



***Jordan***

PERMANENT MISSION OF H.K. OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT**

**BY  
MISS. SAMAR AL-ZIBDEH**

**BEFORE THE THIRD COMMITTEE  
61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AGENDA ITEM (67/C)  
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF  
SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

**NEW YORK, 27 OCTOBER 2006**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset allow me Mr. Chairman to congratulate you and the members of your office warmly for your elections. We are sure that your wisdom and experience will help the committee to undertake its mandate.

We have listened carefully to Mr. Manfred Nowak the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and we have read thoroughly the eighth interim report that was submitted pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution 60/148 and the Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2005/39. And in light of what was mentioned in this report, my delegation would like to confirm that Jordan, which ratified the convention against torture on 13/11/1991, maintains its obligations under international law and is of the belief that torture is a most serious human rights violation, which should be confronted intensively in all countries.

The visit of Mr. Nowak to my country from 25-29 June 2006 reflects the positive attitude with which my government approaches this most important subject. During his visit, in which all of his requests were met - and the terms of reference were fulfilled on our part efficiently and smoothly, a number of misunderstandings seemed to have arisen. Accordingly, Mr. Nowak arrived at some conclusions we simply, and respectfully, disagree with. We will suspend further comment until his recommendations are presented in his final report to March 2007 session of the Human Rights Council. We believe that Jordan and Mr. Nowak are both calling for an open discussion, and a more productive and effective dialogue will no doubt take place in the near future, because while we may not all have the same horizon, we all live under the same sky.

In sum, though, we in Jordan condemn unreservedly the practice of torture, and if the Special Rapporteur claims to have isolated a few alleged cases, these claims not only create in us great concern, but will also be investigated most seriously.

In a progressive country such as Jordan, we face our strengths and weaknesses responsibly, taking the dignity of our nation as our first consideration. My government is dedicated to the efforts of reforms in all fields; we stand for enriching the life of our people and maintaining their right to be treated humanely and gracefully.

In this respect my delegation calls on establishing independent and effective

national visiting mechanisms, which ensure objective, impartial, independent, and credible assessment guaranteeing listening equally and carefully to both governmental and non-governmental parties.

Every single word counts in the world of today, **John Hersey**, said that, the reality is that changes are coming, they must come, and you must share in bringing them, we retain our full cooperation with the Special Rapporteur in conducting his mandate in Jordan and elsewhere impartially and credibly, and calling for sharing the data in order to come up with accurate results to make the world a better place to live in. And we are seeking the best of our Rapporteurs.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.