

Human Rights Council- 11th Session
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
Oral Intervention - Item 6 - UPR Jordan
11 June, 2009
Delivered by Dina Mansour

Thank you Mr. President

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies commends Jordan for its cooperation with the UPR process particularly its recent positive decision to lift its reservation on Art. 15(4) of CEDAW in February 2009.

With regards to paragraphs 23, 32 and 38, CIHRS is especially concerned, with the situation of women, the status of their rights, domestic violence and the prevalence of honor crimes in the Kingdom. In this regard, CIHRS urges Jordan to develop comprehensive penal legislations that eliminate discrimination and violence against women, consider amending articles 98 and 340 of its Criminal Code to ensure that perpetrators of honor crimes will be brought to justice, as well as to consider withdrawing its remaining reservations on CEDAW and ratifying its Optional Protocol.

As recommended in paragraph 39(c), CIHRS moreover ask Jordan to review its Nationality Law in order to allow Jordanian mothers married to non-Jordanians to confer their nationalities on to their children. According to paragraph 48, we further ask Jordan to consider lifting all its reservations on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As recommended in paragraphs 32(b), CIHRS asks Jordan to revise its recently adopted "Law on Societies" to ensure its compatibility with international human rights standards, in particular the right to freedom of association enshrined in the ICCPR. According to paragraph 44(c), we further recommend that Jordan removes government approval requirements in the work of NGOs and reduce restrictions on their activities. We further ask the Jordan to consider acceding to Optional Protocols 1 and 2 to ICCPR.

According to paragraph 92, CIHRS welcomes Jordan's commitment to respond as soon as possible to the request for visit by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and asks the Kingdom to adopt similar measures with other pending requests of visits by other Special Rapporteurs.

CIHRS asks Jordan to consider establishing a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty as well as consider establishing a legal framework for the protection of refugees and applicants for asylum and becoming party to the related international instruments.

Finally, with regard to recommendations made in paragraphs 32(d) and 43(b), CHRS call on Jordan to consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and setting up an independent national mechanism for oversight in places of detention. Jordan's recent prison reform program failed to bring an end to acts of torture and ill-treatment of political detainees and victims of rendition in the country and to the displayed impunity in this regard, especially in acts perpetrated by the General Intelligence Department.

Thank you Mr. President