

Universal Periodic Review 17 – Jordan

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Netherlands would like to commend Jordan for the large number of refugees it has welcomed over the last two years. We realise that this puts a burden on government institutions and on-going national reform initiatives that are revising laws and amending provisions in the constitution.

With regard to the State Security Court, we applaud the amendment to the Constitution that was passed in 2011. We would, however, like to see this amendment further reflected in relevant legislation, and in practical implementation.

Jordan has also made progress in the field of emancipation of women. However, Jordanian women married to foreigners still face legal discrimination and are denied services for children of non-Jordanian fathers.

Mr. President.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends Jordan:

1. to adopt further law amendments to abolish the State Security Court or, at a minimum, ensure that civilians are not tried for crimes not listed under the jurisdiction of the court, and to either release political activists in detention or try their cases in civilian courts;
2. amend laws so that it allows women married to foreigners to pass on their Jordanian nationality to their children and thus allow these children access to basic education and health services.

I thank you, Mr. President.