



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

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"Dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights"

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ICJ Intervention on the adoption of the outcome document of the Universal Periodic Review of Jordan

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Mr. President,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) welcomes Jordan's interaction with the Council's Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR) and urges the Government of Jordan to promptly implement all the recommendations of the UPK Working Group.

As suggested in recommendations no. 18, 19 and 20, the Government must investigate in a prompt, effective and independent manner all alleged acts of torture and other ill-treatment that have been systematically used in Jordan's prisons and centres of detention, namely in the General Intelligence Department (GID), and in the Public Security Directorate's Criminal Investigations Department (CID). The systematic practice of torture has been compounded by maintaining the incommunicado, secret and other unlawful detentions, and by shielding state officials and law enforcement officers allegedly responsible for torture and other human rights violations from any legal proceedings. The ICJ urges the Government of Jordan to accept the recommendation no. 93/9 and break the cycle of impunity through holding those responsible for human rights violations accountable. To this end, the Government of Jordan must bring the definition of torture in the Penal Code in accordance with Article 1 of the Convention against Torture (CAT), ensure that penalties be commensurate with the gravity of torture; effectively implement the provisions of the CAT and submit its pending reports to the Committee against Torture.

Mr. President,

The ICJ is very concerned that the session failed to address the human rights violations committed in Jordan when countering terrorism. Jordan has been part of the international network of renditions and transit of terrorism suspects, under the paradigm of the "war on terror". These violations have included secret and incommunicado detentions and renditions of terrorism suspects, even to countries where the person would be at risk of torture or other serious human rights violations, in breach of the obligation of *non-refoulement*. The ICJ calls on the Jordanian authorities to end this policy as a matter of urgency and ensure that the apprehension and transfer of suspects comply with the international standards, in particular with the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.

The application of the overly broad definition of the crime of terrorism in the Law on the Prevention of Terrorism is of separate concern as it has resulted in the widespread and serious violations of human rights, including the violations of the right to liberty and personal

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security, and of many freedoms, including the freedom of expression. The Government must therefore accept and expeditiously implement the recommendation no. 93/15.

The Jordanian judicial system has failed to protect the rights of victims of human rights violations through access to justice and ending the impunity of those responsible for such abuses. This is true in particular with regard to the role of the State Security Courts (SSC), which mandate contravenes the international standards of judicial independence and impartiality and that has further exacerbated the impunity for human rights violations in Jordan.

The ICJ calls on the Government of Jordan to abolish the SSC and other special courts, and make sure that human rights violations, including those committed by military and law enforcement officers and officials, are tried by ordinary civilian courts in the due process of law in line with the international standards, and that the courts are free of political interference.

Mr. President,

I thank you.