



THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2008

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ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2008

Introduction

The report on the achievements of the National Centre for Human Rights is regarded as an attempt to monitor and document the achievements realised by the Centre during the year 2008. This report has been organised into ten fields consistent with the objectives and mission of the Centre, whether relating to the role of the Centre in amending Jordanian legislation so as to bring it into line with the international principles and standards embodied in the international human rights conventions, or to the protection and promotion of human rights, or to training and awareness-raising, or to building the institutional capacities of the Centre and of its staff. It is hoped that this report will present a comprehensive picture of the Centre's activities that may be used, on the one hand, in evaluating its work by reference to the objectives sought by the Centre and, on the other hand, in assisting in the drawing up of the Centre's future plans. Given that this endeavour is the first of its kind, it is open to development and amendment, and I therefore very much hope that the Centre's Board of Trustees and all those who read the report will not withhold from me their observations and comments, which will be taken as a basis for the development of this report in the years to come.

In conclusion, I should like to thank our colleagues Amani Hassounah, Lara Yassin and Mays Al-Momani for their diligent work in preparing the report, and our colleague Muna Abu Sal for the design and layout of the report.

**The Commissioner General
Dr. Muhyieddeen Touq**

1. Legislation, Strategies and Plans

In furtherance of the objectives of the Centre, represented in following up the developments affecting national legislation relating to human rights and in working towards its harmonisation in a manner consistent with the international conventions and standards by which Jordan is bound, the Centre followed up work on the following legislation with the competent official authorities:

- Review of the draft Juveniles Law.
- The regulation on the licensing and administration of residential childcare homes.
- Study of the Jordanian Penal Code and its amendments.
- Discussion and analysis of the draft Rights of the Child Law.
- Discussion of the Protection from Family Violence Law.
- Participation in the legal committee for the review of the Medical Liability Law.
- Discussion of the Law on Temporary Employees.
- Participation in the amendments to the National Red Crescent Society Law.
- Participation in the drafting of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.
- Discussion of the draft Public Gatherings Law.
- Discussion of the Societies Law.
- Discussion of the Labour Law.
- Participation in the formulation of the National Strategy for Older Persons.

The Centre succeeded in introducing a number of important amendments to certain laws, such as the Labour Law and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, and continues to work towards introducing the amendments it considers necessary to other laws, such as the Penal Code and the Societies Law.

2. Protection of Human Rights and Monitoring of Violations

2.1 Monitoring of violations

The Centre conducted a series of field visits to a number of centres, juvenile care homes, homes for older persons and factories, with a view to inspecting and assessing the conditions of those facilities and monitoring any potential human rights violations therein, as follows:

- The Centre carried out (22) visits to correction and rehabilitation centres, in cooperation and coordination with the Office of Grievances and Human Rights at the Public Security Directorate, and issued a documentary report on each visit.
- It carried out (18) visits to detention and temporary custody centres, in cooperation with the Office of Grievances and Human Rights at the Public Security Directorate.
- Two visits to the detention centres of the General Intelligence Department.
- The Centre issued its Sixth Periodic Report on the conditions of the correction and rehabilitation centres in the Kingdom.
- The Centre carried out (9) visits to social defence institutions in order to monitor violations relating to children in conflict with the law, in coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, to assess their conditions and to receive complaints directly from the children.
- It carried out (8) visits to places of detention and to the security offices dealing with juveniles; documentary reports were prepared on these visits and on the violations monitored.
- The Centre issued its Fourth Periodic Report on juvenile justice.
- Visits to homes for older persons for the purpose of ascertaining the level of the care services provided to older persons and assessing their conditions in accordance with the relevant national and international standards, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development; (11) visits were carried out.
- The Centre carried out a series of visits to the qualifying industrial zones in the Kingdom with a view to monitoring the conditions of the factories and of the workers therein; these visits numbered (7).

2.2 Complaints of human rights violations

The total number of complaints received by the Centre in the present year amounted to (373) complaints, compared with a total of (422) complaints in 2007. The number of complaints relating to civil and political rights was (258), while the number of complaints relating to economic, social and cultural rights was (115). A total of (111) complaints were closed with a satisfactory outcome, representing (29.76%), while the number of complaints still under follow-up amounted to (117) complaints, representing (31.37%). The table below sets out these complaints in detail.

Total number of complaints received by the National Centre for Human Rights, according to the right alleged to have been violated, for the year 2008

Right forming the subject of the complaint	No. of complaints	Closed with a satisfactory outcome	Closed without a satisfactory outcome	Outside the Centre's mandate	Under follow-up	Failure of the complainant to cooperate
Recognition as a person before the law (nationality)	7	1	—	—	6	—
The right to physical integrity	30	7	4	2	15	2
The right to freedom of residence and movement	33	11	1	2	17	2
The right to asylum	3	—	—	2	1	—
The right to vote	1	—	—	1	—	—
The right to life	7	—	3	1	3	—
The right to liberty and security of person	38	12	5	7	10	4
The right to humane treatment	29	8	6	—	12	3
Labour rights	31	7	2	7	15	—
The right to social security	9	4	—	2	3	—
The right of access to public office	4	—	2	1	1	—
The rights of prisoners	4	4	—	—	—	—
The right to health	7	3	1	—	2	1
The right to education	11	6	1	—	3	1
The right to equality and non-discrimination	1	1	—	—	—	—
The right to a fair trial	47	11	1	20	11	4
The right to obtain identity documents	45	19	3	20	2	1
The rights of women and children	8	2	—	4	1	1
The rights of persons with disabilities	4	1	1	1	—	—
The rights of juveniles	4	1	1	2	—	—
The right to an adequate standard of living	1	—	1	—	—	—
The right to housing	2	—	—	2	—	—
The right to freedom of opinion and expression	1	—	—	1	—	—
The right to property	7	—	—	4	3	—
The right to a healthy environment	1	—	—	—	—	1
The right to work	37	12	5	6	12	2
The right to join trade unions	1	—	—	1	—	—
Grand total	373	111	37	86	117	22

2.3 Requests for assistance received by the Centre

The total number of requests for assistance received by the Centre in the present year amounted to (244) requests, compared with (288) requests in 2007. The number of requests for assistance relating to civil and political rights was (144) requests, while the number of requests relating to economic, social and cultural rights was (100) requests. A total of (71) requests, representing (29.10%), were closed successfully, while the number of requests closed without a satisfactory outcome amounted to (13) requests, representing (5.33%). The number of requests still under follow-up amounted to (125) requests, representing (51.22%). The table below sets out these requests in detail.

Total number of requests for assistance received by the National Centre for Human Rights, by right, for the year 2008

Right forming the subject of the request for assistance	No. of complaints	Closed with a satisfactory outcome	Closed without a satisfactory outcome	Outside the Centre's mandate	Under follow-up	Failure of the complainant to cooperate
Recognition as a person before the law (nationality)	8	3	1	2	2	—
The right to physical integrity	8	2	—	—	6	—
The right to freedom of residence and movement	56	25	—	3	27	1
The right to life	—	—	—	—	—	—
The right to humane treatment	1	—	—	—	1	—
The right to liberty and security of person	10	1	1	—	5	3
The right to health	12	3	1	—	5	3
Labour rights	13	3	—	—	10	—
The right to work	35	3	3	2	27	—
The right to social security	8	3	2	1	2	—
The right to property	—	—	—	—	—	—
The right to housing	2	1	—	—	—	1
The right to an adequate standard of living	8	1	1	1	5	—
The right to a healthy environment	1	—	—	1	—	—
The right to freedom of thought and religion	1	—	—	—	—	1
The right to a fair trial	11	3	1	3	2	2
The rights of women and children	8	2	—	3	2	1
The rights of juveniles	1	—	—	—	1	—
The rights of persons with disabilities	4	2	—	—	2	—
The right to obtain identity documents	37	6	2	1	25	3
The right to education	8	3	—	1	2	2
The right to asylum	4	2	1	—	1	—
The rights of juveniles	2	2	—	—	—	—
The right to freedom of opinion and expression	1	1	—	—	—	—
The rights of prisoners	5	5	—	—	—	—
Grand total	244	71	13	18	125	17

3. Awareness-raising and Training

In furtherance of the objectives of the Centre, represented in disseminating and promoting the principles of human rights, a number of relevant courses, seminars and conferences were held, including the following:

3.1 Training courses

- A course on human rights and refugees, in cooperation with CARE International and the Family Development Association, during the period 20–21/1/2008, from which a number of refugees and members of civil society organisations providing services to refugees benefited.
- A course on skills training for student leaders to combat verbal violence in the Jordanian universities, during the period 13–14/2/2008, in cooperation with Zarqa Private University.
- A training course on the role of Arab diplomats in supporting and promoting human rights, at the Arab Institute for Human Rights, during the period 2–3/2/2008.
- A training course on confronting violence against women, in cooperation with the Sayyidat Al-Taybeh Society / Irbid, during the period 14–16/4/2008.
- A course to train trainers in the field of human rights and good governance for the supervisors of the Al-Rasheed Youth Centres at the Higher Council for Youth, in cooperation with the Ministry of Political Development, during the periods 4–11/5 and 17–24/5/2008.
- A course on human rights for Jordanian diplomatic attachés, in cooperation with the Jordanian Institute of Diplomacy, during the period 7–8/5/2008.
- A series of training courses held throughout the year at the Royal Police Academy for the directors and staff working in the correction and rehabilitation centres, in cooperation with the Prisons Development Office.
- The training of a group of students at the Centre through the Save the Children Foundation / Denmark, during the period 22/6 to 7/7/2008.
- Training in the first phase of the Leadership Capacity Building Project of the British Council, during the period 19–21/12/2008.

3.2 Lectures

- The delivery of a series of lectures on border management and security for officers, in cooperation with the Peace Operations Training Centre, entitled “The border system and human rights”.
- A lecture at the Hashemite Charity Organisation on the rights of refugees.
- A series of lectures on the problems of workers in Jordan for labour inspectors, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour.
- The delivery of a series of lectures on the rights and duties of the inmates of the correction and rehabilitation centres within the framework of international and national standards, through participation in the cultural season for inmates implemented by the Public Security Directorate.
- A series of lectures at the Vocational Training Corporation on the Jordanian Labour Law, during the month of March.
- A lecture at the Royal Police Academy introducing the working mechanism of the Centre, in the month of March.
- A lecture on human rights concepts and the Convention on the Rights of the Child for a number of pupils of the Jordanian International Schools for Girls, on 6/3/2008.
- An introductory lecture on the Centre's Legal Writing Competition, in the month of April.

- A series of lectures on the rights of the child at Maleeh Basic School, during the period 16, 27 and 28/4/2008.
- A series of lectures for the staff working in the correction and rehabilitation centres on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Convention against Torture, human rights concepts, and the rights and duties of the inmates of the correction and rehabilitation centres.
- A lecture introducing the rights of persons with disabilities in national legislation, in Mafraq, on 20/4/2008.
- A lecture on human rights in Jordan at the Jordanian Institute of Diplomacy for attachés, during the period 7–8/5/2008.
- A lecture on the rights of migrant workers in national legislation in practice, in Rabat, on 7/5/2008.
- A lecture on training local community leaders and governmental leaders to eliminate stigma and discrimination against AIDS patients, at the Friends of Development and Investment Society, on 12/5/2008.
- A lecture on comprehensive planning for disasters and preparedness to confront them, at the Hashemite Charity Organisation for Relief, Development and Arab and Islamic Cooperation, on 15/5/2008.
- A lecture on human rights concepts at the Peace Operations Training Institute of the Armed Forces in Zarqa, on 22/5/2008.
- A lecture introducing the working mechanism of the Centre at the University of Jordan, in the month of June.
- A lecture on the rights of migrant workers at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, on 11/6/2008.
- A lecture on trafficking in persons under Jordanian law, delivered to the ministerial committee preparing the draft law, in the month of July.
- A lecture on the rights of women in national legislation at the Al-Aqsa Charitable Society, on 9/7/2008.
- A lecture introducing the working mechanism of the Centre at the Royal Police Academy, in the month of July.
- A lecture on human rights and their effect in resolving conflict, at Al-Ittihad Secondary School for Girls, on 8/11/2008.
- A lecture on national legislation relating to work, at the Princess Basma Centre / Sahab area, on 10/11/2008.

3.3 Seminars and conferences

- The Third Arab–European Dialogue Conference for National Institutions, in Morocco, on 8/5/2008, organised by the National Centre for Human Rights and the Danish Institute for Human Rights; it forms part of a series of conferences held periodically on the margins of the Arab–European Dialogue Initiative.
- A brainstorming session on economic, social and cultural rights in the General Budget, on 4/6/2008.
- Participation in a televised programme on the rights of persons with disabilities and the role of the Centre in protecting them, within the framework of the “Jordanian House” programme, on 20/6/2008.
- The presentation of a working paper entitled the role of civil society organisations in combating crime, at the conference on enhancing cooperation between the public prosecution offices and civil society organisations – the Rule of Law Centre, on 10/8/2008.

- The working workshop on human rights for Jordanian diplomats.
- Contribution to coordination and facilitation in the Leadership Capacity Building Project of the British Council, during the period 22–23/8/2008.
- The presentation of a working paper on the Societies Law at the seminar held by the Musawah Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, on 24/8/2008.
- A working paper entitled “Detained children and ways of protecting them” at the conference “No place for children in war” – the Information and Research Centre, King Hussein Foundation – the International Child Network – Al-Quds University, on 19/10/2008.
- The presentation of a working paper on monitoring and documentation mechanisms in matters relating to juvenile justice, at the annual conference for children in difficult circumstances, in Amman, during the period 19–20/11/2008.
- A working paper entitled “The powers and privileges of the higher judicial councils and the criteria for their independence”, at the regional conference on the independence of the higher judicial councils, “the foremost challenge to the reform of judicial systems in North Africa and the Middle East”, organised by the International Federation for Human Rights and the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies, on 22/11/2008.
- The holding of a seminar on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Dignity and Justice for All), on 15/12/2008, at which His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Obeidat, the former President of the Board of Trustees of the National Centre for Human Rights, and His Excellency Mr. Shaher Bak and Mr. Waleed Al-Sa'di, the former Commissioners General of the Centre, were honoured.

The Centre also implemented a number of specialised training workshops and courses, which are referred to under the field of projects in this report.

4. Projects

The Centre implemented during this year a number of projects funded internally or externally, as follows:

First: Project on building the capacities of civil society organisations in writing the report of the non-governmental organisations on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child / the parallel report, and monitoring the rights of the child in Jordan

This project was implemented in cooperation with the Save the Children Foundation / Denmark during the period 1/6/2007 – 31/12/2008, through which the following was achieved:

- The holding of 3 training workshops in the north, centre and south of the Kingdom on the international standards and the national legal system for the rights of the child: in Aqaba during the period 29–31/1/2008; in Irbid during the period 25–27/2/2008; and in Amman during the period 8–10/3/2008.
- The holding of a training workshop on monitoring and documentation mechanisms and the writing of alternative reports on the rights of the child, in Amman during the period 20–24/4/2008.
- The holding of two training workshops in the centre and the south of the Kingdom on (networking skills and the management skills of the non-governmental organisations concerned with the rights of the child), in Amman during the period 3–6/5/2008, and in Aqaba during the period 29/6–1/7/2008.
- The holding of a preparatory working workshop for the launch of the network of non-governmental organisations and civil society institutions concerned with the rights of the child, in Amman on 7/7/2008.
- The holding of a training course on building the capacities of the member organisations of the network of non-governmental organisations and civil society institutions concerned with the protection of the rights of the child, during the period 28–30/10/2008.
- The holding of a training workshop entitled the skills of gaining advocacy for the rights of the child, during the period 28–29/11/2008.

This project resulted in the launch of the network of non-governmental organisations and civil society institutions concerned with the rights of the child (Eidak Ma'ee – “Your Hand in Mine”), in addition to the integration of young people as its friends and their training.

Second: The Sound Environment is a Human Right project

The implementation of this project began in cooperation with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) in the month of May 2008, in the course of which 3 regional working workshops were organised (in the north, centre and south of the Kingdom), which contributed to building the capacities of those working in the various environmental sectors. The first was held in the city of Aqaba during the period 25–28/8/2008, the second in the city of Irbid during the period 12–16/10/2008 and the third in the city of Amman during the period 17–20/11/2008.

Work was also begun under this project on the preparation of a study aimed at:

- Developing a vision of the environmental situation in Jordan in terms of problems, challenges and national initiatives.
- Analysing national legislation and the extent of its conformity with the international conventions.
- Evaluating the initiatives relating to the environment currently applied and formulating future strategies.

In addition, work was begun on the preparation of an information leaflet. The project is expected to be completed in the month of May 2009.

Third: Project on combating torture in Jordan (Karama)

The implementation of this project began with funding from the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (RCT) in Denmark, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Public Security Directorate and the Mizan Group for Law (a Jordanian human rights organisation), during the year 2008, in the course of which a brainstorming session was held with a view to forming a national team to monitor human rights violations in the correction and rehabilitation centres. The implementation of the project continues until the coming year 2010.

Fourth: Opportunity for All project

The implementation of this project began with funding from the British Council and in cooperation with the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and the Landmine Survivors Network, in the month of March 2008, in the course of which the following was achieved:

- The implementation of three training courses on the rights of persons with disabilities covering three regions of the Kingdom (north, centre, south), entitled (support for the effective participation of persons with disabilities and the influence of the media), during the period 12–24/2/2008.
- The holding of a training course targeting the visual and audio media, during the period 8–9/6/2008.
- Courses were held to build the capacities of persons with disabilities and of the organisations working with them concerning their rights, the arts and mechanisms of this field, and networking, communication and advocacy skills, as follows:
 1. Two training courses on (the integration of persons with disabilities) in Jerash during the period 20–22/10/2008 and in Irbid during the period 27–29/10/2008.
 2. Two training courses on (the integration of persons with disabilities) in Amman during the period 22–24/11/2008 and in Aqaba during the period 4–6/12/2008.
- The preparation of two studies on disability: the first entitled “Disability in Jordan under the national legislative system and international standards”, and the second entitled “The media and disability”.
- The establishment of the Opportunity for All network, composed of 101 representatives of civil society organisations and governmental institutions.
- The establishment of 4 special committees for gaining advocacy and support concerning the right to work of persons with disabilities.
- The holding of an employment fair for persons with disabilities on the Arab Day for Persons with Disabilities.

The project is expected to be completed in the month of March 2009.

Fifth: Project of technical support provided to both the National Centre for Human Rights and the Jordanian Judicial Institute

The implementation of this project began by the German ICON Institute for Public Sector (ICON), with funding from the European Union and in cooperation with the Jordanian Judicial Institute and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, during the year 2008. The project consists of the following components:

1. Strengthening the institutional capacities of the Jordanian Judicial Institute.
2. Developing training in the field of human rights among the graduates of the Jordanian Judicial Institute.

3. Strengthening the institutional capacities of the National Centre for Human Rights.
4. Awareness-raising and the promotion of human rights within the National Centre for Human Rights.

The implementation of the project continues until the coming year 2010.

Sixth: Refugees and Human Rights project

This project was implemented in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees during the year 2008, through which the following was achieved:

- The holding of two training courses for those working in the governmental apparatus in the field of refugee issues and human rights:
 1. The first, during the period 7–10/4/2008, with the participation of (17) participants from the various official State institutions and the regular and military judiciary.
 2. The second, during the period 27–31/7/2008, with the participation of 20 participants from the various ministries, the civil governmental institutions, the military and the judiciary.
- The holding of a refresher course for the participants in the training-of-trainers course in the field of refugee issues and human rights for the current year, during the period 26–27/5/2008, with 11 participants.
- The holding of a course for the Jordanian non-governmental organisations and media professionals in the field of human rights and refugee issues, during the period 29/6–2/7/2008, with 16 participants.
- The holding of a training-of-trainers course in the field of human rights and refugee issues for the official institutions and non-governmental organisations, in two phases: the first during the period 14–18/10/2008 and the second during the period 4–11/11/2008, in which 18 participants took part.
- The preparation of a draft study on the necessity of adopting a national asylum law in Jordan, in cooperation with one of the specialised researchers.

This project resulted in the training of 82 participants in the field of human rights and refugee issues.

Seventh: Project on strengthening the legal framework for the right of assembly in the Arab world through national dialogue and strengthening the capacities of civil society

The implementation of this project was begun by the National Centre for Human Rights (Jordan), the Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity (Lebanon), the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (Egypt) and the Coalition for Integrity and Accountability / AMAN (Palestine), during the year 2007, with funding from the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. During the year 2008 the following activities were held:

- A conference entitled (enhancing dialogue between governments and civil society organisations with a view to amending laws), organised by the National Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, on 7/1/2008.
- An international conference entitled (enhancing dialogue between governments and civil society and legislative reform), in Cairo / Egypt, during the period 15–18/1/2008.
- A seminar entitled (freedom to form political parties in the light of international standards and the Political Parties Law No. (19) of 2007), on 18/6/2008.
- The regional meeting on (a code of conduct for civil society and a charter for the democratic practice of political parties), during the period 23–24/6/2008, in Beirut – Lebanon.

- A seminar on (the draft Societies Law in the light of the Jordanian Constitution and international standards), on 20/6/2008.
- A seminar entitled (trade union freedoms in international and Jordanian law), on 21/10/2008.
- A conference (the ethical responsibility of civil society organisations in the Arab world and the right to freedom of assembly), held during the period 18–20/11/2008, in Cairo / Egypt.

The implementation of this project continues until the coming year 2009, and there is a complementary project to it in the year 2010.

5. National, Regional and International Relations

5.1 International accreditation and membership of councils and committees

- The obtaining of status (A) with the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), which is the highest status, the Centre thereby being one of three Arab States to have obtained this status.
- The obtaining of membership of the Advisory Council of Jurists (ACJ) of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), which was established in 1998 to provide independent and credible advice on international law and human rights standards, and which is composed of eminent jurists.
- The National Centre for Human Rights enjoys membership of the advisory committee of the project on monitoring and documenting the criminal trial proceedings of women in cases of violence against women before the Jordanian judiciary, which aims to monitor and document the trials of women in cases of violence against women, and which is implemented by the Arab Women's Legal Network.
- The National Centre for Human Rights is a member of the National Team for the Protection of the Family from Violence, which aims to attain a family free from violence.

5.2 Memoranda of understanding

- The National Centre for Human Rights signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministries of Justice and Social Development on a coordination mechanism and the exchange of information in the field of juvenile justice, and in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, on 5/February/2008, with a view to ensuring joint governmental work to develop the juvenile justice system, and in furtherance of State policy to develop this sector through increasing coordination, enhancing communication and joint work, exploiting the available resources and using the information, data and statistics available in order to improve governmental performance in achieving the best interests of juveniles, whether offenders or in need of protection and care, so as to ensure its implementation with high efficiency and effectiveness.
- The National Centre for Human Rights signed a cooperation memorandum with the Jordanian Political Monitor on 8/July/2008, under which the two parties exchange the documents and information that serve research and cooperation, exchange publications and hold various academic activities.
- The National Centre for Human Rights signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Human Rights in the Republic of Iraq on 13/July/2008, to broaden, develop and coordinate the bilateral cooperation relations between them in the fields of awareness-raising, training and research, and the holding of seminars and conferences to serve human rights issues in Jordan and Iraq in particular and in the Arab world in general.
- The National Centre for Human Rights signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Social Development on 28/July/2008, seeking to promote the principles of human rights at the level of thought, culture and practice, embodying the democratic approach, national dialogue and the dissemination of freedoms, guaranteeing political pluralism and the sovereignty of the law and respect for it, and working to acquaint citizens with their rights and obligations so as to achieve their participation in decision-making, through the holding of seminars and regional and international conferences, and the study and proposal of the legislation regulating freedom.
- The National Centre for Human Rights signed a memorandum of understanding for the "Opportunity for All Network" project with the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and the British Council, on 14/November/2008, seeking to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities on the basis of equality and equal opportunities, through disseminating awareness and education concerning the rights of persons with disabilities as provided for in the international and national

instruments, mobilising advocacy to give effect to their rights, building their capacities so as to guarantee the exercise of their rights as provided for in the international and national instruments, building their capacities so as to guarantee the exercise of their right to participate and to take part in decision-making, building the capacities of those working in civil society institutions, and building the capacities of media professionals specialised in writing on persons with disabilities.

- The National Centre for Human Rights signed a memorandum of understanding with a number of Jordanian partners (the Ministry of Justice, the Public Security Directorate and the Lawyers for Human Rights Group), and in cooperation with the Association for Research and Combating Torture in Denmark ("Mizan"), on 12/November/2008, in order to build the institutional capacities of the bodies enforcing the law preventing torture and cruel and inhuman treatment and in order to address how such violations are to be dealt with when they occur, and to document torture violations and ensure that cases of torture are referred to the judicial authorities and that the victim obtains compensation in accordance with international legal standards, and to work towards institutionalising cooperation and coordination between official institutions and civil society organisations, and to find the means necessary to achieve the objective of combating torture, and to work towards introducing amendments and specific reforms to national laws with a view to combating torture in Jordan.

5.3 Networking with civil society organisations

- The National Centre for Human Rights is the umbrella for the network of non-governmental organisations and civil society institutions concerned with the rights of the child (Eidak Ma'ee), which aims to monitor violations of the rights of the child and to raise them through awareness programmes and the amendment of legislation, and which also aims to prepare the parallel report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The National Centre for Human Rights is the umbrella and general coordinator of the national network to reduce violations of the rights of children, which was established in cooperation with the relevant national institutions within the framework of strengthening and developing criminal justice for children. This initiative proceeds from the activation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and of national laws, and specifically of the National Centre for Human Rights Law No. (51) of 2006.
- The National Centre for Human Rights is a member of the administrative body of the Opportunity for All network, which is composed of 101 representatives of civil society organisations and governmental institutions working in the field of disability, and which seeks to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities on the basis of equality and equal opportunities, in partnership with the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities, the British Council and the Landmine Survivors Network.
- The National Centre for Human Rights is a member of the network to combat violence against women chaired by the Jordanian National Commission for Women, which aims to monitor violations of the rights of women in Jordan and to raise them through awareness programmes and the amendment of the legislation relating to women.

6. Publications of the Centre

6.1 Reports and studies

- The National Centre for Human Rights issued its report on the conduct of the parliamentary elections for the year 2007, in the month of January 2008.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued its Fourth Annual Report on the state of human rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2007, covering the period extending from 1/January/2007 to 31/December/2008 [so in the original], in the month of March of the year 2008. This report was prepared by reference to international human rights standards and concepts, and by reference to the Constitution and national laws, as a basis for following up the development of the state of human rights in the Kingdom. The report consists of two chapters: the first addresses civil and political rights, while the second addresses economic, social and cultural rights.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued its Sixth Periodic Report on the conditions of the correction and rehabilitation centres in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2008, covering the period extending from 1/January/2008 to 31/December/2008, in the month of December 2008.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued its Fourth Periodic Report on juvenile justice for the year 2008.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued its First Periodic Report on the conditions of the homes for older persons in the Kingdom.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued the Universal Periodic Review report submitted to the Human Rights Council.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued a booklet entitled “The rights of persons with disabilities under national legislation and international standards”.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued two studies on disability: the first entitled “Disability in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the national legislative system and international standards”, and the second entitled “An analysis of the content of the Jordanian daily press towards persons with disabilities”.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued a study on the right to an adequate standard of living.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued a study on media freedoms in Jordan.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued a special procedural guide for juveniles at the security offices.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued a special procedural guide on the role of lawyers in the field of juvenile justice.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued a leaflet on the rights and duties of the inmates of the correction and rehabilitation centres, in cooperation with the Public Security Directorate.
- The National Centre for Human Rights contributed, together with the National Council for Family Affairs and civil society organisations, to the preparation of a study on the situation of children in Jordan.

6.2 Statements

The National Centre issued (17) press statements during the year 2008, as follows:

- A press statement dated 5/February/2008, in which it announced the opening of an office of the National Centre for Human Rights at the Suwaqa Correction and Rehabilitation Centre.
- A press statement dated 6/March/2008, in which the Centre called for the provision of international and urgent protection for the Gaza Strip and for the provision of international protection to halt the Israeli practices and violations against the Strip.
- A press statement dated 7/March/2008 on the conduct of the parliamentary elections for the year 2007.
- A press statement dated 17/March/2008, in which it announced the organisation by the National Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the American Bar Association, of the First Annual Research Competition in Legal Writing for the faculties of law of the Jordanian universities, in Amman; this competition aims to develop the spirit of research in the student and to develop the skills of writing, criticism and analysis, in addition to enabling the student to use legal language in research.
- A press statement dated 24/March/2008 concerning the issuance of its Fourth Annual Report on the state of human rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2007, through which it called for the amendment of the legislation regulating rights and freedoms.
- A press statement dated 16/April/2008 concerning the disturbances that took place in each of Juwaideh, Muwaqqar and Suwaqa prisons, through which the National Centre confirmed that the ill-treatment received by the inmates was the principal cause of the disturbance incidents in the three prisons, which coincided with unstudied transfer operations of inmates for the purposes of classification and segregation.
- A press statement dated 19/April/2008 concerning the launch of the National Plan for Human Rights Education, which aims to set new priorities for human rights education for the phase following the year 2011.
- A press statement dated 19/April/2008 concerning the approval by the members of the Board of Trustees of the National Centre for Human Rights of the resignation of the Commissioner General for Human Rights, His Excellency Mr. Shaher Bak, with effect from 1/May/2008.
- A press statement dated 10/July/2008 concerning the issuance of the Royal Will appointing His Excellency Dr. Adnan Badran as President of the Board of Trustees of the National Centre for Human Rights, in place of His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Obeidat, for the remaining term of the Council, on the basis of the text of Article (13/a) of the National Centre for Human Rights Law No. (51) of 2006.
- A press statement setting out the issuance of the Royal Will, by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. (2577) dated 26/August/2008, approving the appointment of His Excellency Dr. Muhyieddeen Touq as Commissioner General for Human Rights in the Kingdom, on the basis of the text of Article (13/a) of the National Centre for Human Rights Law No. (51) of 2006.
- A press statement dated 14/October/2009, in reply to the report of the international monitoring organisation entitled "Torture and impunity in Jordanian prisons: the failure of reforms in confronting the published abuses", which stated that the inmates of the correction and rehabilitation centres are subjected to a number of violations that conflict with Jordan's international obligations in the field of human rights protection, out of a concern for continued respect for and promotion of human rights in the Kingdom. The Centre drew attention to the fact that the facts and recommendations to which the aforementioned report referred had previously been dealt with in its special periodic reports on prisons for the years (2005, 2006, 2007). The National Centre had referred to a number of the violations to which the inmates of the correction and rehabilitation

centres are subjected, and which include violations amounting to torture, and it therefore called upon the Jordanian Government to adopt with all speed a national strategy for prison reform based on the principles of accountability, transparency and the rule of law, and to take a range of legislative, executive and judicial measures that are effective in promoting the rights of the inmates of the correction and rehabilitation centres, in conformity with the relevant international standards.

- A press statement dated 12/November/2009, in reply to the report of Amnesty International on Jordan entitled “Isolation and ill-treatment: domestic workers in Jordan are denied their rights”, which referred to thousands of migrant women workers being subjected to isolation, exploitation and ill-treatment, in addition to the weakness of protection from the State or its absence altogether. The National Centre for Human Rights drew attention to the fact that it had monitored the problems and difficulties suffered by female domestic workers in its reports issued in the years (2005, 2006, 2007), and that this was on the basis of the complaints received by the National Centre from the female workers themselves and from the relevant Jordanian embassies and from some owners of recruitment offices, which concerned inhuman conditions suffered by the female workers and which constitute a breach of Jordanian laws and of the international human rights standards embodied in the international conventions ratified by Jordan. The National Centre therefore called upon the Government to take a range of legislative, executive and judicial measures to promote the rights of migrant workers in conformity with international standards.
- The National Centre for Human Rights issued an urgent appeal to lift the siege on Gaza, dated 20/November/2008, addressed to the international and regional organisations and bodies, the United Nations organisations and its specialised bodies working in the field of human rights, the regional and international relief organisations and the other civil society organisations concerned with human rights, in order to bring pressure to bear on their countries' governments to take urgent and effective action to bring to an end this inhuman situation created by the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, and to lift the stifling siege on the basic necessities of life and on food and economic supplies – which of course does not absolve the Israeli occupying Power of the responsibilities imposed upon it under the provisions of international humanitarian law, and specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. It further affirmed the need to provide financial and material assistance in the form of food, medicine and medical supplies to save the lives of the elderly, women and children, in order to halt the crime of genocide being committed before the eyes of the international community.
- A press statement dated 20/November/2008, setting out the formation of a national team to monitor torture in cooperation with the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims / Denmark, joined by 11 brainstorming sessions to form a national monitoring team to combat torture, with the participation of a number of representatives of official institutions and of the civil anti-corruption body, the Public Security Directorate, the Judicial Council, the National Centre for Forensic Medicine, the Red Crescent, the National Centre for Mental Health, the Trade Union Freedoms Committee, the Bar Association, and a number of independent lawyers.
- A press statement dated 1/December/2008, confirming the resumption of the work of the National Centre and of the Office of Grievances and Human Rights attached to the Public Security Directorate at the Human Rights Office at the Suwaqa Correction and Rehabilitation Centre and its approval to receive the complaints and grievances of the inmates.
- A press statement issued by the “Opportunity for All Network” dated 15/December/2008 on the occasion of the Arab Day for Persons with Disabilities, which falls on 13/December.
- A press statement dated 28/December/2008, a statement condemning the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, in which the National Centre for Human Rights considers that what is taking place in the Gaza Strip is a collective execution of the Palestinian people before the eyes and ears of the civilised world, and an unprecedented case of the excessive use of armed force against an unarmed

civilian people, despite the Israeli attempts to give this abhorrent crime the character of an armed conflict; for the Gaza Strip remains a territory occupied by the Israeli authorities notwithstanding the partial withdrawal that has taken place, since they control the airspace and the land and sea crossings of the Strip, which imposes upon them the bearing of their legal responsibilities in accordance with international humanitarian law, and in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention which protects civilian populations.

7. Building the Capacities of the Centre's Staff

With a view to raising the institutional capacities of the Centre and building the capacities and skills of those working in it, the Centre took part in a number of training workshops and working workshops, both internally and externally. The following is an explanation of these forms of participation:

7.1 Internal participation

Type of participation	Title
Training workshops	1. A training workshop on results-based project management (RBM), organised by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), during the period 15–18/6/2008. 2. A training workshop on (facilitation skills), organised by the National Democratic Institute, during the period 20–21/10/2008. 3. A training workshop on (technical assistance for the establishment of a family justice centre model in Jordan), organised by a specialised development skills/consultancy provider, during the period 21–22/10/2008. 4. A training workshop on (discrimination against women in the Jordanian Penal Code), organised by the Family Development Association, during the period 26–27/10/2008. 5. A training workshop entitled (regulating popular referendums: means and best practices), organised by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, during the period 3–4/12/2008. 6. The training workshop on the work and functions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Jordan, organised by the Commissioner, on Wednesday 17/12/2008. 7. A training workshop entitled (the use of interviewing methods in family surveys), organised by the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research, during the period 20–25/12/2008.
Working workshops	1. A working workshop on a social study on the role of social controls in curbing juvenile delinquency, organised by the Ministry of Social Development, on 2/1/2008. 2. A consultative working workshop on the proposed strategic framework of the Ministry of Social Development for children in conflict with the law and children in need of protection and care, organised by the Ministry of Social Development, on 27/2/2008. 3. A working workshop for the launch of the initiative on (child-friendly budgets), organised by the National Council for Family Affairs, on 2/3/2008. 4. A working workshop for the resumption of consultation and discussion on the preparation of the special procedural guide for juveniles at the security offices, organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, on 5/3/2008. 5. A working workshop on (mobilising support and solidarity to combat violence against women), on 25/3/2008. 6. A working workshop entitled (coordination and participatory work to develop the services provided to victims of family violence), organised by the National Council for Family Affairs, on 8/6/2008. 7. A working workshop on (democratic statistics and governance), organised by the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research, during the period 30/6–4/7/2008. 8. A working workshop on (the electoral reform project), organised by the National Democratic Institute, on 23/8/2008. 9. A working workshop on (joint planning to combat violence against women), organised by the United Nations Population Fund, during the period 27–28/8/2008. 10. A working workshop on (the Access to Information Law), organised by the Higher Media Council, during the period 12–13/10/2008. 11. The national working workshop on (the provisions of the personal status laws in force in Jordan and those requiring amendment), organised by the Jordanian Women's Union, during the period 20–23/10/2008. 12. A regional working workshop on (human rights and confronting terrorism), organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, during the period 27–29/10/2008. 13. A working workshop on social gender, organised by the Al-Hussein Society for the Care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Physical Challenges, on Wednesday 19/11/2008. 14. A working workshop on (the role of the Ministry of Justice in supervising correction and rehabilitation centres), organised by the Ministry of Justice, during the period 4–11/12/2008. 15. A working workshop to discuss the draft behavioural surveillance policy for AIDS, organised by the Ministry of Health, during the period 2–4/12/2008.
Training courses	1. The basic training-of-trainers programme, organised by the National Institute for Training of Trainers / Al-Balqa University, during the period 2–27/3/2008.

Type of participation	Title
	2. A course on writing project proposals, organised by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), during the period 29/6–21/7/2008. 3. The second phase of the conflict resolution course, organised by the Institute of Diplomacy, during the period 5–7/2008. 4. Two training courses on international human rights mechanisms and conventions, organised by the Adaleh Centre for Human Rights Studies and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, during the period 6–17/7/2008 and the period 1–5/12/2008. 5. A training course on follow-up and evaluation processes, organised by the National Council for Family Affairs for the institutions members of the National Team for the Protection of the Family from Violence, during the period 7–10/9/2008. 6. A training course entitled (skills of mobilising support and advocacy in cases of violence against women), organised by the National Council for Family Affairs, during the period 13–16/10/2008. 7. The training course on (the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights), organised by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, during the period 19–23/10/2008. 8. A training course on (reviewing the environmental impact assessment report), organised by the Jordan Environment Society, during the period 9–13/11/2008. 9. A training course on the follow-up and computerised evaluation system for the institutions that took part in the preparation of the National Plan for Childhood, organised by the National Council for Family Affairs, during the period 23–27/11/2008. 10. A training course on (applying the two international human rights covenants at the national level), organised by the Adaleh Centre for Human Rights Studies, during the period 25–27/11/2008. 11. A training course in the field of health, social and psychological care for AIDS patients, organised by the Jordanian Family Planning Association, during the period 15–18/12/2008. 12. A course on developing leadership capacities in the local community, organised by the British Council, during the period 19–21/12/2008.
Meetings	1. A meeting for the preparation of the (family counselling policy document in Jordan), organised by the National Council for Family Affairs, on 20/4/2008. 2. The second meeting of the national committee concerned with the implementation of resolution 1325, at the invitation of the Jordanian National Commission for Women, on Thursday 30/10/2008. 3. A meeting on (the priority family-related civil society issues), held on 31/12/2008 at the National Council for Family Affairs.
Seminars	1. The international seminar on data, statistics and research in the field of disability, organised by the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability, during the period 26–27/3/2008. 2. A national seminar on (Jordan's preparations for the submission of the Universal Periodic Review report to the Human Rights Council), organised by the Adaleh Centre for Human Rights Studies, on 20/8/2008. 3. A national seminar entitled (enhancing social dialogue to confront the risks of economic changes), organised by the Arab Labour Organisation and the Ministry of Labour, during the period 20–22/10/2008. 4. A seminar entitled (the work of women and change in the family), organised by the Jordanian National Commission for Women, on Tuesday 21/10/2008. 5. A seminar entitled (the Personal Status Law ... a presentation of the Jordanian and Moroccan experiences), organised by the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, on Thursday 18/12/2008.
Conferences	1. The Third Youth Conference, organised by the Arab Thought Forum, during the period 14–15/7/2008. 2. A conference entitled (social work: exploring reality and expanding truth), organised by the British Council, during the period 7–8/10/2008. 3. The Euro-Mediterranean Relations Conference: between continuity and reinforcement, organised by the EUROMESCO Foundation and the Centre for Strategic Studies, during the period 16–17/10/2008. 4. A regional conference on (human rights and confronting terrorism), organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, during the period 27–29/10/2008. 5. The conference of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe on Mediterranean regional security in the region, organised by the Organisation. 6. An international conference entitled (parliaments and parliamentary systems), organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, on 6/11/2008. 7. The Fourth International Conference of the Global Network for the Support of Child Helplines, organised by the Nahr Al Urdun Foundation. 8. A conference on violence against children entitled (how violence affects children's lives), organised by Enfants du Monde – Droits de l'Homme (EMDH), during the period 18–20/11/2008.

Type of participation	Title
	9. A regional conference on (the role of higher judicial councils in reforming and ensuring the independence of judicial systems in North Africa and the Middle East), organised by the International Federation for Human Rights and the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies, during the period 22–23/11/2008.
International programmes	1. The International Visitor Programme in the United States of America, with a view to reviewing the American experience in the field of prisons, during May 2008. 2. The International Visitor Programme in the United States of America specialised in the subject of trafficking in persons, during June 2008.
Discussion sessions	1. A discussion session on (what follows the adoption of the Protection from Family Violence Law), on 24/1/2008, organised by the National Council for Family Affairs. 2. Several discussion sessions in various governorates on (the proposed amendments to the Personal Status Law), organised by the International Institute for Women's Solidarity, as follows: a discussion session on 21/2/2008 in the Governorate of Zarqa; a discussion session on 26/2/2008 in the Governorate of Mafraq; a discussion session on 28/2/2008 in the Governorate of Madaba. 3. A discussion session on (the achievements of the House of Representatives: reality and ambition), organised by the Jordanian Political Monitor, on Saturday 8/11/2008. 4. A discussion session on (the regulation for the operation of private offices for the recruitment and employment of non-Jordanian domestic workers, No. 30 of 2003), organised by the International Institute for Women's Solidarity, on Wednesday 12/11/2008. 5. A discussion session entitled (the issues of women with disabilities and the challenges of the twenty-first century: the reality and what is hoped for), organised by the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities.
Other	1. The open day for civil society institutions, organised by the Foundation for the Development of the Chief Coordinator of the (A Citizen in My Home) project, on Wednesday 30/7/2008. 2. A sit-in staged by thalassaemia patients, their families and young people, organised by the Jordanian Forum for Health Culture, on 15/10/2008. 3. (A forum on Iraqis in Jordan), organised by the Regional Centre for Human Security, on 23/10/2008. 4. The national meeting on the Protection from Family Violence Law, organised by the International Institute for Women's Solidarity, on 16/11/2008. 5. The celebration held by the French Embassy on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on 17/12/2008. 6. The celebration held by the coalition of civil society organisations on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on Thursday 18/12/2008. 7. The launch ceremony of (the national campaign for the legal awareness of Jordanian women), organised by the General Federation of Jordanian Women, on Thursday 18/12/2008. 8. The opening of the national awareness and health programme, organised by the General Trade Union of Workers in Petroleum and Chemicals in Jordan, on Monday 22/12/2008.

7.2 External participation

Type of participation	Title
Training workshops	1. A training workshop on (the evaluation and follow-up of the outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review process for the State reports submitted to the Human Rights Council), organised by the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt, on Wednesday 3/12/2008. 2. A training workshop on (Arab experiences in the field of election monitoring), organised by the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt, on Thursday 4/12/2008.
Working workshops	1. The regional working workshop on national human rights institutions and human rights defenders, organised by the Asia Pacific Forum, during the period 22–26/6/2008 in Doha / Qatar. 2. A working workshop on trafficking in persons, organised by the International Organization for Migration, during the period 23–24/7/2008 in Damascus – Syria.
Training courses	1. The training course for human rights managers held in Morocco during March 2008, organised by the Equitas Institute / Canada. 2. The second phase of the course on combating violence against women, held in Morocco – Casablanca during June 2008, organised by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute – Sweden. 3. A training course for staff of the complaints offices in the Arab organisations concerned with human rights, organised by the Regional Network of Arab Ombudsman Institutions, during the period 8–10/7/2008 in Tunisia. 4. The regional training course in the field of human rights, Anaitawi 18, organised by the Arab Institute for Human Rights, during the period 22–31/7/2008 in Tunisia. 5. A training course on (applying the two international human rights covenants at the national level), organised by the Adaleh Centre for Human Rights Studies, during the period 15–19/8/2008 in Sharm El Sheikh – Egypt. 6. The training course for trainers, organised by the Equitas Institute, during the period 2–9/11/2008 in Beirut – Lebanon. 7. A regional training course for national human rights institutions, organised by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, during the period 24/11–4/12/2008 in Bangkok – Thailand.
Meetings	1. The regional meeting on (a code of conduct for civil society and a charter for the democratic practice of political parties), organised by the European Union and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, during the period 23–24/6/2008 in Beirut – Lebanon. 2. The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the meeting of senior administrative officials (SEO), organised by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, during the period 28–31/7/2008 in Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia. 3. A consultative meeting with a view to establishing an Arab coalition of human rights and democracy associations, organised by the Gaddafi International Foundation for Charitable Associations and Development, during the period 18–20/10/2008 in Tripoli – Libya.
Conferences	1. The Second International Conference on (enhancing dialogue between governments and civil society and legislative reform), organised by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, during the period 16–17/1/2008 in Cairo – Egypt. 2. The Fourth Forum of Arab National Human Rights Institutions, held in Algeria during the period 18–20/3/2008. 3. A national conference on (the establishment of a national human rights institution in Bahrain), organised by the Asia Pacific Forum, during the period 21–22/7/2008 in Bahrain. 4. A conference on (the role of national human rights institutions and civil society organisations in a growing society), organised by the National Council for Human Rights, during the period 1–2/12/2008 in Cairo – Egypt. 5. The First Arab Conference on Human Rights, organised by the National Human Rights Committee in the State of Qatar, during the period 14–15/12/2008 in Qatar.

8. Delegations and Visits Received by the Centre

During the year 2008 the Centre received a number of internal and external delegations, as follows:

Internally

- The Peace Operations Training Institute / General Staff, on 11/2/2008.
- The Jordanian International Schools for Girls, on 25/2/2008.
- The Royal Police Academy, on 28/2/2008.
- The schools of the Pioneers International Academy, on 11/3/2008.
- The Royal Police Academy, on 14/3/2008.
- The Peace Operations Training Institute / General Staff, on 1/4/2008.
- A visit by a group of students of the Faculty of Political Science at Yarmouk University, on 16/4/2008.
- The Peace Operations Institute, on 10/5/2008.
- The Alternative Centre for Studies and Training, on 22/5/2008.
- The Royal Police Academy, on 12/6/2008.
- The Royal Police Academy, on 4/9/2008.
- Officers of the Royal Police Academy, on 11/9/2008.
- The Banat Al-Ghad Academy, on 14/10/2008.
- The Arab Pioneers Schools, on 2/11/2008.
- A visit by the members of the Public Freedoms Committee of the House of Representatives, on 23/11/2008.
- A visit by His Highness Prince Ra'ad bin Zeid, on 23/11/2008.
- The Royal Police Academy, on 4/12/2008.
- The Royal Police Academy, on 15/12/2008.

Externally

- The Committee on Foreign Affairs / European Parliament, on 16/1/2008.
- A delegation of the European Parliament / the Socialist Party, on 13/3/2008.
- A visit by the Australian Volunteers Organisation, on 27/5/2008.
- A visit by a delegation of the International Federation for Human Rights, in the month of June.
- A visit by the participants in the training course on “international human rights mechanisms and conventions” organised by the Adaleh Centre, on 17/7/2008.
- A visit by students from the British University of York to the Centre to acquaint themselves with its working mechanism, on 18/12/2008.

The Centre was also visited by a group of Arab and foreign ambassadors, such as the Tunisian, Algerian, Moroccan, Australian and Danish ambassadors. It was likewise visited by representatives of certain other embassies, including the British, German and Czech embassies.

The Centre was further visited by many representatives of the international bodies concerned with human rights in Jordan, such as: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the

International Committee of the Red Cross, the National Democratic Institute, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the British Council.

9. Books and Publications Received by the Library

The number of books received by the library of the National Centre for Human Rights during the year 2008 amounted to (127) books. The following table sets out the name of the book and the name of the publisher:

No.	Title of the book	Name of the publisher
1	Twelfth Annual Report: The Status of the Rights of the Palestinian Citizen during 2006.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
2	The State of Security Breakdown and the Weakness of the Rule of Law in the Territories of the Palestinian Authority.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
3	Attacks on Charitable Societies during the State of Emergency (14/6–13/7/2009).	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
4	Human Rights Violations in the Areas of the National Authority in the Light of the Armed Clashes that Broke Out in the Gaza Strip (21/6–2/7/2007).	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
5	Report on Media Freedoms in the Areas of the Palestinian Authority during the Period 15/6–30/11/2007.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
6	The Right to Work and to Hold Public Office: The Question of Terminating Temporary Employment Contracts; the Question of Suspending Employment Contracts and Appointments to Public Office – Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
7	Fact-Finding Report on the Events at Al-Najah National University on 24/7/2007.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
8	The Rights of the Child.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
9	The Death Penalty between the Applicable Legislation and International Standards.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
10	Police Laws in Palestine: Studies and Critical Observations.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
11	Report of the Investigation Committees.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
12	Report on Torture in Investigation.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
13	Guarantees for the Accused at the Stage of Preliminary Investigation.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
14	The State of the Judiciary and the Justice System in 2005.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
15	Freedom of Opinion and Expression in International Instruments and Local Legislation.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
16	Health Insurance Schemes in the Areas of the Palestinian National Authority.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
17	Imagining Coexistence: Restoring Humanity after Violent Ethnic Conflict.	Arab Thought Forum
18	How Does Democracy Succeed? Traditions of Civil Society in Modern Italy.	Robert D. Putnam; Inas Afat (trans.)
19	The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad.	Fareed Zakaria; Rida Khalifa (trans.)
20	Human Rights: A Study of the Jordanian Political System in the Light of the Different Political Systems.	Mustafa Abd al-Karim al-Adwan
21	Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in International Law and Islamic Law.	Jaber Ibrahim al-Rawi
22	International Human Rights Law.	Ghassan al-Jundi
23	Social Security Corporation: Annual Report.	Social Security Corporation
24	Social Security in Figures: Special Issue 2002–2006.	Social Security Corporation
25	Association of Banks: Twenty-Eighth Annual Report for 2006.	Association of Banks
26	Central Bank: Monthly Statistical Bulletin, Issue No. 11.	Central Bank
27	Human Rights.	Suhail Hussein al-Fatlawi
28	Human Rights between the Hammer of Terrorism and the Anvil of the West.	Hunayn al-Muhammadi Bawadi
29	Human Rights Law: Its Sources and its National and International Applications.	Al-Shafi'i Muhammad Bashir
30	International Human Rights Law: Sources and Means of Supervision (Part One).	Muhammad Yusuf Alwan; Muhammad Khalil al-Musa
31	Contemporary Trends in the Study of Democratic Theory.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies

No.	Title of the book	Name of the publisher
32	Contemporary Trends in Comparative Politics: The Transition from the State to Society and from Culture to the Market.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies
33	An Introduction to the Analysis of Public Policies.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies
34	An Introduction to Future Studies in Political Science.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies
35	Political Theory from an Islamic Civilisational Perspective: The Methodology of Political Renewal and the Experience of Contemporary Arab Reality.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies
36	Principles of Diplomatic and Consular Relations.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies
37	An Introduction to Understanding Conflict Settlement: War, Peace and the World Order.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies
38	Legitimacy and Politics: A Contribution to the Study of Political Law and Political Responsibility – A Theory of Political Development.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies
39	The Theory of Political Development.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies
40	Foreign Aid and Development in the Arab World: An Arab and Islamic Perspective.	Scientific Centre for Political Studies
41	Statistical Yearbook 2006.	Department of Statistics
42	Jordanian Studies in Human Rights.	Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies
43	Academic Freedoms and Creativity: A Theoretical and Applied Study in the Light of the Iraqi, Arab and International Experiences.	Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies
44	International Humanitarian Law: Texts and Mechanisms of Application.	Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies
45	Studies in Human Rights.	Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies
46	Electoral Systems in the World.	Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies
47	Human Rights and American Foreign Policy towards the Arab World.	Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies
48	The Right to a Fair Trial: A Study of Jordanian Legislation and Judicial Jurisprudence Compared with the International Instruments.	Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies
49	The Press and Responsible Freedom.	Jordan Press Foundation
50	The Impasse of Peace in the Palestinian–Israeli Negotiations.	Jordan Press Foundation
51	The Social, Economic and Educational Situation in the District of Dhiban: An Analytical Survey Study.	Jordan Press Foundation
52	The History of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: The Establishment and Development of the Emirate of East Jordan (1920–1929).	Jordan Press Foundation
53	The Availability of Legal and Social Protection for Women against Violence against Women.	Jordanian Centre for Social Research
54	Ru'us Aqlam: Controversial Issues in 100 Selected Articles.	Jordan Press Foundation
55	The Development of the Jordanian Press: 1920–1997.	Committee for the History of Jordan
56	The Administrative System in Jordan.	Committee for the History of Jordan
57	Radio and Television in Jordan.	Committee for the History of Jordan
58	The Regular Judiciary in Jordan.	Committee for the History of Jordan
59	Health in Jordan.	Committee for the History of Jordan
60	Housing in Jordan.	Committee for the History of Jordan
61	The Human Cost of Conflict.	Arab Thought Forum
62	Immunity: Before the Civil and Criminal Judiciary for Diplomatic, Consular and International Missions, with Particular Reference to the Positions of Jordanian Law in Text, Doctrine and Case Law.	Adli al-Nasir
63	Studies in the History of Bilad al-Sham – Palestine.	Muhammad Adnan al-Bakhit
64	Terrorism and Resistance in Law and in Islamic Sharia: Proceedings of the Annual Academic Conference of the Faculty of Law, Jerash Private University.	Jerash Private University
65	Al-Maseerah.	Centre for Family Awareness and Guidance
66	The International Criminal Court: Its Origin and System – A Fundamental Study of the History of the International Investigation Commissions and the Earlier International Criminal Courts.	Mahmoud Sharif Bassiouni
67	Prospects for Developing Educational Administration and Leadership in the Arab Countries “by Making Use of Distinguished International Experiences and Models”.	Arab Thought Forum
68	The Diagnostic Study of the Reality of Non-Formal Education in Jordan.	Ministry of Education
69	The Evaluation Study of the Comprehensive National Illiteracy Eradication Programme in Jordan.	Ministry of Education

No.	Title of the book	Name of the publisher
70	A Guide to Effective Administrative Communication.	Ministry of Education
71	Towards a Future Vision of the Educational System in Jordan: Forum on Education in a Future Jordan.	Ministry of Education
72	Jordan First: Jordan First from an Educational Perspective.	Ministry of Education
73	The Digital Divide: Civil Society, Information Poverty and the Worldwide Internet.	Pippa Norris; Hisham Abdullah (trans.)
74	The Hidden Dimension.	Edward T. Hall; Lamees Fu'ad al-Yahya (trans.)
75	Positive Approaches to Peacebuilding.	Cynthia Sampson; Mohammed Abu-Nimer; Claudia Liebler; Diana Whitney
76	The Mediation Process: Practical Strategies for Resolving Conflict.	Christopher Moore; Fu'ad Sarroji (trans.)
77	Natural Resources and Violent Conflict: Options and Actions.	Paul Collier; Ian Bannon; Fu'ad Sarroji (trans.)
78	Who Votes?	Raymond E. Wolfinger; Steven J. Rosenstone; Fu'ad Sarroji (trans.)
79	Freedom of Assembly: Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Enhancing Dialogue between Governments and Civil Society and Legislative Reform.	League of Arab States; European Union
80	Evaluation of the European Commission's Support to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Final Report 2007.	EuropeAid Co-operation Office; Directorate-General for Development; Directorate-General for External Relations
81	The Human Rights Committee.	University of Minnesota
82	The Right to Tell: The Role of Mass Media in Economic Development.	World Bank Institute
83	Towards Jordanian Transparency.	Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies
84	The Jordan Press Association: A History of an Absent Presence.	Arab Archives Institute
85	Supporting Arab Democracy: Why and How.	Council on Foreign Relations
86	Transformations of the Global Audiovisual Landscape: Current Problems.	Press and Information Sciences Institute; Konrad Adenauer Foundation
87	Arab Integrity Systems in Confronting Corruption: A Reference Book.	Transparency International
88	Anti-Corruption Conventions in the Middle East and North Africa: The Role of Civil Society in Making the Conventions Succeed.	Transparency International
89	Guide to Studies and Research on Jordanian Family Relations: Volume One, Studies from 2000–2005.	National Council for Family Affairs
90	The Role of the Judiciary in the Field of Juvenile Justice: A Specialised Guide for Judges and Public Prosecutors.	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
91	Guide to Jordanian Legislation relating to the Family.	National Council for Family Affairs
92	Human Rights and Law Enforcement: A Manual on Human Rights Training for the Police.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
93	Training Manual on Human Rights Monitoring.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
94	Does Humanity Win its Battle?	Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues
95	Arab Islamic Culture: Security and Identity.	Arab Thought Forum
96	Attacks on Charitable Societies during the State of Emergency (14/6–13/7/2007).	Nahla Abd al-Qader al-Momani
97	The Foundations of the Progress of the Arab World in the Twenty-First Century.	Arab Thought Forum
98	Prospects for Arab Cooperation, Regional and International: Proceedings of the Symposium held by the Arab Thought Forum in Kuwait, 2–4 November 2001.	Arab Thought Forum
99	The Training Guide for Staff of the Ministry of Social Development on the Foundations of Professional Practice and the Skills of Working with the Local Community.	Ministry of Social Development; Konrad Adenauer Foundation
100	An Intellectual and Cultural Journal.	Arab Thought Forum
101	The Media in the Arab States, Monitoring and Analysis: Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt.	Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity
102	The Judiciary in the Arab States, Monitoring and Analysis: Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt.	Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity
103	Parliament in the Arab States, Monitoring and Analysis: Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt.	Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity
104	The Global Humanitarian Order and Human Rights in the Arab World.	Arab Organisation for Human Rights
105	The Arab Experience in the Field of Juvenile Justice.	Arab Penal Reform Organisation; Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies

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106	Malaysian Journal on Human Rights 2007.	Malaysian Journal on Human Rights 2007
107	Catching Wind Human Rights.	International Council on Human Rights
108	Government action on the implementation of the standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities.	South North Center for dialogue and development
109	Towards a civic democratic Islamic discourse.	Alquds Center for political studies
110	Against Corruption: The Role of Arab Civil Society in Fighting Corruption.	Arab Archives Institute
111	Freedom fries: fried freedoms: Arab satellite channels struggle between state control and western pressure.	Arab Archives Institute
112	The Unwritten History: Jordan Press Association.	Arab Archives Institute
113	Towards transparency in Jordan.	Arab Archives Institute
114	Report on Developments 2005–2007.	Open Society Justice Initiative
115	China Human Rights Report 2006.	Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
116	Third Annual Report of the National Council for Human Rights – Human Rights Situation in Egypt 2006–2007.	Egypt: The National Council for Human Rights
117	International Conference Democracy and Human Rights in Africa – role of Human Rights Institutions.	Egypt: The National Council for Human Rights
118	Promoting the Rights of children with disabilities.	UNICEF
119	Education's missing millions: including disabled children in education through EFA FTI processes and national sector plans.	UK Department for International Development
120	Intercultural dialogue and Citizenship: Translating Values into Actions – A Common Project for Europeans and Their Partners.	Marsilio Editori
121	Human cost of conflict – Human Cost of Conflict Seminar, Amman 25–26/10/1998.	Arab Thought Forum
122	Human Rights in Islamic law.	Abu Dhabi
123	Attitudes and opinions on society, religion and politics in Kosovo.	UNESCO
124	Democrats waiting to prove themselves.	UNESCO
125	International relations in an uncertain hegemonial world system.	UNESCO
126	Challenges in military operations.	NATO defense college
127	Freedom from Poverty as a human right.	UNESCO

10. Other Achievements

- The opening of a Human Rights Office of the National Centre for Human Rights at the Suwaqa Correction and Rehabilitation Centre, on 3/February/2008.
- The adoption of the training materials of the National Centre for Human Rights (the rights and duties of inmates, human rights concepts, the Convention against Torture) within the training programme for the preparation of directors, officers and staff who will work in the correction and rehabilitation centres.
- The National Centre for Human Rights organised, in cooperation with the American Bar Association and judges, and in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, a competition on “the worst forms of child labour”. This competition targeted the students of the faculties of law of the Jordanian universities and dealt with the best research relating to the worst forms of child labour.
- The documentation and monitoring of the violations committed by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip since the most recent war on the Strip, on 26/December/2008.
- The National Centre for Human Rights followed up the file of the national coalition for the trial of the Israeli leaders for the war crimes committed in Gaza and submitted, on behalf of the coalition, a memorandum to the International Criminal Court calling upon it to begin the collection of information on the Israeli violations of human rights in Gaza and the violations of international humanitarian law.
- The President of the Board of Trustees and the Commissioner General held a meeting with the civil society institutions working in the field of human rights, at the premises of the Institute of Diplomacy, to discuss the principal orientations in the work of the Centre and the importance of joint work with civil society institutions.
- Following a visit by the President of the Board of Trustees of the Centre and the Commissioner General to the Prime Ministry on 8/10/2008, His Excellency the Prime Minister issued a circular to all State departments and institutions on the necessity of involving the National Centre for Human Rights in the discussion of draft laws and regulations relating to human rights.

About Us

The National Centre for Human Rights is an independent national institution enjoying legal personality under Law No. (51) of 2006, with financial and administrative independence and full independence in carrying on all intellectual, political and humanitarian activities and events relating to human rights. The Centre commenced its work on the first of June 2003.

Our Vision

The completion of the building of a society of justice and equality, the sovereignty of the law, the safeguarding of human dignity and the protection of public freedoms and the rights of citizens, in a climate of fraternity, tolerance and compassion among the members of our one great Jordanian family.

Our Mission

The protection of human rights, the dissemination of their culture, the monitoring of their situation, the provision of legal advice and assistance to those in need of it, the taking of the administrative and legal measures necessary to address complaints relating to violations of and infringements upon human rights, to put an end to them and to remove their effects, the preparation of studies and research, the holding of seminars and training courses, the management of campaigns, the declaration of positions, the issuance of statements and publications, and the preparation of the necessary reports.

Contact details of the National Centre for Human Rights

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Hotline for receiving complaints, 24 hours a day: (00962 – 6 – 5920396)

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Translator's Notes

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

5. Complaints table (page 8 of the original): the column “closed with a satisfactory outcome” shows a printed total of 111, whereas the individual cells in that column add up to 110. All other columns and the row totals reconcile exactly. The printed total of 111 is consistent with the percentage of 29.76% given in the accompanying narrative. The cell values and the printed total have both been reproduced as they appear.
6. Requests for assistance table (page 9 of the original): the second column is headed “number of complaints” (الشكاوى عدد) although the table concerns requests for assistance. The heading has been rendered as printed.
7. Requests for assistance table: the entry “rights of juveniles” appears twice (as the eighteenth and the twenty-third rows), and the rows for “the right to life” and “the right to property” are entirely empty. All are reproduced as printed. The column totals nevertheless reconcile exactly.
8. Reports and studies (page 22 of the original): the Fourth Annual Report for the year 2007 is stated to cover the period from 1/January/2007 to 31/December/2008. This appears to be an error in the original for 31/December/2007, and has been marked “[so in the original]” in the text.
9. Statements (page 23 of the original): two of the seventeen statements listed in the 2008 report are dated 14/October/2009 and 12/November/2009, that is, after the year covered by the report. The dates have been reproduced as printed.
10. Library table (page 35 of the original): item 3 and item 96 record what appears to be the same title, “Attacks on charitable societies during the state of emergency”, with different years (2009 and 2007 respectively) and different publishers. Both have been reproduced as printed.
11. The Arabic source was supplied as a scanned document without an underlying text layer. Personal names, institutional names and the dates appearing in the library table and in the participation tables have been read from the scanned images; the transliteration of personal names follows the most common English usage, and it is recommended that names, dates and figures be verified against the original before the translation is issued in final form.
12. Institutional names have been rendered in the English forms used by the institutions themselves where these are known (for example, the National Centre for Human Rights, the Public Security Directorate, the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities). Where an official English form could not be established, a literal rendering of the Arabic has been given.
13. Where the original places a word or phrase between parentheses or quotation marks, the same punctuation has been retained in the translation.