



Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development statement on the new Law of political parties

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Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development has continued to observe the efforts made by governmental and non-governmental organizations to pass a new law regulating the work and formation of political parties. The Al-Hayat team, with its experience at both the national and international levels of working with elections and political parties, has continued to follow the progress of the new law on political parties with interest.

The Al-Hayat Center team believes that the law of political parties proposed by the government does not meet the aspirations and necessary objectives required to achieve a modern political practice and does not adequately encourage the development of democratic processes in Jordan.

Therefore, we at Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development suggest making the following adjustments to the Law:

1. Revoke the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior in supervising the political parties to counter the security mentality when dealing with these parties. These parties need a civil field organizes their work, thus rescinding the articles on the powers of the Ministry of Interior, particularly Article 8¹ of the proposed law. Entrust the jurisdiction of the Committee on Political Parties to the suggested independent committee on political parties or to the

¹ Article 8 of the proposed law (Article 8- a - A committee in the ministry known as the (Parties Affairs Committee) is formed to consider requests to form political parties and follow-up its affairs in accordance with the provisions of this law, headed by the Minister of Interior and the membership of: 1- Head of Legislation and Opinion Bureau. The Vice-President will take the president place in his absence. 2- Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice. 3 - Secretary General of another Ministry nominated by the prime minister. 4- Two of the commissioners of the Independent Commission of election nominated by its President. 5 - Commissioner-General for Human Rights.

B - The President represents the Committee with regard to official authorities, both judicial and other.

C - The Committee shall meet at the invitation of the President. It shall be a legal meeting attended by the majority of its members to be, including the President or his deputy, and shall take its decisions by a majority vote of at least four.

D - The president may delegate any of his powers to any member of the committee that the delegation specifies in writing.

E – The Minister of Interior appoints the Secretary of the Commission from the staff of the Interior Ministry.

independent committee of elections without the supervision of the Ministry of Interior. Furthermore, the revocation of the membership of the National Center for Human Rights in such committees. The national Center for Human Rights represents the aid for Jordanians who have been aggrieved. It is not appropriate for the Center to have sway in both the defender and the governor.

2. Entrust the Observation of the Political Parties to an independent committee or expand the duties of the independent committee of elections to include the organization of the political parties.
3. Adjust Article (5-A)² to ensure that the formation of the political parties will represent Jordan's regions (North, South, and Central) appropriately, so that each region will be represented in the range 10-60% while keeping the percentage for women above 10 %.
4. Adjust Article (5-B)³ so that every registered Jordanian on the voters' lists has the right to become a founding member of the political party. This requires the abolishment of the 21 minimum age requirement, which impedes the initiative to increase the active involvement of young Jordanians in the political process.
5. Adjust Article (7-B)⁴ so that the location of the headquarters need not be determined during the formation period, but may be determined after that period. This will aid those who desire to form a political party.
6. Add a provision to Article 7 clarifying the required procedures regarding an internal split within a political party.
7. Redraft Article (11-A)⁵ so that the Article does not represent a general Article and does not leave all the power to the secretary of the committee with regards

² Article 5 - a – There should be no less than two hundred and fifty founding members of a given political party, with at least ten percent of them women and from at least seven governorates with no less than (5%) from each governorate.

³ Article 5 - B – A founder is required to be older than twenty years old.

⁴ Article 7 - Each party must have a statute including the title and address of the party headquarters and branch offices, providing the approved address for communications in accordance with the provisions of this law.

⁵ Article 11 - a - The Secretary of Commission may request for any clarification, documentation, or any other data necessary to complete the formation procedure through a letter issued within thirty days from the date of receipt of the request for formation, b – The founders representative must provide clarification, documents, and required data within fifteen days of the issue date of the Secretary of the Commission letter, and the President or his delegate may extend this period for a similar length at the request of the founders representative.

to asking for other documents necessary for forming a political party. The required documents should be enumerated in the article, and so Article (11-B) should be eliminated.

8. Adjust Article (33)⁶ to revoke the jurisdiction of the High Court of Justice in dissolving a political party. This duty should be given to the constitutional court. Moreover, Adjust Article (33-A) so that the party does not bear the full burden of the consequences of one of its members' actions. This Article should be abolished. The law should clearly define an engagement with a foreign body; it should not be left in general terms (33-A-2).

The Al-Hayat Center team believes that the Law of Political Parties is a very important part of current political reforms. Therefore, the team asks Parliament as the jurisdictive authority at this phase to make the necessary adjustments on this law to guarantee the development and advancement of political parties in Jordan.

⁶ Article 33 - a - The party may be dissolved by decision of the High Court of Justice by the claim of the Committee for any of the following cases: - if a foreign third-party link is proven in a criminal case, If any member of the Party leadership was sentenced according to the provisions of item (2) of paragraph (a) of Article (32) of this law.