Under Curfew: 2

Monitoring the Violations faced by Private Sector workers

تمكين
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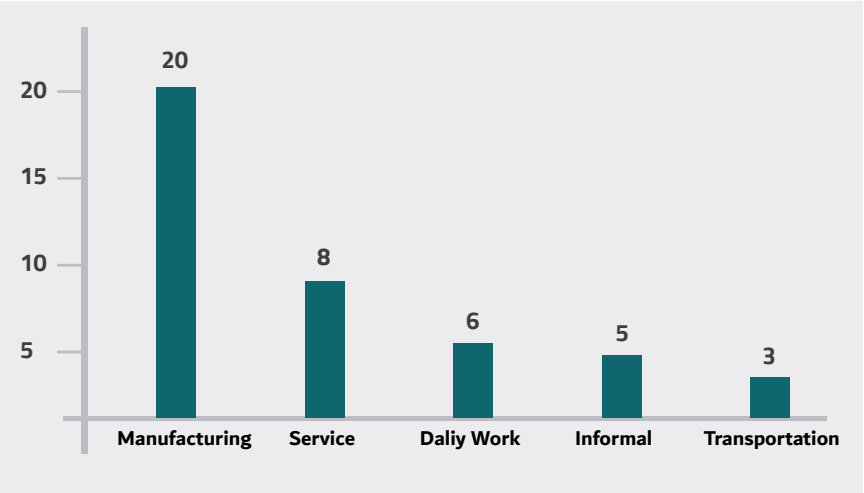
للمساعدة القانونية وحقوق الانسان
For legal aid and human rights

Introduction:

Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights has monitored 42 complaints that were registered by workers in various sectors during the second day of the official holiday that was declared by the government on Wednesday March 18th for a period of two weeks, as part of its efforts to curtail the spread of the Corona Virus.



The complaints included workers reporting that they were forced to go to work; to others being forced to submit vacation requests without being provided any salaries. Daily Workers reported that their work has completely stopped due to the government regulations that were imposed to stop the spread of the virus.

Geographically, the complaints were recorded in the capital of Amman, as well as the governorates of Zarqa, Jerash, Mafraq, Irbid, as well as Dleil.

Moreover, there were a number of complaints that were submitted by workers whose institutions were excluded from the holiday decision since they work in essential sectors. These sectors include: supermarkets and bakeries; food, water, and fuel suppliers; and factories.

These workers said that the stoppage of public transport has made it difficult for them to go to work. Thus, they were forced to use taxis and car applications, which in turn incurred increased expenses on them, since these means tend to be expensive. These complaints were particularly reported by workers whose salaries do not exceed 250 JOD, or those who were not paid their salaries since they were not due yet.

It should be noted that Tamkeen received 35 such complaints in the last 2 days, the majority of which were by female workers.

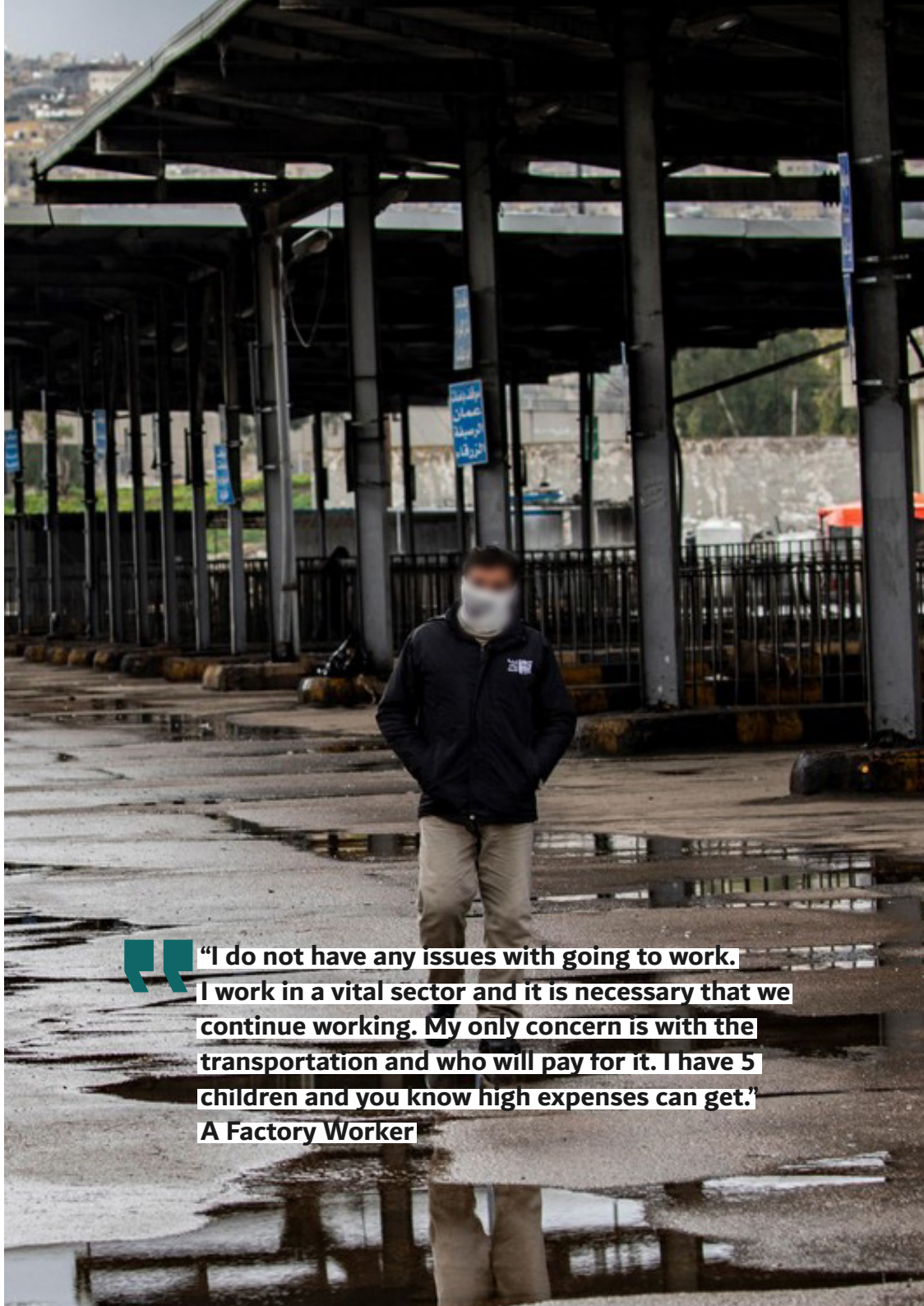
"I live in Zarqa but my place of work in Sahab. Currently, there is no transportation between Amman and Zarqa. The employer refused to provide me with a mean of transportation and my salary is 220 JOD. What am I supposed to do?" A Factory Worker

The above quotation illustrates an issue that was repeated by several workers who said that the cost of transportation has more than doubled. Previously, they used to pay 2 JODs for a round trip to their work and back home. Now though, the cost could sometimes reach 10 JODs, especially for those who live far away from their work.

Other workers said that the employer refused to provide them with a mean of transportation or cover the cost of transportation, while others refused to pay them their salaries in advance so they can manage the extra costs.

Tamkeen spoke with Mazen Marji, an Economic Expert who asserted that the extra costs that befall the worker who has to go to work due to the nature of their jobs or because it is an essential one should be covered by the institution where they work. Such institutions, like hospitals, drugs manufacturers, supermarkets or others should also work on facilitating the process for workers to reach their places of work by allocating means of transportation, as well as issue them the necessary permits that allow them to move between cities.

Therefore, Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights asks employers in such institutions, that were excluded from the holiday decision and do not provide means of transport to its employers, to assume their social responsibility and provide transportation allowances for workers ; which in turn will help workers to easily come to work and not burden them with extra costs that will impact them even after this crisis is over.



“I do not have any issues with going to work. I work in a vital sector and it is necessary that we continue working. My only concern is with the transportation and who will pay for it. I have 5 children and you know high expenses can get.”
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