



The National Centre for Human Rights

Key Achievements of the National Centre for Human Rights for the Year 2022

Disclaimer

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This report on the achievements of the National Centre for Human Rights for the year 2022 sets out the tasks discharged by the Centre's commissions and directorates — monitoring, legislative, training and participatory alike — for the protection and promotion of human rights, pursuant to the powers vested in the Centre by virtue of the National Centre for Human Rights Act No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments, during the year 2022. These tasks and activities constituted the principal source and the cornerstone upon which the substance and the recommendations of the Nineteenth Annual Report were built.

Achievements of the Protection Commission for the Year 2022

The Protection Commission comprises four directorates, namely: the Directorate of Civil and Political Rights; the Directorate of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Directorate of Groups Most in Need of Protection; and the Directorate of International Mechanisms and Report Preparation.

First: Directorate of Civil and Political Rights

The Directorate comprises three units: the Complaints, Follow-up and Cessation of Violations Unit; the Criminal Justice Unit; and the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms Unit.

- **Complaints, Follow-up and Cessation of Violations Unit:** The Unit received (620) complaints during the year 2022. Direct contact was made with the entity complained against (as the circumstances required) and/or a communication was addressed setting out the substance of the complaint, grounded in an integrated legal analysis of the subject matter of the complaint by reference to the national legal system and to international human rights standards, following the registration of the complaint on the Centre's dedicated electronic system. The Unit issued (652) formal and informal communications to the entities concerned and received (404) replies from them. This was in addition to conducting a field visit (where necessary), following up, monitoring and verifying complaints in the field with the competent authorities, analysing the outputs, forming fact-finding committees on specialised subjects, preparing monitoring reports and following them up — including documenting their outputs in the Annual Report on the State of Human Rights — and preparing the relevant draft statements.
- **Criminal Justice Unit:** The Unit carried out a series of field visits to correction and rehabilitation centres — (95) visits — and to temporary detention centres — (15) visits — as follows:
 - 1 - Conducting announced and unannounced field visits to correction and rehabilitation centres and to temporary detention centres, with a view to examining the conditions of detention, the services afforded to inmates, and the extent of their conformity with national legislation and international human rights standards.
 - 2 - Conducting field visits to interview detainees, in order to verify the complaints submitted to the Centre concerning allegations of torture, ill-treatment, or cruel or inhuman treatment at the hands of law enforcement agencies, whether during the preliminary investigation stage or after their transfer to correction and rehabilitation centres.

- 3 - Following up detainees held on account of their participation in sit-ins and protest gatherings, or of their calling for such action, or on account of material they had published on social media platforms and elsewhere; and monitoring the grounds for their criminal prosecution, the circumstances of their detention and arrest, and the legal measures taken against them.
 - 4 - Conducting visits to those inmates who apply to meet the team of the National Centre for Human Rights through the Directorate of Correction and Rehabilitation Centres.
- **Fundamental Rights and Freedoms Unit**
 - 1 - Monitoring the conduct of electoral processes (parliamentary elections; the municipal, governorate and Greater Amman Municipality councils; professional associations, and others), namely:
 - Monitoring the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and Greater Amman Municipality, through field monitoring, analysis of the outputs, the issuance of statements during the polling stage, the preparation of a specialised report on the monitoring of the electoral process and its transmission to the entities concerned, its publication electronically, and the addressing of the official authorities with the monitoring observations and the related recommendations.
 - Monitoring the elections of the Council of the Jordan Bar Association 2022–2025, through field monitoring, analysis of the outputs, the issuance of statements during the polling stage, the preparation of a specialised report on the monitoring of the electoral process and its transmission to the entities concerned, its publication electronically, and the addressing of the official authorities with the monitoring observations and the related recommendations.
 - 2 - Monitoring specific to manifestations of peaceful assembly, consisting in the monitoring of sit-ins.

The most prominent sit-ins monitored by the Centre during the year 2022:

The sit-in of the unemployed in Karak Governorate / Faqqou‘; the sit-in of the unemployed in Madaba Governorate; the sit-in of Shari‘a lawyers / Capital Governorate; the sit-in of the pensioners of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company; the sit-in of the unemployed in Tafilah Governorate; the sit-in of category-three employees at the Ministry of Education; the sit-in of the affected proprietors of establishments before the Libyan Embassy, claiming compensation for the services they had rendered to their Libyan brethren during their arrival in Jordan; the sit-in of the employees of the Jordanian–Syrian Company before the Ministry of Local Administration, calling upon the company to disburse their salaries; the sit-in of the unemployed before the Royal Hashemite Court; the sit-in of teachers before the Ministry of Education; the sit-in of drivers working on licensed smart transport applications; the monitoring of the sit-in of the inhabitants of Al-Thughra village / Ma‘an Governorate; and the monitoring of the sit-in of truck owners.

- 3 - Monitoring the justice sector, through the preparation of a specialised list of monitoring issues concerning the justice sector, and the conduct of periodic field visits to the courts of the Kingdom across the three regions.

Second: Directorate of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Directorate comprises two units: the Right to Education Unit, and the Right to Health, Food and Environment Unit.

Key achievements of the Directorate during the year 2022:

- 1 - Conducting monitoring visits to (15) schools affiliated to the Ministry of Education, in order to examine the conditions of those schools and the extent to which pupils enjoy the right to education.
- 2 - Conducting (12) field monitoring visits to hospitals and primary health centres, in order to examine the reality of the health, curative and preventive services provided to citizens.

- 3 - Conducting (10) monitoring visits to certain areas suffering environmental pollution and water shortage.
- 4 - Carrying out the requisite verification concerning the incident of the explosion of a tanker laden with chlorine gas at the Port of Aqaba, which claimed the lives of 13 persons and injured 250, and preparing a report on the findings of the verification exercise; and addressing His Excellency the Minister of Health, the Minister of Labour, the Ministry of Transport, the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, the Social Security Corporation, the Aqaba Company for Ports Operation and Management, the Director of Civil Defence, and other entities, concerning the findings and recommendations reached by the National Centre's report on the incident. Communications were received from those entities confirming that they had taken up the said recommendations.
- 5 - Participating in the 2022 Regional Course on National Human Rights Institutions and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, organised by the Danish Institute for Human Rights, held from 24–29/10/2022 in Tunis.

Third: Directorate of Groups Most in Need of Protection

The Directorate comprises two units: the Women's Rights Unit, and the Unit for Persons with Disabilities, Older Persons, Juveniles and Children.

- 1 - Monitoring the conditions of juveniles in care homes, and the conditions of children in conflict with the law in education and rehabilitation homes, and preparing (8) monitoring reports on these visits; addressing the entities concerned and receiving their replies, which were incorporated into the Annual Report under the axis of groups most in need of protection.
- 2 - Monitoring the participation of women, persons with disabilities and older persons in the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and Greater Amman Municipality, and preparing a specialised monitoring report.
- 3 - Participating with the entities concerned in the preparation of the reports relating to Goal Five and Goal Ten of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 4 - Conducting visits for the purpose of monitoring the rights of older persons in residential care homes, and preparing three human rights monitoring reports; addressing the Ministry of Social Development with the outputs of those visits, receiving official replies from the Ministry and incorporating them into the Annual Report.
- 5 - Monitoring the participation of persons with disabilities in benefiting from the services provided by commercial banks, through the conduct of (41) visits, and preparing a specialised report.
- 6 - Preparing a research paper on monitoring the reality of violence against children.
- 7 - Conducting two field visits to homes for the care and rehabilitation of child beggars.
- 8 - Conducting three visits to family shelter homes for the purpose of monitoring the rights of women and preparing specialised reports.

Participation in Committees and the Preparation of Reports

- The Higher Steering Committee for Juvenile Justice
- The National Team for Protection from Family Violence
- The National Training Team on the Right of Access to Information
- The Media Complaints Committee – Media Commission
- The Legal Aid Committee at the Ministry of Justice
- The National Survey Committee on Access to Justice and Legal Aid Needs – Ministry of Justice
- The Youth and Peace Committee

- The Committee on Stipulations in Marriage Contracts
- The Equal Opportunities Committee, constituted pursuant to the provisions of Article 14 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act
- The Committee for Following up the Implementation of the National Plan for the Activation of Resolution 1325
- The Committee for the Establishment of a National Observatory on the Killing of Women, under the auspices of the National Centre for Human Rights
- The Sham‘a Network Committee for Combating Violence against Women
- The Committee for Following up the National Strategy for Older Persons
- The Pay Equity Committee
- The Team for the Preparation of the National Mental Health Strategy 2022–2026
- The Human Trafficking Committee
- The Advisory Committee for the Better Work Project administered by the International Labour Organization in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour
- The Team for the Preparation of the National Referral Mechanism and the Standard Operating Procedures for Dealing with Cases of Trafficking in Persons
- The preparation and submission of the shadow report on the Arab Charter on Human Rights

Statements Issued

The Protection Commission issued (19) press statements: (12) statements relating to civil and political rights; (5) statements relating to groups most in need of protection; and (2) statements relating to economic, social and cultural rights.

Achievements of the Promotion Commission for the Year 2022

The Promotion Commission comprises three directorates, namely: the Directorate of Awareness-Raising and Training; the Directorate of Studies and Documentation; and the Directorate of Legislation; in addition to the Projects Unit.

First: Directorate of Awareness-Raising and Training

The Directorate delivered (14) training courses and (12) lectures on human rights issues.

Second: Directorate of Studies and Documentation

The rights of rural women between national legislation and international standards.

- 1 - The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the phenomenon of school dropout.
- 2 - Gender-based violence against women.
- 3 - Preparing a report on the extent of enforcement of the recommendations issued in the Centre’s reports for the years 2012–2021.
Preparing a matrix of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review.
- 4 - Preparing a position paper on the right to establish political parties.
- 5 - Preparing a position paper on the right to establish associations.
- 6 - A study on the imprisonment of debtors in the light of the Execution Act and international standards.

- 7 - Expanding the umbrella of the Quadripartite Dialogue Forum through the accession of the National Assembly as a member of the Forum.
- 8 - Signing a memorandum of understanding with the Centre for Strategic Studies.
- 9 - Signing a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Statistics.
- 10 -Preparing a concept paper for the Quadripartite Dialogue Forum, with a view to strengthening and sustaining effective communication with the Centre.
- 11 -A report on the right to establish political parties as between the national perspective and international standards, according to the findings of the monitoring reports.
- 12 -Conducting eight field visits to a number of political parties for the purpose of monitoring the reality of political parties.
- 22 -Following up the two axes of the right to establish political parties and the right to form associations, and the developments relating thereto, throughout the year.
- 23 -Conducting 8 visits to the National Library and the Library of the University of Jordan for the purpose of preparing three studies concerning the level of human rights awareness.
- 24 -Conducting 4 visits to the Independent Election Commission in order to follow up developments in relation to the right to form political parties.
- 25 -Conducting 6 visits to the Ministry of Social Development in order to complete certain information required for the Annual Report.
- 26 -Conducting 4 visits to the Ministry of Political Affairs in order to complete information required for the Annual Report.

Third: Directorate of Legislation

- 1 - Preparing a legislative matrix comprising all laws and legislation of a human rights character during the year 2022, to serve as a mainstay of the Centre's legislative work.
- 2 - Participating in a legal committee for the study of the legislation addressed in the Eighteenth Annual Report 2021.
- 3 - Preparing legal opinions relating to a number of relevant legislative instruments during the year 2022, most notably the Elections Act, the Local Administration Act and the Political Parties Act.
- 4 - Preparing a position paper concerning the announcement of the Tribal Banishment (Jalwa) Regulation Instrument and the commencement of its application by the Ministry of the Interior.

Achievements of the Directorate of International Relations

1. Preparing the re-accreditation report of the Centre for the year 2022, and following up the accreditation procedures with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
2. Participating in the Annual Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the Asia Pacific Forum, and the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions.
3. Communicating and following up with the international mechanisms (treaty and non-treaty bodies alike) in respect of the timetable for the preparation and consideration of the shadow reports issued by the Centre.
4. Resuming the partnership programme with the Danish Institute for Human Rights in the field of human rights education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.
5. Participating in the Nineteenth Conference and General Assembly of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott.

6. The Centre's participation in the regional consultations for the Middle East and North Africa region on sustainable development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, held on 19/5/2022, and its contribution to the preparation of a working paper on the impact of sustainable development on equality and non-discrimination — the experience of the National Centre for Human Rights.
7. Participating in the regional seminar on the establishment of a national mechanism for the preparation and follow-up of reports to the international human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review, and the special procedures).
8. The Centre's participation in the training course on "The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Monitoring Human Rights, Receiving Complaints and Preparing Reports", organised by the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions, the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre – Doha Office, and the National Human Rights Commission of the Lebanese Republic, during the period 7–10/11/2022.
9. Following up with the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia (a national human rights institution) concerning frameworks of cooperation and partnership, and examining the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding for cooperation and the exchange of expertise.
10. Participating in the meeting of the Executive Bureau of National Human Rights Institutions, held in Marrakech during the period 27–28/10/2022.
11. The Centre's participation in the meeting of the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, held in Jeddah during the period 18–21/12/2022.
12. A meeting with the United Nations Envoy for Elections, in order to hear the National Centre's experience in monitoring and observing the parliamentary, governorate council and municipal elections.
13. Participating in the discussion session at the headquarters of the European Union Delegation for the representatives of the embassies of the European Union in Jordan, concerning the Seventeenth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights 2020.

Launch of the Eighteenth Annual Report

The National Centre for Human Rights issued its Eighteenth Annual Report during the year 2022, as a statutory obligation through which it presents an assessment and a description of the national human rights situation, proceeding from the competences and responsibilities vested in it under its Act No. 51 of 2006 and its amendments in respect of the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level. The Annual Report on the State of Human Rights constitutes a national instrument for sustaining communication and coordination with the three branches of government, pursuant to the text of Article (12) of the Centre's Act and its amendments, which provides for the submission of the Centre's report to each of the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Council of Ministers.

Submission of the Annual Report

The Centre submitted the Eighteenth Annual Report to His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, and it was received by the Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees delivered a copy of the Eighteenth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights to the Prime Minister, the Presidents of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the President of the Judicial Council, affirming the Centre's desire to institutionalise the relationship between it and the three branches of government in a manner that ensures the sustainability of coordination, increases its levels, and enhances the scale of the results sought from it — in particular within the framework of harmonising domestic laws with the Constitution and with

international conventions. All those entities, for their part, affirmed their support for the Centre in discharging its role and its national mission of entrenching respect for human rights.

Holding of Meetings

The National Centre for Human Rights held a number of television and radio interviews, in addition to courses and discussion sessions at universities and colleges, with a view to disseminating awareness and education on the content of the Annual Report. The Centre also participated by delivering a number of lectures and working papers on the Eighteenth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights, through the courses and discussion sessions organised by numerous civil society organisations.