



child rights connect
formerly the ngo group for the crc

STATE PARTY EXAMINATION OF JORDAN'S INITIAL REPORT ON THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

66TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
26 MAY – 13 JUNE 2014

Content

Opening Comments.....	1
General Measures of Implementation.....	1
Prevention.....	2
Protection, recovery and reintegration.....	2
Concluding remarks.....	2

Jordan ratified the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) on 23 May 2007. On 27 May 2014, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) examined the initial periodic report of Jordan.

Opening Comments

The delegation of Jordan was led by Dr. Rajab Sukayri, Permanent Representative. He was supported by a delegation composed of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Shariah court, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Interior and the National Council for Family affairs.

Dr. Sukayri underlined that the OPAC had been published in the official gazette. He also described in detail the current situation of the Syrian refugees who had entered the State party since 2011.

Ms. Renate Winter and Mr. Peter Guran, the Country Rapporteurs for the OPAC, welcomed the tremendous efforts that had been done by the State party. However, they underlined that gaps remained in the legislation.

General Measures of Implementation

Legislation

The Committee asked which law regulated the recruitment and training of children as it underlined that there were 3 different laws all with a different minimum age. The delegation explained that the State party had numerous administrations, such as the military, the police

Note: This report is prepared at the discretion of Child Rights Connect. The content is designed to give a summary of the key discussions during the session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child but it is neither an official nor fully comprehensive report. More reports and further information can be found at 1

www.childrightsconnect.org/index.php/publications-resources/crc#countrysum

force, the gendarmerie and the civil protection. It underlined that children under 16 could not be recruited and that there were no positions for children under 18.

Dissemination and training

The Committee enquired about the training done on the OPAC and if it also covered legal persons. It further asked which ministry was in charge of implementing the OPAC. The delegation responded that the Ministry of the interior was in charge of the OPAC. The armed forces had received training on the OPAC, especially the senior ranks who since then had conducted studies to raise the age of recruitment to 18.

Prevention

The Committee noted that Syrian refugees were not screened at the border and questioned the measures that had been envisaged. It also asked about the general procedure to identify the age of individuals. The delegation responded that the age of children was determined by the family register and the birth registration. If no documents could be provided then there was an examination by a doctor. The delegation explained that the State party did not allow on its territory individuals who had served in armed forces, nor the entry of weapons. Children who had been combatants were considered as children and not as ex-combatants.

The Committee asked to have more information about military schools and if children received weapons training. The delegation explained that military schools and academies were run by the army and provided schooling for the children of the members of the armed forces. It emphasised that these schools followed the same curriculum imposed by the Ministry of education and that there was no weapons training.

Prohibition and related matters

The Committee enquired about the sanction for recruiting children. It also sought more information on extradition and extraterritorial jurisdiction for which double criminality was required. The delegation answered that Article 138 of the Criminal Code gave sentences of up to 5 years for the provision of weapons or setting up of military body enrolling children. It also said that double criminality was normally necessary but the OPAC took precedence over national law in cases of a crime not covered by Jordanian law. The delegation underlined that extradition was governed by international law as well as bilateral agreements and that each case was reviewed individually.

Concluding remarks

Ms. Winter and Mr. Guran thanked the delegation for all the information. They underlined that harmonisation would not be difficult to achieve. They also noted the current situation brought by the great number of refugees living in the State party.

The delegation said that it had listened with attention to the questions of the Committee. It underlined that this was an opportunity to review a number of issues and that the Concluding Observations would be used as guidelines. The delegation also emphasised the constant efforts of the State party to improve its human rights record and children's rights.