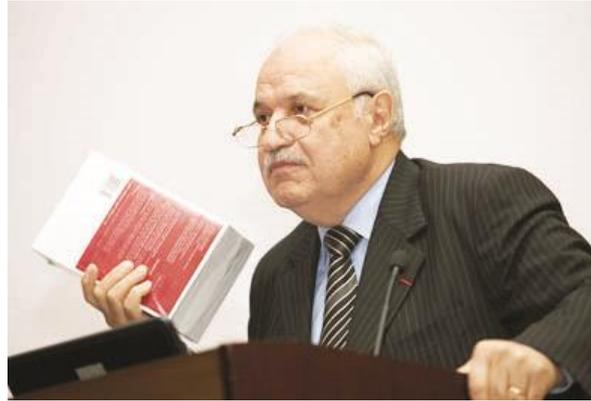




A Man of Integrity Co-authors Jordan's Integrity Charter and Jordanians Await its Implementation



Al Arab Alyawm Madeleine Mezagopian 24 1 0

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It hurts everyone who depends on the integrity of people in a position of authority (Transparency International)

In a meeting with the author, Talal Abu Ghazaleh, a life time student pioneer in embracing and promoting information technology (IT) and intellectual property (IP), with great passion underlined

Integrity is a practice not a concept. No institution can realize integrity without having a mission. Once embraced, the mission itself imposes ethics and rules. Integrity is only one aspect of ethics which is indivisible. Corruption, a matter of ethics, thrives in the public and private sectors with the latter having the crucial role in spoiling the public sector where the corruption cannot prosper without accomplices in the private sector. To this one surely adds the civil society including the welfare societies who are more accountable and must be better monitored and severely punished when necessary given it involves others' assets.

Equipped with the ethics of legal accountant and struggling refugee, Abu Ghazaleh adopted his professional engagement in technical education, Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), as a mission to spread knowledge and awareness. Ethics and integrity gained priority over qualification and efficiency, despite its significance, thus immunizing the

80 offices of TAG-Org of any form of mal conduct. Empowered with his own integrity, Abu Ghazaleh equally assumed promoting integrity and combating corruption as a mission on national and international levels, which gained him global recognition entitling him to assume responsibilities on UN level.

Jordan is not an exception says Abu Ghazaleh and adds
The political will of the leadership is there to uproot corruption. There are several institutions that target corruption, but their authorities below allowing them to deliver. The anti-corruption circle is not complete, which explains the prevalence of character annihilation and abusing anti-corruption procedures. This necessitates the presence of a commissioner, an advocate of the citizen. A guide is needed to define the entities of the integrity system, its tasks and explain the link between these institutions. The path to combat corruption is not complete. The Integrity Charter (IC) produced by the Royal Integrity Committee is the most effective tool to fight corruption claims Abu Ghazaleh, himself a member of the Committee recently dissolved after fulfilling its role.

The IC is a great document asserts Abu Ghazaleh, who with great pride confessed to the author his key role in integrating a crucial item on introducing electronic government, which inhibits public servants from abusing their authorities through personal interactions. Highly advanced IT guarantees human rights and prevents its being abused, the most appalling repercussions of corruption.

This said, Abu Ghazaleh exhibited great concern and concluded his remarks by accentuating that 'a grand mission has been accomplished with the writing of the IC. But the people are anxiously waiting for its implementation. A committee has been founded to follow up the designed procedures for implementing the IC, which called for a fixed timetable to have it translated into tangible reality'.

Jordan is in desperate need for comprehensive socio-economic and political sustainable development which warrants a corruption free milieu. Such a milieu in its turn needs the immediate and urgent implementation of the IC.

Jordanians celebrated the birth of the Integrity Charter authorized by a Royal decree and co-authored by a true mission-oriented man of integrity Talal Abu Ghazaleh who, together with all Jordanians, must be waiting for its immediate implementation.

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