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**The National Center for Human Rights Remark on UPR Jordan**

Despite the fact that political will to advance human rights in Jordan has been demonstrated, in many ways, including by Royal instructions to Government last year to consider and implement the recommendations contained in the annual report of the National Center for Human Rights (NCHR), and by tangible progress in authorities efforts to protect and promote human rights in Jordan, there are, however, still some gaps and disparities in this country that the NCHR has noticed at levels of legislations, policies and practices.

At the level of legislations, there are gaps in several areas; among the most salient are the following: guarantees for the rights of detainees during preliminary investigation; the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law, Particularly, the trial of civilians fully by civilian courts, Furthermore, there is a need to amend the existing anti-terrorism law which infringes some fundamental freedoms and rights of persons, as well as the requirement for fair trial.

There is a need to upgrade the election law, political parties' law, and labor law, as well as the elimination of remaining restrictions on the laws relevant to freedoms of expression, assembly and the rights of establishing labor associations.

As for policies and practices, notwithstanding tangible positive developments in the kingdom that the NCHR has noticed, the latter still receives complaints of allegations of inhumane treatment and in some a

few cases torture, in addition to long periods of judicial and administrative detention.

Efforts exerted by official authorities to improve the living standard of disadvantaged groups in society have not succeeded in curbing mounting poverty and unemployment rates.

There is also a need for more efforts to combat domestic violence, as well as other forms of discrimination and inequality against women at work places. Initiatives to empower woman to reach advanced decision making positions are still modest.

Finally, the NCHR cannot fail to notice the authorities' interest in respect for NCHR's independence and role, as well as, their positive attitude towards its recommendations and reports. This official positive attitude helps NCHR to continue performing its duties and responsibilities specified in its formative law and in accordance with the international standards, known as Paris Principles, though implementation gap still a major concern of NCHR.

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