



Jordan

EMBASSY MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

By

H.E. Minister

Hala Latouf

Head of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Delegation

Before (7th) Session

Commission on the Status of Women

New York

02/03/2010

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

Mr. Chair,

Allow me at the start to congratulate you on your assumption as a member of the Commission.

Our meeting here today commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform of Action could not have come at a more appropriate time. The worldwide recognition of the text of the two documents in the advancement of women's rights is specially noted in Jordan as the way up to promote gender equality, end all forms of discrimination against women and promote the empowerment of women across the board.

It is also clear that Jordan has made great strides in the direction of the fulfillment of the provisions and objectives of the Beijing Platform of Action as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As human rights are indeed indivisible, almost every international human rights instrument impacts the rights and status of women in one way or another. My country has therefore ratified the key seven international human rights of these international norms have become part and parcel of our legal system and enjoy supremacy over them.

No less important in this vein is the withdrawal of our reservation to paragraph 4 of Article 15 of CEDAW, this is part of the national effort to combat discrimination against women in all its forms in Jordan, and admittedly more is needed to be done in this vein. My country has yet succeeded in eliminating all dimensions of gender discrimination and we are no exception.

His Majesty, King Abdullah II have said it all when he described violence against women as "an abhorrent crime that should have no place in our country". This stance sets our standards on women issues and outlines our goals.

Women can already be seen in greater numbers in the police, judiciary, armed forces and police, and have assumed very senior positions in the public office and private sector.

Women's election to the legislature and municipal councils is being bolstered by the existing quota system. The new draft law on elections is expected

to allocate even greater number of seats for women. We now have women on the government, judiciary, judges and in various positions and in key industries and businesses, consultative bodies and chambers of Commerce and Industry. This growing participation of women is expected to even go further. The fact that 60% of students in the Future Judges Program are females and approximately 55% of students at higher education institutions are females are important indicators for the trend for greater female participation.

The Personal Status Law has been consistently reviewed to accord women greater rights and protection, and is undergoing a substantial revision to give women even more rights. For example, to seek divorce without jeopardizing their economic rights. The age of consent for marriage has been lifted to be less than 18 years old. The anticipated new law will also grant women more custody rights over their children with a view to enhancing the protection of their children.

Moreover, the Government has cooperatively approved a comprehensive legislation to combat human trafficking, especially of women and children. A National Anti-Trafficking Committee has been recently created and headed by the Prime Minister. This Committee has just adopted a comprehensive and multi-dimensional strategy for combating human trafficking in partnership with civil society.

Jordan has now shelters for women and girls victims of violence or threatened with violence when their brothers, fathers, integrated services and support as well as a mechanism for rehabilitation. A help-line has also been established to facilitate the reporting of violence cases. Obviously, these so-called "honor crimes" is viewed very seriously even though the magnitude of this type of violence against women is limited. Recently, there is in place a special criminal tribunal to deal with these crimes which has already started to strengthen the punishment against male family members who commit these heinous crimes.

It is also noteworthy that domestic workers in Jordan, most of whom are women, are now enjoying the same rights and equal protection as all other workers employed in the country.

I would like to thank Jordan's support to the enhancement of the role of National Human Rights Institutions; we believe that National Human Rights Institutions should take a standing position with the Commission on the Status of Women.

May I conclude my speech by citing the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (May Peace be Upon Him) before he followed the women and finally by singling out women in his last sermon. Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was telling Muslims that women occupy a privileged place in Islam and deserve a special treatment. This anecdote is most telling and reveals the true message of Islam on females. True Islam therefore accords women not only equal treatment with men in important matters but also a preferential status as well as at all times.

Thank you all very much and I look forward to working with you closely to make this session a major success.

May I conclude my speech by referring to the last sermon of Prophet
Mohammed (May Peace be Upon Him) before his death when he called on his
followers to treat women well and fairly by striking out women in his farewell
sermon. "O women of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) was telling Muslims
that women occupy a privileged place in Islam and deserve a special treatment.
This anecdote is most telling and reveals the true message of Islam on
females. True Islam, therefore, accords women not only equal treatment with men
in important matters but also a preferential status as well as to cherish and love at
all times.

Thank you all very much and I look forward to working with you closely to
make this session a major success.