



International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the fourth periodic report of Jordan (CCPR/C/JOR/4)

Constitutional and legal framework within which the Covenant is implemented (art. 2)

1. What is the status of the Covenant within the hierarchy of legal norms in the State party? Please indicate whether the Covenant has been applied by the courts or the administrative authorities. If so, please provide examples. Are customs and cultural considerations impediments to the full application of the Covenant? How can the State party justify the constitutional and legislative provisions under which only Jordanians enjoy many of the rights in the Covenant?
2. Please provide detailed information on the mandate, resources and activities of the National Centre for Human Rights.

Measures to combat terrorism and respect for the rights guaranteed in the Covenant

3. Please provide detailed information on the legislation against terrorism and its compatibility with the rights recognized in the Covenant.

Gender equality and violence against women (arts. 3, 7 and 26)

4. Please indicate any measures taken to guarantee equality between men and women, in particular in legislation relating to marriage, polygamy, divorce, the custody of children, inheritance and the transmittal of nationality to children. Please also indicate whether the testimony of a woman carries the same weight as that of a man.
5. Please provide information on the legal framework to prevent and combat violence against women, and on redress and protection for the victims. Please indicate whether all forms of violence against women constitute a criminal offence, including domestic violence and marital rape. Please provide information, including statistics covering the last five years, on: (a) the number of complaints of violence against women, the investigations and prosecutions following those complaints, the types of penalties handed down and the compensation awarded to the victims and their families; and (b) the number of women in “protective” custody. Please provide information on the availability of shelters for women in order to replace “protective” custody for women at risk of violence.

6. Please indicate whether there are any plans to amend the Criminal Code to ensure that honour crimes/criminal acts committed in the heat of passion are treated on a par with other violent crimes, and that they are investigated, prosecuted and properly punished.

Right to life and prohibition of torture and ill-treatment (arts. 6, 7 and 10)

7. Is there a system of independent visits to places of deprivation of liberty, and on what terms do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have access to places of detention?

8. Please provide further information on the mechanisms in place to deal with complaints of torture or ill-treatment allegedly perpetrated by public officials at all stages of deprivation of liberty. In particular, please explain to what extent those mechanisms are independent.

9. Please indicate whether an order from a superior officer or a public authority may be invoked as a justification for acts of torture or ill-treatment. Please provide information covering the last five years on prosecutions for acts of torture and the sentences handed down, disaggregated by nature of the charge and the rank of the official concerned. Are those allegedly responsible immediately suspended from duty? In light of paragraph 49 of the report (CCPR/C/JOR/4), please provide detailed information and statistics relating to court decisions awarding damages to victims of ill-treatment.

Right to liberty and security (art. 9)

10. Please indicate the maximum length of time a person may be held in police custody before being brought before a judge. Please indicate if persons held in custody have a legal right to an independent medical examination and how this right is implemented in practice. Is the right to legal counsel guaranteed immediately upon arrest, or at a later stage? Please indicate the specific conditions which apply to detention at facilities of the General Intelligence Directorate and specify whether and to what extent they are compatible with the provisions of the Covenant.

11. Please elaborate on Act No. 7 on Crime Prevention, of 1954, and indicate whether it still empowers provincial governors to order the detention without charge or trial of anyone suspected of committing a crime or “deemed to be a danger to society”, without presenting any evidence. Please indicate whether detainees held in these conditions are entitled to request the review by a court of the lawfulness of their detention, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 4, of the Covenant. Please also explain how this right is implemented in practice.

Right to a fair trial (art. 14)

12. Please provide detailed information on the competence of the military courts and the State Security Court and on the rules of procedure applied by them. Please specify to what extent such competence and rules of procedure are compatible with the provisions of the Covenant.

13. Please comment on the reports the Committee has received claiming that confessions extracted through torture and other ill-treatment are used as evidence in courts, including in the State Security Court.

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (art. 18)

14. In 1994, the Committee emphasized the need to take further measures to guarantee freedom of religion and eliminate discrimination on religious grounds (CCPR/C/79/Add.35, para. 17). Please provide information on the right to have or adopt the religion or belief of

one's choice, including the freedom of Muslims to change religion or the freedom to be atheist.

15. The State party report (para. 132) refers to the inclusion of information on ethnic and religious background in personal identity cards. Please indicate whether all citizens have to associate themselves with a recognized religion for the purpose of obtaining an identity card and whether measures have been taken to prevent identity cards from becoming a source of discrimination.

Freedom of opinion and expression (art. 19)

16. Please provide information on the criminal responsibility incurred by journalists who write articles considered harmful to the country's diplomatic relations or to the royal family. Please provide statistics on the number of journalists prosecuted, as well as the reasons for such prosecution, over the past five years. According to the State party report (para. 87), the press and printing sectors are free to operate, subject to the limits established by law, and newspapers may not be suspended or closed down except in accordance with the law (para. 88). Please describe the legislative provisions regulating the operation of the press and printing sectors and permitting the suspension or closing down of newspapers.

Prohibition of incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence and the right of peaceful assembly and freedom of association (arts. 20, 21 and 22)

17. Please provide detailed information on the measures taken or envisaged by the State party to combat any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

18. Please indicate: (a) on what grounds a governor may refuse to grant permission for a gathering based on the Public Assemblies Act 2008; (b) whether there are any remedies available for organizations and individuals when authorization for a gathering is denied and, if so, how those remedies are exercised; and (c) the number of gatherings declared illegal over the past five years, the names of the organizations concerned and the reasons for denying authorization.

19. With reference to the Societies Act of 2008, please indicate: (a) on what grounds an application to register an NGO may be denied; (b) on what grounds the Government can appoint a State employee to serve as temporary president of an NGO, refuse approval for an NGO to receive donations or shut down an NGO; (c) what remedies are available to contest such decisions; and (d) what type of activities NGOs can carry out.

Rights of the child (art. 24)

20. Please comment on the existence of child labour in the State party, and any measures taken, including of a legal nature, to combat child labour.

Right to take part in the conduct of public affairs (art. 25)

21. Please provide information on the regulations governing the establishment of political parties, and also indicate what restrictions are imposed by the 2007 Act governing political parties.

22. Please indicate if any measures have been taken or are envisaged to increase further the level of representation of women in public and political life by, for instance, increasing the quotas for women in the House of Representatives (5 per cent) and in municipal councils (20 per cent). Are there any quotas for women in the Senate?

23. Please indicate what measures have been taken to guarantee free and transparent elections and if there is an independent electoral commission in the State party to supervise

the electoral process and to ensure that elections are conducted fairly and impartially in accordance with established laws.

Rights of minorities (art. 27)

24. Please indicate in detail the measures that the State party has taken or is planning to take to preserve, protect and develop the cultures of ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities.

Dissemination of information relating to the Covenant (art. 2)

25. Please indicate whether: (a) the State party has published information on the Covenant, the Committee's previous concluding observations (CCPR/C/79/Add.35) and the preparation of the current report of the State party; and (b) representatives of civil society have been involved in the preparation of the State party report.
