

**The 18th Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of
Jordan**

For the year 1443 AH-2021 AD

January 1-December 31, 2021 AD

Amman – 2023

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Introduction

The annual report on the human rights situation in the Kingdom provides an objective diagnosis of the reality of human rights based on monitoring and normative analysis based on the constitution and international human rights standards. The report is of particular importance at the national and international levels. At the national level, the annual report is one of the legal tools provided by the Center to assess and evaluate the human rights system on three levels: legislation, policies, and practices, and to come up with recommendations based on a human rights approach. At the international level, the importance of the report lies in its being one of the elements for assessing the human rights situation nationally by international human rights mechanisms, in addition to what the report represents at the same time as an indicator of the extent to which the Center practically responds to the Paris Principles establishing national human rights institutions.

The National Center for Human Rights issues its 18th annual report on the situation of human rights in the Kingdom in light of the continuing repercussions of the exceptional circumstances, the repercussions of the global crisis created by Covid-19, and its direct and indirect impact on the human rights system.

In its seventeenth annual report, the National Center for Human Rights had previously raised five questions that summarized the challenges and conclusions for protecting human rights under temporary and emergency circumstances, leading to a return to normal legal status. In light of the impact of the implementation of Defense Law No. (13) of 1992, which was monitored by the Center, and within the framework of these conclusions in which these questions were raised in the introduction to the previous report for the year 2020, the Center followed up the developments of the human rights situation in the country during the year 2021, in main areas:

- The extent to which national legislation is in harmony with the Jordanian constitution and international standards to which the state has committed itself.
- The extent to which human rights concepts are integrated into policies and programs and built according to a human rights approach based on justice, equality and the rule of law.
- The extent to which the capabilities of institutions concerned with law enforcement are strengthened, through the activation of oversight mechanisms and official accountability procedures, and the application of the rule of law to the performance and practices of these institutions.
- Extent of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Center's annual report and their implications for the empowerment and promotion of human rights in the Kingdom.

In the year 2021, the first features of the post-crisis world began to emerge, which emerged from direct and indirect immediate, long-term and multidimensional challenges in the various structures (social, economic, cultural, political and civil), which will inevitably contribute to re-prioritizing the fulfillment of the obligations incurred by the state, especially the economic and social ones.

The 18th report on the situation of human rights for the year 2021 included a statement of the normative content on which the Center relied in diagnosing the human rights situation, with the aim of assessing the progress made in terms of promoting and protecting human rights in all tracks, and associated with an explanation of the reasons and factors behind the imbalances; and with the aim of stating the Center's position and recommendations regarding them according to the approach of sharing and distributing responsibilities and roles; and with the aim of paying attention, with the same importance, to each of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of the groups most in need of protection and care. Four main annexes are attached to the report for this year, namely:

- An annex on the analysis of complaints and requests for assistance received by the Center in 2021.
- An annex on the legislative developments of the rights mentioned in the report.
- An annex on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Center's report for the year 2020.
- An annex on measuring the impact of the annual report at the national and international levels.

In terms of civil and political rights, the Center records the positive steps that the year 2021 witnessed in this field. The initiative of His Majesty King Abdullah II came to announce his desire to modernize the political system, through the formation of a royal committee that laid a solid foundation for improving the reality of political life in Jordan, and the establishment of an advanced stage in the way the executive authority exercises its work in accordance with His Majesty the King's vision for Jordan's political future contained in the contents and objectives of the royal discussion papers, and based on the provisions of the constitution, through the development of legislation regulating political life that guarantees a new democratic political stage in which the partisan, pluralistic, and gradual programmatic work system becomes an essential part of the Jordanian political system.

In addition to updating the system of legislation regulating political life, the Center recorded remarkable progress in various aspects. The year 2021 witnessed a significant decrease in the number of administrative and judicial detainees, according to statistics received from various law enforcement agencies. At the same time, the Center recorded a number of observations that came as outputs of the work of the field monitoring teams to the initial arrest and temporary detention centers; in the year 2021, the Center carried out a number of visits, through which and from the complaints received by the Center, it became clear that the violation continued by preventing detainees from being visited by their families and that detainees are sometimes denied access to the outside world; as well as that there is need for continuous maintenance of toilets, especially in centers that witness overcrowding and gathering to transport wanted persons from the regions; in addition to continuing to rely on the criminal precedence of the detainee to detain him for long periods in accordance with the Crime Prevention Law, especially when he is detained during the initial arrest stage in some security departments, especially the Criminal Investigation Department and the Drug Enforcement Department.

The Center also monitored the enjoyment of the right to justice and fair trial guarantees; the Center's teams made field visits to a group of courts in the Kingdom to monitor the reality of these courts, where the Center noticed the weakness of the network of the remote trial system - internet connection (Mizan system). The connection to the system is often cut off and slow at other times, which impedes the court's work, especially since the minutes of the sessions are printed on the system, as well as receipt vouchers for court fees, financial payments, and fines need receipt voucher by the system before proceeding to pay them, whether the payment method is electronic or manual. The Center also monitored the reality of the High Criminal Court and concluded that it is necessary to provide the court with an additional judicial body to reduce work pressure; and the need to allocate staff to archive documents. The Center also stresses the need to solve problems related to the implementation of the decisions of cancellation issued by the Administrative Court, which were mentioned in its previous report. This year, it adds the necessity of exempting employees from judicial fees when challenging administrative decisions regarding their appointment, promotion, transfer and termination of their services.

The year 2021 also witnessed the approval of the Clan Forced Relocations "Jalwa" Document, which is concerned with addressing the negative effects of common traditions and customs that had an impact on individuals' enjoyment of the right of residence and movement.

In the field of the right to freedom of opinion, expression, press, media, and access to information, in the year 2021, amendments were introduced to the bylaw related to fees for licensing printing presses, publishing houses, distribution houses, studies and research, the organizations of measuring public opinion, translation houses, and advertising and periodical publications offices, and the bylaw of licenses of broadcasting and re-broadcasting of radio and television by the Media Commission. In this context, the Center announced its position rejecting these amendments through a statement in which it clarified aspects of the constitutional and normative violation of the proposed amendments to the aforementioned regulations, and the Center called for the withdrawal of the amendments. At that time, the Center recorded the response to halting the procedures for approving the amendments.

On the other hand, work is still going on with the eighth defense order issued on 15/04/2020, despite the Center's recommendations to review it and cancel the clause that includes criminalizing "publishing, republishing, or circulating any news about the epidemic that would intimidate people, or create panic among them through means of communication or social media." As the Center believes that this criminalization has included broad and general phrases that open the way for the expansion of criminal prosecution, and it does not comply with the conditions that must be met in restrictions in accordance with international human rights standards, specifically Article (19/3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that the Jordanian penal bylaw currently in place is sufficient in this context.

During the year 2021, there was no legislative amendment to the Open Meetings Law regulating the right to peaceful assembly. In this regard, the Center reiterates its recommendation to amend Article (2) of this law, which is related to the definition and nature of the open meeting, as according to the law, any political discussions, even between family members, can be considered an open meeting that requires notifying the administrative ruler. The concept of public policy contained in the definition is a relative concept that varies between individuals, as it includes various topics, including: the actions and programs of governments, authorities and public institutions, in addition to the activities and gatherings carried out by individuals and civil society institutions.

In terms of enjoying the exercise of this right, the year 2021 witnessed the continuation of organizing various peaceful marches that called for improving the financial and living conditions of citizens, especially the poor groups. The year 2021 witnessed different forms of participation; The Center closely monitored and followed the state of public protests, sit-ins, strikes, and marches that took place in the Kingdom during the year, whether by workers in public and official institutions, trade unions, and others.

The year 2021 also witnessed the formation of a committee by the Minister of Social Development to amend the Associations Law No. (51) of 2008 regulating the right to form associations. In this context, the Center reaffirms its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports, which include amending the Associations Law, so that the new law shall be consistent with the principles guaranteed by the provisions of the Jordanian constitution and international standards, and this is done through: that the supervision of the work of the associations be by an independent body that includes official representatives and others from civil society institutions, and that the management of their work be carried out by an independent person who heads them by election; and providing specific definitions for the types of associations (family association, private association, closed association, charitable association) and distinguishing them from the non-profit company; and creating an institutional mechanism to maintain communication, consultations, dialogues and partnerships between government institutions, public bodies, civil society organizations and the National Assembly.

In the field of economic, social and cultural rights, the Center monitored the reality of enjoying these rights, as the report shows the deterioration of the economic conditions of the citizen, and the widening pockets of poverty associated with high unemployment rates and the cost of living due to the high food prices, which affected wide segments of society.

In the same context, the report referred to the reality of the health sector, and the citizen's right to obtain the highest level of health care housing. The report indicates that the Center has received many complaints, in addition to what has been monitored and documented by specialized monitoring teams of violations in primary and comprehensive health centers and private government hospitals, most notably: the lack of medical aids and tools for people with disabilities and the elderly; for example, but not limited to (wheelchairs, floor indexes for the visually impaired, crutches, orthopedic shoes, and splints). Also, most hospitals and comprehensive health centers lack the necessary hygiene, environmental facilities for people with disabilities and the elderly. in addition to the long waiting period when receiving treatment or obtaining the medication; and the severe overcrowding in front of the clinics, the pharmacy, the accounting department, the laboratory, and the x-rays department, which constitutes an additional burden on patients, especially those with disabilities and the elderly. There are no psychologists and social specialists in hospitals and comprehensive health centers to deal with cases of abuse and exploitation, especially with regard to women with disabilities. Not to mention the remarkable disparity in the provision of health and medical services between the public and private sectors, and the absence of complementarity in the provision of services.

In the educational sector, information indicates a decline in education levels in the public sector. The Center's teams noticed some of the imbalances documented in the report, including the continued suffering of students in many regions of the Kingdom from the inability to access the right to remote learning; due to the inability of their families to provide them with the requirements and tools of modern technology, and to bear the costs arising from that, especially when there is more than one member in the same family who receives this type of education, while stressing that education, according to international standards, must be available from a material point of view, and that educational institutions shall be located in easily accessible and safe places. Another imbalance is the poor skills of using technology among some teachers and students, the absence of systems and tools to monitor the quality of remote learning; the lack of methods used in remote learning for interactive education and mechanisms to improve the educational skills of students, which prevented the achievement of the desired goal of education; and the failure to fully communicate information to students, given the short duration of one study session ; in addition to many obstacles that prevented persons with disabilities from enjoying the right to education; and the lack of direct means of communication between students and teachers, whether through the platform or any other electronic means.

In the field of the right to work, the year 2021 witnessed the adoption of a number of laws, regulations and communications issued under the Defense Law. The law amending the Prevention of Human Trafficking Law No. (10) of 2021 has been enacted. The Center believes that the amended law introduced provisions that included the inclusion of organized begging within the concept of the crime of human trafficking; and the possibility of stopping the prosecution of any of the victims and those affected by human trafficking crimes by the Public Prosecution; in addition to the establishment of the "Human Trafficking Victims Assistance Fund", which is dedicated to providing legal assistance to victims and those affected by human trafficking crimes, in a way that enhances legal protection against manifestations of child exploitation in the crime of begging. Work permit fees for non-Jordanians No. (3) for the year 2022 were approved, aiming to reduce the burdens imposed on employers by reducing work permit fees, which is reflected in production costs in all economic sectors and activities, as workers were exempted by (80%) of the fines resulting

from non-renewal of work permits for non-Jordanians who wish to remain in the Kingdom, and more than (90) days have passed since their expiry.

The Center also indicates that the defense orders prohibited the termination of the services of workers except in very exceptional cases stipulated by the law, which helped in preserving jobs and limiting the termination of the services of workers on a large scale, a text that is still valid and binding since the issuance of Defense Order No. (6) until now, under which any employer who terminates the services of any of his workers for reasons other than the limited permitted reasons shall be punished with fine and imprisonment.

In terms of the rights of groups most in need of protection, the data and information contained in the report refer to legislative developments that have had an impact on promoting and protecting the rights of women, persons with disabilities and the elderly. The report also indicates policies adopted and actual practices to implement women's rights, especially in the cases of women working in the agricultural sector, women victims of violence in shelters, women's murders, and the phenomenon of early marriage. The year 2021 witnessed the launch of the executive plan for the matrix of national priorities to strengthen the system of protection against gender-based violence, domestic violence and child protection for the years (2021-2023), which aims to strengthen the family protection system, reduce domestic violence, and protect children at the national level.

The year 2021 also witnessed the launch of the gender mainstreaming strategy in the Public Security Directorate (2021-2024), based on the Jordanian National Action Plan to implement Security Council Resolution No. (1325) on women, security and peace and its subsequent resolutions; to support Jordan in achieving its goal of making the public security service an Arab and international leader in integrating the concept of gender, and promoting the advancement of women in all services of the Public Security Directorate to ensure fair access for women to all roles, training and opportunities. The Center welcomes what came out of this strategy, and considers it a step towards supporting women's rights. The report also indicates some deficiencies in women's economic empowerment programs and social protection programs for groups most in need of protection and care at the three levels: legislation, policies, and practices.

The year 2021 was marked by the Center's implementation of a large number of institutional achievements, represented in monitoring visits to address abuses and violations; and follow-up on taking the necessary measures, including settling or referring them to the executive or legislative authority or the competent judicial authority to stop them and remove their effects, including: making (90) visits to reform and rehabilitation centers and temporary detention centers for the purposes of verifying some complaints received by the Center; in addition, (27) monitoring visits were made to verify the right to peaceful assembly, the right to a healthy environment, and the right to work. (11) monitoring visits were made to hospitals and health centers to see the status of health and treatment services provided to citizens, and to prepare reports on them and submit them to the concerned authorities; (9) monitoring visits were made to the qualified industrial zones to determine the conditions of employment in these zones, and the extent to which workers enjoy the right to work. Thirteen monitoring visits were made to public schools to see the reality of the educational process and the extent to which students enjoy the right to education. In addition, (10) monitoring visits were made to some areas that witness environmental pollution.

The Center also held and organized activities and events at the national level and participated, as (14) training courses were implemented targeting judges, employees of the Ministry of Education, civil society organizations, parties, students of the Judicial Institute, liaison officers of the Center in the governorates, and liaison officers of the Center in institutions official; on human rights standards, the Center's work, fair trial standards, and other human rights topics. (15) two-day training courses were implemented within the first phase of the

legal aid project, targeting (300) lawyers in all governorates of the Kingdom. In addition, (40) lectures were held on human rights and the Center's work in various departments and directorates of Public Security for a large number of Public Security officers and personnel.

In the field of conducting legal, political, social and educational studies and research, the Center has prepared a study on the imprisonment of the debtor between the Jordanian implementation law and international standards, in addition to a report on the extent of enforcement of the recommendations issued by the Center during the period 2020-2021, and the preparation of a matrix on the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review.

In order to expand partnership and exchange information with the parties to the human rights system, the Center expanded the work of the Quartet Dialogue Forum, which includes, in addition to the Centre, the Office of the Government General Coordinator and his team, the two Freedoms Committees in the National Assembly, and relevant civil society organizations. In addition to expanding the national community network, many memorandums of understanding and cooperation have been signed: a memorandum of cooperation between the National Center for Human Rights and the Department of Public Statistics, and another memorandum signed with the Center for Strategic Studies; In addition to working on reviewing memorandums of cooperation with international organizations similar to the work of the Center, such as reviewing the memorandum of understanding with the High Commission for Human Rights in Iraq, and reviewing the draft memorandum of understanding between the National Center for Human Rights and the Palestinian Department of Human Rights and Civil Society; work to establish bilateral cooperation between the National Center for Human Rights and the Tunisian National Commission for Human Rights.

It must be noted that the Center deliberately measured the impact of its annual report at the national, regional and international levels. The results of the evaluation revealed that the normative value of the recommendations of the annual human rights report stems from the formation of political will as one of the national pillars for the protection and promotion of human rights in the Kingdom.

Regarding the importance of the annual report at the international level in particular, the Center conducted an analysis of the international recommendations that came from the concluding observations of the recommendations of the treaty and non-treaty committees, the recommendations of the universal periodic review, the decisions of the Human Rights Council, the recommendations included in the reports and studies of the special rapporteurs of international conventions, and the invitations made In public statements by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, or by independent experts in the field of human rights.

The results of the analysis revealed the intersection of many of the recommendations issued by the National Center for Human Rights (70%) with the international recommendations issued by various international bodies.

In conclusion, the Center stresses the need for concerted efforts aimed at promoting and protecting human rights aimed at consolidating the concepts of human rights and establishing the rule of law and democracy. The Center also expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to all the staff of the National Center for Human Rights, who prepared the annual report.

The Civil and Political Rights

- The right to life, liberty and physical integrity.
- The right to access justice and fair trial guarantees.
- The right to nationality, residence, movement and asylum.
- The right to vote and run for office.
- The right to freedom of opinion, expression, journalism, media, and the right to access information.
- The right to peaceful assembly.
- The right to form and join political parties.
- The right to form and join trade unions.
- The right to form and join associations.

The Right to Life, Personal Liberty and Physical Integrity

It is one of the basic human rights guaranteed by international, regional¹ and national² covenants by providing legal and judicial guarantees and non-legislative measures to protect the human right to life, liberty and physical integrity.

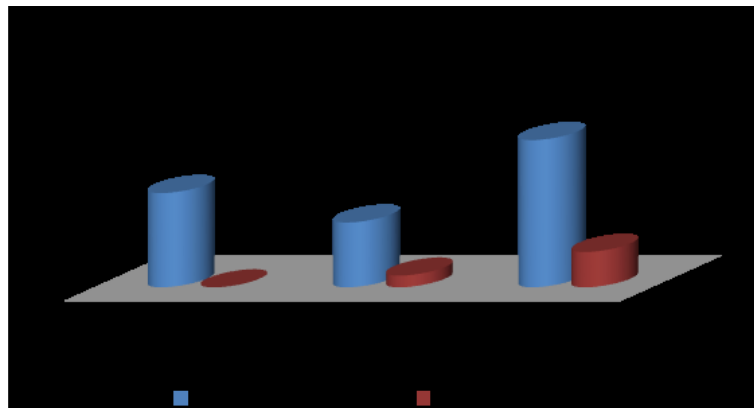
The normative content of this right is based on the monitoring and follow-up of a number of issues, namely: the imposition and implementation of the death penalty, the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, suicides, deaths as a result of traffic accidents and drowning, and the multiple cases of physical abuse that the Center monitored during the year 2021.

In general, the year 2021 witnessed the implementation of no death penalty; taking positive steps by the Public Security Directorate for Drug Control; And the decrease in the number of administrative detainees as a result of the measures taken by the government to combat the Covid-19 and the plan to reduce the number of inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers to prevent the spread of the epidemic in those centers.

■ Death Penalty:

The number of judgments issued by the Grand Criminal Court with the death penalty, regardless of whether the judgment became final in 2021, reached total of (25) judgments³, while the number of judgments issued by the State Security Court reached (6)⁴, as shown in the chart below:

Number of judgments imposing the execution of the death penalty during the period 2019-2021



The total number of inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers who were sentenced to death was (30) in 2021, including one female inmate, and the year 2021 did not witness the execution of death sentences⁵.

¹Article 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 5 and 6 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights

² Article 8 The Jordanian Constitution, Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Military Penal Code

³ Statistics of the Judicial Council, Book No. 3344/30/1/2, dated 5/9/2022,

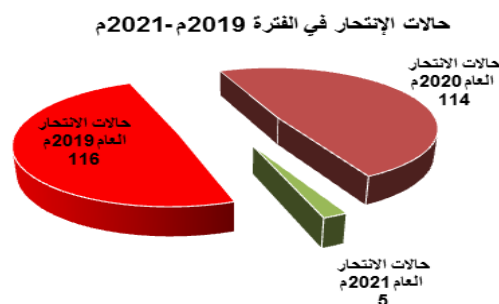
⁴ Statistics of the Directorate of Military Justice: Letter No. M.A. / 12/2/ State Security / 20515 dated 25/9/2022

⁵ Public Security Directorate statistics 44/1/ cooperation 17888 dated 6/1/2022.

Although international law has not categorically prohibited the death penalty, it requires that it be restricted to the most serious crimes; However, Jordanian legislation approaches this global trend by excluding many cases from the implementation of the penalty, including those under (18) years, as well as pregnant women, in addition to the possibility of special amnesty and the passage of this penalty through a series of legal procedures.

■ Suicides:

Public Security Directorate statistics indicate that (5) suicides occurred in 2021⁶, compared to (114) in 2020 and (116) in 2019, as shown in the chart below. In this regard, the Center recommends the need for concerted official and private efforts to identify and treat the causes of suicide.



■ Traffic accidents⁷:

The year 2021 witnessed the occurrence of (160,600) traffic accidents, resulting in the death of (589) people and the injury of (17,485) people. In this regard, the Center recommends the need to identify the causes of these accidents, and take legislative and administrative measures to mitigate these accidents and address their consequences.

■ Drowning accidents⁸:

Drowning accidents in 2021 amounted to (97) accidents, resulting in the death of (59) people, and the injury of (77) people, according to reports issued by the Public Security Directorate. In this regard, the Center urges the relevant authorities to take urgent and effective measures to monitor swimming places and water bodies, and to ensure public safety in order to preserve the right to life for all individuals.

■ Drugs and addiction treatment:

The center monitored a positive step implemented by the Public Security Directorate in drug control through two addiction treatment centers. One of them provides its services to all residents in the Kingdom, and the other is for inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers who wish to receive treatment.

The Center visited these two centers and recorded that they are among the advanced centers in providing free treatment service for addiction and take into account the privacy of the beneficiaries. However, the Center considers this experience the problem of placing security

⁶ Statistics of the Public Security Directorate: Letter No. 44/1/ Cooperation/17888 Date 1/6/2022 AD

⁷ Public Security Directorate statistics 1/44/ Cooperation 17888 dated 1/6/2022.

⁸ Statistics of the Public Security Directorate 1/44/ Cooperation Date 6/2022 AD.

restrictions on the patient and depriving him of obtaining security approval in cases of appointment and work.

The main events of 2021 that constituted a violation of the right to life:

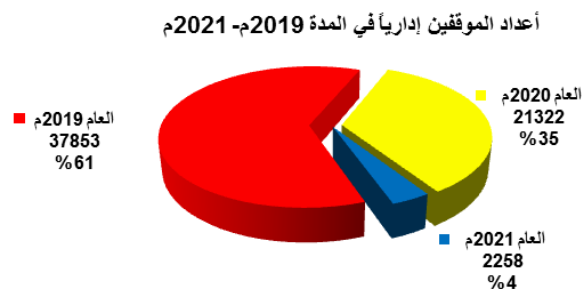
1. The death of a child at the hands of his adoptive parents as a result of being beaten and burned by pouring hot water on him, and after he was taken to the hospital, he died. An investigation with his three brothers after their transfer under the auspices of the Family Protection Department revealed that one of them had been beaten and the necessary treatment was provided. The parents were also arrested after they were presented to the competent public prosecutor, who ordered that and charged them with premeditated murder.
2. A university girl was killed by her father as a result of severely beating her with an electric cable because she failed an academic subject on 16/06/2021.
3. A husband burned his wife by pouring kerosene and setting her on fire, following a dispute between them, as she was taken to the hospital, but she died on 16/09/2021 after spending a week in the hospital.

Second: The Right to Freedom:

■ Administrative detention:

Based on the numbers received from the concerned authorities, the Center noticed a decrease in the number of administrative detainees during the year 2021 compared to previous years, as their number in 2021 reached a total of (2258)⁹ compared to (21322) during the year 2020 and (37,853) detainees during the year 2019, as shown in the figure below:

Number of administrative detainees for the period 2019-2021



Most of these were arrested after serving the sentence stipulated in the law and/or issuing a judicial decision ordering their release. However, the Center indicates that the figure provided by the Public Security Directorate for the number of administrative detainees, amounting to (2258), is a very small number compared to previous years; note that the number of inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers at the same time reached (180,954) in 2021, and that the increase in previous years for inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers was one of its main reasons for the increase in the number of administrative detainees. The Center was not able to determine the reasons for the decrease in this number significantly compared to previous years, especially in light of the above-mentioned of the continued large increase in inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers for the year 2021.

⁹ Statistics of the Public Security Directorate 1/44/ cooperation 17888 dated 1/6/2022

Synopsis

- During 2021, the Grand Criminal Court issued (25) death sentences.
- In 2021, (160,600) traffic accidents occurred, resulting in the death of (589) people and the injury of (17,485) people.
- 297 visits were made to reform and rehabilitation centers.

Conditions of initial detention centers:

In 2021, the Center conducted (30) visits to the initial detention and temporary detention centers. These visits and complaints received by the Center revealed the continuation of the violation by preventing detainees from being visited by their families; sometimes not allowing detainees to contact the outside world by not facilitating telephone contact with their families to inform them of their whereabouts; as well as the need for continuous maintenance of toilets, especially in centers that witness overcrowding and gathering to transport wanted persons from the regions; in addition to continuing to rely on the criminal precedents of the detainee to work on his detention for long periods in accordance with the Crime Prevention Law; especially when he was detained during the initial arrest phase by some security departments, especially the Criminal Investigation Department and the Drug Enforcement Department.

The Center also monitored the comprehensive maintenance work that was carried out in the secrecy of transferring the wanted/arrested, represented by eliminating the manifestations of dampness and the emission of odors that had previously been suffered by isolating the walls with ceramic wall designs, in addition to installing large fans inside the dormitories and in the corridors to ensure good ventilation. In addition to fixing the beds inside the dormitories and arranging them in a (U) shape to ensure that spaces are provided between the beds and that there is no chaos as a result of the detainees moving the beds randomly.

- Conditions of reform and rehabilitation centers:

The Center made (60) visits to reform and rehabilitation centers in 2021. The number of people who entered reform and rehabilitation centers in 2021 was (18954)¹⁰ compared to (17708) during the year 2020 and (119708) during the year 2019, while the absorptive capacity of these centers is (13352), which negatively affects the conditions of inmates and their rights in all fields. In this regard, the Center recommends expanding the application of alternatives to penalties of deprivation of liberty and detention.

Third: The right not to be subjected to torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment:

During the year 2021, the legal and practical problems that the Center referred to in its previous annual reports related to the criminalization of torture, the punishment for this crime, and compensation for the victims continued; which is a violation of international obligations under the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984, according to the following:

- 1- The shortcomings in criminalizing torture: The Jordanian Penal Code criminalized torture under Article (208), but in a partial manner, as it was limited to extracting a confession or confession.

¹⁰ Public Security Directorate statistics 44/1/ cooperation 17888 dated 1/6/2022

- 2- The possibility of the crime of torture being included in statutes of limitations and amnesty: Considering torture as a misdemeanor crime leads to legal consequences that are contrary to the principle of prosecution in accordance with the Convention, which was confirmed by the Center in its previous reports, the most prominent of which is the departure of the attempted crime from the scope of criminalization, in addition to this the possibility of forfeiture of the punishment by amnesty and statute of limitations.
- 3- Criminal prosecution of torture complaints: All investigations carried out by law enforcement agencies require the independence required by international standards. This is done by assigning qualitative competence in investigating and prosecuting cases of torture to the Police Public Prosecution and to the special courts, and the consequent practical reality is to deal with the acts committed in a basic manner as mere behavioral violations that do not require the application of this article, and / or assigning another criminal description to the facts composing the crime of torture, such as abuse in its various forms.

In this regard, the Center stresses the need to grant the Public Prosecution Office and regular courts, exclusively, the specific jurisdiction to hear cases of torture to ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are prosecuted and convicted.

4. The problem of compensation for torture victims: the Center believes that the national legislation continues to fall short in the scope of compensation for torture victims, by not explicitly providing for compensation for torture victims, and their psychological and physical rehabilitation.

The Public Security Directorate did not receive any complaints related to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees in the initial detention centers in 2021.

As for the cases of ill-treatment committed against inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers in 2021, they amounted to (55) cases, (32) people were prevented from being tried by the police prosecutor, while (17) cases were tried before the unit commander and (6) cases are under investigation.

The main complaints and allegations of torture and ill-treatment received by the Center in 2021:

- 1- The family of the person called (F, Kh) claimed that he was tortured by a group of individuals working in the Anti-Narcotics Administration Department, the Moqabaleen Department, on 21/04/2021. The Center has formed a fact-finding team about the circumstances surrounding this complaint. The center team visited the inmate at the Marka Reform and Rehabilitation Center after he completed (14) days in detention at the Balqa Reform and Rehabilitation Center due to the fact that he was infected with Covid-19. During his interview, he claimed to have been assaulted by a group of individuals working in the Anti-Narcotics Administration Department; the team saw red lumps on the inmate's knees and clear redness on his left shoulder from behind. The inmate also confirmed that he submitted a complaint to the Prosecutor General of the Marka Reform and Rehabilitation Center, and the Center addressed the Public Security Directorate on 7/10/2021 with the content of the complaint, so that the Public Security Directorate's response on 25/10/2021 stated that the trial of the defendants for the charges assigned to them was prevented, pursuant to the provisions of Article (130 / a) of the Code of Criminal Procedures, which included giving the discretionary power to the public prosecutor to issue a decision to prevent the trial if he deems that the act does not constitute a crime, or that no evidence is established that the defendant is the one who committed the act attributed to him.

- 2- (H, T) claimed on 6/5/2021 that he was beaten, verbally humiliated, and mistreated by an officer of the Al-Hashemi Al-Shamali Security Center on 23/11/2020, which caused him to break one of his right toes. He also claimed that his mother was pushed by members of the same center, and indicated that he was not allowed to go to the hospital and that meals were not provided to him during the period of his detention in the aforementioned center. The Center addressed the Public Security Directorate with the content of the complaint, and the Public Security Directorate responded on 6/12/2021 that the defendant was referred to trial before the Police Court for the crime of abuse, pursuant to the provisions of Article (334) of the Penal Code and violating orders and instructions represented in not behaving politely and courteously with colleagues in accordance with the provisions of Article (37/4) of the Public Security Law and in the context of Article (35/5) of the same law.
- 3- The brother of the person called (W, Sh) reported that his brother was assaulted while he was in front of his house on Sunday morning, corresponding to 19/09/2021 AD, by a group of members of the Anti-Narcotics Office / Irbid, by beating him after he got out of his private vehicle directly with an iron tool and batons, in addition to kicking him on the head and face, and tying him up with plastic ties. Then he was arrested at the North Irbid Security Center / Anti-Narcotics Office, which led to a bloody hemorrhage that necessitated his transfer to Princess Basma Hospital and the necessary medical procedure. The Center formed a fact-finding team about the circumstances surrounding this complaint on 07/10/2021. After visiting the inmate at the Reform and Rehabilitation Center (Berain), the team found that he had been assaulted. The team saw the bruises represented by a transverse incision in his forehead above the left eye with (4) sutures, a longitudinal incision in the nose with (3) sutures, and a transverse incision with (5) sutures in the back of the head. After documenting the case, the victim filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor of the Transparency and Human Rights Office, who in turn addressed the Center to the Public Security Directorate on 10/13/2021 with the content of the complaint. The response of the Public Security Directorate was received on 3/18/2021, stating that the defendants were prevented from being prosecuted for the charges against them.
- 4- Both Mr. (M, A) and Mrs. (R, Q) visited the Center on 26/10/2021 and claimed that they were ill-treated by the personnel of Al-Hussein Security Center on 20/6/2021 AD while they were there as a result of a quarrel that occurred between (M, p) and her ex-husband (t. s). One of the female police officers forcibly and humiliatingly stripped Mrs. (R.Q) of her clothes with the intention of searching, and Mr. (M.A.) was forcefully pushed against the wall by one of the security station staff members. The National Center for Human Rights addressed the Security Directorate with the content of the complaint on 10/11/2021; and when the Directorate of Police Justice / Office of Transparency and Human Rights attempted to communicate with the two complainants, neither of them answered the phone calls. On 11/11/2021, a call was received from Mrs. (R, Q) to the National Center for Human Rights. When asked about the reasons why she did not go to the Transparency and Human Rights Office, she replied that she had dismissed the complaint, and only requested legitimate legal advice. By trying to contact (M,A), he did not answer the Center's calls.

Recommendations:

The National Center for Human Rights reaffirms the recommendations contained in its previous annual reports, and adds the following:

- 1- The need to amend the Penal Code so as not to include the crime of torture by amnesty and statute of limitations, and to transfer the jurisdiction over cases of abuse and ill-treatment from the police judiciary to the regular judiciary.
- 2- The need to expressly stipulate the right of victims of torture to compensation and psychological and physical rehabilitation.
- 3- Increasing the number of drug addiction treatment centers and not limiting them to drug treatment, but also expanding treatment for alcohol addiction,

and not registering any security restrictions against those who wish to receive treatment from those who visit these centers.

- 4- Finding effective solutions to the overcrowded reform and rehabilitation centers through the use of alternatives to detention and the application of community penalties.
- 5- Continuing to hold training courses for employees of the Public Security Directorate in accordance with international human rights standards.

The right to justice and fair trial

It is one of the basic human rights guaranteed by international, regional¹¹ and national¹² covenants. The Jordanian constitution guarantees the right to a fair trial in many of its articles by adopting several well-established principles, including: the principle of separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, the presumption of innocence, and the principle of public trial.

The normative content of this right is based on the monitoring of progress in legal safeguards; and clarifying of the Center's position on defense orders that have an impact on the right; following-up and monitoring of some issues related to the right, represented by litigation before the administrative courts; and access to the justice facility, judicial stay, remote trials, alternative punishments, canon justice, and criminal litigation warrants.

In general, the year 2021 witnessed legal amendments that strengthened the guarantee of this right - it will be mentioned later -. The year 2021 also witnessed progress in the use of modern technologies in litigation, starting with receiving documents and evidence related to cases electronically, and ending with holding remote trial sessions using modern electronic means, in a way that ensures speedy settlement of cases and reduces mixing between judges and litigants. The Center's team also made field visits to a group of courts in the Kingdom and monitored the reality of these courts, and to enhance the progress made in the justice facility as will come.

In terms of legislative developments, the year 2021 witnessed amendments related to the right to access justice and fair trial guarantees, as follows:

1. Law amending the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law No. 24 of 2021: Paragraph (b) of Article (9)¹³ of the law was amended to ensure that the mere commission of criminal acts mentioned in Paragraph (a) of the same article for the first time is not considered a criminal precedent or a security restriction. . The Center appreciates this amendment, according to which the legislator gives a new opportunity to those who committed these criminal acts and were tried, to start over, free from any stumbling block that may be caused by committing the criminal act on the legal and social levels.

The Center's position on defense orders that have an impact on the right:

The year 2021 witnessed the issuance of defense orders that have a direct impact on the right to access justice and fair trial guarantees, presented below, in succession:

1. The 28th defense order issued on 28/03/2021, which aimed to reduce overcrowding in reform and rehabilitation centers, prevent the spread of the Covid-19 in them, and take into account the financial and economic conditions resulting from the epidemic. The postponement of the implementation of the debtor's imprisonment decisions issued pursuant to the

¹¹ These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

¹² Articles (27, 101) of the Jordanian constitution.

¹³ Article (9) talks about anyone who abuses, enters, brings, smuggles, imports, exports, gets, possesses, acquires, buys, receives, transports, produces, manufactures, stores or cultivates any of the narcotics, psychotropic substances, preparations or plants that produces narcotics or psychotropic substances with the intent of using them.

provisions of Article (22) of the Execution Law and its amendments has been extended, provided that the total amounts adjudicated do not exceed one hundred thousand dinars. The implementation of the penal provisions that stipulate a prison sentence in crimes related to the issuance of a check that does not have a balance has been postponed in accordance with the provisions of Article (421) of the Penal Code in cases where the total value of the checks does not exceed one hundred thousand dinars.

In this regard, the Center recommends the commitment contained in Paragraph (3) of Article (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which obliges the state party to the Covenant to provide effective remedies for any violation of the provisions of the Covenant during states of emergency.

The Center also affirms what came in the comment of the Committee on Civil and Political Rights No. (29) related to Article (4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on “non-compliance with the provisions of the Covenant during states of emergency”; which obligated the State party to guarantee the right to a fair trial during the state of emergency as a prerequisite for the principles of legality and the rule of law.

Synopsis

During the year 2021, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was amended to ensure that the mere commission of criminal acts for the first time shall be not considered a criminal precedent or a security restriction.

Second: Litigation before the administrative court.

The Center stresses the need to solve the problems related to the implementation of the decisions of annulment issued by the Administrative Court and mentioned in its previous report, and adds to that the following:

The cost of litigation before administrative courts:

The high cost of litigation before the administrative court, especially with regard to challenging administrative decisions of the public employee, causes the employees to refrain from claiming their job rights.

Third: Access to the facility of justice:

The Center's team made field visits to a group of courts in the Kingdom and monitored the reality of these courts. In order to enhance the progress made in the justice facility, it concluded that the courts should be provided with additional vehicles and more staff; and the need to conduct periodic maintenance of elevators, and the need to allocate dedicated liaison officers to implement the community punishment.

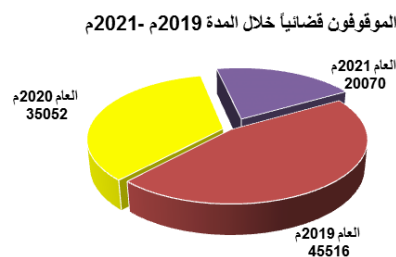
The Center also noted the weakness of the network, in connection with the remote trial system - internet connection (Mizan system). The connection to the system is often cut off and sometimes slow, which impedes the functioning of the court, especially since the minutes of the sessions are printed via the system, as well as payment receipts for court fees, financial payments, and fines that need payment receipt via the system before proceeding to pay them, whether the payment method is electronic or manual.

The Center also monitored the reality of the High Criminal Court¹⁴ and concluded that it is necessary to provide the court with an additional judicial body to reduce work pressure, as well as the need to allocate employees to archive documents.

Fourth: Judicial Arrest:

During the year 2021, the Center monitored a decrease in the number of judicial detainees for the year 2021, as it reached (20,070)¹⁵ detainees, compared to (35,052) detainees in 2020, and (45,516) detainees during 2019. In this context, the Center reiterates its emphasis on the need to adhere to the legal controls for detention contained in Article (114) of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. (9) of 1961 and its amendments, as shown below:

Judicial detainees during the period 2019-2021



Fifth: Remote Trials:

The Center commends the progress made in the use of modern technologies in litigation, starting with receiving documents and evidence related to cases electronically, and ending with holding remote trial sessions using modern electronic means, in a way that guarantees speedy settlement of cases and reduces mixing between judges and litigants. The Center believes that remote trial needs special equipment and supplies to operate and activate it, provided that this activation is in conjunction with a strong and stable connection to the Internet.

Despite the positive development, the center's team documented some challenges facing this new experience, most notably:

- 1- The small number of remote courtrooms: There is only one hall in the Amman and Irbid Palace of Justice, which is equipped and effective for remote trial. In the High Criminal Court, there are two halls, one of which is called the Child Hall, and it is designated for the children of the victims, where they attend the trial session through it, in isolation from the accused present in the adjacent hall; this hall is adequately equipped for children, and the other is used for the remainder of the felonies.
- 2- The center found a challenge represented in the readiness of the reform and rehabilitation centers to receive trials remotely.
- 3- The Center observed the existence of a difference in the views of lawyers and judges about the remote trial. Some believe that it contradicts the principle of the merits of the trial, especially with regard to criminal cases, especially since the first application of this method of litigation was in criminal cases. They believe that the principle of the presence of the trial is a principle emanating from the womb of the criminal judiciary, since the emotional

¹⁴ Monitoring visit to the Grand Criminal Court, on 18/1/2022,

¹⁵ Statistics of the Judicial Council; Letter No. 3344/30/1/2 Dated 05/09/2022.

conviction of the criminal judge plays an essential role in the ruling, in addition to that the face-to-face litigation extends the court's control over the parties to the session more, especially in the core sessions of the litigation stages; such as the hearing of personal evidence, its discussion by the parties, and its interrogation by the court; while others believe that this experience accelerates the pace of litigation and solves many existing problems.

The Center believes that remote trial speeds up the pace of litigation procedures and reduces the burden on all parties.

Recommendation: The Center recommends strengthening the remote trial system in courts technically, expanding its scope, and addressing technical and logistical challenges, taking into account fair trial guarantees during the application of remote trials.

Sixth: Community Penalties:

Alternative penalties converge directly with the axis of a fair trial, as the application of alternatives to imprisonment is compatible with the criminal reform policy towards achieving public and private deterrence, and investing this deterrence in serving society away from restricting freedom within penal institutions to mitigate criminal contagion and society's view of the released. The year 2021 witnessed an expansion in the application of alternative penalties, as the number of judgments issued by the regular judiciary regarding alternative penalties reached (302) judgments, compared to (286) judgments in the year 2020; the number of partner government institutions in implementing alternative penalties, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, has reached (13) institutions¹⁶. Among the challenges facing the application of the system of alternative penalties in the courts of the Kingdom:

1- Legislative challenges:

- The requirement to suspend the execution of the penalty when applying the alternative penalty.
- The legal restrictions established by the legislator for those to whom the alternative punishment applies, in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the text of Article (54) bis of the Penal Code.¹⁷
- The ruling does not include a fine as a criminal penalty with the possibility of replacing it with a community punishment, as there is no provision in the law that allows the criminal judge to replace the fine with a community punishment.

¹⁶ Statistics of the Community Penalties Directorate at the Ministry of Justice.

¹⁷ Article 1 stipulates that the court may, when passing a judgment in a felony or misdemeanor with imprisonment or imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, order in its decision to stop the execution of the penalty in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in this law if it deems that the morals, past, age, or circumstances in which the crime was committed lead to the belief that he will not return to violating the law, and the reasons for the suspension of execution must be indicated in the judgment; it may make the suspension inclusive of any ancillary penalty and all other criminal effects of the sentence).

2- Logistical challenges:

- Lack of human resources: the majority of the court staff involved in preparing the marital status report for the persons against whom the court expresses its desire to apply alternative penalties are assigned employees, in addition to their job in the alternative penalties file and following up on the cases of the convicts, in addition to their small number and the need for these employees to raise their knowledge capabilities related to alternative penalties.
- Challenges related to financial capabilities: as the number of vehicles allocated to the courts is very few and insufficient to transport them at any time to follow up on the cases of execution of community penalties.
- Challenges related to the application of community penalties: the Center noted the small number of institutions cooperating with the Ministry of Justice to implement this penalty, as it amounted to only (13) institutions.

Ecclesiastical jurisprudence:

In the year 2021, the Code of Litigation Procedures and Procedures before Ecclesiastical Courts was adopted. It is the first law of its kind that regulates procedures before ecclesiastical courts, with regard to procedures and legal procedures followed before these courts, which came as a specialized alternative to the Civil Procedure Code that was in force before the enforcement of this law.¹⁸

In the year 2021, the first woman was appointed as a judge in the history of the Jordanian ecclesiastical courts, and civil judges were also appointed in addition to the clergy in the ecclesiastical judiciary.

Synopsis

In 2021, the Code of Litigation Procedures and Procedures before Ecclesiastical Courts was issued, and it is the first law of its kind that regulates procedures before Ecclesiastical courts.

Penal litigation permissions:

The Center notes that the permission to litigation is a formal restriction that stops litigation with a person because of his legal status. In the year 2022, the center received two complaints, which included requests to grant permission for criminal litigation, submitted to the Bar Association, which were rejected. The Center affirms everyone's right to litigation without being bound by prior requests to exercise this right.

Recommendations

The National Center for Human Rights reaffirms the recommendations contained in its previous reports and adds the following recommendations:

¹⁸The law was approved by the Holy Synod in Jerusalem, and the law is concerned with the Greek Orthodox community, Judge Christine Faddoul / Court of Appeal of the Orthodox Church.

- 1- Amending Article (54) bis of the Penal Code in a way that ensures mitigating the restrictions on the judiciary's power to resort to alternative penalties, by expanding the scope of application to include all misdemeanors, and canceling the link between the application of alternative penalties and the suspension of execution.
- 2- Enhancing the remote trial system in courts technically, expanding its scope and addressing technical and logistical challenges.
- 3- Amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in a way that enshrines the right of the individual to material and moral compensation for the damage resulting from the arrest in the event of a judgment of his innocence or non-responsibility.
- 4- The need to establish administrative courts in the North and South regions.
- 5- Abolition of the crime prevention law because it constitutes a violation of the principle of separation of powers by infringing on the jurisdiction of the judiciary, which has the legitimate jurisdiction and the inherent competence to adjudicate disputes, which is considered the pillar of the state of law. In addition to this law implying a violation of the substantive rule of criminal prosecution established in all countries of the world, which is contained in Article (58) of Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its amendments, represented in the impermissibility of prosecuting a criminal act except once. Until agreement is reached on this matter, the law must be amended to ensure the following:
 - Ensure respect for judicial rulings and decisions or decisions issued to release detainees as a title of the truth and evidence for everyone, according to an explicit provision in the law, and that those who have been released may not be administratively detained by the judiciary.
 - Re-drafting Article 3 of the Crime Prevention Law in an accurate and clear manner, and avoiding broad phrases so that it defines the cases in which arrest is permissible exclusively, without leaving any room for the jurisprudence of the administrative ruler or acting on suspicion without the presence of any evidence.
 - Determining the duration and controls of administrative detention, and subjecting it to the principle of justification and causation.
 - Refer the administrative detainees to the regular public prosecution after detaining them within a period specified by the law, to decide on their case.
 - Set an upper limit for the sponsorship, and not leave the value of the guarantee and the approval of the person of the sponsor to the discretion of the administrative governor.
 - Provide that the appeal before the administrative court against the decisions issued by the administrative ruler be free of charge.

The right to nationality, residence, movement and asylum

It is one of the rights guaranteed by international¹⁹ and national²⁰ covenants, which guarantee the organization of issues related to the nationality of the state. According to those criteria, nationality was defined as a legal bond based mainly on social bond and effective solidarity in living, interests and feelings, with the correlation between rights and obligations.

The normative content of this right is based on the fact that everyone has the right to have a nationality, and that no one may be deprived of his nationality or the right to change his nationality. International standards oblige states to put in place legal guarantees for their regulation.

In general, there was no amendment to the Nationality Law during the year 2021, and the center reported this year the developments on the issues it dealt with in its previous annual reports, which included the issue of granting nationality to the children of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians, and the problem of (the stateless)²¹.

Regarding the issue of granting nationality to children of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanian men, the year 2021 witnessed the continuation of granting benefits and facilities to the children of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians, which includes: the right to education and study in public schools for the primary and secondary stages, the right to health insurance according to their insured mothers, the right to own property, the right to obtain a private driving license, and the right to invest in accordance with the laws in force.

In 2021, the Unified Admission Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research announced the date for submitting applications for unified admission for children of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians for the academic year 2021/2022, according to the following conditions:

- The student must have the identification card for the children of Jordanian women, issued by the Civil Status Department.
- The student must meet the requirements for success and enrollment in public universities in the Jordanian general secondary school certificate for the first time in the (general) summer session (2021), or the supplementary session (2020) only.

Recommendation: The Center recommends the need to amend these instructions to treat the children of Jordanian women as Jordanians with regard to their right to apply for admission to universities, even if they were holders of a general secondary certificate for years prior to the date of application submission, and to allocate for them an admission rate similar to the percentage permitted for holders of a general secondary certificate among Jordanian students.

¹⁹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article (15); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Article (5); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Articles (16 and 24), the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Article (7), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Article (9).

²⁰ Article 5 of the Jordanian Constitution.

²¹ See the Center's annual reports on the human rights situation published on its website.

The year 2021 did not witness any developments on the issue of what is known as (the stateless)²². In this regard, the Center recommends continuing the efforts of the Special Committee to solve the problem of naturalization applications related to "the stateless" in Mafraq Governorate.

On the other hand, during the year 2021, the Center did not receive any complaint related to the withdrawal of national numbers from any Jordanian citizen due to the continued implementation of the Cabinet's decision that national numbers should not be withdrawn except with the approval of the Council of Ministers only. The national numbers shall be returned by a decision of the Prime Ministry based on the recommendation of the permanent ministerial committee in charge of studying requests for the return of the national numbers. In this regard, the Center reiterates its recommendation to continue efforts to resolve complaints related to the withdrawal of nationality that were submitted in previous years and are still with the competent authorities.

Second: The right to residence and movement:

It is one of the civil and political rights guaranteed by international²³ and national²⁴ covenants and regulated by the Residence and Foreigners Affairs Law and its amendments No. (24) of 1973.

The normative content of this right is based on the right of individuals to freedom of movement and internal movement, freedom to choose the place of residence, freedom of external movement such as travel and emigration, as well as the freedom to return to the country.

The year 2021 witnessed the approval of the Clan Forced Relocations "Jalwa" Document on 30/09/2021, which deals with addressing the negative effects of common traditions and customs that had an impact on individuals' enjoyment of the right of residence and movement.

The main guarantees included in the document are: "Limiting the application of Clan Forced Relocations to clan cases related to murder only, and limiting Clan Forced Relocations to: the murderer, the murderer's father, and the male children of the murderer only" and for a period of "one renewable year, and according to the circumstances of the case decided by the Administrative Governor and the security council in the province". The document also specified that "the place of Clan Forced Relocations shall be from district to district, or from neighborhood to neighborhood within the city, and according to the type and circumstances of the case." It also specified that "the estimation of the value of blood money shall be determined by the Chief Judge." The document forbade clan prosecution of public servants whose nature of work required the use of weapons during official duty. It also considered that "the presence of deportees in institutions, official departments, universities and schools does not constitute a breach of the terms of the inter-tribal settlement accord (*Atwa*).". The document

²² They are a number of stateless people from the northeastern desert, and their number is estimated at more than seven thousand people, as they still do not hold Jordanian nationality or any identification documents indicating their nationality; and the issuance of housing identification cards for the Stateless has been suspended since 2019.

²³ Article (13) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article (12) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

²⁴ Article / 9 of the Jordanian Constitution

emphasized that in the event of revenge and retaliation, the victim's family may claim the perpetrator's family for blood money, in addition to the judicial prosecution. "The document recognized the right of those included in the Clan Forced Relocations to dispose of their movable and immovable funds in accordance with the provisions of the law." "Strict measures are taken against anyone who carries out, participates in, or incites damage to public and private property as a reaction to the occurrence of crimes, and any reason or pretexts, such as the fury, are not accepted." "Acts that lead to damage to public and private property are not considered within the "fury" as a reaction to the occurrence of crimes, and they are considered separate issues that are not related to or affecting clan actions. The document prohibits customs related to the payment of cash or in-kind sums, or others, such as "the amount of inter-tribal settlement accord (*firash al-Atwa*), asking for help from another clan (*ad-Dakhala*), or seeking protection from another clan (*al-Jira*), or what the guarantors charge for undertaking before the judge (*al-dafa walwafa*) in exchange for their guarantees." The document stated that "all tribal procedures are terminated upon issuance of the final judicial ruling."

The Center believes that the issuance of this document would reduce the phenomenon of "Clan Forced Relocations" as a prelude to ending it. This phenomenon constituted a strong factor in limiting the right to movement, which is guaranteed in the constitution and international law. It is worth noting that this document was implemented for the first time in the capital, Amman, on 5/9/2021. Immediately after the document was announced, a decision was issued to return 59 people to their homes in Mafrq Governorate. In addition, the suffering of 13 families consisting of 67 people in the Capital Governorate was ended, and 375 citizens in Al-Karak Governorate returned.

Third: Asylum:

Among the rights guaranteed by international standards, which recognize that asylum is a legal quality based on protection granted to a person who left his homeland for fear of persecution, abuse, or killing because of his positions, political opinions, gender, or religion²⁵. The classifications of refugees in Jordan are presented as follows:

Distribution of the number of refugees in Jordan for the year 2021



²⁵ Article (1) of the International Convention relating to the Status of Refugees

(1) Palestinian refugees:

More than two million one hundred thousand (2,100,000) registered Palestinian refugees live in Jordan, of whom nearly one hundred and forty thousand (140,000) are refugees originally from the Gaza Strip, which until 1967 belonged to the Egyptian administration.

The Department of Palestinian Affairs is concerned with the file of the Palestinian refugee camps in the Kingdom, which number thirteen (13) camps, ten of which are official and three are unofficial²⁶. Daily and logistical services are provided to it, in addition to the UNRWA file and follow-up on the agency's activities and services with the aim of securing financial support from donor countries to maintain the continuity of this organization as a political witness to the refugee issue in the region.

In 2021, the financial crisis of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) continued, as a direct result of the previous US administration's decision to stop US aid and financial commitments to UNRWA, which threatened the agency's work, especially the educational and health services it provides to Palestinian refugees in Jordan and the region.

On the other hand, the Center observed sit-ins carried out by employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees "UNRWA" on 8/11/2021, 16/11/2021 and 11/25/2021, to demand job rights, better salaries, payment of dues, and more.

Recommendation: The National Center for Human Rights recommends the need to continue official efforts to mobilize international support to ensure the survival of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), in order to provide services to Palestinian refugees.

(2) Iraqi refugees:

The number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan as of 31/12/2021 is sixty-six thousand three hundred and eighty-six (66,386) refugees.²⁷ There was little news about the file of Iraqi refugees in 2021 AD, but some of them complained to the center about the UNHCR's declining interest in their case and providing them with the necessary support.

(3) Syrian refugees:

Jordan hosts about one million and three hundred thousand (1,363,532)²⁸ Syrian refugees, of whom (762,992)²⁹ are registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as asylum seekers, while the number of Syrians distributed in five camps, the largest of which is Zaatari,

²⁶ According to the Department of Palestinian Affairs, these camps are (Al-Baqaa Camp, Al-Wehdat Camp, Al-Hassan Camp, Prince Hassan Camp, Talbieh Camp, Madaba Camp, Zarqa Camp, Heteen Camp, Al-Sukhna Camp, Irbid Camp, Azmi Al-Mufti Camp, Jerash Camp, Souf Camp) .

²⁷ Statistics of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

²⁸ Statistics of the Ministry of Interior; Letter No. M.N. 28/8/10035, dated 24/08/2022

²⁹ Statistics of the Ministry of Interior; Letter No. M.N. 28/8/10035, dated 24/08/2022

is (131,173)³⁰, while the rest are spread out in Jordanian cities and villages. The influx of Syrian refugees into the Kingdom has imposed huge challenges on critical and important sectors, in light of the sharing of basic services and infrastructure between Jordanian citizens and refugees. One of the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic was the reduction in the ability of Syrian refugee families in Jordan to provide food relative to what it was before Covid-19, as a result of the lack of job opportunities and the interruption of food aid by international organizations.

In 2021, some developments took place in the Syrian refugee file, we summarize them as follows:

1. (94,342)³¹ Syrian refugees returned voluntarily to their country.
2. The number of Syrians who entered Jordan illegally reached (557,897).³²
3. The Ministry of Labor renewed the extension of the exemption for employers from fees for issuing work permits for workers with Syrian nationality, after the extension of the previous exemption expired in 2020.
4. About 50% of the Syrian refugees inside the camps in Jordan received the Covid-19 vaccine, while the percentage of those receiving the vaccine outside the camps was about 35% of the total number of refugees in Jordan.
5. Refugee camps in Jordan still suffer from water and electricity cuts. In Azraq camp, despite the implementation of the solar energy project, electricity is still cut off on the refugee caravans four hours a day. There is also the problem of water, which still constitutes a great burden on the refugees, despite the fact that the administration, in partnership with UNICEF, established a water distribution network, as there is now a central water tank that is pumped to every single area inside the camp, which facilitated faster and better access to water. However, the refugee camps still lack water connections to the refugee caravans. There is also the problem of sanitation and toilets, which is the most prominent problem, as the toilets are still shared among the refugee caravans.

(4) Other refugees:

Jordan hosts thirteen thousand nine hundred and nineteen (13,919) Yemeni refugees, six thousand twenty-seven (6,027) Sudanese refugees, seven hundred and nineteen (719) Somali refugees, and one thousand four hundred and sixty-six (1466) refugees of other nationalities.

Recommendations

The Center confirms the recommendations contained in its previous reports and adds the following recommendations:

1. Addressing the problem of power and water cuts in the Syrian refugee camps.

³⁰ Statistics of the Ministry of Interior; Letter No. M.N. 28/8/10035, dated 24/08/2022

³¹ Statistics of the Ministry of Interior; Letter No. M.N. 28/8/10035, dated 24/08/2022

³² Statistics of the Ministry of Interior; Letter No. M.N. 28/8/10035, dated 24/08/2022

2. Continue making official efforts to ensure the survival of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide services to millions of Palestine refugees.

The right to vote and run for offices

It is one of the basic political rights guaranteed by the relevant international covenants³³ and guaranteed by the Jordanian constitution to guarantee the right to free expression of the will of the people, public participation, and the citizen's right to vote and be elected in periodic and fair democratic elections.

The normative content of this right is based on ensuring that the electoral process is conducted in a fair and free manner, and that it takes place periodically within the framework of laws that ensure the effective exercise of election rights under the supervision of an independent electoral body to ensure its credibility, integrity, and conduct in accordance with the laws in force. The necessary measures must be taken to ensure the secrecy of voting during the elections, and to protect voters from any illegal interference in the voting process. ensuring that those eligible to vote shall be free to cast their votes independently for those of their choice among the candidates for election; with the possibility of imposing some reasonable restrictions aimed at limiting the costs of electoral campaigns justifiably if they are necessary to ensure complete freedom of choice for voters, or to ensure that the democratic process is not marred by excessive spending in favor of any of the candidates or parties.

In general, the year 2021 did not witness any legal entitlement to hold parliamentary elections, as the last elections were held in 2020. On the other hand, both the municipal and decentralized elections were scheduled to be held in the year 2021, according to the legal entitlement to that, before it was postponed to the year 2022 and amendments were made to the laws governing them.³⁴

The year 2021 witnessed a series of amendments to some laws governing the right to vote, including: Municipalities Law No. 41 of 2015, and Decentralization Law No. 49 of 2015, which were merged into one law called Local Administration Law No. 22 of 2021. This year also witnessed the adoption of the Municipality of Amman Law No. 18 of 2021. The Center observed the following about them:

First: Local Administration Law No. 22 of 2021

The Local Administration Law No. 22 of 2021 in Article (60) thereof repealed both the Municipalities Law No. (41) of 2015 and the Decentralization Law No. (49) of 2015; The article also stipulates that the regulations, instructions and decisions issued under the provisions of these

³³ Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 8 of the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights, Article 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Article 29 of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

³⁴ The Independent Election Commission announced on 11/28/2021 that its Board of Commissioners decided to consider Tuesday, corresponding to 22/03/2022, as the date for polling and sorting for the elections of the provincial councils, municipal councils, and the Amman Municipality Council; after the Council of Ministers decided to hold provincial and municipal council elections, according to the provisions of Article (35/a/1) of Local Administration Law No. (22) for the year 2021, and to hold Amman Municipality Council elections according to the provisions of Article (6/c) of the Amman Municipality Law. No. (18) for the year 2020.

two laws shall continue to be applied until they are cancelled, amended or replaced by others.

Immediately after the above law was published in the Official Gazette³⁵, the provincial councils were dissolved, and temporary provincial councils were formed until elections are held. After that, a decision was issued by the Minister of Local Administration to postpone the elections for a period of six months until the issuance of regulations and instructions related to them.

The most important aspect of the Local Administration Law of 2021 is that the law continues to classify municipalities into three categories. The first category includes the municipalities of the governorate centers and municipalities with a population of more than two hundred thousand people. The second category includes the municipalities of the district centers, whose population exceeds fifty thousand, and does not exceed two hundred thousand. The third category includes the rest of the municipalities. The law required obtaining a first university degree as a requirement for candidacy for the position of mayor in the municipalities of the first category, and required proficiency in reading and writing for the rest of the municipalities.³⁶ The law specified the age of the voter at 18 years and stipulated that the age of the candidate for the presidency and membership of the municipality and decentralization should not be less than 25 years. The law also allocated (25%) of the number of members of the provincial council and the municipal council to women, and thus the percentage of women in each of the Amman Municipality Council, municipal councils, and provincial councils may exceed (25%) in the event that any woman wins a seat through competition.³⁷

The law also allows the Minister of Local Administration, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, to appoint two additional members in each provincial council or municipal council. The law specifies procedures for appealing against the membership of the provincial council, or the president or members of the municipal council within 15 days of publishing the election results at the Court of First Instance, which must decide on the case within 30 days. The law referred the division of electoral districts in each governorate to a system to be issued for this purpose.

The Center made the following observations on the law:

1. The law allows the Minister of Local Administration, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, to appoint two additional members in each provincial council or municipal council, and this matter detracts from the

³⁵ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue (5746), p. 4114. Date 9/23/2021.

³⁶ The law also specified in Article 39/A that the conditions for candidacy for the membership of the provincial council or the presidency and membership of the municipal council are that his name be registered in the voter list, that he be Jordanian for at least 10 years, not affiliated with a non-Jordanian party, and not a member of the National Assembly; And not to be convicted of bankruptcy or insolvency and not regain his status, and to submit his resignation two months before the date of candidacy if he was an employee or employee in the government, municipality, or any Arab, regional or international body, and to obtain a clearance from the municipality and other conditions.

³⁷ Article 3/c/1 stipulates that 25% of the number of elected members of the council shall be allocated to women in the provincial council, to be occupied by those who obtained the highest votes in relation to the number of voters within their constituency, who are not fortunate enough to win the election, and for this purpose the fraction is rounded to the nearest whole number.

- right to political participation, since the principle is that the councils are fully elected.
2. The law gave great powers to the Minister of Local Administration at the expense of the elected councils, at a time when the powers are supposed to be greater for the mayor, especially since the law confirms that the municipalities are financially and administratively independent.
 3. The law consolidated power in the hands of the minister, and the law merged between the municipal councils and the provincial councils. The principle is that the provincial councils are different from the municipality, and the powers and scope of their work are linked to the governor and thus to the Ministry of Interior.
 - 4.

Recommendation: The Center recommends making the necessary amendments to the Local Administration Law to ensure the full election of members of the provincial and municipal councils.

Second: Amman Municipality Law No. 18 of 2021

Under this law, the Greater Amman Municipality was separated from the rest of the kingdom's municipalities. The municipalities with the secretariat were subject to the municipalities' law.³⁸ The reason for the separation is due to its privacy being the capital, and its vast area and high population density. This chapter is the first of its kind since the founding of the Kingdom.

Among the most prominent provisions of the law is the granting of authority to the Council of Ministers to appoint the Mayor of Amman and to appoint one-third of the members of the Secretariat Council upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Allowing for the general and direct election of two-thirds of the council members;³⁹ this does not apply to the rest of the municipalities, as the Local Administration Law gives citizens the right to elect its president and all its members. The law also specifies women with a quota of no less than 25% of the number of elected council members, provided that it is filled by female candidates who did not win the election and who obtained the highest number of votes among the voters of the constituency in which they are running. On the other hand, the law denied the right to vote to every person who is "insane or imbecile" or banned for any reason and has not been rehabilitated.

Recommendation: The Center recommends making the necessary amendments to the Amman Municipality Law to ensure the right of citizens residing in the capital, Amman, to elect its mayor and all members of the Municipality Council.

³⁸ The Municipalities Law has been repealed and replaced by the Local Administration Law of 2021.

³⁹ Article 4/a of the Municipality of Amman Law No. 18 of 2021 states that "the Secretariat Council shall consist of a number of members determined by the Council of Ministers, provided that two-thirds of its members are directly elected, and the remaining third is appointed by a decision of the Council of Ministers based on the recommendation of the President"... while the paragraph d of the same article states: "The Mayor shall be appointed from among the members of the Council by a decision of the Council of Ministers based on the recommendation of the President"...

Third: the draft law for the election of the House of Representatives.

The year 2021 witnessed the formation of the Royal Committee to modernize the political system on 10/6/2021, which was one of its tasks to modernize the political system. After nearly three months of work, the committee came out with many recommendations, the most prominent of which, with regard to the right to run for office and vote, is to draft a new election law that includes: adopting a mixed electoral system that includes two levels of representation; the first is national and is called: the general department, and the second is local and is called the local departments. The public constituency or the national lists are restricted to political parties, and forty-one (41) seats are allocated for them, out of one hundred and thirty-eight (138) seats, which is the proposed number of seats in the House of Representatives. The recommendation also came to adopt the national lists for the closed proportional list system, with a cut-off rate (threshold) of two and a half percent (2.5%) of the total number of voters at the level of the general electoral district. Within the general constituency, at least two seats are allocated for Christians and at least one seat for Circassians and Chechens.

In order to enhance the involvement of youth and women in political life, the committee recommended lowering the age for candidacy to twenty-five years, provided that the list commits to having a young man among them, provided that his age does not exceed thirty-five years. To ensure fair representation of citizens, the recommendations stipulated that the candidate list for the public district be distributed among half of the local electoral districts at the level of the Kingdom.

With regard to constituencies, the committee recommended dividing the Kingdom into eighteen local constituencies and one general constituency. As for the local constituencies, they include three constituencies for the capital governorate, two constituencies for the Irbid governorate, an electoral constituency for each of the rest of the kingdom's governorates, and three constituencies for the Bedouins. They also permitted the sons and daughters of the Jordanian desert to run outside the local constituencies designated for them. It is also permissible for any of the candidates from other local constituencies to run in the Badia constituencies, and the voter registry for the Badia constituencies remains closed. The committee also recommended that at least seven seats be allocated in local constituencies for Christians, and at least two seats for Circassians and Chechens, provided that the list of candidates for the local constituency includes a number of candidates not exceeding the number of seats allocated for the constituency. Candidates for seats reserved for women, Christians, Circassians, and Chechens in local constituencies must choose the path of candidacy they desire (quota) or free competition, and competition and victory will be on the path chosen by the candidate.

The recommendations did not require public sector employees running for elections to submit their resignations, but only required them to submit unpaid leave ninety days before the polling date, which contributes to strengthening and facilitating the right to run without losing other rights and gains.

These recommendations were crystallized in a draft law to elect the House of Representatives for the year 2021, which was submitted by the government to the House of Representatives on 11/14/2021.⁴⁰

The Committee also recommended making some constitutional amendments related to the election and party laws. Among these proposed amendments is the addition of two paragraphs on the empowerment of youth and women to Article 6 of the constitution; amending the fifth paragraph of Article 5 thereof with the aim of strengthening the legal protection of persons with disabilities and enhancing their participation; And amending the number of deputies required to hold a session of confidence in the government from ten deputies currently, to become twenty-five percent (25%) of the parliament's members, and granting the right to resort to the Constitutional Court to request an interpretation or direct appeal of the unconstitutionality of laws and regulations by twenty-five percent (25%)) of members of the Senate or members of the House of Representatives, instead of the majority, in order to enable the parliamentary minority and the parties represented in Parliament and parliamentary blocs to carry out their oversight and legislative role by resorting to the Constitutional Court and other recommendations.

By reading the election law for the House of Representatives, we find that it worked to reduce the number of constituencies to become 18 constituencies. He also worked to reduce the number of parliamentary seats allocated to the governorates by a rate that ranged from 20-31%. In contrast, the number of seats allocated to women was increased from 15 to 18 out of 97 seats allocated to local constituencies.

It should be noted that the Center submitted a set of proposals to amend the election law to the Royal Commission to modernize the political system, and among those included in these proposals: ensuring the right of every Jordanian to vote for everyone who completes eighteen solar years of his age on polling day and not before (90) days of polling; lowering the age of candidacy to those who have completed twenty-five solar years on polling day; And delete phrases that represent discrimination and detract from the rights of persons with disabilities wherever they appear in the law, such as: the terms (crazy, or insane) and replace them with the term (legal capacity); and working to include in the election law the division of electoral districts and to issue it as an appendix to the law, and not to issue it according to a bylaw⁴¹; reducing the nomination fee by half; and working to "take into account the representation of women" when forming and appointing chairmen and members of the election and counting committees.

Recommendations

The Center reiterates its emphasis on the recommendations contained in its previous reports and adds the following recommendations:

1. Amending the local administration law to ensure that members of the provincial and municipal councils are fully elected.

⁴⁰ The law was approved in 2022 under No. 4 of 2022 and published in Official Gazette Issue. 5782, page 2865 dated 4/7/2022.

⁴¹ These two proposals were adopted by law.

2. Amending the Municipality of Amman law to guarantee the right of citizens residing in the capital, Amman, to elect the Mayor of Amman and all members of the Municipality Council.
3. Activating the voting mechanism, as it guarantees the right of expatriates, patients, and arrested persons who have not been issued final rulings to exercise their right to vote.

The right to freedom of opinion, expression, press, media, and access to information

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by international⁴² and national⁴³ covenants with a set of relevant national laws and regulations.

The normative content of this right is based as a prerequisite for achieving the principles of transparency and accountability, as the protection of this right is considered one of the most important reinforcements for the protection of human rights, the fight against corruption, and the contribution to the advancement of society economically, politically, socially and culturally. It is the pillar of the democratic state and an indication of the extent to which the state is moving towards further promotion of rights and freedoms, and it is a necessary necessity for achieving and practicing all human rights.

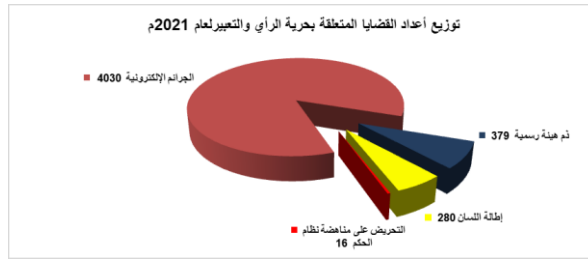
In general, the year 2021 witnessed the introduction of amendments to the system related to fees and allowances for licensing printing presses and publishing houses, distribution houses, studies and research, the role of measuring public opinion, translation houses, advertising offices, periodical publications, the system of broadcasting licenses, and radio and television rebroadcasts by the Media Commission.

On the other hand, work is still going on with the eighth defense order issued on 4/15/2020, despite the center's recommendations to review it and cancel the clause that includes criminalizing "publishing, republishing, or circulating any news about the epidemic that would intimidate people, or stir up panic among them through means." communication or social media. In 2021, the Center also monitored the arrest of some individuals for expressing their opinions. The number of cases related to the application of the text of Article (11) of the Cybercrime Law reached (4030) cases, while the number of cases related to the crime of defamation of an official body reached (379), and the number of cases related to the crime of prolonging the tongue (280) cases, while the number of cases related to For the crime of the ruling regime or incitement to oppose it (16) as explained below:

Distribution of the number of cases related to freedom of opinion and expression for the year 2021

⁴²Article (19) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates the right to freedom of opinion and expression

⁴³ Article / 15 of the Jordanian Constitution.



The number of complaints considered by the Media Complaints Committee emanating from the Audiovisual Media Law in 2021 reached (11) complaints; The total number of requests to obtain information submitted to the aforementioned authorities reached (3834), of which (3550) requests were answered, and (284) requests were rejected. The number of complaints received by the Information Council during the year 2021 reached three. One of the most prominent recommendations of the center in this context is the preparation of a national media strategy aimed at advancing media freedoms, providing a legislative environment that guarantees freedom of the press and the media, and expediting the approval of the draft amendment to the law guaranteeing the right to access information present in Parliament, based on international human rights standards and the Jordanian constitution.

In terms of legislative developments, the year 2021 witnessed the introduction of amendments to the system related to fees and allowances for licensing printing presses and publishing houses, distribution houses, studies and research, the role of measuring public opinion, translation houses, advertising offices and periodical publications, and the system of broadcasting licenses and radio and television rebroadcasts by the Media Commission⁴⁴. In this context, the Center announced its position on these amendments through a statement issued on 26/08/2021, in which it indicated that the proposed amendments to the aforementioned regulations were not made within a consultative and participatory framework that includes all relevant parties; With the aim of determining the reasons for amending these regulations, and the extent of the legislative need for them. The Center called for withdrawing the amendments and avoiding any problems contained in their text, and for making amendments that are compatible with the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards related to freedom of expression in general, and freedom of the press and media in particular, and with relevant national legislation, particularly the Press and Publications Law and the Visual Media Law. At the same time, the Center warned against restrictions on public rights and freedoms, especially the reduction of the space for freedom of expression under arbitrary conditions, especially in light of the Jordanian state's tendency to launch more public rights and freedoms, associated with bringing about political reforms. In a positive development, the procedures for approving the aforementioned amendments were halted by the Media Authority in August 2022.

⁴⁴ The main proposed amendments to the regulations were represented in the issue of renewing the license for publications, expanding the definition of broadcasting on the Internet, what the system imposes in such a case of mandatory licensing, in addition to amending the licensing fees for electronic publications to reach five hundred dinars from fifty dinars

On the other hand, work is still going on with the eighth defense order issued on 15/04/2020⁴⁵, despite the Center's recommendations to review it, and to cancel the clause that includes: criminalizing "publishing, republishing, or circulating any news about the epidemic that would intimidate people, or create panic among them through mass media, communication or social media". The Center believes that this criminalization has included broad and general phrases that open the way for the expansion of criminal prosecution and does not comply with the conditions that must be met in restrictions in accordance with international human rights standards, specifically Article (19/3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that the Jordanian penal system The list is currently sufficient in this context.

Recommendation

The Center recommends the preparation of a national media strategy aimed at advancing the reality of media freedoms, and providing the legislative environment that guarantees freedom of the press and the media.

In terms of practices, the Center noted during the year 2021 the arrest of some individuals for expressing their opinions in different ways. The most prominent of these cases are:

1. The administrative detention of sixteen students by the governor of the capital due to their participation in a peaceful gathering to denounce the declaration of intent that was signed with Israel and the UAE.
2. 35 people were placed under administrative detention due to their participation in separate peaceful protests to denounce the declaration of intent. They were released after nearly a week of detention.
3. The freedom of a person in the city of Amman was confiscated by the salaries of the General Security because he raised a banner that reads "Normalization is treason" while he was attending a match on 11/26/2021 without any charges being brought against him and he was released the next day.
4. The arrest of the deputy head of the Teachers Syndicate and a number of teachers, and they were prevented from entering the city of Karak on 10/14/2021 by a police patrol located in the Qatranah area, and they were detained at the center until nine o'clock in the evening of the same day. Note that this incident was repeated before on 8/9/2021, when they were detained for several hours in the Qatranah district. On 30/6/2021, they were detained in the Karak governorate building without giving justifications or reasons and without an arrest or arrest warrant. They were also previously arrested on 7/25/2021 at the Central Amman Police Directorate without an arrest or detention order or any charge being filed.
5. Arresting (55) teachers on 2/15/2021 and placing them in Irbid governorate, on the background of their participation in a protest; get them to sign pledges; seizing their identities; And ask them to review the governor to get a request to stop.

⁴⁵ Defense Order No. 8 of 2020, Official Gazette Issue 5633, dated April 15, 2020 AD.

6. One of the participants in the vigil in the Rabieh area / Al-Kalouti Mosque on 09/05/2021 was arrested and beaten. The Directorate of Public Security opened an investigation into the incident, and the salaries of the Public Security officers who assaulted the girl were disciplined and referred to the police court based on the Center's follow-up of the complaint.

7. The Center received a complaint from a 16-year-old girl stating that she participated in the protest in front of Al-Kalouti Mosque Square / Al-Rabieh area on 15/05/2021; At around seven o'clock in the evening, the demonstration was dispersed by the public security men, and a female police officer knocked the aforementioned woman on the ground, which caused her veil to fall, and then she was left alone.

In this context, it should be noted that the Center monitored the implemented protests and sit-ins, and documented the violations that were monitored. The Center issued more than one statement⁴⁶, during which it stressed the necessity of respecting the right to peaceful assembly, and the inadmissibility of arresting individuals without legal justification, and that the arrest of individuals should not be a general rule in compliance with the Jordanian Constitution, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Center also addressed the relevant authorities with regard to the violations that were observed, and closely followed up with the law enforcement agencies the arrests that were made until the release of the concerned individuals.

Those arrested and convicted for crimes related to freedom of expression:

Problems related to the application of Article (11) of the Cybercrime Law No. (27) of 2015⁴⁷ continued. The following table shows cases related to the crime of sending, re-transmitting, or publishing data or information through the information network, website, or any information system that involves defamation, defamation, or contempt based on the provisions of Article (11) of the same law, as the total of these cases reached (4030) compared to (2140) in 2020, an arrest warrant was issued against a number of them,⁴⁸ compared to (982) cases in 2019, an arrest warrant was issued against (433) of them. The Center reaffirms its previous observations of the need to cancel this article, and to suffice with the general rules contained in the Jordanian Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its amendments.

Crime	No. of Cases	Number of those against whom arrest warrants were issued
The crime of sending or posting data or information via the Internet or any information system that involves defamation or contempt or slander, contrary to the provisions of Article (11) of the Cybercrime Law	4030	515

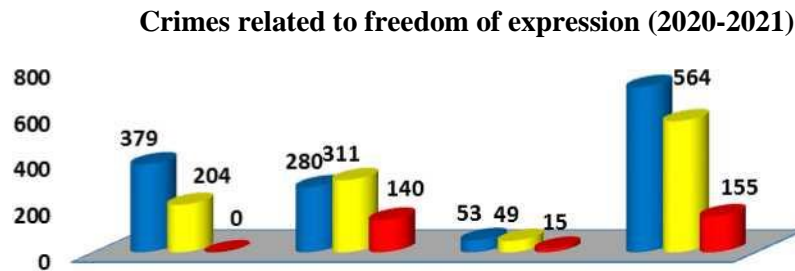
⁴⁶ The Center issued several statements in this regard on the following dates: January 15, March 23, June 17, June 28 and 30, July 26, August 29, November 4, and November 25, for the year 2021.

⁴⁷ Related to the crime of defamation, slander and contempt through the Internet

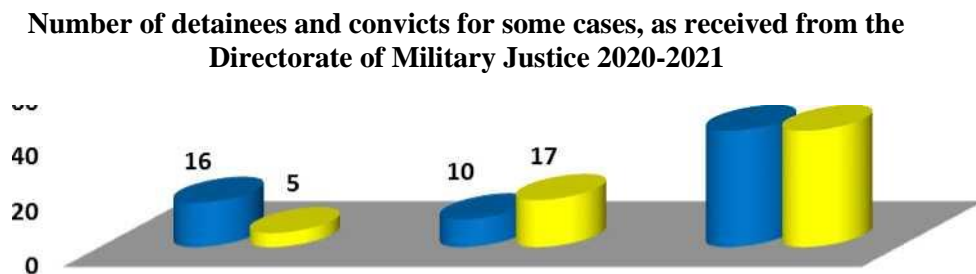
⁴⁸ According to the statistics received by the Center from the Judicial Council via e-mail, dated 06/10/2021.

In the same context, it should be noted that the center addressed the Public Security Directorate / Cybercrime Unit to find out the number of cybercrimes related to hate speech. It was noted that the Cybercrime Unit dealt with (12,872) electronic cases; the number of crimes related to hate speech was small and did not exceed twenty cases. The rest of the crimes have varied between extortion, threats, insults, defamation, e-mail theft, electronic financial fraud, electronic data theft, and hacking of websites.⁴⁹

The chart below shows the number of those convicted of other crimes related to freedom of expression⁵⁰:



The following chart also shows the numbers of detainees and those sentenced for some cases as received by the Directorate of Military Justice⁵¹:



⁴⁹ Public Security Directorate Letter No. A/1/21/12684, dated February 23, 2022

⁵⁰ According to the statistics received by the Center from the Judicial Council, Letter No. 1343/30/1/2 dated 12/4/2022.

⁵¹ Letter of the Directorate of Military Justice No. (M/P/12/State Security/2963, dated February 15, 2022), bearing in mind that there are no cases in which the legal description has been modified from the charge of undermining the political system of government to the charge of prolonging the tongue, contrary to the provisions of Article 195 of the Penal Code No. 16 of 1960 and its amendments, bearing in mind that one of the cases is still pending before the Court of Cassation and has not gained the final degree

Freedom of the press, audio-visual media, and news websites

Media Complaints Committee:

The number of complaints considered by the Media Complaints Committee emanating from the Audiovisual Media Law in 2021 was (11) complaints, which is the same number that the committee considered in 2020, compared to (6) complaints in 2019.

It should be noted that the year 2021 witnessed the following regarding audiovisual media and news websites⁵²:

— The total licensed electronic publications until the end of 2021 AD reached (131) publications, after (12) publications were licensed; (3) electronic publications were withheld for not completing the licensing procedures, pursuant to the provisions of Article (1/A/49) of the Press and Publication Law No. (8) of 1998 AD and its amendments, according to the Media Commission.

— The Media Commission granted one license to a satellite broadcasting station; In this regard, the total number of licensed satellite stations is (24) until the end of 2021.

— The Media Commission followed up and approved total of (142) films during the year 2021; One film was suspended for non-compliance with the deletion of a scene that does not comply with public morals, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation for Licensing and Monitoring Audio-visual Works and its amendments No. (63) of 2004.

— The number of books that entered the Kingdom reached (1,494,000) books, of which (478) titles were monitored by the Commission, while (60) titles were reserved, which included violations of the provisions of the Press and Publication Law in force and other relevant legislation.

— The Media Commission issued a warning to one satellite station for violating the provisions of Article (20/1) of the Audiovisual Media Law, which includes a set of obligations for the licensee, including his commitment not to broadcast anything that offends public decency, insults human dignity, or stirs up sectarian strife, and so on.

— No books printed in the Kingdom were referred to the judiciary during 2021, and no programs were suspended during the same year. As for violations, one satellite station was referred to the Public Prosecutor for broadcasting without a license.

In this context, the Center confirms that international standards and best practices confirm that electronic publications are not registered, and that it is sufficient to provide a notice by them in the event of incorporation to the concerned party, and in the event that they violate the provisions of national legislation, they are referred to the judiciary. The Center also points out that banning some books from entering the Kingdom is based on general and broad reasons, and it is very difficult to control them, which requires reviewing the relevant legislation.

⁵² Media Commission Letter No. Q.N / 604 dated 28/02/2022.

Publication ban decisions:

More than one decision was issued to ban publication as follows:

- Prohibition of publishing the investigation case related to one of the centers for persons with disabilities and preventing the publication of any news or information about it in newspapers, websites and any means of publication.
- Prohibition of publishing the Teachers Syndicate case in various media and social media platforms.
- Prohibition of publication in the case known as the “sedition case.”
- Prohibition of publication in the complaint submitted by the Prime Minister against a person based on Article 11 of the Cybercrime Law.

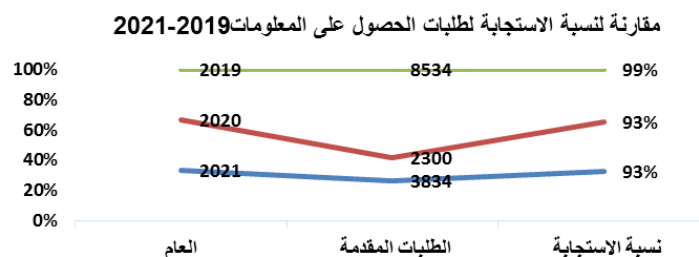
In this context, the Center affirms that publication bans would prevent individuals from obtaining information, widen the trust gap between individuals and the authorities, and open the door wide for rumors.

The right to access information:

The number of complaints received by the Information Council during the year 2021 was three, one of which was submitted by a journalist, compared to (14) complaints in 2020.

With regard to the number of requests to obtain information, the number of entities that responded to the circular issued by the Information Council by providing them with the number of requests to obtain information in 2021 AD reached (59) out of 124 entities, of which 36 received requests for information and responded to them; and (23) entities did not receive any request. The total number of requests to obtain information submitted to the aforementioned authorities reached (3834), of which (3550) requests were answered and (284) requests were rejected. Compared to (2,300) requests in 2020, (2,135) requests were answered, and (165)⁵³ were refused. Compared to (8,534) requests in 2019, (99) were rejected, as shown in the following figure:

Comparison of response rate to requests for information 2019-2021



Within the framework of enabling the right to obtain information, the Center reaffirms its observations contained in its previous reports and stresses the need to proceed with the procedures for approving the draft amending the law guaranteeing the right to obtain information, which is still with the House of Representatives. The Center noted that the information classified as confidential was not expanded; the lack of clear and accurate standards for the classification process and procedures by the concerned authorities. The

⁵³ According to the Information Commissioner

center recommended moving forward with the implementation of the information classification and archiving protocol and the information acquisition procedures protocol approved by the Council of Ministers, and applied by the relevant authorities. The two protocols were prepared under the umbrella of the National Library through a committee chaired by the Information Commissioner. The center also recommended the need to form a national training team for the right to access information in the National Library Administration, which began training the parties concerned with applying the law on these protocols. The Center stresses the importance of these steps and the need to expand the culture of the right to access information, and to amend the legislative system related to freedom of expression in general and freedom of the press and media in particular. The Center also stressed the need for the arrest of individuals not to be the general rule in respect of the principle of the presumption of innocence, and in compliance with international human rights standards; He called for the protection and promotion of the right to freedom of expression, freedom of the press and media, and freedom of access to information.

The Center stresses the need to proceed with the procedures for approving the draft amending the law guaranteeing the right to obtain information, which is still with the House of Representatives. It pointed to the lack of expansion of information classified as confidential, and the lack of clear and accurate standards for the classification process and procedures by the concerned authorities.

Recommendations:

The Center confirms the recommendations made in its previous annual reports and adds the following:

1. Preparing a national media strategy aimed at advancing media freedoms and providing a legislative environment that guarantees freedom of the press and media.
2. Accelerate the approval of the draft amendment to the law guaranteeing the right to access information, which is present in Parliament, based on international human rights standards and the Jordanian constitution.
3. Enhancing the right to obtain information by monitoring the process of classifying information, and appointing an information coordinator in each agency related to the application of the law.
4. Expansion in raising awareness of the right to obtain information for the relevant authorities, in particular raising awareness of the law regulating this right, the information classification and archiving protocol and the procedures for obtaining information approved by the Council of Ministers.
5. Not expanding publication ban decisions to ensure the flow of information and to prevent rumors, especially in issues of public interest.

The right to peaceful assembly

It is one of the rights guaranteed by international, regional⁵⁴ and national⁵⁵ covenants and regulated by the Public Meetings Law No. 7 of 2004.

The normative content of the right to peaceful assembly is based on the right of individuals to freedom of association and assembly to claim their economic, social, political and cultural rights, or to defend their causes, or to express their opinions or public participation and is characterized by being peaceful and public.

It is divided into two main types:

- 1- Freedom of assembly (meetings, sit-ins, gatherings, demonstrations, and festivals).
- 2- Freedom of association (establishing and forming associations, and joining them, including political parties and trade unions).

In general, there was no legislative amendment to the Public Meetings Law during the year 2021. In this regard, the Center reiterates its recommendation to amend Article (2) of the aforementioned law, which is related to the definition of a public meeting. According to the law, any political discussions, even between family members, can be considered a public meeting, which requires notifying the administrative ruler. The concept of public policy contained in the definition is a relative concept that varies between individuals, as it includes various topics, including the work and programs of governments, authorities and public institutions, in addition to the activities and gatherings carried out by individuals and civil society institutions.

In terms of enjoying the exercise of this right, the year 2021 witnessed the continuation of organizing various peaceful marches and demonstrations that called for improving the financial and living conditions of citizens, especially the poor groups.

As the year 2021 witnessed, different forms of participation; The Center closely monitored and followed the state of public protests, sit-ins, strikes, and marches that took place in the Kingdom during the year, whether by workers in public and official institutions, trade unions, and others. The center issued several statements in this regard, and the year 2021 witnessed a number of gatherings and protests, including:

First: Meetings and Protests of the Unemployed:

1. On 4/7/2021, a group of young men in Theban Brigade carried out a protest vigil as a result of their dismissal from work on the "Tel Theban" archaeological project of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.
2. On 30/8/2021, the unemployed in the Al-Jafr region / Ma'an governorate renewed their sit-in to protest against the neglect of their demands for job opportunities.
3. On 25/11/2021, a group of unemployed people in the Rusaifa area in the Zarqa governorate carried out a vigil near the Northern Mountain Triangle in solidarity with the beneficiaries of Karak Governorate and Theban Brigade, and to protest against the government's neglect of their demands to provide job opportunities.

⁵⁴ Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 20 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 24 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

⁵⁵ Article 16 of the Jordanian Constitution

4. On 29/12/2021, ten unemployed people in Madaba and Theban Brigade carried out a sit-in during which a mass suicide attempt was made from the top of one of the buildings located near the governorate building, in protest against the relevant authorities ignoring their demand to provide job opportunities.

Second: Meetings and Protests of Public Sector Employees:

1. On 29/03/2021, dozens of employees of the Directorate of Water Management in Ma'an governorate carried out a protest in front of their directorate building to demand an improvement in their financial conditions.

2. On 2/6/2021, a number of employees of the epidemiological investigation staff in Jerash carried out a protest stand in front of the Health Directorate to demand the payment of their allowances and rewards, like the rest of their colleagues working in the health sector.

3. On 31/8/2021, a number of third-category employees in the Ministry of Education carried out a sit-in near the Royal Court in the capital, Amman, to protest the "procrastination" of the Ministry and the Civil Service Bureau in implementing their demands of improving their salaries and including them in the royal honor for the children of teachers.

4. On 18/10/2021, a number of teachers in Karak governorate carried out a vigil in front of the governorate building to protest against the measures taken by the security services against the deputy head of the Teachers Syndicate and members of the Syndicate Council by preventing them from reaching the Syndicate branch in Karak.

5. On 28/11/2021, a group of Ma'an Municipality employees carried out a sit-in in front of the municipality's Public Services Department building, to demand the re-disbursement of their monthly reward of 65 dinars.

Synopsis

The year 2021 did not witness any government initiative to review legislation related to the right to assembly.

Third: Meetings and protests of university employees and students:

1. On 29/03/2021, a number of workers at the Academy of the Blind, Abdullah Ibn Umm Maktoum School in the Tabarbour area, staged a sit-in in front of the academy, in rejection of the decision to return to face-to-face education and work in the center in light of the epidemiological situation.

2. On 6/7/2021, dozens of University of Jordan employees carried out a sit-in in front of the university presidency building to demand a 30% increase in their salaries.

3. On 11/7/2021, approximately 30 employees of Tafila Technical University carried out a sit-in in front of the university presidency building to demand a 30% increase in their salaries.

Fourth: Labor meetings and protests:

1. On 6/1/2021, a group of employees of the Jordanian Syrian Transport Company carried out a sit-in in front of the House of Representatives, to demand the payment of their salaries, which have been suspended for nearly 31 months.

2. On 6/6/2021, the employees of "Pharmacy One" company carried out a protest against not receiving their salaries for more than eight months.
3. On 24/10/2021, dozens of workers in the three mines affiliated with the Jordan Phosphate Company carried out a sit-in in front of their workplaces, to protest against the company's management's decision to refer health insurance to an insurance company.
4. On 27/12/2021, daily laborers at the Aqaba Port Company carried out an open-ended sit-in in front of the House of Representatives, which lasted for three days, to protest against the non-payment of their financial dues for the month of October 2021 and their failure to be confirmed within the company's staff.
5. On 14/12/2021, dozens of employees of the Jordanian Cement Factories Company (Lafarge) carried out a protest in front of the House of Representatives to protest against the non-payment of their salaries and the proceeding with the new reorganization plan.

Fifth: Syndicate and partisan meetings and protests:

1. On 10/3/2021, dozens of teachers in Al-Baqaa camp carried out a march that started from Al-Quds roundabout to Al-Awda roundabout, in solidarity with their union and in support of its council.
2. On 5/9/2021, dozens of journalists and employees of electronic news websites carried out a sit-in at the headquarters of the Journalists Syndicate to reject the proposed amendments put forward by the Audiovisual Media Commission and considered them an infringement on the freedom of journalists.
3. On 17/10/2021, about 30 workers in the General Union of Electricity Workers carried out a protest stand in front of the headquarters of the General Federation of Trade Unions in the Shmeisani region, to demand immediate elections for the General Union and the cancellation of the recent amendments to the Unified System of General Trade Unions.
4. On 24/11/2021, a group of male and female workers in UNRWA institutions carried out a two-hour sit-in in the various sectors of the agency, and in front of their work sites, to demand the cancellation of the decision to leave the exceptional leave without pay for all employees under the pretext of financial hardship. They demanded the return of the annual bonus retroactively, which has been frozen since March 2020, and the end of the state of sluggishness in the institution through thousands of employees on daily contracts, and the implementation of the decision of the Beirut conference on the end of service and the provident fund, and the management's commitment of 7.5%, in addition to the payment of salaries for the 11th and 12th months without delay or fragmentation.

Sixth: Meetings and protests of public car drivers and truck owners:

1. On 07/06/2021, a number of truck drivers and owners staged a sit-in in front of the Jordanian Public Truck Owners Association building, to protest against the decision to ban trucks whose operational life exceeds 20 years from entering Saudi Arabia, describing the decision as "unfair starvation."
9. On 4/7/2021, drivers of foreign travel carried out their open sit-in, protesting their suspension from work for a year and a half and the lack of any support from the government for the duration of the border closure.
3. On 22/11/2021, about 30 yellow taxi drivers carried out a protest march on foot from in front of the Karak Governorate building towards the Interior roundabout in the capital,

Amman, in protest against the intrusion of unlicensed smart transportation applications and minibuses.

4. On 12/12/2021, drivers of smart transportation applications carried out a sit-in in front of the Land Transport Regulatory Authority building, in protest against the authority's decision to reduce the operational life of their vehicles from 7 to 5 years.

5. On 28/12/2021, a group of public drivers on the smart transportation application "Uber" carried out a sit-in in front of the company's building, to protest the ban on hundreds of drivers from entering the application due to the accumulation of financial debts owed by them.

Recommendations:

The Center confirms its recommendations in its previous reports and adds the following:

1. Amending Article (2) of the Public Meetings Law and its amendments, to avoid expanding the definition of meeting.

2. The law includes organizational and procedural restrictions on the powers of the administrative governor in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and international standards.

3. Activating judicial oversight over the actions and powers of the administrative governor with regard to exercising the right to public assembly, and establishing the principles of proportionality and necessity on the right of public assembly and the magnitude of the expected danger to security and public order.

The right to form and join political parties

It is one of the political rights guaranteed by international⁵⁶ and national covenants and guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution in the text of Article (16), with the condition that its goals are legitimate and its means are peaceful and have regulations that do not contradict the provisions of the Constitution, and that the law regulates the method of its formation and the mechanism for monitoring its resources.

The normative content of the right to establish political parties is based on ensuring legal guarantees for political parties to be licensed, formed, and formed differences; access to financial materials; striving to participate in the management of public affairs; Putting forward programs and participating in elections, including running candidates for free and fair elections organized through independent legislation and an impartial supervisory body.⁵⁷

In general, the year 2021 witnessed a proposal to amend some articles of the constitution to create a constitutional provision that allows parties to participate in parliamentary elections through lists limited to party candidates, which contributes to the development of parliamentary work and the strengthening of the partisan work system to reach parliamentary governments. The year 2021 also witnessed the approval of a draft amendment to the Political Parties Law, one of the laws developed by the Royal Committee for the Development of the Political System that was formed in 2021, in addition to continuing to license parties and their activities.

In terms of legislative developments, the Center believes that the parties' draft law⁵⁸ is in line, to some extent, with international standards regulating the right to form political parties. In this regard, the Center appreciates the legislator's adoption of a number of recommendations that the Center had previously made in its previous reports, the most important of which are: amending the laws governing political life, the laws of political parties and elections; transferring the affiliation of the parties to an independent and impartial body; work to strengthen partisan action; striving to enable parties to play a political role based on programmatic foundations in Jordanian public and parliamentary life; and enabling the groups most in need of protection - women, youth and persons with disabilities - to participate in the party; and striving to enable political parties to reach parliament with the aim of establishing a pluralistic and representative political party parliament based on the formation of capable parliamentary party blocs, as the draft law guaranteed legal guarantees for enjoying the right to form parties as follows:

1. Creating Programmatic Parties:

The draft law guarantees the right of parties to participate in political life, public action, to form parliamentary governments and establish parties without any discrimination. The draft law also guarantees the right of citizens to obtain information about parties by obligating the party to announce its program, in which it defines its vision, goals, plans and solutions regarding basic issues in various fields, and to publish it on its website.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ This was mentioned in Article (20) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, Article (22) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article (21) of the European Convention on Human Rights, and Articles (24 and 35) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

⁵⁷ The definition of the Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly in his report on the right to peaceful assembly in accordance with Human Rights Council Resolution 16/21

⁵⁸ Law No. 1 of 2022 was approved and published in the Official Gazette No. 5784 on page: 2930 on: 04-14-2022.

⁵⁹ The text of articles (3, 5, 10, 15) of the draft law on political parties

2. Membership, Affiliation, Partial Participation:

The draft law guarantees the right of women, youth, and persons with disabilities to form and join parties, access to party resources in a fair and equal manner, and give parties an opportunity to develop horizontal participation at the governorate level, and not allow any citizen to be subjected to, questioned, or held accountable because of his party affiliation. This right guarantees students of higher education institutions who are members of the party the exercise of all partisan activities within the campuses of those institutions without any restriction or prejudice to their rights.⁶⁰

3. Management and supervision

The draft law guarantees the application of the principles of independence, transparency and governance through the establishment of a department called (Party Registry) in the Independent Election Commission that supervises the work of parties.⁶¹

4. Establishing the principle of the rule of law:

The draft law guarantees the principle of neutrality for state institutions and agencies, by preventing the involvement of some functional groups in the state in parties.⁶²

5. The internal democracy of the parties:

The draft law ensured the application of the principles and methodology of internal democracy within the party by stipulating that the general secretary of the party may not occupy his position for more than two consecutive terms, and that the duration of one term does not exceed four years. The party shall hold its general conference at least once every four years. It also guaranteed opportunities for the effective participation of party members in managing its executive leadership, taking into account the principles of good governance, transparency, accountability and accountability.⁶³

Parallel to this, the year 2021 witnessed the amendment of the electoral law⁶⁴ to guarantee the right of political parties to participate in elections. In examining the draft law, the center notes that it was somewhat in line with international standards, which include providing an enabling environment for the participation of parties in the elections.

In this context, the Center believes that the draft laws on political parties and elections are largely in line with international human rights standards. At the same time, he affirms his recommendations with the aim of improving the two bills as follows: (1) expanding the provision of legal guarantees for university students and youth involved in party work, (2) reducing the number of party founders, since the proposed number is high and contradicts international standards in this regard.⁶⁵ Determining the number of founders as a condition for licensing a party is in violation of Article (16/3) of the constitution, which limits the function of the law to organizing the way associations and political parties are formed and monitoring their resources.

- In 2021, an amended draft law on political parties was approved, one of the laws developed by the Royal Commission for the Development of the Political System.
- In 2021, the electoral law was amended to guarantee the right of political parties to

⁶⁰ The text of Articles (4, 10) of the aforementioned draft law

⁶¹ The text of Article (12) of the aforementioned draft law

⁶² The text of Article (6) of the aforementioned draft law

⁶³ The text of Articles (14, 15) of the draft law

⁶⁴ Law No. 4 of 2022 was approved and published in the Official Gazette No. 5782 on page 2865 on 4/7/02022

⁶⁵ The report of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders submitted to the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on October 1, 2004, Document No. / 401/59/ A.

participate in elections.

In terms of politics, the year 2021 witnessed a number of developments related to the formation of parties and partisan work in general, including:

1. Formation of a royal committee to modernize the political system⁶⁶, which included 93 members, including representatives of 11 political parties; The royal committee held several meetings with leaders of a number of parties to discuss proposals related to the political parties law. On October 3, 2021, the Royal Committee for the Modernization of the Political System presented its recommendations and work outputs to His Majesty the King, which included: a draft election law, a draft political parties law, recommendations related to constitutional amendments, recommendations for the development of local administration; In addition to a set of general recommendations that are necessary to achieve the desired goals of the political modernization process and to create an enabling environment that guarantees the active participation of both women and youth.
2. The Parties Affairs Committee, established according to the Parties Law of 2015, filed a lawsuit with the Court of Appeal, demanding the dissolution of the Partnership and Rescue Party and stop its work, but the court decided to dismiss the lawsuit and the party resumed its activities after a 3-month hiatus. In this regard, the Center announced its position by issuing a statement in which it affirmed that following the notification or notice system by those wishing to establish the party without requiring approval for the party to acquire legal status; Suspension of approval for the establishment of parties in Jordan and the subsequent conditions for this matter and the requirements that are imposed on the parties later may lead to the dissolution of the party, all of which is considered a restriction on the right of Jordanians to establish political parties.⁶⁷
3. The Center monitored the statement issued by a number of political parties⁶⁸ regarding the outputs of the Political System Modernization Committee, through which it evaluates the royal desire to reach a partisan political pluralism that transfers power within elected parliamentary governments.
4. The center monitored the results of the study prepared by the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan⁶⁹, entitled “Jordanian Citizens’ Opinions on the Royal Commission for the Modernization of the Political System in Jordan and its Outputs”. The results of the study revealed that (10%) of the Jordanians called for or read about the proposed political parties law. The majority of Jordanians (57%) do not want to join any political party, and (16%) of Jordanians prefer to join a political party that focuses on solving daily problems and provides services to citizens.
5. The year 2021 witnessed the introduction and management of the Higher Diploma in Electoral Policies by the Independent Election Commission, in cooperation with the

⁶⁶ The tasks of the committee were defined as follows: (1) preparing two new draft laws for general elections and political parties, (2) drafting constitutional amendments related to the two laws and parliamentary work mechanisms, (3) making recommendations for developing local administration and expanding the base of participation in decision-making. (4) Develop recommendations to create the legislative and political environment that guarantees the effective participation of women and youth in public life.

⁶⁷ See the statement issued by the National Center for Human Rights published on the center's website.

⁶⁸ The signatory parties: Jordan is Stronger, The Message, The National Direction, The Jordanian United Front, Ahrar al-Urdun, The Jordanian National Democratic Assembly (Tawad), Nature, Freedom and Equality, Ansar.

⁶⁹ Center for Strategic Studies, (2021) A study entitled “Jordanian Citizens’ Opinions on the Royal Commission for the Modernization of the Political System in Jordan and its Outputs”, published on the website of the Center for Strategic Studies, Amman, Jordan

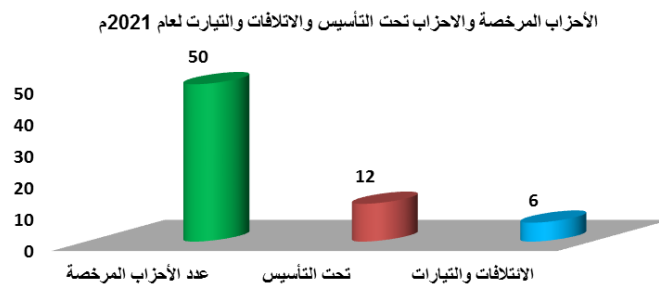
University of Jordan, which is considered the first of its kind in Jordan and the Arab region in general. The program included allocating seats and scholarships at the Jordanian Electoral Institute for members of political parties to obtain a higher diploma in electoral studies and managing them within competitive conditions⁷⁰ with the aim of raising the capabilities of party members and providing students with a general idea of the elections and the history of various electoral experiences and managing the electoral process according to specific principles and criteria.

In terms of practices, the center monitored the persistence of challenges that still hinder partisan work. (1) The majority of political parties still lack mechanisms to achieve their general programs, and put forward idealistic and sometimes unrealistic slogans, which the parties were not able to achieve on the ground, whether through their representatives who reached parliament seats, or held ministerial positions, which led to the frustration of individuals and their lack of confidence in the parties. (2) seasonal work and limiting its activities to seasonal work (parliamentary elections); (3) there is a weakness in the internal democracy of some parties and their inability to form organized internal party bodies based on the distribution of responsibility, and defining clear powers to make decisions instead of limiting them to certain people or leaders; (6) the inability of political parties to convince the masses of their party programs, and work to change the social heritage and the prevailing social and political culture, which perpetuates fear of partisan work, as well as the clan social system that poses a challenge to political parties in imposing their leadership models in society.

Licensing and Formation:

The year 2021 witnessed an increase in the number of licensed parties to reach (50) parties, in addition to (12) parties under establishment. On the other hand, the number of coalitions and party currents for the year 2021 was (6), as shown in the chart below:

Licensed parties, parties under establishment, coalitions, and currents for the year 2021

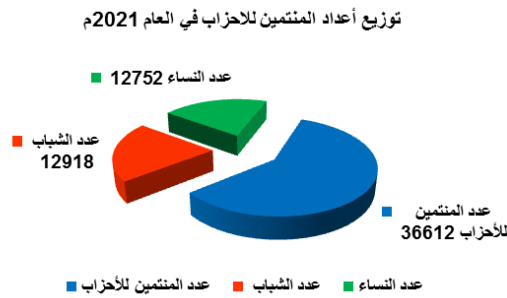


While the number of party members until the end of 2021 AD reached a total of (36,612) members. The number of young people belonging to political parties until the end of 2021 reached a total of (12918) members, with a rate of (35.28%), while the total number of women belonging to political parties reached 12752, with a rate of (34.83%).⁷¹

⁷⁰ For more details: see the website of the Independent Election Commission

⁷¹ According to the letter of the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs.

Distribution of the numbers of party members in 2021



The year 2021 also witnessed the publication of the Social Democratic Forum in the field of framing political currents in society in parliamentary alliances and parties in preparation for the emergence of a broad political gathering that includes a wide spectrum of intellectuals, politicians, deputies, former MPs and peers, trade unionists and academics.

Synopsis

- The number of party members until the end of 2021 reached a total of (36,612) members. The number of young people belonging to political parties until the end of 2021 reached a total of (12,918) members, with a rate of (35.28%). While the total number of women belonging to political parties reached 12,752, or 34.83%.
- The number of parties licensed until the end of 2021 has reached (50).

Recommendations:

The Center confirms the recommendations mentioned in its previous annual reports, and adds the following recommendations:

1. Expanding the provision of legal guarantees for university students and youth involved in partisan work.
2. Enabling political parties to have the right to appeal before the Constitutional Court.
3. The parties should implement the principles of good governance and the foundations of internal democracy in their work.
4. The parties should update their data and information published on their website to ensure the right to obtain information.

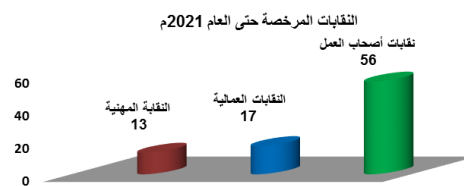
The right to form and join trade unions

It is one of the rights guaranteed by international, regional⁷² and national⁷³ conventions. The Jordanian constitution guarantees the right of Jordanians to establish and join trade unions, which guarantees the exercise of this right among groups of workers, employers, and official authorities.

The normative content of this right is based on guaranteeing the right to defend the interests of the members and affiliates of the union, and to prevent the employers' category from encroaching on the workers, to conduct collective negotiations, to contribute to avoiding collective and individual disputes and seeking to resolve them; to represent workers in institutions related to labor, economic and social affairs in accordance with the legislation in force; to work to raise the level of economic, social, professional and cultural awareness of the workers and enhance their participation in making decisions related to them, and to provide health and social services to the members of the union and any facilities to meet the needs.

In general, the year 2021 witnessed a number of legislative developments regulating this right. A number of relevant court rulings were issued, in addition to the continued licensing of trade unions. The number of Jordanian trade unions registered by the end of 2021 reached thirteen⁷⁴, while the number of trade unions reached seventeen, while the number of employers' unions reached fifty six⁷⁵, as shown in the chart below:

Licensed trade unions until 2021



In 2021, preventive measures were taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the elections of trade unions, associations, and federations.

In terms of legislative developments, the year 2021 witnessed the issuance of a judicial decision by the Amman Court of Appeal⁷⁶ on 31/10/2021 to cancel the decision issued by the Amman Court of First Instance No. (4831/2021) on 3/3/2021 to dissolve the Teachers Syndicate that was formed after the teachers' movement in what was known as the

⁷² The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two international covenants, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

⁷³ Articles (16/2 and 23) of the Jordanian Constitution.

⁷⁴ The professional associations are: the Jordanian Medical Association, the Dental Association, the Jordanian Veterinary Association, the Jordanian Geologists Association, the Jordanian Journalists Association, the Jordan Pharmacists Association, the Jordanian Bar Association, the Jordanian Construction Contractors Association, the Jordanian Nurses and Midwives Association, and the Jordanian Engineers Association; Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association, Jordanian Artists Association, Jordanian Teachers Association.

⁷⁵ For a list of the seventeen labor unions, and a list of employers' unions, whose number reached 56 after the approval of the establishment of the Physiotherapy Centers Owners Syndicate, see the Ministry of Labor link www.mol.gov.jo

⁷⁶ Judgment No. 9410 of 2021 issued on 10/31/2021 by the Amman Court of Appeal

"Allowance Recovery Plan". The Center appreciates the decision. As the trade unions that are established according to a special law are considered among the public law persons that the legislator bestowed upon them the status of public administration, which was confirmed by the Supreme Administrative Court in its decision in Case No. 62/2017 issued on 01/03/2017. Thus, it falls outside the scope of the provisions of Articles (36 and 37) of the Penal Code related to the suspension or dissolution of the public body. Every public body established under a special law cannot be abolished except after the law that established it has been abolished.

A decision was also issued by the Supreme Administrative Court⁷⁷ to support the decision to dissolve the Council of the Medical Association, and to appoint a committee to exercise the powers of the Council of the Association, as the court considered that the issuance of the dissolution decision came to preserve public safety by preventing the spread of the pandemic based on the recommendations of the National Committee for Epidemiology.

The Court of Appeal overturned the decision to dissolve the Teachers Syndicate, while the Supreme Administrative Court upheld the decision to dissolve the Doctors Syndicate Council.

The year 2021 also witnessed the issuance of the Agricultural Workers Regulation No. (19) for the year 2021 to include agricultural workers with the basic rights stipulated in the Labor Law, such as the minimum wage and holidays, and the protection of women working in the agricultural sector, such as granting them maternity leave, in addition to protecting children working in the sector and others, as well as the inclusion of workers in social security. The Center believes that this is a positive step towards approving the rights of agricultural workers, including the establishment of the union that agricultural workers have been calling for since 2018. This requires the government, through the powers of the Minister of Labor, to review the decision to classify the professions and industries whose workers are entitled to establish unions for them to establish a clear classification of agricultural workers.

During the year 2021, the center monitored the continued repercussions of the Covid-19 on the exercise of this right, as Protocol No. (20) was issued aiming to take preventive measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the elections of trade unions, associations, and federations. However, the councils of the seven professional syndicates continued to perform their duties in accordance with the articles of their laws, with the exception of the Syndicate of Journalists, which held its elections in October of 2021. With regard to trade unions, all administrative bodies were formed by acclamation, with the exception of the Electricity Workers Union.

Trade unions:

The Center monitored the meeting of the General Assembly of the Engineers Association to discuss the amendment of the Engineers Association law on 24/12/2021, which included altercations and attempts to attack the Engineers Association, prompting the Captain to adjourn the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly⁷⁸. Subsequently,

⁷⁷ Judgment No. 52 of 2021 issued on 20/03/2021 by the Supreme Administrative Court

⁷⁸ For the course of the extraordinary meeting of the Engineers Syndicate on 12/24/2021, see the link on the Engineers Syndicate's official page: /fb.watch/a9dRM9aXHw

the General Assembly of the Syndicate voted not to approve the proposed amendments⁷⁹ to the Engineers Syndicate Law on 12/27/2021⁸⁰. It is worth noting that the mandate of the Engineers Syndicate Council has ended since May 2021, and it continued to work due to the circumstances of Covid-19, pursuant to the provisions of Article 44 of the Syndicate Law. The Center believes that since the union was able to invite the general assembly and hold a meeting for it to amend the legislation, the legal and trade union entitlement requires that the first item of its work be the election of a new trade union council.

Also, in 2021, the first union elections were held during Covid-19 to choose the president and members of the council for the Jordanian Journalists Syndicate⁸¹, which was monitored by the Center's team⁸² and made several recommendations, the most important of which are: A) Using the expertise and equipment of the Independent Election Commission in the upcoming elections; b) Training trade union committees on election mechanisms in accordance with international standards and best practices and within the framework of national legislation governing this matter.

While the councils of the rest of the unions, which are: "lawyers, pharmacists, veterinarians, artists, geologists, and doctors," continued to carry out their tasks and work and exercise their powers until the election date for the captain and members is determined during the year 2022.

For pension funds in professional associations, the Center monitored the failure of some of them, as is the case in the Jordanian Geologists Association, which, according to its members, is due to the low membership fees in return for pension salaries, and the decline in the number of members of the union after the abolition of the earth sciences subject from the school curricula, in contrast to the increase in the number of retirees, in addition to the poor investment and its inability. The Center believes that the Bar Council should conduct an actuarial study to serve as a reference for taking action that is in the interest of all members.

Trade unions:

The year 2021 witnessed the amendment of the internal regulations of the trade unions⁸³, which consisted of issuing a statute for the General Federation, which created two important files for workers: the social insurance file, and the occupational health and safety file. The system also expanded the powers of the Federation President and his deputy through the addition to Article (23) during the period in which the elections are held until the date of the Ordinary General Conference. The Elections Supervisory

⁷⁹ The proposed amendments to the Law of the Engineers Association are: abolishing additional fees for engineers, reducing the age for candidacy for the position of president, vice president, sub-committees and various bodies, introducing the profession practice exam, and other amendments that can be found on the official page of the association. www.jea.org.jo/Default/Ar

⁸⁰ The National Center monitored the registration of a lawsuit with the Administrative Court by 3 engineers who are members of the General Authority to challenge Council Resolution No. 6603, which stipulates that the General Assembly be invited to an extraordinary meeting on 12/24/2021 to discuss amendments to the union law, and to postpone voting to 27/12/2021. (The decision has not been made yet.)

⁸¹ The Jordanian Journalists Association elections were held on 10/22/2021, and the voting rate reached 83% of those eligible to vote. The number of journalists who have paid their annual subscriptions and are entitled to participate in the General Assembly meeting has reached 1142 journalists

⁸² For the National Center's decision on the course of the Journalists Syndicate elections, see the following link: nchr.org.jo/ar/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1

⁸³ To view the articles of association of the General Federation and the unified system of trade unions 2020, see the following link: drive.google.com/file/d/1Ns5xJL9Mou878JMY5KvyW9RdsHqIIIQj/view

Committee was also granted a postponement of the polling process for a period not exceeding a year in the event of force majeure circumstances that were not identified, but were left to be determined at the discretion of the Elections Committee. The unified system of trade unions, which confiscated the right of workers to approve their regulations, was also amended. This is by deleting paragraph 6 of Article 37 of the system, which provided for the approval of the amendment of the internal system, so it is placed and amended in the General Conference, and the public bodies do not have the right to ratify and approve it.

The regime also restricted freedom of association, as Article (64) of it stipulated that the General Federation endorsed the system set by the trade union, in contrast to what was previously in force, by only depositing the system with the federation. The Center believes that what has been done is in line with the basic system that limited the power of amendment to the General Conference of Trade Unions, but that does not prevent it from practicing social dialogue with the ranks of workers and their representatives, and taking their proposals about the regulations that concern them, not that the amendment is made without their knowledge, as happened; in implementation of the goals of sustainable development that the trade unions seek to achieve through what they request from the government through its meetings and repeated statements. Hence, the Center re-emphasizes the need to amend the regulating legislation represented in the Labor Law, which limited trade unions to seventeen, and granted the General Federation of Trade Unions the right to set the rules of procedure for the federation and trade unions together, and did not leave the union (whether the general body or the administrative body) any organizational role for the union; they are just a tool to implement the instructions of the General Confederation of Trade Unions according to Article (100) thereof.

The Center monitored the vigils carried out by the workers of the Electricity Union⁸⁴ to demand setting a date for the union elections, and the retraction of the amendments to the internal regulations of the Federation of Trade Unions, and the complaint they submitted to the Parliamentary Administrative Committee and the Minister of Labor. The Parliamentary Administrative Committee issued a decision on 08/11/2021 obliging the federation to announce the date of the Electricity Syndicate elections, as well as to dismiss retirees who are still in the union's records. However, until the National Center issued its report, no action was taken regarding the committee's decision. The Center also monitored the vigil of workers and trade union activists in mines and mining in front of the House of Representatives, objecting to the sudden announcement of the formation of the administrative body of the Mines and Mining Syndicate by acclamation - according to the text of Article (51) of the unified system of trade unions -. The sit-down demanded the dissolution of the council and the re-election. They also filed a complaint with the Administrative Court, which was rejected in form in Resolution No. (285/2021) dated 02/11/2021. The Center believes that what is happening confirms that the broadest influence in the tripartite relationship between each of the workers, the government, and the employers is for the latter two parties, and all of this would weaken trade union work and keep the situation as it is, and the workers' leaders will remain the same and win by acclamation for many years, as is the case, for example: President of the General Federation of Trade Unions, who has held this position since 1998. Many workers avoided engaging in union work because they were convinced of the futility of the union's role in defending the rights of its members.

All this contributed to the weakening of the trade union movement, the marginalization of its role in the economic, social and political aspects, and the weakening of its basic role represented in organizing the Jordanian labor market in a way that serves the basic

⁸⁴ To view the activities of the vigil and the statement issued by the organizing committee of the vigil on 9/27/2021, see the link: www.jrannan.com/2021/09/blog-post_27.html?m=1

interests of workers in terms of wages and vacations and following occupational safety conditions to protect them and preserve their professional future by obtaining social insurance. The Center believes that the General Conference - concerned with amending trade union legislation - should apply the principles of internal governance and democracy in its work.

With regard to women's participation in trade unions, the year 2021 witnessed the first woman chairing the position of head of the Food Industries Workers Union. The Center believes that despite her access to this position by acclamation and not through the ballot box, it is a good sign to increase the involvement of women in trade union work, which the Center has long demanded over the past years.

- The work of the councils of all trade unions continued after the end of their legal term due to Covid-19.
- The year 2021 witnessed the first woman chairing the position of head of the Food Industries Workers Union.

Trade unions and sustainable development goals:

In terms of the role of trade unions in enhancing participation in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which are related to achieving Goal No. 8 and its objectives, which are creating job opportunities, expanding social protection, promoting social dialogue, and ensuring respect for rights at work, it cannot be denied that trade union practices in terms of periodic elections, interaction with public issues, and follow-up of the tripartite dialogue are a form - albeit modest - of democratic practice, and perhaps pluralism to some degree. However, when looking at the numbers of those who pay the annual subscriptions compared to the number of members, we see the trade unionists' reluctance to leave their unions. For example, only 11% of the engineers participated in the vote on the amendments to the Engineers Syndicate Law, which was referred to above, as well as the frequent scene in trade unions, represented in resolving the elections of the administrative body by acclamation in accordance with Article (51) of the unified system of trade unions; Which indicates a reluctance to run for elections. Hence, the Center believes that it is necessary for trade union councils, whether professional or labor, to reactivate their roles to convince their affiliates on the professional and social levels of their role professionally and nationally.

Demanding the formation of new unions:

In 2021, no government initiative was taken to issue a law regulating union work for public employees in response to the demands of several categories of public sector employees, such as a union for workers in the medical and allied health professions. In 2021, demands continued for the establishment of a number of unions, the most important of which were: a union for workers in allied medical professions, a union for medical laboratories and analysis. The official restrictions in the Ministry of Labor indicate the approval of the registration of one union, which is the owners of physiotherapy centers, during the year 2021; the registration of the Agricultural Workers' Union in Jordan was refused, because the agricultural workers at the time they applied for the establishment of the union were not covered by the provisions of the Labor Law, and because the system for workers in the agricultural sector was not issued in accordance with the provisions of Article (3/b) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996 at the time. Here, the Center believes that with the issuance of the Agricultural Workers Regulation No. (19) of 2021, this requires reviewing the decision to classify professions and industries whose workers are entitled to

establish unions for them, to establish a clear classification of agricultural workers and give them the right to establish a union.

Recommendations:

The National Center for Human Rights confirms its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports, and also recommends the following:

1. Consolidate international standards regulating the freedom of trade unions in setting up their basic systems by amending the legislation regulating them; such as removing restrictions on the practice of trade union work in Labor Law No. (14) of 2019. This includes: (1) amending Article (2) and Article (44), which deny a group of non-unionized workers from benefiting from dispute resolution tools and the right to collective bargaining; amending Article (98) by canceling all restrictions that deny workers the right to initiate trade unions to defend their interests; as well as, the amending Article (100), which granted the General Federation of Trade Unions the right to set the rules of procedure for the federation and the trade unions together, and did not leave the trade union (whether the general body or the administrative body) any organizational role for the trade union; and amending Article (116), which granted the Minister of Labor the power to dissolve the union's administrative body and appoint a temporary administrative body.
2. Inviting trade unions to engage in income-generating development and investment projects and play their role in easing the economic and social burdens of their members.

The right to form and join associations

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by international and national covenants. The provisions of the constitution guarantee the right of Jordanians to form associations and limit the role of the law to regulating the method of forming associations and monitoring their resources only. Article (16/2) stipulates that Jordanians have the right to form associations, provided that their aims are legitimate, their means are peaceful, and that they have systems that do not contradict the provisions of the Constitution. The International Bill of Human Rights also guarantees the right to form and join associations for all citizens⁸⁵, and affirms that no restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right except those that constitute necessary measures in a democratic society⁸⁶, and the Arab Charter for Human Rights has guaranteed this right.⁸⁷

The normative content of this right is based on guaranteeing the right of individuals to form associations with various legitimate goals, which are required to be compatible with the requirements of a democratic society. This right includes several basic axes, namely: providing guarantees for the establishment of associations, the right of each association to organize events and meetings, to set its statute freely, to access financial resources to carry out its activities, to form alliances and coalitions with other similar associations, and not to dissolve any association or stop it from working unless with the approval of its general assembly or a judicial decision.

In general, in 2021 the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association issued four reports that focused on the guiding principles governing the right, including the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and the free flow of information⁸⁸. At the national level, the year 2021 witnessed the formation of a committee by the Ministry of Social Development to review Associations Law No. (51) of 2008. It also continued during the year 2021 to enable associations to exercise their right to express opinions and announce their positions in various ways.

In terms of developments in accordance with international standards, the year 2021 witnessed the issuance of a specialized report by the Special Rapporteur on the right to association and peaceful assembly on the impact of violations in the field of human rights, focusing in particular on efforts to reduce economic inequalities and eradicate

⁸⁵ Article (20) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "1. Everyone has the right to freedom of association and peaceful association. 2. No one may be compelled to join an association." While Article (22) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates the following: "1. Everyone has the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions in order to protect his interests; 2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary measures, in a democratic society, for the maintenance of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This article does not preclude subjecting members of the armed forces and policemen to legal restrictions on the exercise of this right. 3. Nothing in this article authorizes states parties to the International Labor Organization Convention of 1948 Concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize to take legislative measures that would, or apply the law in a way that would prejudice the guarantees provided for in that Convention".

⁸⁶ See Articles (21, 2/22) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

⁸⁷ Article (28) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights stipulates: Freedom of assembly and freedom of peaceful assembly for citizens. The exercise of either of these freedoms may not be prevented except as necessary for reasons of national security or public safety or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

⁸⁸ [66/31/undocs.org/ar/A/HRC](https://www.unhcr.org/ar/A/HRC) Document of Guidelines Governing the Right to Association and Peaceful Assembly

poverty in all its forms.⁸⁹ The report emphasized the key role played by civil society in facilitating dialogue and building alliances among communities and actors. This contributes to achieving more inclusive development for all by highlighting the problems facing poor women and the most marginalized people, adding the importance of the role of associations in ensuring increased transparency and accountability in the implementation of policies and strategies in the field of development and poverty eradication, especially with regard to improving services and allocating resources. A report was also issued on the links between the right to form associations and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report focused on five main areas as an enabling environment for the work of civil society in achieving the goals of sustainable development, namely: procedures for registering and dissolving associations, organizing events, obtaining resources⁹⁰, political influence, and organizing peaceful assemblies.⁹¹ A report was also issued on the role of women and girls, their contribution to civil society, and their role as activists in democracy, human rights, and sustainable development. The report touched on the challenges they face, which would impede the enjoyment of women and girls from different countries of the world from exercising this right, whether related to obstacles to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.⁹²

On the national level, the year 2021 witnessed the formation of a committee by the Minister of Social Development to amend the Associations Law No. (51) of 2008. This committee carried out a series of consultations and dialogues with the associations, and an electronic platform was launched to receive proposals from the associations on the draft law. In this context, the Center reaffirms its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports, which include amending the Associations Law so that the new law is consistent with the principles guaranteed by the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution and international standards, and reaffirms the following:⁹³

- (1) The work of associations should be supervised by an independent body that includes official representatives and others from civil society institutions, and that its work should be run by an independent person who heads it by election; (2) Specific

⁸⁹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 41/12/General Assembly/United Nations/2021.

⁹⁰ The report concluded with a number of recommendations that help create and enhance an environment conducive to the work of associations, as follows: (1) ensuring the existence of favorable legal, political, economic and social environments that enable civil society to operate freely; (ii) recognizing the essential role of civil society in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and eradicating poverty as an essential component of efforts to leave no one behind; (3) recognize the right of poor individuals to organize themselves and to participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of any policies or strategies affecting their rights at the local and national levels in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights; (iv) refrain from imposing any unjustified restrictions on civic space that negatively affect efforts to reduce poverty, inequality, governance, or access to financial resources; (5) ensure that administrative and law enforcement personnel are adequately trained with regard to respecting the right of individuals belonging to poor and marginalized groups to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; (6) ensuring that the enabling legal, political, economic and social environment for civic engagement constitutes a reference point for development assistance in bilateral agreements; (7) Enhancing financial support for the participation of civil society in the implementation of development and poverty eradication strategies

⁹¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, item 6/5 b Provisional agenda, General Assembly, United Nations, 2021

⁹² Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, item 52/b provisional agenda, General Assembly, United Nations, 2021.

⁹³ See the reports of the National Center for Human Rights from the 2008 report until the 2020 report discussing the right to establish associations.

definitions should be given for the types of associations (family association, private association, closed association, charitable association) and distinguishing them from a non-profit company; (3) The restrictions on the right to register should be removed and the freedom to form and register associations by notification, filing or any other organizational method should be guaranteed; (4) Restrictions on the freedom of associations to conduct their business should be abolished; (5) The text of Article 8/a of the law should be amended, which allows the Council of Ministers, upon the recommendation of the competent minister, to approve that the founding membership of the association includes a legal person other than associations; (6) The text of Article 20/b of the law, which gave the minister the authority to dissolve the association, should be amended, a provision that contradicts custom and international standards that make dissolution in two ways: the members' agreement or a judicial decision to do so; (7) The basis and conditions under which financial support is provided to associations should be stated; as the current law is devoid of building a comprehensive national vision towards supporting associations directly or indirectly, providing financial facilities such as customs and tax exemptions, and facilitating their carrying out investment activities that secure self-financing.⁹⁴

(2)

- The Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association issued four reports that focused on the guiding principles governing the right, including the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, and the free flow of information.
- A committee was formed by the Ministry of Social Development to review Associations Law No. (51) of 2008.

In terms of practices to enjoy this right, it continued during the year 2021 to enable associations to exercise their right to express opinion, and to announce their positions in various ways. The center observed the following:

1. An association announces its position, including the demand to strengthen occupational safety measures in institutions; The position paper called for the need to ratify the International Labor Organization conventions related to occupational health and safety, especially the Occupational Safety and Health Convention No. 155, the Occupational Health Services Convention No. 161, and the Convention on Safety in the Use of Chemicals No. 170, which would raise the level of standards in this regard.⁹⁵
2. A report issued by an association on labor protests for the year 2020, which revealed a decrease in the number of labor protests compared to what they were during the year 2019.⁹⁶
3. The publication of a study by an association on the role of civil society organizations in social protection, and the challenges facing these organizations. Its results stated that

⁹⁴Article 22 stipulates that: "A- A fund called (Associations Support Fund) shall be established in the Ministry with the aim of supporting associations. It enjoys legal personality and financial and administrative independence. It has the right to own movable and immovable funds and invest them in the manner it deems appropriate. It is represented by the civil attorney general in judicial procedures. B- The aspects of spending and supporting associations from the funds of the Fund shall be determined based on the principles and conditions determined by the Council of Ministers in accordance with instructions issued for this purpose, and the Council shall undertake the disbursement according to those instructions.

⁹⁵ A position paper issued by the Jordanian Labor Observatory of the Phoenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies, in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung on the occasion of the International Day for Occupational Safety and Health, which is published on the Al-Marsad website

⁹⁶ The annual report on labor protests issued by the Phoenician Center for Economic and Social Studies, published on the Al-Marsad website

there is a need to reduce government restrictions on approving foreign funding, and to increase awareness of civil society organizations of the procedures used to obtain approvals. It called for encouraging civil society organizations to establish and/or join national and international networks and alliances of civil society organizations. The study also showed that 2% of civil society organizations registered as non-profit companies aim to defend human rights and advocacy, while 74% of them provide financial and in-kind assistance.⁹⁷

4. The center monitored the legal and administrative challenges that some civil society organizations suffer from when carrying out their work, which can be summarized as follows:

a. The inability of the majority of civil society organizations to master the means of preparing project documents that enable them to obtain support and communicate with donor institutions.

b. Weak justice and equality between institutions due to the control of some civil society institutions over external grants, and the deprivation of the largest segment of this support, which resulted in the failure of many projects of institutions.

c. The non-compliance of many associations with the geographical scope of their work specified in their by-laws, and the practice of activities and objectives different from the specialization for which they were licensed.

d. The absence of internal democracy in some civil society institutions and the reliance of its work on people, and the rarity of changing the president of the association and its administrative body for many years.

e. Seasonality in the work of civil society; since many associations do not care about their permanence, as if they were established for limited purposes and a specific time, there are associations that are run from the house of their president.

f. The small number of employees involved in following up the activities of civil society organizations in the field, which requires the formation of a team (follow-up, investigation and evaluation) of civil society organizations in each concerned ministry with jurisdiction.

g. The work of federations - which are originally registered associations - but they play broader roles, and grow at the expense of small associations, as they require the payment of subscription fees in the federation in light of the inability of many small institutions to do so, which requires civil society organizations to establish networks of coalitions and alliances to carry out their various activities.

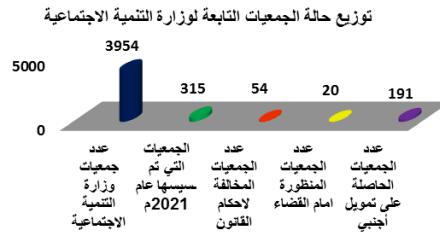
Formation and dissolution of associations:

(315) associations were established during the year 2021, bringing the number of associations supervised by the Ministry of Social Development to (3954) associations, of which (191) associations obtained foreign funding, while the number of dissolved associations reached (179) associations; the number of associations that have been warned for violating the provisions of the Associations Law in force and the regulations and instructions issued pursuant thereto is (54) associations, while the number of

⁹⁷ A study prepared by the Phoenix Center for Economic and Social Studies, 2021.

associations that have pending cases before the judiciary is (20) associations⁹⁸, as shown in the drawing below:

Distribution of the status of associations affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development

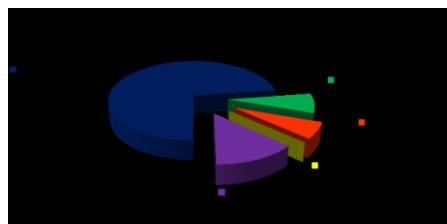


The Ministry of Social Development has explained the reasons for the dissolution of associations that based its decision on the provisions of Article (20) of the Associations Law in force for the following reasons⁹⁹:

- The association ceased its activities for a period of one year.
- It was not possible to elect an administrative body for the association in accordance with the provisions of the association's statute, the provisions of the law, and the regulations and instructions issued pursuant thereto, after the competent minister exhausted the procedures contained in Article (19) of the law.
- The association retains or uses a donation or funding from non-Jordanians in violation of the provisions of Article (17) of the law.
- The association committed for the second time the violation for which it was previously warned, and it did not remove the violation according to Article (19) of the law.

The number of associations supervised by the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs reached (230) associations until 12/21/2021, of which (42) associations obtained foreign funding; while the number of associations that were dissolved reached (24) associations, and the number of associations that were warned for violating the provisions of the Law of Associations in force and the regulations and instructions issued pursuant thereto reached (20) associations. There is no association under the supervision of the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs that has cases pending before the judiciary¹⁰⁰, as shown in the following figure:

The status of associations affiliated to the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs



⁹⁸ Letter of the Ministry of Social Development No. S / 1/897 dated 01/19/2022.

⁹⁹ Letter of the Ministry of Social Development No. S / 897/1 dated 19/1/2022

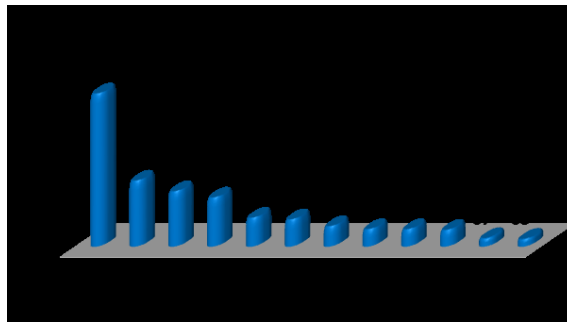
¹⁰⁰ Letter of the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs No. 57/57/1 dated 1/4/2022.

Synopsis

The number of associations supervised by the Ministry of Social Development until the end of 2021 reached a total of (3945) associations, and the number of associations established during the year reached (315) associations.

Statistical estimates up to the end of 2021 showed that the geographical concentration of licensed associations was mostly in the capital, as shown in the chart below.

Distribution of licensed associations in the governorates of the Kingdom for the year 2021



In this regard, the Center believes that the continuation of the status of civil society institutions in the capital, Amman, requires a review of licensing new institutions in the governorates and opening the way for establishing institutions in the countryside, with the aim of providing services to groups with urgent needs, and real contribution to community development.

Recommendations:

The Center confirms the recommendations made in the previous annual reports, and adds the following:

1. The need to unify the reference for supervising the work of hearings.
2. Provide specific definitions for the types of associations (family association, private association, closed association, charitable association) and distinguish them from non-profit companies.
3. Creating an institutional mechanism to maintain communication, consultations, dialogues and partnerships between government institutions, public bodies, civil society organizations and the National Assembly.
4. Periodically updating the association registry data.
5. Establishing a national fund that provides continuous local sources of income, defining criteria, foundations, and conditions for providing funding to associations, mechanisms and methods of spending, and providing support for this fund.
6. Develop a comprehensive national plan for volunteer work that sets priorities for humanitarian and non-profit work in general and for each sector separately, in partnership and coordination with all sectors.
7. Developing an institutional work mechanism for donors based on opening the door to funding and competing for projects that stem from predetermined national priorities, and developing objective work rules for follow-up by the relevant authorities.
8. Applying the principles of good governance in civil society institutions.

Focus of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- **The right to development.**
- **The right to adequate standard of living.**
- **The right to work.**
- **The right to education.**
- **The right to health.**
- **The right to a healthy environment.**
- **Cultural rights**

Right to development

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by international human rights conventions¹⁰¹, as an inalienable right, according to which every human being and all participating countries have the right to contribute to the achievement of economic, social, cultural and political development, and to enjoy this development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.

The normative content of the right to development is based on considering the human being as the first pillar in the development process. The duty of the state as a major actor in the development process is to formulate appropriate national development policies aimed at the continuous improvement of the well-being of all residents on the basis of their active and meaningful participation, and their right to a fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom; it is a complex and multidimensional right between civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It is based on a set of rights and principles that govern international relations. It contains rights, freedoms and principles that must be implemented at the international level. Its realization requires the solidarity of many national and international actors.

In general, the Center monitored in 2021 developments in promoting the right to development at the level of plans, programs and strategies, and worked to monitor the extent of implementation of the 17 sustainable development goals and the challenges that hindered their implementation, and Jordan's ranking in international indicators related to the right, in addition to monitoring government procedures and programs to confront the repercussions of the COVID-19.

First: Development Challenges in the Economic and Social Field:

The year 2021 witnessed the continuation of the repercussions of Covid-19 on the economic and social development fields. The unemployment rate in Jordan reached (23.3%).¹⁰²

¹⁰¹Article / 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article / 1 of the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights, Article / 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Decisions of the Human Rights Committee, Resolution No. (4-D) 33 of February 21, 1977 and Resolution No. (H-D) of March 2, 1079, and Resolution No. 35/174 of December 15, 1980, Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by Resolution 41/128 of January 4, 1986

¹⁰² The fourth quarterly report of the Department of Statistics, which is published on its website, link: dosweb.dos.gov.jo/ar/unemployment_q42021

The year 2021 also witnessed a decline in the live water stock in Jordanian dams by less than (5%), and the available water is sufficient for two million people in a country that includes more than (11) million people¹⁰³. According to government data, the per capita share of water in Jordan is 90 cubic meters annually for all uses, while the international water poverty line is 500 cubic meters annually.¹⁰⁴

Recommendation

The Center recommends the need to secure reliable and sustainable water sources through seawater desalination.

Second: International Development Indicators:

(1) Arab and International Knowledge Index:

The Arab and Global Knowledge Index for 2021 revealed that Jordan's ranking declined by 8 percentage points, to rank 103 globally out of 154 countries included in the report. The Report revealed that the reasons for the decline are due to the decline in six sub-indicators out of seven on which the general index is based, while progress was made in only one indicator, which is the enabling environments index. And the decline was evident in the sub-indicators concerned with higher education, technical education, vocational training, and pre-university education.¹⁰⁵

(2) Sustainable Development Goals Indicator:

The 2021 Sustainable Development Goals Index revealed that Jordan suffers from major challenges in achieving the following goals: the fifth (gender equality), the eighth (decent work and economic growth), the tenth (reducing inequalities), and the fifteenth (life on land). Jordan suffers from serious challenges in achieving the following goals: the second (complete eradication of hunger), the third (good health and well-being), the fourth (quality education), the sixth (clean water and sanitation), the ninth (industry, innovation and infrastructure), the eleventh (sustainable cities and communities), the fourteenth (life under water), the sixteenth (peace, justice and

¹⁰³ After the dams run dry, the water deficit haunts the economic sectors in Jordan. 02u.pw/5t44K

¹⁰⁴ 2u.pw/YTsQ9 Jordan News Agency

¹⁰⁵ The Global Knowledge Index - which was released in 2021 in its fifth edition - is a scientific and practical tool that highlights challenges and ways to develop for the sustainable development of societies. It consists of seven sub-indicators that highlight the performance of six vital sectors: pre-university education, technical and vocational education, higher education, information and communication technology, research, development and innovation, and the economy; In addition to a sub-indicator on the enabling environment, which diagnoses the social, political, economic, health and environmental context that embraces these sectors.

strong institutions), and the seventeenth (partnerships to achieve goals). Challenges still remain before Jordan in achieving the following goals: the first (poverty eradication), the seventh (clean and affordable energy), the twelfth (responsible consumption and production), and the thirteenth (climate action).¹⁰⁶

Third: Government measures and programs to confront the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic:

Jordan remains committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on the principle of "leaving no one behind". The government has adopted many measures and programs to deal with Covid-19, strengthen social protection to ensure the achievement of the first and second goals of the 2030 Agenda, and preserve existing job opportunities in the private sector in line with the goals of the eighth and seventeenth goals of sustainable development. And mitigate the repercussions of the pandemic on the affected economic sectors and activities. The cost of these measures amounted to about three billion dinars, accounting for 11% of the gross domestic product: 8% are liquidity-related measures, and 3% are financial stimulus measures. These measures have contributed to mitigating the negative effects on the Jordanian economy.¹⁰⁷

In 2021, government programs were launched to reach a safe summer in three phases, extending from the beginning of June until the beginning of September, as follows:

1. The first stage: the gradual reopening of some sectors and activities, and procedures to regulate the entry of those coming from outside Jordan.
2. The second stage: Reducing the hours of the night ban, and measures that stimulate tourism, especially in the Golden Triangle region in southern Jordan, which includes Aqaba, Petra, Wadi Rum and Disi camps, with additional health requirements. The second phase included the return of 100% to work for public sector employees, and a gradual return to face-to-face education in higher education faculties for specializations identified by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and according to health requirements, foremost of which is receiving vaccinations.

¹⁰⁶ It is the first index developed by the Bertelsmann Foundation in cooperation with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

¹⁰⁷ Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation / Government measures to manage the Covid-19 pandemic crisis / October 2021.

3. The third phase: aimed at returning most aspects of normal life; the lockdown in all its forms has been abolished, face-to-face education has returned in schools and universities, and most sectors and activities have been allowed to operate at all times and at their full capacity.

Synopsis

- In 2021, the government launched a plan to reach a safe summer from Covid-19 in 3 stages.
- Jordan is one of the poorest countries in terms of water.

In 2021, several programs and procedures were launched for the sectors, facilities and individuals most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, including the following:

1. Enhancing social protection for poor citizens through the umbrella of the National Aid Fund.
2. Providing additional support for the implementation of the "Takaful 3" program, which aims to provide support during the year 2021 for the benefit of informal workers and families most affected by the pandemic.
3. Increasing the number of beneficiaries of recurring monthly aid programs and supplementary support in the year 2021 from 150,000 families to 185 families.
4. Continuing and expanding the implementation of the programs of the Social Security Corporation (protection, support, and economic empowerment) and suspending old-age insurance.
5. Contribute to the sustainability of the tourism sector by providing support worth 20 million dinars.

The Central Bank also implemented a number of measures to confront the repercussions of the emerging pandemic on the national economy, which led to an improvement in revenues as a result of improved tax collections.¹⁰⁸

In the year 2021, in light of the continuing negative effects of Covid-19 on various economic sectors, and with the aim of minimizing those effects, and giving affected companies and individuals sufficient time to enable them to pay their obligations to banks, the Central Bank of Jordan took the following measures:

¹⁰⁸ Al-Ghad newspaper. Op. 2u.pw/u6R4r

1. Increasing the ceiling of the Central Bank of Jordan program to support small and medium-sized companies to confront Covid-19 crisis, to become 700 million Jordanian dinars instead of 500 million Jordanian dinars.
2. Increasing the term of loans granted on the Central Bank of Jordan program to support small and medium-sized companies to confront the Covid-19 crisis for a full year.
3. Increasing the ceiling of loans granted to a number of sectors (tourist services except for hotels, the wholesale sector, the retail sector and the education sector) on the Central Bank of Jordan's program to support small and medium enterprises to confront the Covid-19 crisis.
4. Increasing the financing ceiling for the tourism sector within the Central Bank of Jordan program to finance and support the economic sectors, which amounts to 1.2 billion dinars, to become 4 million dinars instead of 3 million dinars.
5. Extending the postponement of installments for sectors affected by the Covid-19 until the end of the year, without commissions or delay interest.

Recommendations:

The Center confirms the recommendations made in its previous annual reports and adds the following:

1. Creating productive development projects, especially in poverty pockets and remote areas.
2. Securing reliable and sustainable water sources through seawater desalination.

The right to adequate standard of living

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by international conventions¹⁰⁹, the Jordanian constitution and regulated by a number of national laws and regulations.

The normative content of this right is based on the provision of basic needs that meet the requirements of housing, food, health care, transportation, adequate work and necessary social services, and living under conditions that preserve human dignity.

In general, the year 2021 witnessed the adoption of a number of legislative and non-legislative measures that strengthened this right - to be mentioned later - and the Center also monitored developments in a number of vital sectors, including: the water sector, transportation, and food security.

In terms of legislative developments, the year 2021 witnessed a set of legislation and procedures that intersect with aspects of this right, most notably:

1. Extension of Defense Order No. (28) related to postponing the imprisonment of the insolvent debtor until 30/6/2022.¹¹⁰
2. Signing an agreement of intent to provide the "occupying state" with electricity in exchange for water. In November 2021, Jordan, the UAE and the "occupying state" signed a "declaration of intent" to enter into a negotiation process to discuss the feasibility of a joint project for energy and water so that the Kingdom would obtain, through a declaration of intent, 200 million cubic meters of water annually. The government justified this measure as a result of the unprecedented water poverty it had reached. As the per capita share of water in Jordan is about 90 cubic meters annually for all uses, while the internationally known water poverty line is 500 cubic meters annually, and this makes it difficult to achieve goal (6) of the sustainable development goals.¹¹¹
3. Adopting the national strategy for food security for the year (2030-2021). Here, the Center commends this step for its impact, if achieved, in ensuring the country's transition to sustainable food systems, enhancing food security in Jordan and accelerating the achievement of the second goal of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite the issuance of a set of measures and economic stimulus measures to contain the repercussions of Covid-19, they did not lead to an improvement in growth rates.

¹⁰⁹ Article (25) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which guarantees the right of the individual to an adequate and appropriate standard of living for him and his family, and the continuous improvement of his living conditions, in addition to its recognition of the right of everyone to be free from hunger and want and to obtain adequate food, and improving the production, preservation and distribution of foodstuffs and Articles (26/27) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

¹¹⁰ The decision applies to claims that are less than 100,000 dinars, with the possibility of continuing litigation procedures and requesting confirmation of rights between the creditor and the debtor without implementing the imprisonment procedures against the debtor, while preventing the debtor from traveling until the debt is paid off, taking into account the financial and economic conditions resulting from the consequences of the Covid-19 epidemic; noting that there were demands to grant a general amnesty to those who defaulted financially and to give a grace period for companies to start settling their debts in order to return to their normal position in light of the difficult economic conditions.

¹¹¹ This goal calls for (ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation facilities for all). For more see link.www.un.org.

The Center welcomes the following suggestions:

1. No new taxes were imposed during 2021; the increase in the approved additional bonus¹¹² rate was re-disbursed, and some ministries and agencies were merged to raise the efficiency of the public sector, stimulate the tourism sector, and expand the base of those covered by the health insurance program for uninsured individuals and the continuation of the implementation of the supplementary support program, which includes 35,000 new families.¹¹³
2. Raising the minimum wage to 260 dinars for Jordanians and 230 dinars for non-Jordanians, as of 1/1/2021, with the exception of the most affected sectors and sectors that are not allowed to work, provided that the decision applies to them as of 1/6/2021.
3. Issuance of the Government Action Priorities Program 2021-2023 for economic recovery, at an estimated cost of four billion dinars.
4. Implementation of a gradual return plan for the various sectors, starting in June 2021. The plan to reach a safe summer is divided into three phases. The first phase begins on 1/6/2021, during which the gradual reopening of some sectors and activities, and procedures to regulate the entry of those coming from outside Jordan.
5. Reopening the "Jaber crossing" on the border with Syria, which contributed to raising the pace of trade exchange between the two countries and the arrival of Jordanian exports destined for Turkey, Lebanon and Eastern Europe.
6. The Council of Ministers approved a set of measures that would facilitate the smooth flow of basic commodities and strengthen the strategic stockpile, thus contributing to price stability.
7. The Central Bank raised the financing ceiling provided by local banks for the commercial sector from 350 thousand dinars to 600 thousand dinars for wholesalers, and from 175 thousand dinars to 200 thousand dinars for retailers; And extending this decision until June of the year 2022, which enabled the private sector to maintain the sustainability of its work by purchasing production inputs, and paying workers' salaries within banking facilities with 2% interest.
8. The Social Security Corporation contributed, through sustainability programs, to the existential preservation of more than 130,000 workers in 6,500 establishments that benefited from the program, which participated in paying the workers' salaries at rates that reached 80% in some stages, and the continuation of the Takaful program.¹¹⁴

¹¹² Approved by the Council of Ministers' decision dated 6/1/2020, and the planned increase in the salaries of officers and personnel of the Jordanian Armed Forces and security services.

¹¹³ Communiqué of the general budget and budgets of government units for the year 2021.

¹¹⁴ The National Aid Fund targeted 160,000 families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, with a value of 150 million dinars. In addition to the supplementary support program that targeted 85,000 families with a value of 100 million dinars, and the monthly aid program that targeted 107,000 families with a value of 100 million dinars in 2021.

On the other hand, it is noteworthy that the growth rates of the Jordanian economy in 2021, national protection measures, and the social safety net, such as the National Aid Fund programs, protective social security programs, and the initiatives of charitable organizations such as associations and some individuals, even if they contributed to some extent in reducing their acceleration; however, it did not improve the standard of living of the citizen, and the center points to a number of challenges facing this right, including:

The year 2021 witnessed a significant increase in the number of the poor, who numbered just over one million before the pandemic and constituted 15.7% of the citizens, as their percentage increased in 2021 to about 27% of the citizens.

The prices of basic commodities continued to rise in the local market in light of the rise in oil prices and shipping costs.

Housing sector¹¹⁵:

In 2021, a series of government measures were taken to revitalize and stimulate the real estate and housing market, and to enable citizens to own adequate housing, including:

- Exemption and reduction of registration and sale fees for apartments, which will continue until the end of 2021.
- Extending the Cabinet's decision, which was launched in May 2020, which includes exempting the heirs from transfer and exit fees, in order to enable the heirs to dispose of their real estate, whether through sales, excretion, or investment, until 31/12/2021.
- Continuing work on the national housing program launched by the General Corporation for Housing and Urban Development in 2019, which aims to enable low- and middle-income citizens to obtain adequate housing, as 1,700 plots of land serviced by infrastructure were marketed during the years 2019-2021, and a number of projects were launched in Amman, Karak, Mafraq and Maan.
- Reducing the retail fees collected from housing companies to become (3) thousand instead of (1) percent of the estimated value of the buildings sorted according to the building system until the approval of a draft amendment to the Land Registration Fees Law No. (26) of 1958.
- Continuing work on the Chaste Families Housing Initiative, which was launched by His Majesty the King in 2005; it included all the governorates of the Kingdom, to provide a decent and stable life for families who are considered the most needy and deserving, especially in the areas of poverty pockets, as in 2021 (379) homes were handed over, compared to (116) in 2020 for chaste families in various governorates of the Kingdom, of which (83) homes were based on decentralized balancing account.¹¹⁶
- Launching the affordable housing project implemented by the United Nations Human Settlements Program, which comes to provide adequate housing for citizens with limited incomes, the program will seek, starting in 2022, to provide housing units with small areas (65 square meters) at an estimated cost of about 15-18 thousand dinars throughout the Kingdom, which will benefit families whose monthly income ranges between 300-500 dinars.

¹¹⁵ Adequate housing is the basis for stability and security for the individual or the family. It is a human right, and obtaining adequate housing means enjoying security of tenure, living in a place compatible with culture, and having access to services, appropriate schools, and appropriate work.

¹¹⁶ According to the Ministry of Social Development

On the other hand, and despite the governmental measures taken to implement this right, it still faces many challenges that negatively affect the citizen's enjoyment of it, the most prominent of which are:

- The housing crisis experienced by residents of a number of areas in the Jordan Valley; due to the lack of housing units distributed by the Jordan Valley Authority to citizens in conjunction with the steady population increase, as no housing units have been distributed to citizens for more than 10 years due to the lack of infrastructure such as streets, electricity and water networks.
- Continued high interest costs on financing housing loans, and this requires the provision of financing programs with reasonable interest and more incentives and exemptions, especially on residential apartments whose area ranges between 100-140 square meters, which constitute about 75 percent of the total demand for housing in Jordan.
- The review of housing projects directed to low- and low-income people by the General Corporation for Housing and Urban Development.

Water sector:

The issue of water provision is still a strategic challenge, especially with the arrival of drought in 2021, to (11) dams out of 14 in the Kingdom, accompanied by a state of climate change, a decrease in rainfall, high rates of evaporation, an increase in the population, and the frequent assault on the water networks that drains more than 12 million cubic meters annually from the quantities of water pumped through the networks; in addition, there is the problem of losses that occur due to the wear and tear of water networks, amounting to 4%; the drought of dams in 2021 directly affected the agricultural sector, as it destroyed hundreds of dunums of agricultural crops and hundreds of tons of fish wealth, and prevented farmers in the central Jordan Valley, Wadi Mujib, Al-Wala, and southern Jordan from cultivating their lands.

The Center records the implementation of measures to solve the water crisis during the coming years, including:

- Inviting bids to implement the National Water Carrier Project, which includes the intake station that will be established on the Gulf of Aqaba, a water desalination plant, and a 450-kilometer conveyor line to transport 300 million cubic meters of drinking water to all governorates of the Kingdom.
- Implementation of projects to treat water networks, including the "Fara" project, which will last for five years at a cost of 52 million dinars, and will work to rehabilitate and improve water networks and treatment units. The project also includes implementing new networks and rehabilitating existing ones, reducing losses, improving water delivery to Jordanian citizens, and raising the capacity and efficiency of networks, in addition to a project to rehabilitate and improve the efficiency of treatment plant systems to improve their capabilities and raise their efficiency, in addition to installing and developing water meters and replacing them with "smart meters".

Despite these projects, however, the center indicates that urban areas are provided with water once a week, and once every two weeks in some areas, which calls for intensified efforts to address this problem, which is related to a basic human right.

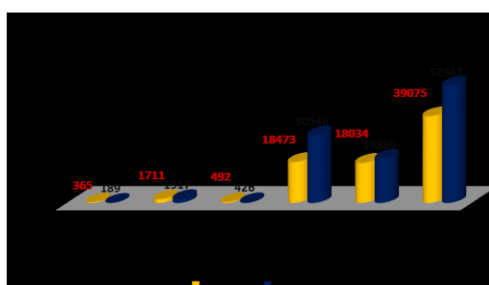
Food security:

Many international standards have recognized the right to adequate food¹¹⁷, and nationally, the National Strategy for Food Security was formulated in 2021, which aims to ensure the country's transition to sustainable food systems, enhance food security in Jordan, and accelerate the achievement of the "zero hunger goal" under the 2030 plan.

On the other hand, the level of severe food insecurity for the year 2021 in Jordan is estimated at 13.5%, and more than 15.7% of the population lives below the poverty line. Jordan is one of the food importing countries, as it imports more than (57%) of foodstuffs, and it ranks 67th globally in terms of food security.¹¹⁸

The field of food control is carried out within two tracks: the first is under the supervision of the General Authority for Food and Drug in the governorates (Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Karak), while the second track represents the Ministry of Health through the departments of food and environment in the control in the rest of the governorates. The figure below shows the number of inspection visits to food establishments and factories, and the control measures taken during them for the period 2020-2021:

Number of inspection visits to food establishments and factories for the period 2020-2021

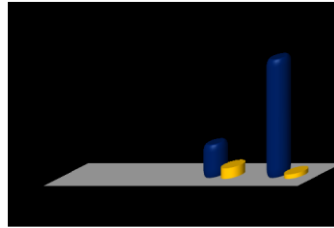


¹¹⁷ Food security is one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially the second goal, "Eliminating hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture." At the national level, the National Strategy for School Health (2018-2022) and the National Strategy for Food Security for the period (2021-2030) were adopted, in addition to the direction to develop a national strategy for nutrition.

¹¹⁸ Higher Population Council statistics.

As for foodstuffs that were destroyed as a result of their unfitness for human consumption, or for their violation of health requirements; the following chart shows the total of what was destroyed, whether they were traded or imported materials, in tons, during the period 2020-2021

The source of spoiled foodstuffs in the period 2020-2021



Recommendation: The Center recommends intensifying control over food, and amending the necessary legislation to increase penalties for those who manipulate citizens' food.

Transport sector:

In 2021, the challenges of serving the public transport sector continued as a result of overcrowding in buses and parking lots. This is due to the insufficient means of public transport; during the fourth quarter of 2021, the number of public transport fleets in the Kingdom decreased by 4% compared to the same period in 2020, according to the Land Transport Regulatory Authority. The number of these means, which included buses, medium passenger cars, small passenger cars, and taxis, amounted to about 35.6 thousand means of transport, compared to about 37.1 thousand means of transport during the same period in the year 2020. The operating age of the public transport fleet increased in 2021 to 11.3 years from 10.6 in the previous year, while the number of buses per 1,000 people reached 0.58 buses from 0.7 buses in the year 2020, in addition to the problem of long waiting times, and the high cost compared to the average income of families, and buses not adhering to specific dates and routes.

Recommendation: The Center recommends the need to upgrade the public transport system, especially mass transit, through clear strategies and plans linked to performance indicators.

During the year 2021, the government is recorded to have taken a number of decisions that contribute to mitigating losses as a result of the measures and decisions taken by the government to confront Covid-19, the most prominent of which are: Exempting public transport companies from licensing fees, investment allowances, and fines resulting from non-renewal of licenses due from them for periods of lockdown.

During the year 2021, the trial operation of the first track of the high-frequency speed bus project began, after 11 years of operation in the capital, Amman. The government has allocated 140 million dinars, funded by the Guarantee Money Investment Fund, to complete the construction of the infrastructure for the rapid-frequency speed bus project for the second phase linking the capital and Zarqa governorates for the years 2021-2022. This project caused suffocating traffic jams in most areas of Amman, and the shape of the buses used did not meet the aspirations of the citizens, who believed that they would be other than regular buses.

Recommendations:

The Center confirms the recommendations made in its previous annual reports and adds the following recommendations:

1. Enhancing the Kingdom's stock of various commodities, in light of the indications that prices will continue to rise during the coming period, in light of the high global demand for them.
2. Upgrading the public transport system, especially mass transit, through clear strategies and plans linked to indicators for measuring performance, providing more financial support for this sector, and monitoring and holding accountable those who attack pedestrian lanes and sidewalks.
3. Intensifying food control, and amending the necessary legislation to increase penalties for manipulating citizens' food.
4. Expanding interest-free loans to farmers to implement agricultural projects, especially for young farmers and women, supporting youth-led initiatives and organizations, raising the skills of women, especially in rural communities, to produce home food, organic farming and water harvesting to provide food security.
5. Increasing and activating housing programs for low-income people and the poor, and allocating the necessary financial allocations for this in the public budget.

The right to work

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by international conventions¹¹⁹. The Jordanian constitution also guarantees in Articles (3/6) and (23) thereof the right to work for all citizens, and requires the state to provide it for them by directing and advancing the national economy.

The normative content of this right is based on the human right to enjoy a decent life; It includes giving everyone the opportunity to earn his living by performing a work he freely chooses or accepts, and that the state is obligated upon the gradual realization of this right to ensure the provision of guidance and direction in the field of vocational and technical education, as well as taking appropriate measures to create an appropriate environment that enhances opportunities for productive employment.

In general, the center monitored during the year 2021 legislative developments regulating the right to work, in addition to continuing to monitor government measures taken to limit the repercussions of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and continuing to monitor issues related to child labor, human trafficking, domestic workers, the unemployed, and safety and public health measures.

In terms of legislative developments, in 2021 a number of laws, regulations and instructions related to the right to work were approved, most notably:

1. Approval of the law amending the Human Trafficking Prevention Law No. (10) of 2021¹²⁰. By reading the law, the Center believes that the new law introduced provisions that included the inclusion of organized begging within the concept of the crime of human trafficking; and the possibility of stopping the prosecution of any of the victims and those affected by human trafficking crimes by the Public Prosecution; in addition to the establishment of the "Human Trafficking Victims Assistance Fund", which is dedicated to providing legal assistance to victims and victims of human trafficking crimes, which enhances legal protection against manifestations of child exploitation in the crime of begging.
2. Approval of the Work Permit Fees Regulation for Non-Jordanians No. (3) of 2022¹²¹ aimed at alleviating the burdens imposed on employers, by reducing work permit fees, which is reflected in production costs in all sectors and economic activities.

¹¹⁹ Article / 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article / (6, 7, 8) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

¹²⁰ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5715) on 5/2/2021.

¹²¹ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5765), dated 1/2/2022 AD

Workers were exempted by 80% of the fines resulting from not renewing work permits for non-Jordanians wishing to stay in the Kingdom, whose expiration date exceeded 90 days.

The year 2021 also witnessed the issuance of many defense orders and communications related to the right to work:

1. Communiqué No. (52) for the year 2021 issued based on the provisions of Clause (VIII) of Defense Order No. (24) for the year 2020¹²², which includes amendments to the programs provided by the Social Security Corporation (Himaya/Ta'afi/Estidama), as they will continue to be implemented until the end of June next year 2022.
2. Defense Order No. (35) for the year 2021, which does not allow a public sector employee or worker in private sector facilities to join work unless he receives two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, and the days that he is not allowed to work or work during are deducted from the balance of his annual leave. In the event that his annual leave balance is depleted, he is considered to be on leave without pay and allowances, and he is not entitled to any salary, allowance or reward during that period.
3. Communiqué No. (45) for the year 2021 issued in accordance with the provisions of Defense Order No. (24) for the year 2020¹²³ and includes the "Estidama +" program, which is allocated to the worker (85%) of his approved wage. The program bears (80%) of it, not exceeding (800) dinars, while the establishment bears (20%), during the period from 01/09/2021 to 31/12/2021.
4. Communiqué No. (42) for the year 2021 - issued on the basis of the provisions of Defense Order No. (24) for the year 2020¹²⁴, which includes the creation of a sub-program of the sustainability program called the "Ta'afi" program. This is in order to enable workers in activities that have recovered a large part of their work to obtain their full wages, in addition to preparing the establishments to move to the normal situation upon their full recovery, and according to this program, 100% of the approved wage is allocated to the worker; the program bears (30%) of it, while the establishment bears (70%), during the period from August to December of the year 2021.
5. Communiqué No. (41) for the year 2021 - issued based on the provisions of Defense Order No. (24) for the year 2020¹²⁵, which includes amendments to the

¹²² Published in the Official Gazette No. (5764) issued on 12/27/02021

¹²³ Published in the Official Gazette No. (5745) dated 9/31/2021

¹²⁴ According to a statement issued by the Social Security Corporation

¹²⁵ Published in the Official Gazette No. (5730) issued on 7/18/2021.

(sustainability) program and insurances of (old age, disability, death, maternity and unemployment) provided by the Social Security Corporation.

6. Communiqué No. (25) issued on the basis of Defense Order No. (6)¹²⁶, as the provisions of Clause 2 of Communiqué 18 apply to the wages of workers who do not benefit from Estidama program referred to in that Communiqué for the months of February and March of the year 2021, as follows:
 - (75%) of the monthly wage in the most affected economic sectors/activities, provided that this percentage includes the wages of workers in senior management.
 - (50%) of the monthly wage for economic sectors/activities that are not authorized to operate.

The Center indicates that the defense orders prohibited the termination of the services of workers except in very exceptional cases stipulated by the law, which helped in preserving jobs and limiting the termination of the services of workers on a large scale, a text that is still valid and binding since the issuance of Defense Order No. 6 until now. Under it, any employer who terminates the services of any of his workers for reasons other than the limited permitted reasons shall be punished with a fine and imprisonment. The Center affirms that the lockdown decision is very important to protect jobs and preserve job opportunities in light of the continuation of Covid-19.

The number of beneficiaries of the Social Security Corporation programs during the Covid-19 pandemic until 31/12/2021 reached (1081993)¹²⁷.

Program Name	Number of beneficiaries
Tadamon (1) & Tadamon (2)	104759
Musaned (1) / Musaned (2) / Musaned (3)	442225
Tamkeen Eqtisadi (2) for the private sector; and Tamkeen Eqtisadi (2) for public sector	433912
Tamkeen Eqtisadi (2) as amended	101097

In 2021, a number of procedures and decisions were taken by the Ministry of Labor with the aim of protecting and promoting this right, as follows:

1. Issuance of a decision by the Council of Ministers on the "period of legalizing and reconciling the conditions of expatriate workers". During this period, from July 6, 2021 to September 2, 2021, the Ministry of Labor processed a total of (112079) work

¹²⁶ Published in the Official Gazette Issue No. (5702) issued on 3/3/2021

¹²⁷ Social Security Corporation Statistics.

permits in various sectors and economic activities¹²⁸. The procedures included exempting employers from a fine for not renewing an expired work permit or moving to another employer in any of the various economic sectors and activities, in addition to exempting non-Jordanian workers of "restricted nationalities" from the fine for delay in obtaining the annual residence permit stipulated in the Residence and Foreigners Affairs Law and its amendments.

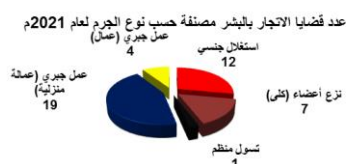
2. The Minister of Labor signed on 12/4/2021 (6) operating agreements with a number of private sector companies. These agreements provided more than 1,150 job opportunities in various governorates during the year 2021 in a number of fields, according to the nature of the companies that signed these agreements.¹²⁹
3. In 2021, the Ministry of Labor dealt with (45) labor disputes, (40) of which were resolved through direct negotiation between workers and employers, while two disputes were settled through the Conciliation Council; two were resolved through the direct intervention of the Minister of Labor, while one dispute was referred to court.¹³⁰
4. The number of collective labor contracts deposited with the Ministry of Labor reached (40) collective contracts, from which (115,231) workers benefited¹³¹. The number of labor strikes in 2021 reached (20) strikes, and the workers' demands were mostly focused on increasing wages and salaries, achieving additional gains for the benefit of provident funds and end-of-service benefits, and improving the working environment and conditions.

Human Trafficking:

The statistics of human trafficking cases issued by the Human Trafficking Unit / Public Security Directorate showed that the number of cases investigated in 2021 reached (214) cases, including (171) labor cases.

The cases that were transferred to the Public Prosecutor on suspicion of human trafficking amounted to (43) cases, distributed according to the type of crime, as shown in the chart below:

The number of human trafficking cases classified according to the type of crime for the year 2021



¹²⁸ Cabinet petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=190207&lang=ar&name=news

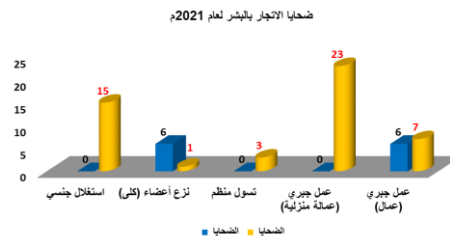
¹²⁹ Statement issued by the Ministry of Labor 12/04/2021.

¹³⁰ Report of the Directorate of Labor Relations - Ministry of Labor for the year 2021.

¹³¹ Report of the Directorate of Labor Relations - Ministry of Labor for the year 2021.

The total number of victims of human trafficking reached (61) victims, distributed according to gender, as shown in the following figure:

Victims of human trafficking for the year 2021



It should be noted that approximately (144) victims were sheltered in Dar al-Karama and the Jordanian Women's Union.

The number of offenders in human trafficking cases reached (72) persons, classified as crime and sex, as shown in the drawing below:

The number of perpetrators of human trafficking cases for the year 2021



It should be noted that during the last ten years, the judiciary issued decisions in (263) cases of human trafficking, including (113) condemnation decisions; and (33) a non-responsibility decision, (85) an acquittal decision, (16) a criminal description amendment decision, and two cases of lack of jurisdiction. (11) Cases were dropped by general amnesty. Forced labor ranked first in terms of the number of cases with a rate of (65%), followed by sexual exploitation with (21%), then the removal of human organs with (14%). With regard to the distribution of cases according to the sex of the victim, the percentage of female victims was (75%) and male victims (25%). The number of domestic workers who have been subjected to exploitation is (201). The percentage of human traffickers was distributed according to the number to: (34%) one person responsible for the trafficking process, (25%) more than one person in each case, (17%) recruitment offices, (16%) employers, and (8%) of the traffickers did not specify the nature and place of their work.¹³²

¹³² A specialized report issued by Tamkeen Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights (Under the Microscope).

Qualified Industrial Zones:

There are currently (10) qualified industrial cities in Jordan¹³³. In 2021, the center carried out a number of field visits to the qualified industrial zones. It visited two factories of the Jerash Company in the industrial city of Sahab, and noted the company's commitment to legislation related to workers' rights. The Center also visited the Straight Line factory in Al-Hassan Industrial City, and the Indian company's factory in Al-Dulail Industrial City. It noted the repetition of the same observations referred to in the Center's previous reports, in addition to the following:

- Not providing dedicated and equipped nurseries for the care of children in many factories.
- Absence of job security and stability, and the absence of social and health protection in many workplaces.
- Overcrowding in the rooms of male and female workers' residences.
- The absence of the principle of gradation in the penalties taken against workers in general in terms of accountability and accountability for the violations they commit, in addition to their exposure in many cases to humiliation, shouting or insults.
- Non-compliance with the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, by employing a percentage of workers with disabilities.
- Forcing many workers through various pressure methods to sign their resignation in order to ensure that they do not claim their labor rights.
- Some dormitories lack cleanliness in general, and the spread of unpleasant odors, moisture and insects inside, in addition to the lack of ventilation and necessary lighting in most of them.
- Low rates of wages, increased working hours, and delayed payment of salaries.

The unemployed and the impact of Covid-19:

According to the state of unemployment stipulated in the Social Security Law, the Social Security Corporation pays an unemployment allowance to the insured as a percentage of his wage subject to the insurance, and for a period that varies according to the period of his participation in the provisions of the Social Security Law. The number of unemployed people during 2020 reached about (404) thousand unemployed, while the number jumped at the end of 2021 to reach (435,549) unemployed.

Synopsis

- Several legislations related to work were issued, including the law amending the law to prevent human trafficking, the bylaw of fees for work permits for non-Jordanians, and the bylaw of employment for persons with disabilities.
- The number of human trafficking cases that were investigated in (214) cases.
- The number of unemployed persons in 2021 AD reached (435,549).

¹³³Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein Industrial Estate in Sahab, Al-Hussein Bin Abdullah II Industrial Estate in Karak, Al-Hassan Estate in Irbid, Al-Muwaqar Industrial Estate, Aqaba International Estate, Al-Mafraq Industrial Estate, Al-Salt Industrial Estate, Tafila Industrial Estate, Madaba Industrial Estate, and Jerash Industrial Estate.

Recommendations:

The Center confirms its recommendations contained in its previous reports and adds the following recommendations:

1. Tightening supervision by official institutions over places where child labor is concentrated, in addition to activating awareness campaigns about the negative effects resulting from child labor.
2. Encouraging the private sector to employ more unemployed youth through concluding agreements between private sector companies and the government by reducing or exempting taxes in the event that a certain percentage of young people are employed there.

The right to education

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by international standards¹³⁴, as guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution¹³⁵ and Education Law No. (3) of 1994.

The normative content of the right to education is based on several elements, including: the element of availability¹³⁶ that guarantees free and compulsory education for the primary stage and the structural dimension of schools (infrastructure), and the element of enrollment¹³⁷ that obliges the state to ensure the enjoyment of the right to education by ensuring the possibility of joining existing educational institutions¹³⁸ and the application of legal obligations in the field of the right to education represented by the three levels included commitment to respect, commitment to protection, commitment to implementation and empowerment¹³⁹.

In general, the Center monitored during 2021 the elements of the normative content of the right to education by following up the legislative developments regulating the right, policies and practices, the impact of the Covid-19 on the educational process, developments in the school curricula, educational loss, school dropouts, kindergartens, and private schools, literacy, human rights education and higher education.

In terms of legislative developments, the year 2021 did not witness any amendment to the Education Law. However, since the start of the spread of Covid-19, the Government has taken measures to limit the spread of infection, most notably: activating Defense Law No. (13) of 1992, and the consequent non-attendance in schools and universities, and then returning to integrated face-to-face education. These procedures were accompanied by the issuance of Defense Order No. (32) on 17/07/2021¹⁴⁰.

The Center believes that this defense order had negative effects on students' enjoyment of the right to education and access to educational facilities. In addition, it affects the right to work for members of the faculty, as the request to obtain a negative PCR test result every

¹³⁴ Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13 and 14 of the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights.

¹³⁵ Article (6/3) of the Jordanian Constitution states: The state guarantees work and education within the limits of its capabilities, and guarantees tranquility and equal opportunities for all Jordanians.

¹³⁶ See the comment of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on Article 13 of the Economic, Social and Cultural Covenant No. 11 of 1999 on Action Plans for Primary Education.

¹³⁷ CESCR Commentary Nos. 11 and 13 of 1999.

¹³⁸ See Commentary of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights No. 13 of 1999 and Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights.

¹³⁹ Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, A Guide for National Human Rights Institutions, United Nations, Geneva 2005, p. 18. See also the comment of the Committee on Economic Rights on Article 13 of the Economic Covenant.

¹⁴⁰ Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5730 on 07/18/2021 on page 3021. It is obligatory for the teaching and administrative staff and students in any of the higher education institutions who did not receive the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine or were late for the date of the second dose, bring a negative PCR test valid for a period of (72) hours on Sunday and Thursday morning of each week and to hand it over to the direct supervisor for a member of the teaching or administrative staff and to the dean of the college or whoever he delegates for the student. Also, a member of the teaching or administrative staff who violated this was not allowed to join the work, provided that the days in which he is not allowed to work are deducted from the balance of his annual leave. In the event that he exhausts his annual leave balance, those days will be deducted from his salary and allowances. A student who violates the provisions of the same paragraph is not allowed to enter the university campus, and his absence from lectures shall be considered an absence without excuse. It also imposed a penalty on educational institutions and higher education institutions that violate this defense order, with a fine of no less than (1,000) dinars and not more than (3,000) dinars.

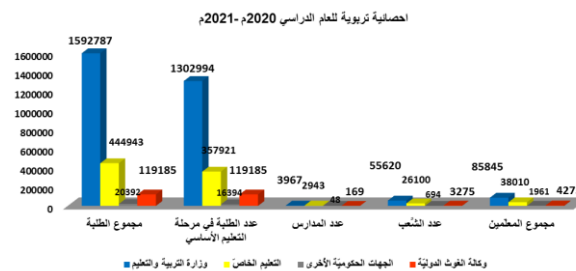
72 hours in the event of not receiving the required antiviral doses constitutes a waste of time and effort.

Digital indications of the educational process¹⁴¹:

The number of schools in the Kingdom reached (7127) until the end of 2021, including (4015) government schools, (2943) private schools, and (169) schools of UNRWA. The number of Jordanian students was (1,933,979), while the number of Syrian students was (154,564) in various schools in the Kingdom, including (69,030) thousand students who receive education in the night period.

The graph below shows the total numbers of students, schools and teachers in all education sectors for the year 2021.

Educational statistics for the academic year 2020-2021



The number of governmental kindergartens in the academic year 2021/2022 was (2,760), and the number of children enrolled in them was (69,047) boys and girls. The enrollment rate in kindergarten (KG1) was (33.5%) in the year 2020-2021 due to Covid-19. The enrollment rate in (KG2) reached (63.6%) in the year 2020-2021. The total current and capital expenditures for the fiscal year 2021 in the Ministry of Education amounted to (105,148,800) dinars.

The impact of the Covid-19 on the educational process:

The first semester of the academic year 2021/2022 witnessed the enrollment of students in face-to-face education, after a break from schools for nearly a year and a half. The following took place during this period:

1. Transfer of a large number of students from private schools to public schools due to the economic and financial effects left by Covid-19 on the students' families, and the students' families are convinced that it is useless to pay large sums of money to private schools in return for educating their children.
2. Transfer of students from private schools to public schools constituted an additional pressure on public schools and increased the rate of overcrowding in them.
3. Many schools have been forced to adopt a rotation system with regard to student attendance, so that a group of students in one class is allowed to attend on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the second group on Mondays and Wednesdays of each week, provided that the process takes place in rotation every week.
4. Reducing the duration of the class to half an hour in schools that adopt the two-shift system.

¹⁴¹ According to the information received by the National Center for Human Rights from the liaison officer of the Ministry of Education on 01/03/2022

5. Reducing some non-core subjects, such as history, to one class per week, which necessitated the deletion of many lessons within the same educational course.
6. As a result of the fear of a third wave of the spread of Covid-19, the Ministry of Education has reduced the first semester of the academic year 2021/2022 and ended it about a month early. It had negative effects on the academic achievement of students during this semester, despite the promises made by the Ministry of Education represented in completing the educational course for this semester in the second semester.
7. The Ministry of Education required the students of the supplementary tawjihi to obtain two doses of the vaccine in less than a month, in compliance with Defense Order No. (35), in order to allow them to enter the examination halls. Here, the Center believes that the timing of the decision was not successful, because the decision came after a previous decision by the Ministry denying that vaccination is a requirement for taking the Tawjihi exam. The decision came less than a month before the date of the supplementary exams, which caused great confusion for the students and their families, because the requirement to obtain two doses in less than a month for nearly 100,000 male and female students is very difficult, especially since these students are busy studying for the exam. There was also great fear among the students about taking the two doses of the vaccine, for fear of the appearance of some side effects that might disrupt their studies for two or three days. Giving students the option of obtaining a PCR test report before each exam was not a logical choice either; because it would have resulted in the students being stuck on an almost daily basis to obtain the required test, not to mention the weak capabilities of the Ministry of Health to conduct approximately 95 thousand daily examinations for students - in addition to the tests that it conducts daily - and to show their results within 24 hours.
8. On 1/9/2021, the Ministry of Education issued a decision to return to face-to-face education in the first semester of the year 2021/2022. It also issued a guide for safe return to schools for the academic year 2021/2022, as the guide for safe return to schools specified the time of classes according to the size of the classrooms, and whether the school applies the double-shift system or not; 40 minutes were allocated for the class in schools that have an area of 1 square meter for each student inside the classroom and follow the two-shift system. For schools in which there is less than 1 square meter space available for each student inside the classroom, whether they follow the double-shift system or not, the class time is only 30 minutes. The Center believes that the division of schools in the manner mentioned above is discrimination against students, and that the time for classes was not sufficient to cover the entire curriculum.

Synopsis

- The number of schools in the Kingdom until the end of 2021 was (7127), including (4015) public schools, (2943) private schools, and (169) schools of the UNRWA. The number of Jordanian students was (1933979), while the number of Syrian students was (154564) in various schools in the Kingdom.

The Center monitored the situation of the right to education during Covid-19 and the government's mechanisms of dealing with it, and recorded many observations, including:

- The continuation of distance learning during the academic year 2020/2021, with its two semesters, led to the continuation of the same problems that the center mentioned in its annual report for the year 2020, including:

1. The continued suffering of students in many regions of the Kingdom from the inability to access the right to distance learning due to the inability of their families to provide them with the requirements of modern technology and its tools and bear the costs arising from that, especially if there is more than one member in the same family receiving this type of learning; with the emphasis that education in accordance with international standards must be available from a physical point of view, and that educational institutions be located in places that are easily accessible in a safe manner.
2. Poor skills of using technology among some teachers and students.
3. The lack of systems and tools to monitor the quality of distance learning.
4. The methods used in distance learning lack interactive education, and they did not include mechanisms to improve the educational skills of students, which prevented the achievement of the desired goal of learning.
5. Not fully communicating information to students, due to the short duration of one class
6. There are many obstacles that prevent people with disabilities from enjoying their right to education.
7. The lack of direct means of communication between students and teachers, whether through the platform or any other electronic means.

School Curriculums (Subjects):

The Center noted that there are problems related to the curricula that were modified during this year. Mathematics for the eighth grade now contains a lot of information, which is difficult for teachers to explain within the conditions of shortening the time for each class. The new curricula also include information that the students' parents cannot explain to their children, especially with regard to self-study, in addition to the introduction of mathematical symbols in the English language for the upper grades posed a great challenge to the students, especially in light of the fact that they were not previously explained in the old curricula. With regard to the new Islamic education subject for the tenth grade, religious stories have been excluded. Science subject for the fifth grade needs to implement activities that cannot be implemented due to the short time of the class, and the high cost of these activities.

The face-to-face study materials and the self-learning subjects that the student can learn remotely have also been identified. This constituted a challenge for the teachers, as the objectives that must be reached from face-to-face lessons can only be achieved through explanation of self-learning subjects. The Center believes that the process of deleting some subjects from the current curricula was not properly studied, especially in light of the adoption of the rotation system for some schools.

The Center affirms that the current school curricula must be modified in line with the exceptional circumstances of the country, and that the curricula during the distance learning period were not appropriate and designed for that stage, and had to be modified. With regard to the curricula after returning to face-to-face education, they are also not compatible with the level of students due to the educational gap they have. The Center has noted the continuing disparity in educational opportunities between students in public and private schools in terms of curricula, preparations, teacher training and school construction.

Learning loss program:

To bridge the educational gap arising from distance education, the Ministry of Education approved the Learning Loss Program. This optional program for students started on 15/08/2021 with the aim of making up for the information and skills they missed. The

center believes that the learning loss program was useful for students who wish to learn; however, the center has monitored some problems in the implementation of this program, as follows:

- Many of the primary teaching staff in participating schools refused the program due to the lack of financial reward allocated to them, amounting to (150) dinars, which prompted the Ministry of Education to seek the assistance of teachers of the supplemental education staff.
- The reliance of the Ministry of Education on teachers of the supplemental educational staff to cover the learning loss program from 15/08/2021 to 01/09/2021, and then reliance on the teachers of the basic educational staff to cover the program from 01/09/2021 until 15/09/2021, led to an educational gap within this program.
- Not all subjects and topics that students should have been compensated for were not covered due to the short duration of this program which lasted for a month or less.
- Students' lack of seriousness and commitment to the program because it is not mandatory for all students.
- The absence of a real and realistic evaluation of the learning loss program by the Ministry of Education; as there were no real tests that measure the amount of knowledge gained from it.

School dropout:

Covid-19 led to an increase¹⁴² in the school dropout rate during the academic year 2020/2021, due to the students' interruption of face-to-face education, as a large number of students turned to the labor market during the distance learning period, especially in light of the lack of mechanisms to monitor students' follow-up of their education remotely.

As a result of the poor economic conditions of some Jordanian families, this led to the exploitation of children in work, and the submission of a request by some students' families to enroll their children in distance education at the start of the academic year 2021/2022; however, the Ministry of Education has set conditions for accepting student distance learning in accordance with the Guide to Safe Return to Schools. Including: "Students with cancer or diseases that lead to a decrease in immunity are allowed to pursue their learning remotely, on two conditions: to bring a medical report proving the disease, and the guardian's signature on an acknowledgment to continue his son's learning remotely, provided that the student submits to school assessments in his school." This prevented more numbers of students from dropping out.

The problems related to private schools, which the Center mentioned in its previous reports, are still ongoing. The Center also noticed an increase in these problems in light of Covid-19, including:

1. The continued low wages of teachers in many private schools, and some of these schools employ teachers for less than the minimum wage in accordance with the Jordanian Labor Law, in violation of the contracts concluded between them and the teachers.

¹⁴² It should be noted here that there are no accurate statistics for this stage due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the trend in distance learning.

2. Many schools terminated teachers' contracts at the end of the second semester, and renewed their contracts at the beginning of the first semester, to evade paying their salaries during the summer vacation.

3. Some private schools continue to seize students' files to prevent them from transferring to public schools under the pretext of not paying tuition fees incurred by their families, in violation of what was stated in the Regulation for Establishing and Licensing Private and Foreign Educational Institutions No. (130) of 2015, which prohibits seizing students' files and documents.¹⁴³

Synopsis

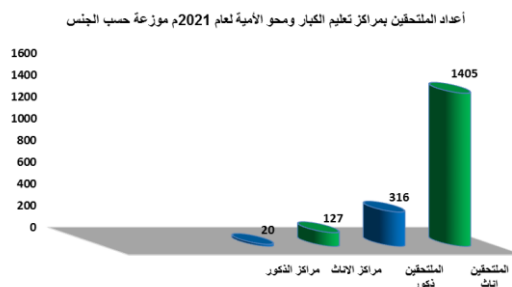
- The Center noted that there are problems related to the amendments that have occurred in the curricula.
- The number of government kindergartens in the academic year 2021/2022 was (2,760), and the number of children enrolled in them reached (69,047) boys and girls.

Literacy

The number of adult education and literacy centers opened for the academic year 2020/2021 reached (147), with (127) centers for females and (20) centers for males. (1721) male and female students enrolled in them, of which (1405) female students and (316) male students.

It is worth noting that the general illiteracy rate until the end of 2020 amounted to 5.1%, according to the statistics of the Department of Statistics. The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with partners, implemented a program to promote culture for dropouts, as (194) centers were opened to promote culture for dropouts, in which approximately (5,600) male and female students¹⁴⁴ joined, as shown in the following chart:

The number of students enrolled in adult learning and literacy centers for the year 2021, distributed by gender



Human rights education:

¹⁴³ Article (12/b) of the Regulation for Establishing and Licensing Private and Foreign Educational Institutions: (The institution may not seize the file of any student or deprive him of education during the school year; in the event that his guardian does not pay the tuition fees incurred, the institution may resort to the judiciary to claim its financial rights according to the contract concluded between the two parties. It has the right not to register the student in the next academic year because of his failure to pay the financial dues incurred according to the contract concluded between him and the institution for the previous year or years.

¹⁴⁴ Al-Mamlaka TV, on the following link: [85358/www.almamlakatv.com/news](https://www.almamlakatv.com/news)

During the year 2021, the National Center for Human Rights conducted an assessment of the reality of human rights education in Jordan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, based on the specific evaluation elements on progress made in the field of human rights from Goal 4.7.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations World Program for Human Rights Education.

The evaluation elements included: (1) policies (2) curricula (3) teacher education and training (4) student evaluation (5) the learning environment or educational environment, with (23) sub-indications for measurement.

The results of the evaluation process were as follows: The policy component included (7) performance indications, including the ratification of the relevant international instruments; this indication achieved a progress rate of (100%). The extent to which human rights education was included in primary and secondary school systems in state reports submitted to various international mechanisms during the past ten years showed a progress rate of (60%). The third and fourth indications on the existence of national educational legislation and policies that include explicit textual references to standards and topics related to human rights in education recorded a progress rate of (100%).

Likewise, the fifth indication on the existence of an action plan for human rights in education recorded the same percentage. The sixth indication in the policies regarding the existence of a special budget at the Ministry of Education for human rights education in primary and secondary education has recorded a rate of progress of (0%) due to the absence of this budget. (50%) progress has been recorded in the seventh indication related to the existence of a follow-up mechanism for human rights issues in the Ministry; where there is a specialized team headed by the Secretary General for Educational Affairs of the Ministry, but without a funded action plan.

In the second element of the evaluation of school curricula, which included (4) indications, the first and second indications on the explicit inclusion of teaching and learning on human rights standards and subjects in the compulsory subjects of the national curricula showed a progress rate of (100%). The third indication on the existence of textbooks and educational models for primary and secondary schools that include human rights standards showed results of progress at a rate of (67%); while the fourth indicator on the relevance of educational human rights curricula to the daily life of students achieved a progress rate of (100%).

In the third element of the evaluation on educating and training teachers, which included (5) indications, the fifth indication related to the percentage of teachers who have knowledge of human rights mechanisms and human rights education methodologies recorded the weakest percentage among the indications, with a rate of (0%), as there is no national data available on teachers' knowledge of this; while the first indication on the extent to which the mandatory curricula for training teachers explicitly refer to education on human rights standards and mechanisms, and the second indication on the inclusion of training for teachers on human rights topics got a percentage of (100%); specifically on the topics of gender equality, global citizenship, cultural diversity, tolerance and peace and/or violence. The same applies to the third and fourth indications on the existence of books, models and other educational materials to educate teachers about human rights standards and mechanisms, and the extent to which teacher training curricula include human rights education methodology that respects rights, with a progress rate of (100%).

In the fourth element (student assessment), which included (3) indications, two of which (the first and the third) made (0%) progress, which are the indication of the inclusion of human rights in the cognitive assessment of students in primary and secondary schools, as there is no specialized national assessment for assessing students in human rights, and the

indication of the percentage of students who achieved learning outcomes in human rights; where the evaluation indicated the absence of national data on the knowledge and skills of students in human rights from primary to secondary; on the other hand, the second indication in the students component, related to the existence of national guidelines for student evaluation of their primary and secondary school systems, showed a progress rate of (100%) due to the existence of these principles.

In the fifth element related to the educational environment, which included (4) indications, the first indication on the existence of national policies that require primary and secondary schools to adopt a code of conduct that guarantees a school environment that respects the child has achieved a progress rate of (100%). The same goes for the second indication about the existence of policies that require primary and secondary schools to have complaints mechanisms. The third indication, on the extent to which students are provided with opportunities to participate in decision-making according to their age, through student parliaments and student councils, has achieved a rate of (100%); while the fourth indication on the percentage of primary and secondary school children who reported a “problematic school environment” achieved a progress rate (0%); where there are no available data or statistics on reports related to bullying, violence and discrimination, and there is a lack of participation and freedom of expression.

The evaluation concluded that (68%) has been achieved as an overall progress rate in human rights education in the school education system, which the evaluation considered to be largely compatible with human rights standards in education, with "gaps" still existing.

Higher Education:

The number of students in Jordanian universities in all grades reached (344,796)¹⁴⁵ male and female students; the number of students studying in community colleges reached (35,674)¹⁴⁶ male and female students; while the number of foreign students reached (380,000) students studying in Jordanian universities from (106) countries of the world¹⁴⁷. During 2021, the Center continued to monitor some issues that posed challenges for higher education, including: the exceptional lists that account for more than 62% of seats in universities; although there are fair justifications in some of the exceptional lists, the center believes that the expansion of the method of applying them has violated the entire admission system and made it lose justice and competitiveness.

In addition, the large number of exceptions to competitive admission contained in public policy limits opportunities for equality on the basis of competence and ability, which the center considers a discriminatory act that contradicts the principle of equal opportunities guaranteed by the Jordanian constitution, and constitutes a departure from the principle of equality and non-discrimination in educational opportunities, as defined by international standards.

It should also be noted that many public universities suffer from high indebtedness, as university problems were exacerbated as a result of Covid-19, which had the greatest impact on delaying and slowing the development of some educational programs. The frequent change of ministers of higher education contributed to the absence of long-term development plans and the modernization of the educational system in Jordan.

¹⁴⁵ Statistics of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the year 2021/2022.

¹⁴⁶ Statistics of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the year 2021/2022.

¹⁴⁷ Statistics of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the year 2021/2022.

In light of the measures taken by the government to combat Covid-19 in the transition to blended education in Jordanian universities for the first semester of 2021/2022, the center monitored the absence of organized plans and strategies by the Ministry of Higher Education with regard to blended university education. It seems that the purpose of its application has not been achieved on the ground. The students faced many challenges after a period of adopting the teaching programs for the lectures, as these programs were not organized in a way that guarantees the separation of the two days of face-to-face education from distance education, so that there is no confusion between the two days. The practical reality witnessed a lecture for the student at eight o'clock remotely, and then a face-to-face lecture at the next hour, which reflected negatively on the educational process and added great efforts and burdens to the students.

On the other hand, during the year 2021, the Center has received a complaint from a number of citizens about the "general policy for admission of students to Jordanian universities for the undergraduate level for the academic year (2021/2022) issued under the provisions of Article (6/6) of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Law and its amendments based on the decision of the Higher Education Council No. (178) dated 18/7/2021. The subject matter of the complaint is that clause (First) of the general policy for admission of students to Jordanian universities for the academic year (2021/2022) classifies students who obtained a general secondary certificate into two parts: a section within the current year, and a section for raising the GPA within previous years for whom a special percentage is allocated and who do not enter into competition with their peers from the year of success students. The Center believes that this is a violation of the principle of equality, and does not make higher education available to all on an equal basis and according to qualification. Students who applied again for the general secondary exam for the purpose of raising their GPA made extra effort and time to obtain higher education, especially in light of the text of Article (15) of the general secondary school certificate exam instructions for the year 2017.

Synopsis

The university admission system still suffers from many challenges; most notably the exceptional lists that account for more than (62%) of the seats in universities.

The Center affirms that although the tasks of the Education Council are to develop a general policy for accepting students in higher education institutions, in line with the effective higher education strategy and to monitor its implementation, this policy may not violate the provisions of the constitution and the stated principles of achieving equality for citizens, and providing the right to education with fairness and equality.

Also, submitting an application to take the general secondary exam in any course, paying the fees allocated for it, accepting this application, and obtaining a seat number for the year in which it is submitted, arrange for him a legal status as a student of the same course; therefore, the decisions issued regarding this session must be applied to all students who applied during this session, whether he applied for the exam for the first time or for the second time.

Recommendations

The National Center for Human Rights affirms the recommendations contained in its previous annual reports, and adds the following:

1. The need to work on the development of teaching methods and means of teaching known to ensure that students acquire the skills of thinking and analysis.
2. Work to unify the foundations for accepting students in universities, provided that this decision is preceded by a specific and applicable time plan that guarantees the provision of educational opportunities among students.
3. Increasing financial support for official universities, especially the peripheral ones, to avoid raising university hours fees for students.
4. Training and qualifying teachers to possess special skills that qualify them to deal with the requirements of distance education.
5. Developing structural integration plans for human rights methodologies in learning, teaching and administration so that they cross all stages and academic courses.
6. Increasing the budget of the Ministry of Education from the state's general budget.
7. Enshrine the principle of equal opportunities.
8. Enshrine the presence and role of women in education and middle educational administration.

Cultural right

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by international standards¹⁴⁸, just as the Jordanian constitution guarantees freedom of cultural creativity and freedom of scientific research in Article (15/2) thereof¹⁴⁹, in addition to the provisions of national laws, such as the Culture Welfare Law, the Copyright Protection Law, the Trade Names Law, the Architectural and Urban Heritage Protection Law, and other laws to protect cultural rights.

The normative content of this right is based on the right to participate in or contribute to cultural life; the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications; the right of the individual to protect the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of his own making; the indispensable freedom of scholarly research and creative activity, and the preservation of cultural heritage; and the right to education.

In general, the center monitored during the year 2021 a number of issues that will be discussed in detail, namely: tangible cultural heritage, the tourism sector, and intangible cultural heritage such as festivals, dramas, and cultural events.

Firstly: Tangible Cultural Heritage.

In 2021, the Jerash Museum's allocations amounting to 200,000 dinars were transferred to the item of building warehouses and offices for the Antiquities Directorate¹⁵⁰; after it became clear that the technical and logistical studies were not sufficient to build the museum, according to the opinion of some officials, in addition to the disputes about the place of establishing the museum, because the building belonging to the Department of Public Antiquities, on which it is intended to establish a museum, is not within the tourist path in the city of Jerash. Also, the Jerash Archaeological Site Museum is overcrowded and fully occupied, and it is not possible to display more artifacts in it, which forced archaeologists to keep them in warehouses.

As for the Madaba Museum, information indicates that a plot of land has been expropriated. The necessary plans and studies have been made and waiting funding for its construction. As for the Zarqa Museum, the Ministry of Tourism stated that the plot of land on which a museum is intended to be established is owned by the Department of Public Antiquities.¹⁵¹

On the other hand, in 2021, the home of the Prophet Lot was discovered in the southern Jordan Valley, which was considered one of the most prominent discoveries in the 'second' centenary of the Jordanian state.¹⁵²

Tourism sector:

The year 2021 witnessed the launch of the National Tourism Strategy for the years 2021-2025¹⁵³, which aims to increase the number of tourists by 2025. This plan consists of five

¹⁴⁸ Article / 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article / 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article / 15 of the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights and Comment No. 21 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

¹⁴⁹ Article (15/2) of the Jordanian Constitution "The state guarantees freedom of scientific research and literary, artistic, cultural and sports creativity, in a manner that does not contradict the provisions of the law or public order and morals."

¹⁵⁰ 81-<https://alghad.com/%D9%85%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B9-%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9-D8%AC%D8%B1%D8%B4%>.

¹⁵¹ According to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

¹⁵² Al Ain news website <https://al-ain.com/article/jordan-home-prophet-lot-discovery>

¹⁵³ <http://petra.gov.go/enclosure/nrbg.jsp?if=199352&lang=ar&name=news>

elements: “tourism product development, human resources, marketing, heritage management and protection, and reforms”. The plan also came to enable the tourism sector to overcome the damage it suffered as a result of Covid-19, and to complement the measures taken by the government and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to deal with and confront this pandemic, which consisted of four stages: response, recovery, restart, and repairs. The indications of the tourism sector for the year 2021 show the resumption of tourism in the second half of the year 2021.

In 2021, the "Urdun Janna" program for domestic tourism, supported by the Ministry and the Tourism Development Authority, continued. The number of tourists participating in it since its inception has reached nearly 270,000 participants, including 150,000 during the year 2021¹⁵⁴, which came to mitigate the losses incurred by the tourism sector as a result of Covid-19 and help it recover.

With regard to accessible tourism¹⁵⁵, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities works with the Supreme Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to develop this type of tourism, which is a global matter that the World Tourism Organization, through its instructions, seeks to promote at the global level. However, there are still some difficulties, most notably: the lack of engineering offices that have the expertise to rehabilitate tourist and archaeological sites to receive persons with disabilities; in addition to the fact that the concepts related to facilitated tourism are not yet comprehensive and not specific due to the lack of studies that have been prepared on this subject; likewise, the lack of available solutions to activate facilitated tourism by providing electric car services for people with disabilities, and the development of balloons, as well as the use of modern technologies in the heritage or tourist area, such as installing three-dimensional screens to display what is inside the tourist city, in parallel with the presence of a tourist guide and facilities who are proficient in sign language to explain the story of the place, history, and time, and the provision of accommodations within hotels.

Synopsis

- The home of the Prophet Lot was discovered in the southern Jordan Valley, which was considered one of the most prominent archaeological discoveries.
- In 2021, the program “We Wanted Us to Paradise” for domestic tourism, supported by the Ministry and the Tourism Development Authority, continued, as the number of participants in it since its inception reached nearly (270) thousand participants.

Staying tourists:

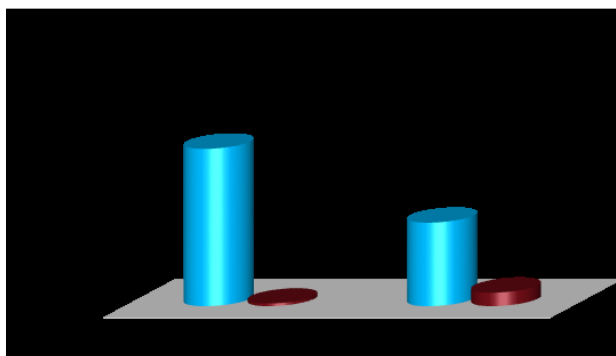
Tourism sector indicators for the year 2021 show a significant increase in the total number of tourists coming to the Kingdom. The number of overnight tourists during the year 2021 reached (2,011,639) tourists, an increase of (90.2%) compared to the year 2020, in which the number of overnight tourists reached (1,067,166) tourists. The number of one-day visitors to the Kingdom in 2021 reached (347.37) visitors, an increase of (100.9%) compared to (172,745)¹⁵⁶ visitors in 2020, as shown in the chart below:

¹⁵⁴ <http://tomorrow.com/150-%dq%a%dq%84%dq%81-%dq%pump%dq%b4%dq%ah%dq%b1%dq%put>

¹⁵⁵ Accessible tourism is a tourism pattern based on providing tourist destinations, services, and resorts to be accessible to all, regardless of physical limitations, disability, or age. Contemporary societies have become increasingly aware of the concept of integrating people with special needs into society and providing means of comfort, facilitation, and luxury in receiving their services.

¹⁵⁶ According to the data and statistics of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

Distribution of tourists coming to the Kingdom during the years 2020-2021



Second: Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Festivals and dramas; The Center followed the efforts made by the Ministry of Culture during the year 2021, the most prominent of which was: The launch of the 35th session of the "Jerash" Festival for Culture and Arts. The Center criticized this festival and other festivals that were held during this year due to the lack of adherence to the health protocol in some cultural events, and endangering the lives and safety of citizens in light of the outbreak of Covid-19. This prompted the Supreme Committee of the "Jerash" festival to dismiss the executive director of the festival, due to the cases of stampede, overcrowding, and great overcrowding that occurred in the southern theater, and the failure to observe preventive measures against Covid-19.

In the field of dramas, the Jordanian drama witnessed the production of a series entitled "Al-Rawabi School for Girls", which sparked widespread controversy between supporters and opponents of it as an attempt to spread a culture that contradicts religion and national customs and traditions. The Jordanian Artists Syndicate announced its rejection of its content, due to many ethical and professional considerations.¹⁵⁷

Also, at the end of 2021, a movie entitled "Amira"¹⁵⁸ was released. It also faced many local and regional official criticisms and protests, as it clearly addresses the dignity of Palestinian detainees and prisoners, and clearly affects an important issue of the Palestinian people¹⁵⁹. These protests, both local and regional, culminated in the Royal Film Commission's decision to withdraw this film from the competition for the "Academy Award for Best International Feature Film", which is reserved for films produced outside the United States of America¹⁶⁰. The Center believes that while all forms of support and care should be provided for the cultural movement in general and drama in particular, these works should not affect religion, and should not deviate from national values, customs, traditions and constants.

Jordan Culture Cities Project:

The year 2021 witnessed the continuation of the implementation of the Jordanian Cities of Culture project, which is implemented annually. The Ministry of Culture announced the selection of (3) new districts to be the Jordanian cities of culture, which are the northern and

¹⁵⁷ Hayat News website through the following link: <https://cutt.us/OBZiq>

¹⁵⁸ Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia website, through the following link: <https://cutt.us/mLOJr>

¹⁵⁹ BBC Arabic channel website: 59579509-<https://www.bbc.com/arabic/trending>

¹⁶⁰ Middle East news website through the following link: <https://cutt.us/6h0Pl>

eastern Badia district, Al-Hashemiya district, and Quweira district; it resulted in the establishment of (281) cultural projects that included "theatre, plastic arts, seminars, conferences, and evenings of poetry, literature and music...etc". The Center believes that cultural cities projects are among the projects that are linked to development plans, and are among the sustainable projects that transfer the cultural movement from the capital to the rest of the governorates.

Cultural events:

In the year 2021, many local cultural and artistic events were held by the Ministry of Culture and its affiliated directorates of culture in the governorates. The number has reached about (1276) events and activities, including lectures, plastic exhibitions, book exhibitions, seminars, evenings, carnivals, murals, training workshops, film screenings and heritage exhibitions.¹⁶¹

Therefore, it must be noted that the repercussions of Covid-19 still affect the holding of cultural events. As the administration of cultural festivals faced a challenge in the occurrence of infections among members of the participating theatrical groups, which caused delays in the completion of theatrical works, in addition to applying the instructions of the law and defense orders related to attendance rates not exceeding (20) people. Public safety measures have limited the number of audiences in some cultural festivals, noting that cultural activities in general depend on the direct presence of the audience.

Cultural bodies:

In 2021 (34) cultural bodies were registered with the Ministry of Culture, bringing their number until the end of 2021 to (706) cultural bodies, while (29) of them were dissolved for violating the Associations Law and stopping their work for more than a year.

Recommendations:

The Center confirms the recommendations contained in its previous reports, and adds the following:

1. The need to increase financial allocations for cultural institutions in order to enable them to implement a larger number of cultural projects.
2. Completing the establishment of national museums and infrastructure for cultural activity, "cultural centers" in all governorates of the Kingdom to accommodate events and activities and activate the cultural movement.
3. Calling on drama producers, in addition to production institutions, to assume the responsibility entrusted to them towards society and the country, in not producing works that affect morals, religion, national customs and traditions.
4. Provide more support for national tourism programs, including the program (Urdun Janna), and work to reduce the prices of hotels and tourist resorts to make them attractive to national tourism and competitive with tourism in neighboring countries.
5. Expand national competitions for students in various cultural fields (theatre, drama, painting, sculpture, and music) and competitions related to the best readers, orators, and others.

¹⁶¹ According to information and statistics received from the Ministry of Culture.

The right to health

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by international covenants¹⁶², and regulated by a number of national laws, the most important of which is the Public Health Law No. (47) of 2008¹⁶³ and its amendments, in addition to the regulations and instructions issued according to it, despite the absence of the Jordanian constitution from explicitly referring to the right to health and guaranteeing it to citizens.

The normative content of the right to health is based on ensuring the right to health as one of the fundamental rights that includes a wide range of elements including the following: (1) Accessibility: health facilities, goods and services must be available to all with physical access without any discrimination; (ii) Availability: Effective public facilities, goods and services for health and health care must be available in sufficient quantity; (iii) Acceptability: facilities, goods and services must respect medical ethics and be culturally appropriate; (iv) Good Quality: health facilities, goods and services must be scientifically and medically adequate and in good working order; (v) Participation: beneficiaries of health care must have a voice in the formulation and implementation of health policies that affect them; (vi) Accountability: People should have the possibility to seek effective reparations for violations committed against them.

In general, in 2021, legislative developments regulating the right and the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic were monitored. The Ministry of Health's procedures, indications of global health security, control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, primary health care, anti-coronavirus vaccines, hospital accidents, mental health, assaults on medical personnel, food poisoning, and the health situation in hospitals were also monitored.

In terms of legislative developments, in 2021, a set of relevant laws¹⁶⁴, regulations and instructions were issued and amended, and in 2021 a set of defense orders related to the right to health were issued, namely:

¹⁶² Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

¹⁶³ Publication in the Official Gazette No. (4924) page (3450) dated 17/8/2008

¹⁶⁴ Law amending the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law No. (24) of 2021; Instructions amending the instructions for incentives for workers in the nursing profession No. (2) for the year 2021; Instructions for continuing professional development for the purposes of renewing the license of workers in the health professions No. (1) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for the profession and specialization titles bylaw for doctors No. (75) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for the licensing of home health care services institutions No. (42) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for practicing the profession of skin care and hair removal No. (43) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for practicing the profession of audiology No. (44) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for practicing the profession of clinical psychology, mental health and psychological counseling No. (45) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for the practice of the profession of judgmental therapy No. (46) of 2021; An amended bylaw for the practice of the speech therapy profession No. (47) for the year 2021; Amended Regulations for Practicing the Associate Nurse Profession and the Assistant Nurse Profession No. (48) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for practicing the profession of nutrition No. (49) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for the practice of massage and massage profession No. (50) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for practicing the paramedic profession No. (51) for the year 2021; (52) for the year 2021; An amended system for practicing the profession of dental technicians No. (54) for the year 2021; An amended bylaw for licensing the practice of the nursing and midwifery profession No. (26) of 2021; Instructions for providing medicine to the patient No. (1) for the year 2021 for the process of providing alternative medicines to patients, and others. The Center welcomes these amendments, which will reflect positively on citizens' enjoyment of the right to health, as they will govern the work of health service providers and control its quality for the benefit of citizens.

- **The 26th Defense Order¹⁶⁵:**

It aims to emphasize precautionary measures against Covid-19, social distancing, wearing masks, and increasing penalties for violators. The Center called for concerted official and popular efforts to adhere to the precautionary and preventive measures issued by the government to limit the spread of this epidemic, and reducing the burdens on the health sector to allow the medical sector to provide health care to citizens, in light of the state of community spread of the new Covid-19 virus, and the high death toll and daily infections.

- **The 27th Defense Order¹⁶⁶:**

This Defense Order obliges the owners and/or drivers of passenger vehicles to follow the prescribed safety and health prevention measures and procedures to limit the spread of Covid-19. The center believes that this procedure is consistent with national legislation and international standards in the procedures confirmed by the government to combat this epidemic.

- **32nd Defense Order¹⁶⁷:**

It is obligatory for the teaching and administrative staff and students in any of the higher education institutions who did not receive the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine or were late for the date of the second dose, bring a negative PCR test valid for a period of (72) hours on Sunday and Thursday morning of each week and to hand it over to the direct supervisor for a member of the teaching or administrative staff and to the dean of the college or whoever he delegates for the student. It also prohibited the issuance of any work permit or renewal of annual residency for anyone who did not receive the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and who was late for the second dose. The Center called for the provision of vaccines for all citizens, and stressed the need to intensify awareness campaigns that motivate citizens to receive the vaccination.

- **34th Defense Order¹⁶⁸:**

It aims to emphasize the need to take and receive the vaccinated, and to increase the penalties for violators. The Center welcomed the content of the defense order, as it constitutes an affirmation of the state's keenness to protect its citizens, prevent them from infection with Covid-19, and prevent the transmission of infection. At the policy level, in 2021, measures were continued to limit the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, as follows:

- Continuing work on updating the national emergency plan to deal with the pandemic, which included all health and non-health sectors in the Kingdom, and targeted all members of society, including Jordanians, non-Jordanians, and Syrian refugees inside and outside camps, and inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers, based on the epidemiological situation of the spread of the virus globally, regionally, and locally.
- Continuing to publish health awareness messages for the media campaign to more than (3.5,000,000) people, which included a series of awareness videos about the importance of vaccination and societal challenges related to health and preventive measures and the promotion of social distancing practices.

¹⁶⁵ Issued on 24/02/2021, and published in the Official Gazette, issue No. (5700), page (694)

¹⁶⁶ Issued on 10/03/2021 and published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5703), page (895).

¹⁶⁷ Issued on 18/07/2021 and published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5730), page (3021)

¹⁶⁸ Issued on 02/09/2021 and published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5741), page (3777).

- Launching a central electronic system to manage the demand for beds in all government hospitals operating under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health, and provide them for patients who need admission to hospitals to receive treatment in a timely manner, as well as taking into account the availability of service in areas close to their homes, according to their health condition.

Global Health Security Index:

According to the Global Health Security Index 2021, the year 2021 witnessed Jordan excelling and ranking at level (3) in the Arab world and (66) globally in the field of immunization against preventable diseases, whether it is childhood infection or highly contagious influenza, which is one of the best health security indications in the world. In addition, Jordan was ranked among the best countries in the sample transportation system and the ability to expand transportation and testing systems during emergency situations; and having a high ability to identify people infected with infectious diseases, locate them, isolate them, and treat them, which indicates that the index reflects the strong capabilities of Jordan with regard to developing emergency plans and a comprehensive public health response and updating them regularly.

Synopsis

- Several defense orders related to the right to health were issued, and a set of relevant laws, regulations and instructions were issued and amended.
- A central electronic system was launched to manage the demand for beds in all government hospitals operating under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health. The year 2021 also witnessed, according to the global health security index, Jordan's superiority and classification at level (3) in the Arab world and (66) globally in the field of immunization from preventable diseases.

Preventive health:

As a result of the monitoring visits carried out by the center, it recorded a set of measures taken by the Ministry of Health in 2021 to limit the spread of both types of diseases: communicable and non-communicable, most notably the following:

- Continuing to supervise the application of infection control policies and procedures that must be followed at the national level in hospitals and health centers in the public and private sectors.
- Continuing the epidemiological monitoring of communicable diseases, and taking the necessary preventive measures to limit the spread of these diseases.

Despite this, the year 2021 witnessed an increase in the number of people infected with most communicable diseases¹⁶⁹ such as hepatitis A, brucellosis, malaria, cutaneous leishmaniasis, chicken pox, non-epidemic meningitis, H1N1 swine flu, and AIDS. The number of cases of hepatitis B, schistosomiasis, measles and epidemic meningitis decreased. The center stresses that in all cases, all preventive and curative measures must be taken to prevent and stop the increase in the spread of these communicable diseases.

It is worth noting that the number of visitors to the Department of Expatriates during the year 2021 reached a total of (168,509) auditors, and the number of visitors to the Tuberculosis Department was (56,835), including: (146) cases of Jordanians, and (73) cases of non-Jordanians, including: (219) cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, including (105) cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and (114) cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health sector:

The year 2021 witnessed the continuation of the repercussions of the pandemic until the last days of the end of the year. On 9/9/2021, the Ministry of Health recorded the first two cases of the new variant of Covid-19, "Omicron"¹⁷⁰, which is distinguished from other variants by being rapidly spreading. In this regard, the center monitored many observations related to health care management during the crisis, the most prominent of which is the fear of long-term harm as a result of receiving the vaccine, and their lack of complete conviction in the effectiveness of the vaccine, in addition to the following aspects:

- **Primary care:**

In 2021, primary health care was the weakest in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, despite its importance in “flattening the curve” of the pandemic through measures such as: monitoring, testing, contact tracing, and preventing hospitals from being crowded with patients in critical condition. The Center sees the need to restructure the way in which primary health care is funded, and to support health service providers in refining the skills of multidisciplinary health care staff, to provide security, stability and health prosperity for citizens, through the availability of appropriate primary health care, integrated, responsive, continuous and community-oriented care.

- **Vaccines against COVID-19:**

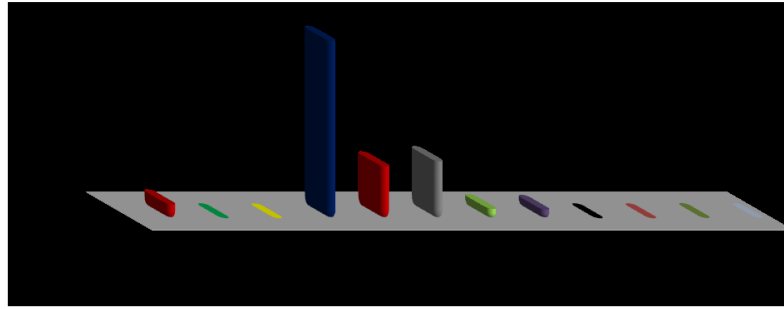
On 10/1/2021, the Government announced the arrival of the first batch of the Chinese-Emirati "Sinopharm" vaccine against Covid-19. On January 11, 2021, another shipment of Pfizer's vaccine against this virus arrived. The national campaign to vaccinate against Covid-19 begins on 13/01/2021 for the (160) thousand people who registered through the national platform (vaccine.jo) to take the vaccine, through some hospitals and comprehensive health centers in the governorates. The initial vaccination process targeted the most affected groups, represented by elderly people who suffer from chronic diseases, and the groups most exposed to the virus, represented by medical and health personnel, and then moved to the rest of society, both Jordanians and non-Jordanians, while people with severe sensitivity to some vaccines or some medicines and food, pregnant and lactating women, and people under the age of eighteen were excluded from taking the vaccines.

The statistics related to Covid-19 recorded in 2021 show the number of cases of Covid-19 infection¹⁷¹, deaths, the number of active infections, the distribution of recorded doses, and others, as shown in the following chart:

Covid-19 statistics in the Kingdom for the year 2021

¹⁷⁰ According to the Ministry of Health, the first infection is for a Jordanian who came from South Africa and was quarantined directly in an Amman hotel, while the second is for a Jordanian who has no recent travel history outside Jordan, and he was quarantined in an Amman hotel.

¹⁷¹ According to statistics issued by the Ministry of Health for the year 2021.



Hospital accidents:

In 2021, the Center monitored the occurrence of many accidents inside hospitals, which resulted in some deaths, including:

1. On January 9, 2021, a woman died due to a “liposuction” operation that was performed in a private clinic by a general surgeon who is not specialized in obesity and liposuction. The case was transferred to the judiciary and is still pending before it.
2. On 13/03/2021, the departments of patients infected with Covid-19 in the new Al-Salt Governmental Hospital were exposed to a sudden outage of oxygen, which resulted in (10) deaths of Jordanian citizens as a result of lack of oxygen. The case was referred to the judiciary, and the charge was assigned to (13) hospital employees and officials. At the end of the case, the Amman Criminal Court convicted (5) of those responsible, and decided to imprison them for (3) years, and declared the innocence of (8) other defendants.
3. On 24/07/2021, the intensive care unit at Gardens Hospital was subjected to a sudden power outage that lasted for approximately (23) minutes. This caused cases of panic and intense fear among patients and their families of a recurrence of the incident in the new Salt Governmental Hospital, with reports spreading that it caused two deaths. This required opening an investigation by the Public Prosecutor, and referring the two deaths to forensic medicine, which proved that the power outage had nothing to do with the death.
4. On 05/09/2021, the five-year-old girl (G.A.), died in Princess Rahma Hospital for Children in Irbid Governorate, due to an appendicitis explosion, after the medical staff failed to diagnose and treat her disease. The girl's family did not file any official complaint.
5. On 6/9/2021, a woman died in Irbid Specialist Hospital in Irbid Governorate, after undergoing a gynecological surgery, following the death of the fetus after the fourth month of pregnancy; however, complications occurred to the patient after the operation, which led to her death. Despite the parents' unwillingness to transfer the case to the Jordanian judiciary; however, the case was referred to the hospital administration, and it is still pending before the courts.
6. On 13/09/2021, the five-year-old girl (L.Y.) died in Al-Bashir Governmental Hospital in the Capital Governorate, after the medical staff failed to diagnose and treat her illness. An investigation committee was formed from the hospital administration, consisting of (7) doctors, to investigate the case, and its results have not been received yet.
7. On 08/10/2021, a (12) year-old child died of severe hemorrhage on the right side of the chest muscles resulting from a blood vessel injury in the right shoulder, after he was taken to Zarqa Governmental Hospital on suspicion of a medical error, according to the forensic report. This led to the registration of an official

complaint at the Hashemite Security Center against the hospital, and the case is still pending before the courts.

8. On 17/11/2021, the child (A.R.) died in a government hospital, claiming the negligence and negligence of officials by not pursuing his treatment abroad, and the hospital administration refused to provide his family with a report stating that no treatment was available for him in Jordan, before he passed away. For its part, the Ministry of Health denied depriving the child of his right to treatment abroad.

Hence, the Center sees the need to activate the Medical Accountability Law of 2018 in cooperation with partners in the medical sector and health unions, and to find solutions that guarantee the rights of the patient, the doctor, the hospital, and all parties to the equation, within clear and fair mechanisms. In addition, appropriate and strict measures must be taken to control cosmetic procedures performed by non-specialized clinics.

- **Psychological health:**

Despite the work on reviewing and developing the National Plan for Mental Health and Addiction for the years (2022-2026), in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the relevant national institutions, which is expected to be launched during the year 2022, the year 2021 witnessed an exacerbation of the impact of the Covid-19 on the mental health of citizens; due to the difficult economic, social and health conditions brought about by the pandemic, most segments of society have been affected. It should be noted that the challenges still facing mental health are as follows:

1. Lack of national studies to estimate the number of mental illness cases before and after the pandemic.
2. Lack of qualified health personnel, especially multidisciplinary mental health personnel.
3. The high prices of "check-up" in private psychiatric clinics compared to public sector clinics, which is a reason for patients' reluctance to go to them, and the number of them according to the statistics of the Ministry of Health is (44) clinics, distributed as follows: (36) clinics in Amman, (3) clinics in Zarqa, and (5) others in Irbid.¹⁷²
4. The high prices of psychiatric medications in the private health sector, noting that the treatment and dispensing of medications for Jordanian psychiatric patients is free of charge in public sector clinics.

Attacks on medical personnel:

The year 2021 witnessed an exacerbation of the phenomenon of assaulting medical personnel in hospitals and health centers, as cases of physical and verbal assault during the year 2021 reached (74) cases of assault, compared to (44) cases of assault in 2020.¹⁷³ Cases of attacks on medical and nursing staff often occur in ambulance

¹⁷² Although there is a "price" set by the Doctors Syndicate for the examination that is paid to the doctor in the private sector clinics, which ranges between (20) and (40) dinars, with a margin for an increase of "(10) dinars", there are transgressions by some doctors, as visitors and doctors from the same sector confirm, which may exceed fifty dinars for their " check-up", in conjunction with the high prices of medicines that are given to the visitor.

¹⁷³ According to the statistics of the Ministry of Health.

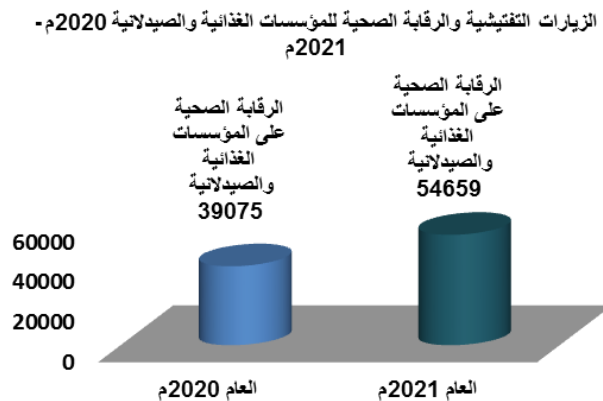
and emergency departments in hospitals and health centers crowded with patients and emergency cases by patients' families and visitors.

Recommendation: The Center recommends activating the medical liability law, which guarantees the rights of doctors and patients alike, to prevent resorting to unjustified assaults in any way.

Health control over food establishments and factories by the Food and Drug Administration:

In 2021, approximately (54,659) inspection visits were carried out, compared to (39,075) inspection visits in 2020, as shown below:

Inspection visits and health control for food and pharmaceutical establishments 2020-2021



The above-mentioned inspection visits in 2021 were distributed as follows: (52,947) inspection visits to food facilities, (1179) inspection visits to pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical facilities, and (533) inspection visits to medical supplies and cosmetics facilities. This is to ensure that food establishments, factories and restaurants across the Kingdom adhere to public health and safety conditions.

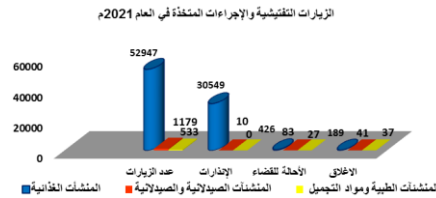
As a result of these inspection visits, (30,559) warnings were issued, including (30,549) warnings for food facilities and (10) warnings for pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical facilities.

In 2021, a total of (536) food establishments and factories were referred to the judiciary, including (426) food facilities, (83) pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical facilities, and (27) medical supplies and cosmetics facilities.

In addition, (267) food establishments and factories were closed, distributed as follows: (189) food establishments were closed, (41) pharmaceutical facilities were closed, and (37) medical supplies and cosmetics facilities were closed, as a result of

the seizure of quantities of spoiled, expired and damaged foodstuffs; in addition to the failure of these food establishments and factories to comply with public health and safety conditions¹⁷⁴, as shown below:

Inspection visits and measures taken in the year 2021



On the other hand, in 2021, the Food and Drug Administration reduced the prices of (873) medicinal items, compared to reducing the prices of (744) medicinal items in 2020, most notably antibiotics and chronic disease drugs, such as: medicines for the digestive system, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and arteries, fatty acids, cancer medicines and antibiotics, in addition to medicines for mental illnesses. In terms of medicines related to Covid-19, the prices of (20) pharmaceutical items included in the treatment protocol for Covid-19 have been reduced, in addition to reducing the prices of antiviral medicines in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies.

In this regard, the center recommends continuing to focus on inspections and oversight by the Ministry of Health and the Food and Drug Administration to ensure that all food establishments, factories and restaurants across the Kingdom adhere to public health and safety conditions.

Food poisoning:

The center monitored food poisoning cases witnessed in 2021, which numbered (47) incidents distributed as follows: (4) accidents that occurred in restaurants, and (43) household accidents, as a result of which (428) cases of food poisoning occurred.

On 13/10/2021, (9) children were admitted to Jerash Governmental Hospital as a result of their infection with the Shigella bacteria.¹⁷⁵

On 16/10/2021, (11) suspected cases of poisoning were admitted to Al-Iman Governmental Hospital in Ajloun Governorate, as a result of their infection with the Shigella bacteria.

Synopsis

- The year 2020 witnessed an increase in the number of people infected with some communicable diseases.
- The year 2021 witnessed the occurrence of many accidents inside hospitals, which resulted in some deaths.
- An increase in the number of assaults on medical personnel has been noted.

¹⁷⁴ According to the statistics of the Food and Drug Administration

¹⁷⁵ The Shigella bacteria are usually active in the fall season, and it is transmitted to humans through water and food if it is present in them. It is also transmitted from one body to another through contact. Safety measures and washing hands, vegetables and fruits are among the most important means of controlling the spread of this infection after the initial poisoning, according to the Jordanian Ministry of Health.

In 2021, the Center monitored statements reported by an expert in the field of food and drug health and safety, indicating the existence of corruption in food policies, and negligence in taking proper measures to ensure food health and safety. There are many imbalances in the diet that the Jordanian citizen eats, including: many foodstuffs contain oxidized milk and carcinogenic hydrogenated oils, which are used in the manufacture of many foodstuffs, such as: some types of labneh and cheese, some types of long-term sterilized milk, ghee, margarine, candy, chocolate, biscuits, and ice cream. It was also noted that some types of fish contain parasitic contaminants, and some types of wheat and rice contain pesticides that are higher than the permissible levels, and organic phosphorous compounds that are higher than the permissible levels as well. In addition, it was noted that legumes and nuts contain compound fungal toxins that cause lung cancer. This information was based on well-study procedures¹⁷⁶, which necessitates the development of a tracking system for foodstuffs from source to consumer, tracking all products and critical points to maintain food safety and import in a healthy way, directly from factories¹⁷⁷. In turn, the Food and Drug Administration questioned the veracity of these results, and filed a complaint against the expert before the Public Prosecution Office. However, the Amman Public Prosecutor's Department dismissed the case after it considered the expert a witness to the public right, and the file was closed.

- **The reality of health services in hospitals:**

Despite the efforts made by the Ministry of Health to develop and improve the health and medical services provided to citizens, the Center's team, after carrying out a number of visits to hospitals and health centers in 2021¹⁷⁸, noticed that some hospitals and health centers are still suffering from a number of challenges that hinder the achievement of their goals. The Center confirms the observations made in its previous reports, in addition to the following:

1. There is a shortage of specialized nephrologists in most government hospitals.
2. The discrepancy in the level of quality of services between hospitals.
3. Marj Al-Hamam Comprehensive Health Center needs to provide two clinics (two rooms) for use by doctors.
4. The inability of general physicians in the comprehensive health centers to request x-rays for patients due to the limited number of films available in the radiology department, which results in patients being transferred to the orthopedic clinic for the purposes of obtaining the required x-rays for the patient, which negatively affects the visitors.
5. Unavailability of medical aids and tools for people with disabilities and the elderly, for example, but not limited to (wheelchairs, floor indications for people with visual impairments, crutches, medical shoes, and splints).
6. Most hospitals and comprehensive health centers lack the necessary hygiene.
7. Most hospitals and health centers lack environmental facilities and facilities for people with disabilities and the elderly; for example: the lack of a signal interpreter, the lack of an elevator, and the lack of parking spaces for people with disabilities.
8. The long waiting period when receiving treatment or dispensing medicine, in addition to the severe crowding in front of clinics, the pharmacy, cashier

¹⁷⁶ It was the result of an entire research team effort published in the American Journal of Food Science in 2019

¹⁷⁷ Garaa News, for more, see the website: [42618/https://garaanews.COm/article](https://garaanews.COm/article).

¹⁷⁸ Field visits were conducted to a number of hospitals and comprehensive health centers, and detailed reports were provided to the Ministry of Health on the course of these visits.

department, laboratory and x-rays departments, which constitutes an additional burden on patients, especially those with disabilities and the elderly.

9. The absence of psychological and social specialists in hospitals and comprehensive health centers to deal with cases of abuse and exploitation, especially with regard to women with disabilities.

Recommendations

The Center reaffirms its recommendations contained in its previous reports, in addition to the following:

1. The need to unify health insurance systems to prevent duplication and waste in order to provide resources for patients who are not health insurance.
2. The Center reiterates its recommendation to increase the percentage of spending on primary health care, which would reduce pressure on hospitals, and save time and effort on citizens and health personnel.
3. The necessity of the government's initiative to pass special legislation that guarantees the provision of high quality mental health services.
4. The necessity of activating the Medical Accountability Law of 2018, in cooperation with partners in the medical sector and health unions, and finding solutions that guarantee the rights of the patient, the doctor, the hospital and all parties to the equation within clear and fair mechanisms.
5. The need to impose control and take appropriate and strict measures to control cosmetic procedures that are performed by non-specialized clinics.

The right to a safe environment

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by many international human rights conventions¹⁷⁹, and regulated by Environmental Protection Law No. (6) of 2017, and a number of regulations and instructions that will be mentioned later.

The normative content of the right to a safe environment is based on the list of collective or solidarity rights, given that a healthy environment is a right for individuals, all countries, and present and future generations that constitute humanity as a whole, and because the empowerment of this right comes at the level of society to ensure public benefits in all fields, given its intersection with economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

In general, in 2021 a number of regulations and instructions related to the environment were approved. In 2021, the center also carried out a series of monitoring visits to some hot environmental sites, including: the phenomenon of black water ponds that appeared in the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, on Sunday 03/10/2021; the phenomenon of the presence of large, dry holes without water within the vicinity of the farms causes damage to farmers due to the possibility of falling into them, which posed a threat to their lives and physical safety; and the problem of mining and prospecting for copper in the Dhana Biosphere Reserve. The Report touched on the issue of waste and hazardous waste management, as well as climate change, control and inspection, licensing and environmental studies, environmental violations, cases, complaints and closures that all took place in 2021, and compared them, of course, with 2020.

In terms of legislative developments, in 2021 a number of regulations and instructions related to the environment were approved, most notably:

1. Regulation of Access to Environmental Genetic Resources, and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Use No. 20 of 2021.
2. Instructions for controlling the use, import and re-export of controlled substances under the Montreal Protocol and its amendments for the year 2021.
3. Instructions for managing electrical and electronic waste for the year 2021.
4. Instructions for technical and environmental requirements for the establishment and operation of sanitary waste dumps in the Kingdom for the year 2021.
5. Instructions for technical and environmental requirements for establishing and operating waste transfer stations in the Kingdom for the year 2021.

The Center appreciates the issuance of these regulations and instructions, as their issuance has contributed to organizing the issue of environmental genetic resources and controlled materials, as well as the management of electrical and electronic waste, all of which are new topics that deserve independent legal regulation.

In 2020, the center implemented a number of visits. It monitored the phenomenon of black water pools that appeared in the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, on Sunday 03/10/2021; the Center's team visited the site to find out the reality of the situation, and to meet with those concerned to find out the reason for this phenomenon, which occurs for the first time in the region. At that time, the center addressed the concerned authorities, such as the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, and

¹⁷⁹ Among the most important of these agreements: the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal of 1992; the United Nations Convention on Climate Change of 1993; the 1996 Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification of 1996; the Stockholm Convention on Pops of Organics; the World Charter for Nature in 1982; the Nairobi Declaration of 1982; and the 1992 Rio Declaration.

the Royal Geographical Center to verify this phenomenon and the reason for the existence of these ponds. As a result of the investigation, the center did not prove the reason for the existence of these water pools. The center stressed that these water leaks, mixed with groundwater coming from Wadi Hammad, pose a threat to human health and physical safety.

The Center also observed that there are large, dry holes without water inside the farms surroundings, causing damage to farmers, due to the possibility of falling into them, thus posing a threat to their lives and physical safety. The Center proved the danger of these pools to human life and physical safety. The Center has monitored the presence of cracks and fissures on the Dead Sea Road / the southern Jordan Valley, as they pose a danger to the public road users. Therefore, the Center addressed the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Public Works, and the Ministry of Environment regarding addressing these potholes and cracks, but until the date of preparing the report, no response had been received.

The center observed the problem of mining and prospecting for copper in the Dana Biosphere Reserve. It turned out that in 1994 the Jordanian government, through the Scientific Society for the Conservation of Nature, signed an agreement as part of a project with the Global Environment Facility to prevent excavations in the reserve in order to preserve its natural environment. The Government also renewed this pledge on several occasions, and the government included the Dana Reserve in the national strategy to protect biodiversity as one of the most important natural camps. In 1996, the Natural Resources Authority relinquished its mining center in the Faynan region to the management of the Dana Reserve, so that the reserve would develop it as a tourist center in Wadi Araba.

The situation remained until 2016, when the Jordanian government signed a memorandum of understanding with the Integrated Company (Manaseer), to explore copper ores inside the reserve. Indeed, a meeting took place between the reserve management and the integrated company and identified the areas in which copper will be prospected. They took (two blocks), one with an area of 68 square kilometers, and the other with an area of 8 square kilometers, for the purposes of exploration, for a period of two and a half years. The company carried out a set of works, including (25 wells, 200 trenches, a thousand surface samples), and the final results of these excavations did not come out, and the situation continued until the month of 2/2021, when the integrated company completed its work and left the site.

The Center has noted the seriousness of the environmental violations that resulted from this excavation and their impact on the loss of excavated land areas, and thus the migration and loss of many types of birds in this reserve. Therefore, the Center issued a statement on this matter, in which it denounced these violations and demanded that the issue be addressed.

Digital indicators in the field of waste management: There are total of (22) landfills in Jordan until the end of 2021, including one landfill for hazardous waste in Swaqa area. The Kingdom annually produces more than (3) million tons of solid waste, and about (75) thousand tons of hazardous industrial waste, a large part of which is recycled (such as spent mineral oils, spent lead-acid batteries...); The equivalent of (5) thousand tons are transported to the Hazardous Waste Treatment Center / Swaqa annually, and the equivalent of (5) thousand tons of medical waste is generated; While the coverage of solid (municipal) waste collection is estimated at about (95%) of urban areas and about (87%) of rural areas. The percentage of organic waste constitutes about (51%) of the volume of

total waste and (17%) of plastic materials intended for packaging and recyclable¹⁸⁰. The generated hazardous waste is disposed of in the Kingdom, with number of (344) transactions. Hazardous waste was received and destroyed in an amount estimated at (2299) m³/ton of organic hazardous waste (treatment with incineration), (151) m³/ton of inorganic waste (viso-chemical treatment), and (2167) m³/ton of inert hazardous waste (treatment with landfill), and (76153) pieces of electrical and electronic waste (special treatment).

The field of hazardous waste management: the Center noted that the Ministry of Environment and the concerned authorities did the following:

1. Completing the construction of a treatment cell to receive radioactive waste from the United Iron and Steel Factory at the Hazardous Waste Treatment Center in cooperation with the Atomic Energy Commission and the Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission.
2. Granting approval to start operating and/or renewing approval for (5) facilities operating in the treatment of medical waste using steam sterilization technology (autoclave).
3. Updating the matrix of the integrated system for hazardous materials management in the Kingdom.

The Center finds that all these actions flow into one crucible, which is the easy and careful disposal of radioactive, medical and hazardous waste, in a way that guarantees the Jordanian citizen the right to a healthy environment.

- Climate change: In 2021, a set of measures were taken, including:
 1. Starting the implementation of the National Contact Point Readiness Project for the Green Climate Fund, which aims to build the capacities of liaison officers for climate change from the relevant authorities.
 2. Updating the Nationally Determined Contributions document.
 3. National afforestation project.
 4. Preparing the national adaptation plan.
 5. Raising the readiness and capabilities of the national focal point approved by the Green Climate Fund.
 6. Raising readiness to facilitate financing for climate change and green growth projects.

The Center welcomes these procedures and believes that they are in the interest of the citizen and guarantee him the means and tools to prevent the spread of the climate change incident and ensure that he confronts the challenges associated with this incident.

- The field of control and inspection: the regulatory bodies work to monitor the environmental situation in the Kingdom by applying laws, regulations and instructions for environmental protection to institutions whose activities may affect the environment. These bodies include (the Ministry of Environment, the Royal Department for Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Greater Amman Municipality, the Special Aqaba Region Authority, the Natural Resources Authority, the Water Authority, and the National Environmental Movement). The main means of control practiced by the regulatory bodies are the following:

¹⁸⁰ According to the statistics of the Ministry of the Environment

1. **Environmental licenses and studies:** In 2021, the Central Licensing Committee granted (1647) environmental licenses, compared to the year 2020, (1207) licenses were granted. In contrast, in 2021, the committee rejected (262) applications for licensing industrial, agricultural and craft projects, compared to (293) applications for licensing industrial, agricultural and craft projects in 2020, for violating the environmental conditions for licensing investment projects. The year 2021 witnessed the conduct of (43) environmental impact assessment studies, compared to 2020, in which only (31) studies were closed.
2. **Environmental violations:** In 2021, (11,347) environmental violations were seized, and fixed checkpoints were placed at the five entrances to the Jordan Valley to prevent the entry of untreated organic fertilizer (manure). About (2,125) tons of fertilizer were seized, and (155) vehicles loaded with untreated organic fertilizer were seized.
3. **Complaints and closures:** In the year 2021, (1033) development facilities were inspected in the Kingdom, (205) environmental complaints were dealt with, and (54) facilities were closed compared to the year 2020, in which (112) facilities were closed in 2020.
4. **Cases:** In 2021, (182) establishments violating the provisions of the new Environmental Protection Law No. (6) of 2017 were transferred to the Public Prosecutor to take legal action, and transferred to the competent courts, compared to (300) violating establishments in 2020.

The Center believes that this judicial and administrative oversight of any violation of the provisions of the Environmental Protection Law is an effective and periodic oversight that guarantees the right to a safe environment for all citizens without exception.

The Center confirms its previous recommendations contained in its previous reports, and recommends taking a number of measures as follows:

1. Taking into account the social and economic dimensions when drafting environmental legislation to ensure that people enjoy the right to a healthy environment.
2. Establishing central stations for the treatment of industrial and natural wastewater in all regions of the Kingdom.

Focus of Groups most in need of protection

- Women's rights.
- Child Rights.
- Rights of persons with disabilities.
- Elderly rights.

Women's rights

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by public and private international conventions, the Jordanian constitution¹⁸¹ and national laws with the aim of achieving justice and equality between the sexes in all areas of civil, political, economic, social and cultural life.

The normative content of the right is based on the harmonization of national legislation and its implementation in approaching policies and practices and taking the appropriate legislative and non-legislative measures.

In general, the Center monitored, during the year 2021, the legislative developments regulating the right, the policies adopted, and the actual practices for the realization of women's rights. It also ensures field monitoring of the issues of women working in the agricultural sector and women victims of violence in shelters, women's murders and the phenomenon of early marriage. In this part, the center's position on these issues will be discussed. It must be noted that monitoring the contents of the report was chosen to monitor the extent to which the state's obligations are fulfilled by implementing the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹⁸² and the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review report.

In terms of legislative developments, in 2021 a fundamental amendment was proposed to the text of Article (6) of the Constitution, which came from the outputs of the Royal Commission to Modernize the Political System, by adding a new paragraph to this article stating: "The state guarantees the empowerment and support of women to play an active role in building society to ensure equal opportunities on the basis of justice and fairness, and to protect them from all forms of violence and discrimination.

In 2021, some amendments were approved and made to national legislation related to women's rights, including:

1. Municipality of Amman Law No. (18) for the year 2021¹⁸³:

Article 4 of it stipulates that the Secretariat Council shall consist of a number of members determined by the Council of Ministers, provided that two-thirds of the members are directly elected, and the remaining third is appointed by a decision of the Council of Ministers; provided that a percentage of not less than (25%) of the number of elected members of the Council be allocated to women, to be filled by female candidates who did not win the elections and who obtained the highest number of votes of the number of voters in the constituency in which they are running. If the required number of female candidates is not available, the appointment shall be made by a decision of the Council of Ministers based on the recommendation of the President within the limits of this percentage from among the registered female voters in the voter lists in the Municipality region.

2. Local Administration Law No. 22 for the year 2021¹⁸⁴:

Articles (3 & 13) of it affirmed the allocation of (25%) of the provincial council and the municipal council to women from the number of elected members of the two councils, in

¹⁸¹ Article 6 of the Jordanian Constitution.

¹⁸² It is worth noting that Jordan, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, did not submit its seventh periodic report to the CEDAW Committee, based on the provisions of Article (18) of the agreement, on the specified date in February of the year 2021, according to what was stated in the concluding observations regarding the sixth periodic report, and the government requested to postpone its submission until the completion of its preparation

¹⁸³ The law was issued in the Official Gazette No. 5740 dated 1/9/2021.

¹⁸⁴ The law was issued in the Official Gazette No. 5746 dated 21/9/2021.

order to fill them with those who obtained the highest votes in relation to the number of voters within their constituencies who were not fortunate enough to win the election. For this purpose, the fraction is rounded to the nearest whole number. If the required number of female candidates does not apply, or the number equal to the percentage referred to is not available, then they are appointed by a decision of the Minister within the limits of this percentage from among the registered female voters in the voter lists of the provincial council and the municipality area.

It is worth noting that the Center called for allocating seats for women at a rate of no less than (20%) in all elected councils, which was supported by the Royal Commission for the Modernization of the Political System.

3. Instructions for flexible working hours in the civil service for the year 2021¹⁸⁵:

The Center appreciates the issuance of these instructions with the aim of increasing the efficiency of employees by providing flexibility in official working hours, so that the provisions of the instructions apply to civil service employees who have spent the probationary period specified under the civil service system, and the pregnant employee is excluded from completing the probationary period, which enhances the protection of the rights of working women.

4. Institutional nursery alternatives instructions for the year 2021¹⁸⁶:

The Center appreciates the issuance of these instructions, which are considered a positive step towards guaranteeing the rights of working mothers and enhancing their economic participation. The instructions included the obligation to pay nursery allowances to institutions subject to the provisions of the Labor Law. The alternatives to nurseries are either by contracting with one or more nurseries in multiple geographical areas, and the worker has the right to choose the appropriate nursery from among them, or the worker chooses to contract with a nursery, provided that the employer contributes to covering the financial cost. Despite the positive instructions, the Center records that this should not be considered as a way out for the employer to absolve himself of his responsibility to establish the nursery at the work site. The Center recommends amending the instructions so that cases that allow the use of cash payment are identified and limited instead of establishing a nursery at the establishment's site, which is considered the best option for working women.

5. Issuance of Agricultural Workers Regulation No. 19 of 2021:

In 2021, the Agricultural Workers Regulation No. 19 of 2021 AD was issued, and instructions for inspection procedures for agricultural activity were issued. The system included agricultural workers, men and women, under the provisions of the Labor and Social Security Laws. It emphasized equal wages for all work of equal value without any discrimination based on gender, and the worker's entitlement to maternity leave with full pay. Despite the positiveness of the system, the center records its observations on it regarding the exception of the agricultural employer who employs three workers or less than the inclusion of workers in the labor and social security laws, which may prompt the agricultural employer to exploit workers and workers in agriculture, depriving them of their rights and not equating them with others.

¹⁸⁵ These instructions were issued in Official Gazette No. 5712 dated 15/04/2021.

¹⁸⁶ These instructions were issued and published in the Official Gazette No. 5696 dated 1/2/2021

Synopsis

- In 2021, some amendments were approved and made to legislation related to women's rights, including (the Amman Municipality Law, the Local Administration Law, instructions for flexible working hours in the civil service, Institutional nursery alternatives instructions).

In terms of policies, in 2021 Cabinet Resolution No. 3640 dated 08/09/2021 was issued approving the implementation plan for the matrix of national priorities to strengthen the system of protection from gender-based violence, domestic violence and child protection for the years (2021-2023)¹⁸⁷; which aims to strengthen the family protection system, reduce domestic violence and protect children at the national level. The plan was based on the sectors of social services, justice services, police services, health services, coordination and partnership. Each sector includes specialized fields related to the activities mentioned in each of them, such as specialized human resources, capacity building, services, and logistical and technical support. It also included the expected timeframes to ensure implementation and follow-up in a coordinated and participatory manner among all parties to improve the sector's level of readiness to respond and prevent cases of violence. Among the most important of these priorities: increasing the level of community awareness about protection from violence, reviewing and issuing legislation to enhance response to the needs of cases of violence by the social, health, police and justice sectors, and approving the Child Rights Law.

In 2021, the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy was launched in the Public Security Directorate (2021-2024)¹⁸⁸, based on the Jordanian National Action Plan to implement Security Council Resolution No. 1325 on women, security and peace, and subsequent resolutions. This is to support Jordan in achieving its goal of making the public security service an Arab and international leader in integrating the concept of gender, and promoting the advancement of women in selling the services of the Public Security Directorate to ensure fair access for women to all roles, training and opportunities. The Center welcomes what came in this strategy and considers it a step towards supporting women's rights.

In 2021, the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030) was launched on 12/12/2021, which included four strategic areas: the enabling environment, services and information, society, sustainability and governance.

In 2021, 18 women were appointed to the Royal Commission for the Modernization of the Political System out of 92 members, i.e. (19%). In addition, women continued to hold some leadership positions in the public sector, such as: the position of Secretary-General and directorates of official bodies.

In this regard, the Center appreciates the government's response to the measures taken by the Ministry of Finance related to the recommendations contained in the sixteenth annual report on the situation of human rights in the Kingdom issued by the Center for the year 2019. Among these measures is that the estimated allocations for females in the General Budget Law for the year 2021 have been increased to about (270,704) million dinars, compared to

¹⁸⁷ Prepared by the National Council for Family Affairs in cooperation with the committee formed by the Ministry of Social Development (a committee to prepare a government plan to confront patterns of gender-based violence).

¹⁸⁸ The strategy was launched by the Public Security Directorate on 2/21/2021

about (2586.8) million dinars during the year 2020, i.e. an increase of (120.6) million dinars or percentage of (4.7%)¹⁸⁹.

In 2021, the Center monitored the conditions of women workers in the agricultural sector through field visits to a representative sample of farms in the northern, southern and central Jordan Valley. The monitoring results revealed the following:

1. Lack of occupational safety and health conditions; Gloves, masks, clothes, and shoes were not provided to the workers by the employers, commensurate with the harsh working conditions, in addition to the failure of the employer to conduct the necessary medical examinations for the working women before they start working to verify that their physical and health safety is suitable for the working conditions, which leads to poor health conditions.
2. The lack of public safety conditions in the means of transport used to transport workers, as they are transported by a means of transport that is not intended for carrying passengers and with excessive load.
3. The lack of knowledge on the part of employers and female workers regarding the issuance of the agricultural workers' system and the instructions for inspection procedures for agricultural activity; this weakened the role of female workers in submitting complaints and demanding their rights.
4. Not including male and female workers in agriculture under the umbrella of social security, which contributed to depriving them of obtaining social security and labor rights.

On the other hand, and on the occasion of the International Day of Rural Women, the Center issued a statement on 15/10/2021, calling for the need to integrate women's rights in particular, and human rights in general, into general economic policies; and to distribute development gains fairly among all the cities, governorates and districts of the Kingdom in light of the large gap currently occurring between the capital and the rural and desert regions. It also called on governmental and non-governmental institutions to promote the rights of rural women, study their conditions in rural areas and remote areas, and improve the level of services in villages in order to ensure the promotion of sustainable development, and provide job opportunities that achieve a decent living for them.

Early marriage:

The Center observed that there are marriage contracts for those under 18 years of age, despite the existence of a national plan to limit the marriage of those under 18 years of age, and to spread awareness programs about the dangers of early marriage for them; as the Kingdom registered (8,037) marriage contracts for girls under (18) years old.

Recommendation:

Until the abolition of paragraph (b) of Article 10 of the Personal Status Law of 2019, which is related to allowing marriage for those under 18 years of age, the Center recommends applying the above article in the strictest limits.

The Center observed the conditions of women in Dar al-Wifaq Al-Osari in the governorates of Amman and Irbid and Dar Amneh, and recorded the following observations:

¹⁸⁹ According to the Ministry of Finance

1 . There is a discrepancy between Dar al-Wifaq Al-Osari in Amman and the other one in Irbid in terms of:

(a) The physical environment: the building of Dar al-Wifaq Al-Osari in Irbid is old and in need of maintenance.

(b) The lack of communication between the administration at Dar al-Wifaq Al-Osari of Irbid and the beneficiaries, and the administration's lack of awareness of the beneficiaries' demands and problems; with regard to Dar al-Wifaq Al-Osari in Amman, the administration is qualified, as there is a good relationship between the beneficiaries and the administration.

2. Poor cooperation and coordination between the General Organization for Vocational Training and civil society institutions in order to intensify their role in the field of economic empowerment of women in the centers.

3. Dar al-Wifaq Al-Osari in Irbid only provides living and shelter services to beneficiaries, and does not offer any counseling and behavior modification programs, despite the need of beneficiaries who are victims of domestic violence for psychological support and legal empowerment, as the beneficiaries suffer from frustration and lack of appreciation.

4. The need for both centers to be supplemented with more technical cadres, specifically psychologists and social workers. For Dar Amneh, the Center noted its need for a psychologist; as there is only one and it is not enough.

5. There is no classification of beneficiaries according to age group in Dar Al Wefaq Irbid; where adult women are not separated from juvenile girls.

On the other hand, on 25/11/2021, the National Center for Human Rights issued a statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, calling for the launch of rehabilitation programs for people involved in cases of violence against women, to ensure that they are not repeated and to address the reasons that prompted them to commit them; and the need to issue a law to protect women from violence, and to amend legislation to ensure that dropping the personal right in cases of violence against women is not considered a reason to mitigate the penalty if the perpetrator and the victim are from the same family. The Center called for concerted national efforts to confront violence against women, especially women with disabilities or those with advanced age, and the need to adopt official policies that provide financial support for projects to protect women from violence.

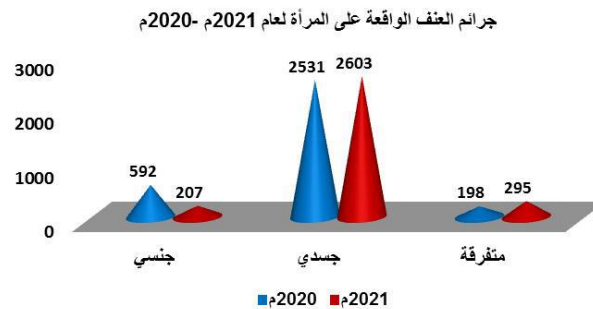
The center also called for the necessity of integrating women's rights and protecting them from violence in school curricula at all levels of education, providing psychological and social support to battered women; developing and activating after-care programs for women victims of violence, organizing rehabilitation courses for them and empowering them economically to integrate them into society, launching awareness campaigns to combat violence against women, and activating the role of religious institutions, public opinion leaders and the media in facing societal challenges that hinder women's participation and its impact on the family and society in general.

On the other hand, the Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women, in its response to the book of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Its Causes and Consequences, which includes a request to renew the call for the establishment of an observatory of cases of femicide by establishing the observatory under the umbrella of the

National Center for Human Rights and cooperating with the Ministerial Committee to review all formulations and indicators and to include relevant data and information.

Figures and statistics issued by the Family Protection Department of the Public Security Directorate indicate that crimes of violence against women for the year 2021, compared to 2020, show a clear decrease in the number of crimes of sexual violence in the year 2021, as shown in the chart below:

Violent crimes against women for the year 2021-2020



Domestic workers

During 2021, the center received three complaints from domestic workers, most of which were related to the withholding of identity papers, ill-treatment, and non-payment of wages.

Statistical estimates showed that the number of domestic workers in Jordan reached (55052) registered workers during the year 2021, of which (12008) were of Filipino nationality, and (7,341) were of Bangladeshi nationality. A large number of irregular female workers work in Jordan, who left their workplaces for a variety of reasons. The domestic worker recruitment system for the year 2020 had been approved, which dealt with issues, most notably the escape of the worker, or his refusal to work within 90 days from the date of his entry into Jordan; by obligating the recruitment offices to return all the money paid by the homeowner within (14) days, or to replace him with a worker from inside or outside the Kingdom without burdening the homeowner with additional financial burdens, and obliging the insurance companies to compensate the homeowner for the rest of the contract period. The Syndicate of Owners of Recruitment Offices registered a case to challenge this system with the Administrative Court, and it was rejected in a form on 20/10/2021.

Here, the Center refers to the instructions of the insurance policy for non-Jordanian domestic workers for the year 2021¹⁹⁰, which stipulated that in order to grant a work permit, or for the worker to transfer to work for another homeowner, evidence must be submitted proving the existence of a valid insurance policy or documents from one insurance company that covers the following insurance benefits: (Death resulting from any cause/accidents of the worker during work/transportation of the body to the airport of the worker's home country or the costs of burial of the worker's body inside the Kingdom/medical insurance for the worker in the hospital/financial losses incurred by the owner of the house or office resulting from the worker's refusal to work or escape or leaving to any party). The Center believes that this document guarantees the rights of both the employer and the worker and that they will not be charged additional costs.

¹⁹⁰ Published on page No. (380) of the Official Gazette No. (5696) dated 1/2/2021

The Ministry of Labor also issued Decision No. (36/2021), based on the provisions of the “Regulation regulating Recruitment Agencies in the recruitment of non-Jordanian domestic workers,” and based on the recommendation of the Committee for Organizing Offices and Domestic Workers’ Affairs formed according to that regulation¹⁹¹, which indicated the costs due for the recruitment of workers in homes and identified in detail. The decision also indicated the costs of moving domestic workers from one house owner to another house owner, as well as the compensation due to the house owner who wishes to transfer the worker to another house owner, and the costs incurred by both the house owner and the recruitment office, including medical examinations. The Center believes that the decision contributes to reducing the number of disputes between homeowners and owners of recruitment agencies, as well as workers.

¹⁹¹ Ministry of Labor www.mol.gov.jo/EBV4.0/Root_Storage/AR/EB_Ticker/CCF_000797.pdf

Recommendations

The Center confirms the recommendations made in its previous annual reports, and adds the following:

1. Develop a national plan to increase the percentage of women's participation in the management of public affairs by raising the percentage of women's quota in the House of Representatives and increasing the percentage of their representation in senior leadership positions in the state and considering the possibility of amending the trade union and professional laws, which explicitly stipulate the designation of special seats for women in trade union councils.
2. The need to provide comprehensive services and reproductive and sexual health information to contribute to family well-being in Jordan.
3. Providing job opportunities for women and developing their skills in line with their needs in the labor market, particularly in remote areas.
4. Providing legal guarantees for women working in the agricultural sector to ensure their economic empowerment.
5. Canceling Paragraph (b) of Article Ten of the Personal Status Law of 2019, which is related to allowing marriage for those under 18 years of age, and applying it in the strictest limits.

Child Rights

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by international public and private standards and guaranteed by the Jordanian constitution and relevant national laws.

The normative content of the right is based on the provision of legislative and non-legislative guarantees that include the protection, care and preservation of every person under the age of eighteen, regardless of any existing discrimination in all areas of civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights.

In general, this part dealt with following up the legislative developments regulating the right, such as monitoring consultations to enact a child law and monitoring the instructions regulating the protection of children's rights, such as instructions for the foundations of the juvenile aftercare system, instructions for alternatives to institutional nurseries for the year 2021, and instructions for licensing home nurseries for the year 2021. The most important policies to support and promote children's rights were also dealt with. In addition, the position of the center and the results of the monitoring visits carried out by the center to the centers for the care and rehabilitation of child beggars, the conditions of children in conflict with the law in juvenile education and rehabilitation homes, child victims of violence, the protection homes of the Ministry of Social Development, and the care homes for those who lost family support of the Ministry of Social Development were stated; in addition to following up the complaints received by the center. This Report also dealt with areas related to working children, the conditions of children in nurseries, and child marriage.

In terms of legislative developments, the Center monitored the continuation of efforts made during the year 2021 to enact a specialized law on children's rights¹⁹², in preparation for unifying all legal texts related to children in special legislation to provide a legislative environment that achieves the best interest of the child. On the other hand, the Center appreciates Jordan's response to fulfill its international obligations, which are included in Article (44) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by submitting the sixth periodic report in 2019, which covered the time period (2014-2018).

Also, in 2021, instructions for the foundations of the juvenile post-care system were issued¹⁹³. These instructions represent the executive methodology of the Juvenile Post-Care System No. (67) of 2016; It aims to complete the implementation of the released juvenile of the care and rehabilitation programs that he underwent during his stay in the home according to the aftercare plan prepared for him, to help the juveniles reintegrate into society and reform and rehabilitate them. The center confirms that these instructions will enhance the concepts of restorative justice for the juvenile by activating aftercare programs in the best interest of the juvenile.

Also, in 2021, instructions for alternatives to institutional nurseries¹⁹⁴ were issued, which oblige the employer to pay nursery allowances to employees of institutions subject to the provisions of the Labor Law, whether they are male or female. Alternatives to nurseries are either by contracting the institution with one or more nurseries in specific geographical areas, or the worker chooses to contract with a nursery, provided that the employer contributes to covering the financial cost, as determined by the system. The

¹⁹² It should be noted that the enactment of a specialized law on children's rights was one of the Center's repeated demands contained in its successive annual reports. However, the draft of the Child Law was approved, discussed and completed during the year 2022 before the issuance of this report.

¹⁹³ Issued under Juvenile Post-Care Regulation No. (67) of 2016, published on page 1601 of Official Gazette Issue No. 5715 dated 5/2/2021

¹⁹⁴ Issued pursuant to Paragraph (b) of Article (72) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996 and its amendments, published on page 378 of Official Gazette No. 5696 dated 1/2/2021.

employer who violates these instructions shall be punished with the penalties stipulated in the Labor Law. The Center believes that the issuance of these instructions has contributed to removing obstacles facing the employer that hinder the establishment of institutional nurseries, and will also increase the participation of women in the labor market by encouraging working mothers to join the work.

In 2021, instructions for licensing home nurseries¹⁹⁵ were issued, which aim to regulate unlicensed home nurseries, which have spread widely in recent times. The Center appreciates the issuance of these instructions in response to the recommendations of the Center contained in the fourteenth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2017, which was based on an extensive study and numerous field visits (82 nurseries). The recommendations at the time stipulated that home nurseries should be obligated to obtain a license from the Ministry of Social Development and be subject to the system and to supervision and inspection by the Ministry.

The year 2021 also witnessed the issuance of the Cabinet's decision approving the implementation plan for the matrix of national priorities to strengthen the system of protection from gender-based violence, domestic violence and child protection for the years (2021-2023)¹⁹⁶, which was prepared by the National Council for Family Affairs in cooperation with the committee formed by the Ministry of Social Development. The Center appreciates the issuance of the decision to approve this plan, which aims to strengthen the family protection system, reduce domestic violence and protect children at the national level, and enhance the participatory approach and coordination between government institutions, civil society institutions, international organizations and donors.

In terms of policies regulating the right, in 2021, the National Action Plan was launched by the Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the National Council for Family Affairs, to implement the recommendations of the study of "marriage of minors" in Jordan to limit the marriage of those under the age of 18 in Jordan for the years (2018-2022). The plan aims to provide a practical framework that includes procedural directions to limit the marriage of those under the age of 18 in Jordan, and to activate cooperation between civil society institutions, international organizations and government agencies to define the roles of each of them in this field. The National Center for Human Rights is one of the bodies concerned with implementing and supporting the action plan. In turn, the Center affirms its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports, which stipulate the need to cancel the exceptions mentioned in Paragraph B of the text of Article (10) of the Personal Status Law, which allow marriage of those under the age of 18 years.

Girls' rights:

On the occasion of the International Day of the Girl, the National Center for Human Rights issued on 11/10/2021 a statement showing many violations that the girl is exposed to, such as depriving her of completing her education, marrying her off before she is eighteen years old, exploiting her in begging and hard work, and exposing her to violence in all its forms, and depriving her of her right to play and have fun. The Center called on governmental and non-governmental institutions and civil society to intensify efforts to preserve the rights of girls in order to activate their role in building and developing society by spreading awareness programs about girls' rights directed at them and their families in all regions of the Kingdom, with a focus on remote areas deprived of services, and including the concepts of children's and women's rights in school curricula and

¹⁹⁵ Issued pursuant to Paragraph (a) of Article (25) of the Nursery Homes Regulation No. (77) for the year 2018 published on page 2861 of the Official Gazette No. 5729 dated 15/7/2021.

¹⁹⁶ Cabinet Resolution No. 3640 dated 8/9/2021

university requirements; and the need for government agencies and the private sector to pay attention to work to secure job opportunities for girls and boys, male and female graduates of care homes, activating the rights of girls in accordance with the goals of sustainable development, and creating a nurturing environment for girls to bring about social change, as part of ongoing training and awareness programs for the family and society.

In terms of practical practices, the center has made a set of observational visits for children, including:

1. Centers for the Care and Rehabilitation of Child Beggars: The center monitored the Center for the Care and Rehabilitation of Beggars in Madaba, and the Center for the Care and Rehabilitation of Beggars Girls in Ad-Dulail. The center has noticed an improvement in the provision of cultural and educational programs for children in the centers for the care and rehabilitation of child beggars. On the other hand, the center monitored a high increase in the number of seized child beggars, as their number reached (70,954) child beggars, including (50,893) males and (2,061)¹⁹⁷ females, compared to the year 2020, when their number reached (20,418) child beggars of both sexes, as shown in the chart below:

The number of child beggars seized in the years 2020-2021



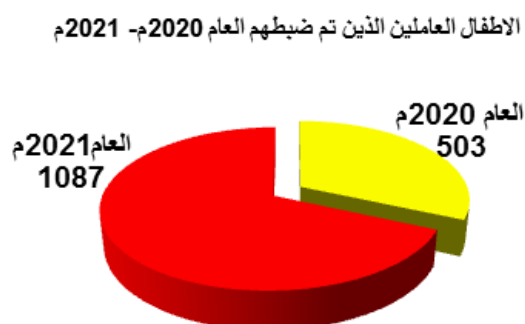
The matter confirms the work of the Ministry of Development in seeking to reduce beggary, as it initiated the formation of a national committee to combat beggary on 23/5/2021, whose membership included ministries and official institutions in addition to the National Center for Human Rights to find solutions and realistic measures to reduce the phenomenon of begging.

Hence, the Center reaffirms the need to deal with the child exploited for begging as a victim who is being abused and exploited, exposing his life to great danger. The Center appreciates the amendment of Paragraph b of Article (2) of the Human Trafficking Prevention Law by adding organized begging as one of the forms of human trafficking, which leads to treating these children as exploited and victims who must be provided with the necessary protection, and those who exploit them in begging must be punished. The center monitored the incident of three sisters, aged between (9-11) years who used to sleep on the ground late at night in one of the streets of the capital, Amman. It was found that their father forced them to work in begging. The girls were kept and placed for a period of 6 months in the "Dar al-Karama" affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development, which is concerned with protecting victims of human trafficking. The father, mother and uncle of the girls were charged with the felony of human trafficking, in violation of the provisions of Article (9) and in the context of Article (3) of the Human Trafficking Prevention Law.

¹⁹⁷ According to the Ministry of Social Development.

Working Children: The Center monitored an increase in the number of working children seized during the year 2021, as their number reached (1087)¹⁹⁸, while in 2020 their number reached (503).

Working children who were seized for the year 2020-2021



The Center sees a high increase in the number of working children due to the repercussions of the economic crisis resulting from Covid-19, which greatly contributed to the negative impact on the economic situation of many families. The Center also confirms that these numbers do not represent the reality and do not represent the real number of working children. As the last national survey conducted for child labor indicated that there are (75,982) working children¹⁹⁹, which indicates the need to develop an effective monitoring system for child labor. The Center believes that the scope of protection is insufficient, and the phenomenon of child labor must be addressed, given strategic priority and integrated into national development plans and policies, given the various forms of exploitation and forms of verbal and physical abuse that children are exposed to in the work environment, not to mention sexual exploitation.

The Center also monitored the phenomenon of child labor in the Al-Bayader industrial district, and a number of children who work in mechanics and car body painting workshops were interviewed in some garages in that area. It was found that the main motive for children's work is due to their desire to improve the financial situation, to be self-reliant and to help their families to provide them with a decent standard of living. The number of working children seized in 2021 reached (1087), which requires the development of comprehensive strategies, programs and plans that take care of childhood and strengthen measures to prevent child labour.

Recommendation: The center recommends the need to tighten control by official institutions over places where child labor is concentrated, and to activate legislation that prohibits child labor, in addition to implementing and strengthening awareness campaigns about the negative effects resulting from child labor.

¹⁹⁸ The report on the achievements of labor inspection and occupational safety and health for the year 2021, which is published on the website of the Ministry of Labor, www.mol.gov.jo.

¹⁹⁹ The number of working children in Jordan is from the results of the Child Labor Survey, which was implemented in 2016 by the Department of Statistics

Children in Conflict with the Law: The Center observed the role of juvenile education and rehabilitation to see the conditions of "children in conflict with the law" in those homes, and recorded many observations, including the following:

- a. Weak psychological and counseling care services due to the small number of psychologists and social workers compared to the number of detained/convicted²⁰⁰ juveniles, and the need to raise the capabilities of workers in the juvenile justice sector and increase specialized training.
- b. Most juvenile shelters do not adhere to the principle of separation on the basis of age group; where separation is only on the basis of conviction and arrest only.
- c. Lack of environmental facilities to receive juveniles with disabilities in juvenile detention centers.
- d. The absence of a home for the education and rehabilitation of juveniles in the southern region, despite the recommendations of the center in its previous reports and its emphasis on the need to establish a home for the education and rehabilitation of juveniles in the southern region.

Child victims of violence: The Center conducted a number of monitoring visits to the protection homes affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development established under the Family Protection Homes Regulation No. (48) of 2004; these are Dar Al Wefaq Al-Osari / Amman and Dar Al Wefaq Al-Osari /Irbid, dedicated to receiving girls and women who are victims of violence, physical and psychological abuse, sexual abuse within the family, and cases of absence from the home of various nationalities starting from the age of 14 years, and those accompanying them among the children of their male children whose age does not exceed 6 years.

The Center recorded observations related to the presence of child victims of violence under the age of 18, as follows:

- The services provided in the Dar Al-Wefaq in Amman, for the beneficiaries are mostly good and rise to the required levels²⁰¹, while Dar Al-Wefaq / Irbid provides only accommodation and living services for the beneficiaries. In spite of the availability of counseling and behavior modification programs, they are not applied on the ground, in addition to the fact that the building of the home is very old and in need of maintenance²⁰².
- The need for girls who benefit from legal empowerment programs to raise awareness of their rights in both homes.
- The small number of employees, especially psychologists and social workers, compared to the number of beneficiaries, and the need to provide Dar Al-Wefaq (Amman / Irbid) with more technical staff in proportion to the number of beneficiaries to ensure the provision of better services.
- There is no classification of beneficiaries according to age group, as adult women are not separated from juvenile girls in both centers (Amman / Irbid). This requires reconsidering the qualitative specialization of Dar Al-Wefaq (Amman / Irbid), in a way that ensures that it is allocated to the category of battered women and children attached to their mothers, and that young girls are placed in juvenile care homes or appropriate institutions that provide care for children in a way that suits their needs and conditions according to their age; and ensuring the protection of their physical, psychological and mental integrity. The placement of juvenile girls in Dar Al-wefaq, even if it achieves

²⁰⁰ Report of the monitoring visit to the Juvenile Care and Rehabilitation Home / Amman, dated 10/11/2021.

²⁰¹ Report of the monitoring visit to Dar Al-Wefaq, Amman, dated 26/10/2021.

²⁰² Report of the visit to Dar Al-Wefaq, Irbid, dated 21/10/2021.

protection, does not achieve childcare and does not take into account the interest of the juvenile.

- Weak cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Education with regard to providing an appropriate environment for compulsory education; the children accompanying their mothers and the beneficiaries of the juvenile girls are dropped out of school and are not enrolled in schools. Textbooks are provided for girls who wish to do so.

Statistics issued by the Family and Juvenile Protection Department of the Public Security Directorate showed that cases of physical abuse against male children for the year 2021 amounted to 162 cases, 155 cases against female children, and 43 cases against male and female children together.

Conditions of children in nurseries: The center monitors the conditions of nurseries in the Kingdom and confirms what was stated in previous reports²⁰³. The Center appreciates the existence of inclusive nurseries for children with disabilities, in implementation of the provisions of Article 27 (a) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The number of inclusive nurseries in Jordan for the year 2021 reached 84 nurseries for males and females out of 1,643 nurseries licensed by the Ministry of Social Development. These nurseries provide services for children with hearing, visual and motor disabilities and the autism spectrum. The Center believes that this type of nursery should be circulated to all nurseries so that all nurseries are inclusive of children with disabilities.

The Family and Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Social Development received (97) requests for licensing nurseries, closed (22) nurseries, and warned seven other nurseries. One home nursery was licensed. Three applications for a home nursery license were received²⁰⁴.

Children without family support: The center carried out monitoring visits to a sample of care homes for those without family support affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development. The results of the monitoring were as follows:

- The poor infrastructure of some care and shelter institutions in terms of the lack of sanitation and water networks, and the old buildings and need for maintenance.
- The small number of service providers in the Children's Villages, as they are unable to play all roles towards children, which affects their rights to care, upbringing and education; there is a need to support care and shelter institutions from all sides to improve the conditions of children and provide them with the best services.
- Lack of availability of technological means such as computers, which are considered the basic requirement for distance learning in care and shelter homes during the spread of Covid-19.

²⁰³ See the fourteenth annual report on the situation of human rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2017, published on the website www.nchrorg.jo,

²⁰⁴ Ministry of Social Development website: www.mosd.gov.jo

Recommendations:

The Center confirms its recommendations contained in its previous reports, and adds the following:

1. The need to tighten control by official institutions over the places where child labor is concentrated, and to activate legislation that prohibits child labor, in addition to implementing and strengthening awareness campaigns about the negative effects resulting from child labor; and the need to provide a detailed database showing the number of working children, the nature of the work they do, and the sectors in which they work.
2. Establishing a juvenile education and rehabilitation center in the southern region.
3. Increasing the number of cadres working in care and rehabilitation homes, especially technicians (psychologists and social workers), in addition to raising the capabilities of these cadres, through specialized training and their obtaining appropriate incentives, as working in this type of institution requires additional effort.
4. Inclusion of rehabilitation and behavior modification programs, in addition to providing entertainment programs for juveniles in care and rehabilitation homes.
5. Require care and rehabilitation institutions to follow the principle of segregation of beneficiaries on the basis of age group.

Rights of people with disabilities

It is one of the human rights guaranteed by public and private international covenants²⁰⁵ as guaranteed by the Jordanian constitution²⁰⁶ and national laws²⁰⁷; which identified the person with disability in Article (3/a, b)²⁰⁸ “Every person has a long-term deficiency in physical, sensory, mental, psychological or neurological functions, which, as a result of its interference with physical and behavioral obstacles, prevents the person from carrying out one of the main life activities, or exercising one of the rights or one of the basic freedoms independently.” The deficiency is considered long-term, according to the text of Paragraph (a) of this Article, if it is not expected to disappear within a period of no less than (24) months from the date of commencement of treatment or rehabilitation.

The normative content of the right is based on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in all civil, political, economic, social and cultural fields, contained in international standards and national legislation, and the role of the National Center for Human Rights in monitoring developments in the national legislative system regulating the right and monitoring supportive policies and practices, and working to follow up on its recommendations contained in its previous reports and complaints received by the Center.

In general, in 2021, a fundamental amendment was proposed to the text of Article (5/6) of the constitution, which came from the outputs of the Royal Commission to Modernize the Political System, where the text becomes: “The law protects the rights of persons with disabilities and promotes their participation and inclusion in all aspects of life. It also protects motherhood, childhood and old age, takes care of young people and protects them from abuse and exploitation,” after it was: “The law protects motherhood, childhood and old age, and cares for young people and people with disabilities and protects them from abuse and exploitation.”

The Center submitted a proposal to amend Article (5/6) of the Jordanian Constitution regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, so that it reads as follows: “The law protects women, children, and old age, and cares for young people and people with disabilities, and protects them from abuse and exploitation.” It also suggested amending Article (57/e) so that the phrase “who was insane or imbecile” was replaced by the phrase “who was lacking in legal capacity”, as these phrases imply an insult to persons with disabilities.

The Center also suggested amending Article (6/a) of the Political Parties Law of 2015 to become as follows: The number of founding members of any party must not be less than one hundred and fifty people, of whom no less than 20% of the members are women and youth, taking into account the representation of people with disabilities. The Center also suggested amending Article (20/c) of the same law so that it reads: "Achieving equal opportunities, equality and non-discrimination among all citizens when assuming responsibility or participating in it."

²⁰⁵ The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights, the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

²⁰⁶ Article (6/5) of the constitution reads: “The law protects the rights of persons with disabilities and promotes their participation and integration in the various aspects of life. It also protects motherhood, childhood and old age, takes care of young people and prevents abuse and exploitation.”

²⁰⁷ Law of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. (20) of 2017

²⁰⁸ Law of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. (20) of 2017

In terms of legislative developments that have taken place to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, a system of alternative shelters and support services for persons with intellectual disabilities²⁰⁹ was issued in line with Article (27/c/1) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which included the integration of persons with disabilities with their families or with alternative families or group homes by a decision of the competent judicial authorities after Provide reasonable accommodation or access. These services include: community rehabilitation, personal companionship, short breaks, inclusive day centers, early intervention and training.

Based on Article (14) of the system, a committee was formed from a group of official bodies, whose membership included the Center, for the purpose of drafting a draft of instructions regulating the work of the "Shelter Alternatives System" in order to regulate the mechanism for implementing the provisions of the system; until the date of preparing this report, no instructions have been issued to enforce this system. The Center hopes that the concerned committee will issue instructions to implement the provisions of the system as soon as possible. The center also criticized the regime for not referring to issuing special instructions for early intervention and training.

In 2021, a system for the employment of persons with disabilities²¹⁰ was issued based on the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Article (13)²¹¹ of the Jordanian Labor Law to ensure that persons with disabilities obtain work commensurate with their disability based on equality and non-discrimination, based on the eighth goal²¹² of sustainable development goals. The system stipulates in Article (3/a) thereof that the employer is committed to facilitating arrangements, accessible forms, and accessibility for persons with disabilities, and that this be included in the work contract concluded between the employer and the worker with disabilities.

The employer was also required to send a notification to the Ministry of Labor containing the worker's data in the first month of each year, in addition to obligating every establishment that employs more than 50 workers to employ 4% of persons with disabilities to ensure decent work for them. The system also included the right for every worker with a disability to object to any disciplinary measure issued by the employer at the competent inspection directorate within a week of being notified of the decision. The Center believes that this system is compatible with Goal (8) of the Sustainable Development Goals, as stated in purpose (5) to achieve full and productive employment and provide decent work for all women and men, including youth and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value, by the year 2030.

On January 25, 2021, the Ministry of Labor concluded a cooperation agreement with the "Humanity and Inclusion" organization to train and employ persons with disabilities²¹³, bearing in mind that no instructions have been issued to implement the employment system for persons with disabilities so far. The Center hopes to issue it in the near future. The Center

²⁰⁹Regulation of Alternatives to Shelter Homes and Support Services for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities No. (62) for the year 2021 issued in Issue 5727 published in the Official Gazette on 1/7/2021

²¹⁰ Employment Regulations for Persons with Disabilities No. (35) of 2021 issued in Issue 5722 of the Official Gazette dated 05/02/2021

²¹¹Article (13) of the Labor Law stipulates that the employer must employ persons with disabilities in the percentage specified in the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in force and in accordance with the conditions contained therein, and send to the Ministry of Labor a statement specifying the jobs that persons with disabilities occupy and the wages of each of them.

²¹² Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals is related to "decent work and economic growth".

²¹³ The official website of the Ministry of Labor/periodicals of the Department of Employment of Persons with Disabilities

also proposes that the aforementioned system include incentive privileges for institutions that employ persons with disabilities.

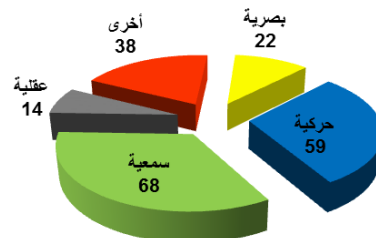
The Center appreciates the circular issued by the Prime Minister²¹⁴ regarding the enforcement of the provisions of Article (5/b) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which states: “All ministries, official departments, public institutions and bodies must work to comply with the medical reports issued by the specialized medical committees in the Ministry of Health for the purposes of completing the procedures for appointing persons with disabilities which includes determining the type, degree, and nature of disability, and not representing candidates for public positions of persons with disabilities to medical committees to determine their suitability.

The Center also appreciates the issuance of flexible working instructions by the Civil Service Bureau, whose provisions apply to civil service employees who have completed the probationary period specified in the system, and exclude employees with disabilities from the condition of completing the probationary period. These instructions aimed at increasing the efficiency of employees by providing flexibility in official working hours²¹⁵.

In this regard, the Center monitored the number of people who were appointed until 31/12/2021 through the Equal Opportunities Committee, which is based on fairness and non-discrimination. (201) were employed in the private sector, including (123) males and (78) females through the Ministry of Labor, distributed as follows:

Distribution of the number of persons with disabilities who were appointed in the private sector for the year 2021, according to the type of disability

توزيع أعداد الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة الذين تم تعيينهم في القطاع الخاص لعام 2021م حسب نوع الإعاقة



It should be noted that (20050) job opportunities were secured from 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021 in the private sector; the percentage of people with disabilities was 1.05%²¹⁶. Compared to 2020, the number of job opportunities that were secured reached (10,339); the percentage of persons with disabilities was (1.12%), as it is noted that there is a decrease in the percentage of employed persons with disabilities in the year 2021. The Center calls for adherence to the provisions of Law No. (20) of 2017 in this regard.

The percentage of persons with disabilities who were appointed in the public sector amounted to about 6% of the total appointment requests submitted by persons with disabilities at the Civil Service Bureau, which is equivalent to 2% of the total number of appointments for the year 2021²¹⁷.

²¹⁴ Prime Minister's Circular No. 1/12/44964, dated 20/10/2021

²¹⁵ Flexible working hours instructions in the Civil Service Bureau for the year 2021 issued in the Official Gazette No. 5712 dated 145/4/2021

²¹⁶ According to the Ministry of Labor

²¹⁷ According to the Civil Service Bureau

Recommendation: In order to enhance the economic participation of persons with disabilities, the Center recommends amending the income tax law and including incentives for each person with disabilities as a motivational and encouraging means.

At the policy level, and for the purposes of following up on the latest developments, the center formed a specialized team to monitor shelter centers and carried out a number of visits, which we summarize as follows:

1. The Center monitored one of the shelters in the capital, Amman²¹⁸, on 4/7/2021, because an 18-year-old beneficiary, who suffers from a severe mental disability, suffered burns to his body; in view of the gravity of the act, the case was transferred to the Public Prosecution, which has jurisdiction, for investigation, to determine if there was negligence on the part of the shelter in the care, or if the matter was otherwise, and the case is still pending before the competent court.
2. The Center monitored a group of care and rehabilitation centers in the governorates of Zarqa, the capital, Jerash, Tafilah and Karak, and recorded observations on them, including: overcrowding²¹⁹; staff shortage; the absence of an ambulance equipped for the centers; the absence of a resident doctor for the centers; some centers are not connected to the sewage network, where cesspits are used; in addition to the absence of water tanks in most of them, and if they are found, they are out of order; buildings need for maintenance²²⁰; the absence of a nutritionist in some of them; the absence of a psychologist, malfunctioning elevators²²¹ and other notes. The Center addressed the Minister of Health, the Minister of Social Development, and the Minister of Water and Irrigation to find an appropriate solution to the above-mentioned observations, and the Center did not receive a response until the moment of preparing this report.
3. The Center monitored one of the private shelters in Zarqa Governorate on 15/06/2021 and recorded the following notes: The center's license has expired; the owner of the center attributed the reason to the transfer of the affiliation of these centers from the Ministry of Social Development to the Ministry of Education during Covid-19 period; the building also needs complete maintenance; bad smells come from inside the building; the classrooms are cramped; the devices used in physiotherapy are old.
4. The Center noted the closure of four shelters and the issuance of twenty-four warnings to other shelters²²² due to legal violations.
5. The center carried out direct and unannounced monitoring visits to juvenile care and rehabilitation homes and temporary detention centers, and found deficiencies in the environmental facilitation facilities for persons with disabilities stipulated in the Persons with Disabilities Law, including: (lack of corridors, wheelchairs, toilets, and equipped beds, poor qualification of service providers and specialized nurses; the lack of signboards and Braille translators; Noting that the center monitored the arrest of (15) juveniles with disabilities in these homes, including (11) with speech impediments, (1) with mobility impairments, and (3) persons with multiple disabilities²²³.

The Center believes that the authorities concerned with supervising juvenile care and rehabilitation homes and temporary detention centers should work to prepare these homes to receive juveniles with disabilities in terms of reasonable accommodation arrangements, accessible forms, and accessibility stipulated in Article (9) of the Law on the Rights of

²¹⁸ Private shelter center / Amman

²¹⁹ Governmental center

²²⁰ All care and rehabilitation centers for people with disabilities

²²¹ Governmental center

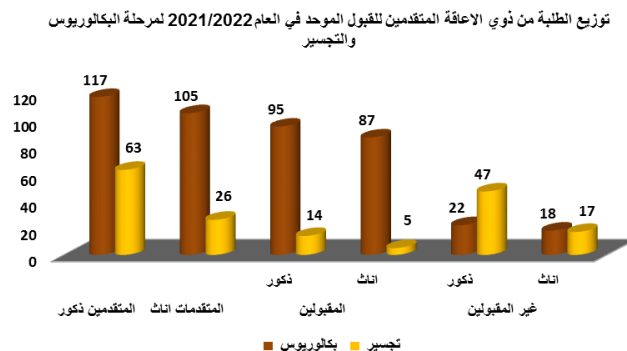
²²² According to the Ministry of Social Development

²²³ According to the Ministry of Social Development

Persons with Disabilities, and completing the implementation of the ten-year plan to correct the conditions of buildings.

7. The Center monitored the submission of the Greater Amman Municipality with an exemption card from the speed bus fare for people with motor disabilities²²⁴. The Center welcomes this step, but calls for the inclusion of all persons with disabilities in these cards without discrimination on the basis of disability type, based on Goal No. (5) of the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. The Center observed the inclusion of (18) public schools in the first phase of the inclusive education plan, including (6) in the northern region of the Ajloun Education Directorate; (6) in the central region of the Marka Education Directorate, (6) in the southern region of Karak Education Directorate, but they did not receive any students with disabilities except in the year 2022/2023 because these schools were not fully prepared to receive them. The main challenges facing those concerned with the implementation of the inclusive education strategy are: (lack of funding; reverse migration from private schools to public schools; and the lack of ownership of all public schools by the Ministry of Education due to the fact that a number of them are rented). The Center stresses the need to develop plans to transform all schools into inclusive schools, with an emphasis on ensuring the quality of inclusive education.
9. The Center monitored the progress of (311) students of persons with disabilities in the year 2021/2022 for the undergraduate and bridging stages within the unified admission lists²²⁵, as shown in the following drawing:

Distribution of students with disabilities applying for unified admission in the year 2021/2022 for the undergraduate and bridging stage



The Center confirms what was stated in its previous report²²⁶ regarding the obstacles indicated by the inclusive education strategy facing inclusive education for persons with disabilities, and given that no step has been taken suggesting the start of implementing the strategy, and the Center stresses the concerned authorities to start implementing it.

The Center reiterates the importance of ensuring the integration of persons with disabilities into educational institutions, providing a safe educational environment, and providing social and technical support for them and their families.

Synopsis

²²⁴ Amman Bus website: <https://www.ammanbus.jo/exemptions/ar>.

²²⁵ The website of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities <http://hcd.gov.jo/ar/council-news>

²²⁶ The seventeenth report of the National Center for Human Rights for the year 2020

- A set of legislations that promote the rights of persons with disabilities have been issued, including: a system of alternative shelters and support services for persons with intellectual disabilities, and a system of employment for persons with disabilities.
- (201) people with disabilities were employed in the private sector, including (123) males and (78) females, through the Ministry of Labor; The percentage of persons with disabilities who were appointed in the public sector amounted to about 6% of the total appointment requests submitted by persons with disabilities at the Civil Service Bureau, which is equivalent to 2% of the total number of appointments for the year 2021.

10. The Center noted that the value of the amounts disbursed from the National Aid Fund for persons with disabilities is small and not sufficient to reach an adequate standard of living, especially since the amount disbursed is a fixed amount for all persons with disabilities, regardless of their living standards.
11. The Center dealt with cases of violence against persons with disabilities and complaints were filed with the Family Protection Department/Directorate of Public Security during the year 2021, and there were 19 cases compared to 20 cases in 2020. The center has received (10) complaints related to the rights of persons with disabilities, and after following up and taking the necessary measures, (2) of them were closed because the violation was not proven, (1) a complaint was closed for lack of jurisdiction, and (7) complaints are pending.

Recommendations

The Center confirms its recommendations contained in its previous reports and adds the following:

1. The need for the concerned authorities, especially the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of Education, the Civil Service Bureau, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Labor to activate all strategies related to the rights of persons with disabilities.
2. Provide all reasonable environmental accommodations for persons with disabilities that enable them to live their lives without discrimination.
3. Amending the Income Tax Law and its amendments No. (38) for the year 2018 to stipulate the provision of incentives for every employer of persons with disabilities as a means of motivation and encouragement.
4. Increasing the amount of national aid provided to persons with disabilities or their families to enable them to live in a decent standard of living.

Elderly rights

It is one of the human rights guaranteed directly and indirectly by international and regional standards²²⁷, as guaranteed by the Jordanian constitution and relevant national laws. An international and national trend has emerged to develop and activate legal and institutional mechanisms that guarantee distinct rights for the elderly with the aim of alleviating their suffering through specialized documents, but until today the international community still has not reached a special international agreement²²⁸. Despite the difference in international standards in defining the oldest person, the definition adopted by the United Nations and the World Health Organization is a person over the age of sixty years.

The normative content of the right is based on the promotion of the international principles to guarantee the rights of the elderly adopted by the United Nations, which stipulates 18 entitlements for the elderly that can be divided as follows: (a) Independence: that is, the ability of the elderly to obtain sufficient food, in addition to shelter, health care, the possibility of work, education and training. ; (b) Participation: the ability of older persons to contribute to the formulation of policies that affect them and to pass on their knowledge to younger generations; (c) Care: which is represented in obtaining health care, enjoying human rights and freedoms, and providing care and treatment homes; (d) Self-actualization: enabling older persons to seek opportunities to develop their potential by drawing on community resources; (e) Dignity by enabling them to live in dignity, free from abuse or exploitation, and to be treated fairly and without discrimination.

In general, the report dealt with the most prominent legislative developments related to the rights of the elderly, such as proposals on the Jordanian constitution, the elderly care system, and the instructions for flexible working hours in the civil service. The report also referred to the national efforts in support of the enactment of an international agreement on the rights of the elderly, and the policies adopted by the government to support the issues of the elderly, such as the issuance of the Council of Ministers' decision in September 2012 to implement the provisions stipulated in Article 12 of the Civil Retirement Law and its amendments and Article 173 of the Civil Service System and its amendments for the purposes of extension for employees who have reached the age of sixty years and female employees who have reached the age of fifty-five years, and the formation of the "Amman is a friendly city for the elderly" committee. The report also showed the center's monitoring of the status of the rights of the elderly in residential homes, as well as the challenges and difficulties that the elderly suffer from in Jordan, as well as issues of violence against the elderly. The report referred to the statements issued

²²⁷ Article/11 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Article /7 The International Convention on the Rights of Migrants and Members of Their Families; Article/13 and Article/16 of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Article /18 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; International Conference of the First World Society on Aging; Vienna Action Plan on Aging; Madrid Plan of Action on Aging 2002; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on Older Persons of 2016; The Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons in 2015.

²²⁸ Jordan participated in several international sessions and consultations held at the United Nations in New York; it seeks to join the United Nations General Group on Aging to contribute to the drafting of an international agreement on the rights of older persons. The committee formed by the National Council for Family Affairs and the membership of the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Social Security Corporation, the National Center for Human Rights and the Organization for Assisting the Elderly presented its proposals and national priorities to the United Nations to participate internationally in drafting the International Convention on the Rights of the Elderly.

by the center related to the rights of the elderly and the position of the center on all the contents of the report.

In terms of legislative developments, a number of regulations and instructions were issued in 2021 that protect the rights of the elderly, as follows:

- (1) Elderly Care Regulation No. 97 of 2021²²⁹: which provided for the establishment of an elderly care account at the Ministry of Social Development, to be allocated to provide appropriate social, health, physical and psychological care for the elderly in their homes and between their families according to instructions issued for this purpose; improving the efficiency of social services provided to the elderly; sheltering the elderly whose families are unable to take care of them, or those who do not have families to take care of them, work to integrate the elderly into society, and support programs and projects targeting the elderly. Although the center welcomes the issuance of this system, to date, the instructions in force for it have not been issued.
- (2) Instructions for flexible working hours in the civil service for the year 2021²³⁰: The Center appreciates the issuance of these instructions with the aim of increasing the efficiency of employees by providing flexibility in official working hours, so that the provisions of the instructions apply to civil servants who have spent the probationary period specified under the civil service system, and the employee who takes care of one of the parents is excluded from completing the probationary period, which confirms the protection of the rights of the elderly.

The National Center indicates that there is no special law that protects the rights of the elderly, and there are no legal provisions to criminalize or hold children accountable for neglecting the economic, social and health rights of their parents and those charged with caring for them in the event that they refrain from fulfilling their obligations towards their parents, with the exception of the general criminalization provisions in the Penal Code. On the occasion of the International Day for the Rights of the Elderly, the Center issued a statement on 01/10/2021 recommending the speedy enactment of a special law that protects the rights of the elderly, the establishment of centers specialized in health care for them through specialists in geriatrics, and the approval of the major of geriatrics by the Jordan Medical Council. The Center stresses that despite the efforts made by governmental and non-governmental institutions to protect and promote the rights of the elderly, the National Center for Human Rights has monitored a number of challenges and obstacles faced by the elderly, including:

In light of the foregoing, the National Center for Human Rights calls on all governmental and non-governmental institutions and civil society to intensify efforts to implement the rights of the elderly, including supporting Jordan for international efforts aimed at drafting an international agreement on the rights of the elderly.

Recommendation: The Center recommends adopting a law for the elderly to define the legal rules that support the protection of the elderly, in order to keep pace with the efforts of regional societies in protecting and promoting the rights of the elderly.

At the policy level, the year 2021 witnessed the issuance of the Council of Ministers' decision in September 2021 to implement the provisions stipulated in Article 12 of the Civil Retirement Law and its amendments and Article 173 of the Civil Service System

²²⁹ The system was issued in the Official Gazette No. 5747 dated 30/9/2021

²³⁰ It was published in the Official Gazette No. 5712 dated 15/04/2021

and its amendments for the purpose of extension for employees who have reached the age of sixty years and female employees who have reached the age of fifty-five years. According to the decision, the competent reference is allowed to place an extension of the employee's service after reaching the legal age, year by year, for a period not exceeding five years, if he deems it is in the public interest to keep him in the service, provided that there is no alternative for him, and taking into account that the job that the employee occupies is one of the basic, vital or critical jobs in the department or that the employee has been enrolled in vocational training courses necessary for the sustainability of the work, after consulting the opinion of the Civil Service Council.

In 2021, the Mayor of Amman formed the "Amman-Friendly City for the Elderly" committee, at the initiative of the Municipality and with the membership of a number of ministries, the National Center for Human Rights, the National Council for Family Affairs and civil society organizations, with the aim of achieving an elderly-friendly city by 2024²³¹; by achieving the required international standards by adopting programs and activities that contribute to improving the services provided to them and integrating them more into society. The Municipality prepared an implementation plan for the "Amman is a friendly city for the elderly" project, and a report on the achievements of the committee members for the year 2021 was issued according to international standards for elderly-friendly cities, including the achievements of the National Center for Human Rights in protecting and promoting the rights of the elderly as a member of the committee.

It should be noted that the Greater Amman Municipality granted the elderly (60) years of age and above cards to use the Amman Bus for free. The number of elderly people who obtained this card from July 2019 until the date of 12/31/2021 reached (16882) after operating 135 transport buses equipped for the elderly covering 11 areas of the Municipality of Amman in central, eastern and northern Amman. The center hopes to have a free bus for the elderly in all regions and governorates of the Kingdom.

In 2021, the National Council for Family Affairs launched an analytical study entitled "Assessing the Reality of Elderly Care Homes in Jordan 2021" with the aim of assessing the reality of elderly care homes and identifying the challenges facing care homes on the one hand, and their employees on the other hand. The study included the role of the National Center for Human Rights in protecting and promoting the rights of the elderly, and the center's observations on the reality of the elderly in the residential homes in terms of the physical environment, the rights of the beneficiaries, and the human resources working in the homes. The study touched on the very important challenges that service providers face, including the psychological pressures and risks they are exposed to from time to time as a result of dealing with many elderly people who have psychological problems that lead to abnormal behaviors, in addition to the inability to provide health insurance for workers in elderly care homes.

Synopsis

- The Center affirms the need to continue the national efforts aimed at enacting an international agreement for the elderly to promote and protect the rights of this group.
- In 2021, the elderly care system was issued, and instructions for flexible working hours in the civil service were issued, and the Mayor of Amman formed the "Amman is a friendly city for the elderly" committee.

²³¹ Committee members: The Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health and Endowments, the Family Protection Department, the Institute for Family Health Care, and the International Elderly Assistance Association

At the level of practices, the National Center monitored the conditions of the elderly in residential homes during Covid-19, using visual communication means²³², and recorded the following observations:

- The lack of human resources in most nursing homes, specifically doctors, nurses, social workers and psychologists; in addition to the lack of experience and training of the cadres in most of the homes in dealing with the elderly, which affects the rights of the elderly in the presence of many elderly people who suffer from aging diseases, Alzheimer's and other diseases that require specialized knowledge by the supervisors of the nature of these diseases and the mechanism of dealing with them.
- The poor psychological condition of the beneficiaries of the shelters due to their families neglecting them and not communicating with them on the phone, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic and the feeling of fear of death in addition to their suffering from frustration and despair. This requires providing them with psychological support and the intervention of a psychiatrist in treating the beneficiaries to overcome this situation and encourage them to live positively with their reality.
- Unavailability of health devices and equipment for emergency cases to provide the necessary health care and follow-up, despite the availability of health clinics, health records and files in most of the homes.
- Inappropriateness of the physical environment for some homes for the elderly in terms of: 1) the absence of an outdoor area for sunbathing, even if it is available, it is not equipped for them; 2) the inadequacy of health facilities compared to the number of beneficiaries; 3) the poor availability of auxiliary environmental facilities, such as handles in corridors and sanitary facilities to avoid the risk of slipping; 4) the unavailability of a bell in some rooms for the elderly in the role to meet their needs in emergencies.

It is noteworthy that the number of elderly people benefiting from the nine residential homes is (355) elderly men and women (172 males, 183 females), with an occupancy rate of (66%) of the capacity of all the homes.

The Center also monitored the most important challenges that the elderly suffer from, including:

1. The lack of health and social services for the elderly in remote areas. It is difficult for the elderly living in remote villages and areas to obtain medicines that may often not be available under government insurance coverage and their inability to purchase them from the local market due to their high price.
2. The shortage in medical specialties that deal with the elderly, such as geriatrics and nursing the elderly, in addition to the lack of free home health care.
3. The lack of day clubs in most of the Kingdom's governorates to spend their free time.
4. The poor availability of support devices in public facilities such as roads, bridges and transportation networks, in addition to recreational facilities and their geographical distribution, which impedes the movement of the elderly and their integration and participation in society in a manner befitting their social status.
5. The weak contribution of the private sector in supporting homes for the elderly, and the small number of institutions that reflect the issues of the elderly within their national strategies and plans.

²³² Because it was not possible to carry out field visits, based on defense orders, the Minister of Development decided to prevent visits in order to ensure their safety, as the interviews with the beneficiaries and cadres took place through the use of visual communication technology.

Protecting the elderly from violence

The number of cases of violence against the elderly for the year 2021 was (92), according to statistics issued by the Family Protection Department of the Public Security Directorate.

Synopsis

- The Center observed the residential homes for the elderly and recorded a number of violations that the beneficiaries are exposed to in these homes.
- (92) Cases of violence against the elderly were recorded and reached the Family Protection Department.

Recommendations:

The Center confirms its previous recommendations in the report on the situation of human rights in Jordan, and adds the following:

1. Continue the national efforts aimed at drafting an international agreement on the rights of the elderly.
2. Review national legislation related to the rights of the elderly to protect them and work on preparing a law on the rights of the elderly.
3. Establish a training institute specialized in caring for the elderly and providing it with qualified educational cadres to be a starting point towards providing home services in the future on a volunteer basis.
4. Launching a voluntary initiative to provide the elderly with money or allocate time for them, aiming to achieve social solidarity among citizens and integrate the elderly into the local community.
5. The concerned authorities should prepare national social policies and plans for the elderly in the areas of awareness, education, work, training, the family, and others, including the promotion of a participatory approach aimed at involving the elderly in development and decision-making that concerns them, the involvement of the private sector, the exchange of experiences, and targeted media promotion.
6. The need to increase and support the financial allocations allocated in the budgets of the authorities concerned with the elderly.

Complaint Analysis Annex for 2021

Complaints received by the Center during 2021

The total number of complaints received by the National Center for Human Rights,
according to the rights allegedly violated for the year 2021

Right, the subject matter of the request	No. of complaints	Closed with satisfactory results	Closed without a satisfactory result	Outside the Center's jurisdiction	No evidence of a violation	Complainant's non-cooperation	Reserved complaints	Complaints under Follow-up
Recognition of legal personality (nationality)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Right to freedom of residence and movement	150	46	5	3	8	4	3	81
Right to obtain identification documents	21	5	0	0	0	0	1	15
Right to a fair trial	38	10	2	3	3	0	0	20
Right to personal liberty and security	32	5	0	2	4	1	1	19
Right to decent humane treatment	7	0	0	0	2	1	0	4
right not to be beaten and tortured and to physical integrity	54	5	4	0	2	8	1	22
Right to asylum	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Right to equality and non-discrimination	8	1	0	0	2	1	0	4
Right to life	9	6	1	0	1	0	1	0
Rights of inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers	52	17	3	5	2	3	22	0
Right to freedom of opinion and expression	10	3	0	0	2	0	1	4
The right to vote and run for offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to join parties and trade unions	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Right to form and join associations	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Right to information	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Right to meet	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Right to privacy	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Right to health	20	7	0	3	2	0	0	8

Right to work	30	4	0	2	2	0	0	22
Right to adequate standard of living	16	2	1	0	0	1	0	12
Right to housing	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Right to freedom of belief	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to education	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Right to hold public positions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to intellectual property	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Right to legal assistance	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Right to social insurance	9	1	0	0	4	0	0	4
Labor rights	15	3	0	2	0	2	0	8
Right to ownership	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Right to development	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Child Rights	24	6	3	1	1	0	0	13
Women's rights	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rights of persons with disabilities	10	0	0	1	2	0	0	7
Juvenile rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elderly rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family rights	8	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
The right to a safe environment	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Grand total	548	125	20	26	39	22	42	274
Percentages	%100	%23	%3	%5	%7	%4	%8	%50

Complaints received by the Center during 2021

The number of complaints received by the center in 2021 was (548) complaints, compared to (337) complaints in 2020, including (391) complaints related to civil and political rights, and (110) complaints related to economic, social and cultural rights. The number of complaints related to the rights of groups most in need of protection was (47) only.

The following is a graph showing the number of complaints received by the National Center during the year 2021.

Number of complaints received by the center during 2021

عدد الشكاوى التي استقبلها المركز خلال عام 2021



The outcome of following up on these complaints was as follows:

A satisfactory result was achieved in (125) complaints, at a rate of (23%) of the total number of complaints, and (20) complaints were closed without reaching a satisfactory result, at a rate of (4%) of the total number of complaints. Also, (26) complaints were closed due to the lack of jurisdiction of the center, at a rate of (5%) of the total number of complaints. In addition, (39) complaints were closed due to the lack of evidence of any human rights violation, at a rate of (7%), in addition to the closure of (22) complaints due to the lack of cooperation of the complainant, i.e. (4%). (42) Complaints were filed, at a rate of (8%). While the number of complaints that are still under follow-up reached (274), with a rate of (50%) of the total complaints.

A graph showing the distribution of complaints according to the results achieved during the year 2021

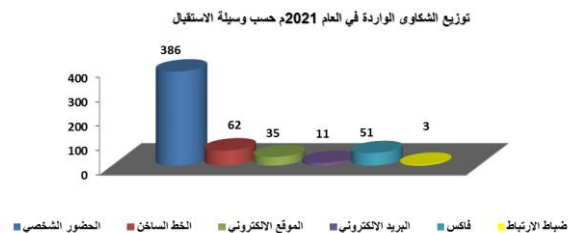


The Center notes an increase in the number of complaints for the year 2021 at a rate of (211) complaints compared to 2020, as the number of complaints related to civil and political rights increased at a rate of (91) complaints compared to 2020, as well as an increase in the number of complaints related to economic, social and cultural rights compared to 2020 at a rate of (21) complaints. The center registered (89) complaints in

this regard during the year 2020, and complaints related to the rights of groups most in need of protection increased by an average of (13) complaints compared to the year 2020.

It should be noted that personal attendance still ranks first in terms of receiving complaints, with a rate of (70%) of the total complaints received by the center. It is also noted that the rate of receiving complaints through hotlines increased by (11%) of the total complaints, and it is also noted that the percentage of receiving complaints via fax increased by (9%), while receiving complaints via the website and e-mail reached (8%). It is also noted that receiving complaints through the liaison officers in the governorates remains in the last rank, with a rate of (2%).

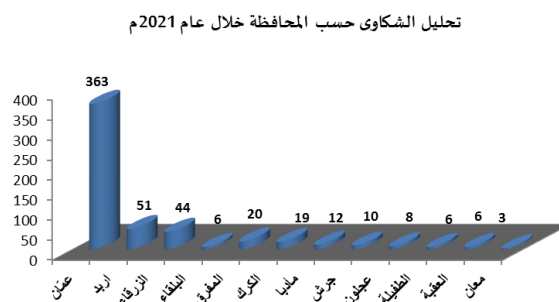
Distribution of complaints received in the year 2021 according to the method of receiving



With regard to the distribution of complaints among the governorates of the Kingdom, it is clear from the graph that the governorates of Amman, Zarqa and Irbid continued to be in the first positions for several years in terms of the number of complaints received by the center. The capital came first in the number of complaints received by the center, with a rate of (66.2%). The Center also confirms that the reason for the repeated leadership of the Capital Governorate in receiving complaints is mainly due to the lack of branches of the Center in the rest of the Kingdom's governorates, the high number of residents of the Capital Governorate compared to other governorates, and the proximity of the Center to individuals residing in the Capital Governorate. Irbid governorate came in second place with a rate of (9.3%) of the total number of complaints, Zarqa governorate came in third place with a rate of (8%) of the total number of complaints, and Ma'raq governorate came in fourth place with a rate of (3.6%). It is noted that complaints received from the southern governorates (Aqaba, Karak, Tafila, and Ma'an) increased by (6.2%) compared to 2020.

The following is a graph showing the complaints received by the center by governorate during the year 2021.

Complaints analysis by governorate during 2021

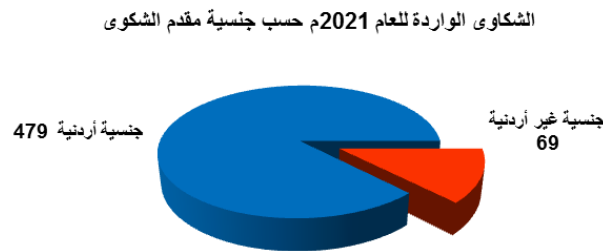


With regard to the defendants, the following figure shows the percentage of complaints according to the government entity complained about. Law enforcement agencies still top the list of complaints received by the center. The percentage of complaints received by the center against the security authorities amounted to 53.4% of the total complaints received by the center, including (153) complaints against the Ministry of Interior, (150) complaints against the Public Security Directorate, and (40) complaints against the General Intelligence Department.

It is also noted that there is an increase in the percentage of complaints filed against some law enforcement agencies (such as the Ministry of Interior and the General Intelligence Department) and some ministries (such as the Ministry of Education) compared to 2020. It is also noted that the percentage of complaints filed against some ministries (such as the Prime Ministry) has decreased. The Center did not record any complaints against some ministries such as (the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Sites, and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources).

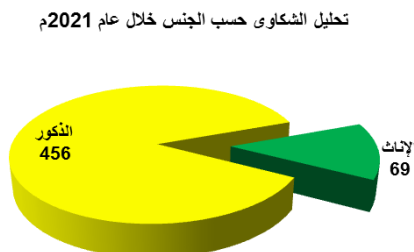
The following graphic also shows the number of complainants according to the nationality of the complainant. The number of complainants holding Jordanian nationality reached (90.8%).

Complaints received for the year 2021, according to the nationality of the complainant



The following figure shows the continued high percentage of complaints filed by males. The rate reached 83% of the total number of complaints received by the Center.

Analysis of complaints by gender during 2021



Mechanisms for following up complaints received by the Center during the year:

1. (540) correspondences were issued to the official and unofficial authorities to follow up the complaints received by the National Center, and (387) letters were received by the General Office of the Center, representing 50% of the Center's general inbox.
2. The Complaints, Follow-up, and Termination of Exceeding Cases Unit submitted (100) legal reviews related to complaints submitted to the unit from the set of complaints received by the Center for the year 2021.
3. (69) Legal advice and services were provided to non-Jordanian nationalities.
4. The Criminal Justice Unit carried out (ninety) visits to reform and rehabilitation centers and temporary detention centers during the year 2021 for the purpose of verifying complaints received by the Center.

Challenges that faced complaints follow-up at the Center during 2021:

The reasons for the high number of complaints that are still being followed up by the Center are due to a number of reasons, most notably:

1. The non-response of the concerned authorities, or the delay in their responses, or the provision of formal responses to these complaints, or the failure to provide the Center with the documents necessary to complete the verification process in some complaints.
2. Complainants' unwillingness to pursue complaints for private reasons and/or their lack of cooperation in some cases.
3. In implementation of the defense orders regulating work during the year 2021 and related to the Covid-19 pandemic, work was at a rate of 50% during the first quarter of the aforementioned year, which prevented the ability to communicate with the defendants and activate the hotline to receive complaints around the clock.
4. The urgent need to rehabilitate liaison officers at ministries and official institutions, and provide them with human rights knowledge and technical skills to deal with complaints, observations and inquiries received by the Center.

Annex on Measuring the Impact of the Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights

Introduction

Proceeding from the mandate of the National Center for Human Rights in its Law No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments, which entrusted the protection and promotion of human rights, and in accordance with the powers granted to it by its law; including protecting and promoting human rights, spreading their culture and monitoring their conditions; preparing an annual report on the human rights situation and working to provide advice and legal assistance to those in need; and taking the necessary administrative and legal measures to address complaints related to violations and abuses of human rights in order to reduce, stop and eliminate their effects; preparing studies and research, providing information, holding seminars and training courses, announcing positions, issuing publications, preparing the necessary reports, establishing a national database for information related to human rights, and other broad goals.

The Center prepared a report on the most important citations and quotations contained in scientific studies and reports, some of which researchers, academics, and national, regional and international organizations relied on the annual report on the situation of human rights issued by the Center; considering that citation or quotation is one of the most important means of scientific research and its indispensable tools in one of the stages of preparing scientific research and objective reports. The rate of citation of scientific research has become one of the most important standards used globally to indicate the importance and value of the research or report.

To highlight the importance of the report, its status, the frequent viewing or use of it by all interested parties, the local and international spread, and the direct and indirect societal impact of the Human Rights Situation Report. After review and desk research, the Center concluded that its annual report constituted a national and international reference for human rights, including the indicators for measuring the rights contained therein, and the objective data it contains obtained according to the competence of the work of the National Institution for Human Rights, and the digital data it contains received from the concerned authorities.

In order to clarify the normative weight of the report on the human rights situation, it was divided into the following:

First: The standard value of the recommendations issued by the center.

Second: The importance of the annual report at the international level.

Third: The importance of the annual report at the national level.

Below are the details of these weights:

First: The normative value of the recommendations of the annual human rights report:

The recommendations issued by the National Center for Human Rights on the state of human rights are one of the legal entitlements entrusted to the work of the Center in accordance with what is stipulated in Paragraph (5) of Law No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments; through the Center's "developing recommendations and providing the necessary suggestions for the protection of human rights in the Kingdom." The National Center aims, through its recommendations, to promote the principles of human rights at the levels of thought and practice in the Kingdom, inspired by the tolerant message of Islam, the values included in the Arab Islamic heritage, the rights stipulated in the constitution, and the principles confirmed by

charters and covenants; in addition to strengthening the democratic approach in the Kingdom, the rule of law, spreading freedoms, ensuring political pluralism, and guaranteeing a right to economic, social and cultural development.

- Political will is one of the national pillars for implementing and respecting human rights in the Kingdom, and evidence of the strengthening of the human rights system. In 2013, royal directives were issued to both the executive and judicial authorities to follow up on the recommendations of the National Center for Human Rights and work to follow up on their implementation. Confirming the seriousness and commitment to implementing the royal directives, successive governments directed ministers and heads of executive agencies and institutions to implement the recommendations issued by the National Center for Human Rights and international and human rights bodies.
- Government initiatives and procedures included the formation of a permanent ministerial committee from the majority of ministries to follow up the recommendations issued by the National Center for Human Rights and work to provide the Office of the General Government Coordinator with the procedures followed to implement the recommendations, in addition to working to provide the Office of the General Coordinator with complaints and observations received in the field of human rights.
- The Government's General Coordinator for Human Rights presented three explanatory reports on government measures to implement the center's recommendations in all civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and the rights of groups most vulnerable to violation.

Second: The importance of the annual report at the international level:

- The Center conducted an analysis of the international recommendations that came from the concluding observations of the recommendations of treaty and non-treaty committees, recommendations of the universal periodic review, resolutions of the Human Rights Council, recommendations included in the reports of the special rapporteurs of international conventions, and calls made in public statements by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or by independent experts in the field of human rights. . The results of the analysis revealed the intersection of many of the recommendations issued by the National Center for Human Rights by 70%.

Third: The importance of the report at the national level:

(a) Citing some of the recommendations contained in the annual report when preparing plans, programs and strategies that followed the human rights approach, for example:

- The Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights 2015-2025, which was based in many of its objectives on the eleventh annual report of the National Center for Human Rights for the year 2014.
- The National Strategy for Women in Jordan for the years 2020-2025.
- National strategy for the elderly 2008.
- The National Policy to Ensure the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the years 2020-2030.
- The National Strategy to Prevent Human Trafficking in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the years 2019-2022.
- The National Strategy for Integrity and Anti-Corruption for the years 2020-2025
- The National Social Protection Strategy for the years 2019-2025
- National strategy to reduce child labor.

- The National Youth Strategy for the years 2019-2025
- The Government's Indicative Executive Program for the Years 2021-2024 / Part 1 - Priorities of Policies, Programs and Projects.

(b) Books, studies and reports:

1. Citizenship and National Identity in Jordan and the Arab World: The Center's 2016 Report, Part of the Right to Vote, Author: Majd al-Din Khamash, p. 130.
2. Human Rights Watch report, Center report for 2005, part of the right to physical integrity, p. 53.
3. The Role of the State in Achieving Sustainable Human Development in Egypt and Jordan: The Center's Report 2006/2007, Ali Abdel-Karim Al-Jabri.
4. Assessment of media development in Jordan: the center's report for the years 2010/2009/2013.
5. The Right to a Fair Trial: Center Report 2003/2004 Partial Right to a Fair Trial, author Muhammad Al-Tarawneh, p. 31
6. The Crime of Human Trafficking in International Conventions and Jordanian Law: (Comparative Study): 2019, author Hassan Al-Amoush, Center Report for the year 2006
7. Elections and democratic transitions in the Arab world: a step forward or a step back? Jerusalem Center for Political Studies, Center Report for the year 2007
8. Laws Governing Partisan Work in Jordan: Requirements for Review and Change / Al-Quds Center for Strategic Studies, Center Report 2007.
9. Clear and Ambitious Civil Society Institutions: Muhammad Zine El Abidine, Center Report for the year 2006
10. The Parliamentary Experience of the Islamic Movement in Jordan 1989-2007: Bakr Al-Budour, Center Report 2009
11. The development of political thought among the political Islam movement in the Arab world: Khaled Dabbas, Center report for the year 2007
12. The Role of Universities in Promoting a Culture of Human Rights in Arab Countries, National Human Rights Committee, p. 143
13. Human Rights in Jordan: Reality and Hope A reading of the report of the National Center for Human Rights 2005
14. Political Islam Movements in the Arab World: Reality and the Future: The Center's 2007 Report.
15. Contemporary Friday Sermons: Muhammad Al-Mufti, Center Report for the year 2008.
16. Fundamentals of Administrative and Economic Development in the Arab World: Ahmed Dudin, Center Report for the year 2003.
17. Human Rights between Text and Application: Muhammad Al-Tarawneh, Center Report 2004.
18. The crime of human trafficking in international conventions and Jordanian law: (a comparative study) Center report for the year 2014.
19. Legal protection for the family between reality and ambition: the Center's 2008 report.
20. Structural adjustment policies and their impact on economic, political and social development. Report of the Center for the years 2003-2010.
21. The Arab Popular Revolution: Its Tools and Objectives: The Center's 2007 Report.
22. Civil Society and Democratic Transformation in the Arab World: Ibn Khaldoun Center/Center Report for the year 2004, p. 44.

23. The Arab Human Development Report for the year 2005: Towards the Advancement of Women in the Arab World: The Regional Office for Arab States, the Center's Report for the year 2005.
24. The Legal Status of the Administrative Ruler in Jordanian Legislation: The Center's 2009 Report.
25. The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Ensuring Human Rights: An Empirical Study, Sheti Seddik Muhammad.
26. Parliamentary and political media: by Ali Kanaan, Dar Al-Yazouri Scientific Center for Publishing and Distribution, Center Report for the year 2020, p. 159
27. The state of Arab prisons: the report of the Arab Organization for Penal Reform for the year 2005 on the conditions of prisons and prisoners in some Arab countries: Jordan, Bahrain, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Yemen: the center's report for the year 2005; Human Rights Report/pg. 40.
28. Legislative authority and public policy making in the parliamentary system (a comparative study), authored by Yazan Khallouq Muhammad Sajid, the center's reports for the years 2007, 2010, p. 365
29. The oversight role of the National Center for Human Rights in Jordan and its impact on political development (2002-2016) PhD thesis, prepared by "Mohammed Khair" Adnan Shehadeh Al-Harasheh.
30. Country status report issued by the Economic and Social Council for the year 2020 under the theme of human rights
31. The reality of the elderly in Jordan: (2017), The National Council for Family Affairs, based on the Center's reports for the years 2015 and 2016.

Foreign references:

1. Assessment of media development in Jordan: based on UNESCO's Media ... Reports of the National Center for Human Rights for the years 2009, 2010, 2013.

Annex on Legislative Developments for the Year 2021

No.	Law	Amended text	Legal opinion based on international conventions
1	Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law No. (24) of 2021.	Paragraph b of Article 9: Committing the criminal acts mentioned in Paragraph (a) of the same Article for the first time shall not be considered a criminal precedent or a security restriction.	<p>The amendment is in line with national legislation (Constitution: Article (6/3) the right to work and the right to an adequate standard of living), and is in line with international standards and reports issued by the World Health Organization, which classified drug users as patients in need of treatment and rehabilitation, not criminals; Likewise, all relevant international conventions emphasized the right of drug users to treatment and rehabilitation, and that there be alternative therapeutic solutions to punishment or during the period of punishment, and the most prominent of these international conventions (the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and the Nelson Mandela Rules).</p> <p>The National Center for Human Rights appreciates this amendment to the law in line with national legislation and human rights and in line with international covenants and reports of the World Health Organization. This amendment gives an opportunity for the perpetrators of these criminal acts who have been tried to start over, free from any stumbling block caused by the security restriction, whether on the legal or social level. Also, to consider the drug addict sick and in need of medical care to reintegrate him into society, which encourages the drug user to seek treatment and prepare him to become a productive member.</p>
2	Law Amending the Prevention of Human Trafficking Law No. (10) of 2021	Amending Paragraph (b) of 3 rd Article, which used to state: for the purposes of Paragraph (a) of this Article. The word “exploitation” means the exploitation of persons in forced labor, slavery, servitude, and the removal of organs, prostitution, or any other form of sexual exploitation.	The Center believes that it is necessary to amend the name of the law, as it includes combating, and not just “preventing” the crime of human trafficking; The concept of combating is more comprehensive and general and includes the concept of prevention, as well as the use of the term combating is more compatible with the conventions ratified by Jordan in this field, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime of 2000; the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the Convention; and the complementary Protocol to Combat the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and

			<p>Air; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which Jordan ratified in 1991, the Convention on Slavery, and the Supplementary Convention for the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, which calls on state parties to take all legislative and other measures to reach the abolition of customs and practices similar to slavery, such as slavery, forced labor, and others.</p> <p>The Center believes that the law has introduced provisions that include the inclusion of organized begging within the concept of the crime of human trafficking; and the possibility of stopping the prosecution of any of the victims and those affected by human trafficking crimes by the Public Prosecution, in addition to establishing a “Human Trafficking Victims Assistance Fund”, which is dedicated to providing legal assistance to victims and those affected by human trafficking crimes, in a way that enhances legal protection from manifestations of exploitation of children in the crime of begging. .</p>
3	Announcement of the tribal jalwa control document issued by a decision of the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (3643) dated 8/10/02021		<p>The Minister of the Interior announced the Tribal Jalwa Control document on 29/09/2021 and the commencement of work on it. The Cabinet Resolution No. (3643) was issued on 8/10/2021 approving the adoption of this document, which included a number of items, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limiting the application of Jalwa to murder cases. 2. Those included in the Jalwa are (the murderer, the murderer’s father, and the murderer’s children) of males only. 3. The duration of the Jalwa is only one year, renewable. 4. The value of blood money is estimated by the Chief Judge. 5. Public servants whose nature of work requires the use of weapons during official duty shall not be prosecuted by clans. 6. The document stressed the prohibition of preventing those involved in the Jalwa from disposing of their movable and immovable funds in accordance

			<p>with the provisions of the law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This amendment came in line with the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution in Article (8) thereof, in addition to Article 3/6. In addition, it is compatible with many rights contained in international law, such as freedom of residence and movement, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to liberty and personal security, and many economic and social rights, including the right to work and the right to education. This amendment was also in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well. <p>The National Center for Human Rights affirms the principle of the rule of law and the principle of personal punishment, which is one of the basic pillars of the state. Thus, the clan Jalwa constitutes a violation of human rights stipulated in the Jordanian constitution and international covenants. It also contradicts the basic principles of penal rules, which is the principle of individual punishment. The clan jilwa is considered a collective punishment for an act committed by a member of the family. It is also considered a violation of divine religions and human values.</p>
4	Municipalities Law No. (41) of 2015, Decentralization Law No. (49) of 2015	Which were merged into one law in Local Administration Law No. (22) of 2021.	<p>First, the two laws were merged into one law under the name of the Local Administration Law, which is characterized by comprehensiveness and accuracy, and its content is consistent with the requirements of Article (121) of the Jordanian Constitution.</p> <p>There are several aspects of the law as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would have been more appropriate for the law to include determining the number of council members for each province, the division of electoral constituencies in the provinces, and the number of seats for each constituency, and not leaving it to a system issued by the prime minister, since these issues are related to the origin of the right and must be regulated by the same law.

			<p>The National Center for Human Rights considers that restricting the freedom of movement and participation of the president and members of the provincial councils mentioned in Article (7/c) is by requiring the minister's prior approval to travel on an official mission or a special leave or to participate in a course or training program; this is legally inconsistent with granting the provincial councils legal personality.</p> <p>In conclusion, the law did not embody the contents of Articles (121 & 120) of the Jordanian Constitution and does not lead to translating the essence of decentralization, which is a form of administrative democracy, that is, popular participation at the local level, which requires recognition of the moral personality of local councils, granting them independence and actual competencies, and controlling the control of the central authority over provincial councils within the scope of administrative tutelage. The Center affirms that the law adopted a system of administrative deconcentration and did not translate its contents into the system of administrative decentralization, which considers administrative deconcentration an intermediate stage between centralization and administrative decentralization, which is limited to delegating the representatives of the central authority in the governorates an actual power that they exercise on behalf of the central authority.</p>
5	The law amending the Labor Law for the year 2020.		<p>Work permits fees for non-Jordanians Regulation No. (3) of 2022 aimed at alleviating the burdens imposed on employers by reducing work permit fees, which is reflected in production costs in economic sectors and activities; Workers were exempted by 80% of the fines resulting from non-renewal of work permits, whose expiry date exceeded 90 days, for non-Jordanians wishing to remain in the Kingdom.</p> <p>This amendment came in line with Jordan's international obligations regarding work and workers and the memorandum of understanding with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.</p>

6	The amended law to guarantee the right to obtain information.	The amended bill has not been issued to date.	<p>Nevertheless, the Center expressed its observations on the draft law as follows: —</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cancellation of the two conditions of legitimate interest and reciprocity for non-Jordanian access to information, which are mentioned in Article (7/b) of the amended draft law. 2. The draft law adopted the principle of proactive disclosure under Article (8), and the center proposed canceling the exclusion of the Armed Forces, General Intelligence, and General Security from this obligation. <p>The Center's proposals were based on Article (15) of the Jordanian Constitution and Article (19) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.</p>
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Annex on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the National Center for Human Rights

Focus Name	Recommendation content	Recommendations implemented		Nature of the recommendations not implemented			Responsible party
		Total implementation	In process	Short term	Long term	Evidence	
The right to life, personal liberty and physical integrity	<p>1. Removing the shortcomings in the criminalization of torture, by making the definition contained in the United Nations Convention against Torture comprehensive and not limited to extracting confession or confession, in addition to considering the crime of torture among the criminal crimes.</p> <p>2. Explicitly stipulating that the crime of torture is not included in amnesty and statute of limitations.</p> <p>3. Explicitly stipulating the right of torture victims to compensation and psychological and physical rehabilitation.</p>		*		*	<p>The law has not been amended in a manner consistent with the recommendation.</p> <p>The law has not been amended to ensure that the crime of torture is not covered by an amnesty or statute of limitations, and the right of victims of torture to compensation has not been stipulated.</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Legislature</p>
The right to access justice and a fair trial	<p>1. Establishing administrative courts in the North and South regions.</p> <p>2. Amendment of the Administrative Judiciary Law No. (27) of 2014, in a manner that ensures the elimination of the conflict between Articles (28 and 34),</p>		*		*	<p>The law has not been amended.</p>	<p>Judiciary</p> <p>Ministry of Justice</p>

	<p>which contributes to eliminating the proper implementation of judgments issued by the administrative judiciary.</p> <p>3. Amendment of Article (54 bis) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 in a manner that guarantees the expansion of the authority in the application of alternative penalties.</p>					<p>The article on alternative penalties has been amended and expanded.</p>	Legislature
<p>The right to freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of the press and media</p>	<p>1. Cancellation of the clause criminalizing “publishing, republishing, or circulating any news about the epidemic that would terrify people, or create panic among them through the media, communication, or social media” in the eighth defense order. This is due to the adequacy of the existing legislative system in dealing with these acts, and given the wide range of expressions contained therein, which contribute to expanding the scope of criminal prosecution and restricting the exercise of the right to freedom of expression.</p> <p>2. Amending the text of Article (149/1) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its</p>		*		*	<p>The Cybercrime Law has not been amended.</p> <p>The Penal Code has not been amended.</p>	Legislature

	<p>amendments, by clearly and explicitly defining the actions that constitute opposition or incitement to opposition to the regime; And the abolition of non-specific and general phrases such as "changing the state's economic or social entity or the basic conditions of society."</p> <p>3. Amending Article 1 of the Prevention of Terrorism Law No. (55) of 2006 and its amendments to ensure that terrorism is defined accurately and clearly, avoiding broad terminology, and reviewing the forms of criminalization mentioned in the same law to ensure that they are formulated accurately.</p> <p>4. Resorting to detention in the narrowest limits and for considerations related to the proper conduct of the investigation and the maintenance of public order, and not considering it the basic rule; because this is a clear and explicit violation of international</p>					<p>The Prevention of Terrorism Act has not been amended.</p> <p>Many individuals have been arrested under the above legal provisions.</p>	
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	standards related to the right to a fair trial and in violation of the provisions of Article (114) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and because of its psychological, material and social effects on the detainee and his family.						
The right to form and join trade unions	<p>1. Conducting union elections and not postponing them by taking public safety measures followed when holding parliamentary elections on 10/11/2020.</p> <p>2. Reviewing all legislation regulating the work of trade unions to enable them to carry out their tasks without interference from any party whatsoever, and in particular granting them independence in approving their internal regulations, and that the public administration has no authority to dissolve trade union councils except to challenge before the court the legitimacy of these councils.</p> <p>3. Removing restrictions on the practice of union work by making amendments to the Jordanian Labor Law that contradict the constitution and labor agreements, most</p>			*			

	<p>notably:</p> <p>(1) Amending Article (116), which granted the Minister of Labor the power to dissolve the union's administrative body and appoint a temporary administrative body.</p> <p>(2) Amendment of Article (100) which granted the General Federation of Trade Unions the right to set the rules of procedure for the federation and the trade unions together. The trade union (whether the general body or the administrative body) was not left with any organizational role for the trade union, as it is only a tool for implementing the instructions of the General Federation of Trade Unions.</p> <p>(3) Amending Article (98) by abolishing all restrictions that deny workers the right to initiate trade unions to defend their interests.</p> <p>(4) Amending Article (2) and Article (44), which deny a group of workers who are not affiliated with trade unions from benefiting from dispute resolution tools and the right to collective bargaining.</p>						
The right to vote, to be elected	Ensuring the exercise of the constitutional right to nomination, election and		*			A new law for the election of the House of Representatives	<p>1. Council of Ministers.</p> <p>2. Ministry of</p>

	representation through the development of the electoral law so that it is more representative, which means the need for consensus between political forces and all segments of society on the form of the required electoral system, in a way that guarantees true and realistic representation of political and civil forces, and guarantees the free expression of the will of voters.					for the year 2022 was approved, as a way out for the Royal Commission to modernize the political system, which includes some members representing political forces. However, this law was not approved by all political forces.	Political Development. 3.The Independent Election Commission
	Making the necessary amendments to the election law so that the election law itself includes a division of electoral districts, and an appendix to it is issued, not to be issued under a special regulation issued by the executive authority.	*				The necessary amendments have been made to the House of Representatives election law, and district divisions have been included in the body of the law.	1. Council of Ministers. 2. Ministry of Political Development. 3.The Independent Election Commission
	Activating the role of law enforcement agencies in controlling electoral crimes and bringing the perpetrators to justice in a way that ensures the proper functioning of the electoral process.		*			Despite the harsh punishment for perpetrators of electoral crimes in the election law, the role of law enforcement agencies in controlling these crimes must be activated and they should have a greater role in controlling electoral crimes.	1. Public Security Directorate. 2. Judicial Council. 3. Independent Election Commission
	Developing voting mechanisms to ensure		*	*		The right of expatriates,	1. The Independent

	the right of expatriates, patients, and arrested persons who have not been issued final rulings to exercise their right to vote.					patients, and arrested persons who have not been subject to final decisions to vote has not been included in the new election law.	Election Commission.
	Enabling citizens to access voter lists, review them to verify their integrity, and displaying them electronically in a format that enables citizens to browse them more easily.		*			They are displayed electronically on the Commission's website, but the display process must allow citizens to browse and review them easily.	1. The Independent Election Commission.
	Preparing and equipping all polling and counting centers and providing the necessary facilities to ensure that persons with disabilities have the right to vote.		*			Some polling and counting centers have been equipped with the necessary facilities to ensure that persons with disabilities have the right to vote.	1. The Independent Election Commission. 2. The Supreme Council for Persons with Disabilities.
	Putting special cameras and screens in the primary collection centers to display the contents of the lists of the results of the collection of votes in the polling and counting centers.		*			Cameras have been installed in the initial counting centers and need to be placed in the final assembly centers as well.	1. The Independent Election Commission.
The right to form associations	1. Restricting the dissolution of associations either by a decision issued by its general assembly or by virtue of a judicial ruling. 2. Repeal Article (19) of the Associations Law, which gives the		* * *	*			Parliament

	<p>competent minister the right to appoint a temporary administrative body in the event that the reasons mentioned in the Associations Law are available, and refer the matter to the judiciary if such reasons are available.</p> <p>3. Promoting the values of democracy and good governance for the work of associations and non-profit companies.</p> <p>4. Contribution of the private sector to support associations and non-profit companies for the development of the local community based on social responsibility.</p>		*		*		licensed associations
The right to form and join political parties	Establishing an independent body for party affairs to manage the affairs of all parties.	*		*			1. The Independent Election Commission.
	Incorporating the legal provisions related to the financial contribution to support political parties in the Parties Law, and not issuing it under a special system.		*	*			Legislature
	Forming a national dialogue committee to activate the role of political parties in order to review legislation governing political life in one legislative package.	*					
	Enhancing the parties' capacities for political participation, including raising awareness of the laws	*					

	and regulations related to this matter.						
	Promoting partisan program work, and in order to achieve the principles of transparency and integrity, political parties must announce their electoral programs and all their activities, publish their administrative and financial reports, and update their website data, which advances the state, its institutions, and the principle of the rule of law.		*	*			Licensed political parties
The right to a safe environment	<p>1. Taking into account the social, economic and environmental dimensions in an integrated manner when drawing up environmental policies.</p> <p>2. The necessity of paying attention to the process of recycling waste of all kinds and disposing of it at the level of the Kingdom in the best and most effective ways.</p> <p>3. The need to intensify voluntary and awareness campaigns to reduce the phenomenon of fires in the summer by intensifying control over summer camps and raising awareness of the dangers of setting fires inside forests.</p>		*		*	<p>The Ministry of Environment has been working since 2021 and 2022 to implement the content of this recommendation, even partially, by issuing:</p> <p>— The system of access to environmental genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use for the year 2021.</p> <p>— Instructions for controlling the use, import and re-export of controlled substances under the</p>	Ministry of Environment

						<p>Montreal Protocol and its amendments for the year 2021.</p> <p>—</p> <p>Environmental Information and Monitoring System for Waste Management for the year 2020.</p>	
Right to development	-Including a constitutional text that guarantees the right to development in accordance with the human rights standards and foundations contained in international human rights standards.		*	*			Legislature
	-Continuing the efforts of the role of the Supreme National Committee for Sustainable Development for the purposes of implementing the sustainable development agenda, and aligning this with what is stated in the national documents.		*				
	-The need to expedite updating and publishing the data on the website of the Department of Statistics for the national platform for sustainable development indications.		*				
	-Finding or creating productive development projects, especially in poverty pockets and remote areas, to contribute to improving and driving		*				

	economic growth. This reflects positively on the work of the right to development and the improvement of the human rights situation in general.						
The right to health	The Center stresses the need to benefit from all human resources in the public health sector to provide integrated health services to patients without any discrimination according to the type of health insurance and the service provider.		*			Lack of medical and nursing staff working in the public health sector. Repeated attacks on medical and nursing staff, failure to receive adequate health services,	Ministry of Health
	-The Center stresses the need for the government to study the health insurance of all Jordanian citizens, whether through a national institution that collects all government insurance funds, or by securing all citizens within the existing health insurance network, without the citizens incurring any additional financial cost.		*			Implementation of a study by the Council of Ministers in cooperation with the Jordanian Association for Health Insurance and other bodies to study the possibility of collecting all government insurance funds, and access to comprehensive health insurance for citizens.	—Ministry of Health (Health Insurance Department) —Social Security Corporation -Some of the concerned institutions, for example: King Hussein Cancer Center
	-Increasing training and qualification for doctors and nurses working in the public sector on the mechanism of dealing with emerging diseases and epidemics, and not		*			Training health personnel for a period of (6) months on monitoring infectious diseases and emerging	Ministry of Health

	limiting the training and qualification process to specific specialties.					<p>epidemics.</p> <p>Increase the number of people who received training.</p> <p>Creating several mechanisms to implement infection control instructions in light of the Covid-19 pandemic in hospitals and health centers.</p>	
	The need to provide environmental facilities and reasonable accommodations in various hospitals and health centers for people with disabilities and the elderly		*			<p>Providing some environmental facilities in some health centers and hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health, but they lack a lot of additional work, for example but not limited to the need to provide the following: floor indications for people with visual disabilities, elevators, and parking spaces inside all corridors of hospitals and health centers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Health. - The Ministry of Public Works. - The Supreme Council for Persons with Disabilities. - Organizations concerned with persons with disabilities.
Women's rights	Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the		*		*	Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention. Amend the discriminatory provisions	Jordanian government

	amendment of discriminatory texts against women such as the Penal Code, the Personal Status Law, the Nationality Law, the Civil Service System, and others, to align with the constitutional principle of equality and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.					contained in the report.	
	Appointing women judges in the Sharia judiciary, appointing female employees in the Sharia courts and the Fatwa Department, and raising the percentage of women's participation in the judiciary and academic staff in universities.				*	Presence of women in the Sharia judiciary, Sharia courts, and the Fatwa Department. Appointing women on university boards of trustees, with a participation rate of 30%.	Sharia judiciary
	Supporting the economic and social empowerment of women, providing them with job opportunities, and developing their skills in line with the labor market needs, particularly in remote areas.		*		*	Increasing the percentage of women's participation in the public and private sectors.	Ministry of Labor
	Activating the application of the Convention in the Jordanian courts, and this requires spreading awareness among judges, lawyers and citizens to ensure the primacy of the Convention over national laws and its applicability to direct application and the		*		*	The issuance of all judicial rulings that include the primacy of the Convention over the laws. - Raise awareness among judges, lawyers and citizens of the	Legislature

	possibility of its enforcement within the national legal framework.					Convention to ensure the primacy of the Convention over the law.	
	Amending the 2016 Parliament Election Law to ensure increased participation of women in Parliament.	Not implemented			*	The law was amended without increasing the number of women in the House of Representatives /quota.	
Child Rights	Expediting the issuance of the Child Rights Law and completing its constitutional stages.		*		*	The Council of Ministers approved the Child Rights Bill. It was referred to the House of Representatives in the current appeal session.	
	Jordan's accession to the third protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding complaints and communications.	Not implemented			*	The indication for measuring the implementation of this recommendation is Jordan's accession to the third protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.	
	Amending relevant legislation to protect children's rights, such as the Penal Code, the Personal Status Law, the Nationality Law, the Law on Service of Personnel in the Armed Forces, and others.	Not implemented					
	Activating the role and tasks of the aftercare department in the Ministry of Social Development to work on implementing		*	*		Issuing instructions for the foundations of the juvenile aftercare system issued	

	<p>aftercare programs for child beggars and protecting them from recurrence, and providing the homes of juvenile education and rehabilitation with psychologists.</p>					<p>under the juvenile aftercare system No. (67) of 2016, published on page 1601 of Official Gazette No. 5715 dated 5/2/2021.</p>	
	<p>Enhancing the application of alternatives to custodial sentences and the restorative justice approach, activating remote trials, and reviewing legislation related to the use of this technology.</p>		*	*		<p>On May 19, 2022, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Ministry of Social Development, the National Council for Family Affairs, and the National Company for Training and Employment, according to which executive roles will be organized and defined; to support activating the replacement of penalties with non-custodial measures in line with what was stipulated in the Juvenile Law by obligating the juvenile child to serve for the public benefit in a public utility or a voluntary civil society institution, or to join vocational training in a</p>	

						specialized center.	
Elderly rights	Enacting a special law to regulate the rights of the elderly.		Not implemented		*	Issuance of the law in the Official Gazette.	
	The need to amend the labor law to include the supreme interest of the elderly with regard to their right to work.		*		*	Creating a law amending the Labor Law that gives the elderly their right to work.	
	The need to financially support nursing homes (the charitable sector) by deducting part of the profits of profit-making institutions and companies on a regular basis for the purposes of continuing to support this segment of society.		Not implemented		*	Regular financial support for nursing homes.	
	The need for the Ministry of Health to expand its services to include home care, and to appoint doctors who specialize in geriatrics.		Not implemented		*	The need for geriatric doctors to be present in all government hospitals. Provide home care service from the Ministry of Health.	
	Training workers in the Ministry of Social Development in shelters on the rights of the elderly and how to deal with them.	*			*	All workers in shelters have knowledge of the rights of the elderly and are able to deal with them.	
	The need to rehabilitate shelters with programs that enable the elderly to engage in healthy sports and vital activities that enhance their interaction and empower them physically, physically and psychologically.	*			*	All shelters have sports, health and vital activities that enhance the involvement of all elderly people in society.	

The right to work	Activate the role of committees formed under the Labor Law and the powers of labor inspectors to monitor establishments and monitor the conditions of their workers on a regular basis to verify the extent to which health and safety procedures are observed and the extent to which they enjoy the rights prescribed to them by law.		*	*		In 2020, approximately (90,723) inspection visits were carried out to (64,027) institutions, while the number of visits decreased in 2021 to (76,167), which included (45,200) institutions.	Ministry of Labor
	Directing young people towards education and vocational training and linking it to the requirements of the labor market, which is considered an entry point for development and contributes to reducing unemployment and improving the lives of citizens.		*		*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of awareness sessions for young people about available job opportunities. - Number of training workshops in the field of pre-employment skills. —The percentage of those enrolled in vocational education and training compared to the percentage of those enrolled in academic education. - Extent of implementation of the sustainable development goals. — Results of the National 	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Universities, Civil Society Institutions, Private Sector; Ministry of Youth, Trade Unions; Chambers of Commerce and Industry, International Organizations.

						Employment Strategy (2011-2020) and the percentage of beneficiaries. - Level of poverty.	
	Activating economic growth, which is reflected in providing job opportunities and reducing the unemployment rate, which requires activating the role of the local private sector and stimulating investment that will improve the quality of life of citizens.		*		*	The Ministry of Labor, civil society organizations, the private sector, trade unions, chambers of commerce and industry, and international organizations.	
	Strengthening the legal system for integrated social protection for workers, especially groups working in the informal sector.		*		*	Not including all categories of workers in social security. The percentage of informal workers is 48% of the total number of workers in the Kingdom. This percentage has increased, as nearly (110) thousand workers lost their jobs during the Covid-19 pandemic and headed to the unregulated labor market.	Social Security, the Ministry of Labor and the private sector
Rights of persons with disabilities	Develop the necessary regulations to implement the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law No. (20) of 2023, and take		*		*	Issuing a system for the employment of persons with disabilities based on the principle of	Ministry of

	<p>measures to guarantee persons with disabilities, especially women, on the basis of parity, equality and non-discrimination.</p> <p>Develop a national strategic plan that includes plans and programs responsive to emergency conditions such as the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, and exceptional circumstances to ensure the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Involve people with disabilities in developing policies that include them in education, political and public participation, and provide environmental facilities, facilitative arrangements, and accessibility.</p>					<p>equal opportunities based on the provisions of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Article (13) of the Labor Law.</p> <p>Issuing a guide to work procedures for safety and health prevention measures to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus.</p> <p>Involving a person with a disability in the royal committee to modernize the political system and amend the constitution.</p> <p>Involving those wishing to monitor the municipal elections from the National Center for Human Rights.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health's budget has been raised to provide external support to the Ministry of Health to combat the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic.</p>	<p>Labor.</p> <p>Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health, Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>The Supreme Council for Persons with Disabilities, and all ministries and institutions.</p>
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	<p>Increasing the percentage of spending on the health sector and paying attention to the health status of children with disabilities in light of the high rate of poverty and unemployment, and attracting specialized medical personnel.</p> <p>Intensify community awareness to identify the different types of disabilities and their needs for students with visual impairments to live with, how to integrate them into society and the labor market, advance and care for people with disabilities better, raise awareness of forms of bullying and its seriousness through community awareness, and train people with</p>		<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>			<p>The Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities to train families of people with disabilities residing in shelters.</p> <p>Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Development.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p> <p>National Center for Human Rights, Higher Council for Persons with</p>
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	<p>disabilities residing in shelters.</p> <p>Follow-up and control the budgets and plans of all sectors, governmental and private, and the importance of integrating persons with disabilities into these plans and budgets.</p> <p>Establishing a national register of persons with disabilities (an identification card).</p> <p>The need to enroll students with disabilities who have dropped out of education in regular studies.</p>		*		* * *		<p>Disabilities, Ministry of Social Development.</p> <p>Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Interior.</p> <p>Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior.</p>
<p>The right to nationality, residence, movement and asylum</p>	<p>The need to reconsider the right of Jordanian women to grant nationality to their children.</p> <p>Accelerate the work of the National Committee for the Return of National Numbers, which is chaired by the Minister of Interior, to decide on all files submitted to it, especially those related to stateless persons.</p>	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The work of the committee ceased in 2021</p>	*			<p>The Nationality Law has not been amended, nor has Jordan's reservation to Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women been lifted.</p>	

	Intensifying diplomatic efforts to urge the international community to fulfill its obligations towards the refugees in a way that guarantees that Jordan will not be the host country's unilateral efforts to provide relief to the refugees.	Not implemented	*				
The right to peaceful assembly	<p>Amending Articles (2, 3, 4, 7) of the Open Meetings Law No. (7) of 2004 and its amendments to be in line with the Jordanian constitution and international human rights standards, according to what is contained in the body of the above axis (the right to peaceful assembly).</p> <p>Follow legal controls and international standards related to the use of force by persons entrusted with law enforcement.</p>		*	*		<p>The Public Meetings Act has not been amended.</p> <p>The Center noted the disproportionate use of force in some cases.</p>	<p>Parliament</p> <p>Public Security Directorate</p>
Right to adequate standard of living	<p>1. Applying the provisions of Article (111) of the Constitution with regard to imposing progressive taxes, taking into account the ability of citizens and their ability to perform and achieve social justice.</p> <p>2. Combating tax evasion within legislative and executive mechanisms that limit this phenomenon, and reduce the sales tax</p>		*	*			<p>Parliament</p> <p>Ministry of Finance</p>

	<p>rate on basic goods and services, especially food ones.</p> <p>3. Intensifying food quality control, and amending relevant legislation to ensure that food product quality is not tampered with.</p>		*		*		Food and Drug Administration
Cultural rights	<p>The urgent need for a good electronic infrastructure in all cultural institutions to ensure the continuity and sustainability of cultural activity in times of crisis.</p> <p>Training and qualifying employees in all cultural institutions on an ongoing basis on how to use electronic systems.</p> <p>Increasing financial allocations for cultural institutions in order to enable them to implement a greater number of cultural projects.</p>		<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>	*		<p>There is training for employees, but it needs to be expanded further, in addition to expanding the electronic infrastructure of cultural institutions.</p>	<p>Ministry of Culture</p> <p>Ministry of Finance</p>
The right to education	<p>Evaluating the distance education experience during the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact to prepare all parties (educational staff, students and parents) in the future in the event of a return to the distance or blended learning system.</p> <p>Forming a committee of specialists and experts to develop the distance education process during the</p>						

<p>Covid-19 pandemic; finding a clear, consistent and specific compensatory system to bridge the gap caused by the absence of face-to-face education, provided that such a system takes into account the measurement of educational loss among students, its impact on them, and its comprehensiveness to cover the loss of basic materials in terms of knowledge, competencies, and skills for all educational stages in schools and universities during the subsequent summer semesters.</p> <p>Adopting blended education in universities is a strategic choice, emphasizing the need to overcome all structural challenges related to it, taking into account the conditions of the less fortunate groups and the needs of people with learning disabilities and empowering them in this context, and not leaving those who are financially unable to their circumstances and making sufficient effort to cover their needs for distance education. This is after conducting field, statistical and objective studies to determine the size and</p>						
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	<p>location of these groups and how to overcome their difficulties.</p> <p>Providing psychological support services and technical and environmental support for people with disabilities in schools and universities.</p> <p>Unifying the foundations for accepting students in universities, provided that this is preceded by the approval of a specific and applicable time plan that guarantees the provision of educational opportunities among school students by region and governorate, in order to ensure that citizens enjoy the right to education in equality, by giving development in the governorates and remote areas greater attention.</p> <p>The need to direct national efforts towards stimulating the trend towards technical education and continuing education.</p>						
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