Human Rights Situation Report

# 1. Background and Political Context

Alraya is a fictional Middle Eastern country undergoing political reforms since the constitutional amendments of 2023. Although the government has pledged democratic progress, civil society organizations report a shrinking space for civic freedoms. In 2024, over 1,200 individuals were detained for participating in protests, most of them unarmed and peaceful. Authorities claim such measures are vital to maintain national unity amid regional instability.

The ruling party has consolidated power by dissolving independent oversight bodies. In major cities, protests have been met with heavy police presence, and online discussions have been increasingly monitored. The government justifies its approach by emphasizing national security and economic recovery.

# 2. Key Human Rights Concerns

• Protest Restrictions:
A Public Assemblies Law enacted in June 2024 requires 10-day advance notice for any public gathering. Over 40 peaceful protests were dispersed using force under this law. Witnesses reported rubber bullets and water cannons.

• Media Censorship:
Several media outlets were suspended, and critical journalists were interrogated. Three major news sites have been blocked without judicial order. Independent voices on social media have been arrested under vague cybercrime provisions.

• Arbitrary Detention:
Reports from civil rights groups highlight the use of pre-trial detention without charges. Detainees are denied legal counsel during initial interrogations. Many are held in undisclosed locations for days or weeks.

# 3. Government Response and International Reactions

The government maintains that its measures are in line with national laws. A new 'Code of Responsible Journalism' was issued in July, advising media outlets to avoid content that undermines public trust in institutions. The Ministry of Information argued that foreign-funded platforms are spreading misinformation.

International watchdogs like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch issued statements urging Alraya to repeal restrictive laws. Several EU embassies expressed concern over mass detentions. The UN Human Rights Council has requested access to observe legal proceedings.

Despite growing international pressure, the Alraya administration has not revised its policies. Monitoring continues amid reports of further detentions.