

The National Centre for Human Rights
The National Centre for Human Rights Law No. (51) of 2006, As Amended
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We Abdulla II bin Al-Hussein, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, by virtue of article (31) of the Constitution, and upon decisions adopted by both, the Upper House and the House of Deputies, do hereby ratify the following Law and order its promulgation and incorporation into the body of the laws in the State.

Article 1:

This law shall be called: The National Centre for Human Rights Law for the Year 2006 and shall become effective as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 2:

The following words and terms, wherever they appear herein, shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context indicates otherwise.

Centre: National Centre for Human Rights

Board: The Centre's Board of Trustees

Chairperson: Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

Secretariat: The Centre's Secretariat

Commissioner General: The Commissioner General for Human Rights, as defined in the present Law.

Article 3:

- A- The Center, called "The National Centre for Human Rights" shall be established in the Kingdom as a legal personality enjoying financial and administrative independence. In this capacity, the Centre may exercise the full right of legal disposal, including drawing of contracts and ownership of movable and immovable properties, and resorting to the Judiciary for litigation.
- B- The Chairperson shall represent the Centre before others and, upon a decision by the Board, he may delegate any Board member or the Commissioner General to act on his behalf for this purpose, or appoint a lawyer to represent the Centre in judicial and administrative procedures.
- C- The Centre shall have its headquarters in the City of Amman and may establish branches and open offices anywhere in the Kingdom.

Article 4:

The Centre's Objectives:

- A- Promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom, drawing upon the tolerant message of Islam and the values inherent in the Arab-Islamic heritage.
- B- Promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom based on the rights and duties stipulated in the Constitution as well as the international treaties, agreements, and conventions to which Jordan is a party.¹
- C- Contributing to the consolidation of the principles of human rights in the Kingdom at both intellectual and practical levels, without discrimination as to race, language, religion or gender.
- D- Enhancing the democratic process in the Kingdom with a view to creating an integrated and balanced model based on respect of freedoms, guarantee of political pluralism, upholding of the rule of law and ensuring the right to economic, social and cultural development.
- E- Encouraging the Kingdom's accession to Arab and international human rights conventions and agreements.

Article 5:

The Centre shall work to achieve its objectives employing the following:

- A- Monitoring the human rights situation in the Kingdom to address any violations or infringements thereof; and at the same time follow up on the adoption of the necessary measures for that purpose, including through conciliating complaints or referring them to any competent authorities in order to halt such violations and infringements and eliminate their consequences.²
- B- Working to integrate human rights principles, especially as enunciated in Islam, in the curricula at the various stages of education.
- C- Declaring positions and issuing statements related to specific human rights issues in the Kingdom.

¹ Such became this article after its amendments pursuant to the Law amending the National Center for Human Rights Law number (4) for the year 2017, published in the official Gazette no (5447) on 1/3/2017, on page No. (1593), where the text of paragraph (a) of Article four was as follows:

“a- enhance the principles of human rights in the Kingdom, drawing upon the tolerant message of Islam and rights stipulated by the Constitution, and the principles emphasized by international conventions and agreements”.

² Such became this paragraph of article five after amendment in accordance with amending Law number (4) for the year 2017, where the previous text was as follows: “ to ensure that human rights are observed in the Kingdom, with a view to addressing any transgressions or violations thereof, and following up with the adoption of the necessary measures for that purpose, including settlement of said transgressions or violations or referral to the executive, or the legislative power or any legal authority in order to put an end thereto and eliminate the effects thereof”.

- D- Conducting legal, political, social, educational, and intellectual studies and research on issues relating to the Centre's objectives.
- E- Organizing lectures, seminars and conferences pertaining to the Centre's objectives and participating in similar activities, subject to applicable national laws.
- F- Carrying out training courses, seminars as well as educational programs.
- G- Issuing human rights-related statements, bulletins periodical and non-periodical publications.
- H- Participating in television and radio programs, panel discussions and interviews, as well as in the preparation of press materials.
- I- Exchanging information and best practices with similar national, Arab, and Islamic institutions and associations as well as regional and international organizations.
- J- Submitting recommendations and proposals necessary for guaranteeing human rights in the Kingdom.
- K- Establishing a database on human rights issues.
- L- Proposing legislations relating to the Centre's objectives.

Article 6:

- A- The Centre shall enjoy complete independence in undertaking its human rights-related intellectual, political and humanitarian activities and functions. Furthermore, the Board, its members, and the Commissioner General shall not be held accountable for any measures and actions they perform within the preview of the Centre's mandate and scope of work specified herein.³
- B- The Centre's headquarters and its branches in the Kingdom may only be searched, pursuant to a judicial order, and in the presence of the competent public prosecutor, provided the Center is notified in advance of any such search and a representative of the Centre is invited to attend the said search. Any conduct to the contrary otherwise shall be deemed invalid.

Article 7:

The Centre shall monitor violations of human rights and public freedoms in the Kingdom and shall act to halt any such violations. The Centre may follow up on the compensation of the aggrieved persons, pursuant to the pertinent legislations.⁴

³ Such has become this Paragraph of Article Six after amendment pursuant to amending Law Number (4) for the year 2017. The previous text was as follows:

“a- The Centre shall enjoy complete independence in undertaking its human rights-related intellectual, political and humanitarian activities and functions. Furthermore, the Board or any of its members shall not be held accountable for the measures taken within the Centre's competences specified in this Law.”

⁴ Such became Article Seven after its amendment pursuant to the Amending Law Number (4) for the Year 2007, where the Law originally stipulated the following:

Article 8:

The Centre may request any information, data, or statistics from the relevant parties it deems necessary for the realization of its objectives and the respective parties shall respond to such requests without delay.

Article 9:

If the violation of human rights is perpetrated by a public employee, the Centre may notify the respective official body to which the said person belongs and request that appropriate legal measures are instituted against those involved therein.

Article 10:

The Centre has the right to:

- A- Visit Reform and Rehabilitation Centres, detention places and juvenile care homes and in accordance with the established procedures.
- B- Visit any public place or any private institution with legal personality, where past or present violations of human rights are reported to have taken place to verify the veracity of such allegations and recommend the adoption of the necessary remedies.⁵

Article 11:

The Centre commits to the following:

- A- Maintain the confidentiality of sources of all the information, data and documents it receives; be it at the request of the provider of such information as well as in situations that requires such confidentiality.
- B- Refrain from using the data and information it obtains in ways other than to realizing the Center's objectives.
- C- Disregard anonymous complaints that do not have the name, signature and address of the sender or contain an abuse of this right.

Article 12:

The Centre shall issue an annual report on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Kingdom and submit the said report to the Upper house, the House of Deputies and the Council of Ministers.

“The Centre shall monitor transgressions of human rights and public freedoms in the Kingdom and shall strive to halt any such transgressions and the Centre may follow up on the persons subject of those transgressions pursuant to the valid laws.”

⁵ Such became this Article after its amendment pursuant to the Amending Number (4) for the Year 2017; where the text of Paragraph (b) was as follows:

“b- Visit any public place or any legal personality, where past or present violations of human rights are reported to have taken place.”

Article 13:⁶

- A- Supervision and management of the Center shall be undertaken by a Board of Trustees comprised of no more than 21 members; the Chairperson and members are appointed by Royal Decree at the recommendation of the Prime Minister for a renewable term of four years.
- B- The Board shall elect from among its members a deputy chairperson who assumes the role of the chairperson during his absence.
- C- The term of the Board is four years.
- D- Membership of the Board can only end in any of the following instances:
 - 1. Death.
 - 2. Resignation.
 - 3. A final court decision convicting the member of a felony or misdemeanor connected to integrity or honour.
 - 4. Loss of civil capacity.
 - 5. Disability preventing the member from performing his duties issued by a competent medical body.
 - 6. Failure to attend the Board's meetings for three consecutive times without an acceptable excuse.
 - 7. The completion of the full term of the Board.
- E- The Chairperson and members of the Board shall possess the following qualifications:
 - 1- Vigorous follow up of the community's concerns and aspirations.
 - 2- Knowledge of human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and international treaties and conventions related to human rights.
- F- A person appointed as Chairperson of the Board is required not to be affiliated with any political party.⁷
- G- In appointing Board members, due consideration should be given to the inclusion of its membership of a balanced and broad representation of all segments of the society as well as human rights entities, including women and civil society organizations.

⁶ The text of Article (13) of the previous law was abrogated and replaced with the text herein above. The previous text of the original law was as follows:

“a- The Center shall be supervised and managed by a Board of Trustees of no more than 21 members, whose Chairperson and members are appointed by Royal Decree at the recommendation of the Prime Minister, and it is possible by the same method to terminate the membership of any one of them and appoint a replacement for the remaining term of membership.

b. The Board shall elect from among its members a deputy chairperson who assumes the role of the chairperson during his absence.

c. The term of the Board is four years.”

⁷ Such became this article after its amendments pursuant to the Law amending the National Center for Human Rights Law No. (16) for the year 2022, published in the Official Gazette No. (5812) on 1/9/2022, on page No. (6231).

Article 14:

The Board shall undertake the following tasks:

- A- Drawing the overall policy of the Centre and monitoring its implementation.
- B- Examining and adopting the Centre's annual action plan.
- C- Approving methods for developing the Centre as well as expand such activities and evaluate them.
- D- Examining and adopting the annual report on human rights in the Kingdom.
- E- Working to develop the Centre's source of income.
- F- Discussing issues and matters referred to it by the Commissioner General, and taking the appropriate decisions thereof.
- G- Strengthening the Centre's relations with similar institutions and organizations.
- H- Adopting the Centre's draft general budget and financial statements and appoint an auditor for the Centre.
- I- Issuing regulations for the management of the Centre, as well as its branches and committees, including those pertaining to administrative and financial affairs in full compliance with the provisions of the Center's law.
- J- Supervising the Centre's different activities and functions in the area of human rights.

Article 15:

- A- The Board meets once a month at the invitation of the Chairperson or, in his absence, of his Deputy. The meeting shall have a quorum of two thirds of the Board members, provided the Chairperson or his deputy is present. The adoption of the Board decisions needs the votes of at least two thirds of those present.
- B- The Board of Trustees may delegate any of its competences to the Chairperson or any of the Board's committees or members.
- C- Upon the recommendation of the Chairperson, the Board shall appoint a Secretary, who shall organize the Board's meetings, keep record of its decisions and documents.
- D- The Board shall select from among its members a Treasurer, who shall supervise financial records and accounts, organize payment and receipt vouchers, and sign payment vouchers for non-recurrent capital expenditure together with the Chairperson or the Commissioner General.⁸

⁸ This Article was amended pursuant to the Law amending the National Centre for Human Rights Law Number (4) for the Year 2017, such by adding the phrase (non-recurrent capital expenditures) after the phrase (on the payment vouchers) stated therein.

Article 16:

- A- The Commissioner General shall be appointed by decision of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Board for a three-year renewable term, provided the appointment is endorsed by a Royal Decree. The services of the Commissioner General shall be terminated by the same procedure.
- B- A person appointed as a Commissioner General is required not to be affiliated with any political party.⁹
- C- The Commissioner General shall be responsible before the Board for the performance of his tasks and shall be assisted by a number of full-time commissioners appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the Chairperson. The Commissioner General may delegate any of his competences to any of the commissioners, as circumstances require.

Article 17:

The Commissioner General shall undertake all the responsibilities and tasks stipulated herein, especially the following:

- A- Applying the Center's general policy and following up on the implementation of the Board's decisions.
- B- Monitoring transgressions and violations of human rights and public freedoms in the Kingdom, receiving complaints, and taking the necessary follow-up actions thereon.
- C- Using various ways and means to end cases of violations of human rights and public freedoms in the Kingdom.
- D- Following up on complaints and cases of human rights violations until such complaints and violations are settled, as well as notifying the complainant or the concerned person of the complaint's outcome, and documenting and incorporating complaints in the Centre's annual report.
- E- Familiarizing citizens with their right, guaranteed by the Constitution and laws in force, as well as by international treaties and covenants through different communication outlets and media channels, in addition to assisting them to take the necessary measures to safeguard these rights against infringement, including acquainting the complainant or concerned person with the ways and means of appeal and legal review.
- F- Defraying expenses incurred for taking action to end infringements upon the complainant's rights, if found to be poor, and subject to the availability of the financial allocations for this in the Centre's budget.

⁹ Such became this article after its amendments pursuant to the Law amending the National Center for Human Rights Law No. (16) for the year 2022, published in the Official Gazette No. (5812) on 1/9/2022, on page No. (6231).

- G- Any competences, which the Board may delegate to him in accordance with the present Law or regulations issued by virtue thereof.

Article 18:

- A- The Secretariat is the Center's executive body and is headed by the Commissioner General, who shall manage and supervise this body.
- B- The Secretariat's employees are appointed and their salaries and all their rights are determined by the Board at the recommendation of the Commissioner General in accordance with the Centre's valid regulations.

Article 19:

The Secretariat shall exercise the following duties:

- A- Work to achieve the Centre's objectives by the means stipulated in the present Law and it may form specialized committees to undertake specific tasks in order to achieve the said objectives.
- B- Supervise the Centre's different activities and functions in the area of human rights.
- C- Prepare the Centre's annual action plan.
- D- Supervise the Centre's organizational, administrative and financial affairs, including personnel affairs.
- E- Manage and invest the Centre's funds and movable and immovable assets in accordance with the bases approved by the Board of Trustees.
- F- Prepare the annual report, financial and administrative reports, and any other reports pertaining to the Centre's work and objectives.
- G- Prepare the draft general budget, as well as the final accounts.

Article 20:

The Centre's financial resources shall consist of the following:

- A- Financial support provided by the Government to enable the Centre to perform its mandate.¹⁰
- B- Proceeds of the financial and cultural activities and projects undertaken by the Center.
- C- Donations, grants and any other resources approved by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Law subject to the approval of the Council of Ministries if their origin is non-Jordanian.
- D- Wills and Waqf endowments.

¹⁰ This Paragraph of Article (20) of the original Law was amended by the phrase (to enable the Centre to perform its mandate) until the end.

Article

21:

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other legislation, the Centre, as well as its funds, transactions and non-investment revenues, shall be exempt of all taxes and fees of whatever type.

Article 22:

The Board of Trustees shall issue the regulations necessary for the implementation of the present Law.

Article 23:

The Prime Minister, as well as members of the Cabinet, shall be charged with the implementation of the provisions of the present Law.

19 September 2006

Abdulla II, bin Al-Hussein