



شعبة الترجمة الرسمية
Official Translation Department

Statute of Human Rights Commission

Ministerial Resolution No. 207
September 12, 2005

Translation of Saudi Laws



NOTE:

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



Statute of Human Rights Commission

Article 1

There shall be established, in accordance with this Statute, a commission named the "Human Rights Commission" which reports directly to the King. It aims to protect and promote human rights according to international standards for human rights in all aspects, promote public awareness thereof, and participate in ensuring the implementation of the same in light of the provisions of Sharia. The Commission shall be the government authority in charge of providing opinion and counsel in matters relating to human rights.

Article 2

The Commission shall be an independent corporate entity with full autonomy to perform its tasks as stipulated in this Statute. Its headquarters shall be in the city of Riyadh, and it may open branches and establish offices in other regions in the Kingdom.

Article 3

The Commission shall have a president appointed by royal order at the rank of "Minister" and a vice-president appointed by royal order at the rank "Excellent".

Article 4

The Commission shall have a board to be named (the Commission's Board), formed as follows:

- a) President of the Commission, Chairman
- b) Vice-President of the Commission, Vice-Chairman
- c) A minimum of 18 members, appointed by royal order, for a period of four renewable years. Said members shall be highly qualified in Sharia, law, political sciences, or education, and they shall be renowned for their integrity, competence, and expertise in the field of human rights. They shall work on a full-time basis in the Commission during the term of their membership.
- d) A minimum of six part-time members, appointed by royal order, for a period of four renewable years. They shall be known for their interest in human rights. These members shall be entitled to attend meetings in a non-voting capacity.

Article 5

The Commission's Board shall have ultimate authority over the Commission's affairs. It shall take all necessary means to achieve its purposes within the limits of this Statute; especially the following:

1. Ascertain the implementation of existing laws and regulations related to human rights by concerned government authorities, uncover any



- violations of the laws applicable in the Kingdom that constitute infringement of human rights, and take the necessary legal measures in this respect.
2. Provide opinion on draft laws pertaining to human rights, and review existing laws and propose amendments thereto, in accordance with the law.
 3. Monitor the implementation of international human rights instruments to which the Kingdom is party by government agencies, and ensure that such agencies take all necessary measures for their implementation.
 4. Provide opinion on international instruments pertaining to human rights with regard to the Kingdom's accession thereto, or to the provisions stipulated therein.
 5. Approve the Kingdom's reports on human rights. The President of the Commission shall bring necessary reports before the King.
 6. Visit prisons and detention centers at any time without permission from the competent authority and submit reports on them to the King.
 7. Receive and verify complaints related to human rights and take legal measures pertaining to them.
 8. Devise a public policy for raising awareness of human rights, and propose methods to promote the culture of human rights through institutions and agencies in charge of education, training, media, etc.
 9. Approve the publication of circulars, magazines, and other publications related to the Commission's objectives and powers.
 10. Approve the Commission's annual report and the annual report on the state of human rights in the Kingdom and bring them before the King.
 11. Approve the Commission's draft budget and final accounts, and bring them before the King in accordance with the law.
 12. Cooperate with national, regional, and international associations, organizations, and institutions in the field of human rights to achieve the Commission's objectives and improve its relations.
 13. Approve the convening of national and international conferences and seminars on human rights issues, and participate in them in accordance with relevant laws.
 14. Approve the filing and rebuttal of lawsuits pertaining to human rights issues.
 15. Approve the administrative and financial regulations as well as the rights and privileges of the Commission's Board members and others cooperating with the Commission.
 16. Assign all or some of the Commission's Board members - appointed according to Article 4(c) of this Statute - to oversee the Commission's various departments.
 17. Establish other departments deemed necessary by the Board.
 18. Form permanent or ad hoc committees, from among members or others, to perform specific tasks falling within the powers of the Board.



Article 6

The Commission's Board may invite representatives of ministries, and other government agencies and private institutions when considering issues pertaining to such bodies.

Article 7

The Commission's Board shall convene at least once a month, and whenever the need arises, following an invitation from the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman or upon the request of one third of its members. The meeting shall not be deemed valid unless attended by a majority of Board members, including the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

Article 8

The Commission's Board shall pass its resolutions and recommendations by majority vote of the members in attendance with the capacity to vote. In case of a tie, the chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

Article 9

The President shall manage, represent, and run the Commission according to its powers and duties, and he shall oversee the progress of its work. To this end, he shall undertake the following:

1. Oversee the drafting of the Commission's administrative and financial regulations prior to submitting them to the Commission's Board.
2. Approve financial procedures in accordance with relevant applicable laws and regulations.
3. Oversee work procedures in the Commission through approved regulations.
4. Oversee the preparation of the Commission's annual report and the annual report on the state of human rights in the Kingdom prior to submitting them to the Commission's Board.
5. Oversee the preparation of the Commission's draft annual budget and its final accounts prior to submitting them to the Commission's Board.
6. Represent the Commission before government agencies, and other relevant agencies and institutions within the Kingdom and abroad.
7. Bring the Kingdom's reports on human rights before the King upon their approval by the Commission's Board in accordance with Article 5(5) of this Statute.

Article 10

The Commission's Vice-President shall assist the President when present and assume his duties in his absence.

Article 11

The Commission shall consist of the following departments:



- a) Department of Legal Affairs, Studies, and Research:
It shall provide comparative Sharia and legal counsel with regard to human rights issues, and matters referred to it by the Commission's Board or its President; participate in drafting the Kingdom's periodic reports which are required by its accession to international human rights instruments, and prepare rebuttals to lawsuits related to human rights issues and file such lawsuits.
- b) Department of International Relations and Organizations:
It shall coordinate with international government or non-government organizations and other institutions concerned with human rights issues, and follow up the cases of Saudi nationals whose rights are violated abroad.
- c) Department of Complaints:
It shall receive complaints from individuals, institutions, organizations, and others with regards to human rights issues, and verify their validity prior to their referral to the relevant department at the Commission.
- d) Department of Follow-up and Investigation:
It shall follow up any complaints until they are resolved, visit prisons and detention centers – at the discretion of the Commission's Board in this regard and without permission from the competent authority, and investigate human rights violations and report results to the Commission's Board.
- e) Department of Public Relations:
It shall coordinate among relevant departments within the Commission, attend to requests referred to it by the Commission's Board or President in this respect, follow media coverage on human rights, and assist in the organization of relevant conferences and symposia.
- f) Department of Financial and Administrative Affairs:
It shall be responsible for the Commission's staff affairs, budget, and property so as to ensure the smooth running of its work procedures.

Article 12

A center for publication, information, documentation, and translation in the field of human rights shall be established. It shall be managed by a full-time Board member, nominated by the President of the Commission. The Center shall aim at spreading the basic principles and concepts of human rights which are consistent with the provisions of Sharia, promoting a culture of human rights, and cooperating with international organizations, and government and non-government institutions involved in promoting human rights. The Center, in particular, shall have the following duties:

1. Overseeing the organization of human rights conferences and symposia in the Kingdom.
2. Promoting the culture of human rights, through inter alia conducting comparative studies on Sharia and international human rights instruments; educating citizens, and seeking the assistance of competent institutions and agencies in education, information, and culture.



3. Preparing circulars, magazines, and publications relating to the Commission's objectives and powers.
4. Preparing the Commission's annual report for submission to the Commission's Board.
5. Organizing special courses in the Kingdom to promote awareness in the field of human rights for the employees of agencies concerned with human rights and other interested parties.
6. Documenting human rights materials and providing translation services from and into Arabic.

Article 13

Human rights departments in relevant ministries or government agencies shall act as liaison officers for the Commission.

Article 14

The Commission may seek the assistance, as needed, of a sufficient number of experts, specialists, and qualified personnel to perform its duties as provided for in this Statute.

Article 15

Save for the President and Vice-President, the Commission's personnel shall be subject to the Labor Law and the Social Insurance Law.

Article 16

All government agencies shall provide the Commission, upon request, with any data or information related to its work in order to enable it to carry out the duties assigned thereto.

Article 17

1. The Commission shall have a separate budget prepared and issued in accordance with the procedures of the State's General Budget. Disbursement from said budget shall be in accordance with State Budget instructions. The Commission's funds shall comprise the following:
 - a) The Commission's allocations in the State's Budget.
 - b) Income generated from activities within the Commission's powers.
 - c) Donations, aids, grants, and bequests accepted by the Commission in accordance with the rules set by the Commission's Board.
 - d) Other resources the Commission's Board decides to add to the Commission's funds.
2. The Commission's fiscal year shall start and end with the State's fiscal year. As an exception, the Commission's first fiscal year shall start from the date this Statute enters into force.



Article 18

The Commission shall bring its closing account before the King for any directions he deems necessary within three months from the end of the fiscal year.

Article 19

This Statute shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force 60 days from the date of its publication.

Published in Umm Al-Qura Gazette, Issue No. (4065) dated 4/9/1426H. The amendments were published in Issue No. (4612) dated 23/6/1437H.