

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1155/Add.30
10 April 1975

ORIGINAL: ARABIC

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Reports on economic, social and cultural rights, for the
period 1 July 1969-30 June 1973, received from Governments
under Economic and Social Council resolution 1074 C (XXXIX)

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The preface to the Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic (No. 208 of 13 March 1973) sets out the basic principles protecting human rights and dignity. This is the most recent statement of these rights, to which the Constitution devotes a special chapter.

It affirms that freedom is a sacred right and that popular democracy is the ideal attribute that gives the citizen the enjoyment of his freedom and makes of him an honourable person, and that the country's freedom is guarded only by free citizens.

The Constitution also provides that -

Article 23. The State shall develop the artistic endowments and abilities of all its citizens.

Article 25.1. Freedom is a sacred right; the State shall guarantee to its citizens their personal freedom and shall protect their honour and safety.

2. The rule of law is a fundamental principle for the community and the State.

3. Citizens have equal rights and duties before the law.

4. The State upholds the principle of equality of opportunity between citizens.

Article 26. Every citizen may share in political, economic, social and cultural life in accordance with law.

Article 27. Citizens shall cherish their rights and enjoy their freedom within the law.

- Article 28.1. A citizen is innocent until condemned by a final judgement at law.
2. No person may be searched or arrested except in accordance with law.
 3. No person may be tortured physically or morally or humiliated, and the law shall provide penalties for such treatment.
 4. The right to judicial process, appeal and defence shall be protected by law.
- Article 29. There is no crime nor penalty unless the law so provides.
- Article 30. No legal provision may apply to an act done before it came into force, or have retroactive effect unless the law so provides for non-criminal acts.
- Article 31. Dwellings are protected and may not be entered or searched unless in accordance with law.
- Article 32. The secrecy of postal and telegraphic communications shall be protected by law.
- Article 33.1. A citizen may not be banished from the national territory.
2. Every citizen may move about within the territory of the State unless forbidden to do so by order of a court or by a provision of the law relating to public health and safety.
- Article 34. A political refugee may not be handed over because of his political principles or his defence of freedom.
- Article 35.1. Freedom of belief is protected and the State respects all creeds.
2. The State guarantees freedom to practise all religions without disturbance of public order.
- Article 36.1. Work is the right and duty of every citizen, and the State is bound to provide him with it.
2. A citizen is entitled to receive wages befitting the nature and yield of his work, and the State is bound to guarantee this.
 3. The State shall lay down the number of hours of work, guarantee social security to workers, and regulate their right to rest, holidays, compensation and allowances.
- Article 37. Education is a right guaranteed by the State and is free of charge at all its stages and compulsory at its first stage. The State shall extend this obligation to other stages and shall supervise education and direct it according to its connexion with the needs of the community and of production.

- Article 38. Every citizen may express his opinion freely and publicly by word of mouth, writing and any other means, and may participate in control and constructive criticism guaranteeing the safety of the country and its people and supporting the socialist order; and the State shall uphold the freedom of the press, printing and publication in accordance with statute.
- Article 39. Citizens may assemble and demonstrate peaceably in accordance with the principles of the Constitution, and the exercise of this right shall be regulated by statute.
- Article 44.1. The family is the basic cell of society and is protected by the State.
2. The State shall protect and encourage marriage and remove the material and social obstacles to it; it shall protect motherhood and childhood, guard the young and adolescent, and provide them with the correct conditions for development of their aptitudes.
- Article 45. The State shall provide women with all the opportunities of active and full participation in political, social, cultural and economic life, and remove the obstacles to her development and participation in the building of the Arab socialist society.
- Article 46.1. The State shall support every citizen and his family in conditions of emergency, illness, disability, orphanhood and old age.
2. The State shall protect its citizens' health and give them the means of prevention, treatment and cure.
- Article 47. The State shall provide cultural, social and health services, especially in villages to raise their level.
- Article 48. Sections of the Republic may form trade unions and social, occupational and co-operative organizations for production or services. The scope, relations and limits of activity of these organizations shall be defined by statute.
- Article 49. These republican organizations shall take a constructive part in the various sectors and councils created by statute to fulfil the following functions:
1. Construction of the socialist Arab society and protection of its system.
 2. Planning and guidance of the socialist economy.
 3. Development of the conditions of work, protection, health, culture and all other factors of individual life.
 4. Scientific and technical progress, and development of the means of production.
 5. Control by the people of the apparatus of power.

To these shall be added other liberties conferred by the code of judicial procedure upon citizens and aliens to initiate and defend actions and to employ advocates of their choice. The penal code lays down that its provisions shall not be retroactive and that in case of temporal conflict of law the lesser penalty shall be imposed.