



المركز الوطني لحقوق الإنسان
The National Centre for Human Rights

**Summary of the 19th Annual Report
on the Human Rights Situation
in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
for the year 2022**

Amman 2023



**His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al
Hussein May God Preserve and
Protect Him**





**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin
Abdullah II**

This report is a legal entitlement under Article 21 of the National Center for Human Rights' Law N°51 of 2006 and its amendments. The 19th annual report on the human rights situation for 2022, like all the Center's regular annual reports, provides a diagnosis of the human rights situation in Jordan during the time period covered by the report.

The 19th annual report on the human rights situation in 2022 includes three main aspects: Civil and Political Rights, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and a Focus on the rights of those most in need of protection (women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons).

The report also includes two annexes: an analytical annex including the complaints received by the Center in 2022 and an annex about the Center's main achievements and activities during 2022 at the national, regional and international levels.

Civil and Political Rights:

In 2022, the Center received 417 complaints related to civil and political rights, divided among 9 main rights (the right to life, liberty and physical safety, the right to access to justice, guarantees of a fair trial, and the right to citizenship, residence, movement and asylum, the right to vote and to stand for election, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the press, the media, and access to information, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to establish and join political parties, the right to form and join trade unions and the right to establish and join associations).

1. The right to life, liberty and physical safety:¹

In 2022, the number of capital sentences issued by the High Criminal Court reached a total of 23 while the State Security Court did not issue any capital sentence. During 2022, the Center did not record any special pardon given to inmates sentenced to death.

¹ The detailed numbers of the complaints related to the rights are annexed to the Complaints Annex which comes with the Report's Executive Summary

2022 also witnessed the martyrdom of five security officials from various security services while dealing with riots in one of the Kingdom's provinces and performing their duty in preserving security and public order.

At the legislative level, the Center did not monitor any legislative developments in the legal system of countering torture in 2022. The three main problems persisted: the crime of torture was considered a criminal offence with the consequent possibility of including statutory limitations and assign the specific competence to investigate and prosecute torture cases to the Police Public Prosecutor's Office and the Special Courts, in addition to shortcomings in the legal framework in relation to compensating victims of torture.

In 2022, Article 339 of the Penal Code N°16 of 1960 and its amendments were amended to criminalize attempted suicide, which was criticized by the Center.

Statistics on complaints related to the right to physical safety:

The Center received 68 complaints of alleged torture or ill-treatment by law enforcement agencies compared to 61 complaints during 2021.

Suicide:

Statistics from the National Center for Forensic Medicine show 145 acts of suicide in 2022 (109 males and 36 females compared to 167 cases in 2021 (125 males and 42 females).

Traffic accidents:

The year 2022 witnessed the occurrence of 169,408 traffic accidents resulting in 562 deaths and 17,096² injuries compared to 160,600 traffic accidents in 2021 resulting in 589 deaths.³

Administrative detention:

Administrative detainees reached 34,411 in 2022, 32,000 of whom are males while 2,411 are females.⁴ In fact, there was no amendment in 2022 to the Crime Prevention Law N°7 of 1954 and here the Center reiterates its firm position on this law calling for its repeal in application of the principle of separation of powers.

The Center also monitored the government's policy of limiting administrative detention in 2022 as the Ministry of Interior issued a number of instructions to administrative governors mainly about revising administrative detainees' records and restrictions on a regular basis and drafting a protocol for cases that could be referred to administrative governors, depending on their nature, which reduced the number of administrative detainees.

Conditions of temporary detention centers and rehabilitation and correction centers:

- Temporary Detention Centers:

In 2022, the Center carried out 15 unannounced visits to temporary detention centers in the Kingdom in collaboration with the Office of Transparency and Human Rights in the Public Security Directorate with a view

²Correspondence of the General Security Directorate (N°44/1/Cooperation/15363 on 26th April 2023).

³ From the annual report on traffic accidents for the year 2021 in Jordan, General Security Directorate, p 9.

⁴ Correspondence of the Ministry of Interior ref 1/MT/53716/13082023 dated 13/08/2023.

to exploring the detention environment and the law enforcement authorities' commitment to safeguarding detainees' rights and to providing them with quality services in compatibility with international standards.

The monitoring process included a screening of these centers and interviews with the detainees in which the team noted that some practices continued to prevent detainees from receiving family visits and from establishing any form of contact with the outside world by prohibiting telephone calls with the family to inform them about the detainees' whereabouts. The Center also noticed a need for maintenance in the rest rooms especially in overcrowded centers. One meal is provided at the center's expense while the detainees buy other meals and drinking water at their own expense, not to mention other remarks about infrastructure.

- **Rehabilitation and Correction Centers:**

The Center carried out 95 visits to Rehabilitation and Correction Centers in 2022 in addition to 3 visits to Al Bashir hospital detention center and 1 visit to the National Center for Mental Health. The Centers for Rehabilitation and Correction hosted 21,132 inmates in 2022 compared to 18,954 inmates in 2021. The Center provided a number of observations and recommendations to the relevant authorities with a view to improving the situation of these centers.

2. The right to access to justice and fair trial guarantees

In 2022, some legislative amendments were introduced with a direct impact on the right of access to justice and fair trial guarantees, mainly:

- Amendment to Article 60 of the Constitution on the methods of appeal before the Constitutional Court by reducing the conditional percentage of direct appeal before the Court to both the Senate and the House of Representatives, by a decision of at least one quarter of the members of the concerned council in addition to the Cabinet's competence to appeal.
- Amendment to the constitutional review mechanism for indirect appeal (subordinate payment) whereby the motion is considered by the same Court, and in serious cases is directly referred to the Constitutional Court.
- Amendment to articles on the application of alternative sentences replacing custodial sentences in the Penal Code under the amended Act N°10 of 2022. Under these amendments, the implementation of alternative sentences was expanded mainly as follows:
 1. Alternative sentences include all minor offences based on the determination of the social situation, even if the sentence is definitive, on the condition of non-repetition.
 2. The number of community service hours is reduced from 40 to 100 hours instead of from 40 to 200 hours in a period of no more than a year.
 3. Two alternative sentences are added, which are: electronic surveillance and prohibition of access to certain places for a period of no less than a month time and no more than a year.

4. Alternative sentences shall cover non-recurring offences that are not committed on individuals using mitigating grounds and reducing the sentence to one year based on the social status report.

The enforcement of Act N°9 amending Article 22 of the Law on Debtor Imprisonment: reduction of the first installment of the judgement amount in case a settlement is reached making it 15% instead of 25%, and reducing the period of detention by a maximum of 60 days per year for a debt and a maximum duration of detention of 120 days for a debtor, even in case of several debts and creditors, and prohibition of debtor's imprisonment if the debtors fail to fulfill a contractual obligation except for lease and labor contracts. This prohibition shall apply three years from the date of enforcement of the amended Act, in addition to extending the category of debtors exempted from imprisonment by adding other cases that meet the conditions of exemption.

The amended Legal Aid Regulation N°53 of 2022 was enacted, most notably the amendment of Article 3 of the Regulations on the criteria for eligibility for legal aid, taking into consideration the salary of the applicant and not the salary of his/her family as was previously the case. The applicant's existing movable assets are now taken into consideration while previously the applicant's available funds were considered. The Minister of Justice was granted the power to grant legal aid to those who had movable or immovable funds.

In practice, the Center commends the measures taken by the Ministry of Justice to technically strengthen and expand the remote trial system in the courts of Amman with the number of remote trial sessions that were held in the Jordanian Courts in 2022 reaching 72,918. In addition, all the Courts of First Instance and the divisions of the Court of First Instance of Amman (numbering 18) were connected to this system in addition to the High Criminal Court and the Court of Appeal of Amman together with all the Centers for Rehabilitation and Correction to have a total of 20 Courts and 17 Centers for Rehabilitation and Correction fully equipped. In addition to the activation of the system, six additional locations were linked, namely the Courts of Al-Zarqa and the Juvenile Courts and Day Care centers, including the Juvenile Courts of Amman, Irbid and Al-Zarqa and the Juvenile Centers of Amman, Irbid and Rassifa.

As to administrative litigation, the Center reiterates the observations contained in its eighteenth annual report on the human rights situation for 2021 in which it referred to the challenges that limit access to administrative litigation, high litigation costs and problems related to the implementation of annulment decisions issued by the Administrative Court.

The Center also noted an increase in the number of judicial detainees in 2022 reaching 37,850 detainees compared to 20,070 in 2021 and 35,052 detainees in 2020. In this respect, the Center reaffirms the need to abide by the legal regulations for arrests contained in Article 114 of the Code of Criminal Procedure N°9 of 1961 and its amendments and enacting the recourse to alternatives to detention.

According to the annual report on the status of regular courts and the administrative judiciary and public prosecution issued by the Jordanian Judicial Council for the year 2022, the number of sentences ruling alternatives to custodial sentences reached 4,193 which signals an increase of 1,288 compared to 2021. Besides, the number of decisions issued by the courts and Prosecution Services imposing alternatives to custodial sentences increased reaching 322 decisions in 2022.

3. The right to citizenship, residence, movement and asylum:

- The right to citizenship:

There was no amendment on the Citizenship Law N°6 of 1954 in 2022. The sons of Jordanian women from non-Jordanian fathers continued to benefit from benefits and facilities in 2022 including: the right to education and to study in public schools for both primary and secondary levels, the right to health insurance according to their ensured mothers, the right to own property, the right to obtain a private driving license and the right to invest as per the laws in force. There was no noticeable development in the situation of stateless people (known as *bidun*) in the year 2021. In this regard, the Center recommends the continuation of the efforts of the Special Committee to solve the problem of naturalization applications related to the *bidun* in the governorate of Al Mafreq. The center did not receive any complaint in 2022 with regards to the withdrawal of the national number from any Jordanian citizen.

- The right to residence and to movement:

There were no restrictions on the right of movement under the defense orders which remained applicable in 2022 for the third consecutive year. The Center commends the effective efforts implemented in regulating the Tribal “jilwa” document in 2022 and its repercussions in achieving the principle of the rule of law and the supremacy of rights through limiting the “jilwa” phenomenon in preparation for its suppression, which guarantees a larger scope of rights protected by the Jordanian Constitution and international and regional standards of human rights.

The Center also commends the decision to suspend the applicability of house arrest for people with criminal records for the duration of three (3) months, issued on December 11th 2022. The Center confirmed, by a statement, that the Minister of Interior’s decision to temporarily stop imposing house arrest for a period of three months is a positive step in limiting the application of the Crime Prevention Law.

- The right to asylum:

Jordan’s position on refugees is progressive and in line with international standards for the treatment of refugees. Its 1988 memorandum of understanding with the UNHCR defines the framework of the Kingdom’s policy with regards to refugees.

In 2022, the Kingdom continued to provide services to refugees particularly in health, labor, education and infrastructure among other areas despite the burden placed on the Kingdom by the repercussions of the refugee crisis, especially in light of regional and global challenges and their impacts on national economy.

4. The right to vote and stand for election:

In 2022, Parliament Election Law N°4 of 2022 was approved, which came as an outcome of the Royal Committee’s work to modernize the political system.

This new law represented a qualitative turn towards promoting the right to vote and to stand for election as well as representative justice where the law adopted a mixed electoral system (closed proportional list, open proportional list) on two levels of representation for which 138 seats were allocated: the general electoral constituency, which is formed by party lists as per the closed proportional list system, is allocated 41 seats with a threshold of 2.5% of the total voters at the level of the general and local electoral constituencies, for which 97 seats were allocated and are chosen according to the open proportional list system.

The law also guarantees women and youth empowerment as the age to stand for election was reduced to 25 years instead of 30. The law also conditioned party lists to include at least one woman among the first three candidates as well as among the next three candidates and one young man or woman under 35 years of age among the first five candidates in addition to allocating 18 seats for the women's quota.

The new law also adopted a clear roadmap towards increasing the number of seats allocated for parties and partisan alliances to reach a minimum of 65% of the number of parliamentary seats in the 21st parliamentary elections. This trend is a true expression of the political will towards the formation of parliamentary party governments, especially in light of the constitutional amendments of 2022 about the transfer of power over partisan affairs to the Independent Constitutional Commission instead of the Committee of Partisan Affairs formed by the government.

The Center monitored several elections in 2022, including Provincial Councils Elections, Municipal Elections and the Trustees Council for Greater Amman, and elaborated a detailed report about the conduct of these elections, which was published in the Center's website.

5. The right to freedom of opinion, expression, the press and the media and the right to information:

There were no amendments to legislations directly related to freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the media in 2022. The bill amending the law to guarantee the right to information is still on the House of Representatives' agenda without taking the necessary constitutional procedures to discuss and approve it. It should be noted that the law guaranteeing the right to information was reviewed and submitted to the House of Representatives in early 2020 for discussion and has not been discussed to date. The Center presented its legal position on the amendments and made sure in its proposal—which was presented to the committee formed to amend the law, of which the Center was a member—to consider international standards of human rights in connection with the right to information, especially with regards to the principle of maximum disclosure and that of pre-emptive disclosure and the principle of limited exceptions. The Center also stipulated that in case of overlap with other legislations on the Law guaranteeing the Right to Information, priority should be given to restructuring the Information Council to ensure its independence, balance its structure, and facilitate the procedures for obtaining information from those requesting it.

The Personal Data Protection bill which guarantees the protection of individuals' data from unlawful collection and processing was discussed in 2022 linking the collection of information to the need for prior consent from the relevant person and creating a special commission in charge of this matter.

The Defense Act and its orders, including Defense Law N°8 issued on 15/4/2020 which criminalizes "the publishing, re-publishing or circulating of any news about the pandemic that would result in spreading terror

or panic among the people through the mass media communication outlets or through social media,”⁵ were still operational in 2022; whereas the Center recommended the repeal of this item considering the large scope of the criminalization that could expand the scope of criminal prosecution as it is not in line with the conditions that should be inherent in the restraints in line with human rights standards, particularly article 19/3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights not to mention that the existing penal system is sufficient in this respect. It is worth mentioning that the Defense Code and its orders were repealed in 2023.

In practice, the Center observed the persistence of problems relating to the application of Article 11 of the Electronic Crimes Act N°27 of 2015 in 2022. The number of such cases reached 3,058 in 2022 compared to 4,030 in 2021.

- **Freedom of the press and audio-visual media and news websites:**

The number of complaints handled by the Media Complaints Committee that was created under the Audio-Visual Media Act of 2022 reached 5 compared to 11 in 2021 which was similar to the number of complaints considered in 2020, compared to 6 in 2019.

- **The right to information:**

The Information Council received one complaint in 2022 from a journalist and decided to accept the request and contact the relevant body to respond to it, while there were 3 complaints in 2021, one of which was from a journalist, compared to 14 complaints in 2020.

6. The right to peaceful assembly:

There was no amendment to the Public Meetings Act in 2022 and, in this respect, the Center reaffirms the need to amend the Public Meetings Act N°7 of 2004 and its amendments as some of its provisions hamper the citizens’ exercise of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution and international standards of human rights, particularly with relation to the Center’s recommendation of amending article 2 which defines public meeting.

As 2022 witnessed a number of public demonstrations, sit-ins, strikes and marches, whether by employees of public and official institutions or trade unions, the Center noticed an increase in the number of protests demanding job opportunities.

7. The right to establish and join political parties:

Article 2/67 of the Constitution was amended in 2022 as the authority to supervise and monitor the affairs of political parties was transferred from the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs to the Independent Authority for Elections. The Center commends this amendment with a mandate to supervise the establishment

⁵ Defense Law N°8 of 2020, published in the Official Gazette N°5633 dated 15/4/2020.

of political parties and monitor their affairs through a neutral authority. The amendment also stipulated that an independent body should be responsible for supervising, monitoring and evaluating the work of parties which was one of the Center's repeated demands.

The Parties Law N°7 was passed in 2022 including, for the first time, a provision that guarantees to political parties the participation in parliamentary elections through lists that include party candidates, which contributes to the development of parliamentary work and to reinforcing the party work system to reach parliamentary governments as the law allocates 41 seats at the nation's level to parties out of a total number of seats at the House of Representatives reaching 138,⁶ and up to 30% of seats in the next House of Representatives (the twentieth) provided that this percentage increases to reach 50% in the 21st House of Representatives, then to reach 65% in the 22nd House of Representatives. The National Center commends the introduction of these amendments, which was one of its recommendations in its annual human rights reports.

The new Political Parties Act also contains a provision that aims at enabling political parties to participate in political life and public work in sound and democratic ways. The definition of a party in Article 3 of the Act defines the party as "a national political group, consisting of Jordanians, united by the values of citizenship, common objectives, goals, programs, visions and common ideas. It aims to participate in political life and public work in sound and democratic ways for legitimate purposes, by participating in elections of all kinds, including parliamentary elections, and forming or participating in parliamentary governments in line with article 35 of the Constitution." The same Act also includes a provision seeking to establish political parties with wide representation of Jordanian society. This can be indicated by increasing the number of citizens and women participating in these political parties as Parties Law N°7 of 2022 conditioned the number of founders at the time of the Constituent Assembly of the party to be at least a thousand as indicated by Article 11/A/1, which is an advanced step towards reaching largely-representative parties across the Kingdom and guaranteeing an acceptable and reasonable number of members.

Another noticeable development at the national level in 2022, and for the first time in the Kingdom's history, a system to organize the practice of partisan activities for students in higher education institutions N°68 of 2022⁷ pursuant to paragraph A of Article 20 of Political Parties Act N°7 of 2022 was established by virtue of which higher education institutions and their employees should commit to the mechanism organizing Party activities, issued pursuant thereto, by issuing the necessary instructions.⁸

8. The right to establish and join trade unions

There has been no progress in 2022 with respect to amending the legislations regulating this right despite the Center's recurrent recommendations in its previous annual reports aimed at enabling individuals to exercise this right. Besides, there has been no legislative action taken in 2022 to enforce the Constitutional Court decision N°6/2013 granting the right to all public sector employees, including civil servants, to organize freely in labor unions.

⁶ Electoral Law N°4 of 2022 published in the Official Gazette dated 7/4/2022 N°5782.

⁷ Published in the Official Gazette number 5828 dated 12/1/2022.

⁸ It is worth mentioning that during the drafting of this report, the instructions organizing the practice of student party activities in higher education institutions were decided under the provision of articles 8 and 11 organizing the practice of student party activities and were published in the Official Gazette N°5868 dated 15/6/2023.

On another level, 2022 witnessed the elections of the councils of the following unions: Engineers, Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists, Agronomists, Nurses, Lawyers, and Contractors which were due the previous year but were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 2022 also saw the elections of the General Syndicate of Electricity Workers on 16/6/2022 in 4 branches of the Electricity Generation Company, which came after numerous demands that were detailed in the National Center's report for 2021, thus becoming the only Syndicate to hold elections among the member unions of the General Union of Jordanian Trade Unions that were all formed by acclamation.

In 2022, the final verdict on case N°185/2021 was issued on 26/6/2022 by the Court of First Instance of Amman, in its appellate capacity, which annulled the decision to dissolve the Teachers' Union, a verdict that is appreciated by the Center as it corresponds to the affirmation of the Supreme Administrative Court in its decision N°62/2017 issued on 1/3/2017 stating that trade unions that are formed under a special law are persons of public law that are designated by the legislature as public administration and therefore are excluded from the provisions of articles 36 and 37 of the Penal Code in charge of suspension or dissolution of the General Authority as every public entity created under a special law can only be annulled after the annulment of the law establishing it.

9. The right to establish and join associations

During 2022, the Committee for the Amendment of Associations Law N°51 of 2008 continued its work and held discussions and consultations on the current law. However, the committee was unable to resume its work and has not issued a final draft of its outputs to date. In this respect, the Center monitored the recommendations of the Royal Committee for the Modernization of the Political System, which included a recommendation under the theme women empowerment, to review the Law on Associations in a way that facilitates the work of civil society organizations and reinforces their role as part of the national framework for progress and reform.

In this context, the Center reaffirms its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports which include the amendment of the Law of Associations to conform to the principles guaranteed by the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution and international standards.

2022 was also the year in which the recommendations of the Royal Committee for the Modernization of the Political System were adopted among which one recommendation from the chapter on women empowerment was about strengthening financial aid for associations stipulating "the development and the implementation of the legal and procedural frameworks regulating the work of civil society organizations in a way that guarantees the continuity of their functions effectively and efficiently by easing the restrictions on access to internal and external funding as well as to national information and data, and strengthening their role in monitoring the implementation of governmental plans and programs".

In 2022, 391 associations received financial support within the Royal High Grant program “Al Makrama” with a value of one million dinars provided by the Association Support Fund for 2022. Besides, 239 associations received foreign funding of the value of 22,995,021 JD.

In terms of policies and practices, 2022 saw the adoption of the Roadmap for the Modernization of the Public Sector which recommended the endorsement of Corporate Oversight as a unified reference for the registration of all economic activities including for-profit, non-profit activities and associations—including cooperatives—towards reinforcing integrity and inclusiveness in registries, standardization of references and authorities that perform the registration functions of enterprises of different types and domains and for an optimal utilization of resources.

According to the statistics of the Associations Register for 2022, the number of associations operating in the Kingdom is 6,611⁹ compared to 338 associations registered in 2021, 195 of which fit under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Development; whereas the number of dissolved associations in 2022 is 326 in addition to 204 associations that fit under the ministry’s jurisdiction and for the dissolution of which a committee was formed.

Economic, social and cultural rights:

The Center received 172 complaints related to economic, social and cultural rights in 2022 divided among 6 main rights: the right to development and adequate standard of living, the right to work, the right to education, cultural rights, the right to health, and the right to a healthy environment.

1. The right to development and a decent standard of living:

This year, the Center merged the right to development with the right to decent living standard considering the inter-connectedness and the overlap between the two rights in monitoring, evaluation and scheduling for both rights as the right to decent livelihood is contextualized in the eleventh sustainable development goal. The report also dealt with a number of issues that fit under this right such as economic and social challenges, issues related to food and water security in addition to national efforts in elaborating the second voluntary review report on the right to development.

The year 2022 saw a clear progress with a number of actions aiming at addressing development challenges, most notably the launching of a vision for economic modernization which came as a result of discussions between experts and specialists and as a result of a high-level Royal Initiative that includes an inter-governmental roadmap for the next 10 years encompassing 8 axes, 35 major and branch sectors and 366 initiatives.

At the end of its term, the vision aims to create one million job opportunities in addition to increasing the GDP by 27.9 billion dinars to reach 58.1 billion dinars by the end of its period added to a capital funding of 41.4 billion dinars targeting investments and partnership projects including government investments of 11.1 billion dinars. The National Center also monitored timetables and an executive plan which requires the executive administration to issue an executive program in the short and medium term. Equally, Investment Environment Law N°21 of 2022 was adopted referring to the need for the Kingdom’s public investment policy to achieve

⁹ Correspondence of the Ministry of Social Development N°SH-K/6976/3 dated 14/5/2023.

economic and development visions aiming at providing job opportunities, increasing economic growth, improving the work environment, guaranteeing the sustainability of the attractive investment environment and reinforcing trust therein with a view to developing and organizing it.

It is worth noting that the National Strategy for Food Security 2021-2030 is the first strategy to be elaborated in Jordan for food security in implementation of the directives of His Majesty King Abdullah II announcing the year 2021 to be a year for food security and establishing Jordan as a regional center for food security.

The report addressed the challenges facing Jordan in the area of water security and the efforts deployed in bridging the increasing gap between the demand for water and its supply within the available resources. The demand for water is increasingly growing to support the economic growth, irrigating crops, supplying drinking and other types of water which is due to the fast growing number of the population and the continuing influx of refugees, the needs of economic development and the ongoing pressure of expansion in agricultural areas.

2. The right to work:

In 2022, the National Center monitored the enactment of some laws and regulations with relation to the promotion and protection of the right to work. The Child Rights Act N°17 of 2022, that provided more protection for children, prohibited the trafficking in children and subjecting them to prostitution or exploitation in pornographic content or in any other form of sexual abuse and prohibiting the economic exploitation of children, namely forced labor and begging.¹⁰

Besides, the instructions amending the conditions for the employment and recruitment of non-Jordanian workers in qualified industrial zones were issued in addition to instructions on conditions and procedures for recommending the exemption of persons with severe disabilities from paying the work permit fees for non-Jordanian workers for 2022.

In the same year, and through its inspection directorates, the Ministry of Labor conducted 46,668 inspection visits to industrial, commercial and service facilities and institutions to inspect the working conditions and occupational health and safety and respect thereof in addition to sector survey visits and visits related to combating child labor. During these visits, a total of 4,714 infractions were detected based on Article 12 of the Labor Code and Defense Orders and communications issued thereunder in addition to 88 warnings to

¹⁰ Article 21 of Children Rights Law N°17 of 2022 postulates that it is prohibited to:

- A- Expose a child to violence, abuse and exploitation.
Expose a child to any form of trafficking in persons or prostitution or exploitation in pornographic content or any other form of sexual ill-treatment.
Expose the child to economic exploitation including obliging the child to work or to beg.
Neglect a child either by his parents or by his legal guardian for no reason or leave the child without a companion or refuse to accept the child custody by his parents or by a legal guardian upon the issuance of a custody decision, or refrain from providing treatment to the child or subject the child to hunger.
- B- Providers of educational, health and social services and work inspectors in addition to anyone who knows of any of the cases mentioned in paragraph A of this article must commit to inform the special authorities.

institutions violating the Labor Code, and 384 infractions of Defense Orders and communications issued pursuant to it.

The directorates under the Ministry of Labor addressed 13,996 complaints in 2022 through the Complaints Department and the hotline mostly revolving around forcing workers to take unpaid leave, forcing them to resign, demanding extra working hours, reducing the worker's wage, confiscating the worker's passport, non-payment of the worker's wages, the employment of workers in a job that differs from the one agreed upon, the lack of standards of occupational safety and health in the institution, non-payment of the minimum wage among other complaints. 13,580 of these complaints were resolved and legal procedures in the best interest of the worker were taken.

The report dealt with the results of the field visits carried out by the Center to the industrial zones, of which (1) some factories did not comply with the employment of persons with disabilities, in the proportions stipulated by law as compared to the total number of employees. (2) Some workers were unaware of their basic labor rights as defined by the Labor Code, (3) they did not have a copy of their employment contract. (4) High humidity was widespread in many workers' rooms and dwellings. (5) The requirements of space and public safety in the workers' dwellings were unmet.

3. The right to education

The year 2022 witnessed the issuance of numerous resolutions and regulations related to the right to education, the most prominent of which was: The Cabinet's adoption of a system amending that of recognition of non-Jordanian institutions of higher education and equivalence of their certificates for the year 2022, in addition to the Higher Education Council's approval of the amendment to the instructions and conditions of study outside Jordan at non-Jordanian universities. In 2022, the Government announced a plan to modernize the public sector and a vision for economic modernization. According to the Government's plan to modernize the public sector, there will be effort to establish a Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development by merging the Ministries of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Education provided that it be created between 2022-2024.

As of the end of 2022, there were approximately 7,315 schools in the Kingdom, of which 4,053 were public, 3,093 were private and 169 were under the International Rescue Committee. The total number of students in all schools in the Kingdom reached (2,244,751), and the number of Jordanian students of all regions reached (1,956,593), while the number of Syrian students in the various schools in the Kingdom reached (158,506), 91,797 of whom receive education in the evening session while 136,901 Jordanian students receive evening education.

There is a total of 113,623 male and female teachers and administrative staff working in the schools of the Ministry of Education, 34,770 of whom are male teachers while 58,699 are female teachers. The total number of school administrators reached (20,154), 7,585 of whom are male and 12,569 are female.



The report referred to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on education in terms of students' transfer from private to public schools as in 2022/2023 nearly 26,000 students moved from private to public schools, which led to overcrowding in some directorates, especially in Liwa Al-Qawasima and Marka, and in Al-Kasaba in Amman, Irbid, and Al-Zarqa, resulting in the continuous rotation system in nearly 800 public schools, based on the reverse migration from private to public schools and the continued rental of schools. The 2022/2023 school year saw the rental of 22 schools in various governorates of the Kingdom to address the problem of school overcrowding in areas where the Ministry of Education lacks schools noting that these rented schools lack the public health and safety requirements needed by students and staff.

The report also addressed the problem of school dropout, the educational challenges in the educational environment of kindergartens and the educational challenges facing the parallel program.

4. Cultural rights:

The year 2022 saw the establishment of the Jordanian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, in cooperation with the Directorate of Education for Liwa Kasaba Irbid, which organized a campaign to raise awareness on the material and intangible cultural heritage in Irbid governorate, in celebration of the declaration of the city of Irbid the Arab capital of culture for the year 2022. The Journal of Archeology, published by the American Institute of Archeology, also listed the discovery of the South Eastern Badia Project as one of the 10 most important discoveries in the world during the year 2022.¹¹

The report also mentioned the National Strategy for Tourism,¹² which is different from its predecessors as it linked all tourism projects and objectives to the goals of sustainable development (2030) and included the theme of women empowerment. The objectives of the strategy are also linked to the objectives of the Plan for Green Growth of the tourism sector. The National Strategy for Tourism is based on five main axes:¹³ (1) development of tourism products, (2) heritage protection, (3) marketing, (4) human resources and (5) reforms.

The report also addressed the contents of the sustainable development goals in the plans, activities and projects of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, including: Goal IV (quality education), Goal V (gender

¹¹ Retrieved from <http://www.ahu.edu.jo/AR-article-38392>, University Alhussein Ibn Talal

¹² The National Strategy for Tourism aims at: raising the number of tourists by 2024 to reach the numbers obtained in 2019, achieving a total revenues equal to those obtained in 2019 by the year 2024, increasing direct employment in the sector of tourism in 2025. There is effort deployed currently in modernizing the goals and the targets mentioned above after the recovery of the tourism sector and the achievement of the indicators to be in line with the Economic Modernization Plan.

¹³ Correspondence of the Ministry of Tourism N°13/3/8743 dated 9/5/2023

equality), Goal VIII (decent work and economic growth), Goal IX (industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal X (reducing inequalities) and Goal XI (sustainable cities and communities).

5. The right to health:

The year 2022 saw the promulgation and amendment of a number of relevant laws, regulations and instructions, such as: Amended Regulation No. 63 of 2022,¹⁴ Child Rights Act No. 17 of 2022,¹⁵ Jordanian Medical Council Act No. 18 of 2022,¹⁶ Amended Instructions for the Handling and Disbursement of Medical Supplies in Hospitals and Health Centers of the Ministry of Health No. 4 of 2022,¹⁷ and Instructions for the Establishment of a National Register for Newborns with Hearing Impairments N°2 of 2022,¹⁸ and a system amending the Civil Health Insurance System No. (9) of 2022¹⁹ in addition to instructions for Payment of Treatment Fees and Drug Prices to anyone holding a civil health insurance Card No. (1) of 2022.²⁰

The year 2022 saw the intensification of the health control of food facilities and factories by the General Food and Drug Administration. In 2022, approximately 77,882 inspection visits were carried out as follows: 77,512 inspection visits to food facilities and factories, compared to 52,947 inspection visits in 2021, and 370 inspection visits to pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical facilities, compared to 102 inspection visits in 2021; to ensure that food facilities, factories, and restaurants across the Kingdom abide by the regulations of public health and safety. These visits resulted in 29 warnings of which 2 were addressed to food facilities and 27 to pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical facilities compared to 10 warnings in 2021.

The report revealed the state of health services in the hospitals monitored by the Center which noted that some hospitals and health centers still suffer from a number of problems that hinder the achievement of their objectives, for example; 1/ There is a shortage of specialized nephrologists in most public hospitals. (2) Some general health centers lack specialized and independent clinics such as the Women's and Obstetrics Clinic, the Children's Clinic, the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, the Ophthalmology Clinic and the Dermatology Clinic. In addition to the specialists. (3) Most hospitals and health centers lack the environmental facilities needed for persons with disabilities and the elderly, for example, the lack of a sign interpreter, the lack of an elevator, the lack of parking spaces for persons with disabilities, the lack of medical aids and equipment for persons with disabilities and the elderly, for example, the limited availability of aids (wheelchairs, floor signs for the visually impaired (tactile), walking aids, medical shoes and plaster). The absence of psycho-social specialists in hospitals and general health centers to deal with cases of abuse and exploitation, especially with regard to women with disabilities.

¹⁴ Published in the Official Gazette N°5825 page 7768 dated 16/11/2022.

¹⁵ Published in the Official Gazette N°5820 page 7039 dated 12/10/2022.

¹⁶ Published in the Official Gazette N°5820 page 4047 dated 12/10/2022.

¹⁷ Published in the Official Gazette N°5797 page 3733 dated 1/6/2022.

¹⁸ Published in the Official Gazette N°5769 page 977 dated 16/1/2022.

¹⁹ Published in the Official Gazette N°5769 page 963 dated 16/1/2022.

²⁰ Published in the Official Gazette N° 5727 page 83 dated 2/1/2022.

6. The right to a healthy environment:

2022 saw the adoption of a number of environmental legislations, the most important of which were: the Solid Non-Hazardous Waste Management System of 2022,²¹ the instructions for the implementation of the National Mechanism for the Extended Producer Responsibility Principle to Address the Negative Effects of Packaging Waste of 2022,²² the Instructions for Climate-Responsive Public and Private Capital Expenditure and Finance of 2022.²³ The year 2022 also saw the birth of several important governmental practices²⁴ including the approval and official launching of the National Waste Management Plan for 2022-2026 by the Cabinet. The National Policy for Climate Change 2022-2050 was approved and several electronic and electrical waste collection sites were established in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Administration and the Amman Secretariat, with funding from UNDP; in addition to the granting of transport permits for 14 medical waste vehicles and 7 vehicles for hazardous waste and 5 vehicles for used metal oils and the afforestation of a total of 3,000 dunams in Ajloun, Tafileh and Karak, for a total number of trees reaching (100-150) thousand trees, implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The report indicated that the percentage of desertification areas in Jordan reached about 81% of the total area and the area threatened by desertification is about 16%. This requires the development of plans that are suitable for the various areas affected by desertification, especially those whose rainfall is less than 200 mm.

The year 2022 also saw an increase in the number of fires affecting dry grass, forest trees, fruit trees and agricultural crops in most areas of the Kingdom reaching 67 and the areas of forests affected by fires in 2022 were 6,200 dunams, while the number of burned trees in 2022 was 3,380. This is in addition to overgrazing and assaulting forest trees for sale and trade. The most important causes that lead to fires are cigarette smoke, fires, intentional fires for wood fire cutting, lack of awareness and neglect by citizens who light fires in summer camps.

The report indicated that there were 22 waste dumps in Jordan; The Kingdom produces about 2.7 million tons of solid waste annually and 85,000 tons of hazardous industrial waste, a large part of which is recycled (mineral oils, used acid lead batteries, etc.). The equivalent of 4,000 tons are transported annually to the hazardous waste treatment center of Sawaqa generating 3,650 tons of medical wastes. The percentage of organic waste is about 62% of total waste and 16% of plastic waste destined to recycled packaging.

²¹ Published in page 5975 of the Official Gazette N°5810 dated 16/8/2022

²² Published in page 6003 of the Official Gazette N°5810 dated 16/8/2022.

²³ Published in page 86 of the Official Gazette N°5765 dated 1/1/2022.

²⁴ Numbers and statistics collected by the Ministry of Environment/Mr Mohamed Agha, focal point of the National Center, in an interview dated 26/2/2023.

The rights of the most vulnerable:

During 2022, the Center received 31 complaints related to the rights of persons most in need of protection, divided among 4 main rights, namely: women's rights, child rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, and the rights of older persons.

1. Women's rights:

In the context of legislative developments, 2022 witnessed constitutional amendments as the title of chapter II of the Constitution included the rights and duties of male and female Jordanians, adding a new paragraph to article VI as follows: "The Kingdom shall ensure the empowerment of women and support them to play an active role in building society in order to ensure equal opportunities on the basis of justice and equity and to protect them from all forms of violence and discrimination."

The year 2022 also saw the passage of some amendments to national legislations related to women's rights, including the Election Law of the House of Representatives No. 4 of 2022, the Political Parties Law No. 7 of 2022, and the Law amending the Implementation Law of 2022.

At the policy level, in 2022, the Cabinet issued a decision in December 2021 approving the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women within the framework of the Vision of Economic Modernization and the Executive Program of the Vision of Economic Modernization (2023-2025).

In practice, the year 2022 saw an increase in the percentage of women in the Senate up to 10 (15.3%), and an increase in the appointment rate of women judges in 2022 reaching 28.1%. In addition, women continue to hold leadership positions, such as the appointment of the first woman as the chairperson of the board of trustees of the National Center for Human Rights, and the appointment of the first woman as chairperson of the board of trustees of the University of Yarmouk, among others.

In 2022, the National Center also monitored women's participation in provincial and municipal council elections. The results of the monitoring revealed the following:

- The percentage of female voters dropped to 14.08% of female voters, while male voters reached 15.56% of a total voting rate of (29.64%)
- 265 women obtained the quota seats while 55 women obtained their seats by competition.

The Center also monitored the participation of women in elections to chambers of commerce and industry and representatives of the commercial and industrial sectors and found that:

- Women are not represented in boards of directors (16 chambers of commerce) in addition to women's weak turnout in standing for election.
- Two women won seats in the boards of directors of the chamber of industry, but women are not represented in the industrial sectors in addition to weak female turnout in standing for election.

The Center also monitored the participation of women in trade union elections and found that, for the mandate of 2022-2025, there was a decline in the representation of women in the membership of the Board

of Doctors and the Agricultural Engineers Association, and that no female candidate won the membership of the Boards of Unions (for engineers, lawyers, geologists).

In a related context, the Center commends the Government's response to its recommendation contained in its annual reports for the establishment of the Family Reconciliation House in the governorate of Aqaba/Southern Province, which was established under the provisions of Article 3(b) of the Family Protection Houses Regulation No. (48) of 2004 of 1/3/2023.

2. Rights of the child:

At the legislative level, 2022 witnessed the promulgation of the Children's Rights Law No. 17 of 2022, which is a positive step in the Kingdom's implementation of its international obligations, in addition to providing a legislative environment for the best interest of the child. Besides, Guidelines for Standards and Indicators for the Quality and Classification of Public, Private and Foreign Educational Institutions and Kindergartens were issued (No. 4 of 2022).

At the policy level, the National Strategy for the Suppression of Child Labor (2022-2030) was updated in 2022. The strategy aims to create a society free of child labor and put an end to the worst forms thereof. The Ministry of Labor has issued an executive action plan for this strategy in cooperation with the relevant authorities.

The Center also observed a number of public parks in the Capital Governorate, noting, inter alia, the lack of dedicated games and health facilities for children with disabilities, the disparity in the level of cleanliness of these parks and the lack of regular maintenance for the majority of them.

The number of offenses committed by juveniles in the Kingdom for the year 2022 was 2,030, compared to the crimes committed in 2021 which reached 1,705.

The Center also recorded a drop in marriage contracts for those under the age of 18 in 2022 compared to 2021, as the total number of marriages registered in the Sharia courts for men under the age of 18 was 143.

As for women under the age of 18, the number reached 5,824 in 2022.

With regard to child labor, the Center observed a fall in the number of working children seized during 2022; as there were 520 children, and the Center recorded a drop in the number of child beggars who were arrested after the sharp increase witnessed in 2021. The number of child beggars rose to 7,954 in 2021, compared to 3,576 in 2022.

3. Rights of persons with disabilities

The year 2022 saw constitutional amendments, including the principles of participation and integration of persons with disabilities, as stated in Article 5/6: "The law protects the rights of persons with disabilities and enhances their participation and integration in various aspects of life, as well as protects motherhood,

childhood and old age, takes care of young people and prevents abuse and exploitation." Article 75, paragraph (e) of clause 1 or Article 75 was amended to replace the words "who was insane or a fool" with the words "who was not fully qualified".

The year 2022 also saw the passage and implementation of some amendments to national legislation related to the rights of persons with disabilities, including the House of Representatives Election Law No. 4 of 2022, the Political Parties Law No. 7 of 2022, the Law amending the Implementation Law of 2022, the System amending the Civil Service Law of 2022, the instructions on the conditions and procedures for recommending exemption of persons with severe disabilities from payment of work permit fees for non-Jordanian workers of 2022, the instructions for the establishment of a national register of newborns with hearing impairment for 2022, and the instructions on issuing the special disability card N°3 for 2022.

At the policy level, 2022 saw the release of clinical evidence (protocols) to diagnose mental disability and autism disorder, and the start of the trial period to issue the ID card in accordance with the provisions of Article 2/16 of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In 2022, the National Center monitored the participation of persons with disabilities in the provincial and municipal council elections. The results of the monitoring revealed the following:

- Lack of information on the number, proportion and geographical distribution of persons with disabilities registered to vote.
- Lack of information on the number of candidates with disabilities and, therefore, Council members with disabilities are not known.
- Lack of arrangements facilitating access to some polling stations.

4. Rights of older persons:

The year 2022 saw constitutional amendments. Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Jordanian Constitution stipulates that the protection of old age must include provisions that prevent the abuse or exploitation of older persons. The year 2022 also saw the issuance of the Instructions on Access and Expenditure for the Elderly from the Care of the Elderly Account for the year 2022.

The Center has also monitored legislation governing the rights of older persons and, in this context, recalls its previous recommendation to enact a law on older persons.

At the policy level, 2022 saw the publication of a procedural guide for workers in nursing homes by the National Council for Family Affairs, the launch of projects to improve green infrastructure by the Amman Municipality, the involvement of older persons in all phases of projects, including the rehabilitation of the Mahmoud Al-Qudat Park in the Al-Nasr area and the seventh stairs within Al-Quds Street in the Badr region. The National Council for Family Affairs issued the analytical report to assess the national strategy for the elderly and the executive plan for the years 2018-2022.

The National Center has monitored the participation of older persons in provincial and municipal council elections. In this regard, the Center states:

- The number of older persons over 60 years old registered for voting is 547,548.
- The number of candidates aged 56-65 is 1,356 and those aged more than 65 years old is 281.

In addition, the National Center has followed up on the situation of the rights of older persons in nursing homes and day clubs showing the following:

- Poor mental health services in the treatment of beneficiaries to cope with their situation and positively coexist with their reality.
- Poor investment in the expertise and abilities of older people in nursing homes and daytime clubs, poor transfer of expertise to future generations, and a lack of recreational programs for the elderly.
- Some children are reluctant to spend money on their parents in nursing homes.
- The lack of human resources compared to the number of beneficiaries, in addition to the lack of experience in dealing with the elderly.

In addition, the Center has monitored the challenges relating to the rights of older persons, including:

- Lack of disaggregated data and statistics on older persons defining their age, social, economic and health status to assess the situation of older people and identify areas and nature of intervention.
- Lack of qualified and trained health personnel and specialists to care for the elderly in hospitals and health centers, and poor preparation of the physical environment for health centers and hospitals to be elderly-friendly.
- Lack of supporting devices in public utilities such as roads, bridges and transportation networks.

Recommendations:

The nineteenth annual report on the situation of human rights for 2022 presents a series of recommendations in the areas of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights and in the rights of those in need of protection (women's rights, child rights, the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of older persons).

The Center calls for the need to take into account the recommendations contained in this report, given that the process of assessing the status of compliance with the recommendations of the Human Rights Situation Report in the Kingdom is one of the indicators of the extent to which the human rights standards guaranteed by the Constitution and international conventions, charters and treaties ratified by the Kingdom are being met and published in the Official Gazette, which has become part of the national legal system, and that the fulfillment of the obligations is linked to the reality of the political, economic, social and cultural fields within society for all groups without exception. This requires the adoption of legal, administrative and social measures, such as the enactment and/or amendment of legislations and regulations, the formulation and development of comprehensive public policies in accordance with a human rights approach, as well as the control of practices. Ultimately, the result is the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive human rights approach dedicated to the protection of human dignity and identity by the various State institutions and organs.

Recommendations for Civil and Political Rights:

Right to life and physical safety:

1. Removal of legislative shortcomings relating to the criminalization of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and compensation of victims, referred to in the body of the report.
2. Establishment of specialized centers for the rehabilitation of victims of torture.
3. Taking the necessary measures from all sides to reduce overcrowding in correctional and rehabilitation centers; including the expansion of alternatives to custodial penalties and alternatives to arrest.
4. Taking the necessary safety measures to reduce the incidence of drowning in agricultural ponds and repayment, with due attention to raising awareness.
5. Taking the necessary measures to reduce traffic accidents. This includes conducting necessary road maintenance and increasing the traffic awareness of individuals.
6. Conducting studies to identify the causes of suicide in order to reduce them, in accordance with social studies and with a participatory approach among the Kingdom's institutions.
7. Repealing the amendment made to criminalize attempted suicide.

The right to access to justice and fair trial guarantees

1. **Review the legal aid system to ensure comprehensive regulations in accordance with the requirements of articles 208 and 63 bis of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. 9 of 1961 and its amendments, by providing legal regulations for necessary legal aid and requests for legal aid submitted to the Minister by the competent official authorities or any of the relevant authorities.**
2. Review the text of article 62 of the Law of the Bar Association and its Amendment No. 11 of 1972, on the basis of its incompatibility with the principle of equality in litigation and the practical problems that arise from the existence of this text, which constitutes an obstacle to the right to litigation guaranteed to all without discrimination and the full enjoyment of the guarantees of the right to a fair trial.
3. Introduce amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act No. 9 of 1961) to ensure the principle of the right to material and moral compensation for damage caused by arrest that is inconsistent with the legal provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure if acquitted.
4. Continue to adopt approaches to broadening the application of community sanctions and particularly alternatives to arrest.
5. **At the level of the administrative judiciary, the Center recommends the following:**
 - Establishment of administrative courts in the North and South regions.

- Amend the Administrative Judiciary Act No. 27 of 2014 to remove the inconsistency between articles 28 and 34 which will contribute to the proper execution of rulings issued by the Administrative Judiciary.
- The fees for the proceedings shall be determined on clear grounds and the matter shall not be left to the discretion of the President of the Administrative Tribunal or depending on the case.

Right to nationality, residence, movement and asylum

1. The need for the international community to cooperate with Jordan to address the burden and requirements of asylum in light of the large numbers hosted by the Kingdom.
2. The implementation of the Tribal Jilwa document should continue until appropriate legal solutions are found to solve the challenges resulting from the Tribal Jilwa cases

Right to vote and stand for election

- "Amending the Local Administration Law No. 22 of 2021 to ensure that the councils have the power to dissolve by a judicial decision reflects the contents of articles 120 and 121 of the Jordanian Constitution, and translates them into a centralized substance."
- Confirm the recommendations contained in the reports on monitoring the electoral process, including amending the Bar Association Law and the legislation governing that election.
- Prepare, train, and qualify personnel who participate in the implementation of all stages of the electoral process, strengthen the role of persons with disabilities, youth, and women in these committees, and determine the basis for selecting polling center presidents and committee chairpersons in each constituency to ensure impartiality and integrity.
- Provide polling places (polling stations) that ensure that voters cast their votes in an accessible manner, with emphasis on the facilitation arrangements for persons with disabilities and the elderly.
- National efforts should be combined to develop collective awareness of the importance of participation in elections; as a right and a duty to intensify national efforts to promote the participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in all forms of elections.
- Continue efforts to control electoral crimes, including political money, and bring the perpetrators to justice in a manner that ensures the proper conduct of the electoral process by the relevant authorities.

Right to freedom of opinion, expression, the press and the media and the right to information

1. Prepare a national information strategy aimed at promoting the reality of media freedoms and providing a legislative environment that guarantees freedom of the press and the media.
2. Amend legislations relating to freedom of expression and freedom of the press and the media into a single legislative matrix in order to prevent legislative inconsistency and duplication.
3. Expedite the passage of the amended draft law on the right to information in the House of Representatives based on international human rights standards and the Jordanian Constitution.
4. Promote the right to information by monitoring the process of classifying information and appointing an information coordinator in each relevant body of law enforcement.
5. Raise awareness on the right to information among relevant authorities, in particular, the law regulating this right, the protocol on the classification and archiving of information, and the procedures for obtaining information approved by the Cabinet.

Right to peaceful assembly

- Redefine the right to meeting so as to include the essential elements of a peaceful assembly (organization, timing, purpose of the meeting, universality and socialism, and number).
- The Public Meetings Law includes organizational and procedural restrictions on the powers of the governor in accordance with the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards.

The right to establish and join political parties

1. Methodological training programs for students on good democratic practices should be developed in addition to collective action and the development of partisan life in Jordan in order to prepare the students to engage in political and partisan action, and to apply these practices on the ground to student councils in schools and universities through elections.
2. Intensify training programs to train youth parties in the skills necessary for running electoral campaigns and winning support and advocacy.
3. Promote youth participation in parties and ensure equitable access to their financial resources and leadership positions.
4. Continue efforts to empower women, youth and persons with disabilities in political participation through cultural and media channels that encourage them to participate in politics and join political parties.

The right to form and join trade unions

1. Review of Article 116 of the Labor Law No. (8) of 1996 and its amendments, which grant the Minister of Labor the power to dissolve the Administrative Board of the Union and appoint an interim administrative body, and grant this power to the judiciary.

2. Ratification of International Labor Convention No 87/ on freedom of association and protection of the right to organize.

The right to establish and join associations

1. Standardization of the supervision and follow-up of the work of associations.
2. Strengthening partnerships between governmental and civil society institutions in the preparation of plans and strategies.
3. Develop and activate the legal and procedural frameworks governing the work of civil society institutions, ensuring that they are allowed to continue to hold their responsibilities efficiently and effectively by easing restrictions on access to internal and external sources of funding, obtaining national information and data, and strengthening their oversight role over the implementation of government plans and programs.
4. The establishment of an institutional mechanism to maintain communication, consultations, dialogues and partnerships between government institutions, public bodies, civil society organizations and the National Assembly, operating under an independent authority.
5. Applying the principles of good governance in civil society institutions.
6. Conducting a survey covering all civil society institutions and all specializations, as well as surveying the views of the organizers of these institutions within the legal framework governing their work, in preparation for the development of legislations that meet their needs and aspirations, staying in line with political reforms, constitutional amendments, human rights concepts and systems, staying in line with the vision of the National Human Rights Plan, and being based on genuine national consultation and consensus in relation to volunteering. This should be accompanied by the development of a national plan to ensure education and training for voluntary work in universities and secondary schools; and rehabilitate and train volunteer workers according to a comprehensive plan.

Recommendations on economic, social and cultural rights:

Right to development and adequate standard of living

1. While appreciating the broad vision of economic modernization, The National Center stresses the need for the Administration to effectively implement the standards of transparency in order to inform the public about achieved targets in accordance with the schedules set for them.
2. In order to address the water problem, it is necessary to work on desalinating seawater to achieve independence in water sources, develop a strategy on the importance of using technology to face the

water challenges, determine the amount of wasted water, address this important issue, and take measures to address and reuse water in agriculture and industry, in order to counter the impact of climate change on the water sector.

3. Local administrations should be directed to identify development priorities within their annual implementation plans to support and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Further efforts and innovation to sustainably increase agricultural production, improve global supply chains, and reduce food loss and wastage.
5. Provide a balanced reserve of food to meet any emergency situation.

The Right to work:

- Work on providing funding for the Fund to Assist Victims of Human Trafficking, so that it can play its role in the best possible way.
- Work on providing occupational safety and health conditions in the workplace.
- Take effective measures to reduce child labor.

The Right to education:

1. Reconsider the programs and plans adopted to address the problem of school dropout and join efforts of all concerned parties.
2. Work on improving the quality of education by developing curricula and teaching methods and by providing modern and effective educational resources that help attract students and encourage them to continue their studies.
3. Provide additional support to students with learning disabilities, whether by enrolling them in special programs for those with learning disabilities or by making special revisions at specific times that help them improve their performance and increase their self-confidence.
4. Intensify efforts to include all children aged 4-5 years in kindergartens and make the second kindergarten compulsory, given the great importance of preschool education.

Cultural rights:

1. Continue to support efforts to discover more archeological sites by the competent authorities.
2. Update the goals contained in the National Tourism Strategy and prioritize them in line with the economic modernization plan.
3. Continue to develop tourism facilities and infrastructure.
4. Unify national efforts in the field of incubators of cultural works and creative industries.
5. Increase government spending on cultural rights including cultural activities, events, festivals and initiatives.

The Right to health:

1. The need to increase the level of health care available in public hospitals.
2. Ensure that all citizens are covered by free universal health insurance.

3. Take all preventive and curative measures to prevent and stop the rising spread of communicable diseases.
4. The Medical Accountability Act of 2018 should be enacted in cooperation with partners in the medical sector and health unions, to find solutions that guarantee the rights of the patient, the doctor, the hospital and all relevant parties involved under clear and fair mechanisms, in addition to taking the appropriate and strict measures to control cosmetic procedures carried out by non-specialized clinics.
5. Intensify preventive and educational measures by the Ministry of Health, in addition to the free and frequent testing of patients, particularly in remote areas, to avoid transmission and spread of communicable diseases.
6. Continue to focus on effective inspections and monitoring by the Ministry of Health and the Food and Drug Administration; to ensure that all establishments, food factories, and restaurants throughout the Kingdom comply with the requirements of public health and safety.

The right to a healthy environment:

1. The establishment of central plants for the treatment of industrial and natural wastewater in all regions of the Kingdom.
2. The need to intensify volunteer and awareness campaigns to curb the phenomenon of forest and tree fires, especially in the summer season, by intensifying control over summer sites and raising awareness about the dangers of setting fires inside forests. It is also necessary to intensify efforts to remove weeds from streets and public squares, in order to prevent fires and protect plant and forest resources.
3. Ongoing coordination among policymakers in sectors that directly and indirectly affect the environment.

Recommendations for the persons most in need for protection:

Women's rights:

1. Amend Article (11) (a) (4) of the Political Parties Law No.7 of 2022 to increase the percentage of women's representation at the time of establishment of the party.
2. Amend the Institutional Nursery Alternatives Directive 2023 to list cases that allow cash payment to be used instead of creating a nursery at the institution's site.
3. Promote women's participation in political parties through awareness programs on the importance of women's participation in political parties.
4. Develop a national plan to increase women's participation in the management of public affairs by raising the quota for women in the House of Representatives, increasing their representation in the

highest leadership positions in the Kingdom, and consider the possibility of amending the labor and professional union laws to explicitly provide for the establishment of special seats for women in trade union councils.²⁵

5. Appointment of women judges in the Sharia Judiciary and a woman's commissioner (*ma'zun*), and appointment of female employees in the Sharia Courts and the General Fatwa Department.²⁶
6. Support the economic and social empowerment of women, provide them with employment opportunities and develop their skills in line with the needs of the labor market, particularly in remote areas.
7. Build the capacity of civil society institutions and activate the role of the media for the empowerment of women in communities.
8. Provide job opportunities for women and develop their skills in line with their needs in the labor market, particularly in remote areas.
- 9.

The rights of the child:

1. Promulgation of regulations and instructions on the organization and implementation of the provisions of the Law on the Rights of the Child.
2. Carry out cultural activities and awareness-raising programs on the rights enshrined in the Child Rights Act, targeting children in schools and child care workers.
3. The adoption of a draft system for the protection of working juveniles, which defines the legal framework for dealing with active juveniles in a manner that ensures the protection of the rights and best interests of the child.
4. Enact The Juvenile Post-Care System No 67 of 2016 and the directives issued pursuant thereto, which are the instructions that established the system of post-juvenile care for 2021.
5. Increase the number of staff working in social welfare institutions under the Ministry of Social Development.

Rights of persons with disabilities

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
2. Increase the representation of persons with disabilities in political parties.
3. Disseminate awareness-raising programs on the rights of persons with disabilities to obtain an ID card from the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
4. All polling centers should be provided for the participation of persons with disabilities in all forms of elections.

²⁵ Mentioned in the annual reports on the human rights situation in Jordan 2003-2020. There was a partial implementation of the recommendation to raise the quota for women in the parliament and The Center hopes that the government increases the number of seats for Women in the House of Representatives and increases their participation in leadership positions and modifies Trade union laws by establishing a quota for women in councils of Trade unions and abolishing all forms of discrimination against women as recommended by the CEDAW Committee in its discussion of the Convention's seven national reports.

²⁶ The recommendation is contained in the annual reports on the status of human rights Humans in Jordan from 2003-2020, as recommended by the CEDAW Committee when discussing the Convention's seven national reports.

5. The existence of a database on the number of persons with disabilities among the registered voters for the purposes of voting, their percentage, their geographical distribution, or the determination of the type of disabilities, as well as the number of candidates with disabilities, so that the authors of studies and reports can prepare their studies and reports and come up with recommendations and action plans.
6. Work with the concerned authorities on implementing and activating all strategies related to the rights of persons with disabilities.
7. Provide all measures and environmental facilities to persons with disabilities to enable them to lead their normal lives equally and without discrimination.

Rights of older persons:

1. Continue national efforts to represent Jordan to contribute to international efforts in drafting an international convention on the rights of older persons.
2. Passage of a law on the rights of older persons.
3. Build a database and disaggregated statistics that take into account gender, age, disability, health, social, economic and other aspects of life. These statistics will be based on the results of the necessary interventions to protect the rights of older persons.
4. Raise the awareness of those working with older people in nursing homes and daytime clubs, and provide qualified teaching staff to be a starting point for the provision of home services on a volunteering basis.
5. Take advantage of the free bus for 60-year-olds and increase the number of transportation buses for older people and cover all areas.
6. Establish Daytime Clubs to absorb the capacities of older people during the day to activate their social role and in all governorates of the Kingdom.

Total number of complaints received by the National Center for Human Rights according to the rights claimed in 2022

The number of complaints received by the Center in 2022 was 620 compared to 548 in 2021, including 417 complaints related to civil and political rights, and 172 complaints related to economic, social and cultural rights, while the number of complaints related to the rights of the most in need of protection was 31, as shown in the table below.

Total number of complaints received by the National Center for Human Rights according to the rights claimed in 2022								
The right object of the complaint	Nbr of complaints	Satisfactorily closed	Unsatisfactorily closed	Outside of the Center's scope	Unproved violation	Uncooperative plaintiff	Classified complaints	Ongoing complaints
Recognition of legal personality (nationality)	9	0	2	0	1	0	0	6
Right to residence and movement	128	44	17	3	19	3	0	42
Right to obtain ID documents	17	7	0	1	0	0	0	9
Right to a fair trial	71	17	1	7	15	1	0	30
Right to liberty and personal safety	19	6	0	3	1	0	1	8
Right to decent and humanitarian treatment	9	1	1	0	3	0	0	4
Right to asylum	6	2	0	1	3	0	0	0
Right to physical safety	68	6	15	0	13	8	2	24
Right to life	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Rights of inmates in correction and rehabilitation centers	42	20	2	2	10	1	0	7
Right to equality and non-discrimination	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Right to freedom of thought and expression	10	1	2	0	0	0	0	7
Right to join parties	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Right to join unions	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Right to form associations	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Right to peaceful assembly	5	1	1	0	2	0	0	1
Right to privacy	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	1
Legal demands	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Rule of law	7	0	3	2	0	0	0	2
Right to address public authorities	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
Right to health	12	3	1	0	2	0	0	6
Right to work	58	6	14	7	6	0	0	25
Right to decent livelihood	53	4	0	0	27	0	0	22
Right to housing	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Right to education	13	6	0	0	4	0	0	3
Right to hold public function	4	0	0	2	1	0	0	1
Right to legal aid	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Right to social security	17	6	0	1	0	0	0	10
Right to own property	4	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
Right to development	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Right to a healthy environment	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Rights of the child	21	10	0	1	4	1	0	5
Rights of persons with disabilities	8	0	0	0	3	0	0	5
Rights of older persons	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Total	620	148	65	34	123	15	3	232
Percentages		24%	10.50%	5.25%	19.7%	2.5%	0.05%	38%

