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**Ali S. Zaghal  
Arda Freij-Dergarabedian**

***Migration-Related Institutions  
and Policies in Jordan***

Analytic and Synthetic Notes 2004/04 - political and social module  
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**CARIM**  
**Euro-Mediterranean Consortium**  
**for Applied Research on International Migration**

**Analytic and Synthetic Notes – Political and Social Module**  
**CARIM-AS 2004/04**

**Ali S. Zaghal**

Refugees, Displaced Persons & Forced Migration Studies Center  
Yarmouk University

and

**Arda Freij-Dergarabedian**

Jordan Center for Social Research (JCSR), Amman

**Migration-Related Institutions and Policies in Jordan**

**Introduction**

Refugees, forced migration and labour migration issues had been an integral part of Jordan's political and social development since its inception in the 1920's. Syrian, Iraqi and Saudi political as well as military leaders, some of whom were influential members of the secret Arab organisations during the last days of the Othman Empire, had joined the Great Arab Revolution in 1916 against the Turks, led by Sherif Hussein Ben Ali, father of Late King Abdullah I, the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Many of these leaders became, prime ministers, ministers and key figures in the Jordanian Emirate and later Kingdom. Forced waves of family migration of Circasians, Shishanis, and Armenians also found safe refuge in Jordan in the early 1920-30's. The second half of the twentieth century, starting in 1948, had witnessed several massive waves of Palestinian Refugees as a result of the establishment of the state of Israel, fled to Jordan also. The early Palestinian refugees almost equalled its original population.

Since early 1920's and as a result of socio-economic internal and regional developments, Jordan has become a country of exporting skilled and professional labour, mainly to the Gulf Countries, as well as importing semi-skilled labour. Thus, Jordan has become a country of emigration and immigration.

These diversified issues of refugees and migration are dealt with in Jordan in an overall policy that takes into consideration, its national unity, its national resources, and its socio-economic development, in particular with reference to unemployment and poverty rates.

The general policy of international migration is put by the Prime Ministry in Jordan, and implemented in cooperation mainly by the Ministry of Interior (via the Department of Residence and Borders, the Department of General Security, the Department of General Intelligence) the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health.

## **1. INSTITUTIONS**

### **a) Institutions operating at the national level:**

#### **Government Agencies**

##### **Ministry of Interior**

**Tel. + 962-6- 569-1141**

**Fax. + 962-6- 560-6908**

**[www.moi.gov.jo](http://www.moi.gov.jo)**

The ministry of interior is the main governmental institution dealing directly with migration. Its duties consist in:

- Defining the conditions of entry, stay, and residency applicable to foreigners in the country.
- Delivering visas and residency permits to foreigners.
- Setting-up regulations for passports delivery.
- Delivering passports to nationals.
- Delivering Family Books, Birth Certificates, Death Certificates.
- Reviewing passports and Family Books.
- Issuing residence permits to foreign workers.
- Keeping records of current resident address to foreign workers.
- Deporting illegal migrants.

#### **Unofficial Translation of Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Jordan and UNHCR:**

Whereas the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and UNHCR had signed an agreement of cooperation on July 30, 1997.

Whereas the agreement included among other issues, enabling the UNHCR to start its activities that are related to international protection and humanitarian assistance for refugees, and other persons under its mandate in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, except Palestinian Refugees, and upon willingness of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and UNHCR, to put a mechanism that governs dealing with issues related to refugees and other persons covered by its mandate, and consequently, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and UNHCR Office have in a spirit of humanitarian cooperation agreed on the issues and matters included in the letter of understanding as follows: For the purposes of this letter of understanding the definition of refugees is "any person who owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it".

**Preamble:**

The same preamble of the Cooperation Agreement was reproduced.

**Article (1):**

The definition of refugee as appeared in article (1) of the 1951 Convention was reproduced without the geographic and time limitations, as above.

**Article (2):**

In order to safeguard the asylum institution in Jordan and to enable UNHCR to act within its mandate to provide international protection to persons falling within its mandate, it was agreed;

1. That the principle of non-refoulement should be respected that no refugee seeking asylum in Jordan will be returned to a country where his life of freedom could be threatened because of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion;
2. Above does not include persons whose applications for asylum were rejected by UNHCR.

**Article (3):**

It was agreed to allow UNHCR to interview asylum seekers who entered Jordan clandestinely and are being held by competent authorities. UNHCR would make its determination within seven days except in exceptional cases requiring the procedure and the period should not exceed a month.

**Article (4):**

Asylum seekers and refugees are under a duty to Jordan and in particular they are required to observe laws, regulations and other arrangements required for public order.

Asylum seekers and refugees are under the duty not to take any activities violating security or embarrass government on its relations with other countries or giving interviews to the media. In the case of violation UNHCR would endeavour to resettle recognised refugees.

**Article (5):**

Asylum should be humanitarian and peaceful and therefore the two parties have agreed that asylum seekers and refugees should receive a treatment as per the international accepted standards. A refugee should receive legal status and UNHCR would endeavour to find recognised refugees a durable solution be it voluntary repatriation to the country of origin or resettlement in a third country. The sojourn of recognised refugees should not exceed six months.

**Article (6):** It was agreed to accord refugees treatment as favorable at the accorded with respect to freedom to practice their religion and freedom as regards to religious education of their children without discrimination as to race, religion or nationality and without contravening the constitution of Jordan provided that religious rights are not contrary to the laws, regulations and public decency.

**Article (7):** A refugee shall have free access to courts of law and in order to enjoy this treatment he has the right of litigation and legal assistance as accorded to the nationals whenever that is possible/

**Article (8):** In order to enable a refugee to provide a living for his family it was agreed to accord a refugee who is legally residing in Jordan to work for his own account whenever the laws and regulations permit.

**Article (9):** Refugees holding degrees recognised by the competent Jordanian authorities could practice liberal professions if the laws and regulations permit.

**Article (10):** In order to find durable solutions and to facilitate voluntary repatriation or resettlement in a third country it was agreed to exempt refugees from overstay fines and departure fees.

**Article (11):** In order to provide international protection and assistance for needy refugees it was agreed that UNHCR would provide assistance in accordance with the regulations in force.

**Article (12):** In order to respond to emergencies in the event of large influx it was agreed that the two parties will cooperate to provide quick response for emergencies including establishment of a joint emergency mechanism to make available food, water, sanitation, shelter and medical treatment and also to provide physical safety for refugees and asylum seekers.

**Article (13):** It was agreed to deal with problems pertaining to asylum and refugees through the liaison office at the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR branch office undertakes to provide the liaison office with required personnel and the technical facilities required for this work. UNHCR (Branch Office) undertakes to inform the liaison office of all asylum applications and all correspondences in respect of asylum should be through the liaison office at the Ministry of Interior.

**Article (14):** In order to safeguard the asylum institution the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan would consider the establishment of a national mechanism for status determination.

**For/Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,**

**Minister of Interior**

**(Nazir Rashid)**

**For/ UNHCR**

**Office Representative**

**(Zubaida Ashgari)**

**Ministry of Labour****Tel. +962-6- 569-8186****Fax. +962-6-566-7193**<http://www.mol.gov.jo>

The ministry's main responsibility regarding foreign workers consists in the issuance of working permits. It has also the responsibility for regularly visiting work places in order to verify that non-Jordanian workers or employees hold valid working permits, which are obtained from the ministry upon application by the employer. Those who stay and work illegally in the country will be subjected to repatriation to their country of origin once they are caught by field employees from the inspection department of the ministry. The Ministry of labour is also in charge of delivering licenses to Jordanian owned offices through which foreign workers can be hired. The majority of foreign workers recruited this way are Egyptians working in Agricultural, and most of the others are domestic workers from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Indonesia, and some other Asian countries whose emigrants are predominantly employed in the Qualified Industrial Zones(QIZ).

The ministry's main role towards workers, whether they are Jordanian or non-Jordanian, consists in the following duties:

- Setting-up employment policies;
- Defining quotas for the employment of foreign manpower by sector;
- Centralising efforts to attract investments from Jordanians abroad, through its Departments of International Co-operation and Expatriates Affairs, and periodical meetings;
- Supervising labour and workers affairs;
- Organising the Jordanian labour market and issuing labour laws and regulations to provide in priority the Jordanians with job opportunities;
- Backing up the Unions of workers and employers, and registering them;
- Caring for Jordanians working outside Jordan and improving business relations with the countries where they work, in order to guarantee their rights;
- Organising the affairs of foreign workers, and identifying and monitoring their working conditions;
- Conducting studies and disseminating information about the labour force and the companies established in Jordan.

**Private Bureau Services:**

As a result of the rising need for domestic workers, many private bureau services mushroomed in major Jordanian cities in order to provide such services in the last three decades. These bureaus have to be licensed from the Ministry of Labour. Previously, "there had been some abuses of the workers' rights by some of these

bureaus, that reflected uncivilised pictures of how some domestic workers were treated" an ex-minister of labour announced in *Al-Rai* Newspaper, January 22, 2003. Consequently, the Ministry of labour, in consultations with UNIFEM and the embassies of Srilanka, The Philippines and Indonesia has modified the labour law since April, 2003, in order to organise and regulate the work of private bureaus services. According to this law, each bureau has to make a financial guarantee of seventy-five thousand US dollars in order to be licensed, the owner has to be of good conduct, a bide by the rules and regulations of the foreign domestic workers' law, and take 10% of the total cost of bringing a maid to her employer.

There has to be a formal contract signed by both the employer and the foreign worker, which includes her monthly salary, health care, life insurance, holidays, and travel expenses back to the worker's country at the end of her/his contract, as well as employs human treatment according to international agreements with regard to protecting human rights.

This labour contract has become one of the basic requirements for resident permit and an entrance visa. The employer has to sign two copies of this contract, which is often approved by the embassy of the domestic worker, and authorised the bureau to take whatever measures needed to bring the maid. The bureau presents the labour contract with whatever required documents to the Ministry of Labour. Once the Ministry of Labour approves the application, it forwards it to the Ministry of the Interior which grants the entrance visa. After that, it is the bureau's full responsibility to arrange for the arrival of the domestic worker, meet her/him at the airport, accompany her/him to her/his employer, without delay, and perform all steps needed to complete the workers work permit, and her annual resident permission according to the country's laws.

The bureau is further required to check frequently on the worker's work situation in terms of receiving a respected treatment.

### **Ministry of Health**

**Tel. +962-6- 566-5131**

**Fax +962-6- 568-8373**

<http://www.health.gov.jo>

The ministry provides immigrants with health according to their status. Low skilled workers, such as those working in the agriculture like the Egyptians, don't benefit from any health services. The same applies to foreign domestic employees and industry workers, at the exception of work injuries for which they are entitled to health services. As for the refugees, they get health services from international organisations, in particular the UNRWA which covers the Palestinians living in the refugees camps.

Foreign workers who do not have health insurance have free access to government health centres and hospitals with a nominal fees like any Jordanian citizens.

All foreign workers have to go through a medical examination by the Ministry of Health institutions that includes blood tests and HIV tests, and chest X-rays to check them against communicable diseases.

## **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Tel. +962-6- 464-1211**

**Fax. +962-6- 464-9361**

<http://www.mfa.gov.jo>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a relatively limited role in migration-related matters. Embassies provide Jordanian emigrants with several services through their consular section, such as: registration of Jordanian citizens, issuance of passports and other documents for emergency travel or family identification, power of attorney, legalisation, visas.

The Ministry also participates in the broader migration policy of the government, through:

- Representing the country in international conferences on the topic of migration, including at the ILO.
- Setting-up consular regulations for immigrants and refugees.
- Protecting the interests of Jordanian citizens living abroad.
- Hosting in some of its embassies services dedicated at promoting investments in Jordan by Jordanian expatriates.
- Representing the country in the international and United Nations Organisations in charge of refugees, migration and displacement, i.e. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR, and other international organisations, like the International Organisation for Migration IOM, and International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- Representing Jordan in the annual meeting of the donor countries to the United Nation Work and Relief Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA).
- Establishing a special department called the Department of Palestinian Affairs (DPA) that works to achieve the following with reference to the thirteen Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, who constituted 18% of the total Palestinian refugees in Jordan:
  1. To ensure better living conditions for the refugee-citizens in camps. This is done by supporting development projects.
  2. To ensure better environment by rehabilitating the physical infrastructure including water piping, electricity, sewage and roads maintenance.
  3. To empower the civil society of camps through sustainable projects supported by the international donors and agencies. This is effected by the Information and fundraising directorate in the department.
  4. To arrange for UNRWA's contact with the ministries and governments through directorate of Refugees and directorate of Information.
  5. To coordinate work with UNRWA in all aspects concerned with general relief and services. This involves the supervision of DPA's offices on the affairs of refugees and displaced in the camps. These



offices facilitate the daily affairs and extend general services to the beneficiaries in the camps.

6. To nominate members of the Camp Improvement Committee, (which like municipality members) to the Ministry of Interior.

### **Ministry of Higher Education:**

**Tel. +962+6- 534-7671**

**Fax +962-6- 533-7616**

Regarding migration-related matters, the ministry:

- Centralises information on Jordanian students abroad
- Sets-up quotas and policies regarding foreign students in Jordan
- Advocates for foreign students to study in Jordan
- Implements bilateral contracts regarding employment of Jordanian teachers abroad.
- Facilitating acceptance of foreign workers' and refugees' children enrolment at the Jordanian public schools.
- Facilitating acceptance of foreign workers' and refugees' children at the Jordanian public universities according to bilateral agreements with their countries.
- Encourages Arab students to enroll at the private and public community colleges and universities.
- Deliver work to professional foreign staff members who are qualified to work at the university level.

## **2. POLICIES**

Jordan views its self as a both a country of immigration and emigration.

The top policy priorities are poverty alleviation and employment. Therefore immigration is not considered a policy priority, but it is rather dealt with by default through a policy of employment for Jordanians to replace foreign workers. No policy of deporting foreign workers has yet been implemented, however, and replacing foreign manpower by Jordanians is a concern for investors and the business community, since wages paid to Jordanians are significantly higher than those paid to immigrants.

The issue of the Palestinian refugees remains a matter of debate. While the official position and that of the political parties reaffirm the right of return for the refugees of 1948, in fact recent measures taken by the government give the impression that Jordan is settling refugees and people originating from Gaza, who are not Jordanian nationals and have been granted residency documents for humanitarian reasons. In the same vein, Jordanian women married to Palestinians have been given the right to transmit their nationality to their husbands and children.

Iraqi refugees and migrants are a special case. Border regulations have been made easier for Iraqis and they have been entitled to acquire property in Jordan.

Regarding its emigrants, most of them being settled in the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula, Jordan has a firm policy of maintaining their ties with their home country.

In the review which follows, migration policies are divided into three categories, according to types of migrants:

- Policies aimed at Jordanians living abroad
- Policies aimed at workers immigrants in Jordan
- Policies aimed at refugees and asylum seekers (Palestinians and Iraqis).

### **2.1 Policies aimed at Jordanian emigrants**

#### **Social security**

The social security system is run by Social Security Corporation (SSC) and covers all employees of public and private enterprises with five employees and above.

According to the law of 2001, individuals, enterprises with less than five employees, and Jordanians working abroad are allowed to enrol in the SSC scheme.

This program covers old age and provides compensation for work injuries

All those who are enrolled in this scheme contribute 13% of their salary for pension, and 2% for work injuries.

#### **Protection of Rights**

The government of Jordan has appointed special consultants in its embassies for protecting the rights of its citizens working abroad, in particular those established in

Arab countries such as Qatar, Libya, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates. Their mission consists in:

- protecting the rights of Jordanian workers;
- encouraging Jordanians to join the social security scheme;
- inciting Jordanians as well as Arabs to invest in Jordan.

### **Health**

The two largest programs that finance and deliver health care are the Ministry of Health and the Royal Medical Services (RMS).

The Civil Health Insurance Programme provides health care for all civil servants, employees of state enterprises, and dependents, the poor and disabled.

The Royal Medical Service (RMS) provides health insurance for those enrolled in the military pension, the public security forces and the intelligence service and their dependents.

The social security health insurance system covers only work injuries, therefore Jordanians working abroad do not benefit from this program.

### **Employment**

The Ministry of Labour has passed bilateral agreements with several Arab countries to employ Jordanians.

It has issued licenses for private employment agencies whose task is to find work opportunities abroad available to Jordanians and to act as intermediate between Jordanian job seekers and the foreign enterprises who have job vacancies abroad.

### **Return migration**

Jordanians working or living abroad who want to settle in Jordan have the right to bring their used cars, furniture, electrical equipments with them without paying tax on condition that the beneficiary:

- has resided abroad for a period of not less than one year;
- can prove that he has terminated his resident permit in the foreign country where he was living.

## **2.2 Policies aimed at Foreign Immigrants**

### **Social security**

All foreign workers are enrolled in the Jordanian social security scheme, except domestic workers and those working in the agriculture.

## **Protection of Rights**

New regulations have been issued in order to better protect the rights of foreign workers such as:

- Making compulsory for the agencies hiring domestic workers from abroad to respect the laws of the ministry of labour that apply to contracts between the workers and the employer
- Protecting the rights of all workers employed in Jordanian enterprises by regularly inspecting their environment and conditions of work.

## **Health**

Foreign workers benefit from the health programme of the social security scheme which covers only work injuries.

Foreign domestic workers, who are not entitled to benefit from the social security health programme, are covered by the health insurance for work injuries in application of a new regulation issued by the Ministry of Labour. Domestic workers agencies are now requested to provide the insurance policy for obtaining the working permits necessary to the workers they hire. Insurance fees are charged to the employers.

As for the Palestinian refugees living in the camps they are provided with primary health services by UNRWA, and have free access to public hospitals run by the Ministry of Health.

## **Access to legal aid**

Free legal aid is available to foreign workers in need of lawyers.

Foreign workers who are victims of any kind of violations of their rights at work have the right to obtain legal help from trade unions and the Ministry of Labour.

Iraqi refugees are provided with legal aid from international organisations and from local NGOs working with international NGOs specialised in human rights.

## **Education**

Immigrants have the right of education in private schools and universities but generally they are not admitted in public establishments. However, a limited number of Iraqis arrived in Jordan because of the war in their country subjected have been enrolled in public schools.

Palestinian refugee students living in the camps are enrolled in the UNRWA schools, and those living outside the camps are enrolled in Jordanian public schools.

Arab students who want to study in public Jordanian universities can compete for a limited number of seats which are reserved to Arabs, while those who wish to pursue their education in private universities are encouraged to do so.

As a policy to attract in Jordan foreign students, especially from the Gulf countries, the ministry has agreed to increase the number of private universities and has issued licenses to private investors in the field of higher education. Foreign students who

wish to study in Jordan must have high school certificates recognised equal to the Jordanian certificate.

The government of Jordan through the ministry of Higher Education has issued a law preventing the employment of foreign teachers in Jordanian universities, in order to transfer to Jordanians the teaching posts held by foreigners.

### **Deportation:**

The policy of the Ministry of Labour towards illegal foreign workers caught at work by its inspection division is to deport them from Jordan to their country of origin, and to forbid them further entry in the country. The employer pays the travel expenses for the deportation.

### **Access to work**

Policies regarding access to work for foreigners are differentiated according to nationalities and skills, and to sectors of employment.

The ministry of labour has established a series of procedures for controlling that the limitations of foreign workers' access to work are respected. In particular, it has increased the frequency of inspection visits to enterprises that employ foreign workers to make sure that they respect the labour laws, and establishes legal procedures to be taken against those who hire workers in illegal ways.

Workers coming to the country as visitors, pilgrims, tourists, or for health treatment do not have access to work and are not allowed to apply for working permits.

The ministry has released a list of sixteen professions accessible only to Jordanians and forbidden to foreign workers.

It has also distinguished special cases--such as looking after the elderly or the disabled--where domestic workers are exempted from the fees of the working permit, on condition that a medical report from a governmental hospital and not from a private hospital is produced.

## **3. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**

The political and social environment in Jordan, concerning the issue of immigration, revolves around three issues: the foreign workers, the Palestinian refugees and the Iraqis.

The debate about foreign workers was originally fostered by the rising rate of unemployment in Jordan. The public opinion complains of increased numbers of foreign manpower which it views a cause of diminished chances for Jordanian workers to be hired. According to the dominant view, the preference given to foreign workers would raise the proportion of unemployed Jordanians.

Another debate has recently been raised about the negative impact of the foreign non-Arab manpower on Jordanian society, especially in the case of domestic workers and those who work in the qualified industrial zones (QIZ), who are seen as having a totally different culture and system of values.

Despite the fact that the above issues were raised at several occasions on both the political and social scene by politicians and public personalities, one could hardly detect any special programmes dedicated by political parties to these issues.

### **Programmes of the Political Parties**

Political parties in Jordan lack clear and efficient programmes, as most of them came to existence after 1989 when the martial law was removed and the democratic transformations began. Political parties have committees specialised in various areas and they mostly concentrate on people's daily life, not on migration-related issues which are only indirectly tackled.

Poverty and unemployment is a major focus, with regard to which the issue of foreign manpower is dealt with for its impact on raising unemployment among the Jordanians.

The issue of Palestinian refugees is another major focus, linked to migration through the reaffirmation of their right of return.

The situation in Iraq and the American presence on the Iraqi soil is a third major issue, itself linked with migration through the question of the Iraqi refugees and migrants in Jordan.

These three issues are raised by a majority of the political parties and specialised committees, like the Economical and the Anti-Normalisation with Israel committees. However none of the political parties listed below have special programmes targeting immigration in Jordan, except indirectly through the above mentioned issues.

### **Jordanian Political Parties**

#### **The Jordanian Ba'th Arab Socialist Party**

Founded : January 18, 1993  
Tel: 593-1933 Fax: 593-1933

#### **The Islamic Action Front**

Founded: December 7, 1992  
Tel: 569-9997 Fax: 569-8997

#### **Al Mustaqbal (Future) Party**

Founded: December 8, 1992  
Tel : 569-1911 Fax: 569-0805  
e-mail: <mailto:futurapa@go.com.jo>

#### **The Progressive Party**

Founded: February 10, 1993  
Tel: 562-4394 Fax : 464-8736

#### **The Arab Islamic Democratic Movement (Duaa)**

Founded: April 10, 1993  
Tel: 551-4443 Fax: 551-4443

#### **The Jordanian Communist Party**

Founded : January 17, 1993  
Tel: 462-4939 Fax: 462-4939

#### **The Jordanian People's Democratic Party (HASHD)**

Founded : January 24, 1993  
Tel: 562-1827 Fax: 568-6857  
e-mail: [ahali@go.com.jo](mailto:ahali@go.com.jo)

#### **The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party**

Founded: February 9, 1993  
Tel: 569-2301 Fax: 569-2301

#### **Al –Bath Progressive Arab Party**

Founded: April 13 ,1993  
Tel: 464-7015 Fax: 464-7016

#### **The Jordanian Arab Constitutional Front Party**

**Al –Ahrar (Freedom) Party**

Founded: October 20, 1994  
Tel: 461-8454 Fax: (05)385-4602

**The Arab Jordanian al Ansar Party**

Founded :December 11, 1995  
Tel: 552-2530 Fax: 552-2530

**Al-Umma (Nation) Party**

Founded: June 25, 1996  
Tel: (05) 390-3400 Fax: (05) 390-3400

**The National Constitutional Party**

Founded: May 7, 1997  
Tel: 568-6259 Fax: 568-6248

**Jordanian Labour Party**

Founded: January 25, 1998  
Tel: (02) 727-5406 Fax: (02) 724-2180

Founded: January 31, 1994  
Tel: 464-4248 Fax: 534-8330

**The Jordanian Left Democratic Party**

Date of Merger: Sept 7, 1995  
Tel (079) 524-708 Fax: 553-3216

**Jordan Peace Party**

Founded :June 17, 1996  
Tel: (02)727-5584 Fax: Not available

**The Arab Land Party**

Founded: June 25,1996  
Tel: 464-6131 Fax: 566-5352  
e-mail: [nahhas@go.com.jo](mailto:nahhas@go.com.jo)

**The National Democratic Public Movement Party**

Founded: July 10, 1997  
Tel: (02) 465-3088 Fax: 465-3088

**Trade Unions**

Trade Unions work under the umbrella of the General Federation of Trade Unions which comprises seventeen labour unions. Membership in the labour unions is voluntary, their goals are defending the legitimate rights and interests of their members, improving working terms and conditions, helping their members to achieve economic and social development and spreading labour union awareness. With the general decline of the leftist forces in the country, the efficiency of labour unions in public affairs has diminished. In cases of labour disputes the labour unions have to defend the interests of workers, usually their actions are moderate and in fact they make considerable efforts to reach collective agreements with employers in order to improve the working conditions, wages, and other benefits.

Foreign workers are defended by labour unions on equal footing with nationals. However, labour unions have to face the problem of the Jordanian labour market in which the number of employed expatriates exceeds that of the unemployed nationals. This fact decreases the negotiating power of labour unions.

**Federation of Trade Unions****The General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions**

Tel: 567-5533 Fax: 568-7911

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Construction**

Tel: 472-9901 Fax: 568-7911

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Petrochemicals**

Tel: 567-5533 Fax: 568-7911

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Municipalities**

Tel: 567-5533 Fax: 568-7911

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Private Education**

Tel: 567-5533 Fax: 568-7911

**The General Trade Union for Public Services and free Vocation (Hotels and Restaurants)**

Tel: 569-7244 Fax: 569-7244

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Printing, Publishing, Paper and Carton**

Tel: 567-5533 Fax: 568-7911

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Electricity**

Tel: 462-4169 Fax: 462-4169

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Banking and Accounting**

Tel: 462-9364 Fax: 462-9364

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Seaports**

Tel: (05) 567-5533 Fax: (05) 568-7911

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Air Transportation and Tourism**

Tel: 566-4307 Fax: 566-4307

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Health Services**

Tel: 567-5533 Fax: 568-7911

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Railway**

Tel: 489-5413 Fax: 489-4117

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Textile, Garment and Clothing**

Tel: 464-9962 Fax: 464-9962

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Small Businesses**

Tel: 567-5533 Fax: 568-7911

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Mining and Metal Industries**

Tel: 566-9541 Fax: 566-9541

**The General Trade Union of Workers in Land Transport**

Tel: 476-5637 Fax: 476-5829

e-mail: [tran-work-union@hotmail.com](mailto:tran-work-union@hotmail.com)**Professional Associations**

Membership in the professional associations is compulsory for Jordanians. All Jordanian professionals should be registered in their association in order to be permitted to practice their profession. They constitute the most effective sector among all the organisations of the civil society. Their political weight has overcome their professional and social weight. Not only they deal with national and pan-Arab issues such as defending the public liberties, supporting the Palestinian Intifada, backing Lebanon in confronting Israel and Iraq in confronting the US-NATO aggression, but they fully address national issues as sensitive as the economic adjustment programme and the peace treaty with Israel.

Jordanian professionals working or living outside Jordan pay their membership fees in order to benefit from the services provided to them by the associations. Non-Jordanian professionals working or living in Jordan are not members in these associations, and thus cannot benefit from their services.

The position of the professional associations regarding migration has mainly consisted in banning the hiring of foreigners in sixteen professions, and fighting against foreign



labour as one the factors of increasing unemployment among Jordanians. As for the issue of the Palestinian refugees, they support their right to return to their homeland.

### **Professional Associations**

#### **The Professional Association Complex**

Tel: 566-6161 Fax:567-7171

#### **Jordanian Veterinary Association**

Tel: 465-5690 Fax:464-4502

#### **Jordanian Press Association**

Tel: 464-4780 Fax:462-3612

#### **Jordan Bar Association**

Tel: 566-5320 Fax: 567-7231  
e-mail: [bar.ass@Firstnet.com.jo](mailto:bar.ass@Firstnet.com.jo)

#### **Jordan Nurses and Midwives Council**

Tel: 568-9468 Fax: 560-5476

#### **Jordanian Union of Artists**

Tel: 464-6810 Fax: 464-5840

#### **Jordan Medical Association**

Tel: 566-5620 Fax:569-6479

#### **Jordanian Geologists Association**

Tel: 586-2569 Fax:586-2569

#### **Jordan Pharmaceutical Association**

Tel: 566-5320 Fax: 566-5320

#### **Jordan Construction Contractors Association**

Tel: 592-8675 Fax: 592-8704  
e-mail: [jcca@go.com.jo](mailto:jcca@go.com.jo)

#### **Jordan Engineers Association**

Tel: 560-7616 Fax: 567-6933  
e-mail: [inf@jea.org.jo](mailto:inf@jea.org.jo)  
<http://www.jea.org.jo>

#### **Jordanian Association of Certified Public Accountants**

Tel: 566-9916 Fax:5687-610  
e-mail: [Saweis@hotmail.com](mailto:Saweis@hotmail.com)