



The Intervention of the National Center for the Human Rights before the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 11 June 2009, regarding the Universal Periodic Review report concerning Jordan

Mr. President:

It gives me pleasure to extend my thanks for the Human Rights Council for availing this opportunity to present this intervention. The Center appreciates the reports that were prepared by the High Commission for Human Rights and the Jordanian and the international civil society associations regarding the situation of the human rights in Jordan. We also appreciate the questions posed by the states to the Jordanian government in order to enhance and protect human rights in the Kingdom.

It maybe said that the overall remarks that the report of the Universal Periodic Review refers to, do not detract from the truth that the Kingdom has realized a reasonable achievement in the area of the respect of its international obligations concerning human rights. Notheless, it has to take several steps in order to guarantee the respect of these undertakings. The national report which the government has submitted to your esteemed Council, and the report that your Council has issued in its session on 11-13 February 2009... have both pointed out to a number of legislative impediments and operational measures and practices that detract from the full protection of the matrix of human rights in Jordan. Within this context, the National Center for Human Rights would like to emphasize a number of steps that the government must take; the most important of which are:

1. Amendment of the national legislations to reduce the implementation of the death penalty, and limit this to the most serious crimes. At the same time, strict controls must be put in place to guarantee the proper application of this penalty. It is worth mentioning that the government has referred to the parliament a draft amendment in this respect to be discussed at the current extraordinary session.
2. Overcome the deficiency in the national legislations that often results in the impunity of the perpetrators of the crime of a torture and their escaping the deterring punishment. This is to be done through acknowledging the jurisdiction of anti-torture committee that is referred to in articles 21 and 22 of the 1984



- anti-torture convention, and the accession to the optional protocol annexed to it.
3. Amendment of the national legislations that allow the government and its security services to violate the rights of the individuals to safety and personal freedom especially the prevention of crimes law and the anti-terrorism law, etc...
 4. Enhancement of the judicial authority and the limitation of referrals to the special courts whose law constitutes an attack on the jurisdictions of the regular judiciary.
 5. Amendments of the national legislation that restrict the promotion of the political freedoms, the most important of which is the freedom of opinion, expression, information, and the freedom to form political parties and charitable associations, and the right to fair elections.
 6. Inclusion of the principles of the international covenant on civil and political rights, and the international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights into the domestic legal system so as to cause the judicial authorities to act upon them in deciding the cases presented to these authorities. In addition, reservations must be lifted regarding article (2/9) of the convention to eliminate all discrimination against women (CEDAW), and the lifting of the reservations regarding articles 20 and 21 of the convention of the rights of the child, and the two protocols attached to it.

Mr. President:

After the conclusion of the session of your esteemed Council, the National Center for Human Rights will embark upon a consultation process with the government, the whole civil society local associations in order to study the concluding observations of your esteemed Council and urge the government to adopt these, as well as the crystallization of a national alliance to lobby the government and the parliament in order to realize this goal. This is to be done through the following measures:

- Study the priorities in the concluding remarks so as to implement them.
- Laying down a specific strategy and working mechanism.
- Include the concluding remarks within the action plan, programmes and activities of the Center.



- Recruitment of the local media to present to the public opinion the remarks of the Council and receive the feedback.

Mr. President:

The National Center for Human Rights hopes that the government will continue its march in protecting and enhancing human rights in the Kingdom.... And not to go back as a result of a number of legislations, measures and practices that it took lately Which may detract from the tangible achievement that has been achieved at the level of the protection of the human rights and basic freedoms. This is particularly so, since the political leadership in Jordan is in reality pushing in the direction of the enhancement and protection of human rights in the Kingdom.

Thank you,

Mohammad Yacoub