



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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**The Security Council has fixed the date for the election of a successor  
to Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh, former judge and  
Vice-President of the International Court of Justice**

THE HAGUE, 20 January 2012. The United Nations Security Council has fixed Friday 27 April 2012 as the date for the election, by the Security Council and the General Assembly, of a successor to Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh, former judge and Vice-President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Mr. Al-Khasawneh resigned as Member of the Court following his appointment last year as Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan by King Abdullah II.

The term of office of Mr. Al-Khasawneh as a Member of the Court would have expired on 5 February 2018.

The Member of the Court elected on 27 April 2012 will complete Mr. Al-Khasawneh's term, serving until 2018.

A Member of the Court since 6 February 2000, Mr. Al-Khasawneh was re-elected as from 6 February 2009. He was the Vice-President of the Court from 2006 to 2009.

Former Adviser to the King of Jordan and Adviser of the State on International Law, with the rank of Cabinet Minister (1995), Mr. Al-Khasawneh was also Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court between 1996 and 1998. A Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) since 1999, Mr. Al-Khasawneh served, in particular, as arbitrator in The Government of Sudan/The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (Abyei Arbitration) case in 2008 and 2009.

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Mr. Al-Khasawneh's official biographical note is attached to this Press Release.

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. It is assisted by a Registry, its international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English.

The ICJ, a civil court open only to States for contentious proceedings and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial institution composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), an institution founded in 1899, which is independent of the United Nations.

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**Judge Awn Shawkat AL-KHASAWNEH**  
(Member of the Court from 2000 to 2011;  
Vice-President of the Court from 2006 to 2009)

Born in Amman, Jordan, on 22 February 1950.

Primary and secondary education at the Islamic Educational College of Amman. University education at Cambridge University (Queens' College) history and law, postgraduate studies in international law. M.A. LL.M. (Cantab.); (Honorary Fellow of Queens' College).

Joined the Jordanian diplomatic service in 1975. Second Secretary, then First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations in New York (1976-1980). Ministry of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for international organizations and international law (1980-1985). Head of the Legal Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1985-1990). Seconded to the Royal Court (1990). Ambassador (1992). Adviser to the King and Adviser of the State on International Law with the rank of Cabinet Minister (1995). Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court (1996-1998). Appointed Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 2011.

Member of the Jordanian Royal Commission on Legislative and Administrative Reform (1994-1996).

Chairman of the Jordanian National Group on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (1998-2006).

Representative of Jordan at 19 sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations (the Sixth (Legal) Committee) (since 1976). Jordan's alternate representative on the Security Council (1981-1982). Member of most Jordanian delegations to meetings of the Arab League, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference held in the years 1980-1988. Member of, and Legal Adviser to, the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations in the Middle East (1991-1994).

Representative of Jordan at the following conferences and committees in the field of the codification and progressive development of international law: *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1977-1980); United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties, Second Session (1978); United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of State Property, Archives and Debts (1982). Chairman of the Drafting Committee at the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties Between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations (1986). Rome Conference on the drafting of a Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988).

Member of the Arab International Law Commission (1982-1989).

Member of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (1984-1993). Chairman of the Sub-Commission (1993).

Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights dimensions of forcible population transfer.

Chairman of Commission IV, Unesco General Conference (1993).

Member of the International Law Commission (1986-1999).

Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (since 1999). Arbitrator in *The Government of Sudan/The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (Abyei Arbitration)* (2008–2009).

Member of the International Law Association, Chairman of the Committee on Islamic Law and International Law since 2003.

Member of the Board of Editors, *Palestine Yearbook of International Law*.

Member of the Council of the Centre of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Lectured and participated widely in academic seminars at various universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, London, Geneva and universities in Jordan.

Publications: three reports on the human rights dimensions of forcible population transfers, to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 1993-1997; "General Principles and Methods for Executing a New Convention", in *Environmental Protection and the Law of War*, London, New York,(1992); "The International Law Commission and Middle East Waters" in *Water in the Middle East: Legal, Political and Commercial Implications*, London, New York, 1995.

Honours: Al-Istiqlal Order, First Class (1993); Al-Kawkab Order, First Class (1996); Al-Nahda Order, First Class (1996) (Jordan). Légion d'Honneur, Grand Officier (1997) (France).

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