Under Curfew: 3

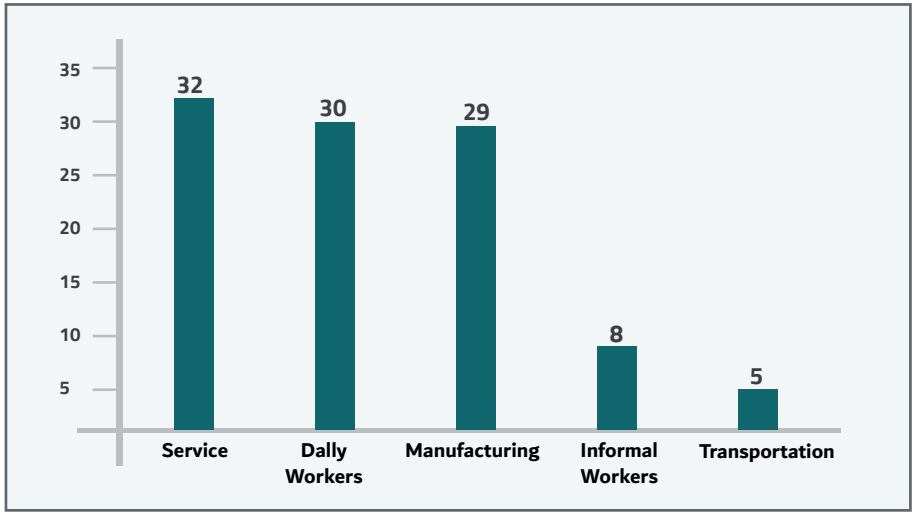
Monitoring the Violations faced by

Private Sector workers

تمكين
TAMKEEN
للمساعدة القانونية وحقوق الانسان
For legal aid and human rights

Introduction:

Amman- Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights has monitored 104 complaints that were registered by workers in various sectors in the period between 19-22 Match. The period falls within the official holiday that was announced by the government on Wednesday March 18th, as part of its efforts to curtail the spread of the Corona Virus.



As shown above, the complaints were recorded in a number of sectors. The highest of which was the service sector where 32 complaints were submitted, followed by Daily workers in the sectors of agriculture, construction and crafts with 30 complaint, and then by the Manufacturing sector where 29 complaints were recorded. Meanwhile, 8 complaints were recorded by Informal Workers and 5 in the Transportation sector.

The complaints ranged from workers who 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. Meanwhile, workers reported that their employer threatened workers with a 3-day deduction for each day the worker does not come to work, while other companies simply ended the services of its workers.

Geographically, the complaints were recorded in the capital of Amman, as well as the governorates of Zarqa, Jerash, Mafraq, Irbid, as well as the areas of Dleil, Deir Alla and Azraq.

The Curfew Decision in the Kingdom

On the evening of Friday March 20, the government announced Defence Order Number 2 which imposed an indefinite curfew on the full Kingdom that bans people from leaving their homes even to purchase food. The decision, which took effect on Saturday, excluded a number of vital sectors, that included: Food and Drugs Manufacturing as well as the Health sector. As a result of the exclusion, the government issued travel permits that allowed workers in these sectors to move freely during the curfew.

Therefore, we request that employers whose factories have been excluded from the decision to issue these permits to their workers, as well as begin providing means of transportation to workers who are unable to reach their working place as a result of the stoppage of the public transportation system.

Governmental Procedures to help the poor and those affected

The government announced a series of decisions to provide benefits to a number of categories. These included: the poor, daily workers, the elderly, in addition to Palestinians and Gazans. The government said that these benefits were provided to compensate for the impact that the governmental measures that were taken to reduce the Corona virus on them. However, it was noted that neither the measures announced by the Social Security Corporation nor by the National Aid Fund mention migrant workers, refugees or even the children of Jordanian women who do not have a Jordanian nationality.

The omission of these categories is worrying as many of them work in the formal sector and are in fact registered under the umbrella of Social Security. Besides, these categories are considered among the most vulnerable in the Jordanian society as they continue to be exploited in terms of their decent work conditions and social protection. Thus, some of them continue to receive low wages; work in unsafe environments and are subjected to numerous types of labour violations.

It should be noted here that the number of actively insured people under the umbrella of Social Security is 1 million, 317 thousand, 163 thousand of them are not Jordanians, which means that 12.4% of active subscribers in SSC are non-Jordanians.

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