

Press Review Jordan

24 July to 30 July 2017

Foreign Affairs

- King **Abdullah** met with **journalists** this week to discuss the crisis at **Al Aqsa** and highlighted Jordan's efforts to return to the status quo prior to the new security measures by Israel. Speaking of the **embassy incident** (more below), justice for Jordanians is of the highest importance to the Kingdom and the government will pursue the **investigation** accordingly. (July 29th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)
- **Two Jordanian nationals** were **shot** on the 23rd of July at a residential building affiliated with the **Israeli embassy**; one **Israeli official** was **wounded**. Jordan authorities report that an argument over furniture delivery developed into an **assault** by 16 year old Mohammad Jawawdeh on the Israeli diplomat who then shot the Jordanian in **self-defence**. Another round hit the **owner of the residential building** who was present at the time but was not part of the assault. The diplomat has travelled back to Israel, along with the embassy personnel, after giving his statement and Israel invoking **diplomatic immunity**. (July 25th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)

Domestic Politics

- Lawmakers have approved **amendments** to strengthen the **independence** of the **judiciary**. In detail, the amendments ensure an **independent budget** while **shortening the retirement age** of judges. Further changes were made to the Judicial Council and its organisational framework. (July 24th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)
- Following the events at the **Israeli embassy**, protestors called for the **closure of the Israeli embassy** and a **cancellation of the Wadi Araba** peace deal. These protests have been a regular sight in Amman and other parts of Jordan since the shooting as well as the developments around Al-Aqsa. (July 29th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)

Economy

- The **relaxed rules of origin** for Jordanian commodities entering the European market have so far **only benefited two companies** in Jordan. The 10 year deal signed last year lets Jordanian companies apply the label "made in Jordan", even if 70 percent of raw materials used in the production come from outside the country. (July 24th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)
- The Minister of State for Investment Affairs announced that an **investment plan for governorates** will be launched shortly. The investments target **small to medium sized enterprises** to enhance the

stability of the economy and spur growth. Jordan will also decrease red tape concerning new investments. (July 29th, Jordan Times) > [Further Information](#)