

Press freedom vital according to Bahraini Interior Minister

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The Minister of Interior, Lt. Gen. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, has reiterated the Kingdom's belief in the freedom of the Press.

During a meeting with Bahrain Journalists Association chairman, Isa Al Shaygi, Shaikh Rashid expressed his ministry's keenness to keep its doors open to brief journalists on security matters provided that they did not disrupt investigations.

The minister referred to the bja statement on yesterday's disturbances outside the Public Prosecution offices and said investigations continued.

He said the issue would be resolved within the framework of cooperation and concern for national interests.

It is unacceptable if journalists or state agencies are prevented from fulfilling duties, Shaikh Rashid said, adding that security personnel had quickly responded to the Public Prosecution's call to evacuate the premises as people had caused chaos and interrupted investigations.

Al Shaygi thanked the minister for his respect for journalists and directives to establish mutual trust and cooperation between the ministry and mediapersons.

Al Shaygi called on journalists to cooperate with securitymen for the sake of public interest and ensure that their reports on security incidents are objective.

He hailed the the ministry's efforts to bolster cooperation between journalists and security agencies by maintaining communication channels and providing enough information.