

Question No. 1:

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan made wide strides in the last 10 years in the protection and promotion of human rights. These developments includes, inter alia:

- A. The year 2011 witnessed the introduction and the endorsement of a number of amendments on the Jordanian Institution which have substantially contributed in the protection and the promotion of human rights in the Kingdom. The most paramount thereof are:
 - 1. Expressly providing for the prohibition of torture and the protection of the human dignity.
 - 2. Stressing on the importance of the right to freedom and personal safety.
 - 3. The significant amendment on the first paragraph of article no. (128) which ensures that laws are free from any provision that would impair the substance of the rights adopted by the Constitution or affect their fundamentals.
 - 4. Stressing on the autonomy of the Judiciary and guaranteeing the right to faire trial, through: stipulating the establishment of a Constitutional Court which has the jurisdiction to consider the constitutionality of the laws and regulations in force. In addition to stipulating the independence of the Judicial Council which assumes all affairs relevant to civil Judges and that the Administrative Judiciary should include two degrees of litigation.
- B. In implementation of the constitutional amendments 2011, a wide range of laws were approved which hopefully will actively contribute in the protection and the promotion of human rights in the Kingdom. The most paramount thereof are:
 - 1. The Constitutional Court Law.
 - 2. The Judiciary Independence Law for the year 2014.
 - 3. The Administrative Judiciary Law.
 - 4. The National Independent Election Commission Law.

C. Jordan has previously ratified a number of laws that provides for the establishment of institutions that work for the protection and the promotion of human rights in the Kingdom, including the establishment of national system for the enhancement of a national integrity and transparency which the following laws contributed in it actively:

1. The JNCHR Law.
2. The Ombudsman Office Law.
3. The Anti-Corruption Law.
4. The Financial Disclosure Law.

D. The institutions that were established by virtue of the above mentioned laws have embarked on their work and contributed in the protection and the promotion of human rights with varying degrees.

Here are some examples of the means that the JNCHR employs to monitor the human rights conditions in the Kingdom:

- The JNCHR has the jurisdiction, as per article (10) of its Law, to conduct visits to Reform and Rehabilitation Centers, Detention Facilities and the Juvenile care homes and shall do so according to proper rules. And is entitled to visit any public place, which has been reported to be the venue of past or present violations of human rights.
- The JNCHR established tow national monitoring teams: one of them is a national team composed of a number of CSOs in addition to staff member form the Center in order to visit the Reform and Rehabilitation Centers and detention facilities to monitor their conditions and investigate any complaints of alleged torture. While the other team is a monitoring team compromised of the Center's staff members which is mandated to observe and monitor all human rights –related activities that take place in the Kingdom. The Team documents the violations that take place in these activities and prepares reports thereon.
- The JNCHR has a wide mandate for the protection and the promotion of human rights in the kingdom, which includes all rights, be it civil, political, economic, social and cultural. The Center's Law underlines

- the Center's role in the protection and promotion of human rights in accordance with the constitution and the standards enshrined in the international human rights instruments and shall be inspired in doing so by the tolerant message of Islam and the values inherent in Arab-Islamic heritage. The Law further emphasizes that the Center shall conduct its activities for the promotion and protection of human rights in manner that does not involve discrimination between citizens because of race, language, religion or gender.
- The JNCHR launched a number of advocacy and lobbying campaigns in addition to providing recommendations that guarantees the conduct of faire and transparent elections during the years (2009.2010.2011) these recommendations were resulted in the issuance of the Elections Law. Also these recommendations espoused the need to the establishment of the National Independent Elections Commission, adopting the mixed electoral system that allows Jordanians to vote for a closed national list, in addition to the seats reserved for Jordan's 12 governorates, nonetheless the Center was not fully satisfied with the Law, as the Center in the year 2013 and 2014 respectively conducted awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns to amend it to be compatible with international standards especially in relation of redistricting and developing the one vote system in a multi-seat constituencies.
 - E. The political will has played a significant and fundamental role in the protection and promotion of human rights in Jordan. When His Majesty King Abdullah II assumed his constitutional powers ordered the establishment of a Royal Committee for Human Rights chaired by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, which recommended the establishment of the National Centre for human Rights in 2002 as an Independent National Institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in the kingdom.

Question No. 2:

The Jordanian Government adopted the strategy of enhancing the democratic process and the promotion of human rights. It enhanced and strengthened

both the Legislative and the Judiciary, in order to encounter the Executive which used to assume a front place, through the constitutional amendments and the establishment of the institutions that were referred to in the first question. The Government also during the past two years and in implementation of the direct and express directives of His Majesty King Abdullah II made many essential steps towards the protection and promotion of human rights in the Kingdom;

- A. The endorsement of the executive plan for disseminating the culture of human rights in the year 2014 that was developed by the JNCHR during the year 2013. The said plan was prepared upon the proposal of His Majesty when receiving the JNCHR 8th Annual Report on the Conditions of Human Rights in the Jordan, which was among its prominent recommendations the development of a national strategy for the protection and the promotion of human rights and another one emanate, thereof related to the mainstreaming human rights in the educational system, both on the school and university levels. It is worth mentioning that JNCHR has prepared that plan during the years 2012 and 2013 after conducting wide consultations with all governmental bodies, the CSOs and the educational institutions especially the Universities.

- B. The year 2014 witnessed a favorable response with the recommendations presented by the JNCHR which was endorsed by the CSOs to develop a national strategy for human rights. The government formed a committee to prepare a comprehensive national strategy for human rights, and the Center has played a fundamental role in it and participated rigorously with other stakeholders in crystalizing the principles and the axes thereof. And the JNCHR premises was the venue of many meetings that were held in relation of this plan, also the Center's staff members participated actively in formulating the plan's axes and activities.

It is worth mentioning that the recommendations stated in the center's periodic reports formed a reference and a benchmark for the team which put the preliminary draft of the plan.

The JNCHR active participation stressed on the role of international human rights instruments in the national legislations as well as pointing out the loopholes in the legislations in light of the international human rights standards.

- C. The JNCHR exercises its mandate in the protection of human rights through monitoring and documenting all human rights violations via conducting monitoring and inspection visits and receiving complaints directly from the citizens and residence on equal terms, working with the governmental bodies in order to end these violations, mitigating their effects and follow them up to ensure the adoption of the proper procedures that achieve this objective such as mediation or referral to the Executive or the Judiciary.

- D. Although Jordan has not yet ratified the OPCAT, the JNCHR constantly recommends the government to accede to the OPCAT and continues, in cooperation with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Institute to Combat Torture (DIGNITY) and the Danish Public Prosecutor to implement Karma Project, which aims to improve the conditions and the treatment of the persons deprived of their liberties in Jordan and eliminate the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment . The current phase of the project is expected to end in the year 2016.

Question No. 3:

- A. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan observes the conditions in Jordan by adopting scientific methodology based on statistics through the Public Statistic Department. And these statistics inform the governmental polices and strategies. For instance, the Government in 2010 conducted a survey in order to identity the

poverty areas in the Kingdom and accordingly it put the commensurate policies and strategies to address these issues.

- B. The JNCHR followed a steady approach for analyzing the complaints it receives according to the following variables:
- The means of mechanism of receiving the complaint.
 - The right being allegedly violated.
 - The geographical distributions of the complaints.
 - The nationalities of complainants
 - Gender
 - The outcome of the complaint follows up.

The JNCHR used to include a special annex regarding the complaints it receives in its Annual Report on the Conditions of Human Rights in the Kingdom.

- C. Governmental and no-governmental bodies in Jordan assume the role of gathering information and statistics on the conditions of human rights in Jordan such as (the Ombudsman Office, PSD, the Ministry of Interior, the National Council for Family Affairs, the Jordanian National Commission for Women).

Question No. 4:

The Government followed various means to disseminate the culture of human rights and enhancing it values in the national culture. The most important of these methods are:

- A- The incorporation of the national curriculum with human rights concepts.
- B- Introducing human rights streams into the university curriculum.
- C- Introducing human rights streams into the training curriculum for the law enforcement bodies.
- D- Amending the legislations to be consistent with the government obligations under the international human rights law.

Also the JNCHR exerted tremendous efforts in the promotion human rights and enhancing the democratic process in Jordan. These activities include:

- conducting training workshops that targeted Jordanian judges to acquaint them on how to apply and invoke the standards stated in the international treaties to form the reference to render judicial judgments.
- Conducting training workshop for Jordanian lawyers in order to familiarize them with the principles of human rights, the international principles of for fair trials and the autonomy of the judiciary as well as the argument mechanism with the international treaties at the domestic Judiciary.
- Conducting awareness-raising sessions and workshops for university students on the concepts of human rights and the women and child rights.
- Raise the youth awareness to participate in the political life.
- providing training for the law enforcement officials on the concepts of human rights.
- The JNCHR adopted in 2014 the executive plan for the dissemination of the culture of human rights.

Question No. 5:

The Jordanian Government seeks to reinforce its relation with the CSOs but with caution and not giving them the opportunity to assume the full role because of the following:

- A- The improvement of the legislative environment that facilitates the establishment the CSOs and the exercise of their work.
- B- The provision of the supportive and the conducive atmosphere that facilitates the work of CSOs through offering them opportunities for obtaining the funds both from national and international bodies.
- C- Building partnerships between the Government and the CSOs.

D- The JNCHR since its establishment has built and maintained robust relations with different CSOs and NGOs that works for the protection and the promotion of human rights in the Kingdom. This cooperation took the form of:

- Organizing joint activities (workshops, seminars, conference).
- The establishment of networks and alliances for the protection and the promotion enhancement of human rights in the Kingdom. It worth mentioning that during the years (2010 and 2013) the Center in cooperation with the NDI formed a national monitoring team to observe the elections. The Team compromises many CSOs from all over the twelve government in the Kingdom in order to monitor the parliamentary elections in Jordan. Also the Center continued to render support to the national team that was established to combat torture and the “Eidak Mae’e” Network that aims to protect and promote the rights of the child.
 - Following up the complaints received by the CSOs and the violations they are exposed to.

Question No. 6:

A- The Jordanian government follows up the JNCHR recommendations through a Ministerial Committee. The said Committee is compromised of the ministries and official directorates’ representatives and chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and commissioned to developing the strategies and the means that ensure the due enforcement of the recommendations presented by the Treaty Bodies and the UPR mechanism. On the other hand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as being encharged of the international relations of the Country follows up the implementation of these recommendations, in addition to the role assumed by the Ministry of Justice that follows up these recommendations as being considered part of its subject-matter jurisdiction on the promotion of human rights through ensuring the realization of justice and fairness in the Kingdom.

B– The JNCHR exerts relentless efforts to follow up the implementation of these recommendations especially those which intersect with the government recommendations for the protection and the promotion of human rights. These recommendations could be summarized as follows:

- Urging the Jordanian Government to accede to the Arab and international treaties on human rights to which it is not party yet.
- Harmonizing the national legislations with the international standards enshrined in the international instruments of human rights.
- Calling upon the government to put the required policies for the protection and the promotion of human rights.
- Developing the practices in manner that ensures the non-occurrence of human rights violations.

The JNCHR perform this role through the following means:

- Stating these recommendations in the annual and periodic reports issued by the Center in order to remind the government of their obligations, and to garner the necessary support and advocacy for the adoption and the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Treaty Bodies and the Special Procedures.
- holding training workshops and round table for the CSOs ,NGOs and human rights activists to acquaint them with these recommendations and for highlighting the state’s duty to implement them.
- The incorporation within the JNCHR Annual Report a list that outlines all the national legislations that require amendments to be in harmony with the international human rights standards.

Question No. 7:

The Jordanian Government protects the individuals human right to access justice through the inclusion of the Jordanian legislations the principles and that provides for this right. the most paramount of all is the constitutional article which provides that the courts shall be open and accessible for all, and reaffirming this by enacting a law that allows for citizens to litigate the government in the civil cases also giving the opportunity for any aggrieved party from any administrative decisions to appeal it before the administrative judiciary. Also the penal legislations guarantee the individual's right to obtain the legal aid by obliging the court to appoint an attorney for those who can not afford one and on the government exposes in the criminal cases that their sentence duration exceeds 10 years as per enshrined in the Jordanian Criminal Legal Procedures in addition to the provision of translators .

Also the CSOs offer the legal aid for those who can not afford it whether by the Jordanian Bar Association or by other CSOs as (the Family Care Institute, Mizan Group for Human Rights).

The JNCHR provide the legal aid for victims of human rights violations in general and for torture victims in particular directly or refers the case to the relevant bodies, also the JNCHR provides the legal aid services and psychological counseling through the National Monitoring Team under "Karama" Project.

Question No. 8:

It is incumbent upon international and regional organizations to contribute to the protection and the promotion of human rights through the following means:

- A. Providing the technical assistance to the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and CSOs.
- B. Providing the financial support to the government , the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and CSOs
- C. Urging and encouraging governments to abide by their international obligations and providing it with the necessary assistance in order to acquaint them with the best practices in this sphere.