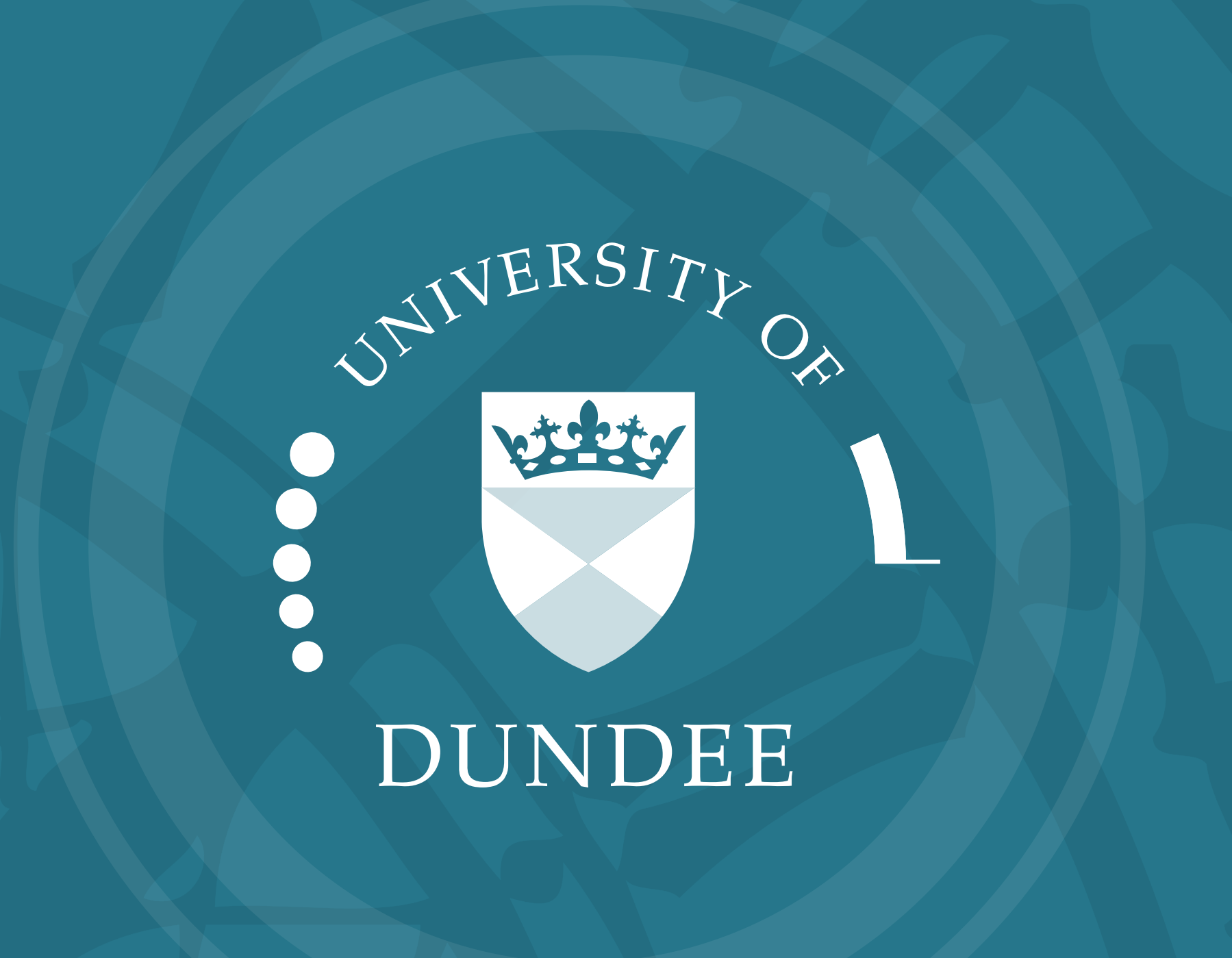


The Right to Trial Within a Reasonable Time in Criminal Cases in Saudi Arabia



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Aim of the Study

- 1 The study examines the concept of the right to trial within a reasonable time under Saudi law.
- 2 It argues the importance of recognising this right, its scope, and protection.
- 3 The study highlights the delays that can occur from the beginning until the end of trials.
- 4 It also assesses the reasons for delays to reach a conclusion on whether delay, in each case, is reasonable.
- 5 Finally, the study determines the degree of violation for various delays and suggests remedies for the violations.

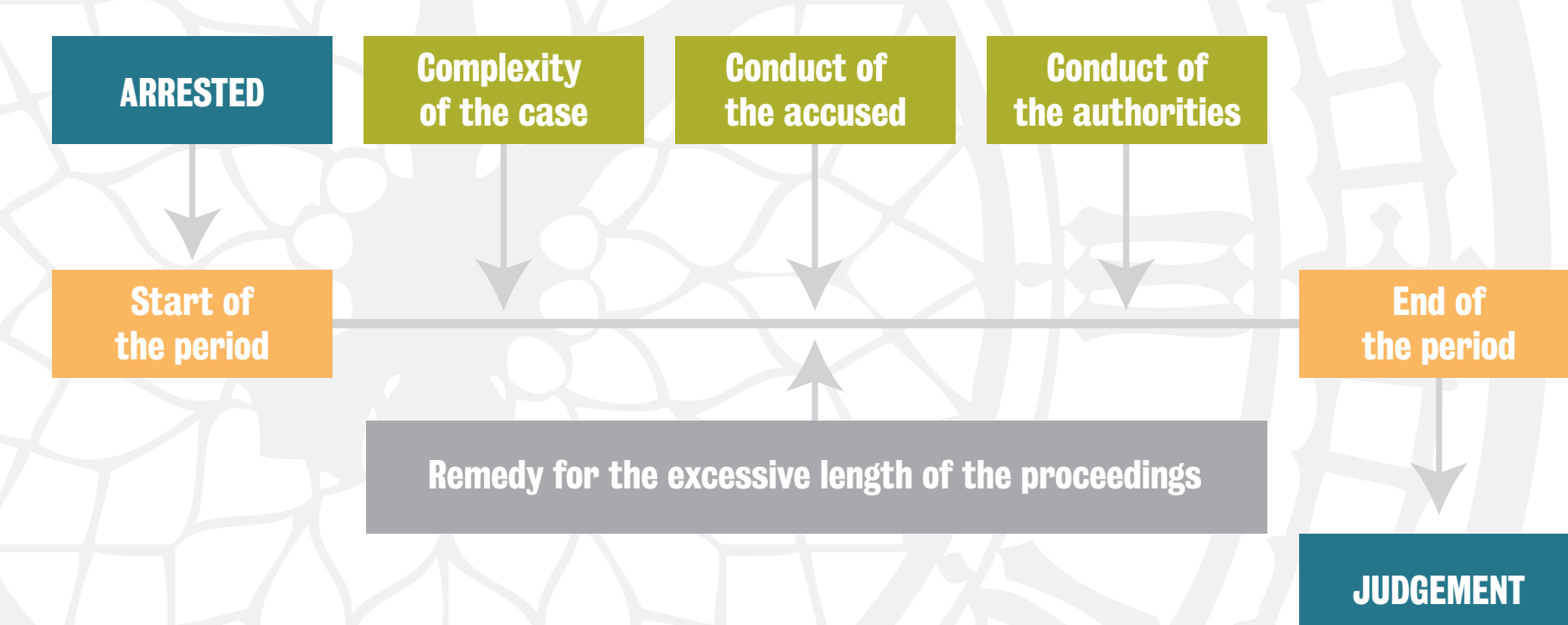
Introduction

Saudi Arabia's legal system has undergone a transformation, since the country's laws were updated in 2013. The updated laws provide a welcome change, especially to the country's criminal law, because they meet most of the requirements of international human rights law. However, they pose new problems, such as delays in trials, as a result of failure to implement the revised laws. These delays keep the Saudi system in the spotlight over the abuse of human rights.

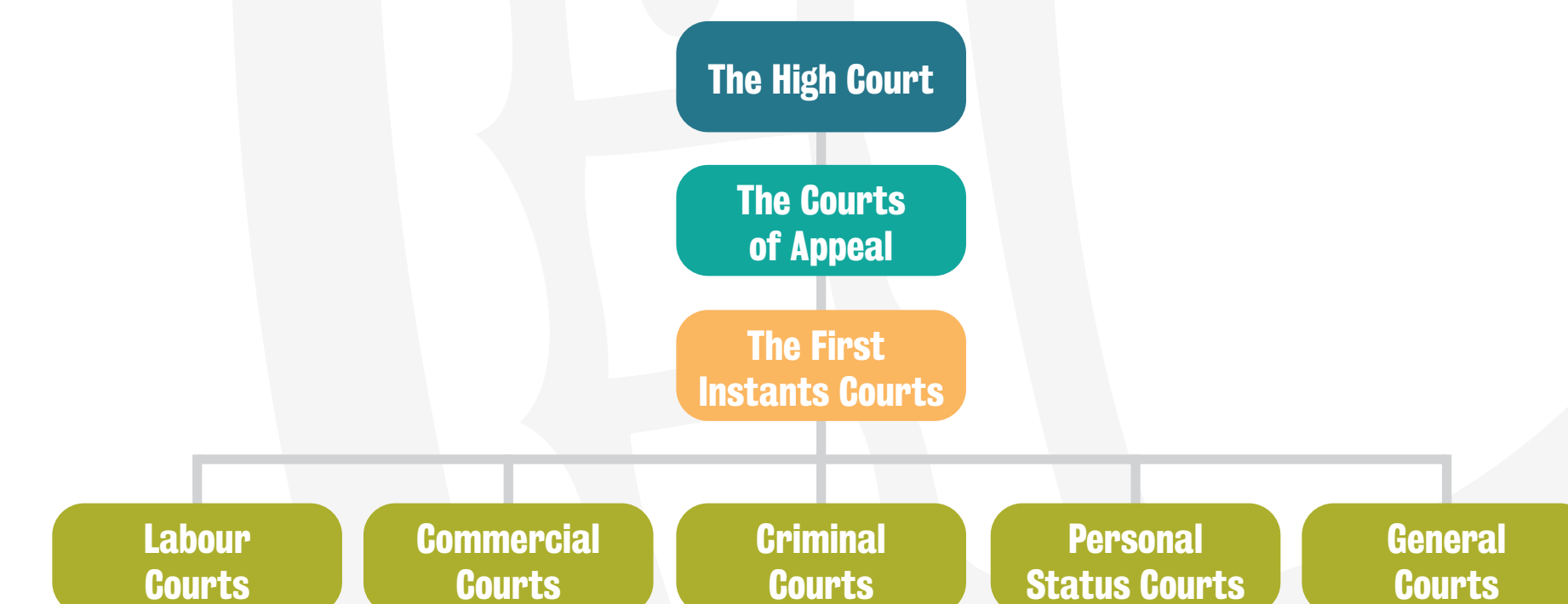
Methodology

Evaluate the right to trial without undue delay in the Saudi legal system by analysing the country's Basic Law of Governance (BLG), Law of Criminal procedure (LCP), and the Law of Procedure before Sharia Courts (LPBSC), then compare them with Sharia law and the Arab Charter of Human Rights (ACHR), which are the source of Saudi law, to assess if they meet international human rights standards.

Measuring and assessing the time of trial



Structure of the Current Courts

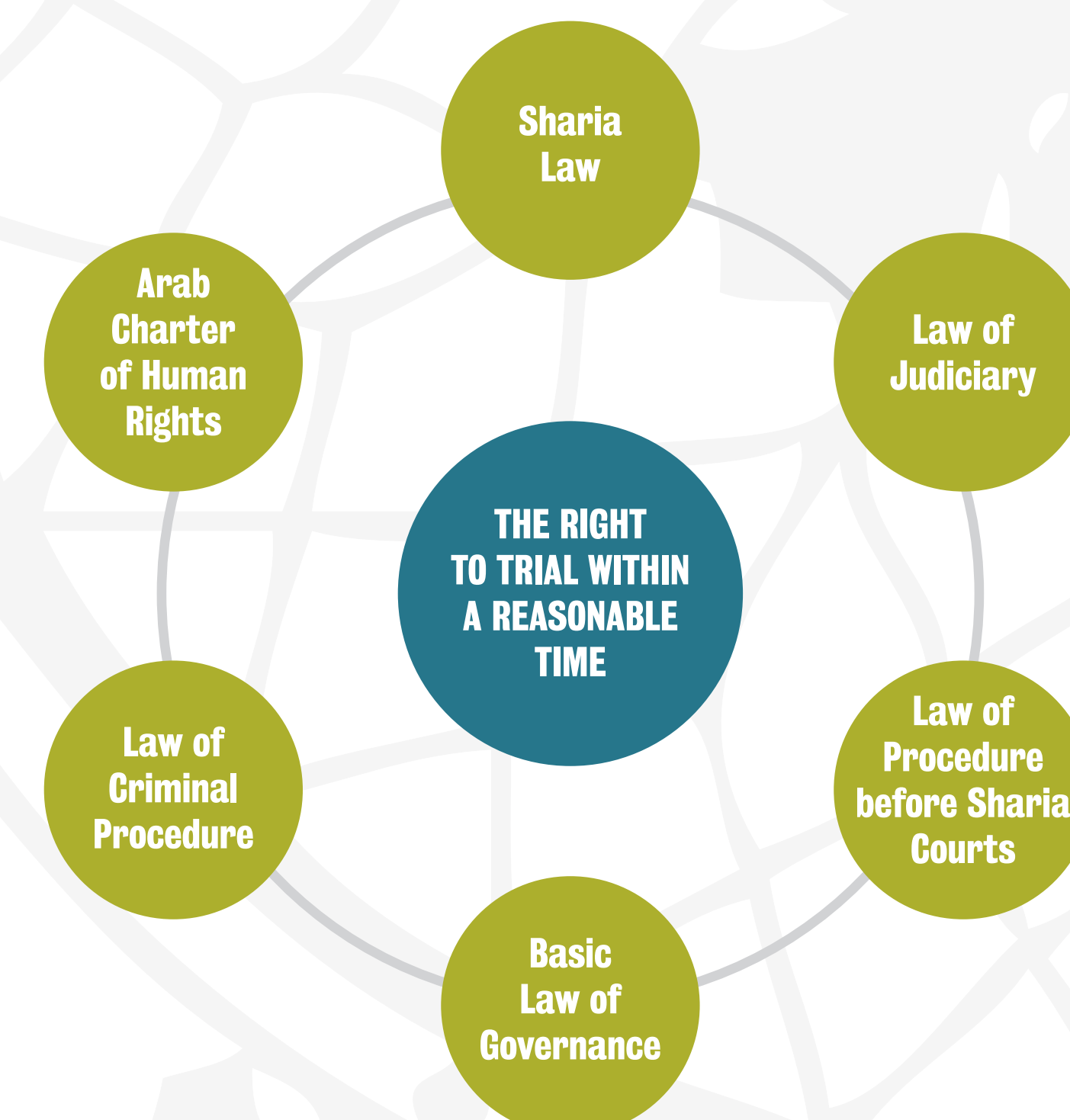


Results

- 1 Sharia law and the ratified The Arab Charter of Human Rights are the primary sources of citizens' rights in Saudi laws.
- 2 The right to trial within a reasonable time is not mentioned explicitly in the laws, although it has been mentioned implicitly in some articles.
- 3 The criminal procedure uses time limits in the pre-trial stage to avoid delays in trials.
- 4 There is no guidance in the trial stage for the time limits of a trial.
- 5 Violations of human rights and suggestions for reforms to the Saudi laws.

Sources of violations	Possible remedies
Failure to guarantee defendants' rights	Ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
Shortages of judicial personnel	Increase the number of judges and investigators
Ambiguous articles in the laws	Clarify vague laws
Lack of guidance in the trial stages	Establish guidance for the trial stages
Vague implementation of the laws	Enhance the implementation of the right to a speedy trial
Absence of supervision of the Bureau of Investigation & Public Prosecution (BIPP)	Improve supervision of the BIPP
Lack of an independent judiciary	Guarantee the independence of the country's judiciary

The source of the right to trial within a reasonable time in Saudi Arabia



Conclusion

This paper examines the right to be tried without delay in Saudi Arabia. Since Saudi Arabia practises human rights from an Islamic perspective, the legislature reformed its laws to improve the guarantees of the accused's right to trial within a reasonable time. Nonetheless, there remain problems regarding deficiencies in the judicial system, which can be witnessed in the failure to supervise implementation of the laws, as well as a shortage of judges, both of which lead to delays in trials. The country should strive to address the deficiencies by ratifying human rights conventions, strengthening the independence of the judiciary, further improving the laws, and improving supervision of the law.

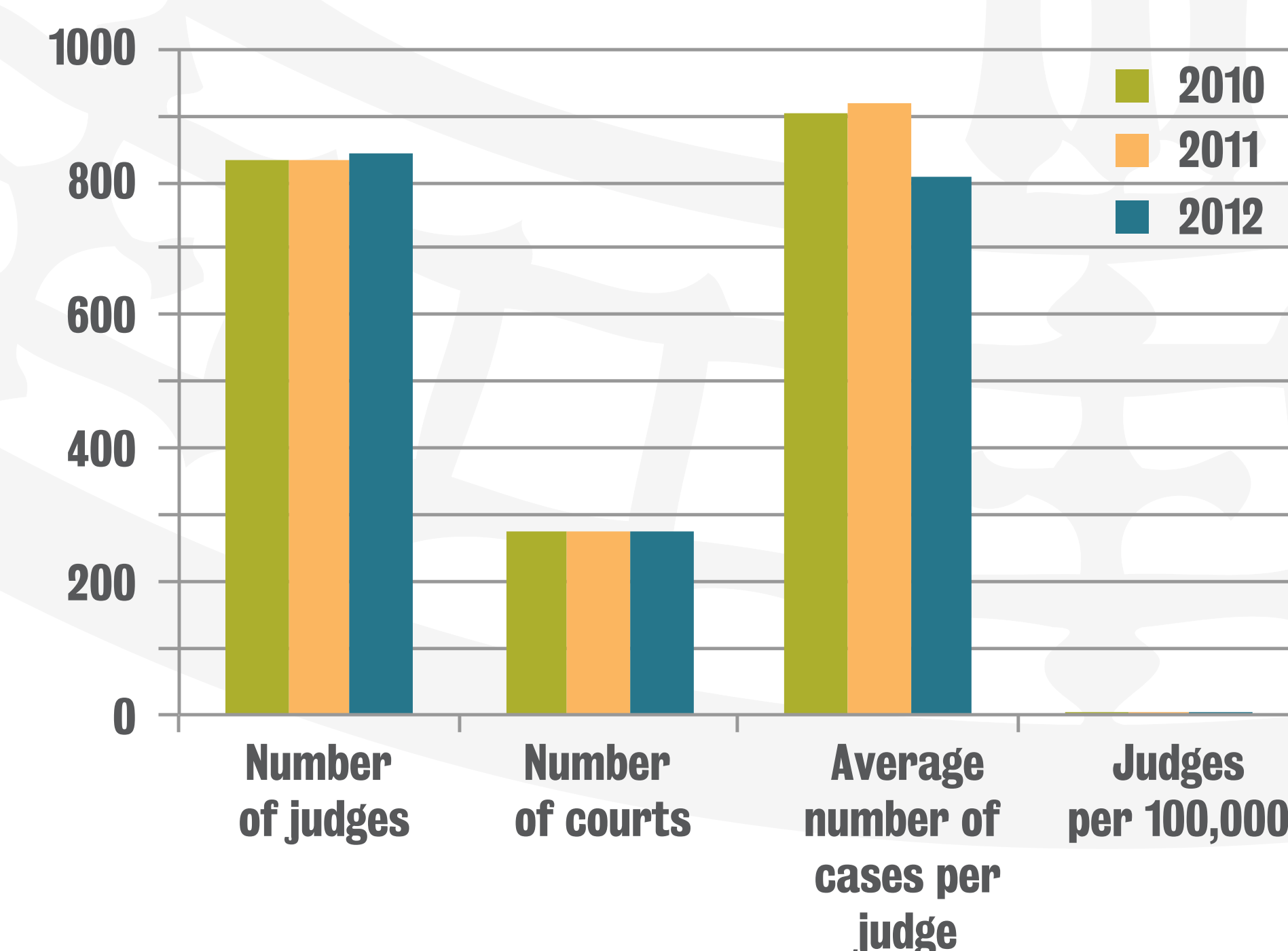
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Acknowledgement

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Courts Statistics in Saudi Arabia



Year	Rates	Populations
2010	275 courts 832 judges 2.51/100.000	27,136,977
2011	275 courts 832 judges 2.51/100.000	27,136,977
2012	275 courts 843 judges 3/100.000	29,195,895