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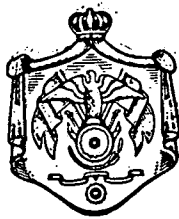
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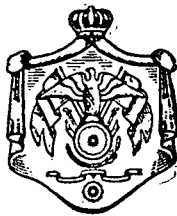
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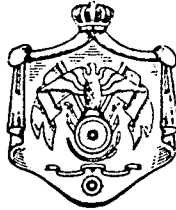
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THE  
**CONSTITUTION**  
OF THE  
HASHEMITE KINGDOM  
OF JORDAN



*We, Talal the First  
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
In accordance with Article 25 of the Constitution,  
and in pursuance of the resolution of  
the Senate and House of Deputies,  
do hereby give my assent to  
this revised Constitution  
and command that it be put into effect,*



## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

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### CHAPTER ONE

#### The State and Form of Government

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is an independent Arab State. It is indivisible and no part of it may be ceded. The people of Jordan form part of the Arab nation. The form of Government shall be parliamentary with hereditary monarchy.
2. Islam shall be the religion of the State and the Arabic Language shall be its official language.
3. The City of Amman shall be the capital of the Kingdom. The capital may be transferred to another place by special Law.
4. The Jordan flag shall be of the following form and dimensions : " The length of the flag shall be double its breadth. It shall be divided horizontally into three parallel and equal stripes, the uppermost of which shall be black, the centre white, and the lowest green. At the end of the flag-staff it shall have a red triangle, the base of which shall be equal to its breadth and the height equal to half its length. In the triangle there shall be a white seven-pointed star of such a size that it may be contained within a circle of which the diameter shall be one-fourteenth part of its

length. It shall be so placed that its centre shall be at the intersection of the lines bisecting the angles of the triangle, and the axis through one of its points is parallel to the base of the triangle "

## CHAPTER TWO

### Rights and Duties of Jordanians

5. The Jordanian nationality shall be defined by Law.
6. ( i ) Jordanians shall be equal before the Law, There shall be no discrimination between them as regards their rights and duties, on grounds of race, language or religion.  
( ii ) The Government shall ensure work and education, within the limits of its possibilities, and shall ensure a state of tranquility and equal opportunities, to all Jordanians.
7. Personal freedom shall be safeguarded.
8. No person shall be detained or imprisoned except in accordance with the provisions of the law.
9. ( i ) No Jordanian shall be exiled from the territory of the Kingdom.  
( ii ) No Jordanian shall be prevented from residing at any place, or be compelled to reside in any specified place, except in the circumstances prescribed by Law.
10. Dwelling houses shall be inviolable and shall not be entered except in circumstances and manner prescribed by Law.
11. No property of any person shall be expropriated except for purposes of public utility and in consideration of a just compensation, as may be prescribed by Law.
12. No loans shall be forcibly imposed and no property, movable or immovable, shall be confiscated, except in accordance with the Law.

13. Compulsory labour shall not be imposed on any person, but any person may be required to do any work or to render any service in circumstances prescribed by law, as stated hereunder.
  - ( i ) In a state of emergency, such as the state of war, the occurrence of a public danger or fire, flood, famine, earthquake, heavy epidemic amongst human beings or animals or animal diseases, insects or pests or any other similar event, or in any other circumstances which would endanger the safety of the population, in whole or in part.
  - ( ii ) As a result of the conviction of the person concerned by a Court of law provided that the work is done and the service is rendered under the supervision of an official authority and provided further that no convicted person shall be hired to, or placed at the disposal of, any person company or public body.
14. The State shall safeguard the free exercise of all forms of worship and religious rites in accordance with the customs observed in the Kingdom, unless such exercise is inconsistent with public order or decorum.
15. ( i ) The State shall guarantee freedom of opinion. Every Jordanian shall be free to express his opinion by words of mouth, in writing, or by means of photographic representation and other forms of expression, within the limits of the law.
  - ( ii ) Freedom of the press and publications shall be ensured within the limits of the law.
  - ( iii ) Newspapers shall not be suspended from publication nor their permits be withdrawn except in accordance with the provisions of the law.
  - ( iv ) In the event of the declaration of martial law or a state of emergency, a limited censorship on newspapers, pamphlets, books and broadcasts in matters affecting public safety or national defence may be imposed by law.
  - ( v ) Control of the resources of newspapers shall be regulated by law.

16. ( i ) Jordanians shall have the right to hold meetings within the limits of the law.
  - ( ii ) Jordanians are entitled to establish societies and political parties provided that the objects of such societies and parties are legitimate, their methods are peaceful, and their Bye-Laws are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.
  - ( iii ) The establishment of societies and political parties and control of their resources shall be regulated by law.
17. Jordanians are entitled to address the public authorities on any personal matters affecting them, or on any matter relative to public affairs, in such a manner and under such conditions as may be prescribed by law.
18. All postal, telegraphic and telephonic communications shall be treated as secret, and as such shall not be subjected to censorship or suspension except in circumstances prescribed by law.
19. Congregations shall have the right to establish and maintain their own schools for the education of their own members provided that they will comply with the general provisions of the law and submit to the control of government in matters relating to their curricula and tendency.
20. Elementary education shall be compulsory for Jordanians and free of charge in government schools.
21. ( i ) Political refugees shall not be extradited on account of their political beliefs or for their defence of liberty.
  - ( ii ) Extradition of ordinary criminals shall be regulated by international agreements and law.
22. ( i ) Every Jordanian shall be entitled to be appointed to public offices under such conditions as are prescribed by law or regulations.
  - ( ii ) Appointment to any government office or to any institution attached to the Government, or to any municipal office, whether such appointment is permanent or temporary, shall be made on the basis of merits and qualifications.

23. ( i ) It is the right of every citizen to work, and the State shall provide opportunities for work to all citizens by directing the national economy and raising its standard.
- ( ii ) The State shall protect labour and enact a legislation therefor based on the following principles :—
- ( a ) Every workman shall receive wages commensurate with the quantity and quality of his work.
- ( b ) The number of hours of work per week shall be limited. Workmen shall be given weekly and annual days of rest with wages.
- ( c ) Special compensation shall be given to workmen supporting families and on retrenchment, illness, old-age and emergencies arising out of the nature of their work.
- ( d ) Special conditions shall be made for the employment of women and juveniles.
- ( e ) Factories and workshops shall be subject to health rules.
- ( f ) Free Trade unions shall be formed within the limits of law.

### **CHAPTER THREE**

#### **POWERS OF THE STATE – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

24. ( i ) The nation is the source of all powers.
- ( ii ) The nation shall exercise its powers in the manner prescribed by this Constitution.
25. The Legislative Power shall be vested in the National Assembly and the King. The National Assembly shall consist of a Senate and a House of Deputies.
26. The Executive Power shall be vested in the King who shall exercise His powers through His Ministers in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
27. The Judicial Power shall be exercised by the different courts of law, and all judgments shall be given in accordance with the law and pronounced in the name of the King.



**CHAPTER FOUR**  
**THE EXECUTIVE POWER**  
**PART I**  
**THE KING AND HIS PREROGATIVES**

28. The throne of the Hashemite Kingdom is limited by inheritance to the dynasty of king Abdullah Ibn. Al-Hussein in a direct line through his male heirs as provided in the following provisions :—

- (a) x The Royal prerogatives shall pass from the holder of the throne to his eldest son, and to the eldest son of that son and by similar process thereafter. Should the eldest son die before the throne devolves upon him, his eldest son shall inherit the throne, despite the existence of brothers of the deceased son, provided that the King may select one of his brothers as heir apparent. In the latter case, the right to inherit the throne from the holder of the throne shall pass to him.
- (b) Should the person entitled to the throne die without an heir, the throne shall pass to his eldest brother. In the event that the holder of the throne has no brothers, the throne shall pass to the eldest son of his eldest brother. Should his eldest brother has no son, the throne shall pass to the eldest son of his other brothers according to their seniority in age.
- (c) In the absence of any brothers or nephews, the throne shall pass to the uncles and their descendants according to the order prescribed in paragraph ( b ) above.
- (d) Should the last King die without any heir, in the manner prescribed above, the throne shall devolve upon the person whom the National Assembly shall select from amongst the descendants of the founder of the Arab Revolt, the late King Hussein Ibn Ali.

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x As amended in the Official Gazette No. 1831 of 1/4/1965

- ( e ) No person shall ascend the Throne unless he is a moslem, mentally sound and born by a legitimate wife and of moslem parents.
- ( f ) No person shall ascend the Throne who has been excluded from succession by a Royal Decree on ground of his unsuitability. Such exclusion shall not of itself include the descendants of such person provided that the Royal Decree of exclusion is signed by the Prime Minister and by four Ministers at least of whom two shall be the Minister of Justice and Minister of Interior.
- ( g ) The King attains his age of majority upon the completion of his eighteenth year, according to the lunar calendar. If the Throne devolves upon a person who is under this age, the powers of the King shall be exercised by a regent or council of regency, who shall be appointed by a Royal Decree by the reigning King, but if the King dies without making such nomination, the Council of Ministers shall appoint the Regent or Council of Regency.
- ( h ) In the event of the King becoming unable to exercise his powers through illness, His powers shall be exercised by a Regent or council of regency. Such Regent or Council of regency shall be appointed by a Royal Decree, and if the King is incapable of making such appointment, the appointment shall be made by the Council of Ministers,
- ( i ) Should the King desire to leave the country, He shall, before his departure, appoint, by a Royal Decree a Regent or Council of Regency to exercise his powers during his absence. The Regent or Council of Regency shall observe any conditions which may be prescribed in the Royal Decree. If the absence of the King is extended to more than four months and the House is not in session, the House shall be summoned immediately to consider the matter.
- ( j ) Before the Regent, or Viceroy, or any member of the Council of Regency or of the Throne assumes his office he shall take an oath, as prescribed in Article 29 hereof, before the Council of Ministers.
- ( k ) In the event of the death of the Regent, or Viceroy, or member of the Council of Regency or of the

Throne, or should become incapable of performing his duties, the Council of Ministers shall appoint a suitable person to replace him.

- ( l ) A Regent, or Viceroy, or member of the Council of Regency or of the Throne must not be less than thirty years of age, according to the lunar calender year, provided that any male person of the relatives of the King who has completed his eighteenth year of age, may be appointed to any such office.
- ( m ) In the event of the King being incapacitated by any mental illness, the Council of Ministers, on confirmation of his illness, shall immediately convene the National Assembly. Should the illness be definitely confirmed, the National Assembly shall, by resolution, depose the King whereupon the Royal Prerogatives shall devolve upon the person entitled thereto after him according to the provisions of this Constitution. If the House of Deputies was dissolved at the time, or its term had expired and no new house of Deputies had been elected, the former House of Deputies shall be convened for the purpose
29. The King shall, upon his accession to the Throne, take an oath, before the National Assembly which will be convened under the chairmanship of the Speaker of the Senate, to respect and observe the Constitution and be loyal to the nation.
30. The King is the head of the State and is immune from any liability and responsibility.
31. The King approves all Acts of Parliament and promulgates them. He shall direct the enactment of such regulations as may be necessary for the enforcement of such Acts, provided that such Regulations are not inconsistent with the provisions thereof.
32. The King is the Supreme Commander of the Army, Naval and Air Forces.
33. x (i) xx The King declares war, concludes peace and confirms treaties and agreements.

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x As amended in Official Gazette. No. 1380 date 4/5/1956

xx As amended in Official Gazette. No. 1396 date 1/9/1958

- ( ii ) Treaties and agreements which involve financial commitments to the treasury or affect the general or personal rights of Jordanians shall not be enforceable unless they are sanctioned by the National Assembly. In no circumstances shall any secret conditions contained in any treaty or agreement be contradictory to the openly declared conditions.
34. ( i ) The King issues orders for the holding of elections to the House of Deputies in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- ( ii ) The King convenes the House of Deputies, opens it, adjourns it, and prorogues it in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- ( iii ) The King may dissolve the House of Deputies.
35. The King appoints the Prime Minister, dismisses him or accepts his resignation. Ministers are appointed, dismissed and their resignations accepted by the king on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.
36. The King appoints members of the Senate, and appoints the Speaker from amongst them and accepts their resignation.
37. ( i ) The King creates, grants and withdraws military and civil ranks, medals and honourable titles and may delegate this authority to any other person by special law.
- ( ii ) Currency shall be minted in the name of the King, in execution of the law.
38. The King has the right to grant a special pardon or remit any sentence, but any general pardon shall be determined by special law.
39. No death sentence shall be executed except after confirmation by the King. Every such sentence shall be placed before the King by the Council of Ministers accompanied by their opinion thereon,
40. The King shall exercise the powers vested in Him by Royal Decrees. Any such Decree shall be signed by the Prime Minister and the Minister or Ministers concerned. The King expresses his concurrence by placing his signature above the signatures of the other ministers.

**PART TWO**  
**MINISTERS**

41. There shall be constituted a Council of Ministers consisting of the Prime Minister, who shall be the President, and such number of Ministers as may be needed and as the public interest may require.
42. No person shall be appointed as a minister unless he is a Jordanian.
43. The Prime Minister and Ministers shall, before assuming their duties, take the following oath, before the King.

"I swear by God, the Almighty, to be loyal to the King, uphold the Constitution, serve the nation and perform the duties entrusted to me with honesty.
44. No Minister shall purchase or lease any Government property even if the sale or lease thereof has been offered in a public auction. He shall not, while holding his ministerial post, become a member of the board of directors of any company or take part in any financial transaction relating to, or receive a salary from, any company.
45. x ( i ) The Council of Ministers shall be entrusted with the responsibility of administering all affairs of the State, internal and external, with the exception of such matters which are or may be entrusted by this Constitution  
xx or by any other legislation to any person or any other body.

( ii ) The duties of the Prime Minister, the Ministers and the Council of Ministers shall be prescribed by Regulations made by the Council of Ministers and confirmed by the King.
46. Any Minister may be entrusted with one or more Ministries as may be stated in the Order of Appointment.
47. ( i ) Every Minister shall be responsible for the conduct of all matters pertaining to his Ministry. He shall refer to the Prime Minister any matter not falling within his jurisdiction.

( ii ) The Prime Minister shall dispose of all matters within his powers and jurisdiction and shall refer other matters to the Council of Ministers for such decision as may be necessary.

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x As amended in the Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958

xx As amended in the Official Gazette No. 1396 of 1/9/1958

48. The Prime Minister and Ministers shall sign all decisions taken by the Council of Ministers which shall be submitted to the King for approval where this Constitution, or any law, or Regulations enacted thereunder, so require. Such decisions shall be executed by the Minister and Ministers each within the limits of his jurisdiction.
  49. Verbal or written orders of the King shall not release the Ministers from their responsibility.
  50. In the event of the resignation or release of the Prime Minister from his office, all Ministers shall be considered to have automatically resigned or released from their offices, as the case may be.
  51. The Prime Minister and Ministers shall be collectively responsible before the House of Deputies in respect of the general policy of the State. In addition, each Minister shall be responsible before the House of Deputies in respect of the actions of his Ministry.
  52. The Prime Minister, or any Minister who is a member of either the House of Deputies or the Senate shall be entitled to vote in the House to which he belongs and to speak in both Houses. But Ministers who are not members of either House can speak in both Houses without the right to vote. Ministers or their Deputies in their absence, have the right of priority over all members in addressing the House of Deputies and the Senate. A Minister who receives salary as Minister shall not be entitled to receive, at the same time, any emoluments as member of either House.
  53. x ( i ) A Vote of confidence in the Council of Ministers or in any Minister may be cast by the House of Deputies.
    - ( ii ) If the House of Deputies cast a vote of no confidence in the Council of Ministers by an absolute majority of all its members, the Council of Ministers must tender its resignation.
    - ( iii ) If the vote of no confidence concerns an individual Minister, that minister alone must resign his office.
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x As amended in the Official Gazette No. 1179 of 17/4/1954

54. (i) A session to consider a vote of confidence in the Council of Ministers or in any individual Minister shall be held at the request of the Prime Minister or at a request signed by not less than ten Deputies.
- (ii) x A vote of confidence in the Council of Ministers or in any individual Minister may be postponed only for one period not exceeding ten days, either upon the request of the Minister concerned, or of the Council of Ministers. The House shall not be dissolved during this period.
- (iii)xx Every newly formed Council of Ministers shall, within one month of its formation, in cases where the House of Deputies is in session, place before the House of Deputies a statement of its policy and ask for a vote of confidence on the basis of that statement. If the House of Deputies was not in session, at the time, or was dissolved, the Speech from the Throne shall be considered a statement of its policy for the purposes of this Article.
55. Ministers shall be tried by a High Tribunal for offences which may be attributed to them in the course of the performance of their duties.
56. The House of Deputies is entitled to accuse Ministers, but a decision of accusation shall not be taken except by a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House. The House of Deputies shall appoint, from among its members, Deputies who shall present the accusation to, and endorse it before, the High Tribunal.
57. xxx The High Tribunal for the trial of Ministers shall consist of the Speaker of the Senate as President and eight members, three of whom shall be selected by ballot by the Senate from amongst its members and five members to be selected from amongst the judges of the highest Civil Court in order of seniority. In case of necessity, the number shall be completed from Presidents of the lower Courts, in order of seniority also.

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x As amended in the Official Gazette No. 1179 of 17/4/1954 and No. 1180 of 4/5/1958

xx As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958

xxx As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958

58. The High Tribunal shall apply the provisions of the Penal Code in force in respect of offences specified therein. A special law shall specify the offences for which Ministers shall be responsible in cases where such offences are not covered by the Penal Code.
- 59.x Judgements shall be given by the High Tribunal by a majority of six votes.
60. The High Tribunal shall make its own Rules of Procedure in trying Ministers until such time as a special law for this purpose is promulgated.
61. Any Minister accused by the House of Deputies shall be suspended from office until his case is determined by the High Tribunal. His resignation shall not prevent the taking of criminal proceedings against him, or the continuance of his trial.

**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**THE LEGISLATIVE POWER**  
**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

62. The National Assembly shall consist of two Houses :—  
The Senate and the House of Deputies.

**PART I**  
**THE SENATE**

63. The Senate, including the Speaker, shall consist of not more than one-half of the number of the members of the House of Deputies.
64. In addition to the requirements prescribed in Article 75 of this Constitution, a Senator must have completed forty calendar years of age and must belong to one of the following classes. Present and Past Prime Ministers and Ministers, persons who had previously held the office of Ambassador, Minister Plenipotentiary, Speaker of the House of Deputies, President and Judges of the Court of Cession, and of the Civil and Sharia Courts of Appeal, retired military officers of the rank of Lt. General and above, former Deputies who were elected at least twice as Deputies

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958



and other similar personalities who enjoy the confidence and trust of the people in view of the services they had rendered to the nation and country.

65. x ( i ) The term of office of Senators shall be for four years, and their appointment shall be renewed every four years. Senators whose term of office had expired may be reappointed for a further term.
- ( ii ) The term of office of the Speaker of the Senate shall be for two years but he may be reappointed for a further term.
66. ( i ) The Senate shall meet simultaneously with the House of Deputies and the sessions shall be the same for both Houses.
- ( ii ) If the House of Deputies is dissolved, the sessions of the Senate shall be suspended.

## PART I I

### THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES.

67. The House of Deputies shall consist of members, elected by secret ballot, in a general direct election, and in accordance with the provisions of an Electoral Law which shall ensure the following principles :—
- ( i ) The validity of the elections
- ( ii ) The right of candidates to supervise the process of election.
- ( iii ) The punishment of any person who may adversely influence the will of voters.
68. (i)xx The term of office of the House of Deputies shall be for four calendar years commencing from the date of the announcement of the results of the general elections in the official Gazette. The King may, by a Royal Decree, prolong the term of the House for a period of not less than one year and not more than two years.
- ( ii ) A General election shall take place during the four months preceding the end of the term of the House. If, for some reasons, the election is delayed after the termination of the term of the House, the House shall remain in office until the election of a new House.

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1243 of 16/10/1955

xx As amended in Official Gazette No. 1476 of 16/2/1960

69. ( i ) The House of Deputies shall elect its Speaker at the beginning of each ordinary session by a secret ballot for a period of one calendar year, but he may be re-elected.
- ( ii ) If the House of Deputies holds an extraordinary session and has no Speaker, the House shall elect its Speaker whose term of office will terminate at the beginning of the ordinary session.
70. In addition to the requirements prescribed in Article 75 of this Constitution, a Deputy must have completed thirtieth calendar year of his age.
71. The House of Deputies shall have the right to decide on the validity of the election of its members. Any voter shall have the right to present a petition to the Secretariat of the House, within 15 days of the announcement of the results of the elections in his area, setting out the legal reasons for invalidating the election of any Deputy. No election shall be considered invalid unless it has been declared as such by a majority of a two-third of the members of the House.
72. Any Deputy may resign his seat by notifying the Speaker of the House of Deputies in writing, and the Speaker shall place the resignation before the House for a decision as to whether the resignation should be accepted or refused.
73. ( i ) If the House of Deputies is dissolved, a general election must take place, and the new House assembled in an extraordinary session, not later than four months from the date of its dissolution. Such session shall be deemed to be an ordinary session within the meaning of Article 78 of this Constitution and shall be subject to the conditions prescribed therein for prolongation or adjournment.
- ( ii ) Should the election be not concluded at the end of the four months, the dissolved House shall have its full constitutional powers restored and assemble forthwith as if its dissolution had not taken place and shall remain in office until the election of a new House.
- x(iii) Such session shall not, at any event, continue after the 30 th day of September and shall be prorogued on that date so that the House may be able to convene its ordinary session on the first day of October. If such extraordinary session is convened in the month of October or November, it shall be regarded as the first ordinary session of the House of Deputies.

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1243 of 16/10/1955

74.x If the House of Deputies was dissolved, for any reason, the new House shall not be dissolved for the same reason. A minister who intends to stand for nomination and election must resign fifteen days, at least, before the beginning of the nomination.

**PART III**  
**PROVISIONS GOVERNING BOTH HOUSES**  
**OF PARLIAMENT**

- 75.xx (i) No person shall become a Senator or Deputy ;
- ( a ) Who is not a Jordanian,
  - ( b ) Who claims foreign nationality or protection,
  - ( c ) Who was adjudged bankrupt and has not been legally discharged,
  - ( d ) Who was interdicted for any reason and the interdiction has not been removed,
  - ( e ) Who was sentenced to a term of imprisonment exceeding one year for a non-political offence and has not been pardoned,
  - ( f ) Who has a material interest in any contract, other than a contract or lease of land and property, with any Department of Government provided that this provision shall not apply to any shareholder in a company of more than ten members,
  - ( g ) Who is insane or imbecile,
  - ( h ) Who is related to the King within a degree of consanguinity to be prescribed by special law.
- ( ii ) Should any Senator or Deputy become disqualified during his term of office or should it appear after his election that he lacks one or more of the qualifications stated in the preceding paragraph, his membership shall, by a resolution of two-thirds of the House to which he belongs, be considered extinct and vacant, provided that such a resolution, if passed by the Senate, is submitted to the King for approval,
76. Subject to the provisions of Article 52 of this Constitution, no person shall be allowed to be a member of either the House of Deputies or the Senate and a holder of a public office at the same time. Public office means every office whose holder receives his salary from public funds, and it includes municipal offices. Similarly, no person is allowed

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1179 of 17/4/1954

xx As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958

- to be a member of both the House of Deputies and the Senate.
77. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution relating to the dissolution of the House of Deputies, the National Assembly shall hold one ordinary session during every year of its term.
78. x ( i ) The King shall summon the National Assembly to an ordinary session on the first day of October of each year or, if that day is an official holiday, on the first day following the official holiday, provided that the King may, by Royal Decree published in the Official Gazette postpone for a period not exceeding two months, the summoning of the Assembly to a date to be fixed by the Royal Decree.
- ( ii ) If the National Assembly is not summoned in accordance with the preceding paragraph, it shall assemble of its own motion as if it was so summoned.
- (iii)xx The ordinary session of the National Assembly shall begin on the date upon which it was summoned to meet in accordance with the two preceding paragraphs, and shall last for four months unless the House of Deputies is dissolved by the King before the expiration of that period. The session may be prolonged by the King for a further period not exceeding three months to allow for the despatch of pending matters. At the expiration of the four months or any such prolongation thereof, the King shall prorogue the Assembly.
79. The King shall open the ordinary session of the National Assembly by a Speech from the Throne addressed to both the Senate and the House of Deputies. He may depute the Prime Minister or any of the Ministers to perform the opening ceremony and deliver the Speech from the Throne. The House of Deputies and the Senate shall each submit a petition which shall contain its reply thereto.
80. Every Senator and Deputy shall, before taking his seat, take an oath before his House as follows :  
 " I swear by the Almighty God to be loyal to the King and to the country and uphold the Constitution, serve the nation and truly perform the duties entrusted to me " .
81. ( i ) The King may, by Royal Decree, adjourn the sessions of the National Assembly not more than three times,

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1179 of 17/4/1954  
 xx As amended in Official Gazette No. 1243 of 16/10/1955

- or two times only if he had postponed the meeting of the National Assembly under paragraph (ii) of Article 78, provided that during any one session the period of such postponement shall not exceed two months in the aggregate. In computing the term of the session, the periods covered by any such adjournment shall not be taken into account.
- (ii) The Senate and the House of Deputies may adjourn their session from time to time in conformity with their own Standing Orders.
82. (i) The King may, whenever necessary, convene the National Assembly to meet in an extraordinary session for an unspecified period for the purpose of deciding matters to be specified in the Royal Decree, when the summons is issued. An extraordinary session shall be dissolved by a Royal Decree.
- (ii) The King may convene the National Assembly to meet in an extraordinary session at the request of an absolute majority of the Deputies. Such request shall be contained in a petition specifying the matters which it is desired to discuss.
  - (iii) The National Assembly shall not discuss, in any extraordinary session, except such matters as are specified in the Royal Decree convening the session.
83. The Senate and the House of Deputies shall each make its Standing Orders for the regulation of its own proceedings and shall submit such Orders to the King for confirmation.
- 84.x (i) A meeting of the Senate or of the House of Deputies shall not be considered valid unless it is attended by two-thirds of the members of either House, and shall continue to be considered valid as long as an absolute majority of the members of either House is present.
- (ii) Decisions of both the Senate and the House of Deputies shall be taken by majority of votes of the members present, excluding the Speaker, who shall not vote except where it is provided otherwise in this Constitution. In the case of equality of votes the Speaker shall give a casting vote.
  - (iii) If the voting is related to the Constitution, or is one of confidence in the Council of Ministers, or in an individual Minister, the votes shall be taken by calling the names of members in a loud voice.

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1179 of 17/4/1954

85. The sessions of both the Senate and the House of Deputies shall be held in public. Secret sessions may, however, be convened at the request of the Government or of five Senators or Deputies. If such a request is made the Senate or House of Deputies shall decide whether it should be accepted or rejected.
86. ( i ) No Senator or Deputy shall be detained or tried during the holding of the sessions of the National Assembly unless the Senate or the House of Deputies, as the case may be, decide by a majority resolution, that there is sufficient reason for his detention or trial or unless he was arrested in the course of committing a criminal offence. In the event of his arrest in this manner, the Senate or the House of Deputies, must be notified immediately.
- ( ii ) If a member is detained, for any reason, while the National Assembly is not sitting, the Prime Minister shall notify the Senate or the House of Deputies when it reassembles, of the proceedings which were taken against him, coupled with the necessary explanation.
87. Every Senator or Deputy shall have complete freedom of speech and expression of opinion within the limits of the Standing Orders of the Senate or House of Deputies, as the case may be, and shall not be answerable in respect of any vote he gave or opinion expressed, or speech made, by him during the meetings of the House.
88. When a seat becomes vacant in the Senate or in the House of Deputies by death or resignation or for any other reason, it shall be filled by appointment in the case of a Senator and by holding a by-election in the case of a Deputy within a period of two months from the date of which the Government is notified of the vacancy by the House. The term of the new Senator or Deputy shall be for the remaining part of the term of his predecessor.
89. ( i ) In addition to the circumstances under which the Senate and House of Deputies may assemble in a joint meeting as prescribed in Articles 34, 79 & 92 of this Constitution, both Houses shall also hold a joint meeting at the request of the Prime Minister.
- ( ii ) When the Senate and House of Deputies assemble in a joint meeting, the meeting shall be presided over by the Speaker of the Senate.

- (iii)x A joint meeting of the Senate and House of Deputies legally assembled shall not be considered valid unless an absolute majority of members of each House is present. Decisions at such a meeting shall be taken by a majority of the Senators and Deputies present, exclusive of the Speaker who, in case of equality of votes, shall have a casting vote.
90. No Senator or Deputy shall be removed from his office except by a decision of the House to which he belongs provided that, other than in the case of disqualification and combination between memberships prescribed in this Constitution and in the Electoral law, the decision to remove a Senator or Deputy must be taken by a two-third majority of the House. If the decision of removal concerns a Senator, the decision must be submitted to the King for approval.
91. The Prime Minister may place before the House of Deputies any draft law and the House of Deputies shall be entitled to accept, amend, or reject the draft but, in all cases, the House shall refer the draft to the Senate and it shall not be promulgated as law unless it is passed by both the Senate and the House of Deputies and confirmed by the King.
92. Should either the Senate or the House of Deputies twice reject any draft law and the other accept it, whether in a revised form or otherwise, both the Senate and the House shall assemble in a joint meeting under the Chairmanship of the Speaker of the Senate to discuss the disputed points, and the joint meeting shall adopt a decision by a two-third majority of the Senators and Deputies present. If the Draft law was rejected, as described above, it shall not be placed again before the House during the same session.
93. ( i ) Every Draft law passed by the Senate and the House of Deputies shall be submitted to the King for his assent.  
( ii ) Any law shall become effective upon the King's assent after 30 days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette unless it is specifically provided in that law that it shall come into force on any other specified date.  
( iii ) If the King did not see fit to give his assent to any law, He may, within six months from the date on which the law was submitted to Him, return it to the

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958

House with a statement showing the reasons for withholding his assent.

- (iv) If any Draft law, ( other than the Constitution ) is referred back to the House within the period specified in the preceding paragraph and is passed, for the second time, by two-thirds of the members of each of the Senate and the House of Deputies it must, in this case, be promulgated. If the law was not returned with the Royal assent within the period prescribed in paragraph (iii) above, it shall be considered as promulgated and effective. If any Draft law fails to obtain the two-thirds majority of votes it cannot be resubmitted during the same session, provided that the National Assembly may reconsider the Draft during the next ordinary session of the Assembly.
- 94.x (i) In cases where the National Assembly is not sitting, the Council of Ministers has, with the assent of the King, the power to issue provisional laws covering matters which require necessary action and which could not be delayed or to approve urgent expenditure which cannot be delayed. Such laws, which should not contravene the provisions of the Constitution, shall have the force of law, provided that they be placed before the House at the beginning of its next session and the House may sanction such laws or amend them. In the event of the rejection of such provisional laws, the Council of Ministers shall with the sanction of the King, immediately declare their cancellation and from the date of declaration such provisional laws shall cease to be in force provided that such cancellation shall not affect any contract which may have been concluded or other rights which may have been acquired thereunder.
- (ii) Provisional laws shall have the same force and effect as the laws promulgated in accordance with Article 93 of this Constitution.
- 95.xx (i) Any ten Senators or Deputies may propose any law. Such proposal shall be referred to the committee concerned in the House for its opinion. If the House is of the opinion that the proposal be accepted it shall refer it to the Government for drafting it in the form of law, and submission to the House either during the same session or in the following session.

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958

xx As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958



- (ii) Any law proposed by Senators or Deputies under the preceding paragraph and rejected by either House, shall not be presented, for a second time, during the same session,
96. Any Senator or Deputy may address questions to the Ministers concerning any general matters, as prescribed in the Standing Orders of the Senate or the House, as the case may be. Any such question shall not be debated before the lapse of eight days from the date of its receipt by the Minister, unless the case is of an urgent nature and the Minister agrees to shorten this period.

## CHAPTER SIX THE JUDICIARY

97. Judges are independent, and in the exercise of their judicial functions they are subject to no authority other than that of the law.
98. Judges of the Civil and Sharia Courts shall be appointed and dismissed by a Royal Decree in accordance with the provisions of the law.
99. The courts shall be divided into three categories:—  
(i) Civil Courts  
(ii) Religious Courts  
(iii) Special Courts
100. The establishment of the different courts, the definition of their categories and their divisions, the limitation of their jurisdiction and their administration shall be determined by a special law which shall provide for the establishment of a High Court of Justice.
101. (i) The courts shall be open to all and are free from any interference in their affairs.  
(ii) The sittings of the courts shall be public unless the court considers that it should sit in camera in the interest of public order or decorum.
- 102.x The Civil Courts in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan shall have jurisdiction over all persons in all matters, civil and criminal, including cases brought by, and against, the Government, except in matters which, by the provisions of the Constitution, xx or of any Law

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958

xx As amended in Official Gazette No. 1396 of 1/9/1958

- for the time being in force, fall within the jurisdiction of Religious Courts or Special Courts.
103. ( i ) The Civil Courts shall exercise their jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters in accordance with the law for the time being in force in the Kingdom provided that, in matters affecting the personal status of foreigners, or in matters of a civil and commercial nature in which it is customary by international usage to apply the law of another country, that law shall be applied in a manner to be prescribed by law.
- ( ii ) Matters of personal status are those matters which are defined by law and are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Sharia Courts where the parties are Moslems.
104. The Religious Courts shall be divided into :—
- ( i ) The Sharia Courts
- ( ii ) The tribunals of other Religious Communities.
105. The Sharia Courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction in the following matters in accordance with its special laws:—
- ( i ) Matters of Personal status of Moslems.
- ( ii ) Cases concerning blood money ( diyeh ) where the two parties are Moslems or where one of the parties is not a Moslem and the two parties consent to the jurisdiction of the Sharia Courts.
106. The Sharia Courts shall apply in its proceedings the provisions of the Sharia Law.
107. The regulation of the affairs of Moslem trusts (Wakfs) and the administration of their financial affairs and other related matters shall be defined by a special law.
108. The tribunals of Religious Communities are the tribunals of the non-moslem religious tribunals which were or will be recognised by the Government as being established in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
109. ( i ) Tribunals of Religious Communities shall be established in accordance with a law to be enacted concerning them. Such law shall define the jurisdiction

of such tribunals in matters of personal status and trusts ( wakfs ) constituted for the benefit of the community concerned. Matters of personal status of any such community shall be the same matters as are, in the case of Moslems, within the jurisdiction of the Sharia Courts.

( ii ) Such laws shall determine the procedure to be followed by the tribunals of the Religious Communities.

110. Special Courts shall exercise jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of the law constituting them.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

111. No tax or duty shall be levied except by law. Taxes and duties shall not include the various kinds of fees which the Treasury charges in respect of services rendered to members of the public by Government Departments or in consideration of benefits accruing to them from State Domain. In levying taxes, the Government shall be guided by the principle of progressive taxation, coupled with the insurance of equality and social justice provided that taxation shall not exceed the capacity of taxpayers or exceed the State's requirements for funds.

112. ( i ) The Draft law covering revenue and expenditure shall be submitted to the National Assembly for debate in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution one month at least before the beginning of the financial year.

( ii ) Voting in respect of the budget shall be taken on each head separately.

( iii ) No sum of the expenditure part of the General Budget shall be transferred from one head to another except by law.

( iv ) The National Assembly, when debating the General Budget Draft law or the provisional laws relating thereto, may reduce the expenditures under the different heads according to what it considers is in the public

interest but shall not increase such expenditure either by amendment or by submitting a separate proposal, provided that the National Assembly may after the debate, propose laws for the creation of new expenditure.

- ( v ) During the debate of the General Budget, no proposal shall be accepted for the repeal of an existing tax or the creation of a new tax or reducing existing taxes which are levied by financial laws in force and no proposal shall be accepted for amending expenditure or revenue fixed by contract.
- (vi) The estimates of national revenue and expenditure for every financial year shall be approved by the General Budget law, provided that the law may provide for the allocation of any special sums for a period exceeding one year.

113.x If it was not possible to enact the General Budget law prior to the beginning of the new financial year, expenditure shall continue by monthly appropriations at the rate of 1/12 th of each month of the previous year.

114. The Council of Ministers may, with approval of the King, make regulations for the control of appropriations and expenditure of public funds, and the organization of Governments stores.

115. All receipts from taxes and other sources of Government revenue shall be paid into the Treasury and shall be included in the Government Budget save where otherwise provided by law. No part of the funds of the Treasury shall be appropriated or expended for any purpose whatever unless sanctioned by law.

116. The Civil List of the King shall be paid from the General revenue, and shall be fixed in the General Budget law.

117. Any concession granting a right for the exploitation of mines, minerals or public utilities must be sanctioned by law.

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958

118. No person shall be exempted from payment of any taxes or duties in circumstances other than those prescribed by law.
119. An Audit Office shall be constituted by law to audit the State's revenue and the manner of expenditure.
- (i) The Audit Office shall submit to the House of Deputies, at the beginning of every ordinary session, or whenever the House so demands, a general report embodying its views and comments and indicating any irregularities committed and the responsibility arising therefrom.
  - (ii) The law shall make provision for the immunity of the Head of the Audit Office.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### GENERAL MATTERS

120. The administrative divisions of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the establishment of the Government departments, their classification, designation, and programme of operations and the manner of their appointment of civil servants, their dismissal, discipline, and definition of their jurisdiction and specialization shall be governed by Regulations to be issued by the Council of Ministers, with the approval of the King.
121. Municipal and local council affairs shall be administered by municipal or local councils in accordance with special laws.
122. The High Tribunal provided for in Article 57 shall have the right to interpret the provisions of the Constitution either at the request of the Council of Ministers or by a decision taken by any House of the National Assembly, by an absolute majority. Such interpretation shall be implemented upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

123. ( i ) The Special Tribunal ( Diwan Khas ) may interpret the text of an any law which has not been interpreted by the Courts at the request of the Prime Minister.
- ( ii ) The Special Tribunal ( Diwan Khas ) shall be constituted of the president of the highest Civil Court as Chairman, two of its judges and another senior administrative official who shall be appointed by the Council of Ministers as members. It shall also include a member, delegated by the Minister, from among the senior officials of the Ministry concerned.
- (iii) x The Special Tribunal ( Diwan Khas ) shall give its decisions by majority of votes.
- ( iv ) Decisions given by the Special Tribunal ( Diwan Khas ) and published in the Official Gazette shall have the force of law.
- ( v ) All other matters concerning the interpretation of law shall be decided as they arise by the courts of law in the ordinary way.
124. In the event of an emergency necessitating the defence of the realm, a law which shall be cited as the Defence law shall be enacted giving power to any person, specified therein, to take such actions and measures, as may be necessary, including the suspension of the operation of the ordinary laws of the State, with a view to ensuring the defence of the Realm. The Defence law shall come into force upon its proclamation by a Royal Decree based on a decision of the Council of Ministers.
125. ( i ) In the event of an emergency of a serious nature to the extent that action under the preceding Article of this Constitution would be considered insufficient for the defence of the Kingdom, the King may, by a Royal Decree, based on a decision of the Council of Ministers, declare martial law in all or any part of the Kingdom.

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x As amended in Official Gazette No. 1380 of 4/5/1958

( ii ) When martial law is declared the King may, by a Royal Decree, issue such instructions as may be necessary for the defence of the Kingdom, notwithstanding the provisions of any law in force. Persons acting under such instructions, shall not incur any legal liability for all acts done by them under the provisions of any law such until they are released from that responsibility by a special law to be enacted for the purpose.

126. ( i ) The procedure prescribed in this Constitution with regard to draft laws shall apply to any Draft for the amendment of this Constitution, provided that any such amendment is passed by a two-third majority of members of both, the Senate and the House of Deputies separately. In the event of a joint meeting of the Senate and the House of Deputies, in accordance with Article 92 of this Constitution, the amendment must be passed by a two-third majority of members of both houses provided that, in each case, the amendment shall not come into force unless approved by the King.

( ii ) No amendment of the Constitution affecting the rights of the King & his heirs shall be passed during a period of Regency.

127. The duties of the Army shall be restricted to the defence of the Realm and its safety.

( i ) Recruitment to the Army, its organization and the rights and duties of its personnel shall be defined by law.

( ii ) The organization of the police and gendarmerie and their powers and jurisdiction shall be defined by law.

## **CHAPTER NINE**

### **ENFORCEMENT AND REPEAL OF LAWS**

128. All Laws and Regulations and other existing legislation in force in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the date

of the enforcement of this Constitution shall continue to be in force until they are repealed or amended by legislation.

129. ( i ) The Jordan Constitution issued on the 7 th December 1946, and all amendments thereto, are hereby repealed.
- ( ii ) The Palestine Order-in-Council, 1922, and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.
- ( iii ) The repeals referred to in the preceding two paragraphs shall not affect the validity of any Law or Regulation made or act done in virtue thereof, prior to the coming into force of the provisions of this Constitution.
130. The provisions of this Constitution shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.
131. The Council of Ministers shall be charged with the execution of the provisions of this Constitution.

1/1/1952

**TALAL**



**Tawfiq Abul Huda**  
Prime Minister and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Sa'id El-Mufli**  
Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Interior

**Mohammad Amin Shenqiti**  
Chief Justice.

**Ruhi Abdul Hadi**  
Minister of Education

**Sulieman Sukker**  
Minister of Commerce  
and Economy

**Anestas Hanania**  
Minister of Justice Develop-  
ment and Reconstruction

**Jamil Tutunji**  
Minister of Health and  
Social Affairs

**Hashem Jayousi**  
Minister of Communications

**Sulieman Abdul Razzak Touqan**  
Minister of Agriculture  
and Defence

**Abdul Halim Hmoud**  
Minister of Finance