



Press Statement By Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

First: Global Crisis 2020

Major news agencies and media outlets have covered my statements regarding the expected global crisis in 2020. I would like to confirm that I still stand by what I have been saying for the last year. My prediction of the crisis and a possible actual war has been supported by developments on the international scene. Indications point in the direction of a severe economic crisis and I am now more convinced that the crisis is coming next year especially that the trade sanctions have moved from the fee-imposition phase to an actual trade war and boycott of the products of certain countries. Concurrently and for the first time, experts such as Jeffrey Sachs, a professor of economics at Columbia University are talking about a Cold War. This possible crisis can only be overcome by agreement between the two economic Chinese and American giants, by formulating a New World Order, which may have to be preceded by a real war so that the Chinese will sit across the negotiating table with the Americans to produce such an agreement.

I would like to reiterate here my earlier thought that the crisis is also an opportunity, and we can examine ways to take advantage of it, warding off its negative effects while realizing its benefits. In a report I published on our websites in March 2019, I made it clear that this crisis will be followed by a period of prosperity that will start from our region as a result of global consensus on its reconstruction. And that will have a positive impact on all economies of the world.

Second: My Resignation from the Senate

His Majesty the King has honored me for the second time with the Senate membership. Since His Majesty taught us to respect the provisions of the Constitution and the rule of law, and based on the recent ruling of the Constitutional Court that prohibit members of the Senate and other similar officials from entering into business contracts with government, I decided to resign because I do have contracts with the government and I would like to continue to serve

my government and its various institutions although much of our work with the government is part of our voluntary social responsibility. We intend to continue to provide professional and educational services and capacity-building programs, such as the provision of hardware, furniture and free Internet under contracts for knowledge centers across the country (with more than 106 centers) and many others as part of our service to this country, under the wise Hashemite Leadership.

Third: Speculations regarding my nomination for a government post

Serving the country is a duty and an honor, and I do this service through Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global, which has taken Jordan as out international base and a center for its financial management. Therefore it goes without saying that the most important and noble services to the country are performed by the Armed Forces, the Security Apparatus and the Judiciary as well as by the educational and business sectors including professional and economic activities. Each one of us serves his country from his position.

In Jordan, there are so many more qualified and more experienced personalities than myself to assume senior government positions.

Fourth: Teachers Strike and Demands

It is true that the salaries of teachers are among the lowest, and this is evident when comparing the salaries with doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants and pharmacists in addition to others. There is need to enhance the status of the teaching profession and to initiate regulation to guarantee teachers' rights, (public and private school teachers) bearing in mind that while medical Doctors take care of our bodies teachers take care of our minds, therefore should be treated equally.

At the same time, I have previously stated that in the age of knowledge, the role of the teacher should move from indoctrination to the role of a technical mentor

because all human knowledge exists on the Internet and can be acquired by students and teachers alike. The teacher therefore should guide students in how to get information and transform it into knowledge and innovation. This requires novel programs capable of developing teachers' technical and professional abilities in conjunction with improving their living conditions based on the evaluation of their performance after receiving the necessary training and qualification.

Fifth: Legislation and Education Systems

On July 10, 2019 Ad-Dustour daily published my article on this issue and I incorporated in it my opinion on the need to reconsider and reevaluate all legislations, systems and regulations relating to education to cope with the requirements of the Knowledge Revolution. Such study should assess the cancellation of the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institutions since its functions proved inefficient particularly that it reports to the Minister of Education instead of the Higher Education Council.

Sixth: Education in the Knowledge Era

I am personally the product of the education system of the 1950s which aimed at graduating job seekers. In the Age of Knowledge and in the Knowledge Revolution (the Fourth Industrial Revolution), the main goal and the main path for wealth-creation is innovation, to the extent that some of the most important inventors, globally, haven't continued their university or even their elementary studies. Needless to say that the richest people of our time are the knowledge inventors. Accordingly, it is evident that the role of school or university is to become the incubator of creativity and innovation (as a materialization of this goal, we have established Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University College for Innovation). One single invention equals the GDP of a number of countries. Examples are: Amazon, Apple, Huawei, Facebook, Alibaba, Google and the list goes on. That is the future,

noting that when I talk about innovation, I mean development and improvement in any work the people do and not necessarily a novel invention.

Seventh: The First Jordanian-Arab Globally Produced Tablets and Laptops

At the beginning, I would like to say that I am proud to be a citizen in a country governed by HM King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein who overwhelmed me by his support and directives and to whom I owe this achievement attributed to the environment of creativity, stability, security; that His Majesty secured to Jordanian national institutions. (I am full of pride that regardless of his tremendous and great responsibilities at all levels, His Majesty found a moment of his precious time to congratulate national accomplishments). Today, we are proud that we have entered the technology of manufacturing tablets and laptops at international standards and with the best technologies of the giant companies in the world at very competitive prices (thanks to TAG Foundation for Community Service financing of this project) to be marketed at a global level.

Eighth: My Opinion about Additional Holidays

Plato said: I love Socrates, but I love the truth more. The truth in this case is when I call for work and increase productivity, I speak as a citizen who understands that the growth of our economy and the improvement of our general conditions are linked to our productivity; as well as the ability of the state (government) and its readiness to provide the necessary services to citizens, mainly in cases of emergency. I say to those who disagree with me, I respect your opinion and accept your disagreement and I would like to reiterate that one's work is for his own benefit first before it is for the benefit of his organization whether it was a government or a private entity, because work means experience and skills so the worker becomes qualified to swiftly assume higher positions and tasks. The gained experience is a wealth of those who acquired it, and they take it with them when they leave their jobs.