



EMHRN Factsheet: ENP Progress Report 2013

» Jordan

EMHRN summary of ENP Jordan Progress Report and recommendations for the next report.

Credit: Taweel/Manasee

According to the EU, 2013 proved to be a difficult year for Jordan as the Syria crisis continued to pose socioeconomic and security challenges for the Hashemite Kingdom. Despite a volatile environment, Jordan remained stable and resilient in the face of regional turmoil. Although Jordan acted upon a number of the key recommendations of last year's ENP Progress Report, the EU notes that the kingdom should pursue the reform process and enforce adopter laws. In particular, the EU calls on Jordan to address issues in the following areas:

Freedom of Association and Assembly

The EU criticises the law on associations which grants the authorities the discretion to deny registration to civil society organisations (CSOs) and the right to receive foreign funding. EU financial support for CSOs is reiterated. The report expresses concern over arrests of activists and protesters, and their referral to military courts. The report regrets the unconstitutional amendments to the press and publications law, limiting freedom of expression and imposing liabilities for the editors-in-chief and owners of web content. In this regard, the EU calls on the authorities to make progress, particularly on reforming the criminal code. To illustrate the rapid deterioration of the freedom of expression, the EU points out that 20 recommendations were made in the 2013 Universal Periodic Review for Jordan, in comparison to only one in 2009.

The EU calls on Jordan to:

- Ensure freedom of association by relaxing current regulations and creating a conducive environment for citizens' active participation.

In its next report, the EU should call on Jordan to:

- *Reform the laws on assembly and association to ensure their conformity with international law and Jordans's own Penal Code which vows to end criminalization of thought crimes;*
- *End arbitrary arrests during peaceful demonstrations as well as judicial proceedings in security courts against civilians demanding their right to demonstrate peacefully;*
- *Conduct prompt independent and impartial investigations into violations of human rights committed by the security forces, including during the 2012 events, and hold those responsible accountable. To this end, an independent mechanism should be established to monitor and investigate the actions of the security forces.*



Gender

The report notes that that no progress was made on the issue of gender. Jordan had not lifted its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and its nationality law continued to deny Jordanian women married to foreigners the right to confer their citizenship on their children. Furthermore, gender-based discrimination is still not recognised as such in the constitution.

In light of this, the EU calls on Jordan to:

- Take concrete steps to combat violence against women, e.g., by enforcing the law on protection against domestic violence;
- Promote further integration of women in politics, economic affairs, education and employment.

Justice

The EU regrets that military trials of civilians continued to take place in spite of the amendments to the law that were meant to restrict them. Similarly, the EU expresses concern over the use of pre-trial administrative detention and lack of progress on enhancing the effectiveness and independence of the judiciary. Other concerns include the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, and impunity for police offenders. In this regard, the EU calls on Jordan to:

- Strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary;
- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

EMHRN calls on the EU to prioritise the promotion of accountability for human rights violations committed by Jordanian police forces.

Migration

The report addresses the issue of migration, but does not prioritise it. It also overlooks the particular vulnerability of young women and girls amongst the Syrian refugee population. Regrettably, no recommendation is made to Jordan to sign the 1951 Refugee Convention. Although progress was made on the protection of migrant workers, more needs to be done according to the report.

EMHRN calls on the EU to prioritise the issue of migration, urge Jordan to sign the 1951 Refugee Convention and to address the particular vulnerability of women and children refugees in its next report.

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