

A Personal Account of Working with Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh *Shahid Halling*

Information Security Director

Is he a Chairman, a mentor or a friend?

Having started work for Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh many moons ago, I joined as young IT professional. Starting work in their Amman office, TAG. Global immediately had the air of something different about it, something unique that I couldn't quite put my finger on. Little did I know that I was an employee of a visionary leader with a network of offices and companies across the globe, sought globally for his expertise in an astounding number of specializations by statesmen and governments alike.

Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh needs no introduction from me as his name is internationally recognized with his many accolades, distinctions and global chairmanships speaking for themselves. I got closer to Dr. Talal, who I affectionately refer to as 'Sir', by working up the corporate ladder, gaining greater exposure to him, his work ethic and his personality as time went on. I wondered how a person who had nothing as a Palestinian refugee could have achieved so much under such dire circumstances, establishing a world leading professional services firm with tentacles across the world!

Through my working directly with him, I have learnt that this has been through nothing but sheer hard work, total dedication to professionalism and working to the highest order of ethics and standards. I have never seen anyone so focused on productivity and excellence, pushing all of his employees to achieve, fueled by his moral code that suffering is a blessing which leaves you no option but to succeed.

The unique way he treats all of his employees and his sons and daughters simply cannot be found elsewhere. I have found a wealth of professional experience by working for him in a variety of areas that has enriched me greatly.

I'm still in awe of what he has achieved and his relentless passion to continually accomplish more. Others of his age would have long retired. His resilience and wisdom is second to none and personalities like him are rare to find.

Going back to the question with which I started this piece, for me he is all three: a Chairman; a mentor and a friend. I have learnt many valuable life lessons through working closely with him and thank him for the ongoing support, trust and confidence he has placed in me.

Thank you Sir.