

**Response of the Public Prosecution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to a  
Questionnaire on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Administration of  
Justice and the Free and Independent Exercise of the Legal Profession**

1-A) This pandemic had no effect on the general functioning of justice and did not undermine the principle of separation of authorities, as the judicial authorities were exercising their duties and work in accordance with the principle of independence and empowerment of those concerned to claim their rights and be legally represented before the judicial authorities and law enforcement agencies.

1-B) There are several orders and regulations issued following the pandemic that had an affect on legislative review of some regulations to cope with the effects of the pandemic, Such as

1-C) The measures related to the New Corona Virus pandemic were not adopted on the basis of Martial laws, but decisions, orders and decrees were issued in accordance with the necessary legal tools, and prior to that, the views of the relevant authorities were taken before their adoption, as the usual.

2-A) The measures adopted in Saudi Arabia to ensure access to the judicial authorities were effective and achieved the criminal justice in accordance with legal procedures.

2-B) These measures were considerate of the health and safety of the parties of justice, especially inside the Public Prosecution. Where the Public Prosecution issued decisions related to imposing preventive and administrative measures to ensure the containment of the pandemic to prevent its spread and all employees of the Public Prosecution showed the required commitment to said measures, as well as the visitors and affected individuals and entities which was by finding channels to communicate with them without attending the Public Prosecution offices.

2-C) These measures contributed to enable the judiciary and members of the Public Prosecution to carry out their duties in effective ways that ensures adherence to

preventive measures and fall within the framework of justice that affects pace of proceeds according to the highest standards of quality and efficiency.

3) In the matter related to the arrest of the accused persons, it has been dealt with by enforcing release in all the non-major cases mentioned in ministerial resolution No. (2000), as well as the major cases in which there are health -related conditions that require expansion in the release of the detainees. Financial and logistical resources were provided to activate preventive measures in light of their control and prevention.

4-A) The Public Prosecution activated the electronic platforms within the framework of taking investigation procedures through electronic means of communication, starting with electronic notifications and legal implications, as well as activating interrogations, taken witnesses' statements remotely, and enforcing investigation orders electronically.

4-B) Parties of lawsuits have been enabled to access the necessary services and procedures by making electronic platforms available, especially the complaints that are submitted directly to the Attorney General, and the plaintiff is contacted. As well as launching a platform for serving lawyers on the Public Prosecution website to facilitate the exercise of their duties in defending the accused.

4-C) For those who do not have access to technical tools that enable them to communicate through with the Public Prosecution, they are contacted in other ways that guarantee their exercise of their rights and have no legal implications except by granting them the right to defend or respond.

5-A) The Public Prosecution believes in the necessity to empower lawyers to exercise their competencies and the importance of their presence during the procedures of criminal justice. The Public Prosecution was one of the first authorities to give lawyers offices for them to facilitate their duties, and through the lawyers' platform that was launched in the Public Prosecution website it became effective for them even their suggestions and initiatives to develop the performance of the Public Prosecution office and the judicial procedures in general are received, also the communication with them is carried out upon the direction of the Attorney General.

5-B) Lawyers are exercising their duties in representing one of the parties of a case, as they are procedurally empowered to prove their legal representative status, then enable them to attend investigation procedures and intervene in investigation sessions according to the interest of their clients and not separating them to see the investigation procedures that have taken place without their presence.

5-C) Lawyers are prepared to represent their clients during investigation, in line with the procedures and measures that the Public Prosecution adheres to without affecting the course of justice or disrupting rights and procedures in which these procedures are harmonious until the cases are closed.