



Jordan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 9 April 2014

The latest reports on honour killings in Jordan (i.e. women killed by family members for not marrying the man chosen by their families), including the availability of State protection and Internal relocation.

The 2013 Amnesty International report on Jordan, in a section titled “Discrimination and violence against women”, states:

“Women were discriminated against in law and practice, and were inadequately protected against gender-based violence. At least ten women were reported to have been killed by male relatives, victims of so-called ‘honour’ crimes.” (Amnesty International (23 May 2013) *Annual Report 2013 – Jordan*)

The US Department of State country report on Jordan for the events of 2013, in a section titled “Harmful Traditional Practices”, states:

“Judicial statistics indicated that 12 honor crimes were referred to the judicial system during the year. Activists reported that many such crimes went unreported. The Supreme Criminal Court’s panel of judges dedicated to cases involving honor crimes routinely issued sentences of up to 15 years to perpetrators of such crimes. The Cassation Court, which reviews the Supreme Criminal Court rulings, generally decreased the sentences by half. During the year the courts issued one guilty verdict, with a sentence of 10 years’ imprisonment and hard labor, against a man who killed his wife in an honor crime. There were several cases during the year in which family members dropped the charges against perpetrators of honor crimes, and the 2011 General Amnesty Law resulted in the government dropping charges in cases where the family also dropped the charges against the perpetrator. There were no reported instances of forced marriage as an alternative to a potential honor killing during the year. Observers noted that if a woman marries her rapist, according to customary belief, her family members do not need to kill her to ‘preserve the family’s honor.’” (US Department of State (27 February 2014) *2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Jordan*, p.26)

A report to the UN Human Rights Council, in a section titled “Gender-motivated killings of women in the family” (paragraph 23), states:

“As a result of awareness-raising campaigns carried out in the late 1990s, which enjoyed the support of the press, the Royal Family of Jordan and human rights and women’s organizations in the country, the number of gender-motivated killings of women in Jordan has steadily decreased in the last years. However, this is still a phenomenon of concern in the country, and estimates of the number of so-called ‘honour killings’ vary between 10 and 25 per year, depending on the source.” (UN Human Rights Council (14 May

2012) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, Addendum : Mission to Jordan*, p.7)

See also paragraph 24 which states:

“In many of these cases, violence against women is perpetrated by husbands, guardians and other male relatives, when women act in ways that are considered ‘dishonourable’ in the eyes of society. Women, whether married or unmarried, who have engaged in pre- or extra-marital sex even face the risk of being murdered so as to ‘restore the family honour’. Moreover, given the high levels of scrutiny under which some women live, leaving the home without permission or talking to an unrelated man are acts that have also resulted in the killing of women in the name of ‘honour’.” (ibid, p.7)

A document published by the University of Cambridge states:

“A study into the attitude of teenagers in Jordan’s capital city of Amman reveals that almost half of boys and one in five girls believe that killing a daughter, sister or wife who has ‘dishonoured’ or shamed the family is justified. A third of all teenagers involved in the research advocated honour killing. Importantly, the study found that these disturbing attitudes were not connected to religious beliefs. The research is published in the journal *Aggressive Behavior*. Researchers surveyed over 850 students, and found that attitudes in support of honour killing are far more likely in adolescent boys with low education backgrounds. After analysing the data, researchers concluded that religion and intensity of religious belief were not associated with support for honour killing. Instead, the main factors include patriarchal and traditional worldviews, emphasis placed on female ‘virtue’, and a more general belief that violence against others is morally justified.” (University of Cambridge (20 June 2013) *Belief that honour killings are ‘justified’ still prevalent among Jordan’s next generation, study shows*)

An Agence France Presse report states:

“The criminal court in Amman on Sunday sentenced two Jordanian men to death for killing their sister in June ‘to cleanse the family’s honour,’ a court official said. ‘The two men, aged 23 and 20, took their divorced sister, also in her twenties, to the garden of their house and strangled her in June 2013,’ in Zarqa, a city northeast of Amman, the official told AFP. ‘They confessed to killing their sister, who worked in a kindergarten after suspecting that she had behaved badly,’ the official said without elaborating. ‘They said that they wanted to cleanse the family’s honour,’ the official added. Murder is punishable by death in Jordan, but in ‘honour killings’ courts usually commute or reduce sentences if the victim’s family requests leniency.” (Agence France Presse (29 December 2013) *Two Jordanians sentenced to death over ‘honour killing’*)

See also Agence France Presse report which states:

“A Jordanian court has reduced the sentence of a man who killed his daughter because she left home without her husband’s knowledge from death to 10 years in jail, an official said Thursday. ‘On January 29 the court initially condemned the man to death but gave him a reduced jail sentence after the

family dropped all legal claims against him,' the judicial official told AFP. 'He has confessed to shooting and killing his daughter, who was in her late 20s, because she left her house for several days without her husband's knowledge.'" (Agence France Presse (6 February 2014) *Jordanian gets reduced sentence for 'honour killing'*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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