

Issue No. 18

What Does Independence Mean for Jordanians?



Written by Prof. Nabil Hailat / President of Yarmouk University

Jordanians celebrate on the 25th of May every year an occasion that is considered the most precious in their hearts. On this day, seventy-five years ago, the independence of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was declared. Perhaps on this day and in the midst of our celebrations of the great victory, we cannot help but remember the martyrs of Jordan and their great sacrifices, and remember with pride what our fathers and grandfathers have achieved in terms of victory and achievement in service for our homeland Jordan, and the concerns of our Arab nation. Congratulations to us and to our youth on this honorable history and this great legacy that Jordan have accomplished, under the leadership of the distinguished sons of Hashem, who gave this country and the issues of the Arab nation great care and consideration, and were able to stand by their generous people to move forward in order to lay solid foundation for a nation

that has become a symbol of security and safety, so they built edifices and raised buildings, and made glory and rooted love for the homeland in the souls of people who pledged to God and promised their leader to exert great and precious efforts to keep the flag of Jordan fluttering high over the years.

Independence for Jordanians does not only mean getting rid of the oppression of colonialism and military dependence on the foreigner, but it has a comprehensive and civilized concept which includes all the principles of freedom, justice, equality, freedom of expression, respect for opinion, and the embodiment of the principles of equality and responsibility, regardless of religion and belief. It is a day for all Jordanians, It is a day we celebrate the development of a strong Jordanian human being, who is competent, educated, and moderate who can stand on his feet with all steadfastness and strength and overcome challenges, for the sake of his dignity and the dignity of his homeland.

Independence also means building educational, health, security and economic institutions, as well as achieving balance, growth and community peace with Jordanian hands, and maximizing the achievements of a comprehensive and moderate Jordan, with its balanced local, regional and international ideas and policies that achieve our supreme national interest.

Certainly, independence is not measured by numbers only. If we look at the great achievements in the education and higher education sector - and here we refer to the compulsory education - we find

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that Jordan has made qualitative leaps in building educational institutions in a short period of time, raising the level of the Jordanian scientist and researcher, corresponding to the global level, as we have become one of the countries that provide the Arab and regional market with qualified competencies of our Jordanian people, armed with leadership skills and able to build and develop, achieve progress and prosperity, and here we can only speak with pride about this country and its great achievements that are based on the fact that "The human being is the most precious".

Independence is represented in the Jordanian state and its Hashemite leadership gaining all respect and appreciation, and a model renewed presence in international and global diplomatic forums, despite the intellectual contradictions and military alliances, the countries and peoples of the world constantly desire the good and continuous dealings with all components of the Jordanian state.

Independence also means the unmarketable ability of the Jordanian state to withstand all the exceptional and sudden challenges and obstacles that affect the Jordanian environment, and its ability to deal with asylum issues at different periods and deal with refugees who sought refuge in Jordan with full capacity, responsibility and humanity, and the application of international standards to preserve Human dignity, whatever its roots, despite the shortage of economic resources and the difficult political situation, but God - the Almighty - always reconcile the decisions of the Jordanian state to serve humanity and crowned it with success.

We do not forget that independence also comprises in showing and highlighting Jordan's role in all sincerity and honesty, and its support for Arab issues, especially the central issue of Palestine, and the defense that accompanies it, led by the Hashemites throughout their honorable history of defending the rights of the Palestinian people, their right to selfdetermination, and achieving the required support in all international forums, with the assertion that this defense is not a usual one, as much as it is a perception stemming from the doctrine of realizing the right and in support of our Palestinian brothers in building their state on the land of Palestine on the 1967 borders.

On the seventy-fifth anniversary of the independence of our beloved Jordan, we can only pray to God that we celebrate soon the Jordanian Hashemite support for the independence of Palestine, considering that the Palestinian issue is the main concernof the Jordanian state and Jordan's policy.

Happy Independence Day for Jordan and for our leader.

Hailat Inaugurated the Francophone Week in Yarmouk

The President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Nabil Hailat, patronized the inauguration of the Francophone Week through Zoom, which was organized by the Department of Modern Languages in the Faculty of Arts and the Department of International Relations and Projects in cooperation with the French Embassy in Amman as well as the University Agency of Francophonie and the International Francophone Organization.

The president said that Yarmouk is always keen to celebrate Francophonie, which brings together Frenchspeaking people to represent values related to humanity and respect of diversity, pointing out that Francophonie is not only a language and culture, but also a promotion of education, development, vocational training, and sustainable development and economics. He also praised the efforts of professors and students participating in this event, praising the outstanding level of the Department of Modern Languages at the Faculty of Arts, which proved its worth in graduating a group of qualified students in this field, and thanked the embassies of francophone countries for their support and cooperation with Yarmouk University in organizing this event.

For her part, Dr. Batoul Al-Muhaysin, the Head of the Department of Modern Languages, pointed out that Yarmouk is keen to celebrate Francophone Week annually and holds many cultural, artistic,



Hailat Inaugurated the Francophone Week in Yarmouk Cont.



international, and recreational events in French for students of the Department of Modern Languages at the university, thus enhancing students' language skills and improving their proficiency in French. Dr. Mamoun Al-Shtaiwi, the representative of Yarmouk University at the Francophone University Agency, pointed out that the celebration of Francophone sits in March each year, where this event is a unique experience that provides French speakers or those learning French with the opportunity to practice and celebrate this language by organizing many cultural events and presentations centered on the French language that is spoken by 300 million people around the world. He called on the Francophone countries including France, Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium to support teachers of modern languages, especially French, by developing their language skills, organizing advanced and specialized courses in this field, and securing scholarships and missions for students of modern languages to complete their higher studies in order to keep up with modern scientific developments in the fields of language science and literature.

Participation in the Bridgewater State University International Partnership Forum

Implementing Yarmouk University's plan for developing a global academic partnership network with prestigious scientific and academic institutions, the president of the university, Prof. Nabil Hailat, vice president for administrative affairs, Prof. Riyadh Al-Momani, vice president for scientific affairs, Prof. Muwaffaq Omoush, and the director of the International Relations and Projects Department, Dr. Ghazi Magableh, participated in Bridgewater State University's International Partnership Forum, which brought together via Zoom application 70 participants from 35 universities around the world.

Participants exchanged views on the challenges and possibilities of building a strong cooperation with partner organizations during the pandemic disaster, and each university president or delegate introduced his/her institution. Prof. Nabil Hailat, president of the university, said that Yarmouk University is the second oldest university in Jordan and that it has more than 39,000 students from different nationalities. He then pointed out that the university seeks to establish relations with global academic institutions to strengthen its scientific research and enhance its development and advancement.

It is worth mentioning that since 2010, a memorandum of understanding for cooperation between Yarmouk University and Bridge Water University has been signed. The memorandum emphasizes cooperation in the areas of scientific research, joint projects, scientific cooperation, and exchange of academic visits for students and academic staff. Moreover, both parties have signed another agreement that demands that the University of Bridgewater receives students from Yarmouk University to complete their postgraduate studies free of charge while Yarmouk University receives five students from Bridgewater University to study Arabic during the summer semester.

Yarmouk Accounting Receives 10 CMA Grants



In cooperation with Sareh Al-Juman Foundation for Training and Financial and Management Consultancy and the American Accounting Institute (IMA), the Accounting Department of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at Yarmouk University received ten grants for the "Certified Management Accountant" (CMA) provided by Hook International. The grants were distributed at the Deanship of the Faculty of Economics in the presence of the Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Prof. Riad al-Moumani, the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Mohammed al-Rawabadeh, and the Head of the Accounting Department, Dr. Mohammed al-Azzam.

During the meeting, al-Moumani praised the outstanding scientific level of the Accounting Department and the efforts made by its faculty members to support students and provide them with the knowledge that ensures their excellence in their field of specialization and prepare them for the labor market.

In his turn, al-Rawabadeh praised the cooperation of the faculty members, the excellence of students in the department of accounting, and the importance of such grants in enriching students' experiences at the professional and scientific levels. He also thanked the deanship for supporting such initiatives that encourage students and contribute to the development of their scientific and practical skills.

The head of the department, Dr. Mohammed al-Azzam, explained that these scholarships have been granted to excellent students in the department and that the value of each grant may reach about \$1500 including an exemption from the admission fees to the CMA, the fees of the two parts of the CMA exam, and a free access to a membership in the IMA.

Yarmouk and GIZ Discuss a Sustainability Plan for the "Psycho-Social Support Project" for Refugees

The President of the University, Prof. Nabil Hailat, discussed with the Head of the Psychosocial Support and Trauma Project of the GIZ in Jordan, Dr. Kristin Müller, ways to strengthen cooperation between Yarmouk University and the German Agency for International Cooperation regarding the mechanism of implementing the sustainability plan for the psychosocial support project funded by the German agency, which is implemented by the University through the Refugees and Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center. Hailat stated that Yarmouk University attaches special importance to the issues of asylum and refugees through subjecting them to scientific research and study. He also stressed the depth of relations between Yarmouk University and the German Agency for International Cooperation, stressing the need to provide all that is required to ensure the implementation of agreements related to international projects.

Yarmouk and GIZ Discuss a Sustainability Plan Cont.



For her part, Dr. Müller introduced a detailed report containing an assessment of the mechanism for implementing the psychosocial support project over the past three years and the mechanism for implementing the fourth as well as the final phase of it, which will be implemented this year through the Refugees Center. She also presented the sustainable plan proposed by the GIZ to ensure the continuation of this project after the end of the funding period.

During the meeting, Dr. Anas al-Subh, the Director of the Center, presented a brief overview of the center and its future plans to ensure its presence and effectiveness as a strategic unit specializing in refugee studies at the regional and global levels.

The meeting was attended by the Coordinator of the Psychosocial Support Projects at the German Agency in Jordan, Kristisna Maria, and the Deputy Director of the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center - Coordinator of the third and fourth phases of the project, Dr. Alaa Al-Quda.

Yarmouk's IT Faculty is Ranked (500 - 550) in QS

The Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Science at Yarmouk University has strengthened its progress in computer science and information systems according to the University's QS Global Ranking (500 - 550), thus exceeding 50 places compared to last year.

The President of the University, Prof. Nabil Hailat, said that this achievement reflects the spirit of development and innovation of this faculty and the keenness of its professors to reflect their excellence and scientific and research diligence. Hailat also urged other faculties to strive and pay attention to research and scientific publication in the finest scientific journals in the world to obtain such classifications, which contributes to the high status of Yarmouk University.

The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Samer Samara, thanked the university administration for its support and encouragement of the faculties to move forward towards excellence, explaining that QS is one of the greatest systems adopted globally to evaluate educational institutions according to specialization. He added that this achievement of the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Systems reflects the good reputation of the graduates and the research and academic excellence of the faculty members.

Forhispart, the Director of the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Center, Dr. Abdallah Khataiba, stressed the importance of this achievement for the faculty as well as the university and the importance of this classification in achieving quality standards for the university. He noted the importance of publishing distinguished scientific research by faculty members in international classified and prestigious scientific journals.

Yarmouk University's Global Partnerships in the Field of Professional and Research Development



Coping with its strategic plan for the next five years, Yarmouk University always seeks to establish strong and fruitful partnership with prestigious universities worldwide. as evident in its latest contact of several universities in the United States. Prof. Nabil Hailat, the President of the university, highlighted the significance of such partnerships for exchanging people and ideas. Prof. Hailat added that the activities sought under such partnerships shall take various forms including working on joint research projects, establishing joint academic and programs, exchanging students as well as faculty and

staff members among the partners.

Accordingly, Yarmouk University has recently discussed with Virginia TechUniversity (VT) the possibility of joint teaching. Both universities agreed to offer a few Master-level courses common Electrical and Computer in Engineering, which should provide both students and faculty members with the opportunity to expand such collaboration into new levels. Noteworthy here is that the program of Electrical Engineering in VT is ranked #16 at the national level in the United States while the program of Computer Engineering is ranked #20. Besides, both discussed universities the possibility of collaboration in

"One Health" program the that Yarmouk University is planning to establish this coming academic year after getting necessary approvals. Similarly, research collaboration between Yarmouk University and the University of California Irvine (UCI) has also been discussed. The two parties the possibility emphasized of arranging scholarships at UCI for Doctoral students from Yarmouk University, considering that UCI is ranked #38 in the Engineering field at the level of the United States. Likewise, Yarmouk University has discussed potential collaboration with Arizona State University (ASU), which is ranked #1 in Innovation among U.S. universities, in Digital Learning/Education and Innovation & Entrepreneurship. The two universities discussed the possibility of having ASU admit several Doctoral students from Yarmouk University with preferable tuition rates. Also, they discussed the possibility of hosting a group of Yarmouk University Shari'a

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professors who may be in a visit to the United States.

Moreover, Yarmouk University has discussed the possibility of having a joint professional certificate in Cybersecurity with Purdue University, which is ranked #6 in the United States in Cybersecurity. Furthermore, two novel models were discussed by Yarmouk University and the University of Arizona (UArizona), namely: micro-campuses and global locations. Both universities agreed to explore the subjects that are demanded by the local and regional markets to offer them through the microcampus and global location, where students can earn dual degrees from both universities. In addition, the University of Cincinnati (UC) declared the possibility of collaboration through its emeriti program with Yarmouk University, where Yarmouk is to identify a set of courses that can be taught virtually by UC emeriti faculty members.

The University also discussed with the Patton College of Education, the Russ College of Engineering and Technology, and the Scripps College of Communication in Ohio University, the possibility of moving forward with a memorandum of understanding that allows graduate students to attend Ohio University as instate-tuition students. They also discussed further elaboration in the fields of Anthropology and Archeology. In the same vein, Yarmouk University discussed with the University of Missouri, University, Oakland and the University of Michigan-Dearborn the possibility of sending faculty members from Yarmouk University's Faculty of Engineering to establish connections research and pursue joint research projects in such American universities.

At the same level of significance, Yarmouk University also Memorandum of signed a Understanding with the Maricopa Community Colleges in Arizona that serve more than 220,000 students each year, to collaborate in several programs, including Arabic for Non-native Speakers. Also. University Yarmouk started communicating with George Washington University and Binghamton University establish collaboration to projects concerning several fields of knowledge.

The Mexican Ambassador to Amman Visits Yarmouk



The President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Nabil Hailat, received the Mexican Ambassador to Amman, Reberto Rodríguez-Hernández, and the accompanying delegation, where they discussed possible future cooperation between Yarmouk University and the Mexican Embassy in Amman on the one hand, and between the university and various educational institutions and academic institutes in Mexico on the other.

During the meeting, Hailat stressed the university's keenness to establish bridges of cooperation with universities and educational institutions in different countries of the world, which comes within the framework of the South-South cooperation supported by the United Nations to encourage the independence of the developing countries and enhance their capabilities to find solutions to their development problems. Moreover, Hailat pointed out that Yarmouk University is ready to discuss possible ways of cooperation with various educational institutions in Mexico, especially in the field of exchange of students, faculty members, and conducting research and scientific projects of common interest. He added that the Corona pandemic has cast a heavy shadow on all countries of the world and that Yarmouk University embodying the visions and directives of His Majesty King Abdullah II seeks to turn the challenges and consequences of the pandemic into real opportunities for development, progress, and networking with various international universities, especially through the digital world and distance education programs.

For his part, the Mexican Ambassador expressed his thankfulness of such a meeting, stressing that many Mexican universities have expressed great interest in cooperation with Yarmouk University due to its scientific and academic reputation. He also pointed out the possibility of intensifying cooperation between the Mexican Embassy in Amman and Yarmouk University through a memorandum of understanding between Yarmouk and Mexican universities in all areas of common interest, emphasizing the possibility of benefiting from the prohibitions and closures of the Corona pandemic in establishing joint educational and training programs between Yarmouk University and a number of universities in Mexico.

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