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Hearing the witness remotely in Jordanian law

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Abstract: This study examines the regulation of remote witness testimony in Jordanian legislation and evaluates the adequacy of the legal framework governing the use of electronic means in civil and arbitration proceedings. The study adopts a doctrinal legal research methodology based on the analysis of Article 81(7) of the Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure, Article 32(h) of the Arbitration Law and its amendments, and the System for the Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Procedures No. 95 of 2018, with reference to the IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence. The study finds that, despite legislative recognition of remote testimony, the existing framework contains procedural and evidentiary shortcomings that may affect the reliability and effectiveness of witness examination. The study concludes that greater legislative clarity and procedural safeguards are required and recommends aligning Jordanian regulations with international best practices governing electronic evidence and remote witness testimony.

Keywords: witness remotely; electronic means; court; arbitration body.

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1 Introduction

The world is witnessing a huge development in various areas especially in the communication field. Since the world is going through circumstances due to the spread of Corona virus, it is necessary to take advantage of this development in means of communication because it achieves several advantages (Al-Khalaileh et al., 2024; Kocur, 2025). Thus, the Jordanian legislator is required to reconsider his laws in order that they respond to these circumstances and face them, especially in the matters of evidence, particularly in hearing testimony remotely. In fact, the Jordanian legislator has amended some texts related to the use of electronic means in the procedures of evidence including hearing the witness, because the success of any legislative system is measured through its response to those developments including the technical one.

The two researchers tended to write in this topic to show the rules of hearing testimony remotely in Jordanian law through this title ‘Hearing the witness remotely in Jordanian law’ to reveal the Jordanian legislator’s position on this mean of evidence, and if he was successful of the amendments he has made in its legislations, so as to facilitate the legislation procedures and the role he gave to the court or arbitration panel, and

shorten many procedures that may prolong the legislation time without affecting the guarantee of the opponent's right to a fair trial.

The importance of the study lies in the effectiveness of hearing testimony remotely according to Jordanian law through showing the nature of this mean, which is the electronic testimony and its effect in evidence, and the role of the court, arbitration panel and parties in adopting this mean.

The current study aims to deal with hearing testimony remotely according to Jordanian law as a mean of evidence through showing its rules, and position of the Jordanian judiciary on it throughout the judicial rulings.

The problem of the study lies in the fact that when the Jordanian legislator approved in the Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure, specifically in Article (81/7) the permissibility of hearing electronic testimony, was he successful when he gave the court the authority to do so? As at the same time he permitted the parties to object this, and was the court through the given authority able to practice it on its own? When the Jordanian legislator has approved the system related to the use of electronic means in the evidence No. (95) of the year 2017, particularly the Article (9), did he mean the internal testimony only? Did the Jordanian legislator, when he approved hearing the electronic testimony in the ruling law, particularly in the Article (32/h), allow the arbitration panel to hear the witness remotely, and indicated at the end of the article that the panel is allowed to approve the witness's appearance before it for discussion? So what if the witness was not allowed to enter the country where the rulings procedures are taking place? Are the IBA principles successful in formulation in giving the authority to the arbitration panel to hear the witness remotely based on the position of the Jordanian legislator?

The study adopted the descriptive method through showing the rulings of hearing the witness remotely according to Jordanian law, the analytical method through analysis the related texts, and rulings of the Jordanian judiciary, and the comparative method through comparison and contrast among the related texts.

2 The nature of hearing testimony remotely

To show the nature of any legal system, it is required to be defined and showed its advantages and disadvantages, then it is required to show the conditions it should have, and the followed means in hearing the witness testimony remotely (Albnian et al., 2025; Marcinkowski, 2025; Hmaidan et al., 2025a).

2.1 The concept of hearing the remote testimony and its advantages and disadvantages

It is worth noting that testimony by electronic means does not differ from the traditional one except the used mean to be performed. Referring to Jordanian Evidence Law No. 30 of 1952 and its amendments, it is found that it did not define testimony as a mean of evidence, but it left it to jurisprudence, and it is good to do so, as the law was satisfied to show the rules and principles of testimony.

2.1.1 *The concept of hearing testimony remotely*

Jurisprudence addressed the concept of testimony, and although the words are different, the concept is the same. One of them defined it as: a witness standing in court after taking an oath to report an incident that occurred to someone else and that resulted in a right for someone else. He also defined it as “a person informing the court of an incident occurred by someone else resulted in a right to another one” (Alkhseilat et al., 2024; Kuivaniemi-Smith et al., 2014). It is also defined as a person informing the judge of someone else’s right to another. It is also defined as providing the court with information about disputed facts between the parties to the lawsuit. This is done by the witness informing the judge, while seeing the dispute between two parties, of the facts he saw or heard if they are proven and result in a right for one of the parties over the other (Al-Khawajah et al., 2023; Altaani et al., 2024).

Based on the above, we can define the electronic testimony as “the witness informing the court or arbitration panel about facts while seeing dispute between two parties through an electronic mean, results in a right to one of the parties”, so we find that the witness is present in time and place in his position, whether he is inside or outside Jordan (Almaani et al., 2024; Nash et al., 2014).

2.1.2 *Advantages and disadvantages of hearing testimony remotely*

Remote hearing is characterised by some merits that encourage adopting it. In contrast, it has some defects which will be dealt with respectively (Al-Hammouri and Al-Billeh, 2023; Qin and Chen, 2025):

1 Advantages of remote witnesses’ testimony

- Quick implementing of litigation procedures, save time, and overcrowding in courts and sessions.
- Reducing the use and store of paper files in the court building.
- Ease of access the witness’s testimony and rehearing it more than once if it was necessary.
- Saving effort and money for security agencies and citizens by transporting detained prisoners, women, low-income individuals, and juveniles to the courtroom.
- Providing witnesses with security since it is difficult for them to show their identity, victims of some crimes who prefer not to show their identity, or who cooperate with justice as they can be placed in a room next to the courtroom, and hear them through electronic means without seeing their faces.

2 Disadvantages of remote witnesses’ testimony

- piracy and attempted hacking into the digital network
- viruses
- lack of a program or a sight for this purpose
- legal difficulties facing testimony through electronic means.

Despite these disadvantages, we encourage hearing remote testimony whether before regular courts or arbitration panels, since our perception is that advantages outweigh disadvantages.

2.2 Condition of remote testimony

Remote and traditional testimony share the same conditions, but the electronic testimony require an electronic mean to be performed (Abu Issa et al., 2025; Strikis et al., 2019; Al-Billeh, 2024d). The Jordanian legislator has addressed the conditions of this testimony in the Article (81/7) in Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure and its Amendments “the court, upon the request of one of the parties, may hear, with the consent of his other party, the statements of any witness using modern means of communication without his appearance before the court in accordance with a system issued for this purpose”, where they came as follows:

- The opponent must request to hear the witness through modern communication means.
- His opponent must agree to this request.

This text did not set any condition relating to the place of the witness, i.e., whether the witness, whose his testimony is required, is inside or outside the country; as the text was absolute any witness (Al Khalaileh et al., 2025; Al-Aboudi, 2020), and the absolute is applied in its absolute form unless there is evidence of restriction in the text or by implication, and the legislator did not restrict hearing the witness using specific communication means, as he also made the means absolute when he mentioned the use of modern communication means (Al-Billeh et al., 2023; Al-Qudah, 2019).

Despite the above, the System for the Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Procedures No. 95 of 2018 issued to implement this text, has deviated from its purpose for which it was issued, when it gave the court and within the provisions of Article 9/A, which states, (the court may decide, on its own initiative or upon the request of one of the parties to the lawsuit, to hear witnesses using electronic audio and visual means adopted in the ministry in case the witness resides in a place outside the jurisdiction of the competent court, or if it is difficult for him to attend the court for any reason), to decide on its own hearing the witnesses’ testimony using electronic means. While the legislator, within the provisions of the Article (81/7) of the Code of Civil Procedure , this mechanism was not given to the court, and he neglected the mentioned restriction within the article itself which is the opponent’s agreement when he mentioned upon the request of one of the parties to the lawsuit, since the request alone is not efficient to respond to the opponent’s request unless it is supported by his opponent, as the system came and within the same item with another restriction which states that permitted electronic means are only the audio and visual ones contrary to the legislator’s release of those means within Article (81/7) of the Code of Civil Procedure, when he decided that hearing any witness remotely must be done using modern communication means, and what the system has mentioned within the same article list of cases in which it is permissible to hear a witness remotely, which are:

- If the witness resides in a place outside the jurisdiction of the competent court.
- If it is difficult for the witness to attend the competent court for any reason.

It is it is a necessity that does not require the legislator to be within the provisions of Article (81/7) of the Code of Civil Procedure, as this system was issued for implementation of its provisions, launched the cases of hearing the testimony remotely if the two mentioned conditions are available, and since the legislator is aware of what he says, the court is obliged to hear any witness remotely after the two conditions are available even if he resides within the jurisdiction of the competent court, if he is outside the country, or if it is difficult for him to attend the court if he is ill. The system also stipulated within the item B of the Article (9) of the system of using electronic means that the competent court must hear the witnesses remotely through the court closest to the witness. Is it understood here that this system wanted to delegate the court closest to the witness to hear him despite the absence of a legal text that permits this delegation? Or it is understood from that in order for the testimony to be accepted remotely, the witness must attend the court closest to him? And if this is true, what is the purpose of the witness's attending the court closest to him based on his hearing must be through the adopted electronic means by the ministry, and is this condition not considered an amendment to the legislative text that only stipulated the two conditions we presented? And does this condition conflict with the purpose of the legislative amendment?

It will be understood in light of the lack of world agreements organised to date a mechanism of hearing witnesses remotely that this system is applied only inside the court; what we feared occurred when the executive system exceeded the purpose of its establishment, as the Court of Cassation concluded in its decision No. (3491/2021) issued by its general assembly that this system is applied only to witnesses inside Jordan.

Since this system is an implementation one, it must be subject to law in this case, as the traditional system is not able to amend or disrupt it, and his task must restrict to regulate the system details, as its texts are not able to regulate them, while remaining within its original limits, as one of the requirements for its validity is that it remains within the framework of completing the law (Al-Billeh and Abu Issa, 2025; Lavin et al., 2020). However, if it goes beyond this framework, and brings rules conflict with its texts, spirit or purpose, this would be then this is an assault on the jurisdiction of the legislative authority, and in that case the court has the right to refrain from applying it. As for the position of the Jordanian legislator's on the Arbitration Law No. (31) of 2001 and its amendments, particularly the Article (32/H) which states "....the arbitration panel is permitted to accept the witnesses testimony using various technological communication means including the television or closed circuit television, and in all cases the arbitration panel has the right to decide that the witness appear before the panel for discussion." Therefore, by comparing between the position of the Jordanian legislator in Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure in Article (81/7) and Arbitration Law, the Article (32/H), we find that Arbitration Law gave the authority to the arbitration panel absolutely without the matter being dependent on the request of the opponents.

Regarding the rules of evidence of IBA, the second item of the Article (8) states that "the arbitration panel, upon the request of one of the parties or on its own after consultation with the parties, is permitted to request that the hearing session to the evidence would be virtual". In this case, the arbitration panel must consult with the parties in order to establish a protocol to conduct the virtual hearing session competently and fairly, and to the maximum extent possible without unintended interruption. The protocol may treat:

- a The used technology.
- b Prior testing of technology or training to use it.
- c Time of starting and ending, taking into account the time areas that participants will stay in.
- d The way the documents are going to be displayed to the witness or panel.
- e Arrangements to ensure that the witnesses giving oral testimony are not subject to unduly influence or distraction.

It is worth noting that this text has been amended in 2020 to keep pace with challenges faced hearing remote testimony during Corona pandemic.

The UNCITRAL Rules also address the remote hearing of witnesses in Article 28/4, which states: The arbitral tribunal may order the questioning of witnesses including the experienced witnesses through communication means that do not require them to attend in person in the hearing session, like by videoconference.

2.3 Means of remote hearing testimony

In order to achieve remote hearing testimony, it is necessary to use an electronic mean, as there various means for that as follows (Khashashneh et al., 2023; Miller et al., 2021):

2.3.1 Performing the electronic testimony by means that transmit handwriting or writing

Testimony on handwriting is not a new matter, as there are several modern electronic means that transmit handwriting such as e-mail, telex, and fax (Al-Billeh, 2023a; Jackson, 2023). This method lies in that the witness writes down his testimony and sends it through one of communication means that transmit handwriting like sending it via the e-mail of the competent court to consider the dispute to be proven by testimony (Al-Hammouri et al., 2023; Williams et al., 2014).

Among communication means that transmit handwriting is fax, which is a device working through connecting it to a phone, and its function is to transmit text messages or images, as this mean is characterised by being similar to a copying device (Alhammouri et al., 2025; Safonova, 2025), which copies entered data and converts it to the other party into a written form at full speed without any loss. One of this method characteristic is that it is considered a reliable means of communication, just like text messages sent by a mobile (Al-Billeh and Morad, 2026; Kridis et al., 2025). Although the legislator within the provisions of the Article (81/7) of Civil Procedure Code has launched methods of electronic testimony when he mentioned, but the system No. (95 of 2018) has restricted them within the provisions of the Article (9/A) which stipulates that they must be visual and audio, and adopted by the ministry, although the follower of the legislative amendments that affected the Civil Procedure Code within the amended law No. 31 of 2018 asserts that the legislator wanted to launch those methods in hearing the electronic testimony and not restricted them only to the visual and audio ones, as evidenced by the fact that the amendment that affected the Article (57) of the law, as the Article (10/first/second) of this law added the statement: The plaintiff may attach to this list a written testimony from any of his witnesses, provided that it is sworn to before a

notary public to the end of Clause C of Item (1) thereof. This indicates that when the legislator mentioned modern communication means, he wanted to include them all in order to achieve the reasons for the above mentioned amendment, so why does the legislator adopt the written testimony presented before a notary public, and prevents the court to adopt the written testimony through modern communication means approved by the ministry of justice despite the same reason?

2.3.2 Performing testimony via electronic means that transmit sound

Means that transmit sound are varied including telephone calls, audio cassettes, audio recordings, and compact discs; all of them transmit sound whether directly such as telephone and mobile calls, or indirectly such as audio records on cassettes and compact discs (Al Makhmari et al., 2024; Kasim et al., 2024). Among this matter is that a person gives his testimony through a phone call to the judge, or sends his testimony in audio recordings on a compact disc.

The system No. 95 of 2018 did not consider this method of giving testimony, unlike its predecessor, although the legislator has launched in the article (81/7) of Code of Civil Procedure these methods, when he approved the adoption of all modern communication means to hear the remote testimony, and to avoid repetition, we refer to the above regarding this restriction and its legality.

2.3.3 Performing testimony via electronic means that transmit sound and image together

They are the means where sound and image come together at the same time such as video records and video calls via modern applications (Al-Billeh, 2025a; Sonker et al., 2022), like when the witness gives his testimony through the direct video conferencing with the judge using techniques of high quality in video conferencing, or what is known as the telepresence system, and recordings resulted from video calls or filming and recording scenes, they are considered among audio and visual communication means, as they transmit sound and image together.

System No. (95 of 1018) has adopted this method as one of remote testimony as it is clear in the text of the Article (9/A) of this system. This is practically done after the judge decides to permit hearing the personal evidence remotely, as through the Mizan program, dates are set and the courtroom is reserved, and the date of the next session is determined based on it, according to what the Jordanian Ministry of Justice has adopted, like applying trial procedures remotely.

3 Controls and procedures of hearing remote testimony

To hear remote testimony, there must be some controls to be taken into consideration, and it is necessary to follow some steps during litigation procedures (Al-Billeh and Al-Qheiw, 2023; Griol-Barres et al., 2020), and this is what we will deal with by dividing this topic into the following two requirements; in the first requirement we deal with controls of hearing remote testimony, and in the second requirement we deal with the procedures of hearing remote testimony.

3.1 Controls of hearing remote testimony

Although the Jordanian legislator approved hearing remote testimony in In the Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure and its amendments, Article (81/7), and the Jordanian Arbitration Law and its amendments, Article (32/H), and The System for the Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Procedures No. (95) of 2018 was issued in Jordan, but hearing remote testimony is governed by controls that must be taken into consideration that will be dealt through the following division:

3.1.1 Verifying the identity of the witness

The judge must verify that the witness is the required person through all possible methods and ways, in order to achieve certainty in knowing him and testimony attributed to him using modern means; it is necessary to verify the bearer of the testimony (Al-Billeh and Abu Issa, 2023; Zhao and Xue, 2023), whether his personal identity or his integrity, as the witness's identity is verified by asking him to present is personal identity and ensuring that the data available to the judge matches the data in it, as it is checked that the witness is the same as the one in the picture (Al-Billeh, 2023b; Khudoynazarov, 2024). As for the authority responsible for verifying the witness's identity, it is the authority where the witness gives his testimony in its headquarters; the electronic testimony is performed remotely but inside the court closest to him, as the witness is prohibited to give his testimony electronically from his home, but from the court closest to him. The Jordanian legislator has authorised the subject judge to assess the value of the witnesses' testimony from their fairness, conduct and behaviour.

3.1.2 Ensure the integrity of electronic witness testimony and the absence of external influences

Giving testimony via modern communication means gives an easier opportunity for lying and forgery in facts more than if it was done through the traditional way (Al-Billeh et al., 2025a; Huws et al., 2024); as the court must not adopt any program or site not approved by the ministry of justice, but large and approved sites and programs can be manipulated and hacked, so the court must record testimonies and keep them in safe ways determined by the ministry of justice, in order to be referred to if it is found that there has been tampering with video and recorded calls (Al-Billeh, 2024a; Ahmad, 2023). Thus, the recordings are emptied and given to the competent employee, in order to determine the witness's identity, and verify the absence of tampering with them through electronic fraud methods. The Article (9/D) of the System for the Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Procedures stipulated that the court must ensure, when hearing the witnesses' testimonies through electronic means, that there are no effects on the witness's will, for example, the court has the right to ensure that there is no person next to the witness while he is giving his testimony who are not authorised to do so; this can be verified through forcing the witness to stand in a corner with his face directly towards the wall, and everything behind him clearly visible on the screen enough to confirm that he is alone. The court also is also able to ask the witness to fix a camera in a corner of the room at a higher height than him, so that the court is able to reveal a larger area of the place surrounding the witness.

3.1.3 Ensure effectiveness of electronic means used

The Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Procedures stipulated that the court must ensure effectiveness of electronic means, as these means enable it to see the place of the concerned person, and hear him clearly.

Therefore, the court must ensure the effectiveness of the means used, the effectiveness of the internet, and clarity of the voice of the two parties; the broadcast must not be interrupted during giving the testimony, as referring to the text of the article itself, it stipulated the effectiveness and clarity of voice (Al-Billeh, 2024b; Feit, 2021; Hmaidan et al., 2025b). Thus, as the principle, electronic testimony is not accepted if the internet is interrupted more than once, or the voice is delayed; so, weakness of the voice does not only interrupt the voice completely, but it may also keep the connection going, but with a difference in time between voice and image, as the voice may arrive before the image or vice versa. Additionally, the means used by the witness must enable the court to see the place where the witness is located in a way that the court ensures the emptiness of the place, and no one there but only the witness.

3.2 Procedures of hearing testimony remotely

In addition to the general provisions of the procedures of the witnesses' testimonies stipulated in Jordanian Evidence Law and Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure, the Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Procedures has regulated private principles related to the electronic testimony procedures, as the electronic testimony does deviate the general framework of the traditional testimony procedures; the difference only lies in that the electronic witnesses' testimony is performed via electronic communication means, and these procedures will be discussed as follows:

3.2.1 Request to hear witnesses

Any opponent who wants to prove a specific fact using witness testimony must submit a statement of claim in which he sets out the facts he wants to prove with personal testimony to the court registry (Al-Billeh et al., 2024a; Williams and Carle, 2023), and attach to it the witnesses' information including their names, detailed addresses, and the facts he wants to prove through personal evidence to every witness alone. This statement must be consisted of an origin and a copy of the number of the opponents. This has been stipulated by Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure in the Article (57), and this principle is also approved to the defendant when he responds to the statement of claim, as the court does not have the authority on its own to order proofing by the witnesses testimony except according to a request presented by one of the parties. Accordingly, we find the Article (57/1/C) of Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure obligates plaintiff – if he wants to prove his claim through personal evidence – to present a list of his witnesses and full addresses. In addition, the provisions of Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure is devoid of anything that would render null and void the failure to mention some witnesses' names by their full names, even it is a must to mention the witnesses full names in order that the opponent determine his position regarding the witnesses clearly.

3.2.2 Witness summons and attendance electronically

After presenting the list of evidence requesting dispute proof through personal evidence by one of the parties, the court considers the request of proof through the witnesses' testimony (Al-Billeh et al., 2024b), and verifies that the facts to be proved related to the claim and allowed to be accepted, and in case that there are no evidence as a written one by a competent employee that satisfies the court, it decides to accept evidence by personal evidence, and thus, it calls the witnesses to hear their testimony in the case (Mamdouh, 2008; Al-Billeh, 2023c).

Opponents and witnesses are notified as it is clear in the Articles (4–16) of the Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure, as it is not permitted neither to conduct any notification before seven AM and after seven PM, nor on holidays except in cases of necessity, and through a written permission from the court. The notification paper should include the following data:

- a Date of the day, month, year, and hour of notification.
- b Full name and address of the person requesting notification and the name of his representative, if any.
- c Name of the court or the authority that notification is conducted by its order.
- d The full name and address of the person to whom the notification is addressed, or his representative, if any.
- e The full name and signature of the bailiff on both the original and the copy.
- f The subject of notification.
- g Name of whom the notification was sent to and his signature on the original copy, or proof of his refusal and the reason.

So, if the witness is dully notified and failed to appear, the court has to issue a subpoena against him, and if the witness attends and the court does not satisfy with his excuse, it may sentence him to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one week or a fine not exceeding ten dinars, and its decision shall be final (Al-Billeh, 2025b; Al-Qudah, 2019). The general and basic principle is that it is not permissible to hear the witnesses' testimony except based on a ruling by the court to prove through personal evidence (Al-Billeh et al., 2024c; Al-Khalaileh et al., 2025). This ruling cannot be issued except after one of the opponents requesting to prove by personal evidence, and if the witness resides outside jurisdiction of the competent court, or when it is difficult for him to attend for any reason, the court is allowed to decide on its own or upon a request by one of the opponents to hear the witnesses' testimony via visual and audio electronic means approved by Jordanian Ministry of Justice, and this can be done by the closest court to the witness, as the Jordanian legislator did not determine specific cases to resort to electronic testimony, but he left the matter to court authority that considers the subject of dispute. It can be resort to proof by testimony through electronic means, for example, in exceptional cases occurred in Jordan and the world in the summer of 2020, when there was isolation between the governorates of Jordan, as the witnesses could not attend the courts at that time to give their testimonies; therefore such a procedure was like a saviour to prevent the progress of the lawsuit from stopping and procrastinating until the end of the exceptional circumstances. The witnesses are called and notified to attend the court

and give their testimonies through electronic means according to the rules followed in the traditional means, in other words referring to the provisions of articles mentioned in the Jordanian Code of Civil Procedure.

3.2.3 Performing the testimony electronically

According to the text of the Article 81/1 of the Jordanian Amended Code of Civil Procedure, the court hears the witness's testimony after he takes the oath without attendance of the witnesses whose testimonies were not heard, as he says "I swear by God Almighty that I will tell the truth and nothing but the truth".

The court and the parties may discuss and question the witness in a manner that does not deviate from the subject of the case, and the court has the right to summon any witness whose testimony was heard before to be questioned and discussed again (Al-Billeh, 2024c; Al-Aboudi, 2020). The basic and public principle is obligates the witness to depend on his memory in his testimony, as testimony is basically nothing but informing about a material fact that the person charged with testifying knew about, and thus the testimony is performed orally (Al-Billeh et al., 2025b; Qanah et al., 2024). According to the text of the Article 81/1 of the Jordanian Amended Code of Civil Procedure, the witness may use written papers to give his testimony through them except what is difficult for him to recall. As for the mute or who suffers from speech difficulties due to body reasons, he is able to give testimony whether by writing or by gesture. The testimony is the witness's answers to the questions addressed by team he called, and the rest of parties may question him. The plaintiff has the right to attach to his statement of claim a list of evidence in which he submits written testimony for any of the witnesses, but the testimony should include an oath before a notary public.

The Article 81/7 of the Amended Code of Civil Procedure allows hearing any witness's testimony using modern communication means without his appearance before the court according to the Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Procedures in its Article (9), where the formal principles adopted by electronic witnesses' testimony are determined in it, as it stated cases in which electronic witness testimony is permissible, as follows:

- It allows performing testimony electronically if the witness resides outside the jurisdiction of the competent court, or when it is difficult for him to attend any place.
- It explicitly stated that the electronic testimony is performed through the court not from the witness's home, so the witness must appear before the court closest to him to give his testimony electronically.
- The court must take into account the guarantees stipulated in Civil Procedure Code when hearing the witnesses' testimony through electronic means, as the court is bound by the oath of the witness mentioned in the Article 81/1 of Code of Civil Procedure without the need to make him place his hand on the Qur'an or the Holy Book, it is not required to touch the Qur'an or the Holy Book when taking the oath, but rather it is required only to repeat the oath referred to in the Code of Civil Procedure. The conditions that applied when hearing the witnesses' regular testimony are the same with the others performed via electronic means, in addition to private conditions of the means used to transmit the testimony.

- The electronic testimony must be broadcast live, where the witness's testimony is heard at the same time the session is ongoing and in front of the parties. The court is required to verify the witness's identity and the validity of testimony as it were in reality; it is required to verify that the witness tells the fact he knew without assistance from anyone, whatever the reasons, or from a written paper unless the court allowed him to do that.
- The court must verify that the transmission medium is effective, the sound is clear, the place can be seen, and there is no interference in the broadcast. The electronic testimony must be recorded and preserved, and at the end the electronic testimonies are emptied in records, paper or electronic documents, without need to be signed by the concerned parties.

4 Conclusions

The study reached the following results and recommendations:

4.1 Results

- The Jordanian legislator has adopted the matter of hearing the witness remotely, whether in the Code of Civil Procedure or in the Arbitration Law, but through different controls.
- System No. (95) of 2018 in the text of the Article (9) has permitted hearing testimony remotely without requiring approval from the other part.
- Jordanian Arbitration Law in the Article (32/H) has permitted the arbitration panel hearing the witness remotely without requiring approval of the parties.
- Jordanian judiciary represented by Court of Cassation has adopted hearing the witness remotely, as the Article (81/7) and the Article (9) of the Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Procedures mean hearing the testimony remotely inside Jordan only.
- The world arbitration rules have permitted hearing the witness remotely but through different conditions and controls.

4.2 Recommendations

- It is necessary to amend the Article (81/7) of the Code of Civil Procedure through giving authority to the court without requiring approval of the parties in order to keep pace with the text of the Article (9) of the Use of Electronic Means in Civil Judicial Procedures No. (95) of 2018, as the text should be as follows "According to one of the opponents' request, the court has to hear the testimony of any witness using modern communication means without appearance before the court based on a system to be issued to this purpose".

- We recommend Jordanian judiciary reverse the approach it adopted regarding hearing witnesses remotely, as it is restricted only to testimony inside Jordan, since such an approach will reduce the effectiveness of hearing testimony remotely.
- It is necessary to held sessions for judges, arbitrators and lawyers on using electronic means in hearing the witness remotely.

Declarations

This study did not involve human participants, identifiable human data, or animals, and was based solely on publicly available legal texts and judicial decisions.

Not applicable. No human subjects were recruited, and no personal data were collected, so informed consent was not required.

All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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