

Law on Political Parties

Law N^o. (39) of 2015¹

Article 1 – This Law shall be called the “Law of Political Parties of 2015” and shall enter into force as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 2 – Wherever they should occur herein, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings designated hereunder unless otherwise indicated by the context:

<i>Ministry</i>	:	Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs
<i>Minister</i>	:	Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs
<i>Committee</i>	:	Committee of Party Affairs created in compliance with the this Law.
<i>Chairperson</i>	:	Chairperson of the Committee
<i>Secretary</i>	:	Secretary General of the Party
<i>Representative of Founding Members</i>	:	The member delegated by the founding members in accordance with the rules of this law.

Article 3 – Every political organization consisting of a group of Jordanians shall be considered a party when established in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution and this Law with the purpose of participating in political life as well as achieving specific objectives related to political, economic, and social affairs and is operating through legitimate and peaceful means.

Article 4

- A. Jordanians shall have the right to form and join parties in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and this Law.
- B. A party shall have the right to participate in the various elections taking place in the Kingdom in accordance with the Law.

Article 5

- A. A party shall be formed on the basis of citizenship and equality amongst Jordanians as well as abidance to democracy and respect of political pluralism.
- B. A party cannot be formed on religious, sectarian, ethnic, or faction basis, or on discriminatory basis caused by gender or origin.

Article 6

- A. The founding members of any party shall not be less than one hundred and fifty individuals.
- B. A founding member shall fulfill the following conditions:

¹ Translated by Support to the Electoral Cycle in Jordan Project, which is funded by the European Union and UNDP. The original Arabic version can be found at <http://moppa.gov.jo/Pages/viewpage.aspx?pageID=214>

1. Has been a Jordanian national for ten years at least.
2. Has completed his eighteenth year of age.
3. Has not been convicted of a crime or misdemeanor that harms public morale and ethics except for crimes of a political nature, unless the individual has been rehabilitated.
4. Enjoys full civil and legal competence.
5. Usually resides in the Kingdom.
6. Cannot be judge.
7. Cannot be a member of any other party or any other non-Jordanian political organization.
8. Cannot be an employee of the Jordanian Armed Forces, any security apparatus, or the Civil Defense.

Article 7

- A. At least, five Jordanians wishing to form a party shall have the right to notify the Chairperson, in writing, of that wish. The written notice shall include the preliminary principles and notions of the party to enable them to exercise their preparatory political activities and promote the party's establishment. The application to establish the party shall be submitted once the requirements stipulated in this Law have been fulfilled within no more than one year from the date of the notice.
- B. If the requirements stipulated in this Law are not fulfilled within the period provided for in Paragraph (A) of this Article, the applicants shall suspend their activities to establish the party. They may not submit a new application until three months have lapsed as from the date of suspending their activities.

Article 8 – Every party shall have a bylaw that includes the following:

- a. Name of the party and its logo (slogan); neither of which may be similar to the name or logo of any other Jordanian party.
- b. The principles of the party and the objectives it seeks to fulfill as well as the means to achieve them.
- c. The terms for party membership and the procedures to join it in line with the Constitution and this Law.
- d. The procedures to create the entities of the party and select its leadership including the Secretary. Such procedures will also include regulating the relationship of the party with its members, the measures to embark on its activities, and the assignment of political, organizational, financial and

administrative functions for each of its entities. This shall be based on the regular democratic elections that the party conducts to elect its leadership and all levels of its entities.

- e. Adherence to the principles and rules stipulated in the Constitution and in this Law.
- f. Identification of the financial resources of the party and the provisions to organize its financial affairs, draft its annual budget, book keeping procedures including the facets of spending its funds, procedures of disbursement, and production of its final statements of accounts for every preceding year.
- g. Procedures to approve the annual budget of the party and ratify its final statement of accounts for every preceding year by the highest elected party authority.
- h. The obligation to hold a periodic public national conference or a parallel event according to the party's bylaw, annually.
- i. Identifying the entity within the party to issue final decisions with regard to:
 - (i) Breaches by party members.
 - (ii) Disputes between the members of the party and its entities.
 - (iii) Applications to join the party.
 - (iv) Procedures of merging the party with another.
 - (v) Procedures of voluntary dissolution of the party and the provisions to liquidate its funds on condition that such funds revert back to the parties' line item in the General Budget of the State.

Article 9

- A. A committee shall be created at the Ministry and called the "Party Affairs Committee" to consider the applications to form parties and follow up on their affairs in compliance with the provisions of this Law, to be chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry and membership of:
 - 1. Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior, appointed as vice-chair and acting on his behalf in the event of his absence
 - 2. Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice
 - 3. Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture
 - 4. Representative of civil society organizations, nominated by the Prime Minister
 - 5. Representative of the National Center for Human Rights, nominated by its Board of Trustees

- B. The Chairperson will represent the Committee before the official and judicial entities and any other entity.
- C. The Committee will meet upon invitation by the Chairperson; its meeting shall be legal when the majority of its members are present on condition that the Chairperson or the Vice-chair is one of them. The decisions will be made with the majority of votes present.
- D. The Chairperson will appoint a secretary to the Committee from among the staff of the Ministry.

Article10

- A. The application to establish a party shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Committee signed by the founding members with the following statements and documents attached thereto:
 - a.1. Three copies of the party bylaw signed by the founding members.
 - a.2. An authorization document signed by the founding members in favor of three founding members authorized to submit the application to establish the party and follow up all the required procedures before the official, judicial and other agencies until announcing the party as established and its entities are fully formed according to the form that the committee approves for this purpose.
 - a.3. A list containing the name of each founding member printed in four parts; his national number, profession, workplace, and residential address. Attached to this list, there shall be a copy of the personal identity card of each founder issued by the Civil Status and Passport Department and endorsed by one of the authorized founding members.
 - a.4. A testimony to be signed by the three authorized founders before the Committee Secretary to attest the authenticity of the signatures of the founding members affixed on the documents stipulated in this article.
 - a.5. Address of the party's headquarters and addresses of its branches which shall be in the Kingdom. The addresses shall be announced and approved for the purpose of serving any notification in compliance with the provisions of this Law.
- B. The authorized founders will select one of them to represent the founders before the Committee in accordance with a power-of –attorney to follow up on procedures of registration, present information and documents to the Committee as well as receiving

notifications and notices on behalf of all founders during the establishment of the party until its establishment is announced and its entities have been fully formed.

Article 11

- A. When receiving the application to establish a party and the documents attached thereto, the Committee Secretary shall write a notice outlining the date of receiving the application. The Representative of the founders shall sign this notice.
- B. The Committee Secretary shall audit the names of founders and verify fulfillment of requirements as stipulated in Article (6) herein.

Article 12

- A. The Committee Secretary shall have the right to ask for any documents or statements necessary and provided for in this Law to complete the establishment procedures. His request shall be made through a letter to be issued within thirty days as from the date of receiving the establishment application.
- B. The representative of the founders shall submit the required documents and statements within fifteen days from the date of receiving the letter from the Committee Secretary. The Chairperson shall extend this period to a similar period upon the request of the representative to the founders.
- C. The Committee Secretary shall issue a notice outlining the date of receiving the documents and statements required. The Representative of the founders shall sign this notice.

Article 13

- A. If the number of founding members becomes less than the minimal provided for in paragraph (A) of Article (6) of this Law for any reason whatsoever before announcing the party establishment according to the provisions of this Law, the Committee Secretary will inform the authorized members or their representative about this point. They shall complete the number within one month as of the date of their notification. Otherwise, the establishment application will become void.
- B. At the beginning of every year, the Party shall provide the Committee with a list of names of its members.

Article 14

- A. If the application to establish the party fulfills the requirements provided for in this Law, the Committee will make a decision to announce the establishment of the party within no more than seven days from the lapse of sixty days following the date on the notice of receiving the establishment application or the lapse of thirty days following the date of the notice of receiving the documents and statements mentioned in Article (12) of this Law.

- B. If the Committee rejects the party establishment within the period stipulated in Paragraph (A) of this Article, it shall justify its decision and serve it to the Founders' Representative in accordance with the provisions of this Law. The Committee cannot present other reasons before the competent court.
- C. The resolutions made to announce the party establishment in compliance with the provisions of this Article shall be published in the Official Gazette and in two local daily newspapers.
- D. If the Committee does not issue a resolution to the effect of registering the party or declining its registration within the period stipulated in paragraphs (A) and (B) of this Article, the party shall be deemed as registered according to the provisions of this Law.

Article 15

- A. Any of the founders shall have the right to appeal, before the Administrative Court, the Committee's resolution to decline the party registration within sixty days from the day following the notification date of the resolution of rejection to the Founders' Representative.
- B. Should the court ruling revokes the Committee's decision to reject the party establishment, the party shall be registered as of the date of issuing the court rule. The ruling shall be published in the Official Gazette and two local daily newspapers.

Article 16 – While observing the provisions of Article (7) of this Law, the party cannot advertise itself visible or practice its activities until after its establishment is declared in compliance with this Law.

Article 17

- a.5.A. After declaring its establishment, the party enjoys a juridical person. It shall have the right to possess movable and immovable property to enable it to undertake its duties and any other actions in compliance with this Law.
- a.5.B. The party cannot be dissolved except upon the provisions of its bylaw or upon a judicial verdict in accordance with this Law.
- a.5.C. The party affairs shall be administered by a leadership formed according to its bylaw. The Secretary General will represent the party before the official and judicial agencies as well as any other agency. The Secretary General shall have the right to authorize any of his tasks and powers to one or more of the party leadership members, provided that such authorization shall be in writing and specific. The Secretary General shall have the right to authorize any attorney for any of the official, judicial, legal procedures and any other procedures pertinent to the party.

Article 18 – Every Jordanian completing eighteen years of age shall have the right to join the party after being announced as established in compliance with this Law, provided that he

fulfills the requirements stated in Paragraph (B) of Article (6) of this Law excluding item (5) of that paragraph.

Article 19 – No citizen can be confronted, held accountable, or have his constitutional or legal rights undermined on the grounds of his partisan affiliation.

Article 20 – In exercising its activities, a party shall abide by the following principles and rules:

- a. Provisions of the Constitution and respect of supremacy of the law.
- b. Maintaining the independence and security of the country as well as safeguarding the national unity away from discrimination among citizens.
- c. The principles of democracy and respect of political pluralism in thought, opinion, and association.
- d. Fulfilling the principle of equal opportunities among all citizens when assuming responsibility or contributing to it.
- e. Maintaining neutrality of public institutions in undertaking their duties.
- f. Refraining from any organizational or financial association to any non-Jordanian agency; and abstain from guiding the partisan activity according to orders or instructions from any foreign state or agency.
- g. Abstaining from partisan association and polarization in the judiciary, ranks of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the security apparatus, and Civil Defense.
- h. Renouncing all types of violence and abstain from creating any military or paramilitary organizations.
- i. Refraining from offering grants, cash, or in-kind donations to Party members.

Article 21 – The Party shall inform the Committee Secretary of its headquarters address and locations of its branches within thirty days as of the date of opening any of them.

Article 22 – A party shall keep in its headquarters the following records and data:

- a. The party bylaw.
- b. Names of the leadership members, the founding members, and members of the party as well as the address, place of residence, and personal data of each.
- c. Log of resolutions made by the party.
- d. Record of detailed revenues and expenses of the party in compliance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 23

- A. The Party headquarters, documents, correspondence, and means of communications are safeguarded and cannot be monitored, raided, or confiscated without a judicial decision according to the provisions of the law.
- B. With the exception of for “flagrante delicto” cases, no headquarter of any party can be inspected unless upon a decision by the competent Public Prosecutor; in his presence and the presence of a representative of the party. Should the representative refuse, it shall be affixed in the inspection report which is then held with two witnesses present.
- C. Violating the provisions of paragraph (B) of this Article will void the inspection and its results. The violator shall be held civilly and criminally liable.

Article 24

- A. A party may use public cultural and social facilities and centers of trade unions, associations and clubs on condition that prior approval is obtained from those in charge of such facilities and centers in accordance with the provisions of valid legislation.
- B. It shall be prohibited to use:
 - (i) The places of worship for any partisan activity.
 - (ii) Funds of trade unions, associations, clubs, and sports federations to serve the interests of any party.

Article 25

- A. In securing funding, a party shall depend wholly on Jordanian financial resources that are identified, announced and specific in compliance with the provisions of this Law.
- B. A party may accept grants and donations that are identified, announced and specified from natural and corporate Jordanian persons. These grants and donations shall be identified and announced.
- C. A party is prohibited from receiving any cash or in-kind funding, grants or donations from:
 - 1. Any foreign state or agency.
 - 2. Any anonymous source.

Article 26

- A. A party may invest its funds and resources inside the Kingdom in a known and declared manner via any of the following methods:
 - (i) Issue party periodicals and literature as well as any other printed materials.

- (ii) Own any available media outlets and use them to express principles, views, and standpoints; and for any other media purposes in compliance with valid legislation.
 - (iii) Own real estate for the purposes of its headquarters or branches.
 - (iv) Use any parts of its premises for public or private ceremonies or events, in return for a fee in line with the valid legislation.
 - (v) Keep its funds at Jordanian banks as timed deposits in return for interests or on the basis of partnership.
 - (vi) Purchase treasury bonds in compliance with the valid legislation.
 - (vii) Any other activities to be outlined in special regulations to be issued for this purpose.
- B. A party shall deposit its funds in Jordanian banks.
- C. A party shall spend its money for the purposes and aims provided for in its bylaw without violating this Law.
- D. For the purposes of establishing penal liability, the funds of a party shall be considered public funds, and the administrators of party affairs and its staff shall be deemed public servants.

Article 27 – The premises of a party shall be exempted from all government taxes and fees incurred by immovable properties.

Article 28 – A line item shall be designated in the general budget of the state as a treasury contribution to support parties; the conditions to provide such support and its amount as well as its expenditure procedures shall be outlined in regulations issued for this purpose.

Article 29

- A. A party shall appoint a certified accountant to audit its annual accounts and financial statements.
- B. A party shall send the following to the Committee annually within three months from the end of the fiscal year:
1. A copy of its ratified annual budget and financial statements of the previous year in accordance with its charter.
 2. A statement signed by the Secretary General with a breakdown of the party's financial resources.

- C. The Chairperson or his delegate shall have the right to review the accounts of a party and audit its financial records; and submit a relevant report to the Committee with a copy sent to the Secretary General.
- D. The person authorized by the Chairperson may be a certified accountant or a representative of the Audit Bureau.

Article 30

- A. A party may modify its bylaw or merge with another party in compliance with the Constitution and the law, and notify the Committee of this.
- B.
 - 1. The Secretary General shall inform the Committee Secretary by a letter against a receipt notice of any resolution issued by the party to dissolve itself, merge it, or introduce any change to its leadership, within ten days as of the date of issuing the resolution or introducing the change or modification.
 - 2. The Committee shall issue its resolution to approve or reject the modification of the bylaw of a party or its merger with another party within two weeks from the date of its notification.
- C. In the event of merging two parties or more to form one party, the new party shall be juridical and all the rights to which the merged parties were entitled shall revert to it. This new party will also be responsible for all the liabilities of each of the former parties.

Article 31

- A. The address written in the application to establish a party shall be used to serve a party with any resolutions, notices, or other procedures made in compliance with this Law unless the Secretary General informs the Committee Secretary of a new address to be used for this purpose.
- B. The Committee Secretary will serve any resolution or notification issued by the Committee according to this Law by sending it to the party via registered mail to the address approved by the Committee as per the provisions of Paragraph (A) of this Article.
- C. If the notification could not be made according to Paragraph (B) of this Article, the notification will be made by publishing it twice in two local daily newspapers. As such, the notification will be deemed legal and effective.
- D. In all cases, the Committee Secretary, or his delegate, shall have the right to serve the resolutions of the Committee and its notifications to the Secretary General in person.

Article 32

- A. The final resolutions by a party to resolve violations and disputes amongst its members and entities according to its Charter shall be subject to appeal before the competent Court of First Instance.
- B. The decision of the First Instance Court issued in line with Paragraph (A) of this Article shall be subject to appeal before the competent Court of Appeal whose decision shall be final.

Article 33 – Taking into account any stricter penalties provided for in any other law:

- a. Every party member will be imprisoned for no less than one year if he receives money or agrees to receive it on behalf of the party from any foreign state or agency.
- b. Every party member will be imprisoned for no less than three months and no more than one year or fined no more than five hundred Jordanian Dinars, or punished with both penalties if he receives money from any public or private juridical person, or any anonymous source.
- c. Anyone violating this Law shall be imprisoned for no more than three months or fined no more than two hundred dinars if no penalty is stipulated for it. In case of a repeated offense, the two penalties shall apply.
- d. When committing any of the acts stipulated in paragraphs (A) and (B) of this Article, the funds yielded as a result of such an act will be confiscated and transferred to the “Parties” line item in the General Budget.

Article 34

- A. A party may not be dissolved without a resolution by the Amman Court of Appeal based on a lawsuit filed by the Committee in any of the following cases:
 - a.1. If a party violates the provisions of Paragraphs (2) and (3) of Article (16) of the Constitution.
 - a.2. If a penal case proves a party’s affiliation with a foreign entity.
 - a.3. If a party accepts funding from a foreign entity.
 - a.4. If a party violated any provision of this Law and has not rectified the violation within thirty days from the date of relevant notification by the Committee.
- B. At the request of the Committee, the Amman Court of Appeal may issue a summary resolution to suspend the party while the case is pending. However, the Court will dispose the case within no more than three months from the date of received by the court.
- C. The Chairperson may delegate, in writing, the Civil Attorney General at Amman Court of Appeal or one of his assistants to file any lawsuit in compliance with this Article and

to submit any claim or defense required for such a lawsuit or the claim it includes. This applies to all procedures necessary for these purposes including notifications, evidence, and pleadings.

Article 35 – Members of the party’s leadership may not be:

- a. Convicted of any of the acts stipulated in Paragraphs (A) and (B) of Article (33) of this Law.
- b. Repeated any of the acts stipulated in Paragraph (C) of Article (33) of this Law.

Article 36 – The procedures to establish a party stipulated in this Law shall not apply to the parties licensed prior to its entry into force.

Article 37 – The Cabinet shall issue the bylaws required for the enforcement of this Law.

Article 38 – The Law of Political parties No. (16) for 2012 will be nullified provided that its relevant bylaws remain valid until nullified or replaced with others according to this Law within no more than one year maximum from the date of its entry into force.

Article 39 – The Prime Minister and the ministers are mandated with the enforcement of this Law.