

We, Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussain, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in pursuance of Article 94 (1) of the Constitution, and upon the Council of Ministers' decision of the 3rd of December 2002, do hereby approve by virtue of Article 31 of the Constitution the following Provisional Law and order the same to be promulgated, provisionally enforced and appended to the laws of the State, on the basis that it shall be presented to the Parliament in the first meeting it holds.

Provisional Law No. 75 for the year 2002
Law of the National Center for Human Rights

Article 1

This law shall be cited as the *Law of the National Center for Human Rights for the year 2002* and shall come into effect as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette

Article 2

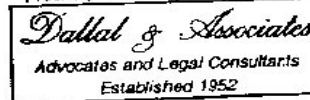
Wherever they appear in this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder, unless the context otherwise stipulates:

NCHR	National Center for Human Rights
Board	The Board of Trustees of the NCHR
Chairman	The Chairman of the Board
Secretariat	The General Secretariat of the NCHR
Commissioner General	The Commissioner General for Human Rights by virtue of the provisions of this Law

Article 3

- a- A center shall be set up in the Kingdom to be called the National Center for Human Rights; it shall have a juridical personality with financial and administrative independence. As such it shall carry out all legal actions, including the conclusion of contracts, owning movable and immovable property and the right to litigate.
- b- The Chairman shall represent the NCHR before third parties. Upon a decision of the Board, he/she shall be entitled to delegate for this purpose any Board member or the Commissioner General, or to assign an attorney to represent the NCHR in judicial or administrative proceedings.
- c- The head office of the NCHR shall be in Amman, and the NCHR may open up branches and offices anywhere in the Kingdom.

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Article 4

The objectives of the NCHR are as follows:

- a- To promote human rights principles in the Kingdom, by drawing from the tolerant message of Islam, the values of the Arab Islamic culture, the rights enshrined in the Constitution and the principles asserted in international charters and covenants
- b- To contribute to entrenching the principles of human rights in the Kingdom at both intellectual and practical levels, and of non discrimination among citizens on the basis of race, language, religion or sex
- c- To bolster the democratic process in the Kingdom in order to create a comprehensive and balanced model, based on disseminating freedoms, safeguarding political pluralism, respecting the rule of law and guaranteeing the right to economic, social and cultural development.
- d- To strive to ensure the Kingdom's accession to Arab and international human rights charters and conventions.

Article 5

The NCHR shall seek to achieve its objectives through the following means and methods:

- a- To verify observance of human rights in the Kingdom, in order to treat any infringements thereon or violations thereof, and to pursue any necessary proceedings for this purpose, *inter alia* to settle or to refer said infringements or violations to the executive or legislative branches or to the competent judicial authority to put an end to them and to eliminate their effects
- b- To seek to teach human rights principles at the various educational levels.
- c- To take stands and make statements related to human rights issues in the Kingdom
- d- To undertake legal, political, social, educational and intellectual studies and researches in relation to NCHR objectives.
- e- To hold lectures, seminars and conferences in relation to NCHR objectives, and to take part in similar activities in compliance with the relevant legal provisions in force
- f- To organize training courses and educational and awareness-raising seminars
- g- To write, publish and circulate books
- h- To issue periodical and non-periodical reports and bulletins.
- i- To participate in television and radio programs, discussion and debates, and to help in the preparation of press material.
- j- To exchange information and expertise with similar national and Arab associations and regional and international institutions.
- k- To make recommendations and to submit the necessary proposals to guarantee human rights in the Kingdom
- l- To set up a data base related to human rights
- m- To propose legislation that is relevant to NCHR objectives.

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Article 6

- a- The NCHR shall be fully independent in carrying out its intellectual, political and humanitarian activities and events related to human rights
- b- The head office and branches of the NCHR shall not be searched save upon a judicial order and in the presence of the competent public prosecutor, provided that the NCHR is notified thereof. Any procedure in contravention thereof shall be considered null and void.

Article 7

The NCHR shall be in charge of monitoring violations of human rights and public freedoms in the Kingdom, and shall endeavor to put an end to any such violations.

Article 8

The NCHR may request from any relevant party any information, data or statistics that it deems necessary to achieve its objectives

Article 9

The NCHR shall have the right to do the following:-

- a- Visit correction and rehabilitation centers, detention centers and juvenile shelters according to the due process
- b- Visit any public place that is reported as a location where violations of human rights have been or are committed

Article 10

The NCHR shall undertake to do the following:-

- a- Maintain the confidentiality of the source of information, data and documents delivered to it; and that shall be upon the request of the supplier of information or whenever necessary
- b- Refrain from using data and information received for any purpose other than achieving its objectives
- c- Refrain from reviewing any complaint that is received without the name, signature and address of its sender, or that involves any abuse of the right to file complaints

Article 11

The NCHR shall submit its annual report on the status of human rights and public freedoms in the Kingdom to the Council of Ministers and the Parliament

Article 12

Notwithstanding the provisions of legislation in force, the NCHR may issue periodical and non-periodical data, bulletins and publications to achieve those objectives provided for in this Law



Article 13

The NCHR shall be entitled to contact national institutions, Arab associations and regional and international organizations of similar goals, and to cooperate with them in the field of human rights.

Article 14

- a- The NCHR shall be supervised and managed by a board of trustees with a maximum membership of twenty-one persons. Its chairman and members shall be appointed by Royal Decree, upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Membership of any of them may be terminated in the same manner by appointing an alternate member for the remainder of his/her term.
- b- The Board shall choose from among its members a vice-chairman to fill in the Chairman's office in his/her absence.
- c- The term of the Board shall be four years renewable.

Article 15

The Board of Trustees shall assume the following duties:-

- a- Laying out and overseeing the implementation of the NCHR general policy.
- b- Reviewing and adopting the NCHR annual working plan.
- c- Approving means for the development of, and implementation and improvement of the activities of the NCHR.
- d- Reviewing and adopting the annual report on human rights in the Kingdom.
- e- Working on developing NCHR sources of income.
- f- Discussing and deciding on issues and matters referred to it by the Secretariat.
- g- Bolstering NCHR relations with similar institutes and centers.
- h- Adopting the NCHR draft budget and final accounts.
- i- Appointing a chartered auditor for the NCHR.
- j- Passing instructions as needed to the NCHR management, branches and organs, including instructions related to administrative and financial matters, subject to the provisions of the law.

Article 16

- a- The Board shall meet upon convocation from the Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman in his/her absence, whenever necessary. The quorum shall be met when not less than two thirds of the members are present, provided that the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman is amongst them. Its decisions shall be taken by majority of votes as a minimum.
- b- The Chairman shall appoint a secretary for the Board, who shall be in charge of organizing Board meetings, recording its decisions and keeping its documents.

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Article 17

- a- The Commissioner General shall be appointed by a decision from the Council of Ministers, upon the recommendation of the Board, provided that said decision is coupled with Royal Decree. His/her services shall be terminated in the same manner.
- b- The Commissioner General shall be accountable before the Board for performing his/her duties; he/she shall be assisted in doing so by a number of full-time commissioners appointed by the Board, upon recommendation from the Commissioner General. He/she may delegate some of his/her powers to any of them as needed.

Article 18

The Commissioner General shall assume all duties entrusted to him/her under this Law, in particular the following:-

- a- Implementation of NCHR general policy and following up on the implementation of Board decisions.
- b- Monitoring transgressions on and violations of human rights and public freedoms in the Kingdom, receiving complaints and taking the necessary follow up procedures in relation thereto.
- c- Seeking to put an end to transgressions on public freedoms in the Kingdom.
- d- Following up on complaints and cases of violation of human rights up to their final resolution and informing the complainants or the concerned persons of the results thereof. Documenting the same and including them in the NCHR annual report.
- e- Informing citizens through the various means of communications of their rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution, the applied laws and international charters and conventions, and assisting them in taking those procedures that safeguard said rights in the event of transgression thereon. This includes informing the complainant or the concerned person of the legal means of challenge and appeal.
- f- Paying off expenses resulting from the adoption of procedures to put an end to the aggression on the complainant's rights, in the event that the latter has been proven to be poor and that there are allocations available in the NCHR budget for that purpose.

Article 19

- a- The Secretariat is the executive organ of the NCHR, it shall be headed, managed and supervised by the Commissioner General.
- b- Secretariat staff shall be appointed and their salaries and other financial rights shall be determined by a resolution of the Board, upon recommendation from the Commissioner General, in accordance with instructions in force at the NCHR.

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Article 20

The Secretariat shall assume the following duties -

- a- Working to achieve NCHR objectives through those means provided for in this Law, it may set up *ad hoc* committees to perform certain tasks in order to achieve NCHR objectives
- b- Supervising NCHR activities and various functions in the field of human rights
- c- Preparing the annual NCHR working plan
- d- Overseeing NCHR organizational, administrative and financial affairs, inclusive of personnel
- e- Managing NCHR funds, movable and immovable property and investing them in line with the standards approved by the Board of Trustees.
- f- Preparing the annual report, the financial and the administrative reports, as well as any other reports related to NCHR work and objectives
- g- Preparing the draft budget and the final accounts.

Article 21

The treasurer of the NCHR shall be in charge of supervising and organizing the financial records, accounts, payment and receipt vouchers; he/she shall sign payment vouchers along with the Commissioner General of the NCHR.

Article 22

NCHR financial resources shall be composed as follows:-

- a- Financial support afforded by the government.
- b- Yield of financial and cultural activities and projects undertaken by the NCHR.
- c- Donations, gifts and any other resources that the Board decides to accept, on the condition that the Council of Ministers approves them.
- d- Legacies and Waqf.

Article 23

Notwithstanding any other legislative provision, the NCHR, its funds, transactions and non-investment revenues shall be exempted from all kinds of taxes and duties

Article 24

The Council of Ministers shall pass the necessary regulations to enforce the provisions of this Law

Article 25

The Prime Minister and Ministers shall be charged with enforcing the provisions of this Law.

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