

Press Review Jordan

14 August to 20 August 2017

Foreign Affairs

- According to a UN report, more than **50.000 civilians** are stuck in the unsafe area at the **northern border of Jordan with Syria**. In the last days, air attacks were reported in the area and it is unclear how food supplies can be guaranteed. Jordan closed its border in 2016 after a car bomb attack by Daesh. (August 15th, Aljazeera) > [Further information](#)

Domestic Politics

- On August the 15th, Jordanians cast their vote in the **municipal and governorate elections**. For the first time in Jordan's history, officials on the governorate level could be elected. With a turnout of around **31.7 percent**, the election showcased an increase compared to previous local elections. The election witnessed only minor violations by voter but no systematic fraud. In major cities, access to voting booths was in parts restricted due to **overcrowding** during peak hours. (August 16th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)
- In addition to the elected members, the cabinet has by now **appointed the remaining seats** in governorate councils and the Greater Amman Municipality according to Jordanian law. Among the 45 appointed, 17 **women** were selected in accordance with the quota (August 20th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#))
- One of the reasons for the continuously high levels of **political apathy** is a **lack of awareness**. Many Jordanians are still not aware of the decentralisation efforts and the role the elections on the 15th played. The lowest turnout could be witnessed in Western Amman. (August 16th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)

Economy

- **Consumer prices** in Jordan have gone **up by 3.7 percent** in the first half of the year compared to the figure in 2016. While transportation was a dominating factor in rising inflation, a variety of consumer goods have witnessed rising prices as well. (August 15th, Jordan Times) > [Further information](#)