The National Center for Human Rights

Summary of

The 18th Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the Year 2021

National Center for Human Rights

Amman

2022

Introduction:

The Report is one of the tools for the national human rights assessment and comes as a legal entitlement under Article (12) of the National Center for Human Rights Law No. (51) for the year 2006 and its amendments. The 18th annual report on the situation of human rights for the year 2021 provides a diagnosis of the reality of human rights in Jordan during the year 2021.¹

The 18th Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights for the Year 2021 includes three main areas:

First area: Civil and political rights;

Second area: Economic, social and cultural rights;

Third area: The rights of groups most in need of protection.

In addition to four annexes, namely: an annex on statistics on the number of complaints received by the Center during the year 2021, an annex on the implementation of the recommendations of the National Center for Human Rights, an annex on legislative developments during the year 2021, and an annex on measuring the impact of the 17th Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation for the Year 2021.

¹ The introduction to the 18th annual report on the human rights situation dealt with a comprehensive diagnosis of the reality of human rights in light of the developments that the Kingdom witnessed during the year 2021, and the center's report for the years 2020-2021 dealt with the impact of Covid-19 on related rights.

* Area of Civil and Political Rights:

During the year 2021 AD, the Center received (391) complaints related to civil and political rights distributed among (9) main rights, namely: the right to life, liberty and physical integrity, the right to access justice and a fair trial; the right to nationality, residence, movement and asylum, the right to vote and run for office, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the press, the media and access to information, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to establish and join political parties, the right to found and join trade unions, the right to establish and join associations.²

1. The right to life, personal liberty and integrity

The year 2021 witnessed the implementation of no death penalty, and during the same year the State Security Court and the Grand Criminal Court issued (31) death sentences.

Also, during the year 2021, the Center did not monitor any legislative development on the legal system's fight against torture, and the three main problems persisted, which are related to the failure to criminalize torture as a misdemeanor crime as a general principle; there was a possibility that this crime could be covered by statutes of prescription and amnesty. The subject-matter jurisdiction in investigating and prosecuting cases of torture was given to the police public prosecution and the special courts, in addition to the deficiencies in the legal framework to compensate victims of torture.

Statistics related to complaints of torture and ill-treatment:

For the third year in a row, the Police Public Prosecution has not registered any complaint related to the rights of employees of the Public Security Directorate related to complaints of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees in the initial detention centers.

Cases of ill-treatment committed against inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers for the year 2021 amounted to (55) cases; (32) people were prevented from being tried by the Police Public Prosecutor, while (17) cases were tried before the unit commander and (6) cases are still under investigation. In 2020, they amounted to (42) cases, of which (35) were prevented from being tried by the police prosecutor, while (7) were tried before the unit commander.

Complaints received in 2021 by the National Center for Human Rights from citizens related to allegations that they or their families were subjected to torture and ill-treatment at the hands of law enforcement officials and various security departments, whether in preliminary investigation centers or reform and rehabilitation centers, or during periodic visits conducted by the Center's delegates to those places, or through complaints received through copiers, e-mails, personal attendance, and others, were (61) complaints that included allegations of torture and ill-treatment at the hands of law enforcement officials and various security departments, compared to (37) complaints during the year 2020.

- Administrative Detention

The Center indicates that the number provided by the Public Security Directorate for the administrative detainees for the year 2021, amounting to (2258), is a very small number

² Detailed figures for the distribution of complaints on rights are included in the Annex on complaints, which is included in the executive abstract of the Report.

compared to (21,322) administrative detainees in the year 2020, and (37,853) administrative detainees in the year 2019.

Conditions of temporary detention centers and reform and rehabilitation centers:

- Temporary Detention Centers

In the year 2021, the Center carried out (30) visits to the initial arrest and temporary detention centers. Through those visits and complaints received by the Center, it became clear that the violation continued by preventing detainees' families from visiting them and not allowing the detainees sometimes to contact the outside world, by not facilitating telephone contact with their families to inform them of their whereabouts; it also became evident the need for continuous maintenance of toilets, especially in centers that witness overcrowding and gathering to transfer wanted persons from the regions; in addition to continuing to rely on the criminal precedence of the detainee to arrest him for long periods of time 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 comprehensive maintenance work that took place in some temporary detention centers, including the secret transfer of wanted persons.

- Reform and Rehabilitation Centers:

The National Center for Human Rights made (60) visits to reform and rehabilitation centers in 2021. The number of people who were placed in reform and rehabilitation centers for the year 2021 was (18,954) compared to (17,708) in the year 2020 and (119,708) in the year 2019, while the absorptive capacity of these centers is (13,35) — and this number does not represent the number of inmates at one time, rather, it includes continuous entries and exits throughout the year—, which negatively affects the conditions of inmates and their rights in all fields.

2. The right to justice and fair trial

The year 2021 has witnessed limited legislative amendments that have a direct impact on the right to a fair trial, most notably: Law amending the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act No. 24 of 2021, by stipulating that the commission of some criminal acts mentioned in Article (9/a) shall not be considered as a criminal precedent or restriction. In addition, the Holy Synod in Jerusalem approved the Code of Principles for Litigation and Procedures before Ecclesiastical Courts, which is the first law that regulates procedures before Ecclesiastical Courts.

Practically, during the year 2021 AD, the Center witnessed an expansion in the use of modern technologies in litigation, starting with receiving documents and evidence related to cases electronically, and ending with holding remote trial hearings using modern electronic means, in a way that guarantees speedy settlement of cases and reduces mixing between judges and litigants. Despite this development, the Center has faced tangible challenges in the experience of holding trials remotely, which are mentioned in the body of the Report based on the field study of the reality of the Kingdom's courts.

The Center also set defense orders issued in the year 2021 AD that have an impact on the right to access justice and fair trial guarantees, the most prominent of which are: the twenty-

eighth defense order issued on 3/28/2021 AD, which aimed to reduce overcrowding in reform and rehabilitation centers, to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in them, and to take into account the financial and economic conditions resulting from the epidemic. The postponement of the implementation of the debtor's imprisonment decisions issued in accordance with the provisions of Article (22) of the Execution Law and its amendments has been extended. In this regard, the Center affirms the commitment contained in Article 2, Paragraph (3) 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.

In terms of administrative litigation, the Center reaffirms the observations made in its 17th annual report on the situation of human rights for the year 2020, which referred to the challenges that limit access to administrative litigation, the high cost of litigation, and the problematic litigation related to the implementation of the cancellation decisions issued by the Administrative Court.

The Report also presented a set of recommendations that constitute a solution to the practical challenges in the Kingdom's courts, which came based on field monitoring, including: providing the courts with additional vehicles and more staff from the category of office workers; the need for periodic maintenance of elevators; the need to allocate dedicated liaison officers to implement community punishment; and strengthening the network for the remote trial system. In particular, the Center recommends that the High Criminal Court be supplemented with an additional judicial body in order to reduce work pressure.

During the year 2021 AD, the Center witnessed a decrease in the number of judicial detainees, as it reached (20,070) detainees, compared to (35,052) detainees in the year 2020. In this context, the Center reaffirms the need to adhere to the legal controls for detention contained in Article (114) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

On the other hand, the year 2021 witnessed an expansion in the application of alternative penalties, as the number of rulings issued by the regular judiciary regarding alternative penalties reached (302) rulings, compared to (286) rulings in the year 2020.

The Center indicates that one of the most prominent realistic legal obstacles to the right to litigation is the formal restriction to stop litigating a person because of the nature of his profession or job. In this context, it indicates that the Center had received, in the year 2022, two complaints, which included requests to grant a criminal litigation permit, 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.

3. The right to nationality, residence, movement and asylum

- Right to nationality:

During the year 2021, the Center witnessed the continuation of the discriminatory legal problem in the Jordanian Nationality Law No. (6) of 1954. The year 2021 also witnessed the continuation of granting benefits and facilities to the children of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians, including: the right to education in public schools for the primary and secondary stages, and 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 investment in accordance with the laws in force.

The year 2021 did not witness any developments on the issue of (stateless persons). In this regard, the Center recommends continuing the committee's efforts to solve the problem of naturalization applications related to "stateless persons" in Mafraq Governorate. During the year 2021, the Center did not receive any complaints related to the withdrawal of national numbers from any Jordanian citizen.

- Right to residence and movement:

The year 2021 witnessed the adoption of the Clan Forced Relocations "Jalwa" Document. The Center believes that the issuance of this document is an important step in the right direction to reduce the phenomenon of "Clan Forced Relocations" as a prelude to ending it. The Center has witnessed negative repercussions of the Clan Forced Relocations on Jordanian families and all aspects of life. Among the most prominent 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."

- Right to asylum:

During the year 2021, the burden placed on the Jordanian state as a result of the repercussions of asylum continued, despite the voluntary return of a number of Syrian refugees³. This led to the community feeling the negative effects of the size of the asylum in the areas of health, employment, education and infrastructure in particular.

During the year 2021, the Center monitored the reality of refugee camps in the Kingdom, as they still suffer from problems of 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. Likewise, there is problem of water, which still constitutes a huge burden for the refugees; despite the fact that the administration, in partnership with UNICEF, established a water distribution network, the refugee camps still lack water supply to caravans for refugees. There is also the problem of sanitation and toilets, which is the most prominent problem, as the toilets are still shared among the (caravans) of the refugees.

4. Right to vote and run for office

The year 2021 did not witness any legal entitlement to hold parliamentary elections. On the other hand, both the municipal elections and the decentralized elections were scheduled to be held in the year 2021 according to the legal entitlement for that, before they were postponed to the year 2022.

³ (94,342) Syrian refugees voluntarily returned to their Country in 2021.

The year 2021 witnessed a set of amendments to some laws regulating the right to vote, including: Local Administration Law No. (22) of 2021, which came as a replacement for Municipalities Law No. (41) of 2015, and Decentralization Law No. (49) of 2015, and the Municipality of Amman Law No. (18) of 2021.

The Center's report for the year 2021 included a set of observations and recommendations on the contents of these two pieces of legislation within the area of the right to vote and run for office. The most prominent of these recommendations are: the need to make the necessary amendments to the Local Administration Law to ensure the election of members of the provincial and municipal councils in full, and to make the necessary amendments to the Amman Municipality Law to guarantee the right of citizens residing in the capital, Amman, to elect its mayor and all members of the Municipality Council.

On the legislative level related to the right to vote and run for office, the Center followed up on the outputs of the Royal Committee for the Modernization of the Political System with its conception of the election law for the House of Representatives. It presented a set of recommendations, most notably: guaranteeing the right of every Jordanian to vote for everyone who reaches the age of eighteen solar years on polling day and not before (90) days of polling; the need to reduce the age of candidacy to be for those who have reached the age of twenty-five solar years on polling day; deleting the phrases that represents discrimination and derogation from the rights of persons with disabilities wherever they are mentioned in the law, such as the terms (crazy, or insane) and replacing them with the term (legal capacity); working to include in the election law the division of electoral cycles and issuing them as an appendix to the law and not issuing them according to a regulation; and reducing the amount of candidacy fees in half; in addition to working to "take into account the representation of women" when forming and appointing chairs and members of the election and sorting committees. The Center also repeatedly recommended guaranteeing the right of expatriates, patients, and arrested persons who have not been subject to final rulings that prevent them from exercising their right to vote in accordance with the provisions of the law.

5. Right to freedom of opinion, expression, press, media, and access to information

At the legislative level, the year 2021 witnessed the continuation of the implementation of the Eighth Defense Order issued on 15/04/2020 AD, despite the Center's recommendation that it should be reviewed and deleting the clause that includes criminalizing "publishing, republishing, or circulating any news about the epidemic that would terrify people, or cause panic between them through the means of information, communication, or the means of social media", in addition to introducing amendments to a group of regulations from Media Commission⁴. The Center announced its position on these amendments through a statement issued on 26/08/2021, in which it called for the necessity of withdrawing the amendments, addressing any issues contained in their text, and coming up with 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 are also compatible with relevant national legislation. At the same time, the Center warned

⁴ The regulation related to fees and payments for licensing printing presses, publishing houses, distribution houses, studies and research houses, the houses of measuring public opinion, translation houses and offices of advertising and periodical publications, the regulation of licenses of broadcasting and radio and television rebroadcasting.

against the restrictions on public rights and freedoms. Accordingly, the procedures for approving the aforementioned amendments were halted by the Media Commission in August 2022.

In light of the Center's monitoring of the reality regulating the right to freedom of opinion, expression, press and media, the 18th annual report on the situation of human rights for the year 2021 recommended the necessity of preparing a national strategy for media aimed at advancing the status of media freedoms and providing a legislative framework that guarantees freedom of the press and media.

As for practice, the Center noticed during the year 2021 the continued arrest of some individuals for expressing their opinion, and in particular it found the persistence of problems related to the application of the text of Article (11) of the Electronic Crimes Law No. (27) of the year 2015, as the total of these cases reached (4030), compared to (2140) cases in the year 2020. The Center also examined the dealings of the Electronic Crimes Unit at the Public Security Directorate with electronic crimes related to hate speech, as the Unit dealt during the year 2021 with (20) cases in this framework.

- Freedom of the press, audiovisual media, and news websites:

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

It should be noted that the year 2021 witnessed the following with regard to audiovisual media and news websites:

- The total licensed electronic publications until the end of 2021 reached (131) publications after (12) publications were licensed; (3) electronic publications were blocked for not completing the licensing procedures in accordance with the provisions of Article (1/a/49) of the Press and Publication Law No. (8) for the year 1998 and its amendment 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, based on the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation for Licensing and Monitoring Audiovisual Works as amended No. (63) for the year 2004, by deleting a scene that does not comply with public morals.
- The number of books that entered the Kingdom amounted to (1,494,000) books, of which the Commission monitored (478) titles, while reservations were made on (60) titles that included violations of the provisions of the Press and Publication Law in force and other relevant legislations.

- Publication ban decisions:

During the year 2002, the Center dealt with the issuance of a number of publication ban decisions. In this context, the Center affirms that publication bans prevent individuals from obtaining information, widen the trust gap between individuals and the authorities, and open the door wide for fraud.

- Right to access information:

The number of complaints received by the Information Council during 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 reached (59) entities out of (124) entities, of which (36) entities received requests for information and responded and (23) entities did not receive any requests. The total number of requests to obtain information submitted to the aforementioned entities amounted to (3834) requests; (3550) requests were responded, while (284) requests were rejected, compared to (2300) requests in the year 2020, as (2135) requests were responded, and (165) requests were refused. In 2019, the number of requests reached (8534), of which (99) were rejected.

The Center calls for the need to proceed with the procedures for approving the draft amending the law guaranteeing the right to access information, which is still with the House of Representatives, and not to expand the information classified as confidential. The Center explained the lack of clear and accurate practical criteria and classification procedures from the concerned authorities.

6. Right to peaceful assembly

The year 2020 did not witness any amendment to the Open Meetings Law. In this regard, the Center reaffirms the necessity of amending the Open Meetings Law No. (7) of 2004 and its amendment, given that some of its provisions preclude the exercise of citizens' enjoyment of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards. In particular, the Center recommended the amendment of Article (2) related to the definition of an open meeting from the aforementioned law.

The year 2021 also witnessed a group of public protests, sit-ins, strikes and marches, by workers in public and official institutions, trade unions and others. The Center refers to its firm position based on the Jordanian constitution, international human rights standards, and the national legal system that prohibits the preemptive banning of an event; and it considered this an unjustified restriction and an extrajudicial practice that would prejudice the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

7. Right to form and join political parties

The year 2021 witnessed a fundamental development related to party work, as part of the outputs of the work of the Royal Committee for the Development of the Political System. A text that allows parties to participate in the parliamentary elections through lists limited to party candidates, was created, which contributes to the development of parliamentary work and strengthening the partisan work system to reach parliamentary governments. The year 2021 also witnessed the approval of a draft amendment to the Political Parties Law.

The Center appreciates the legislator's adoption of many of the recommendations that the Center had previously presented in its previous reports, most notably: amending the laws governing political life, the laws on political parties and elections; transferring the subordination of party supervision to an independent and impartial body; strengthening party work; striving to enable parties to play a political role based on programmatic foundations in

Jordanian public and parliamentary life; enabling the groups most in need of protection women, youth, and people with disabilities—to participate in the party; and seeking to enable political parties to reach parliament with the aim of establishing a pluralistic and representative political party parliament based on the formation of parliamentary party blocs.

In terms of practices, the Center addressed the persistence of the causes of citizens' reluctance to join parties, including: (1) The majority of political parties still lack mechanisms to achieve their programs that are general and put forward idealistic and sometimes unrealistic slogans that the parties were not able to achieve on the ground, whether it was through its de facto representatives who reached parliament seats, or held ministerial positions, which led to frustration among individuals and lack of confidence in the parties; (2) Seasonal work and limiting their activities to seasonal work (parliamentary elections); (3) Weakness in the internal democracy of some parties and inability to form organized internal partisan associations based on the distribution of responsibilities, and defining clear powers to make decisions rather than limiting them to specific people or leaders; (4) 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 action.

The year 2021 also witnessed an increase in the number of licensed parties to (50) parties, in addition to (12) parties under establishment. On the other hand, the number of party coalitions and currents for the year 2021 reached (6) coalitions, while 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 (12918) members, at a rate of (35.28%), while the total number of women belonging to political parties reached (12752), at a rate of (34.83%).

8. Right to form and join trade unions

The year 021 did not witness any development with regard to amending the legislation governing this right, despite the repeated recommendations of the Center in its previous annual reports aimed at enabling individuals to exercise this right.

The year 2021 witnessed the issuance of Amman Court of Appeal Decision No. (9410/2021) dated 31/10/2021 AD, which included the annulment of the decision to dissolve the Teachers Syndicate issued by Amman First Instance Court No. (4831/2021) dated 03/03/2021. In this context, the Center appreciates this decision because it constitutes legal protection for professional syndicates as one of the persons of public law, and the legal consequence that emerges from this consideration requires that it not be comprehensive in the scope of the provisions of Articles (36, 37) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its amendment, related to the suspension or dissolution of General Commission.

During the same year, Supreme Administrative Court Decision No. (52-2021) was issued, which upheld the decision to dissolve the Council of the Medical Association and appoint a committee to exercise the powers of the Council of the Association, where 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.

During the year 021, the Center noticed the continuation of the devastating repercussions of 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 syndicates, associations, and unions, but 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 Press Association, which held its elections in October 2021. With regard to labor associations, all administrative bodies were formed by acclamation, with the exception of the General Union of Electric Workers.

The year 2021 also witnessed the holding of the first union elections during Covid-19 pandemic, to choose the president and members of the board of the Jordan Press Association, which was monitored by the Center's team. The Center made several recommendations regarding this, most notably: (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 the 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 President and members is determined during the year 2022.

9. Right to form and join associations

The year 2021 witnessed the formation of a committee by the Minister of Social Development to amend the Associations Law No. 51 of 2008, as the committee carried out a series of consultations and dialogues with the associations; and an electronic platform was launched to receive proposals by the associations on the draft law. The Center had official representation in this committee. In this context, the report included a set of recommendations that the law should be in line with the principles guaranteed by the provisions of the Jordanian constitution and international standards. The Center reaffirmed the following recommendations:

- (1) The supervision of the work of the associations should be by an independent body that includes official representatives and others from civil society institutions, and the management of their work should be undertaken by a person who enjoys independence and heads by way of election,
- (2) To provide specific definitions for the types of associations (the family association, the private association, the closed association, the charitable association) and distinguish them from the non-profit companies,
- (3) To remove the restrictions on the right of registration and to guarantee the freedom to establish and register associations by means of notification, filing or any other organizational method,
- (4) Abolition of restrictions on the freedom of associations to conduct their business,
- (5) Amending the text of Article 8 / A of the law, 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) Amending the text of Article 20/b of the law, which granted the minister the power to dissolve the association, a provision that contradicts custom and international standards that make the dissolution in two ways: the agreement of the members or the issuance of a judicial decision to that effect.
- (7) Showing the principles and conditions through which financial support is provided to associations, as the current law fails to build a comprehensive national vision towards

supporting associations directly or indirectly, providing financial facilities such as customs and tax exemptions, and facilitating carrying out investment activities that secure selffinancing.

The year 2021 also witnessed the establishment of (315) associations, bringing the number of associations supervised by the Ministry of Social Development to (3954) associations, of which (191) associations obtained foreign funding. The number of dissolved associations reached (179); 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 associations that have cases pending before the courts is about (20) associations.

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

✤ Area of economic, social and cultural rights:

During the year 202, the Center received (110) complaints related to economic, social and cultural rights distributed among (7) main rights, namely: the right to development, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to work, the right to education, and the right to health, the right to a healthy environment, and cultural rights.⁵

1. The right to development

The year 2021 witnessed major challenges in terms of the right to development, as the devastating repercussions of COVID-19 continued on the economic and social development fields, and the unemployment rate in Jordan reached (23.3%).⁶

The Arab and International Knowledge Index for the year 2021 revealed a decline in Jordan's ranking by (8) percentage points, to rank (103) globally out of (154) countries included in the report. In addition, the index of sustainable development goals for the year 2021 revealed that Jordan suffers from major challenges in achieving four goals (the fifth, eighth, tenth, and fifteenth), and serious challenges in achieving nine goals (the second, third, fourth, sixth, ninth, eleventh, fourteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth), and that there are still challenges ahead for Jordan in achieving four main goals (the first, seventh, twelfth and thirteenth).

In the context of Jordan's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and based on the principle of "leave no one behind", the Government has adopted many measures and programs to deal with Covid-19, and to enhance social protection to ensure the achievement of the first and second goals of the 2030 Agenda, and to preserve existing job opportunities in the private sector in line with the goals of the eighth and seventeenth goals of sustainable development, and to mitigate the repercussions of the pandemic on the affected economic sectors and activities. The cost of these measures amounted to about three billion dinars, which constituted (11%) of the gross domestic product: (8%)for liquidity-related measures, and (3%) for financial stimulus measures.

At the level of programs, the year 2021 witnessed the launch of many government programs to reach a safe summer in three stages that extended from the beginning of June until the beginning of September. The year 2021 also witnessed the launch of several programs and procedures for the sectors, establishments and individuals most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which included strengthening social protection for poor citizens through the National Aid Fund; providing additional support for the implementation of the "Takaful 3" program, which aims to provide support during the year 2021 to informal workers and families most affected by the pandemic; increasing the number of beneficiaries of recurring monthly aid and supplementary support programs in 2021 from 150,000 families to 185,000 families; continuing and expanding the implementation of the Social Security Corporation's programs (Hemaya, Musaned, Tamkeen Iqtisadi) and expanding them; suspending old-age insurance; and contributing to the sustainability of the tourism sector by providing support worth 20 million dinars. In addition, the Central Bank took several decisions that were mentioned in the body of the report under the area of the right to development.

⁵ Detailed figures for the distribution of complaints on rights are included in the annex on complaints, which is attached in the executive summary of the report.

⁶ The fourth quarterly report of the Department of Statistics, published on its website, link: <u>http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/ar/unemployment_q/20201</u>

2. Right to adequate standard of living

In 2021, a number of legislative measures and measures that strengthened this right were adopted. The Center also noted developments in a number of vital sectors, including the water sector, transportation and food security, most notably: extending the Defense Order No. (28) related to postponing the imprisonment of the insolvent debtor until 30/06/2022; signing the agreement of intent; and adopting the national strategy for food security in 2021-2030, in addition to the issuance of a set of procedures and economic stimulus measures, government financial and monetary support programs and their packages to contain the repercussions of the partial and comprehensive lockdown decisions that were applied during the year 2020. The Center believes that despite the issuance of a set of procedures and economic stimulus measures to contain the repercussions of Covid-19, they did not lead to an improvement in growth rates.

The Center reports the following main challenges:

- Water sector: the issue of water provision is still a strategically challenge, especially with the drought of 2021 reaching (11) out of (14) dams in the Kingdom, accompanied by a state of climate change, a decrease in rainfall, high rates of evaporation, an increase in the population, and frequent attacks on the water networks that drain more than (12) million cubic meters annually from the quantities of water that are pumped through the networks. In addition, there is problem of water loss due to the wear of the water networks, which amounts to 45%. The drought of the dams in 2021 affected directly on the agricultural sector, as dunums of agricultural crops and tons of fisheries were destroyed, and it prevented farmers in the Central Jordan Valley, Wadi Mujib, Al- Walah, and southern Jordan districts from cultivating their lands.
- Food security: The national food security strategy was developed in 2021, which aims to ensure the country's transition to sustainable food systems, to enhance food security in Jordan and to accelerate the achievement of the "zero hunger goal" under the 2030 plan. 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 Jordan ranks (67) globally in terms of food security.⁷
- Transportation Sector: During the year 2021, the challenges of servicing the public transport sector continued as a result of overcrowding of passengers in buses and parking lots, and this is due to the insufficient means of public transport. The numbers of means of public transport in the Kingdom declined during the fourth quarter of 2021.

3. The right to work

The year 2021 witnessed approving a number of laws, regulations and instructions related to the right to work, most notably: the approval of the law amending the Human Trafficking Prevention Law No. (10) of 2021, approval of regulation of fees of work permits for non-Jordanians, aiming at alleviating the burdens imposed on employers by reducing work permit fees. In addition, many defense orders and communications related to the right to work were issued; and the report included the Center's observations on them within the right to work.

⁷ According to the statistics of the Higher Population Council

The number of beneficiaries of the Social Security Corporation programs during the Covid-19 pandemic, until 31/12/2021, was (1.081.993).

The year 2021 witnessed a number of procedures and decisions issued by the Ministry of Labor with the aim of protecting and promoting the right to work, most notably: the issuance of a decision by the Council of Ministers on "the period for legalizing and reconciling expatriate workers conditions." During this period, from July 4, 2021 until September 2, 2021, the Ministry of Labor processed a total of (112079) work permits in various economic sectors and activities. On 12/01/2021, the Minister of Labor signed (6) employment agreements with private sector companies as these agreements provided more than (1150) 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.

Human trafficking:

The statistics of human trafficking cases issued by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit/Directorate of Public Security show the number of cases that were investigated in the year 2021, and they amounted to (214) cases, including (171) labor cases. The cases that were transferred to the Public Prosecutor on suspicion of human trafficking amounted to (43). The total number of victims of human trafficking has reached (61) victims.

4. The right to education

During the year 2021, there was no amendment to the Education Law. However, since the start of the spread of the Covid-19, the Government has taken measures to limit the spread of infection, most notably: activating Defense Order No. (13) of 1992, and the consequent disruption of schools and universities, and then returning to blended face-to-face education. These procedures were accompanied by the issuance of Defense Order No. (32) on 17/07/2021, as 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 to affecting the right to work for members of the teaching staff, as it obliges to obtain a negative PCR test every (40) hours in the event that the required antiviral doses are not received, and this is a waste of time and effort.

With regard to the digital indications of the educational process, the number of schools in the Kingdom until the end of 2021 was (7127) schools, including (4015) public schools, (2943) private schools, and (169) UNRWA schools. The number of Jordanian students was (1933979); while the number of Syrian students was (154564) in various schools in the Kingdom, including (49030) students receiving education in the night period. The number of public kindergartens in the academic year 2021/2022 was (2760) kindergarten; and the number of children enrolled was (49047) boys and girls. The enrollment rate in kindergartens (KG1) reached (33.5%) in 2020-2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the enrollment rate in (KG2) reached (63.6%) in 2020-2021. The total current and capital expenditures for the fiscal year 2021 in the Ministry of Education amounted to (1051488000) dinars.

During the year 2021, the Center dealt with the education situation during the COVID-19 pandemic and the government's mechanisms for dealing with it. The continuation of distance education during the academic year 2020/2021, in both its semesters, led to the continuation of the same problems that the Center mentioned in its annual report for the year 2020, including the following:

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

With regard to the learning loss program, the Center believes that the learning loss program was useful for students who wish to learn. The Center has found some problems in the application of this program, as follows:

- Many of the basic teaching staff in the schools refused participating in 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 the teachers of the supplemental educational staff.
- Not all subjects and materials for which students should be compensated were covered due to the short duration of this program that 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.

During the year 2021, the Center also noted the persistence of some problems related to private schools that the Center mentioned in its previous reports, most notably: the persistence of low wages for teachers in many private schools; some of these schools employ teachers for less than the minimum wage according to the Jordanian Labor Law, in violation of the contracts concluded between them and the teachers; many schools terminate teachers' contracts at the end of the second semester and renew their contracts at the beginning of the first semester, to prevent their salaries from being paid during the summer vacation; 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 the Establishment of Private and Foreign Educational Institutions No. (130) of 2015, which prohibits seizing students' files and documents.

During the year 2021, the Center continued to monitor some of the issues that posed challenges to higher education, including: the exceptional lists that affect more than (62%) of the seats in public 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 nondiscrimination in educational opportunities, as defined by international standards.

5. The right to health

During the year 2021, there were many amendments to the laws, regulations and instructions related to the right to health, and (4) defense orders were issued directly related to the right to health. This Report included within this area the Center's position on these defense orders.

In terms of policies, the year 2021 witnessed the continuation of taking measures to limit the repercussions of the pandemic of Covid-19, including: continued to work on updating the national emergency plan to deal with the pandemic, which included all health and non-health sectors society in Jordan; it targeted all Jordanians, non-Jordanians, and Syrian refugees inside and outside the camps, and the inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers; based on the epidemiological situation of the spread of the virus globally, regionally and locally, and the continued dissemination of health awareness messages of the media campaign to more than (3,500,000) people. The plan included a series of awareness videos about the importance of the vaccine and societal challenges related to health and preventive measures and the promotion of social divergence practices, and the launch of 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 the service in the areas close to their residence, according to their health condition.

In the year 2021, the Center dealt with accidents inside hospitals that amounted to medical errors in some of them. Here, the Center recommends the need to activate the Medical Accountability Law of 2018 in cooperation with partners in the medical sector and health unions, and the need 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 to the need to take appropriate and strict measures to control the cosmetic procedures performed by non-specialized clinics.

In the context of mental health, 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 that the pandemic produced, affecting most of the society. It is worth noting the challenges that mental health still faces, represented in the following:

1. Lack of national studies to estimate the number of mental illnesses before and after the pandemic.

2. Shortage of qualified health cadres, especially multidisciplinary cadres in mental health.

3. The high prices of "check-ups" in private psychiatric clinics compared to public sector clinics, which is a reason for patients' reluctance to go to them. The number of these clinics, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Health, is (44), distributed as follows: (36) clinics in Amman, (3) clinics in Zarqa, and (5) in Irbid.

4. High prices of psychiatric medications in the private health sector, knowing that Jordanian psychiatric patients are treated and given free medication in public sector clinics.

The year 2021 also witnessed an exacerbation of the phenomenon of assault on medical staff in hospitals and health centers, as cases of physical and verbal assault during the year 2021 amounted to (74) compared to (44) cases of assault in 2020. Attacks on medical and nursing staff often occur in departments of ambulance and emergency services in hospitals and health centers crowded with patients and emergency cases, from patients' families and visitors.

Based on the results of the Center's monitoring of 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 2021, noticed that some hospitals and health centers still suffer from a number of challenges that hinder the achievement of their goals, most notably: a shortage of specialized nephrologists in most government hospitals; the disparity in the level of quality of services among hospitals; the 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); and most hospitals and health centers lack the necessary environmental facilities for people with disabilities and the elderly, for example, the unavailability of a signal interpreter, the unavailability of an elevator, the unavailability of parking spaces for people with disabilities, the long waiting period when receiving treatment or administering medication, not to mention the severe crowding in front of clinics, the pharmacy, the cashier, the laboratory, and the x-ray department, which constitutes an additional burden on people, especially those with disabilities and the elderly.

At the level of global indexes, according to the Global Health Security Index 2021, Jordan has excelled by ranking at level (3) in the Arab world and (66) in the world in the field of immunization against preventable diseases, whether it is childhood infection or highly contagious influenza, which is one of the best indexes of health security in the world. In addition, Jordan was ranked among the best countries in the sample transfer system and the ability to expand the scope of transportation and testing systems during emergency situations; and it possesses a high ability to identify people with infectious diseases, locate them, isolate them and treat them, which indicates that the level reflects Jordan's strong capabilities in developing contingency plans and a comprehensive public health response, and updating them regularly.

6. Right to a safe environment

The year 2021 witnessed the approval of a number of regulations and instructions related to the right to the environment, most notably: The Bylaw No. 20 of 2021 on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization; Instructions To Control The Use, Import And Re-export Of Substances Controlled Under The Montreal Protocol And Its Amendments For The Year 2021; and the Electrical and Electronic Waste Management Instructions of 2021, and other instructions related to the establishment and operation of sanitary waste dumps and waste transfer stations. In this regard, the Center appreciates the issuance of these regulations and instructions, as their issuance has contributed to regulating 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 terms of field monitoring of the right to a safe environment, the Center carried out a number of monitoring visits in 2021, most notably: the phenomenon of black ponds that appeared in the eastern shore of the Dead Sea. At that time, the Center addressed the concerned authorities such as the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, and 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 ponds, with the Center confirming that these water leaks mixed with groundwater coming from Wadi Hammad pose a threat to human health and physical safety.

The Center also addressed the presence of cracks and fissures on the Dead Sea Road, the southern Jordan Valley. The Center proved the seriousness of these cracks and fissures on human life and physical safety, as they pose a threat to public road pedestrians. 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 as of the date of preparing the Report, no response has been received.

The Center also dealt with the problem of copper exploration in the Dana Biosphere Reserve. The Center noted the seriousness of the environmental violations that resulted from this exploration and its impact on the loss of excavated lands and consequently the migration and loss of many species of birds in this reserve. Therefore, the Center issued a statement on this matter denouncing these violations and calling for addressing the issue from its foundations.

7. Cultural rights

The year 2021 witnessed the launch of the National Tourism Strategy for the years 2021-2025, which aims to increase the number of tourists by the year 2025. This plan consists of five elements: "tourism product development, human resources, marketing, heritage management and protection, and repairs." The plan also came to enable the tourism sector to overcome the damage it suffered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to complement the measures taken by the Government and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to deal with and confront this pandemic.

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

On the tourism level, in 2021, the "Urdon Jannah" program for domestic tourism, supported by the Ministry and the Tourism Promotion Agency, continued. Since its inception, the number of participants has reached approximately (270) thousand participants, including (150) thousand during the year 2021. It aimed to mitigate the losses incurred by the tourism sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and help it recover.

As for accessible tourism, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities worked with the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to develop this type of tourism. 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; and the lack of available solutions to activate accessible 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 with the presence of a tourist guide who is proficient in sign language to explain the story of place, history and time, and providing accommodations within hotels.

The tourism sector indexes 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), with an increase of (90.2%) compared to the year 2020, in which the number of overnight tourists reached (1.067.166). The number of one-day visitors to the Kingdom in 2021 reached (34.737), with an increase of (100.9%), compared to 2020, in which the number of one-day visitors to the Kingdom reached (172.745).

The year 2021 also 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 cities of Jordanian culture, namely the Northern and Eastern Badia District, the Hashemite District, and Al-Quweira District, which 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 the cultural cities projects are among the projects that are linked to the development plans, and are among the sustainable projects that transfer the cultural movement from the capital to the rest of the governorates.

The year 2021 also witnessed the establishment of many local cultural and artistic events by the Ministry of Culture and its affiliated directorates of culture in the governorates. The number of events has reached about (1.276) events and activities, including lectures, plastic exhibitions, book exhibitions, seminars, evenings, celebrations, murals, training workshops, film shows, and heritage exhibitions.

Moreover, in the year 2021, the house of the Prophet Lot was discovered in the southern Jordan Valley, which is one of the most prominent discoveries in the second centenary of the Jordanian state.

* Area of groups most in need of protection:

During the year 2020, the Center received (47) complaints related to the category of groups most in need of protection distributed among (4) main categories, namely: women's rights, children's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and rights of the elderly.

1. Women's rights

In terms of legislative developments, the year 2021 witnessed a proposal for a fundamental amendment to the text of Article (6) of the Constitution, which came from the outputs of the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System, by adding a new paragraph to this article with the following text: "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 protecting her from all forms of violence and discrimination".

At the legislative level as well, in the year 2021, some amendments were made to legislation related to women's rights, including: (Parties Law, Amman Municipality Law, Local Administration Law, instructions for flexible working hours in the civil service, and instructions for alternatives to institutional nurseries), in addition to amending the title of Chapter Two of the Constitution to become (the rights and duties of Jordanian men and women). This Report included a set of observations on these legislations within the women's rights.

In terms of policies, the year 2021 witnessed the launch of many strategies and decisions, most notably: The issuance of Cabinet Resolution No. (3640) dated 08/09/2021 approving the implementation plan for the national priorities matrix to strengthen the system of protection from gender-based violence, domestic violence and child protection for the years (2021-2023). The plan aims to strengthen the family protection system and reduce domestic violence and protect children at the national level. In addition, the strategy for gender mainstreaming in the Public Security Directorate (2021-2024) was launched within the framework of implementing the national plan to activate Security Council Resolution (1325) on women, security and peace for the years (2018-2022). The National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030) was launched on 12/12/2021, which included four strategic pillars: the enabling environment, services and information, society, sustainability and governance.

In terms of practices, the year 2021 witnessed the appointment of (18) women in the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System out of 92 members, i.e. (19%), in addition to the fact that women continued to assume some leadership positions in the public sector, such as the position of Secretary General and directors of official bodies.

In the year 2021, the Center dealt with the conditions of female workers in the agricultural sector through field visits to a representative sample of farms in the northern, southern and central Jordan Valley. Monitoring results revealed the following:

 The lack of occupational safety and health conditions, including gloves, masks, clothes and shoes for workers from employers, which are appropriate to the harsh working conditions. Likewise, the employers fail to conduct the necessary medical tests for working women before they start work to verify that their physical and health conditions are suitable for working conditions; which leads to poor health conditions.

- 2. Lack of general safety conditions in the means of transport used to transport female workers, as they are transported by means of transport that are not intended for carrying passengers and with excessive load.
- 3. Despite the issuance of the Agricultural Workers Regulation and the instructions for inspection procedures for agricultural activity, the female workers do not file complaints to claim their rights due to the lack of sufficient knowledge of these regulations and instructions.
- 4. Not including male and female workers in agriculture under the umbrella of social security; this contributed to depriving them of obtaining social security and labor rights.

Early marriage:

There were (8.037) marriage contracts registered in the Kingdom for girls 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. In this context, and until the cancellation of Paragraph (b) of Article 10 of the Personal Status Law of 2019 related to allowing marriage for those under (18) years old, the Center recommends applying the above article in the narrowest limits.

Violence against Woman:

The numbers and statistics issued by the Family Protection Department of the Directorate of Public Security indicate that crimes of violence against women in 2021 compared to 2020 showed a clear decrease in the number of sexual violence crimes in 2021, as the total number of cases of physical violence in the year 2021 was (2603), and (207) cases of sexual violence, compared to (2531) cases of physical violence, and (592) cases of sexual violence in 2020.

2. Child's Rights

During the year 2021, the Center monitored the continuation of efforts to enact a specialized law on children's rights, as a prelude to unifying all legal texts related to children in special legislation to provide a legislative environment that achieves the best interest of the child.

The year 2021 witnessed the issuance of several related regulations, most notably: the issuance of instructions for the foundations of system of the aftercare for juveniles, instructions for alternatives to institutional nurseries, and instructions for licensing home nurseries.

In terms of policies, the year 2021 witnessed the launch of the national action plan to implement the recommendations of the study of "marriage of minors" in Jordan to limit the marriage of those under the age of (18) for the years (2018-2022) issued by the Supreme Council for the Population. The plan aims to provide a practical framework that includes procedural directions to limit the marriage of those under the age of (18) years 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 addition, the Council of Ministers' decision 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).

Children who need protection and care:

The Center addressed the care and rehabilitation of beggars in Madaba, and the Center for the Care and Rehabilitation of Beggars Girls in Dhlail. The Center has noticed an improvement in the provision of cultural and awareness programs for children in the care and rehabilitation centers for children beggars. On the other hand, the Center noted a high increase in the number of seized child beggars, as the number of seized child beggars reached (7.954), including (5.893) males and (2.061) females, compared to (2.418) child beggars of both sexes in 2020.

Working children:

The Center found an increase in the number of working children seized during the year 2021, as their number reached (1087), while in the year 2020 their number was (503). The Center observed a high increase in the number of working children due to the repercussions of the economic crisis resulting from the Corona pandemic that greatly contributed to the negative impact on the economic situation of many families.

The Center recommends the need to tighten control by official institutions over the places where child labor is concentrated and to enact legislation prohibiting child labor; as well as to implement and strengthen awareness campaigns about the negative effects of child labor.

Children in conflict with the law:

The Center monitored the shelters of juvenile upbringing and rehabilitation to see the conditions of "children in conflict with the law" in those shelters, and recorded many observations, most notably: the weakness of psychological and counseling care services due to the small number of psychologists and social workers compared to the number of arrested/convicted juveniles; the need to raise the capacities of workers in the juvenile justice sector and to increase specialized training; most of the juvenile shelters do not adhere to the principle of segregation based on the age group, as segregation is only on the basis of sentence and arrest only; the lack of environmental facilities to receive juveniles with disabilities in shelters and police station's custody suites of juvenile; and the absence of a shelter for the upbringing 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 shelter for the upbringing and rehabilitation of juveniles in the south.

3. The rights of persons with disabilities

The year 2021 witnessed a proposal for a fundamental amendment to the text of the fifth paragraph of Article Six of the Constitution, which came as a result of the outputs of the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System, so that the text becomes: "The law protects the rights of persons with disabilities and promotes their participation and integration in various aspects of life, as well as it protects motherhood, childhood and old age, and takes care of young people and protects from abuse and exploitation," after it used to be "The law protects motherhood, childhood, and old age, and takes care of young people and protect them from abuse and exploitation."

In terms of legislative developments that have taken place to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, a regulation of alternative shelters and support services for persons

with intellectual disabilities has been issued in line with Article (27/c/1) of the Law of Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which includes 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 providing reasonable accommodation or accessibility. These services include community rehabilitation, personal facilities, short breaks, integrated day centers, early intervention and training.

The year 2021 also witnessed the issuance of Bylaw on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities, based on the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Article (13) of the Jordan Labor Law, in order to ensure that persons with disabilities obtain work that is commensurate with their disability based on equality and non-discrimination based on the eighth goal⁸ of sustainable development goals. The Bylaw stipulates in Article (3/a) thereof that the employer shall be committed to facilitative arrangements, and accessibility for persons with disabilities, and that this be included in the work contract concluded between the employer and the worker with disabilities. It should be noted that no instructions were issued to implement a bylaw. The Center hopes they will be issued in the near future. The Center also proposes that the aforementioned bylaw include incentive privileges for institutions that employ persons with disabilities.

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 bylaw, 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 hours. At the level of the governmental procedures, the Ministry of Labor concluded a cooperation agreement with "Humanity and Inclusion" organization to train and employ people with disabilities on 25/01/2021.

The Center appreciates the circular issued by the Prime Minister with regard to 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, institutions and public bodies must work to adhere to medical reports issued by specialized medical committees in the Ministry of Health for the purpose of completing procedures of appointment of persons with disabilities that 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 fitness."

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 appointments for the year 2021.

In the context of monitoring the conditions of persons with disabilities, the Report included, in the rights of persons with disabilities, the outcomes of monitoring visits to shelters and care and rehabilitation centers, and provided a set of observations and recommendations that would improve the status of these institutions.

⁸ The eighth goal is related to decent work and economic growth.

4. Elderly rights

The year 2021 witnessed the issuance of a number of bylaws and instructions that protect the rights of the elderly, most notably: Elderly Care Bylaw No. (97) of 2021, and the instructions for flexible working hours in the civil service for the year 2021.

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 negligence in the economic, social and health rights of their parents and those charged with their care, 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 this group through specialists in geriatrics, and the approval of the geriatrics major by the Jordan Medical Council.

At the level of policies and practices, the year 2021 witnessed the issuance of the Council of Ministers' decision in September of the year 2021 to implement the provisions stipulated in Article (12) of the Civil Retirement Law and its amendments, and Article (173) of the Civil Service Bylaw 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. In addition, the Mayor of Amman formed the Committee of "Amman is a friendly city for the elderly" 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 institutions, with the aim of achieving an elderly-friendly city by the year 2024. It should be noted that the Municipality of Amman granted the elderly, aged (60) and over cards to use Amman Bus for free. The number of elderly people who obtained this card from July 2019 until 31/12/2021 reached (16882) after operating (135) transport buses equipped for the elderly, covering (11) regions of the Greater Amman Municipality in the center, east and north of Amman. The Center hopes to have a free bus for the elderly in all regions and governorates of the Kingdom.

In the framework of monitoring the conditions of the elderly, the Report included, in the area of the rights of the elderly, the outputs of the visits monitoring the conditions to the shelters during Covid-19; in addition, it monitored the most prominent challenges that the elderly suffer from, and presented a set of observations and recommendations that would improve the reality of these institutions.

Recommendations

A summary of the 18th Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2021 presents a set of recommendations distributed according to the three elements (civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities), within three main contexts (legislation, policies, and practices) in addition to the structural recommendations aimed at establishing a basic basis for the promotion and protection of the human rights system in Jordan.

***** Structural recommendations:

Structural recommendations in the context of policies:

- Building policies capable of realizing the contents of social justice and distributing wealth and services in a way that achieves the elements of sustainable development, reduces the unemployment, and reduces poverty rates to their lowest levels.
- Integrating human rights concepts in educational curricula, and building partnerships with influencers and leaders of opinion in the various governorates of the Kingdom.

Structural recommendations in the context of legislation:

The Center renews its recommendation contained in the 17th annual report for the year 2020 related to the institutionalization of an effective national system for legislation, which aims at achieving communication between legislation and society, and is based on the following normative foundations:

- Partnership between social organizations, government and parliament in the legislative process;
- Analyzing social, economic, cultural and political phenomena in society through studies of the impact of the proposed legislation;
- Dealing with human rights legislation according to a legislative policy that adopts reviewing the matrix of relevant legislation as a single unit in an integrated framework to avoid defects in legislative drafting, especially duplication, repetition, and legislative contradiction, which contribute to the inclusion of restrictions that do not comply with the Jordanian constitution and international human rights standards.

Structural recommendations in the context of practices:

- Reviewing practices related to public freedoms and the restrictions imposed on them in line with the Jordanian constitution and international human rights standards.

***** The main detailed recommendations:

Detailed recommendations

Area of civil and political rights:

1. Right to life, personal liberty and integrity:

- The need to amend the law of Penalties for not including the crime of torture by prescription and amnesty and transfer of jurisdiction by examining cases of abuse and ill-treatment from the police judiciary to the regular judiciary.
- Explicitly stipulating the right of victims of torture to compensation and psychological and physical rehabilitation.
- Increasing the number of drug addiction treatment centers and not limiting them to drug treatment, but rather expanding in treatment for alcohol addiction; also, not registering any security restrictions against those who seek treatment of those who approach these centers.
- Finding effective solutions to the overcrowded reform and rehabilitation centers by continuing to use alternatives to arresting and applying community sanctions and other measures to reduce overcrowding.

2. Right to justice and a fair trial:

- Amending Article (54) bis of the Penal Code in a way that ensures mitigating 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.
- Enhancing the remote trial system in courts technically, expanding its scope and addressing technical and logistical challenges.
- Amending the Code of Criminal Procedure, in a way that establishes the right of the individual to material and moral compensation for the damage resulting from the arrest in the event of a judgment of innocence.
- The need to establish administrative courts in the North and South regions.
- Abolition of the Crime Prevention Law, as 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 original competence to adjudicate disputes, which is the pillar of the state of law, in addition to its violation of the objective rule of criminal prosecution established in all countries of the world, and contained in Article (58) of the 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:
- Ensuring respect for judicial rulings and decisions, or decisions issued to release detainees as a title of the truth and evidence against everyone, according to an explicit text in the law, and the administrative detention of those who have been released by the judiciary is not permitted.
- 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 may be made

exclusively without leaving any scope for the jurisprudence of the administrative ruler or acting on suspicion without the presence of any evidence.

- Determining the duration and controls of administrative suspension and subjecting it to the principle of justification and causation.
- Referring the administrative detainees to the regular public prosecution after detaining them within a period specified by the law, to decide on their case.
- Setting an upper limit for the bail and not leaving the value of the bail and the approval of the person of the guardian to the discretionary power of the administrative ruler.
- Stipulating that the appeal before the administrative court against the decisions issued by the administrative governor shall be free of charge

3. Right to nationality, residency, movement and asylum:

- Addressing the problem of power and water cuts in the Syrian refugee camps.
- Continue official efforts to ensure the survival of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and employing them to provide services to millions of Palestinian refugees.

4. The right to vote and run for office:

- Amending the local administration law to ensure the election of members of the provincial and municipal councils in full.
- Amending the Amman Municipality 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.
- Activating the voting mechanism to guarantee the right of expatriates, patients, and arrested persons who have not been subject to final rulings to exercise their right to vote.

5. Right to freedom of opinion, expression, press, media, and access to information:

- Preparing a national media strategy aimed at advancing media freedoms and providing the legislative environment that guarantees freedom of the press and the media.
- Advancing the status of freedom of expression and reviewing the system of legislation related to this freedom to ensure its compatibility with international human rights standards, including the abolition of Article (11) of the Cybercrime Law and contenting itself with texts related to the crime of defamation, libel and contempt in the Jordanian Penal Code.
- Accelerating the approval of the draft amendment to the law guaranteeing the right to access information in the House of Representatives based on international human rights standards and the Jordanian constitution.
- Enhancing the right to access information through monitoring the process of classifying information and assigning information coordinator in every agency related to the application of the law.
- Expansion in raising awareness of the right to access information for the relevant authorities, in particular raising awareness of the law governing this right and the

protocol for classifying and archiving information and the procedures for obtaining information approved by the Council of Ministers.

6. Right to peaceful assembly:

- Amending Article (2) of the Open Meetings Law and its amendments, to avoid expanding the definition of a meeting.
- The law should include organizational and procedural restrictions on the powers of the administrative ruler in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and international standards.
- Activating judicial oversight over the actions of the administrative ruler and his powers with regard to exercising the right to open meeting, and establishing the principles of proportionality and necessity on the right of open meeting and the magnitude of the expected danger to security and public order.

7. Right to form and join political parties:

- Expanding the provision of legal guarantees for university students and youth involved in party work.
- Enabling political parties to have the right to appeal before the Constitutional Court.
- Parties should apply the principles of good governance and the foundations of internal democracy in their work.
- The parties should update their data and information published on their website to guarantee the right to obtain the information.

8. Right to form and join trade unions:

- Establishing international standards regulating the freedom of trade unions in setting up their statutes by amending the legislation governing them, such as removing restrictions on the practice of trade union work in Labor Law No. (14) of the year 2019, which includes: (1) amending Article (2) and Article (44) that deprive a group of workers who are not affiliated with trade unions from benefiting from dispute resolution tools and the right to hearing bargaining; and amending Article (98) by canceling all restrictions that deny workers the right to initiate in forming trade unions that defend their interests; as well as, amending Article (100) which granted the General Federation of Trade Unions the right to draw up the by-laws for the federation and the trade unions together, leaving the union (whether the general body or the administrative body) with no organizational role; and amending Article (116) which granted the Minister of Labor the power to dissolve the administrative body to the trade union and appoint a temporary administrative body.
- Inviting trade unions to engage in income-generating development and investment projects and play their role in alleviating the economic and social burdens of their members.

9. Right to form and join associations:

- Unifying the reference for supervising the work of associations.
- Providing specific definitions for the types of associations (family association, private association, closed association, and charitable association) and distinguish them from the non-profit companies.

- Developing an institutional mechanism to maintain communication, consultations, dialogues and partnerships between government institutions, public authorities, civil society organizations, and the National Assembly.
- Updating the associations register data periodically.
- Establishing a national fund that provides local continuous sources of income, and defining the criteria, principles and conditions for providing funding for associations, and spending mechanisms and methods, and providing support for this fund.
- Developing a comprehensive national plan for volunteer work that defines the priorities of humanitarian and non-profit work in general for each sector separately, in partnership and coordination with all sectors.
- Developing an institutional work mechanism for donors based on opening the door to financing and competing for projects that start from the national priorities identified in advance; and developing objective work rules to follow up on that from the related authorities.
- Applying the principles of good governance in civil society institutions

Area of economic, social and cultural rights:

1. The right to development:

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

2. Right to an adequate standard of living:

- Enhancing the Kingdom's stocks 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.
- Upgrading the public transportation system, especially mass transportation, through clear strategies and plans linked to indications for measuring performance, providing more financial support for this sector, and monitoring violators in pedestrian walkways and sidewalks, and punishing them.
- Intensifying food control, and amending the necessary legislation to increase penalties for citizens' food manipulators.
- Expanding interest-free loans to farmers to implement agricultural projects, especially for small farmers, young men and women; supporting youth-led initiatives and organizations; and raising the skills of women, especially in rural communities, to produce home food, organic farming, and water harvesting to provide food security.
- Increasing and activating housing programs for low-income people and the poor, and allocating financial allocations required for this in the general budget.

3. Right to work:

- Tightening supervision by official institutions over the places where child labor is concentrated, in addition to activating awareness campaigns about the negative effects resulting from child labor.
- Encouraging the private sector to employ more unemployed young people in it through agreements between private sector companies and the government through tax reduction or exemption if a certain percentage of young people are employed there.

4. Right to education:

- The need to work on developing traditional teaching methods and aids to ensure that students acquire thinking and analytical skills.
- Working to unify the basis for accepting students in universities, provided that this decision is preceded by a specific and amenable time plan that guarantees the provision of educational opportunities among students.
- Increasing financial support for official universities, especially the peripheral ones, to avoid raising university hours fees imposed on students.
- Training teachers with special skills that qualify them to deal with the requirements of distance learning.
- Developing structural inclusion plans for human rights methodologies in learning, teaching and administration so that they cross all stages and academic courses.
- Increasing the budget of the Ministry of Education from the state's general budget.

- Enshrining the principle of equal opportunities.
- Enshrining the presence of women and their role in education and middle educational administration.

5. Cultural rights:

- The need to increase the financial allocations for cultural institutions in order to enable them to implement a larger number of the cultural projects.
- Completing the establishment of national museums and infrastructure for cultural activity "cultural centers" in the rest of the governorates of the Kingdom to accommodate the events and activities and activate the cultural movement
- Inviting the producers of drama, in addition to the production institutions that bear the responsibility entrusted to them towards society and the nation, to not produce works that affect morals, religion, national customs and traditions.
- Providing more support for national tourism programs, including the "Urdun Jannah" program, and working to reduce the prices of hotel services and tourist resorts to make them attractive to national tourism and competitive with tourism in other neighboring countries.
- Expansion of national competitions for students in various cultural fields (theatre, drama, drawing, sculpture, music) and competitions related to early learners, oratory, and others.

6. Right to health:

- Unifying health insurance systems to prevent duplication and waste in order to provide resources for uninsured patients.
- The Center reiterates its recommendation of the need to increase the percentage of expenditure on primary health care, as this would reduce pressure on hospitals and save time and effort on citizens and health personnel.
- The necessity of the government's initiative to pass special legislation that guarantees the provision of high quality mental health services.
- 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.
- The need to impose control and take appropriate and strict measures to control the cosmetic procedures that are performed by non-specialized clinics.

7. Right to a safe environment:

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

Area of the groups most in need of protection:

• Women's rights:

- Developing a national plan to increase the percentage of women's participation in the management of public affairs by raising the percentage (quota) for women 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 labor and professional union laws so that they expressly stipulate the designation of special seats for women in the trade union councils.
- Availability of comprehensive services and reproductive and sexual health information to contribute to family well-being in Jordan.
- Providing job opportunities for women and developing their skills in line with their needs in the labor market, specifically in remote areas.
- Providing legal guarantees for women working in the agricultural sector to ensure their economic empowerment.
- Canceling Paragraph (b) of Article 10 of the Personal Status Law of 2019, which is related to allowing marriage for those under the age of (18) years, and applying it in the strictest limits until it is cancelled.

• Child's Rights:

- 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 their work, and the sectors in which they work.
- Establishing a center for the education and rehabilitation of juveniles in the southern region.
- Increasing the number of cadres working in care and rehabilitation organizations, especially technicians (psychologists and social workers), in addition to raising the capabilities of these cadres through specialized training and obtaining appropriate incentives, as work in this type of institutions requires extra effort.
- The need to include rehabilitation and behavior modification programs, and provide entertainment programs for the juveniles present in reform and rehabilitation organizations.
- Requiring reform and rehabilitation organizations to follow the principle of segregation of beneficiaries on the basis of age group.

• Rights of people with disabilities:

- 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.
- Providing all reasonable environmental accommodations for persons with disabilities that enable them to exercise their lives without discrimination.
- Amending the Income Tax Law and its amendments No. 38 of 2018 to include incentives for each employer for persons with disabilities as a motivating and encouraging means.

- Increasing the amount of national aid provided to persons with disabilities or their families to enable them to live at a standard decent living.

• Rights of the elderly:

- Continue the national efforts aimed at drafting an international agreement on the rights of the elderly.
- Reviewing national legislation related to the rights of the elderly to protect them and preparing a special law for rights of the elderly.
- Establishing 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.
- Launching a voluntary initiative to secure the elderly with money or allocate time for them, aiming to achieve social solidarity between citizens and integrating the elderly into the local community
- 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 promoting the participatory approach aimed at involving the elderly in development and making decision that concern them, involving the private sector, sharing experiences and targeted media promotion.
- The need to increase and support the financial allocations allocated in the budgets of the authorities concerned with the elderly.

Annex of	complaints	received k	by the	Center in 2021
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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		Reserveu	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