

Legislative Aspects of the General Directorate of Civil Defence Work

Firstly: Civil Defence Law:

The idea of Civil Defence establishment in Jordan was with the issuance of Civil Defence system No. (7) for the year 1948 (precautions system against airstrikes) which was issued under article (4) of Transjordan Defence law for the year 1935. Then, a defence order was issued by Prime Minister No. (3) for the year 1953 which was issued under article (18) of the defence system No. (2) for the year 1939, where this defence order authorized the Defence Minister to form an entity for Civil Defence in the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan with a view to implement Civil Defence objectives and set the necessary regulations for these purposes as follows:

1. To maintain lives by following the preventive methods.
2. To maintain the properties.
3. To provide aid for those affected by airstrikes and instruct them how to avoid damages.

In 1953 , the order " Civil Defence Regulations" was issued and then terminated by the issuance of Defence order No.(1) of 1954 which was issued by the Defence Minister of based on the powers vested to him in Defence order No.(3) for the year 1953, which included the formation of Civil Defence committees in the capital , districts and sub-districts that bear the Civil Defence tasks .In 1955, defence order No.(1) of 1954 was issued ,which included amendments for defence order No.(1) of 1954 regarding the formation of Civil Defence committees.

In the wake of the tripartite aggression against Egypt in1956 according to the royal directives the Civil Defence temporary act No. (35) Was issued for the year 1956, whereby Civil Defence works were determined and the Higher Council for Civil Defence was formed. This act was modified during entering into force under the amended law No.(13) for the year 1957 ,which was declared the Invalidity of the law enforcement in the Gazette dated 01.01.1959.

According to the article (94) of the Constitution, No. (35) of 1956 was submitted to the Parliament, which was ratified . Royal Decree was issued to verify the Civil Defence Act No. (12)of 1959 to replace the Interim Civil Defence Act mentioned above. This Act has been amended during entering into force under the amended law No. (19) for the year 1962 , interim amended Act No. (48) of 1966 and interim amended law No.(5) of 1970.

This was followed by the issuance of the Civil Defence Act No.(12) of 1959, the issuance of orders and decisions to regulate Civil Defence work ,such as :

- a) Defence Act No.5 of 1964 (the storage and distribution of gas) issued by the Prime Minister under Article 2 / d of the Civil Defence law No.2 of 1939.
- b) Civil Defence Act No. 1 of 1968 (to add to the commander of the Popular Resistance to Civil Defence Committees) and issued by the Minister of Interior / Chairman of the Higher Council for Civil Defence.
- c) Defence Act No.3 of 1977 issued by the Prime Minister under Article (14/2) of Civil Defence System No.1 of 1939 and included to amend the defence No.5 of 1964.
- d) Defence law No.(7) for the year 1978 issued by the Prime Minister under Article (14/2) of the defence system No. (1) for the year 1939 including adding the "General Directorate of Civil Defence" phrase to the end of articles No.(6,7,8) of the defence is No.(5) for the year 1964.
- e) Decision issued by the Higher Council of Civil Defence (Instructions standards and specifications for private and public shelters establishment).

By the issuance of Civil Defence law No.(13) for the year 1992, the Civil Defence Act of 1935 ,all defence orders and systems issued by virtue were terminated .Since most of these orders are connected to Civil Defence works and in order to bridge the legal and to provide instruction orders-format to replace the terminated Civil Defence orders which were issued by virtue of the Defence Act for the year 1935 , Minister of Interior issued, in accordance to Civil Defence Law No.(12) for the year 1959; being the head of the Higher Council of Civil Defence, Civil Defence orders deal with topics related to the work of Civil Defence which are:

- 1) Civil Defence Order No.1 of 1993 (forest fires).
- 2) Civil Defence Order No.1 of 1994 (storage and distribution of gas cylinders).
- 3) Civil Defence Order No.(2) for the year 1994 (Regulations for the transportation of hazmat chemicals on the roads)
- 4) The amended Civil Defence Order No. 1 of 1996 (amending paragraph (a) of Article (4) of defence order No.1 of 1994).

To keep with the achievements that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan witnessed in the nineties of the twentieth century, including development and prosperity, the law No. (18) has been issued for the year 1999 to replace the Civil Defence Act No. 12 of 1959, where the Civil Defence Act No. 18 of 1999 was amended according to these laws:

- 1) Interim amended law No. (57) for the year 2002, which was replaced by the amended Law No. (90) for the year 2003.
- 2) Interim amended law No. 34 of 2003, that was replaced by the amended Law No. (86) for the year 2003

The most important issues that were touched upon by the Civil Defence Act No. 18 of 1999, as amended:-

1. The formation of the Higher Council of Civil Defence that was organized by all related authorities to address emergency situations in order to ensure carrying out its duties perfectly.
2. The duties and powers of the Higher Council for Civil Defence were determined to achieve the desired level for the prevention of emergency preparedness and response.
3. Establishment of a Secretariat for the Higher Council of Civil Defence to prepare its meetings , to follow up the decisions and the recommendations issued and to activate plans that the council prepared and disseminated to the related parties.
4. The formation of Civil Defence local committees in the Governorates are considered to be an executive body for the Higher Council of Civil Defence to develop detailed plans for the implementation of the duties required or designated by the Higher Council of Civil Defence.
5. Authorization to the Minister of Interior to undertake the appropriate rapid measures to deal with emergencies and all types of disasters.
6. The establishment of the General Directorate of Civil Defence and determination of its duties in accordance with the comprehensive concept of Civil Defence to achieve a maximum level of the prevention of dangers that threaten the citizens and their properties.
7. to obligate the special installations that could be exposed to a unique type of accidents, such as airports, ports and industrial cities to establish their own fire stations with self-protection requirements according to the specifications laid down by the General Directorate of Civil Defence.

8. Grant the Authorization for the General Director of Civil Defence to issue orders concerning the procedures and measures in the field of prevention and self-protection for the owners of the places that their nature require, and the authorization to notify the owners of violated institutions and shops that should correct the violations under the penalty of closing the shop , payment of a financial guarantee or referral to the judicial court.

9. To grant Civil Defence personnel working in the field of prevention and self-protection the right to inspect the buildings, commercial, industrial and tourist facilities to ensure the adequacy and effectiveness of the fire-fighting supplies, the presence of shelters and all the measures of prevention and self-protection as well as granting them the judicial authority to regulate violations toward the persons who violate the provisions of the Civil Defence Act, orders and instructions issued by virtue hereunder and to refer them to the judicial courts.

10. Grant Civil Defence personnel the right to access homes and institutions in fire , rescue and ambulance incidents without any prior authorization to save lives and properties.

11. The Law stipulates to form the Civil Defence Prosecution to appeal for the civil rights and apply them upon the Civil Defence personnel as well as to form Civil Defence Court appeals in Civil Defence personnel issues.

12. The Law stipulates to persecute anyone that violates its provisions or any order set hereunder to give mandatory force.

13. The Law stipulates that the law provisions and regulations of public security enter into force at the General Directorate of Civil Defence, in the cases other than those set forth herein.

Secondly: Fund Martyrs Act of Civil Defence, as amended (2) of the year 1993.

This law aims to provide the assistance for the Civil Defence martyrs' families.

Thirdly: The systems issued under provisions of civil defence:

(1) Cooperation Fund Regulations for civil defense officers No. (16) for the year 2004 and Saving Fund Regulations for Civil Defence staff No. (17) for the year 2004 aim to promote officers and Civil Defence personnel on saving , to provide loans for them and to grant End of service gratuity in the civil defence.

(2) Insurance Fund Regulations for civil defense staff No.(18) for the year 2004 aims to secure the Civil Defence personnel to provide financial compensation for them in the event of injury or his inheritors in case of his death, during service in the civil defence.

(3) Civil Defence Service Allowance Regulations, as amended No. (19) for the year 2004 and its amendments No. (34) of 2005 provide fulfillment of the General Directorate of Civil Defence prescribed fees for checking samples of material and equipment for the prevention and self-protection , for the advisory services related to warning alarm systems, firefighting systems and for studying the drawings .

(4) Charity Regulations for Civil Defence staff No. (20) for the year 2004 aims to provide an immediate assistance to the families of martyrs and dead staff of Civil Defence , to allocate monthly allowances for the needy families of martyrs or dead , to provide a financial assistance for needy staff whose services have been terminated due to his disability of getting injured or illness prevented him to work and give them a (recovered or refundable) financial advanced and other charitable goals .

(5) Penalties (sanctions) fund System for the Civil Defence Staff No. 26 for the year 2004 .

(6) Housing Fund regulations for Civil Defence officers, as amended No. (34) for the year 2004 aims to provide loans to the participants to build a house, to complete a house ,to extend a house that he owned , to buy a house or a land to build a house. Military Housing Fund regulations for Civil Defence staff act No. 22 for the year 1979 governs the Civil Defence personnel below the rank of officer.

(7) Service Danger Pay regulations for Civil Defence personnel No. (72) of 2006.

Fourthly :The most Important laws and regulations concerning Public Security and Armed Forces which are applied on the General Directorate of Civil Defence:

- (1) Public Security Act No. 38 for the year 1956 as amended.
- (2) Service Law of Officers in the Jordanian Armed Forces (35) of 1966 as amended.
- (3) Service Law of Staff in the Jordanian Armed Forces No. 2 of 1972 as amended.
- (4) Military Retirement law No. 33 for the year 1959 , and its amendment.
- (5) Military Housing Act No. 22 for the year 1979 and its amendment .
- (6) Incentives and Rewards system of Public Security Staff No.112 for the year 2004 .
- (7)Salaries and allowances of Public Security Staff No. 10 for the year 1966 and its amendment.
- (8) Judicial Allowances system for public security force workers No. 63 for the years 1969 and its amendments .
- (9) Cost of Living system for Jordanian Armed Forces and Public Security officers and staff system No. 12 for year 2000.
- (10) Public security officers treatment system No. 119 for the year 1966.
- (11) Allowances for officer working in the field of computer system in the armed forces No. 60 for the year 1981.
- (12) Usage bonuses and engineering professions system No. 55 for the year 1970 and its amendment.
- (13) Officer Allowances system in the Jordanian armed forces No. 8 for the year 1975 and its amendment.
- (14) Military Medical Committees System No. 19 for the year 1979 and its amendments .
- (15) Military Supplies System No. 3 for the year 1995 and its amendment.
- (16) Military Works System No. 4 for the year 1995 as amended.

Fifthly: The regulations of the General Directorate of Civil Defence

Based on the mandating powers to the General Director of Civil Defence under the provisions of the Civil Defence act No. 18 for the year 1999 , he issued the instructions below :

- 1- Civil Defence Supplies Regulations No. 1 for the year 2002 .
- 2- Civil Defence Instructions for Prevention and Self-Protection materials and equipment No.(1) of 2004 which aims to:
 - a. Ensure that all locally or imported Prevention and Self-Protection materials and equipment fulfill the standard specifications approved by Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization.
 - b. Prevent any entry of any Prevention and Self-Protection materials and equipment contrary to the adopted standards and specifications, unsafe or fake local market.
 - c. Restrict the use of Prevention and Self-Protection materials and equipment with efficient and well-qualified companies and institutions.
- 3- Warning labels for Hazmat or explosive materials transportation regulation No. (2) for the year 2004 include the standards , condition and information that must be included in the warning labels, which are installed on transportation vehicle that carry hazmat or explosive materials .
- 4- Regulations for the General Directorate of Civil Defence affairs and personnel such as staff service, service housing instructions, furniture manufacturing instruction for Civil Defence personnel and administrative transportation fund instruction.

Sixthly: the most important legislations related to the work of the General Directorate of Civil Defence and legislations related to the comprehensive concept of public safety :

1. National Building Code No.(7) 1993 as amended is specialized on building works of in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan that include the establishment, designing ,maintenance and supervision of constructional projects and its mechanical , electrical , public safety , fire protection , building insulation and waste disposal works.

The Jordanian National Building Code stipulated to form the national Jordanian Building Council and that of the one of its members is the General Director of Civil Defence ,who holds the responsibility to approve the various codes for Jordan

national building . These codes include the rules , conditions and technical requirements to be met during construction in the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan. The most important codes issued by the Jordanian National Building Council which related to public safety and fire protection e.g. firefighting systems code, warning systems code ,fire prevention code and shelters code .

(2) Jordanian labor law No. (8) for the year 1996 and its amendments regulated in (chapter 9) the issues relating to occupational safety and health e.g. providing the necessary measures to protect personnel from dangers and deceases , providing personal protection and prevention means ,the ministry of labor is responsible in coordination and cooperation with other parties concerned including the General directorate of Civil Defence .

(3)Interim public health law No. (54) for the year 2002 and its amendments mandated the Ministry of Health to coordinate with concerned bodies including the General Directorate of Civil Defence to hold the responsibility for maintaining public health services provided by public and private sectors .

(4) The temporary agriculture law No. (44) for the year 2002 organizes the agricultural sector and its development including maintaining the governmental and private forestry ,fighting plant pests prohibits igniting fires in governmental and private forestry and punishes who ignites fires.

(5)Interim environment protection act No. (1) for the year 2003 which entrusted the Ministry of environment to protect the environment in the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan and ordered the public and private bodies implementing the instructions and decisions issued under the provisions of the law and the regulations issued there under, it is worth mentioning that under the provisions of this law several regulation have been issued designed to protect the environment , preserve the elements of pollution and conservation of natural resources from depletion ,e.g :

- Environment protection against pollution in emergencies system No.(26) for the year 2005.
- Hazardous and danger materials ,transportation and trading system No. (24) for the year 2005.

(6) Practicing paramedic system No. 47 for the year 2006 classifies the paramedics for practicing the profession and conditions that must be provided in each classification .

(7) Building and organization system in Amman No. (67) for the year 1979 ,as amended which cares about the specifications and conditions to be met in the building and reconstruction project in Amman.