

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO JORDAN

GERMANY

- In response to concerns and recommendations expressed by the treaty bodies (CAT, CERD and CEDAW), what is Jordan doing to ensure that migrant workers, including those employed in the Qualified Industrial Zone, enjoy the full protection of their human rights? In particular, how do Jordanian authorities ensure the equal and effective enforcement of the Jordanian Labour Code on migrant workers, and what measures does Jordan take to prohibit and prevent all forms of violence against female migrant workers, especially those employed as domestic staff?
- The Human Rights Committee and CAT expressed concerns about the wide range of criminal offences that can be submitted to the State Security Court. Jordanian media reported on 1st September 2013 that H.M. King Abdullah II. decided that the jurisdiction of the State Security Court should be amended by law in order to ensure its conformity with the Jordanian Constitution. How is the Government of Jordan going to proceed in this respect and what kind of regulations does it envisage?

NETHERLANDS

- How are civilians legally protected against trial by military courts for crimes that relate to freedom of expression and assembly?
- What mechanisms does the government of Jordan apply to safeguard freedom of expression for all its citizens, including journalists, bloggers and commentators?
- Given the rising public pressure on the need to eliminate gender discrimination, as reflected as well in the debate on the amendments to the Constitution, what immediate steps is Jordan considering to eliminate gender inequality, especially in terms of family and nationality law?
- Is Jordan planning to fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the ICC and to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts?
- What efforts has the government of Jordan adopted to protect potential victims of ‘honor crimes’?

SLOVENIA

- In the first round of UPR, Slovenia has made a recommendation to Jordan to consider changing legislation that would prohibit all forms of corporal punishment, including at home. Jordan accepted this recommendation. We noted that under the amended new Child Rights Bill, corporal punishment remains lawful in the home and in

alternative care. We would therefore like to ask whether Jordan is still considering introducing a ban on corporal punishment in all settings, including at home, which would also be in line with the General Comment n.8 of the CRC?

- We welcome that the age of criminal responsibility for minors has been raised from 7 to 12 years. Are the judiciary and other authorities, when handling such criminal cases of minor offenders, taking into account the principle of best interest of the child?

UNITED KINGDOM

- Jordan has made positive steps following its acceptance of the 2009 UPR recommendations on freedom of expression. However the UK is concerned that the 2012 amendments to the Press and Publications Law constituted a significant step backwards. Its implementation has resulted in the closure of over 200 news websites. What plans does Jordan have to amend this law to bring it in line with its earlier commitment?
- We welcome the constitutional amendment to limit the remit of the State Security Court to five crimes and King Abdullah's recent call for this to be reflected in legislation. Given concerns that political activists have been brought before the State Security Court, what steps will be taken to amend the terrorism articles of the Penal Code, among others, to ensure they cannot be used to curtail freedom of expression?
- We welcome the constitutional amendments in 2011 which included provisions on the prohibition of torture. We would like to know how many convictions have been made for torture since then and what steps are being taken to ensure a fully independent mechanism for investigating and prosecuting allegations of torture or mistreatment by members of the police or other security forces, for example by giving jurisdiction to the civilian courts?
- The UK pays tribute to the tremendous hospitality shown by Jordan in hosting over 400,000 Syrian refugees. We remain concerned at reports of border controls that limit the flow of refugees into Jordan, including Palestinians, and some reports of refoulement. What measures does Jordan intend to take to ensure that vulnerable people are not prevented from reaching safety?
- The UK was pleased that Jordan accepted the UPR recommendation in 2009 to "actively seek to address concerns on the use of administrative detention, to review it, and ensure that current detainees have access to legal representation and to the courts". Given that many people continue to be detained administratively under the Crime Prevention Law of 1954, what steps are being taken to end the practice of administrative detention and in the meantime ensure detainees can challenge their detention before the courts in all cases?