

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Amnesty International calls on Jordan to live up to its UPR commitments to end torture, other ill-treatment and administrative detention and to guarantee the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Jordan

Reports of **torture and other ill-treatment in detention** in Jordan persist and so, Amnesty International welcomes Jordan's commitment to amend legislation to end impunity for torture, to ensure victims' right to justice and compensation, and to strengthen efforts to prevent torture and other ill-treatment in detention facilities.¹ That said, Amnesty International is disappointed with Jordan's rejection of all recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and urges it to reconsider its position.²

Amnesty International has frequently raised concerns about **the use of administrative detention** and therefore welcomes Jordan's acceptance of a number of recommendations aimed at limiting the use and duration of administrative detention and to ensure that all detainees are brought before an independent judicial authority promptly after arrest and charged with a recognizably criminal offence, or else promptly released.³

Amnesty International is also concerned that the **State Security Court** continues to be used to try civilians, who, under international human rights law, should be tried in civilian courts. Amnesty International welcomes Jordan's support of recommendations to abolish the State Security Court and to ensure fair and equitable judicial proceedings, and looks forward to swift implementation of these important recommendations.⁴

While Amnesty International is concerned about the practice of using legislation to criminalize peaceful political dissent in Jordan, we recognize Jordan's acceptance of many recommendations to **promote freedom of expression, association and assembly**.⁵ Building on these commitments, we urge Jordan to amend the Penal Code, the Press and Publications Law, the Law on Societies, and the Law of Information System Crimes.⁶

Discrimination against women in law and practice is widespread and it is therefore regrettable that Jordan has rejected recommendations to withdraw their reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁷ as well as to amend the Citizenship and Nationality Law to enable Jordanian women to pass on their

¹ A/HRC/25/9, Recommendation 118.5 (Ireland), 118.37 (Australia)

² A/HRC/25/7, Recommendation 120.13 (Costa Rica), 120.14 (Italy), 120.15 (Denmark), 120.16 (Germany), 120.17 (Switzerland), 120.18 (Estonia)

³ A/HRC/25/9, Recommendations 118.42 (Switzerland), 118.61 (Italy), 118.62 (France), 118.60 (France)

⁴ A/HRC/25/9, Recommendation 118.64 (Netherlands), 118.62 (France)

⁵ A/HRC/25/9, Recommendation 118.4 (Switzerland), 118.66 (Norway), 118.67 (UK), 118.68 (Germany), 118.70 (Austria), 118.71 (Spain), 118.72 (Estonia), 118.73 (France), 118.74 (France), 118.75 (France), 118.76 (Austria), 118.78 (United States of America), 118.79 (Italy), 118.81 (Mexico)

⁶ A/HRC/25/9, Recommendation 119.8 (Norway), 119.9 (Canada), 119.10 (Mexico), 119.11 (Ireland)

⁷ A/HRC/25/9, Recommendations 120.5 (Slovakia), 120.6 (Norway), 120.7 (Slovenia), 102.8 (Belgium), 120.9 (Belgium), 120.10 (Brazil), 120.11 (Maldives), 120.12 (Ecuador)

nationality to their children and spouses on an equal basis with Jordanian men.⁸ We urge Jordan to keep these recommendations under review with a view to implementing them in due course.

Amnesty International recognizes the enormous effort made by Jordan to accommodate more than half a million **refugees from Syria**, which has clearly put significant strains on the country at large. However, Amnesty International hopes that Jordan will commit to guaranteeing the right of refugees and asylum-seekers to *non-refoulement*.⁹

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Jordan on 20 March 2014 during its 25th session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in Jordan: <http://www.amnesty.org/es/library/asset/MDE16/002/2013/en/e73c2e42-6ea6-4359-b4bd-7a43e7c461c5/mde160022013en.pdf>

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

⁸ A/HRC/25/9, Recommendations 120.23 (Uruguay), 120.24 (Netherlands), 120.25 (Cyprus), 120.26 (Norway), 120.27 (Switzerland)

⁹ A/HRC/25/9, Recommendation (119.13)