

Analytical Study for Statistics about number lawsuits with a Syrian party involved Issued from Ministry of Justice – Jordan

The Ministry of Justice issued a statistics sheet detailing the number of lawsuits registered in all Jordanian courts and levels; highlighting the percentages of the lawsuits involving Syrian parties. In turn, ARDD – Legal Aid conducted an analytical study and the following are the findings:

Statistics with numbers of lawsuits including Syrian parties involved – Regular Courts 2010-2015

Number of lawsuits in courts according to year						Number of lawsuits with Syrian parties						Percentage of Syrian lawsuits to the total in courts					
2015/June	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2015/June	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2015/June	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
260593	578330	511208	524609	483939	503263	6960	13674	8887	5591	3648	3758	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%

**Part of the statistics – MoJ – 2015*

- **Juvenile courts:**

It is noted that the highest percentage of registered juvenile lawsuits were at Amman Juvenile Court compared to the remainder of juvenile courts in Jordan. Until 15th June 2015, 163 cases involving Syrian parties were registered, amounting to 7% of the total registered cases. In 2015 the statistics demonstrate an overall increase in the number of registered cases which involve Syrian parties compared to previous years. It is worth noting that the Juvenile Courts in Jerash, Mafraq, Salt, Aqaba, Ajloun, Madaba and Maa'n had not registered any juvenile lawsuits involving Syrian parties so far.

- **Great Criminal Court:**

Through the statistics, a gradual increase can be observed in registered criminal lawsuits involving Syrian parties until 2014, the highest percentage of cases in that year was 183 crimes out of 1652 total registered crimes, amounting to 11% of the total number of crimes.

The percentage was rendered less in 2010 leading to 2013. However, this percentage was even less by the 15th of June 2015 with a total of 105 crime amounting to 11%.

- **The rest of the courts in different types and levels:**

- 1. Amman:**

In the years 2010,2011,2012,2013,2014, the highest percentage of registered lawsuits involving Syrian parties in Amman courts was respectively 1%, 1%, 1%, 1%, 12%. leading to the 15th of June 2015, the highest percentage of lawsuits involving Syrian parties was registered in West Amman court with a total of 304 lawsuits – amounting to 3%.

- 2. Rest of governorates in Jordan:**

- In sum, the highest percentage of registered lawsuits involving Syrian parties was in Mafraq court in 2013 with 1200 lawsuits amounting to 6%, also the same court registered the highest percentage in 2014 with 2865 lawsuits amounting to 13%. In 2015 up until the 15th June Mafraq court registered 1271 lawsuits amounting to 12% of the total lawsuits registered. As for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 Irbid court registered the highest percentages.
- comparing the total of registered lawsuits involving Syrian parties between Amman courts and the remainder of courts in Jordan; it was found that Amman courts hold the highest percentage of registered cases involving Syrian refugees.
- Throughout the statistics, the final results demonstrate increases and decreases in the number of registered lawsuits involving Syrian parties while the same percentage remained nearly unchanged. For example, in 2010, a total of 3708 lawsuits were registered amounting to 1%, in 2011 the number of lawsuits dropped to a total of 3648 which is also 1%, in 2012 total 5591 – 1%, in 2013 total 8887 – 2%, in 2014 total 13674 – 2%, in 2015 until 15th June 2015 total 6960 – 3%.

Conclusion:

From ARDD-LA's perspective, and upon studying and analyzing the statistics, it was observed that there is a fluctuation in the numbers of registered lawsuits in courts with Syrian parties involved between the years 2010 all the way through the 15th of June 2015. This indicates that there has been an increase in the level of legal awareness among Syrian refugees which is reflected in their growing commitment to national laws and regulations and respect of the Rule of Law principle. This also indicates their increasing trust in national laws and regulations, as well as resorting to resolve disputes, challenges and problems through legal methods instead of illegal alternatives which may further complicate their legal situation.

Also from ARDD-LA's perspective and based on the findings of the statistics; raising legal awareness efforts and enforce Rule of Law principle were successful, emphasizing the importance of continuing to hold legal awareness raising sessions as one of the basic prevention tools to protect Syrians against legal issues. It is very important that Jordanians and Refugees alike understand their rights and obligations according to national laws and regulations and international laws endorsed by Jordan. They also should be well informed on how to protect and claim these rights correctly, and meet their obligations. This combined will eventually contribute to decreasing the number of crimes, violations of laws and regulations and assist in enforcing the Rule of Law principle to all in Jordan.

On a different note, the fluctuation reflects the negative impact of the continuing decrease in humanitarian aid and assistance ultimately resulting in the increase of economic burdens, which unfortunately forced most refugees to violate the law unintentionally and out of ignorance in most cases. Also, it increased the level of debt among refugees as one of the solutions to cover their basic needs, however, this exposes them to facing legal issues. This also applies to vulnerable Jordanians who are also forced under the same circumstances to follow these methods to cover their needs. All of this asserts the need and importance of providing pro bono legal services to all vulnerable people in need.

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