leading thereto, in particular the following:

**First:**Developing special plans to protect establishments, institutions, projects, public facilities, means of land, water, and air transportation, and wired and wireless telecommunications and ensuring the regular and steady functioning of government administration in the cases referred to in the previous Article.

**Second:**Developing plans to confront general disasters and preparing the means and capabilities to counter them and limit their effects.

**Third:**Developing plans to prevent and confront the dangers of war and acts of sabotage, and mitigate their effects by means of the following:

1 - Preparing warning methods for air raids.

2- Preventing fires and carrying out continuous control to combat them in case of occurrence.

3 - Detecting bombs, mines, explosives, and unexploded shells and disabling them.

4 - Restricting lighting and turning off lights due to air raids.

5 - Establishing specialized units to carry out civil defence operations of all kinds, including atomic radiation detection rooms, as well as volunteer teams for civil defence work, and preparing them technically to seek their assistance in strengthening civil defence units, raising public awareness, introducing them to the duties and preventive work required of them, and training them in civil defence work.

6 - Cooperation between the Bahrain Defence Force and civil defence teams in cities and villages and the establishment of rapid civilian teams to help residential areas.

7 - Establishing and preparing civil defence operations rooms.

8 - Constructing trenches and general bunkers and preparing bunkers for buildings and facilities.

9 -  Storing the equipment, tools, and devices necessary for civil defence work, providing medicines and disinfectants, and organizing the distribution of food, water, and other basic needs to the public.

10- Monitoring the implementation of industrial security methods in industrial and commercial establishments and public facilities.

11- Preparing plans for the evacuation of areas and neighbourhoods or some of them from residents.

12- Preparing various hospitals and other places suitable for receiving the injured, establishing blood banks and emergency centres, and preparing ambulances to transport the injured.

13- Listing all the equipment, tools, and devices available in the private sector that can be used in civil defence work.

14- Conducting raid experiments to verify the efficiency of civil defence teams, individuals, and equipment.

15- Organizing traffic and movement for the benefit of civil defence.

**Article Three**

The Minister of Interior shall be responsible for civil defence, and shall issue the necessary decisions to implement its measures.

**Article Four**

A council called the "Civil Defence Council" shall be established, headed by the Minister of Interior, and a decision issued by the Prime Minister shall issue its formation.

The Minister of Interior may, after the approval of the Prime Minister, include in the membership of the Council whomever he deems appropriate to use their experience in civil defence affairs.

**Article Five**

The Council may form permanent or temporary committees from its members or others to study the topics entrusted to them for research.

**Article Six**

The Council shall establish internal regulations to regulate its work progress, including in particular the dates of meetings, the method of issuing decisions, the method for voting on them, the majority necessary for their validity, and the method of work in the committees.

The internal regulations shall be issued by a decision of the Minister of Interior.

**Article Seven**

The Civil Defence Council shall be responsible for setting the general policy for civil defence within the scope of what is stated in Article Two of this Law, approving plans and projects implementing that policy, and defining the tasks and responsibilities of ministries, authorities, institutions, and entities in charge of implementing civil defence plans.

**Article Eight**

The Director of the Civil Defence and Firefighting Department shall be responsible before the Minister of the Interior for the implementation of all civil defence works stipulated in this Law and the decisions issued for its implementation. He shall directly supervise, within the limits of laws and regulations, the implementation of all orders, decisions, and instructions of the Minister of Interior and the Civil Defence Council.

**Article Nine**

The state bears the expenses necessary for civil defence operations, taking into account the provisions of Article Twelve thereof.

**Article Ten**

The Civil Defence Department may, after the approval of the Minister of Interior, accept donations, gifts, and grants provided by institutions, associations, or individuals for civil defence work, provided that the donation is unconditional.

**Article Eleven**

In the event of war, emergency conditions, general disasters, or martial law, financial appropriations allocated for civil defence purposes may be exempted by decree from all or some of the applicable financial rules.

The Minister of Interior may dispose of these funds as he deems necessary to achieve the purposes of civil defence.

He may, without being bound by the financial rules and instructions stipulated in the laws and regulations, entrust ministries, departments, and bodies with the purchase of machines, cars, devices, equipment, medicines, etc., and designate the public and private entities and bodies to whom these items are handed over in order to benefit from them or maintain them under their responsibility to be used when needed, under the control and supervision of the Ministry of Interior.

**Article Twelve**

Owners of private educational institutions, charitable associations, public stores, commercial and industrial businesses, houses containing more than one residence, and other real estate that the Minister of Interior determines need special protection looking to their nature, importance, or uses shall - with the exception of charitable associations -  carry out, at their expense and within the dates specified for them, the work required by civil defence.

It is permissible to stipulate in building licenses that the licensee shall carry out civil defence work at his expense and under the conditions stated in the previous paragraph.

It is also permissible to stipulate in building licenses that special places which can serve as public bunkers when needed shall be prepared. The state shall bear the expenses of preparing them and compensating the property owner for any decrease in the value of his property.

The owners of the buildings referred to in the previous paragraph and their occupants shall vacate the places intended to be public bunkers as soon as they are notified of this by the competent authority.

If the property owner does not implement the works required of him by civil defence operations, the administration may implement them at his expense.

**Article Thirteen**

The Civil Defence Council shall issue instructions regarding the conditions and specifications for the establishment of public bunkers and other civil defence works stipulated in the previous Article.

The license issued by the relevant authority shall include a statement of these conditions and specifications.

**Article Fourteen**

The Council of Ministers shall issue the necessary decisions for the appropriation of buildings, lands, and movables necessary to prepare public bunkers, to shelter those whose areas are decided to be evacuated, and to establish the necessary hospitals and emergency and supply centres.

The owner shall be compensated for the decrease in value that befalls the property, and the owner of the appropriated movables shall be compensated as well.

**Article Fifteen**

In cases of war, emergency circumstances, general disasters, or martial law, the Minister of the Interior may issue decisions for temporary appropriation of any movable property or any vehicle, as well as the equipment, tools, and devices necessary for firefighting, rescue, debris removal, water suction, and other objects required for civil defence work.

The concerned parties shall be compensated for the temporarily appropriated items.

**Article Sixteen**

The Minister of Interior may issue decisions obligating the owners of buildings and vacant lands, and those who claim a right over them, not to obstruct the authorities responsible for civil defence work when carrying out these works on their properties.

These decisions shall be notified to the concerned parties, and they shall be published within one month from the date of their issuance in the Official Gazette.

The concerned parties shall be compensated for the damage they suffer as a result of these actions.

**Article Seventeen**

The Minister of Interior shall issue the necessary decisions to form committees specialized in estimating the compensations referred to in this Law.

Decisions issued by the committees stipulated in the previous paragraph may be appealed within sixty days from the date of notification of the concerned party before a committee formed by a decision from the Minister of Interior, headed by a judge appointed by the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs, and its decisions shall be final.

**Article Eighteen**

The Minister of Interior may establish teams of civilians to train in civil defence work. He may also decide at any time to conduct experiments and trainings on civil defence work to ensure the adequacy of its means.

**Article Nineteen**

In the event of war, emergency circumstances, general disasters, or martial law, the Minister of Interior may issue, in coordination with the relevant authorities, decisions regarding the rules and procedures necessary for the organization of individuals of the following categories at their places of work:

A - Doctors, pharmacists, and allied health professionals.

B - Those working in agriculture, manufacturing, or trading in foodstuffs, as well as pharmacy owners and transportation workers.

C - Any other category whose work is necessary for the stability and continuity of living.

**Article Twenty**

In military zones and areas under the supervision of the Bahrain Defence Force, the Minister of Defence shall assume the powers of the Minister of Interior stipulated in this Law.

**Article Twenty-One**

The Minister of Defence and the Minister of Interior shall issue the decisions related to coordinating relations between civil defence bodies and the Bahrain Defence Force.

These decisions shall include the following matters:

1 -    Duties of the Bahrain Defence Force towards civil defence.

2 -    How to cooperate between the Bahrain Defence Force and civil defence bodies in cases of extreme necessity and exceptional cases, specifying the tasks assigned to the Bahrain Defence Force in these cases.

**Article Twenty-Two**

The employees delegated by the Minister of Interior from among the Ministry of Interior’s employees and others shall have the status of security personnel in implementing the provisions of this Law and the decisions, regulations, orders, and instructions issued pursuant to it.

They may, at any time, enter the places where the measures stipulated in this Law are implemented to verify their implementation and prove any violation thereof.

**Article Twenty-Three**

The implementation of this Law shall not prejudice the powers of the authority in charge of implementing martial law in the event of declaring martial law, and relations between that authority and civil defence bodies shall be coordinated by decisions issued by the Minister of Interior and the authority in charge of implementing martial law.

**Article Twenty-Four**

The Ministry of Education, institutes, and colleges shall teach civil defence subject in accordance with the plans and curricula developed by the relevant authorities in agreement with the Ministry of Interior.

**Article Twenty-Five**

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty, anyone who violates the provisions of this Law and the decisions, regulations, orders, and instructions issued pursuant to it shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years and a fine not exceeding five thousand dinars, or one of these two penalties.

The Intermediate Court shall have jurisdiction to hear criminal lawsuits arising from violations of the provisions of this Law and the decisions, regulations, orders, and instructions issued pursuant to it.

**Article Twenty-Six**

The Minister of Interior shall issue the necessary decisions to implement the provisions of this Law.

**Article Twenty-Seven**

The Prime Minister and Ministers - each within his jurisdiction - shall implement this Law and it shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Emir of the State of Bahrain**

**Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

**Issued at Riffa Palace:**

**On 6 Shaaban 1410 A.H.**

**Corresponding to 3 March 1990**