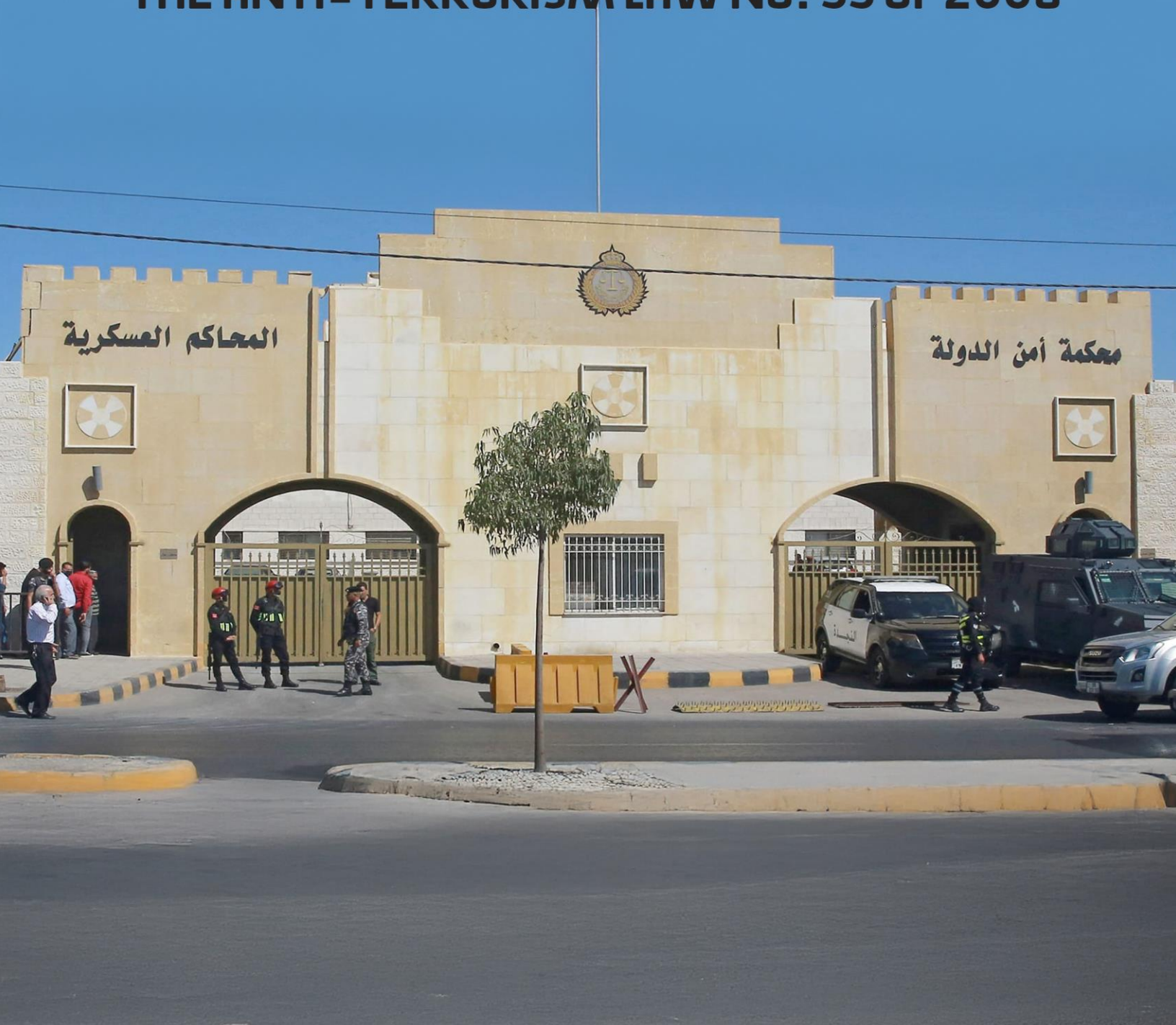


JORDAN: DEFENDANTS REFERRED TO THE STATE SECURITY COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANTI-TERRORISM LAW NO. 55 OF 2006



المركز العربي لاستقلال القضاء والمحاماة
THE ARAB CENTER FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF
THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION
(ACIJP)



مؤسسة دعم العدالة
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

Jordan:
Defendants referred to the State Security Court in accordance with the Anti-Terrorism Law
No. 55 of 2006

Cairo, 22 April 2025

The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (ACIJLP) is following with grave concern the developments surrounding the arrest of 16 Jordanian nationals, charged with affiliation to a terrorist organization. The detainees were organized into four groups. The first group is accused of manufacturing missiles intended for unlawful use; the second is allegedly engaged in a project to produce unmanned aerial vehicles (drones); the third is charged with recruiting individuals and engaging in acts that disrupt public order and pose a threat to societal safety and security; while the fourth is alleged to have been involved in the transport and storage of explosives and automatic weapons smuggled from abroad, in addition to concealing a missile in a suburb of Amman.

All defendants have been referred for trial before the State Security Court, in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 55 of 2006, as amended by Law No. 18 of 2014.

The ACIJLP notes that the penalties prescribed under the aforementioned law, in relation to the charges laid against the defendants, range from temporary imprisonment to life imprisonment and the death penalty. The law equates accomplices—regardless of the degree of their involvement—with principal perpetrators, subjecting them to identical penalties. It also stipulates that any person who becomes aware of a terrorist act but fails to report it is subject to a sentence ranging from three months to three years' imprisonment.

While the ACIJLP asserts the importance of safeguarding state security through all legitimate legal means, it simultaneously voices its concern regarding the growing reliance on exceptional legislation—characterized by severe punitive measures—which results in the deprivation of numerous fundamental rights and freedoms for those subjected to its provisions, particularly the right to self-defense.

The ACIJLP further notes that the aforementioned law, along with similar counterterrorism laws across the Arab region, encompass an expansive array of offenses classified as acts of terrorism. These laws frequently employ vague and overly broad language, thereby granting security authorities sweeping discretionary powers that can encroach upon the rights and liberties of individuals. This legal approach tends to prioritize state security considerations at the expense of the basic guarantees of individual freedoms.

The ACIJLP affirms its belief that existing ordinary penal codes in Arab legal systems, without resorting to exceptional measures, are adequate to address terrorist crimes while upholding a minimum standard of protection for citizens' rights and freedoms—chief among them the right to a fair trial, the right to legal defense, and the right to appeal before higher judicial bodies.

Accordingly, the ACIJLP calls upon the Government of Jordan—and all Arab governments—to limit the use of exceptional courts and to amend exceptional legislation to ensure that individuals subject to these laws are afforded fair and impartial proceedings and full legal representation.