

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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JORDAN: Partial action undermines real progress

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Jordan

Jordan's Personal Status Law and Penal Code continue to discriminate against women and girls, including in the areas of guardianship, marriage, divorce, inheritance, abortion and adultery. Amnesty International welcomes Jordan's acceptance of recommendations to protect women against gender-based and domestic violence,¹ and child marriage,² and to ensure that they have equal access to justice and jobs.³

However, the organization deeply regrets that Jordan rejected recommendations to structurally implement these rights, including acceding to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW,⁴ criminalizing marital rape and eliminating attenuating circumstances for honour crimes,⁵ removing legislation that allows child marriage,⁶ allowing women to pass their nationality to their children and spouses,⁷ and ensuring that women and girls can exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.⁸ Jordan must reconsider these recommendations.

The authorities continue to harass, detain and imprison activists and journalists. Both the Press and Publication Act and the Cybercrime Law criminalize free speech. However, rather than eliminating repressive elements from these laws, the government has proposed amendments to the Cybercrime Law that further restrict online activities.

Amnesty International therefore welcomes Jordan's acceptance of recommendations to recognize the important work of human rights defenders,⁹ and to ensure that the Press and Publication Act¹⁰ is in line with the ICCPR.¹¹

The General Intelligence Directorate continues to subject people to prolonged pre-trial detention, solitary confinement, torture and other ill-treatment. The detainees are not allowed unsupervised visits, including with their lawyers. Administrative governors continue to issue thousands of administrative detention orders under the 1954 Crime Prevention Law, which allows detention of up to one year without charge or trial or any means of legal remedy.

¹ A/HRC/40/10, recommendations 135.6 (Albania), 135.10 (India), 135.28 (Thailand), 135.30 (Turkey), 135.34 (Uganda), 135.91 (Botswana), 135.95 (Fiji), 135.105 (UK), 135.108 (Uruguay).

² A/HRC/40/10, recommendations 135.113 (Maldives), 135.114 (Myanmar).

³ A/HRC/40/10, recommendations 135.94 (Albania), 135.103 (Australia), 135.14 (Kuwait), 135.27 (Sweden), 135.31 (Turkey).

⁴ A/HRC/40/10, recommendations 137.13 (Columbia), 137.15 (Sri Lanka), 137.45 (Canada), 137.47 (Czechia), 137.59 (Estonia), 137.60 (Germany).

⁵ A/HRC/40/10, recommendation 137.27 (Chile).

⁶ A/HRC/40/10, recommendations 137.25 (Belgium), 137.30 (Ireland).

⁷ A/HRC/40/10, recommendations 137.48 (France), 137.49 (Hungary), 137.50 (Iceland), 137.52 (Argentina), 137.67 (Austria), 137.70 (Lithuania).

⁸ A/HRC/40/10, recommendation 137.68 (Uruguay).

⁹ A/HRC/40/10, recommendation 135.9 (Iceland).

¹⁰ A/HRC/40/10, recommendation 135.26 (Spain).

¹¹ A/HRC/40/10, recommendation 135.71 (Norway).

Amnesty International welcomes Jordan's acceptance of recommendations to prohibit torture¹² and limit the use of administrative detention.¹³ Regrettably, however, it rejected recommendations to ratify the OPCAT,¹⁴ to end of the use of administrative detention,¹⁵ and to repeal the Crime Prevention Law.¹⁶

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Jordan on 14 March 2019 during its 40th session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered this oral statement.

Public Document

International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW, UK www.amnesty.org

¹² A/HRC/40/10, recommendations 135.8 (Greece), 135.52 (Hungary), 135.53 (Italy), 135.63 (Republic of Korea).

¹³ A/HRC/40/10, recommendation 135.56 (France).

¹⁴ A/HRC/40/10, recommendations 137.2 (Denmark, Estonia, Chile, Ukraine, Honduras, Spain), 137.14 (Czechia), 137.16 (Sri Lanka), 137.22 (Romania), 137.23 (Austria).

¹⁵ A/HRC/40/10, recommendation 137.57 (Norway).

¹⁶ A/HRC/40/10, recommendations 137.32 (Australia), 137.39 (Switzerland).