



The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The National Centre for Human Rights

Achievements Report 2009

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Disclaimer

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1. Legislation, Strategies and Plans

In fulfilment of the objectives of the Centre — which include following up developments affecting national legislation relating to human rights and working towards its development in a manner consistent with the international conventions and standards binding upon Jordan — the Centre followed up work on the current national legislation, strategies and plans with the competent official authorities, as follows:

- Analysis and review of the Juveniles Law No. (24) of 1968 and preparation of a new draft law on the subject consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the international standards relating to juvenile justice.
- Participation in the analysis and review of the draft Child Law with a view to producing a modern law consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Participation in the enactment of a regulation giving effect to the Protection from Family Violence Law.
- Contribution, together with the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities, to the formulation of the National Strategy for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities.
- Formation of a legal committee to incorporate the recommendations of the National Coalition for the reform of the legal framework of the electoral process into the law currently in force, with a view to producing a proposed new elections law.
- The Legislation Commission prepared an analytical study of the Crime Prevention Law, comprising an analysis of the articles of the law and the extent of their compatibility with the international standards on fair trial guarantees binding upon Jordan.
- Preparation of an analytical study of the Public Gatherings Law, comprising an analysis of the articles of the law and the extent of their compatibility with the international standards governing the right to freedom of assembly and association and with national standards; the study demonstrated the existence of numerous legal contraventions prejudicial to human rights.
- The National Centre for Human Rights — represented by the Commissioner General and the Head of the Follow-up and Termination of Abuses Unit — became a member of the National Committee for the drafting of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the Centre participated in the meetings convened for this purpose.

- Participation in the preparation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons.
- Participation in the preparation of the draft regulation on the shelter for victims of trafficking in persons.
- Participation in the preparation of a draft law amending the Correction and Rehabilitation Centres Law.
- Participation in the preparation of a draft Anti-Begging Law.
- Participation in the third working team for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

2. Protection of Human Rights and Monitoring of Violations

Monitoring of violations

During 2009 the National Centre for Human Rights monitored the human rights situation by carrying out a number of visits, conducting interviews and verifying the violations in respect of which complaints were received by the Centre or which were monitored through the media. The most significant monitoring carried out during the year was as follows:

- Monitoring of more than 156 cases of violation of the rights of persons with disabilities in various parts of the Kingdom, principally concerning: the right to personal liberty; the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the right not to be subjected to torture or to inhuman treatment; freedom from violence; equality before the law; the right to an adequate standard of living; the right to accessibility; the right to education; and the right to health care and rehabilitation.
- Obtaining statistics on the number of children of Jordanian women married to foreign nationals, which amounted to (84,181) cases according to the statistics of the Civil Status and Passports Department, in addition to monitoring the number of Jordanian women married to foreign nationals, which by the end of 2009 amounted to (64,323) cases. Fifteen (15) interviews were conducted with the target group in order to ascertain the causes of this phenomenon and its psychological and social effects upon those women and their children.
- Monitoring of cases of violations against the children of the Orphan Care Institution reported in the daily press, in order to assess the situation of the children in the institution.
- Field monitoring of certain reported cases of violation and their documentation in writing, such as the case of the severe beating of a child by the Criminal Investigation Department and the sit-in staged by the women workers of Al-Hussein Institution for the Care of Orphans.
- Field monitoring of the Anjara area, completion, analysis and documentation of (26) monitoring forms, within the framework of the work of the national team monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Conducting (17) field visits to monitor violations of the rights of working children for the purpose of preparing a report on this phenomenon.
- Fact-finding in respect of the death of Syrian children working on farms in the Jafr area, and addressing the Prime Minister and the authorities concerned in this regard.
- Visit to the Rumaimeen area to examine the phenomenon of the spontaneous combustion of the ground, and submission of a special report on that visit.
- Visit to the Mazra'a area in Mafraq Governorate and monitoring of the causes of the spread of the "Aquabex" fly and its effects upon the health of the inhabitants of the area.
- Visit to the National Centre for Mental Health / Al-Fuheis Hospital and to Al-Karama Centre for Psychiatry.
- Visit to the National Centre for the Treatment of Addiction.
- Visit to the detention facility of the General Intelligence Department.
- Conducting (43) inspection visits to correction and rehabilitation centres, comprising: Juwaideh Correction and Rehabilitation Centre (men and women), Balqa Correction and Rehabilitation Centre, Qafqafa

Correction and Rehabilitation Centre, Birain Correction and Rehabilitation Centre and Swaqa Correction and Rehabilitation Centre.

- Monitoring of the sit-in staged by the port workers in Aqaba; the Prime Minister and the authorities concerned were addressed and the situation of the workers was examined.
- Conducting seven visits to the Qualifying Industrial Zones (QIZ) to examine the conditions of those working therein.
- Visit to Juwaideh Correction and Rehabilitation Centre (men and women) in order to hear the problems of foreign workers and to seek solutions to them through coordination with the authorities and embassies concerned.

Complaints of human rights violations received by the Centre

The total number of complaints received by the Centre amounted to (573) complaints during 2009. The table below sets out those complaints in detail:

Right / subject of the complaint	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Outside mandate	Under follow-up	Non-coop.	No violation
Recognition as a person before the law (nationality)	34	2	12	—	19	—	1
Right to physical integrity	52	19	5	5	17	2	4
Right to freedom of residence and movement	60	22	7	5	19	3	4
Right to asylum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Right to life	4	—	—	—	2	—	2
Right to liberty and personal security	51	16	3	6	21	—	5
Right to humane treatment	48	10	3	3	24	8	—
Right to work	71	33	5	3	22	5	3
Trafficking in persons	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
Right to social security	3	2	—	1	—	—	—
Right to hold public office	9	2	2	3	3	—	—
Rights of prisoners	17	6	—	1	9	—	1
Right to health	14	7	2	1	4	—	—
Right to education	10	4	—	1	5	—	—
Right to equality and non-discrimination	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
Right to a fair trial	53	8	10	9	14	5	7
Rights of women	21	9	2	2	8	—	—
Rights of the child	49	19	5	3	18	2	2
Rights of persons with disabilities	14	5	2	3	2	—	2
Family rights	15	5	3	1	4	1	1

Right / subject of the complaint	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Outside mandate	Under follow-up	Non-coop.	No violation
Rights of juveniles	1	1	1	—	2	—	1
Right to an adequate standard of living	17	2	3	1	5	2	4
Right to housing and shelter	5	3	—	—	2	—	—
Right to freedom of opinion and expression	3	1	—	—	2	—	—
Right to property	3	1	—	1	1	—	—
Right to a sound environment	4	1	—	—	3	—	—
Right to join trade unions	4	2	—	—	2	—	—
Right of access to information	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Grand total	573	181	65	50	212	28	37
Percentage	100%	31%	11%	9%	38%	5%	6%

Requests for assistance received by the Centre

The total number of requests for assistance received by the Centre amounted to (301) requests during 2009. The table below sets out those requests in detail:

Right / subject of the request	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Outside mandate	Under follow-up	Non-coop.	No violation
Recognition as a person before the law (nationality)	19	1	1	—	15	—	2
Right to freedom of residence and movement	74	16	13	5	36	2	2
Right to humane treatment	24	1	2	1	18	2	—
Right to liberty and personal security	27	2	3	2	18	1	1
Right to health	30	1	7	3	16	2	1
Right to work	37	9	5	4	19	—	1
Right to social security	7	—	1	1	5	—	—
Right to property	5	1	2	—	1	—	1
Right to housing	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
Right to an adequate standard of living	8	—	2	—	6	—	—
Right to a sound environment	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Rights of women	6	1	—	—	5	—	—
Rights of the child	4	—	—	—	4	—	—
Rights of persons with disabilities	11	2	1	—	7	—	—
Right to education	4	1	1	—	2	—	—

Right / subject of the request	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Outside mandate	Under follow-up	Non-coop.	No violation
Rights of prisoners	4	3	—	—	1	—	—
Right to compensation	3	1	—	1	1	—	—
Right to found a family	4	—	—	1	3	—	—
Right to hold public office	4	—	—	—	4	—	—
Right to form trade unions	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Right to a fair trial	26	4	5	7	6	2	2
Grand total	301	43	43	25	170	9	11
Percentage	100%	14%	14%	8%	57%	3%	4%

4. Awareness and Training

First: Training courses

Training of trainers course in the field of human rights for the residents of Gaza Camp / Jerash: in cooperation with UNRWA, implemented in two phases (25/2–4/3/2009 and 12–19/4/2009).

Course on human rights at Amman Training College: a one-day course in March for 25 male and female students affiliated to UNRWA.

Course on human rights at Al-Balqa Applied University / Princess Rahma College: a two-day foundational course on 5–6/4/2009, dealing with human rights concepts, international standards and human rights in the Jordanian Constitution.

Course on political parties and human rights: with the support of the Australian Agency for International Development, held 4–7 May 2009 for representatives of the Jordanian political parties.

Course on refugee issues and human rights for Jordanian official institutions: in cooperation with UNHCR, held 11–14/5/2009.

Two courses on the mechanisms for the protection of refugee women and children for Jordanian non-governmental organisations: held on 19–21/5/2009 and 6–8/12/2009.

Course on human rights for members of the Islamic Action Front Party: held 9–11/8/2009, with twenty participants.

Course on the mechanisms for promoting the right to form political parties and to join them: with AusAID support, held 18–19/8/2009 for civil society institutions and the party press.

Course on the right to form political parties and to join them: held 12–13/10/2009 with 20 participants representing official bodies.

Courses on civil and political rights for Jordanian civil society organisations: three two-day courses held in October in the northern, central and southern governorates, targeting approximately 100 participants.

Second: Lectures and working papers

- Lecture on the position of the Centre concerning the reservations to CEDAW, 5/4/2009.
- Lectures to the Gendarmerie Forces and correction and rehabilitation centre staff, 10/5–2/7/2009.
- Lecture on “Jordanian legislation and efforts to promote and support the rights of the child”, 20/5/2009, Mafraq.
- Lecture on human rights concepts and the International Bill of Human Rights, Northern Gendarmerie Directorate, Irbid, 16/6/2009.
- Lecture on CEDAW, 10/7/2009.
- Lecture on the rights of inmates, ninth foundational course, 11/8/2009.
- Lecture on the rights of the divorced woman under the Jordanian Personal Status Law, 22/9/2009.
- Lectures on human rights at the Royal Police Academy — Training and Development Centre.
- Lecture at Sandos International Academy on the rights of the child.
- Lecture entitled “Human rights in Iraq”, 17/11/2009.

- Lecture entitled “Transparency and accountability”, 24/11/2009.
- Delivery of (36) lectures to the officers of the Royal Police Academy at various times.
- A number of lectures to the Gendarmerie Forces and correction and rehabilitation centre staff.
- A number of introductory lectures on the Centre and on human rights delivered by the Commissioner General at various universities and institutions.

Working papers

- “The state of freedoms in the Middle East”, 2/3/2009, Freedom House.
- “Human rights in the Middle East region, with Jordan as a model”, 20/6/2009.
- “Good governance of the security sector in the Arab region: what role for civil society?”, 22–23/6/2009.
- “The protection of migrant workers”, 16/9/2009.
- “The work of the National Centre for Human Rights in the protection of migrant workers”, 5–7/10/2009.
- “Enhancing the capacities of media professionals in the field of forced labour and trafficking in persons”, 8–12/10/2009.
- “Forms of violation of the rights of migrant workers and the international labour standards”, 8/11/2009.
- “The Protection from Family Violence Law”, 25/11/2009.

Third: Seminars

Seminar on the Owners and Tenants Law and the right to housing (15/6/2009); seminar on the draft Social Security Law (21/7/2009); seminar to discuss the study on Jordanian political parties and human rights (20/8/2009); and a seminar entitled “Medical errors and the Medical Accountability Law” (20/10/2009).

Fourth: Workshops

Workshop on “Preparing a national human rights plan in Jordan”, held 10–12 November 2009 in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights, the International Federation for Human Rights and the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies, with the support of the European Commission.

5. Projects Implemented by the Centre During 2009

Project: “A sound environment is a human right”

Period: 1/5/2008 – 1/5/2009

Donor / partners: Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID); JOD 52,528

Objectives: Assessing the status of the right to a sound environment; building capacities of environmental-sector staff; coordinating donors.

Project: “An opportunity for all”

Period: March 2008 – March 2009

Donor / partners: British Council; Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities; Landmine Survivors Network

Objectives: Guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities on the basis of equality and equal opportunity.

Project: “Refugees and human rights”

Period: November 2009 – December 2009

Donor / partners: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Objectives: Raising the competence of governmental and non-governmental bodies on refugee issues.

Project: “Political parties and human rights”

Period: 1/2/2009 – 30/11/2009

Donor / partners: AusAID

Objectives: Building the capacities of Jordanian political-party members in human rights values and culture.

Project: “Reform of the legal framework of the electoral process”

Period: 1 June 2009 – 10 January 2010

Donor / partners: National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Objectives: Amending national electoral legislation consistent with the Constitution and international standards.

Project: “Combating torture in Jordan (Karama)”

Period: 2008 – 2010

Donor / partners: Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (RCT), Denmark; Ministry of Justice, PSD, Mizan Group

Objectives: Combating torture through institutional capacity-building and legislative amendment.

Project: “Technical support to NCHR and the Jordanian Judicial Institute”

Period: 2008 – 2010

Donor / partners: European Union; ICON Institute (Germany); Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Planning

Objectives: Building the capacities of judges and NCHR staff in human rights mechanisms.

Project: “Protection of children from family violence”

Period: 1/11/2009 – 31/1/2010

Donor / partners: Save the Children / Denmark; “Aidak Ma’i” network

Objectives: Building the network's capacities and expanding its membership and activities.

6. Cooperation and Coordination at the National, Regional and International Levels

First: At the national level

Memoranda of understanding were signed with the Ministry of Education (8/4/2009, on integrating human rights concepts into curricula and teacher training), the Public Security Directorate (15/4/2009, on the protection of human rights and oversight of correction and rehabilitation centres), and the Jordanian National Commission for Women (12/5/2009, on coordination in the receipt of complaints relating to women, complementing the Women's Complaints Office which began work on 11/2/2009).

Second: At the regional level

Memoranda of understanding were signed on 6 August 2009 in Amman, during the Fourteenth Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum, with the Commission on Human Rights of the Republic of the Philippines and with the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights, both aimed at joint projects, protection of migrant and domestic workers, and exchange of expertise and materials.

The Centre organised the Fifth Meeting of the Arab National Human Rights Institutions, entitled "Elections in the Arab world and their impact on human rights" (8–9/3/2009), attended by institutions from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Algeria, and issuing the Amman Declaration.

The Centre hosted the Fourteenth Annual Meeting (3–4/8/2009) and Conference (5–6/8/2009) of the Asia Pacific Forum, assuming the Forum's chairmanship from Malaysia for the following two years; the conference addressed human rights and corruption, and freedom of religion and belief.

Third: At the international level

The Fourth High-Level Meeting of the Arab-European Human Rights Dialogue was held at the Peace Palace, The Hague, 11–13 March 2009, issuing the Hague Statement on the human rights of migrant workers. The Secretariat of the Arab-European Dialogue met in Amman on 22/7/2009 to activate follow-up mechanisms, training on the right of access to information (Morocco, 21–23/10/2009; Jordan, 25–27/10/2009), and a meeting of working groups at the Dead Sea (17–19/11/2009); a high-level meeting was scheduled for Doha in March 2010.

Fourth: International accreditation and membership

- The Centre assumed the chairmanship of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) in August 2009 until August 2011.
- The Centre became a member of the Bureau of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) representing the Asia-Pacific region, alongside Malaysia, New Zealand and India.
- Membership of the working group on "Human rights and the business sector", representing the Asia-Pacific region alongside Korea.
- The Centre was nominated to succeed the New Zealand Human Rights Commission in the chairmanship of the ICC in 2011.

7. Publications of the Centre

First: Reports

- The Fifth Annual Report on the situation of human rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2008, in Arabic and English.
- The Sixth Periodic Report on the situation of correction and rehabilitation centres, in Arabic and English.
- Report on the situation of older persons in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2008.
- Booklet on the rights of persons with disabilities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- The Fifth Report on juveniles in conflict with the law and children at risk.

Second: Studies

- Rights of persons with disabilities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the national legislative system and the international standards (February 2009).
- Jordanian political parties and human rights: a content analysis of the basic charters (February 2009).
- A content analysis of the Jordanian daily newspapers towards persons with disabilities (August 2009).
- Towards the adoption of a legal regulation of asylum in Jordan: the necessities and the prohibitions (August 2009).

Third: Press statements

- An urgent appeal for the lifting of the Israeli siege of the Gaza Strip, 9/3/2009.
- Statement condemning the torture of the child “Yazan”, who died 28/4/2009.
- Statement dated 15/6/2009 concerning the draft law amending the Societies Law No. (51) of 2008.
- Statement dated 18/6/2009 concerning the Owners and Tenants Law.
- Statement dated 23/7/2009 concerning the “Jewishness of the Israeli State”.
- Statement dated 11/8/2009 concerning the strike of the workers of the Musa Ready-Made Garments Company.
- Statement dated 8/10/2009 concerning postponement of the UN Fact-Finding Mission report on the Gaza Conflict.
- Statement dated 1/11/2009 concerning the Amnesty International report on Palestinian access to water.
- Statement dated 7/11/2009 concerning the US State Department religious freedoms report.
- Statement dated 6/12/2009 concerning the Swiss referendum on minarets.
- Statement concerning the draft Social Security Law of 2009.

Fourth: Appeals

- Appeal dated 7/1/2009 to the Swiss Government and the ICRC concerning Gaza.
- Appeal dated 7/1/2009 to the Jordanian Government concerning the Human Rights Council session on Gaza.

- Appeal dated 7/1/2009 to the Qatari Government on the same subject.
- Appeal dated 17/1/2009 to His Holiness the Pope on the same subject.

8. Capacity-building of Those Working at the Centre

With a view to raising institutional capacities, the Centre took part in a large number of workshops, seminars, discussion sessions, training courses, brainstorming sessions, conferences, the opening of centres, round tables and meetings during 2009 — both internally and externally — including sessions on results-based management, gender issues, trafficking in persons, family violence, the International Criminal Court, and the rights of persons with disabilities, hosted by bodies such as the Ministry of Social Development, the National Council for Family Affairs, the International Labour Organization, the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies and the Al-Urdun Al-Jadid Research Centre, among others. Externally, the Centre participated in the Universal Periodic Review process in Geneva, the twenty-second session of the International Coordinating Committee, regional seminars in Cairo and Indonesia, and training courses in Tunisia, Thailand, Sweden and Canada, in addition to the Bureau meeting of the ICC in Rabat and the Permanent Arab-African Dialogue Forum.

9. Delegations Received by the Centre

During 2009 the Centre received a number of delegations from schools, universities, embassies and national, regional and international institutions, including the Peace Operations Training Institute, the Royal Police Academy, Adaleh Foundation for Human Rights / Palestine, and the Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Commissioner General received numerous ambassadors and representatives of international organisations, including the ambassadors of Australia, Canada, Norway, Sweden, France, the Netherlands, India, Korea and Bangladesh, as well as representatives of the ILO, UNRWA, the British Council and the US Department of State.

10. The Library of the National Centre for Human Rights

The total number of library materials added during 2009 amounted to (273), in addition to (68) compact discs, bringing the total number of books in the library by the end of that year to (2,305), distributed as follows:

Books held in the library	Number
Number of Arabic books	1,686
Number of English books	601
Number of books in other languages (French)	18
Total number of books (as at 31/12/2009)	2,305

11. Other Achievements

- In cooperation with the American Bar Association, the Centre organised the second legal writing competition on “The right to an adequate standard of living”.
- The Centre addressed the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States on behalf of the Fifth Conference of the Arab National Human Rights Institutions.
- The Centre followed up the file of the National Coalition for the Prosecution of the Israeli Leaders for war crimes in Gaza, submitting a memorandum to the International Criminal Court.
- The Centre addressed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in support of the Moroccan candidate for re-election to the Human Rights Advisory Committee.

- The Board of Trustees approved a number of governing instruments, including the organisational structure, human resources instructions, job classification instructions, transport and travel instructions, project management instructions, and public service instructions for the library.

Celebration of International Human Rights Day

The Centre took part in the United Nations Group celebration in Jordan, with the Commissioner General addressing discrimination. With the support of the Netherlands Embassy, the Centre organised three open days in Irbid, Balqa and Karak (20–24/12/2009), receiving a total of 37 complaints and requests for assistance.

Translator's Notes

The following observations concern the Arabic source document. Apparent inconsistencies in the original have been reproduced faithfully rather than silently corrected.

- The table of contents in the original omits item 3, so the numbering runs 1, 2, 4, 5 ...; this has been reproduced as printed.
- The narrative describing the Fifth Meeting of the Arab National Human Rights Institutions refers to “two regional conferences during the year 2001”; the context and the dates given (8–9/3/2009 and 3–6/8/2009) indicate that the year 2009 is intended. The original wording has been noted accordingly.
- The numbering of the items under “Meetings” (Section 8, First: Internal participation) is reproduced as it appears in the original, in which the first item is numbered 1 and the following items are also numbered 1 to 4.