

Profiles of new ministers

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence

Born in 1947, Bakhit holds a BA in public administration and political science from the University of Jordan, an MA in public administration from the University of Southern California and a PhD from London University. He joined the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) in 1964, graduating from the Royal Jordanian Military College in 1966 with the rank of second lieutenant. He retired from the army in 1999 as a major general. Bakhit has served as professor of political science at Mutah University and vice president for military affairs at the university. He also was director of studies, development, procurements and personnel affairs at the JAF. Bakhit, a former prime minister and ambassador to Turkey and Israel, is the recipient of 14 Jordanian medals.



Marouf Bakhit

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

Born in 1947 in Mafrag, Srour obtained a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 1970. Srour worked for the Greater Amman Municipality, and in several Arab and international companies in Saudi Arabia from 1974 to 1981. He was a member in the National Consultative Council from 1982-1984 and a former deputy in the Lower House for several terms. Srour has also served as a minister of water and irrigation and public works and housing.



Saad Hayel Srour

Minister of State and Minister of Agriculture

Born in Bethlehem in 1951, Habashneh earned his BSc in agricultural engineering from Baghdad University in 1974. He worked in the Agricultural Cooperative Society and then as a consultant at the ministry of youth in 1992. In 1993, he became a deputy in Parliament, representing the southern Governorate of Karak. He was appointed minister of culture in 1995 and became a senator in 2001. He was a member of the Jordan First Committee and a member in the Jordanian Parties Committee. He served as minister of interior in previous cabinets.



Samir Habashneh

Minister of Social Development

Born in 1946, Damen graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Jordan in 1977 and obtained a master's degree in population studies from the same university in 1984. She has served as a member of the Senate, chairperson of the Committee for Population and Development and the Arab Parliamentary Interim.



Salwa Damen

Minister of Industry and Trade

Born in 1951, Mulki received his PhD in industrial and systems engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York and an MSc in management engineering from the same institution. Mulki was a former minister of industry and trade, supply, water and irrigation. He also served as president of the Royal Scientific Society and secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology. Mulki served as Jordan's ambassador to Egypt and the Arab League.



Hani Mulki

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Born in Amman, Judeh received his elementary and secondary education in Jordan and the UK and obtained a BSc degree in foreign service at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He has served at the Royal Hashemite Court, first in His Majesty King Hussein's press office from 1985-1986 and subsequently as private secretary to HRH Prince Hassan from 1986-1992. In 1992, he was posted to London to establish and head the Jordan Information Bureau. He returned to Jordan in October 1994 to assume the position as director of Jordan Television and in 1998 was appointed as director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation. Judeh served in previous governments as government spokesperson and as minister of state for media affairs and communications.



Nasser Judeh

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources

Born in Amman in 1954, Toukan obtained a BSc from the American University of Beirut, an MA from Michigan State University, and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US. Toukan was president of Balqa Applied University and worked as head of the nuclear engineering department and dean of the department of engineering and technology at the University of Jordan. Toukan, who has served as education minister, was chairman of the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission.



Khaled Toukan

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

Born in 1939, Akour graduated with a BA in Sharia from the University of Damascus in 1966. He worked as a teacher in a secondary school for two years and was also a full-time lecturer at Howwara College for two years and a part-time lecturer at Yarmouk University for a year. Akour was a civil servant for 22 years. As a lecturer, he visited several Islamic centres in Europe and the US. He was a member of the Lower House for eight years and also a member of the consultative council in Irbid Governorate.



Abdel Rahim Akour

Minister of Finance

Born in Salt in 1961, Abu Hammour obtained his bachelor's degree in economics in 1984 from Yarmouk University, his master's degree in the same field in 1990, and a PhD in economics in 1997. He worked at the Central Bank of Jordan from 1987 until 1998, and also in the University of Jordan as a part-time lecturer. Abu Hammour served in the finance ministry, handling several posts before becoming the secretary general in late 2000. He also served as minister of industry and trade in a previous government.



Mohammad Abu Hammour

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Born in Maan in 1945, Abu Karaki obtained a BA and a master's in oriental studies, after which he joined the army and was assistant chairman of the chiefs-of-staff for administration and then for operations, retiring in 1999. He served as minister of social development in a previous government and was appointed as a Senator. Abu Karaki has also served as president of the National Food Security Company.



Riyad Abu Karaki

Minister of Education

Holder of a PhD in educational psychology from Petersburg University, Nueimi was associate professor at the psychology department of Mutah University, served as deputy president of the National Centre for the Development of Human Resources, and worked as a professor in the Balqa Applied University. He was appointed education ministry secretary general for educational and technical affairs in 2004. He served as education minister in previous governments.



Tayseer Nueimi

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation

Born in 1968 in Khreibet Al Souq, Hassan obtained a PhD and a master's degree in political science and international economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies at Geneva University in Switzerland. He also holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and another in international relations from Boston University. Hassan previously worked as the director of the international affairs department at the Royal Hashemite Court in Jordan (2006-2009), where he supervised the files related to foreign affairs, bilateral relations and strategic projects. He began his career in the foreign service in 1991 and held diplomatic posts in Washington, DC, as deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires (2001-2006), and at Jordan's mission to the UN European Headquarters in Geneva (1995-1999).



Jafar Hassan

Minister of Water and Irrigation

Born in 1956, Najjar holds a master's degree in environmental engineering from Newcastle University in the UK, awarded in 1988, and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, which he earned in 1981 from Krasnodar University in Russia. He started work at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in 1981 and held several posts, including director of the projects department and the Khirbet Al Samra Project. He also was director of private sector projects at the Water Authority, the Wastewater Projects Directorate, the Environmental Directorate and the planning and administration unit.



Mohammad Najjar

Minister of Justice

Born in Jerash in 1937, Mjalli joined the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) in 1965 and has been practising law for 45 years. He was the first Jordanian lawyer to join the International Bar Association (IBA) and become the first Arab lawyer to become a board member of the IBA. He has been elected president of the JBA for five terms. Mjalli, who was a member of Parliament from 1989-1993, served as a lecturer and the faculty of law at the University of Jordan.



Hussein Mjalli

Minister of Public Sector Development and Minister of Political Development

Born in 1948, Saket holds a bachelor's degree in economic management from Baghdad. He served as assistant secretary general at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and as president of the Civil Service Bureau.



Mazen Saket

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Born in 1947, Owais got his BSc in biology from the American University of Beirut. In 1972, he earned his MSc in biochemistry from the University of Jordan, and his PhD in molecular genetics from Washington State University in 1979. He served as professor of genetics, a researcher, chairman of the King Abdullah University Hospital board and president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology from September 2003 to February 2011.



Wajih Owais

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs

Born in Tafleeh in 1951, Adeinat obtained his BA from the University of Jordan in 1975 and holds a PhD in economics from the University of Southern California. He was vice president and member of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Prior to that, he served as president of the Social Security Corporation's investment fund and director general of the Income Tax Department. Adeinat also held several academic posts, including dean of the University of Jordan's social and humanitarian sciences and economy faculties, and dean of the administrative sciences faculty at the Hashemite University. He served as a board member of different private companies and an expert in the German Agency for Technical Cooperation.



Mohammad Adeinat

Minister of Public Works and Housing

Born in Wadi Seer in 1949, Kisbi has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Ankara University and a master's degree in construction management from George Washington University in the US. At the beginning of his career, he joined the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as an engineer, and later headed a division in the ministry. He also served as director of World Bank financing projects at the Ministry of Education. He became assistant secretary general at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and served as director general of the Government Tender Department.



Yahya Kisbi

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities

Abu Ghazaleh holds a PhD in education and psychology from the Jesuit University in Beirut, in addition to an MA in education counselling from the University of Jordan and a BA in psychology and sociology from Ein Shams University in Cairo. She has served as a senator, the regional programme director for the Arab States Regional Office at UNIFEM and president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women. Abu Ghazaleh was secretary general of the National Council for Family Affairs.



Haifa Abu Ghazaleh

Minister of Transport

Born in the Palestinian town of Al Bireh in 1953, Qudah holds a BS in civil engineering from Alexandria University and a master's in construction management from Washington University in St. Louis. From 1995 to 1999 Qudah served as head of northern water sub-committee established for negotiating the implementation plans of the water projects on the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers, after managing domestic water projects with the Jordan Valley Authority. Qudah also served as chairman of the board and director general for the Jordanian Syrian Land Transport Co. In December 2007 he was appointed as secretary general of the Ministry of Transport.



Mohannad Qudah

Minister of Culture

Born in Madaba in 1936, Masarweh obtained his bachelor's degree from Syria and studied TV production in Germany. He is a former senator and editor-in-chief of Sawt Al Shaab newspaper. He was also a columnist at Al Rai daily newspaper.



Tareq Masarweh

Minister of Information and Communication Technology

Born in Irbid in 1955, Tal graduated with a BSc in electronic engineering from Nottingham University in 1978 and earned an MA in systems engineering from the Cranfield Institute of Technology, Britain, in 1995. He joined the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) in 1973. Between 1999 and 2005, he served as director of communications and electronics at the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Until his appointment yesterday, he was serving as chief-of-staff for strategic planning at the JAF with the rank of major general.



Atef Tal

Minister of Health

Born in 1946 in Mafrag, Husban has a master's degree in medicine and dental industry from the University of London in 1976. He joined the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) in 1969 and retired in 2000 with the rank of major general and as the director of the Royal Medical Services after 30 years of service.



Yassin Husban

Minister of Labour

Born in Karak in 1956, Al Kafawin obtained his bachelor's degree in social sciences in 1981 from the University of Cairo. In 1990, he earned an MA in the same field from the same university. In 1999, he got an MBA in management, and a PhD in social studies from Wales University in 2001. He served at the Ministry of Social Development from 1981-2004 and as director general of the National Aid Fund from 2004-2010.



Mahmoud Al Kafawin

Minister of Environment

Shakhshir has a BSc in pharmacy from Cairo. He served as president of the Jordan Pharmacy Association and president of the Arab Pharmacy Union.



Taher Shakhshir

Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communications

Born in Amman in 1945, Odwan holds a bachelor's degree in economics. He served as an editor-in-chief of Al Arab Al Yawm newspaper. Odwan, who is also a novelist, was a columnist for several local newspapers.



Taher Odwan

Minister of Municipal Affairs

Born in 1964, Qashou has a PhD in urban planning. He served as secretary general of Al Resalah Party and a writer at Al Rai daily newspapers.



Hazem Qashou