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COI QUERY RESPONSE

JORDAN - JUDICIARY

A report published in January 2025 by *Human Rights Watch* commenting on events of 2024 includes stating that: “Local governors continued to use provisions of the Crime Prevention Law of 1954 to place individuals in administrative detention for up to one year, in circumvention of the Criminal Procedure Law.”¹

In December 2024 the *United Nations Committee Against Torture* includes commentary on: “...the absence of an explicit provision ensuring the right to access a lawyer immediately upon arrest...”²

Bertelsmann Stiftung in March 2024 states that: “Judicial corruption is minimal, and civil justice is effectively enforced.”³

This document also states that: “The executive, headed by the king, influences, primarily via appointments, the legislative and judicial branches of government. The concept of a division of powers with clear and robust checks and balances is nonexistent in Jordan.”⁴

This document also points out that: “Jordan's court system consists of three broad categories: civil, religious and special courts (including the State Security Court). In this network, tribal customary law maintains a place, despite being officially abolished in 1976. All court proceedings are overseen by judges, as jury-based courts do not exist in Jordan. Judicial independence from the executive and legislative branches of government is guaranteed by the constitution (Article 97). However, all civil and Shariah court judges are royal appointments. These include the chief justice and the Shariah Judicial Council head.”⁵

¹ Human Rights Watch (16 January 2025) World Report 2025: Jordan, p.3

² United Nations Committee Against Torture (6 December 2024) Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Jordan, p.3

³ Bertelsmann Stiftung (19 March 2024) Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI) 2024 Country Report – Jordan, p.10

⁴ *ibid*, p.10

⁵ *ibid*, p.10

In January 2024 *United Nations Jordan* states that: “Migrant workers and refugees lacking personal border numbers may face obstacles in accessing justice, such as language differences, fear of filing a complaint due to retaliation from employers, inability to leave the workplace, falling into an irregular immigration status, and cost.”⁶

In April 2024 the *United States Department of State* issued a report commenting on events of 2023 which included stating that: “The constitution and law provided for an independent judiciary, and the government generally respected judicial independence and impartiality. Criminal prosecutors reported to the Judicial Council, while the Ministry of Justice provided courts with administrative support.”⁷

In 2024 *Freedom House* released a report on events of the preceding year which included stating that: “The judicial system lacks independence and often fails to ensure due process.”⁸

References

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⁶ United Nations Jordan (3 January 2024) *Universal Periodic Review Fourth Cycle 2023 – Jordan*, p.7

⁷ United States Department of State (22 April 2024) *2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Jordan*, p.8

⁸ Freedom House (2024) *Freedom in the World 2024: Jordan*, p.1

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