



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

Human Rights in Arab States 2024: Assessing Situations & Challenges Amidst Ongoing Conflicts



Maat for Peace Development and Human Rights 2025

Executive Summary

This report, issued by **Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights**, provides a comprehensive analysis of the human rights situation in the Arab region during 2024. It focuses on assessing Arab interaction with international and regional human rights mechanisms, monitoring the commitment of Arab countries to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and reviewing the impact of armed conflicts on the conditions of refugees and displaced persons. Additionally, the report offers recommendations to overcome challenges hindering the promotion of human rights. The report aims to present a holistic view of the human rights situation in the Arab region through four main axes:

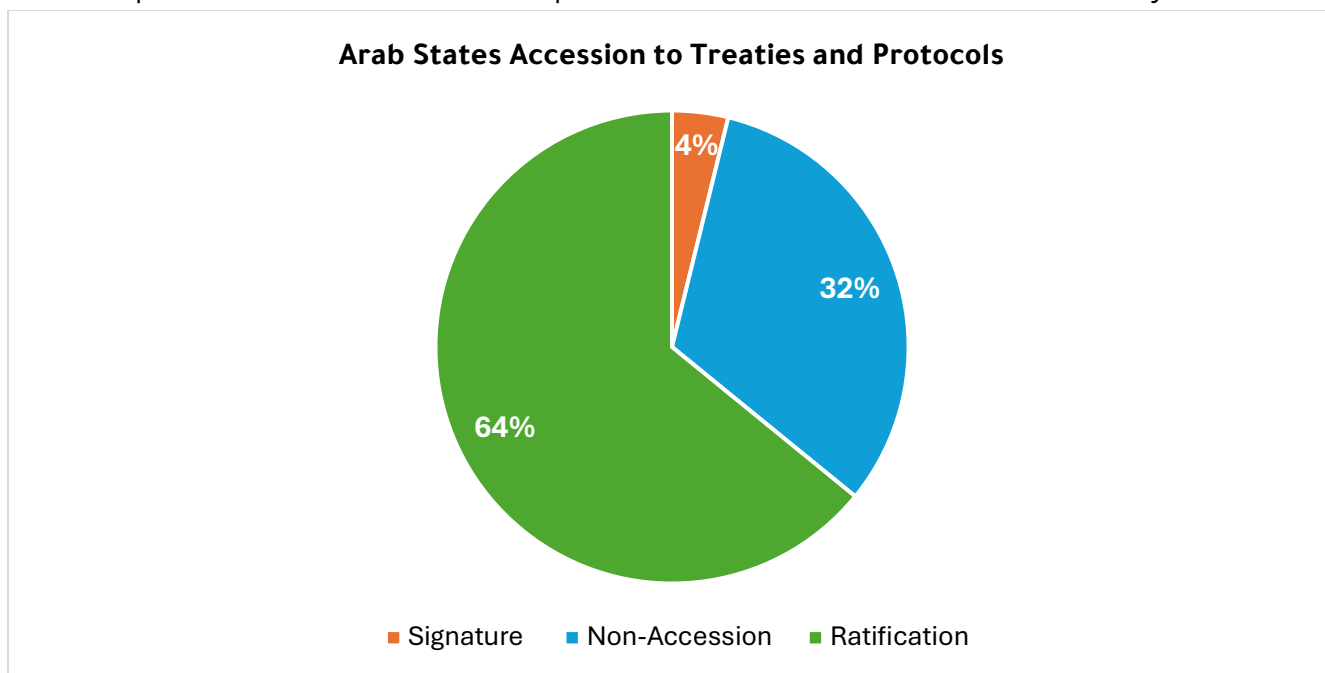
1. Position of Arab countries on international and regional human rights mechanisms.
2. Assessing countries' efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Review of human rights situation in Arab countries.
4. Impact of armed conflicts on refugees and displaced persons.

Chapter One provides a detailed analysis of Arab countries' participation in international and regional mechanisms, such as UN Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review mechanism, and Treaty Bodies.

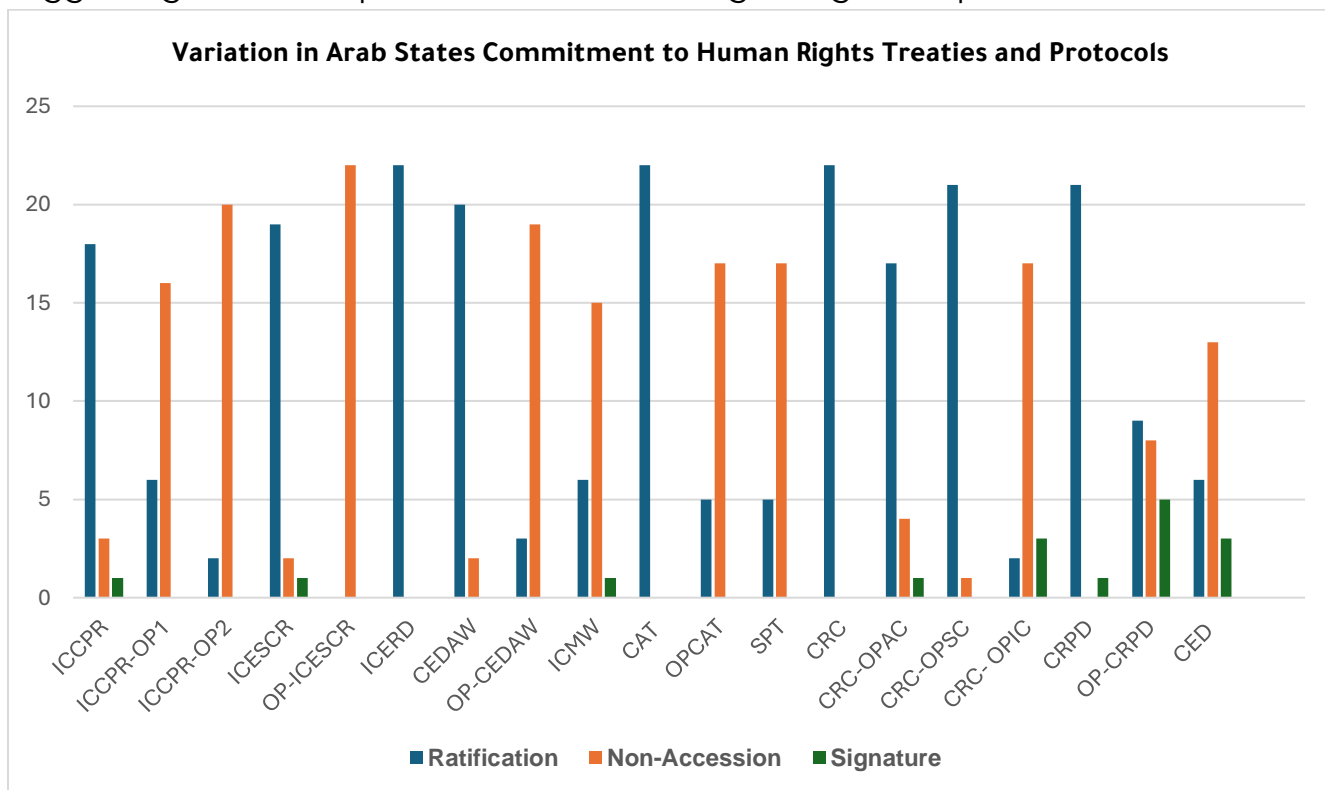
First: International Human Rights Mechanisms

- 1. Human Rights Council:** In 2024, three regular sessions of the Human Rights Council were held: the 55th session (February - April), the 56th session (June - July), and the 57th session (September - October). During these sessions, the Council adopted a total of 93 resolutions, approximately 15% of which pertained to Arab issues. In the **55th Session**, 34 resolutions were issued, including 5 related to Arab countries, one of which was sponsored by Qatar. In the **56th Session**, 22 resolutions were adopted, including 3 related to Arab countries, two sponsored by Egypt and Morocco. In the **57th Session**: 37 resolutions were issued, including 6 related to Arab issues, four of which were sponsored by Egypt, Qatar, Morocco, Tunisia, and Somalia. Regarding participation and voting, the report focused on the voting behaviour of Arab countries, as they supported resolutions related to the rights of Palestinians, the rights of displaced persons, and the humanitarian crises in Sudan.
- 2. International Treaties:** The report reviews the commitment of Arab countries to key agreements such as the Convention against Torture (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Findings indicate a disparity in commitment among countries, with some maintaining

political and legal reservations regarding implementation mechanisms. The report shows that index of representation of Arab countries in treaty bodies:



From the previous chart, it is clear that **64%** of Arab countries have ratified these treaties, reflecting a strong commitment to engaging with international standards for promoting human rights; **32%** have not yet joined, indicating political, cultural, or legal reservations that hinder this commitment; and **4%** have signed without ratifying, suggesting initial acceptance but hesitation regarding full implementation.



The previous chart illustrates the disparity in countries' commitment to international human rights treaties by comparing rates of ratification, signature only, and non-accession. The **Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)** shows the highest rates of ratification, reflecting its broad global acceptance. In contrast, the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW)** records the highest rates of non-accession, suggesting political or economic challenges that hinder ratification. Additionally, the chart reveals a clear reluctance to ratify optional protocols compared to core conventions. This reflects a hesitance among countries to commit to additional implementation mechanisms. There is a significant disparity between the ratification of core conventions such as the **Convention against Torture (CAT)** and the signing or ratifying of its **Optional Protocol (OPCAT)**. While the **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** enjoys a high ratification rate, its optional protocols show lower adherence rates. These results indicate differing priorities and challenges faced by countries, with a greater acceptance of core agreements over protocols, and lower ratification rates for agreements concerning marginalized groups, such as migrant workers. The act of signing without ratifying suggests an initial willingness to commit, yet hesitation to finalize those commitments.

In 2024, several Arab countries underwent reviews by various committees: **Egypt:** Three reviews related to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Migrant Workers, including two national report reviews and one list of issues review. **Morocco:** Two reviews related to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, both concerning the national report. **Libya:** One review related to the list of issues prior to reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. **Jordan:** One review related to the national report for the Committee against Torture. **Djibouti:** Two reviews this year, both concerning the national report and the list of issues for the Committees on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee. **Kuwait:** Three reviews related to the national report, review report, and list of issues for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Committee against Torture. **Saudi Arabia:** Two reviews related to the national report for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on Racism. **Qatar:** One review related to the national report for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. **Oman:** One review regarding the national report for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. **Syria:** One review related to the national report for the Human Rights

Committee. **Somalia:** One review concerning the national report for the Human Rights Committee. **Iraq:** Three reviews related to the national report for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. **Bahrain:** Two reviews related to the national report for the Committee on Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

3. Universal Periodic Review Mechanism

In 2024, five Arab countries underwent reviews of their human rights records before the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mechanism: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Jordan during the 45th session (January 22 - February 2). Yemen and Comoros during the 46th session (April 29 - May 10). State of Qatar during the 47th session (November 4 - November 15).

Additionally, Djibouti announced its position on the recommendations submitted during the 55th session of the Human Rights Council (February 26 - April 5, 2024). Below is the position of these states regarding the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism.

- **Djibouti**

Djibouti Position on Comprehensive Periodic Review Mechanism (4th cycle 2024)

Recommendations Submitted	259
Accepted Recommendations	228
Recommendations Noted	31

- **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

KSA Position on Comprehensive Periodic Review Mechanism (4th cycle 2024)

Recommendations Submitted	354
Accepted Recommendations	273
Recommendations Noted	81

- **Jordan**

Jordan Position on Comprehensive Periodic Review Mechanism (4th cycle 2024)

Recommendations Submitted	279
Accepted Recommendations	204
Recommendations Noted	75

- **Yemen**

Yemen Position on Comprehensive Periodic Review Mechanism (4th cycle 2024)

Recommendations Submitted	256
Accepted Recommendations	201
Recommendations Noted	55

- **Comoros**

Comoros Position on Comprehensive Periodic Review Mechanism (4th cycle 2024)

Recommendations Submitted	237
Accepted Recommendations	194
Recommendations Noted	43

- **Qatar**

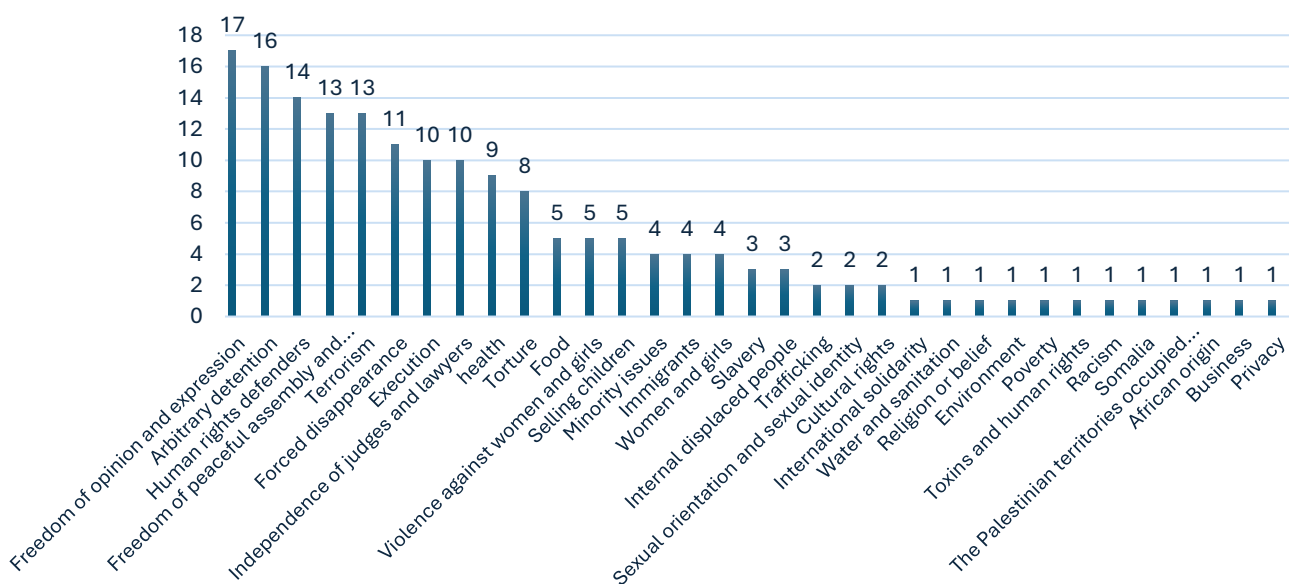
In the fourth round of review in November 2024, Qatar received a total of 317 recommendations from 112 countries. The State of Qatar is expected to submit its final response to these recommendations, indicating acceptance or rejection, by the 58th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2025.

4. Special Procedures

During 2024, 16 Arab countries received 38 communications from special procedures concerning various human rights issues in the Arab region. Additionally, 15 communications were submitted to the Israeli occupation authorities regarding violations in the occupied Palestinian territories. Notably, nine Arab countries responded to these communications, accounting for 41.6% of the total.

The reports from special rapporteurs and working groups addressed 33 issues related to the human rights situation in the Arab region. The most prominent issues included: Freedom of Opinion and Expression: Mentioned 17 times. Arbitrary Detention: Mentioned 16 times. Other urgent issues included freedom of peaceful assembly and association, human rights defenders, and terrorism. In contrast, issues such as privacy, business, and sexual orientation and gender identity were noted only once in the reports.

Thematic Issues Mentioned in Communications

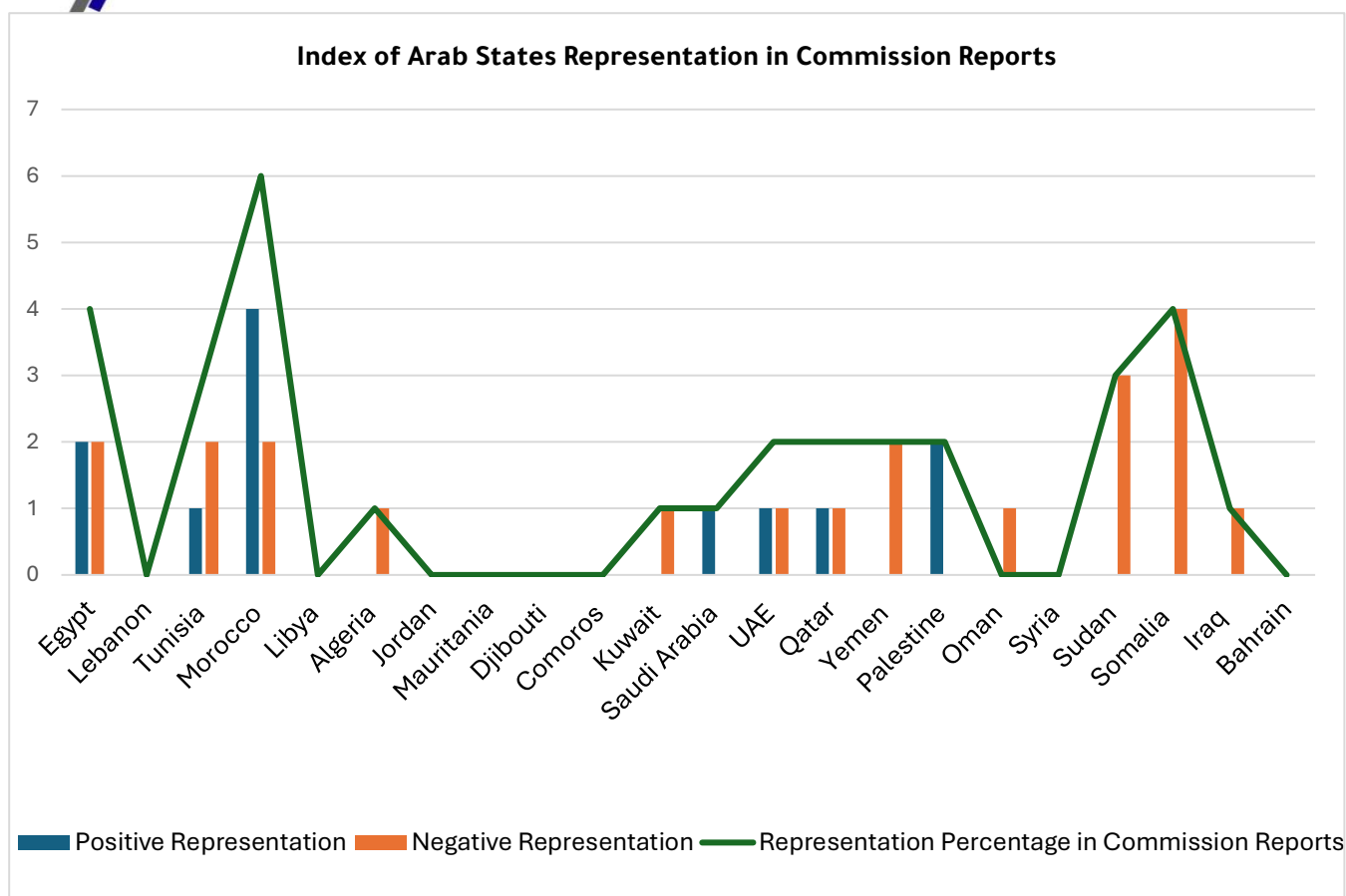


In 2024, the Arab region did not witness any country visits by special procedures. However, two visits were approved: Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children to the United Arab Emirates, and Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty to the State of Morocco after the state accepted the invitation. Additionally, there are proposals for 12 country visits to nine Arab countries: Algeria invited the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of All Human Rights by Older Persons. Egypt invited the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation. Saudi Arabia invited both the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur on Education.

5. Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights

In its 2024 reports, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presented mixed evaluations of Arab countries. In Tunisia, the Office criticized the excessive use of administrative measures to combat terrorism, such as travel bans and the listing of individuals on terrorist watch lists, while emphasizing the necessity of ensuring fair trials and protecting individual rights. Conversely, the Office commended the efforts of the UAE and Qatar in enhancing access to digital public services and promoting human rights, acknowledging progress in these areas but also cautioning against ongoing challenges. Sudan and Somalia were highlighted for serious human rights violations amid armed conflicts, including incidents of sexual violence and the recruitment of children into combat. The Office urged these countries to adhere to international human rights standards.

The Office has shown a particular interest in advancing human rights in Arab nations, focusing on legal reforms and improvements in public services. However, some countries continue to struggle with implementing international standards, underscoring the need for further reforms to safeguard individual rights, especially in regions affected by armed conflict or governance issues.



The accompanying chart illustrates the representation of Arab countries in the Commission’s reports, highlighting three main elements: positive representation (in blue), negative representation (in orange), and the overall percentage of representation (in green). Notably, countries like Sudan and Somalia exhibit high rates of negative representation, reflecting significant human rights challenges such as armed conflicts and systematic violations. Additionally, the Commission appointed Tunisian expert Radwan Nouicer to monitor and observe the human rights situation in Sudan in response to Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/S-32/1 issued in November 2021. In contrast, countries like Egypt, the UAE, and Qatar display a balanced level of representation between positive and negative, suggesting the presence of reform initiatives alongside existing issues. Countries such as the UAE and Qatar show low representation, whether positive or negative, which may indicate a lack of focus in the reports, possibly due to the absence of significant issues or limited engagement from the Commission in analyzing their situations. The overall percentage of representation varies among countries, with higher percentages indicating greater interest from the Commission in human rights matters within those nations.

Key Observations:

- **Most Cooperative Countries: Morocco, Tunisia,** and **Jordan** have demonstrated remarkable responsiveness to international mechanisms.
- **Countries with Legal Challenges: Yemen, Saudi Arabia,** and **Syria** continue to face significant obstacles in adhering to international standards due to political crises and restrictive local laws.

Second: Regional Mechanisms for Protection of Human Rights

1. Arab Charter on Human Rights Committee

By the end of 2024, **18 Arab countries** had ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights, requiring these countries to submit and review their reports to the Committee. The following table lists the countries that are parties to the Charter along with their dates of ratification.

State	Signature Date	Date of Ratification
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	October 28, 2004	October 28, 2004
Algeria	August 2, 2004	June 11, 2006
Kingdom of Bahrain	July 5, 2005	June 18, 2006
State of Libya	February 14, 2005	August 7, 2006
Syrian Arab Republic	August 17, 2006	February 6, 2007
State of Palestine	July 15, 2004	November 28, 2007
United Arab Emirates	October 12, 2006	January 15, 2008
Yemen Republic	October 12, 2004	November 12, 2008
State of Qatar	January 24, 2008	January 11, 2009
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	August 1, 2004	April 15, 2009
Lebanon	September 25, 2006	May 8, 2011
Republic of Iraq	-----	April 4, 2013
Sudan	July 21, 2005	May 21, 2013
Kuwait State	September 18, 2006	September 5, 2013
Mauritania	-----	February 18, 2019
Arab Republic of Egypt	September 5, 2004	February 24, 2019
Union of the Comoros	-----	January 23, 2023
Sultanate of Oman	-----	April 9, 2023

From this overview, it is noted that four Arab countries have not yet ratified the Charter: **Tunisia** and the **Kingdom of Morocco** signed the Charter in June and

December 2004, respectively, but have not yet ratified it. Additionally, **Djibouti** and **Somalia** have neither signed nor ratified the Charter.¹

During 2024, four Arab countries underwent reviews of their national reports before the Arab Charter on Human Rights Committee. These countries are: **Egypt:** Reviewed its first periodic report; **State of Qatar:** Reviewed its third periodic report; recommendations from this review have not been published as of the writing of this report; **Kingdom of Bahrain:** Reviewed its second periodic report; and **Sultanate of Oman:** Had its first periodic report considered by the Committee. The following table summarizes the countries that underwent review and the number of recommendations submitted to them.

State	Review Date	Number of Recommendations
Egypt	28-29 April 2024	38
Qatar	21-22 October 2024	61
Bahrain	22-23 April 2024	48
Sultanate of Oman	16-17 December 2024	It was not published until the end of 2024

2. African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

In 2024, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held five sessions: the first session was a special session from February 23 to March 8; the second session was a general session from May 14 to June 3; the third session was another special session from July 24 to August 2; the fourth general session took place from October 17 to November 6; and the final session of the year was held exceptionally from December 2 to December 6. Unfortunately, **no Arab country submitted a voluntary national review report to the African Commission during any of its sessions in 2024.**

This lack of participation highlights a clear disparity in the engagement of Arab countries with the Commission. Among Arab countries, Egypt and Mauritania were the most active, with Egypt submitting 17 periodic review reports—the latest in 2023 at the 81st extraordinary session. Mauritania submitted its 17th report in 2021 during the 73rd session. In the following tier, Tunisia and Algeria also submitted a notable number of reports, with Tunisia submitting 9 periodic review reports, the last being in 2006 during the 42nd session, and Algeria submitting 6 periodic reports, the latest in 2022 at the 57th regular session. Libya and Sudan followed, with Libya submitting 5 periodic reports, the last in 2011 at the 49th regular session. Sudan submitted its fifth and last periodic report in 2012 during the 51st regular session. In

¹ See, the 15th annual report of the Arab Charter for Human Rights, p. 37, at: <https://tinyurl.com/jhsbpydb>

contrast, Morocco and Somalia rank last, having not submitted any periodic review reports to the African Commission at all, indicating a state of extreme slowness and clear weakness in their engagement. The situation in North African countries remains a significant concern for the Commission, particularly regarding the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, which was addressed during its most recent session, the 37th extraordinary session. Commissioners discussed updates related to a proposed fact-finding mission to Sudan, raising questions about the mission's future amid the ongoing conflict.

Overall, the context highlights a general state of slowness and weak activity among Arab countries in engaging with the Commission. While some countries have submitted up to 17 periodic review reports, others have not submitted any. A review of the submitted reports reveals that they often focus on outdated assessments of human rights situations, failing to account for recent developments and significant changes in the region and the continent. This raises concerns about the adoption of a more proactive human rights approach by North African countries, reflected in their slow and lax activities in addressing human rights developments before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and its rapporteurs.

Chapter Two presents the efforts of Arab states in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on the priorities of 2024, such as poverty and hunger eradication, climate action, and strengthening peace and strong institutions, while assessing the economic and political challenges involved.

1. Monitoring Efforts of Arab Countries in Achieving Development Goals

Goal 1: No Poverty

- **Notable Progress:** Gulf countries, such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have achieved a reduction in poverty rates through effective social protection programs. Algeria has advanced to the upper bracket of middle-income countries.
- **Major Challenges:** Yemen faces 82.7% multidimensional poverty, Sudan experiences 65% poverty, and Syria has 90% of its population below the poverty line.
- **Moderate Efforts:** Egypt has allocated 635.9 billion pounds to social support, but high inflation limits its impact. Morocco has seen a slight increase in poverty, now at 6%.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

- **Successes:** Saudi Arabia reports only 3% malnutrition, making it one of the least hungry Arab countries. Kuwait holds the same status, while Morocco has reduced hunger through effective agricultural strategies.

- **Severe Crises:** Yemen has 82.7% of its population facing hunger, Somalia has a hunger index of 44.1, and Sudan reports that 97% of displaced people are suffering from severe hunger.
- **Climate Challenges:** Tunisia and Libya have been adversely affected by droughts and floods, impacting agricultural production.

Goal 13: Climate Action

- **Ambitious Initiatives:** Morocco aims for carbon neutrality by 2050, while Egypt is implementing 691 green projects.
- **Natural Disasters:** Libya has experienced devastating floods, resulting in 5,000 fatalities, and Yemen faces agricultural deterioration due to drought.
- **Financing Challenges:** Mauritania and Djibouti are struggling with a lack of investment in climate adaptation projects.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Institutions

- **Stable Countries:** Qatar, Oman, and the UAE ranked highest on the global security index, reflecting their stability and effective governance.
- **Troubled Countries:** Yemen is last in the peace index, while Sudan has been embroiled in civil war since 2023, and Syria faces institutional collapse.

Goal 17: Partnerships

- **International Aid:** Saudi Arabia provided approximately \$109 billion in aid, while the UAE supported 100 countries through various initiatives.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Egypt and Jordan have strengthened partnerships with the European Union, whereas Syria and Yemen remain heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance.

2. Reading Development Frameworks and Indicators

- **Relative Progress:** 7 countries, including the UAE and Morocco, have achieved two-thirds of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while 14 countries, such as Yemen and Syria, are lagging due to ongoing conflicts.
- **Poverty:** 35.3% of Arabs lack access to basic services.
- **Hunger:** 12.9% of the population suffers from malnutrition, equating to 59.8 million people.
- **Climate:** The Arab region is among the most affected by rising temperatures, averaging 4 degrees Celsius above the global average.

3. Challenges and Coping Mechanisms

Main Challenges:

- **Security and Conflicts:** Approximately 46 million Arabs are in need of humanitarian assistance.

- **Climate Change:** 25 million people are threatened by floods and water scarcity, with an expected 14% decrease in GDP by 2050.
- **Economy:** The region faces slow economic growth of 2.8% due to wars and inflation.

Recommendations:

- **Strengthening Social Protection:** Focus on supporting vulnerable groups in conflict-affected countries like Yemen and Sudan.
- **Investing in Infrastructure:** Implement climate adaptation projects, such as desalination initiatives in the Gulf.
- **Strengthening Partnerships:** Utilize Gulf aid to support poorer countries in the region.
- **International Pressure:** Urge the international community to intervene and halt ongoing conflicts, particularly in **Gaza** and **Sudan**.

The report concludes that despite efforts made in some countries, the Arab region remains behind in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals due to conflicts, climate challenges, and economic crises. Addressing these issues necessitates regional and international cooperation, prioritizing political stability and investment in sustainable projects.

Chapter Three reviews the human rights situation in 22 Arab countries reviewing legislative developments, the status of civil and political rights, as well as economic and social rights, with particular attention to vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and refugees.

- **Lebanon**

In 2024, Lebanon experienced a significant deterioration in the human rights situation, exacerbated by worsening economic and social crises that negatively affected various segments of society.

Economic Crisis and Rights: The situation was further aggravated by Israeli airstrikes, leading to approximately 166,000 job losses and agricultural damages estimated at \$1.2 billion. The social security system is severely lacking, with only about 20% of the population receiving any form of social protection. Additionally, the country suffers from continuous power outages, with state electricity provision limited to two to three hours per day.

Freedom of Expression: Journalists, activists, and artists faced increasing restrictions imposed by Lebanese authorities and political factions. In May, both Sunni and Shia religious authorities filed lawsuits against comedian Shaden Fakih, accusing her of blasphemy and inciting sectarian strife. In January, journalist Riad Touq was

summoned following a defamation lawsuit filed against him by Lebanese Attorney General Judge Sabouh Sleiman.

Refugees: Refugees in Lebanon have faced increasing instances of hate speech and racism from certain segments of the Lebanese population and the state itself. The Lebanese army has intensified its raids to verify the residency status of Syrians, further exacerbating tensions.

Violence and Displacement: In September 2024, violence forced over 90,000 individuals to flee their homes, with 70,000 of them seeking refuge in 400 schools and other locations, highlighting the acute humanitarian crisis.

Torture and Enforced Disappearances: The ongoing political and economic deterioration has severely impacted Lebanon's legal and human rights systems, weakening the role of official institutions, including the judiciary. This has contributed to an increase in human rights violations, particularly concerning torture, enforced disappearances, and the rights of detainees. Although laws prohibiting torture and arbitrary detention exist, their implementation is limited due to resource constraints, lack of awareness, and a prevailing culture of impunity.

- **Iraq**

In 2024, Iraq experienced significant legislative developments aimed at strengthening the rights of vulnerable groups.

- **Right to Life:** Despite commemorating the tenth anniversary of ISIS crimes on June 26, 2024, terrorist operations against civilians persist. From January to March 2024, Maat documented 12 terrorist attacks, resulting in 24 deaths and 6 injuries.
- **Peaceful Assembly:** The right to peaceful gatherings has faced restrictions, with security forces employing excessive force to disperse demonstrators. Notably, on September 3, 2024, a march by medical and health professionals in Baghdad was met with excessive beatings and the use of water cannons, injuring 25 people.
- **Allegations of Enforced Disappearance:** In July 2024, media reports suggested that 50,000 Pakistani citizens had disappeared in Iraq during recent religious festivals, although the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied these claims.
- **Freedom of Movement:** While the Iraqi constitution guarantees freedom of movement, refugees and asylum seekers encounter travel restrictions. Additionally, non-residents of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq must register with the police upon entering the region.

These ongoing challenges underscore the need for continued efforts from both the Iraqi government and the international community to improve conditions and enhance individual rights.

- **Jordan**

In 2024, Jordan witnessed notable advancements in human rights, particularly concerning freedom of expression, as well as civil and political rights.

Political and Legislative Developments: In July 2024, the House of Representatives was dissolved, leading to new elections in September. For the first time in Jordan's history, party lists participated in these elections, with the Islamic Action Front Party securing 31 seats in parliament. Key laws were also amended, including Law on Ensuring Right to Access to Information (January 2024), Election Law (February 2024), and General Amnesty Law (March 2024), all aimed at enhancing economic and social rights.

Civil and Political Rights in Jordan: In Jordan, freedom of opinion and expression has faced significant challenges. The Cybercrime Law has been utilized to target journalists and activists, resulting in the arrests of many individuals for social media posts supporting Palestine or criticizing the government.

Right to Peaceful Assembly: Protests against Israeli attacks on Gaza have been suppressed, with hundreds of activists arrested. Despite some improvements in press freedoms, political repression against journalists and activists has increased.

Economic and Social Rights: The Labor Law has been amended to enhance workers' rights, particularly promoting women's entry into the labor market. However, these changes have also had negative repercussions for migrant workers, with an increase in violations of their rights.

Rights of Vulnerable Groups: Measures have been taken to bolster women's rights, such as amending the Labor Law to improve maternity leave and increasing women's representation in parliament. Nevertheless, wage discrimination persists. Migrant workers in Jordan continue to face poor working conditions, human trafficking, and abuse by employers. Human rights challenges remain significant in Jordan, underscoring the need for substantial reforms to effectively protect individual rights across various sectors.

- **Palestine**

Israeli Aggression and Human Rights Violations: Since October 7, 2023, Gaza and the West Bank have endured severe Israeli military attacks, resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinians, predominantly women and children. The attacks have caused widespread destruction of infrastructure and forced displacement.

Legislative Developments: In 2024, Israel enacted laws that further restrict freedoms, including: law permitting the dismissal of teachers for alleged support of terrorism; ban on raising the flags of “enemy states” within Israel; and attempt to repeal Jordanian laws regulating land ownership in the West Bank to facilitate Israeli settlement expansion.

Civil and Political Rights: The right to life has been severely compromised, with over 43,985 Palestinians killed and 104,092 injured due to ongoing attacks. Freedom of Opinion and Expression: 137 journalists have been killed, and 74 others arrested, amidst a comprehensive media blackout and internet outages. Prison Conditions: Serious violations against detainees include torture, sexual assault, and the deaths of 43 detainees in custody. Right to Peaceful Assembly: Peaceful demonstrations have been suppressed, with many protesters arrested.

Economic and Social Rights: Right to Education: Hundreds of schools and universities have been destroyed, affecting 785,000 students who have been deprived of education. Right to Health: Hospitals have been targeted, and access to medicines and medical supplies has been severely restricted.

- **Syria**

Since the outbreak of conflict in 2011, Syria has seen egregious human rights violations perpetrated by all parties involved, including the Syrian government, armed opposition factions, and terrorist organizations like ISIS. These violations have stripped Syrians of their basic rights, including the right to life, freedom of expression, and access to vital services. On December 8, 2024, opposition factions led by Ahmed al-Sharaa (Abu Muhammad al-Julani) overthrew the government of Bashar al-Assad. However, instability persists, leading to ongoing human rights abuses.

Right to Life: From 2011 to June 2024, over 231,495 civilians were killed by various parties involved in the conflict. Following the fall of the Assad regime, violence persisted, with 77 murders recorded between December 8 and 27, 2024, totaling 126 deaths. The report documented the killing of 64 civilians between December 8 and 24 due to explosions and armed operations.

Freedom of Opinion and Expression: Between 2011 and May 2024, 717 journalists and media professionals were killed, and 1,358 were arrested. The Syrian authorities and armed factions engaged in arbitrary arrests of journalists. In August 2024, the Ministry of Information imposed censorship on digital platforms, requiring prior authorization for social media sites.

Right to Peaceful Assembly: Idlib saw demonstrations against Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, which responded with violent repression. In Sweida, a protester was killed by security forces during anti-government protests. In Hasakah and Deir Ezzor, the Syrian

Democratic Forces (SDF) used violence against demonstrators, resulting in injuries and fatalities.

Prisons and Detention Facilities: From 2011 to 2024, 15,393 detainees died due to torture. In 2024 alone, 45 individuals died under torture in Syrian prisons. Sednaya Prison continued to witness systematic violations, leading to deaths in detention.

Freedom of Religion and Belief: After the fall of the Assad regime, Christian places of worship and cemeteries faced armed attacks. In December 2024, a Christian was forced to remove his cross under threat.

The report emphasizes that despite the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime, human rights violations persist amid ongoing political and security instability, rendering the humanitarian situation in Syria tragic with continued violence and the collapse of basic services.

- **Libya**

Since 2011, Libya has experienced a continuous decline in human rights due to ongoing political and armed conflict. Violations include arbitrary arrests, torture, enforced disappearances, and targeting of journalists and human rights defenders. Migrants and asylum seekers also endure harsh detention conditions.

- **Legislative Development:** In May 2024, the Ministry of Interior issued a decree aimed at ensuring respect for human rights during detention, representing a step towards improving security and justice.
- **Civil and Political Rights:** Right to Life: Armed clashes continue to cause casualties, and mine-related incidents have led to a high death toll. Freedom of Expression: Journalists face repression and arbitrary arrests, with the Cybercrime Law being employed as a tool to silence dissent. Prison Conditions: Libyan prisons suffer from severe overcrowding, systematic torture, and illegal detentions, with migrant and asylum seeker conditions particularly dire.
- **Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights:** The education sector is severely impacted by inadequate infrastructure and insecurity, leaving 220,000 children out of school. The health sector faces shortages of medicines and equipment, compounded by power outages, prompting collaboration between authorities and UNICEF to address some issues. Libya experiences high unemployment rates, particularly among youth, with 50.5% unemployment and widespread violations of workers' rights, especially in the informal sector.
- **Rights of Vulnerable Groups:** Women face violence and discrimination, alongside government policies that restrict their freedoms, such as the activation of a "morality police." Children are subjected to forced recruitment, ill-treatment, and deprivation of education and healthcare. In Libya, migrants

and refugees face severe human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, human exploitation, and ill-treatment in detention centers. Individuals with disabilities experience discrimination in education, health, and employment, with a lack of effective government policies to support them.

Despite some initiatives aimed at improving the human rights situation, violations persist, making the pursuit of justice and accountability a significant challenge. The future of human rights in Libya is closely tied to the resolution of armed conflict and the rebuilding of institutions to ensure the rule of law and respect for human dignity.

- **Tunisia**

In 2024, Tunisia experienced significant political and human rights tensions, compounded by ongoing restrictions on public freedoms and worsening economic and social crises.

- **Presidential Elections:** President Kais Saied won a second term amid a low voter turnout of 29% and widespread objections related to amendments to the electoral law.
- **Legislative Developments:** The maternity and paternity leave law was approved, extending maternity leave. An amendment to the electoral law was criticized for transferring electoral disputes to the judiciary. A proposed law aimed to tighten penalties for the entry of illegal aliens. A draft law was introduced to give the state control over the funding of associations, threatening civil society's independence.
- **Civil and Political Rights:** Freedom of expression and the press remained under threat, particularly through Decree 54. More than 60 individuals, including journalists, lawyers, and opposition figures, faced trial. A wave of arrests in May 2024 targeted legal professionals and journalists, drawing human rights criticism. Notably, political prosecutions continued, such as the accusations of conspiracy against the state directed at Abir Moussi, leader of the Free Constitutional Party. Tunisia ranked 118th globally in the 2024 Press Freedom Index. The media sector suffered due to the economic crisis, leading to high unemployment rates among journalists and the closure of numerous media outlets. Misinformation and defamation campaigns against journalists intensified.
- **Economic and Social Rights:** Unemployment rates rose, particularly among youth, while wages remained stagnant. Tensions escalated between the government and the General Union of Labor, which threatened a general strike. The ongoing teacher shortage crisis negatively impacted the quality of education and contributed to increased school dropout rates.

- **Rights of Vulnerable Groups:** While the rights of working mothers saw improvements through new legislation, gaps between laws and their implementation remain. Violence against women increased, with 20 femicides reported, along with rising instances of psychological and physical violence. Women employed in vulnerable sectors, such as agriculture and waste collection, continued to face marginalization and low wages.

- **Algeria**

In 2024, Algeria experienced economic progress, yet this was accompanied by widespread violations of civil and political rights, leading to a decline in freedom of expression and the press. Significant challenges persisted in areas such as work, education, and the rights of women and children.

Presidential Elections: Algeria held presidential elections on September 7, 2024, amidst restrictions on civil and political rights, including the persecution of activists and opponents, and impositions on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Legislative Developments: Alimony Law: This law supports divorced women and children by providing alimony through the public treasury. **Disaster Law:** Aimed at strengthening preventive measures against climate and cyber disasters. **Penal Code Amendments:** Increased penalties for vague charges such as "treason" and "weakening morale." **Anti-Terrorism Decree:** Expanded the definition of terrorism to include opposition to the regime.

Civil and Political Rights: Activists and journalists, including poet Mohamed Tajadit and writer Boualem Sansal, were arrested. Algeria's ranking in the Press Freedom Index dropped to 139th globally, with ongoing harassment of journalists and closure of media outlets. Authorities imposed bans on human rights events, suppressed protests, and restricted labor unions.

Economic and Social Rights: Algeria's economy has improved significantly, becoming one of the fastest-growing in North Africa, achieving local food security. However, western Algeria faces drinking water shortages, leading to protests. Unemployment rates rose to 11.8%, with Algeria ranked poorly in ensuring workers' rights. Although the education budget increased, overall government spending on education declined, leading to overcrowding and educational strikes.

Rights of Vulnerable Groups: Women's rights remain challenged by discrimination in custody laws and an increase in child marriages. Children's rights are affected by school overcrowding and the quality of education, despite government efforts to improve conditions.

• Morocco:

The year 2024 witnessed significant developments in human rights in Morocco, with legislative amendments enacted to enhance criminal justice, alongside a royal pardon granted to several activists and journalists. However, challenges persisted regarding freedom of expression, child labor, and the rights of irregular migrants.

- **Legislative Developments:** Amendments to the **Criminal Procedure Code** aimed to strengthen the protection of rights and freedoms and combat crime. Laws supporting people with disabilities and workers, as well as enhancing social security, were approved. The crime of enforced disappearance was recognized for the first time in accordance with international standards.
- **Civil and Political Rights:** Despite some progress, restrictions on political content online continued, with **152 arrests** for posts inciting irregular migration. Morocco's ranking in the Press Freedom Index improved, and a royal pardon was granted to three prominent journalists, yet prison sentences against journalists persisted. The country witnessed large demonstrations in support of Gaza and protests in the aftermath of an earthquake, which were secured without forced separation.
- **Economic and Social Rights:** Unemployment reached **13.1%**, with an increasing number of young people out of education or training. The issue of school dropouts continues, alongside tensions between medical students and the Ministry of Education due to study duration reductions. Despite efforts to recruit more health workers, the migration of doctors remains high. Reconstruction of houses destroyed by the earthquake has been slow, though the government initiated housing support programs.
- **Most Vulnerable Groups:** Efforts to economically empower women continued, but violence against women remained a significant issue. Regarding irregular migrants, over 45,000 migration attempts were thwarted, and 177 smuggling networks were dismantled. An electronic platform was introduced to request disability cards, improving access for people with disabilities. While there has been a decline in child labor, about 77,000 children remain in dangerous working conditions, particularly in rural areas.

Despite these advancements, restrictions on freedom of expression, child labor, the migration of doctors, and broader economic and social challenges persist, necessitating further effective reforms.

- **Mauritania**

Mauritania continues to grapple with significant human rights issues, despite some legal reforms. Slavery and racial discrimination issues persist, as the Haratin and former slaves face systemic discrimination despite anti-slavery legislation.

Legislative Developments: In **2024**, laws regarding anti-slavery, press freedom, and women's rights were amended. However, implementation remains hindered by entrenched customs and traditions, especially in rural areas, despite increased penalties for racial discrimination.

Civil and Political Rights: Prison conditions are poor, with documented cases of torture leading to deaths, including that of an activist. Authorities restrict media freedoms and cut off internet access during the July 2024 protests against the presidential election results, which were marred by allegations of fraud. Protests are met with security repression, including widespread arrests and excessive force, particularly against university students.

Economic and Social Rights: The country suffers from a severe shortage of hospitals and doctors, especially in rural regions. In 2024, doctors went on strike due to low salaries and poor working conditions. Educational reforms have increased pressure on public schools, leading to teacher shortages and a heightened risk of child labor and early marriage for children.

Rights of Vulnerable Groups: Women face significant challenges, including domestic violence, high rates of child marriage, and female genital mutilation, with inadequate legal protections against sexual violence. Children, particularly from the Haratin class, continue to be exploited in slavery and child labor. Migrants and refugees encounter forced deportation and poor living conditions, exacerbated by European efforts to curb migration flows.

- **Egypt**

The year 2024 saw significant developments in human rights in Egypt, including key legislative amendments, prisoner releases, and the strengthening of civil, political, economic, and social rights, while some challenges persist.

Legislative Developments: A draft of the new Criminal Procedure Code was discussed, focusing on pretrial detention, compensation rights for detainees, and remote trial procedures. Lawyers expressed concerns over certain articles. The Asylum Regulation Law was enacted, granting refugees rights such as protection from extradition and pathways to Egyptian citizenship. The Elderly Care Law was introduced to enhance protections for the elderly, although its executive regulations have been delayed. A fund was established to assist victims, providing psychological

and health support. Additionally, defendants gained the right to appeal criminal rulings at two levels instead of one.

Civil and Political Rights: President Sisi was sworn in for a new term, with local popular councils still absent. While hundreds of detainees were released, calls for the release of prisoners of conscience continue. Demonstrations concerning Gaza and labor issues occurred but faced security restrictions and arrests. The process of legalizing churches progressed, with 3,453 churches and buildings recognized by the end of 2024.

Economic and Social Rights: The unemployment rate reached 6.7%, with some companies still refusing to implement the minimum wage. Over EGP 200 billion was allocated to the health sector, and Egypt was certified as free of malaria, although the medical liability law faced rejection from doctors. The government continued its “Decent Life” initiative with a budget of EGP 700 billion, discussing a shift to cash support instead of in-kind support. Although teachers' wages were increased, classroom density remains high, and 117,000 new classrooms are needed.

Rights of Priority Groups: Strategies to reduce caesarean sections and initiatives to support women’s health were launched, but women's ministerial representation decreased to **13%**, and they faced travel restrictions. **Egyptian Children’s Parliament** was launched, and a national survey on child labor was prepared, though results have yet to be published. Health services were provided through **860** centers, with continued efforts to enhance health and psychological care for children.

Overall, while Egypt has made positive strides in improving the human rights situation, numerous challenges remain that require attention to ensure greater freedoms and guarantee basic rights for all.

- **Sudan**

In 2024, Sudan witnessed a rise in human rights violations due to the ongoing conflict since April 2023, leading to worsening humanitarian and economic conditions, with the spread of violence, forced displacement, and the collapse of essential services like health and education. Amendments to the National Intelligence and Security Service law were enacted, granting it expanded powers, which sparked widespread criticism.

- **On Civil Level:** Over 130,000 people were killed as a result of the conflict. Journalists encountered severe repression, including arrests, torture, and internet outages. Prison conditions deteriorated, characterized by widespread torture and extortion by militias.

- **Economic and Social Rights:** Schools and universities were destroyed, leaving 90% of students deprived of education. The health sector suffered near-total collapse, with the spread of epidemics and severe shortages of medicines.
- **Rights of Women and Children:** Women faced widespread violations, including sexual violence and rape. Children were at serious risk of forced recruitment, killings, and malnutrition, with 14 million children in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Sudan is experiencing a worsening humanitarian crisis, with ongoing human rights violations exacerbated by the lack of peaceful solutions.

- **Somalia**

Somalia's ongoing armed conflict between the federal government and groups like Al-Shabaab has intensified the humanitarian crisis, leading to increased civilian suffering.

- **Legislative Developments:** The constitution was amended to adopt an electoral system based on "one person, one vote," granting the president broad powers, raising concerns over potential threats to democracy. The Council of Ministers approved the Information Bill, which is feared to limit freedom of access to information.
- **Civil and Political Rights:** The year was marked by continued terrorist attacks, resulting in numerous civilian casualties. Journalists faced violations and arrests, leading to a decline in Somalia's ranking in the Press Freedom Index. While the government permitted pro-government demonstrations, opposition gatherings faced restrictions.
- **Social and Economic Rights:** The health sector struggled with resource shortages, high maternal mortality rates, and inadequate psychological care. Approximately 85% of children faced difficulties attending school due to poverty and armed conflict.
- **Conditions of Vulnerable Groups:** Domestic violence, child marriage, and female genital mutilation increased. Recruitment of children into armed conflict worsened, with ongoing deprivation of education. The number of internally displaced persons exceeded 4 million, living in poor humanitarian conditions.

Overall, 2024 saw continued human rights violations in Somalia, with rising concerns about restrictions on civil and political freedoms and a deterioration in economic and social conditions.

- **Comoros**

Human rights conditions in Comoros continued to deteriorate throughout 2024 due to the political, economic, and social challenges the country faces. Despite legislative

progress in some areas, implementation faces significant obstacles due to a lack of resources and weak executive institutions.

- **Legislative Developments:** Legal reforms aimed at improving women’s rights, children’s rights, and freedom of the press were introduced, but implementation faced significant obstacles due to resource constraints and weak executive bodies. The Family Code was amended to enhance women’s rights in marriage and divorce and to criminalize domestic violence; however, cultural barriers hindered its effectiveness. A law was enacted to combat child labor and enhance children’s right to education, but poverty continued to drive children into hard labor. Amendments to the Media Law aimed to improve press freedom, yet harassment and arrests of journalists persisted.
- **Civil and Political Rights:** Public freedoms were restricted, with journalists and activists arrested for covering protests. Violations of the right to life were reported amid armed clashes that resulted in fatalities. Security forces employed violence to disperse protests against worsening economic conditions.
- **Economic and Social Rights:** The health sector deteriorated due to shortages of medicines and equipment, contributing to the spread of diseases like malaria and cholera. The education sector also suffered from a lack of resources, particularly in rural areas, leading to high dropout rates.
- **Rights of Vulnerable Groups:** Domestic violence against women persisted with inadequate legal protections. Children suffered from malnutrition and child labor, especially in rural areas, where harsh working conditions adversely affected their health and education.

Despite some legal reforms, Comoros continues to face significant challenges in implementing laws and protecting human rights, necessitating greater efforts to improve social, political, and economic conditions.

- **Djibouti**

In 2024, Djibouti witnessed significant legislative and human rights developments, with the government and parliament issuing new laws to strengthen human rights, particularly in areas such as combating corruption, terrorism financing, and regulating the work of civil society organizations. Additionally, draft laws were introduced to address illiteracy and improve the education system.

Civil and Political Rights: The right to life and freedom of opinion and expression were emphasized, yet Djibouti ranked 161st globally for press freedom. Tragic incidents occurred, with migrants drowning due to illegal smuggling operations.

Although the government accepted many recommendations from the Human Rights Council, restrictions on press freedom and expression persisted.

Economic and Social Rights: Educational opportunities improved with new teacher appointments and the integration of refugee children into schools, though challenges like high dropout rates and infrastructure issues remained. The unemployment rate remained high at 28%, despite government efforts to attract investment and improve working conditions.

Rights of Vulnerable Groups: Women continued to experience gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, despite efforts to combat it. Children faced challenges with civil registration due to high costs for birth registration and significant rates of malnutrition.

Overall, while there were legislative reforms in Djibouti, more efforts are needed to strengthen civil rights, enhance conditions for women and children, and ensure freedom of the press.

- **Yemen**

Since 2014, Yemen has been experiencing an armed conflict that has led to a severe humanitarian crisis. Over 21.6 million people are in need of assistance, with 17 million suffering from food insecurity, and 4.5 million people have been displaced.

Civil and Political Rights: The conflict has resulted in 377,000 deaths, predominantly civilians, due to indiscriminate shelling and landmines, with food insecurity worsening. Journalists and activists faced severe repression, including arbitrary arrests by the Houthi group and suppression of protests. The division of the judiciary has increased impunity, with Houthi legal amendments undermining judicial independence. Reports documented 657 cases of torture in prisons, alongside the detention of 17 UN employees by the Houthis.

Economic and Social Rights: Only 46% of health facilities were operational, with outbreaks of cholera and dengue fever. Schools were targeted through bombings or seizures, and the Houthis imposed tuition fees while altering curricula to reflect sectarian views.

Rights of Priority Groups: Women's rights were severely violated, with 10,000 documented cases, including killings, detention, and torture. Children faced dire conditions, with 3,900 killed and 540,000 suffering from severe malnutrition, alongside recruitment into armed conflict by the Houthis.

- **Saudi Arabia**

The report highlighted the legal, social, and economic developments in Saudi Arabia during 2024, focusing on reforms in areas such as labor, civil rights, social protection, and the rights of vulnerable groups.

- **Legislative Developments:** Amendments to the Labor Law included changes to 38 articles, the deletion of 7 articles, and the addition of 2 articles aimed at improving work conditions and worker protections. New legislation was introduced to protect whistleblowers and witnesses in corruption cases, alongside the approval of a new social insurance system for new employees.
- **Civil and Political Rights:** Death sentences increased by 42% compared to 2023. Censorship of freedom of expression continued, with websites being blocked, and restrictions imposed on the movements of certain activists and their families.
- **Economic and Social Rights:** The health sector budget increased by 20%, although medicine prices also rose. The unemployment rate decreased to 7.1%, and the job seekers' assistance program persisted. The social security system was enhanced, but still excluded certain groups, particularly the Bedoon, who continued to face housing difficulties.
- **Priority Groups:** Enhancements were made in protecting children in cyberspace, and corporal punishment was abolished. Improvements in women's rights to work and mobility were observed, but issues such as domestic violence and limited political participation persisted. Violations against migrant workers continued, including labor exploitation and forced deportation. The Bedoon faced discrimination and were denied citizenship despite the naturalization of some foreign figures.

Thus, it can be said that despite the reforms witnessed in the Kingdom in 2024, challenges remain in law enforcement, protecting human rights, and improving the conditions of vulnerable groups such as migrant workers and stateless individuals.

- **UAE**

Legislative Developments: Amendments to labor laws aimed to combat illegal employment through imposed fines. New regulations were introduced for media and places of worship for non-Muslims. Reform and rehabilitation centers were established to protect the rights of inmates. The "Law Enforcement Index" was launched to monitor legislative implementation.

Civil and Political Rights: Demonstrations, particularly those by the Bangladeshi community, were suppressed, with prison sentences issued against demonstrators. Freedom of opinion and expression faced restrictions, and individuals were arrested or deported for social media posts. The UAE's ranking in the Press Freedom Index fell to 160th globally. Women's political participation increased to 50% of seats in the National Council.

Economic and Social Rights: Health services for children and women improved, with the WHO praising the UAE's immunization program. Youth unemployment rose, even as the overall unemployment rate remained low at 2.9%. A new Emiratisation policy was launched to mandate private sector companies to hire citizens.

Rights of Vulnerable Groups: A law was enacted to protect children from domestic violence, although violations persist. Women in the labor market received support, but female migrant workers continued to suffer under the sponsorship system. Migrant workers who violated laws were granted a grace period to regularize their status and were exempted from fines.

- **Bahrain**

Royal Pardons and Prisoner Releases: Several royal pardons were granted, including the release of 457 prisoners in September, with more than 100 being political prisoners. In April, 1,584 prisoners were pardoned, including around 650 political prisoners, and in June, 545 were pardoned, with only 8 being political. Many human rights activists and opposition leaders remain detained from the 2011 protests.

National Human Rights Plan (2022-2026): Bahrain completed 40% of its national plan aimed at improving civil, economic, and social rights. The prisoner amnesty contributed to Bahrain being classified as Category A in the Trafficking in Persons Report for the sixth consecutive year, though the country faces criticism for its crackdown on dissent.

Civil and Political Rights: Authorities prosecuted individuals expressing opinions, particularly online. In March 2024, an activist was arrested for criticizing investments by Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund. Human rights defender Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, serving a life sentence since 2011, remains imprisoned. A Bahraini activist residing in Germany received a six-month prison sentence in absentia for tweeting about torture. Approximately 3,800 prisoners are held in Bahrain, including 1,200 political prisoners, amid overcrowding and poor conditions. Prisoners face restricted exercise time, interrupted family visits, inadequate healthcare, and violence.

Economic and Social Rights: Reports indicated ongoing violations against migrant workers, with delays in ratifying international agreements to protect their rights. High fines, up to 500 Bahraini dinars, are imposed for correcting the status of illegal migrant workers. A parliamentary proposal could deprive domestic workers of end-of-service benefits. Former prisoners struggle to find employment due to the requirement for a good conduct certificate. Although Bahrain has a successful education system, former prisoners face barriers in completing their studies, with some former university students barred from returning due to strict requirements.

Violations of prisoners' rights to medical care persist despite advancements in the health system.

Rights of Priority Groups: Women's rights remain limited, with the Family Law allowing girls to marry at 16, and exceptions permitting marriages of minors without a minimum age. The Penal Code allows perpetrators of sexual violence to escape punishment if they marry the victim. A national campaign launched in July 2024 aimed to protect children from electronic exploitation. However, reports emerged of children being arrested for political reasons, subjected to ill-treatment, and denied education and healthcare. For instance, a 17-year-old boy was arrested in August 2024 for expressing his opinion and was interrogated without legal representation.

- **Kuwait**

Kuwait witnessed significant political and legislative developments in 2024, most notably the dissolution of the National Assembly twice (in February and May), along with the suspension of certain constitutional provisions for a period of 4 years to study democratic practices.

Legislative Developments: New laws were introduced addressing human rights, including: The Tax Information Exchange Law (July) to support the right to access information. Amendments to the Penal Code (September), increasing penalties for torture and discrimination. Changes to the Nationality Law (September), expanding circumstances for citizenship withdrawal. Abolition of the Health Insurance Law for Retirees (October) due to poor service quality. Restrictions on the powers of the Audit Bureau (October), affecting transparency and financial oversight. The Decree Regulating the Residence of Foreigners (November), introducing penalties for residency trafficking.

Civil and Political Rights: The death penalty continued to be enforced against convicted individuals, despite Kuwait not ratifying the international protocol to abolish it. Although Kuwait's press freedom ranking improved, prosecutions of activists and political opponents increased, with laws like the State Security Law and Cybercrime Law used to limit freedom of expression. The Bidoon crisis persisted, with 1,300 individuals stripped of citizenship between March and September, and tightened registration requirements for Bidoon children in government schools.

Economic and Social Rights: A project aimed at protecting workers' rights was launched, but the "Kuwaitization" initiative led to the termination of thousands of expatriate employees in the educational and administrative sectors. Despite significant spending on education, Bidoon children encountered severe restrictions on enrollment in government schools.

Rights of Minorities and Vulnerable Groups: Restrictive decisions, such as suspending and withdrawing passports and evacuating residential areas inhabited by the Bidoon, were issued. The Filipino labor crisis was resolved; however, expatriates faced increased taxes and fuel prices, perpetuating discrimination.

- **Oman**

Oman witnessed significant developments in human rights in 2024, with Oman being elected in June 2024 to the membership of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for the 2025-2028 term. However, violations of civil and political rights were recorded, particularly after the issuance of Royal Decree (13/2024), which restricted freedom of opinion, expression, and the press.

Legislative Developments: "National Emergency Fund" was established to address natural disasters. The powers of the National Security Council were expanded in declaring a state of emergency (Royal Decree 13/2024), resulting in stringent restrictions on media freedom and assembly. Judicial powers of certain employees were enhanced under Royal Decree (18/2024). The Biometric Law was issued to enhance fair trials (Royal Decree 21/2024). Additionally, the New Media Law (Royal Decree 58/2024) was enacted, but it included restrictions on press freedom.

Civil and Political Rights: Several death sentences were carried out, although some may be replaced with imprisonment. The government failed to adequately protect citizens from natural disasters, resulting in fatalities. A terrorist attack by ISIS in July 2024 resulted in six deaths, and a religious protest was suppressed, leading to the arrest of an imam.

Economic and Social Rights: Health spending increased to 1.056 billion riyals, and projects to enhance health services were implemented. Education spending rose to QAR 1.968 billion, with artificial intelligence being increasingly utilized in education.

Rights of Priority Groups: Women's economic empowerment programs were supported, but a significant gender employment gap persisted. Reports of human trafficking and abuse of domestic workers were documented, with 50% experiencing sexual violence. Efforts continued to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but tangible improvements in children's lives were not detailed.

- **Qatar**

Legislative Reforms and New Laws: A law was issued to localize jobs in the private sector, limiting opportunities for non-Qataris in the labor market. Residence permits without a sponsor were granted to categories such as entrepreneurs and talents. National Human Rights Committee was reconstituted, maintaining its "A" global rating. An agreement with Spain was concluded for transferring those sentenced to

custodial sentences. Qatari citizens participated in a referendum on fundamental constitutional amendments.

Restrictions and Violations of Human Rights: Discrimination against certain Qatari tribes, such as Al Murrah, continued, particularly regarding citizenship rights. Freedom of opinion and expression remained restricted, with laws criminalizing the spread of false news still in effect. The right to political participation was curtailed through constitutional amendments and the cancellation of legislative elections for the Shura Council. Discrimination against women persists in nationality law, preventing them from passing their nationality to their children. The Bedoon community continues to face marginalization, lacking equal rights in employment and government jobs.

Economic and Social Rights: The “Start from Qatar” initiative was launched to support start-ups. The joint work agreement with the International Labor Organization has been extended until 2028. The “Oqool” platform, developed using artificial intelligence, aims to facilitate employment. A remote work system has been implemented to enhance the balance between work and family life.

Migrant Workers’ Rights: Despite some improvements, such as restrictions on working under the sun, reports of wage theft and labor abuses persist. Qatar has not yet ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Overall, while Qatar has made progress in human rights, significant challenges remain concerning civil liberties, labor rights, women’s empowerment, and political participation.

Chapter Four focuses on the humanitarian and legal repercussions of armed conflicts in the Arab region, highlighting international measures taken to provide assistance. Ongoing conflicts in countries like Syria, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, and Palestine have led to a humanitarian crisis, displacing millions, particularly affecting women and children. Basic rights, such as life, health, and education, are being violated, despite existing international agreements (e.g., the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Geneva Conventions), with limited implementation.

1. Main Concepts

- **Armed Conflicts:** Classified as international (between states) or non-international (civil wars), causing infrastructure destruction, civilian displacement, and difficulty accessing aid.
- **Refugees:** Individuals fleeing their country due to persecution (as defined by the **1951 Convention** and **1967 Protocol**).

- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Individuals who flee their homes but remain within their country's borders (as per the **Cairo Declaration 1994**).

2. Legal Framework Protecting Refugees and Displaced Persons

- **International Humanitarian Law:** Includes the **Geneva Conventions (1949)** and their **Protocols (1977)**, which protect civilians and mandate assistance.
- **1951 Convention:** Defines refugee rights, including non-refoulement and the right to work and education.
- **Role of the United Nations:** The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** provides humanitarian support but faces challenges like funding shortages and security instability.

3. Impacts on Human Rights

- **Forced Displacement:** Approximately 14 million people are internally and externally displaced (2024), including 6.9 million displaced Syrians and 4.5 million Yemenis.
- **Violations of the Right to Life:** High death tolls (13,000 in Syria and 8,000 in Sudan in 2024).
- **Basic Services:** Severe lack of food and water, with 16 million Yemenis suffering from food insecurity, alongside deteriorating health conditions and disease outbreaks.
- **Education:** 2.6 million Syrian children are out of school, and educational infrastructure has been destroyed in Yemen and Libya.
- **Housing:** Inhumane living conditions in camps, as seen with displaced persons in Sudan and Lebanon.

4. Legal and Humanitarian Challenges

- **Legal Protection:** Weak implementation of international agreements and difficulties in accessing justice.
- **Economic Rights:** Unemployment among refugees reaches 60%, leading to extreme poverty.
- **Mental Health:** Approximately 70% of displaced Yemenis suffer from psychological disorders, with insufficient specialized support.

5. International Aid and Cooperation

- **International Organizations:** The UNHCR and the World Food Program are facing significant challenges due to a 30% decrease in funding and difficulties accessing dangerous areas.
- **Host Countries:** Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt are grappling with economic pressures and require international financial support.

- **Regional Cooperation:** Initiatives within the Arab League are limited, highlighting the need for enhanced international coordination.

The report emphasizes that this crisis necessitates urgent international cooperation to improve legal protection, provide sustainable financial support, and address gaps in the implementation of existing agreements. Long-term solutions must focus on ensuring the rights of refugees and displaced persons while alleviating human suffering.

Conclusion & Recommendations

In light of the findings presented in this report, the human rights situation in the Arab region in 2024 is characterized by significant challenges alongside limited opportunities. The complexities of this situation reflect various economic, political, and social issues. Despite some improvements in specific Arab countries regarding the activation of international and regional human rights protection mechanisms, many still fall short of full compliance with these frameworks.

Furthermore, the sustainable development goals remain largely unachieved as ongoing crises and armed conflicts hinder governments' abilities to provide basic human rights, such as education, health, and economic equality. The persistence of armed conflicts in many Arab countries has led to dire humanitarian conditions, particularly for displaced persons and refugees, who often lack legal and humanitarian protection.

The impact of armed conflicts on human rights conditions in Arab countries remains one of the most pressing issues, as the situations in countries like Syria, Yemen, and Palestine continue to worsen with the absence of comprehensive political solutions. Conflicts exacerbate human rights problems in these countries by displacing millions of people, destroying infrastructure, and weakening the judicial system.

Given this reality, the Arab region requires a concerted effort and effective cooperation among Arab countries, as well as with international and regional institutions, to uphold human rights and achieve sustainable development in a peaceful environment. The desired outcomes cannot be realized without addressing the root causes of conflict and ensuring the basic rights of citizens.

Recommendations:

- 1. Strengthening Commitment to International Treaties and Agreements:** Arab countries must adhere to the international human rights treaties they have ratified and activate monitoring mechanisms to ensure implementation on the ground, fostering greater cooperation with the United Nations and its international bodies.
- 2. Review and Develop Local Human Rights Legislation:** Arab governments should undertake a comprehensive review of local human rights legislation to align it with international standards. Laws that restrict civil and political freedoms should be abolished, while protections for economic and social rights should be enhanced.
- 3. Strengthening the Role of Civil Society:** Support for non-governmental organizations and civil society should be prioritized to encourage transparency and effective participation in monitoring human rights conditions. Human rights organizations and civil society must be empowered to participate more actively in decision-making processes related to human rights.
- 4. Restructuring Humanitarian Aid Programs:** Humanitarian aid programs for displaced persons and refugees in Arab countries must be restructured to ensure effective and direct assistance to the most affected groups. Focus should be on improving quality of life and providing job and education opportunities in camps.
- 5. Achieving Sustainable Development Goals with Implementable Solutions:** Arab countries should develop clear and realistic strategic plans to achieve sustainable development goals, allocating necessary resources to enhance health, education, and infrastructure services, while providing sustainable job opportunities to reduce unemployment and poverty.
- 6. Pressuring Actors to End Armed Conflicts:** There should be intensified political, regional, and international pressure on parties involved in armed conflicts to reach peaceful solutions that end wars and protect civilians from violations.
- 7. Reforming the Judicial System:** The judicial system in Arab countries must be reformed to ensure its independence. Litigation mechanisms should be improved to guarantee fair trials for all individuals, including the establishment of specialized courts for human rights cases.

8. **Strengthening the Protection of Women's and Children's Rights:** Strict legislation should be enacted to criminalize violence against women and children. Political and social participation of women and girls must be enhanced, with increased resources allocated to programs supporting girls' education and protecting them from exploitation.
9. **Monitoring Human Rights in Conflict Zones:** Arab countries experiencing armed conflicts must cooperate with international organizations to establish human rights monitoring mechanisms in conflict areas, documenting violations and ensuring accountability.
10. **Strengthening Regional Cooperation:** Arab countries should enhance regional cooperation in addressing humanitarian challenges by establishing a regional network to coordinate efforts between governments and humanitarian organizations, providing sustainable support to displaced persons and refugees.
11. **Finding Peaceful Solutions to Armed Conflicts:** More serious and effective efforts are needed to achieve peaceful resolutions to escalating armed conflicts. Arab countries should support international initiatives aimed at ending conflicts while ensuring the protection of civilians' rights and providing humanitarian assistance to those affected.
12. **Awareness and Education on Human Rights:** Promoting awareness and education about human rights is essential at all levels. Human rights topics should be integrated into educational curricula, and public awareness campaigns should be organized to educate citizens on peacefully defending and demanding their rights, encouraging societal action to protect human rights.