

## **RASSED for Parliamentary Monitoring Program 21<sup>th</sup> Weekly Report on the Performance of the Parliament During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session April 16, 2016**

The Jordanian House of Representatives convened one legislative and one oversight session during the 21st week of the third ordinary session. Ten Parliamentary Committees held 13 meetings – 5 legislative and 8 oversight sessions.

Over the past week, the intractability of the relationship between the legislative and executive powers appeared obvious during the final session held on Tuesday that was allocated discuss the Audit Bureau reports for the years 2009-2012-. They were unable to continue the session after the House accused the government of tolerating with corruption and covering it up, in addition to the Vice Chairman of the Financial Committee, who studies the reports, assuring that the government did not respond to a large number of its notes.

Tuesday's session also revealed a blur in the vision of House for the fate of previous reports of the Audit Bureau dating back to four years and more. Some of them suggested the transferal of some irregularities to the Anti-Corruption Commission and the others called for transferring them to the attorney general. However, some of them recalled that the House shall not transfer to the prosecution according to the interpretative decision issued previously by Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution.

The report pointed out that the number of notes and regulatory books reached 1100, 18% of the Audit Bureau outputs, which includes notes for not involving the Bureau in the Tender or Technical Committees and not displaying documents for its approval. This also includes notes for government cars that don't have an indication of its respective Ministry,

or notes on work or hiring records that exceeded the legal limit.

The report showed that the number of committees that were formed based on previous decisions of the Finance Committee reached 86 joint committees. The agenda included 857,000 legislative outputs, 657 of them have been fixed (35.3%). 169 outputs represented 2.8% of legislation that are currently becoming fixed, where the Finance Committee decided to follow up with the Audit Bureau until it is fixed.

During the week, a number of the parliamentary committee meetings were canceled due to lack of quorum what prevented approving some draft laws before some committees.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Committee endorsed a draft law on radiation protection and nuclear safety and security for 2016.

The Public Services and Transport Committee held three meetings, two of them devoted to legislative matters to discuss the draft law amending the Code of Civil Aviation for the year 2015. The Committee listened to the comments of Chief Commissioner of the Jordan Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission and the representatives of companies and civil aviation operators and carriers and air traffic controllers from the private sector in the Dead Sea area about the sanctions included in the draft law.

The third meeting was allocated for oversight matters where the Committee invited the Ministry of Transport and Land Transport Regulatory Commission to make recommendations required by the Council of Ministers to stop the 5% tax imposed on the workers in public automotive sectors («taxis») before sending an amended law for the income and sales tax.

The Joint Committee on Women and Family Affairs and the Legal Committee and the Palestine Committee held two meetings each. The Joint Committee has allocated its meetings for legislative matters and to

take all opinions on the draft law of protection against domestic violence for the year 2016 into consideration. This draft law is concerned with the prevention of domestic violence and organizing the work of family protection centers.

The Palestine Committee meetings were allocated for oversight issues, where the Committee met a delegation representing Khalil Rahman Association in one meeting, and the second meeting was for reviewing the demands of Gazans, such as allowing them to have temporary public licenses, to own diesel cars in their names, to extend the passport validation for five years instead of two years, as well as for reducing the fees on issuing a passport for the first time, and issuing and renewing private driving licenses.

The Tourism and Antiquities Committee held a meeting with the owners of travel agencies and tourist guides to listen to their problems. The Countryside and the Desert Committee praised in an oversight meeting the decision of the Minister of Agriculture which allows sheep breeders to license water transfer tanks under the conditions approved.

The Education and Culture Committee and private school owners, in the presence of the House Speaker, reached an agreement to end the sit-in that was carried out by private school owners in front of the House of Representatives.

The Foreign Affairs Committee met with an Austrian Parliament member Peter Belize, assigned by the parliament to prepare a detailed report on the Jordanian role in the camps of Syrian refugees. Integrity, transparency and a fact-finding Committee reviewed the work of the House in the legislating many laws for fighting corruption, during a meeting with former members of the US Congress David Skaggs and Ann Marie Buerkle.