Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center has recently released a report entitled “Assessment of the Electoral Framework in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.” This joint initiative of UJRC and Democracy Reporting International (DRI) is the culmination of 3 months of collaboration between researchers from both organisations.

The first section of the report deals with democracy and elections in Jordan. It tackles the political context of elections in Jordan, the system of governance, political parties in Jordan, the 2003 parliamentary elections, and consensus on reform.

The core of the report is in section two, which thoroughly analyses the Legal and Administrative Framework for Parliamentary Elections in Jordan. This section looks into the constitutional and legal basis for parliamentary elections. It analyzes the parliamentary electoral system, while fully explaining the single non-transferable vote system. This section also evaluates the election administration, the right to vote, the right to be elected, electoral complaints and appeals, transparency of the electoral process, campaigning, the media and elections, and election day procedures.

Section three provides a profound assessment of the Municipal Elections in Jordan. It sheds light on the legal framework of the latest 2003 municipal
elections, and explores the new law on municipalities adopted by the government in early 2007.

The report proffers a distinctive list of practical recommendations to improve the currently existing electoral framework in Jordan. Clearly defined legislative reforms are introduced on both the Election Law and the electoral system. The report also presents recommendations on how to reform the election administration, introduce universal, equal suffrage and independent scrutiny, and guarantee the transparency of the electoral process, secrecy of the ballot, enhanced female participation and strengthened political parties.

Finally, it ought to be mentioned that this report was prepared by a research team consisting of Hani Hourani and Hussein Abu-Rumman from UJRC, Amman, and Richard Chambers (UK) and Michaela Küfner (Germany) from DRI, Berlin. The DRI and UJRC experts and researchers conducted an assessment mission that included dozens of consultancies and interview with political parties, civil society and media representatives. Government officials and members of Parliament were also involved in these rounds of consultations. This mission took place throughout November and December 2006. Together, UJRC and DRI organised a workshop in late December in Amman to present and debate some of the initial findings of their electoral framework assessment with political party, government, media and civil society representatives. Having incorporated the feedback, remarks and comments raised during the workshop, this report also includes latest developments on the electoral front in Jordan in the first quarter of 2007.

Published in both Arabic and English, this report can be obtained both as a paper print and an electronic version from UJRC. For more information, please contact Ms. Mona Khalaf on +962 (6) 553-3112/4, fax: +962 (6) 553-3118, or email at info@ujrc-jordan.org