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Introduction

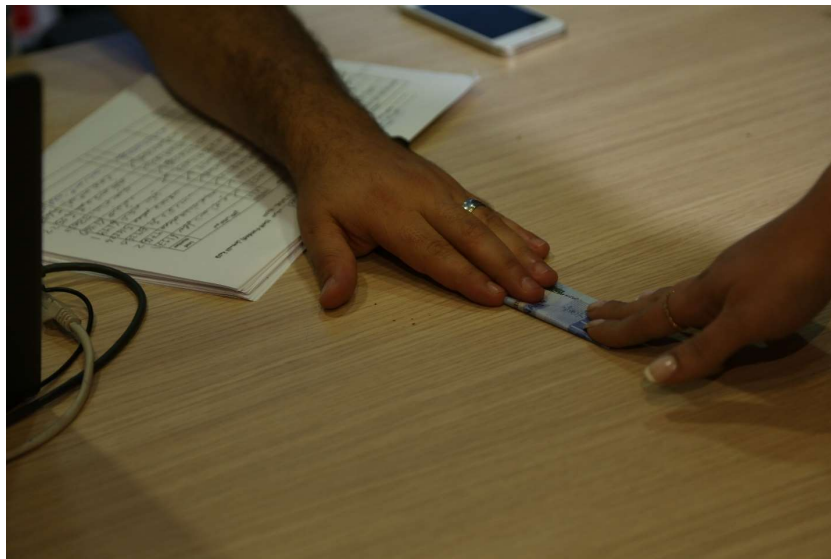
If this essay concerns what is factual and what is not, then it must be said that there is no justice nor righteousness in what is now known in our nation as 'Wasta'. But it does pose an interesting question: What right have we to our 'Wasta' when you come down to the point?

What does the law have to say about it, does the law say a man or a woman have the right to hold a position he or she is unfit for because of blood or marital relations? Laws change, universal truths are constant. It is a fact, a plain and simple fact that what is true and right is true and right for all, high blood or not. We ask in the eyes of God: what is the difference between a highborn and a lowborn? Some might argue that it is a fact that such classes of people will forever exist, that it is the nature of the universe through its immense wisdom teaching us humility through such segregation, I suppose so. But, people are people, human beings who were allowed to stand up straight, and if they are allowed to climb higher than brute animals, men who practice the deed 'Wasta' will have to answer for it. There is an illness, a fearful ill resting upon this nation, and there will be a day of reckoning yet, or maybe I just like to hear myself talk.



BODY

Wasta is an Arabic word that translates into 'Nepotism' or 'Clout, basically it means connections. It means those who are using their relations whether they are by blood or marital or simple friendships or associates to get what they want, whether that be a job, or a title or certain level of comfort in a certain environment without 'earning' the right to be granted that said 'thing'. Wasta can get stuff done, there's no denying that, you want a new passport?



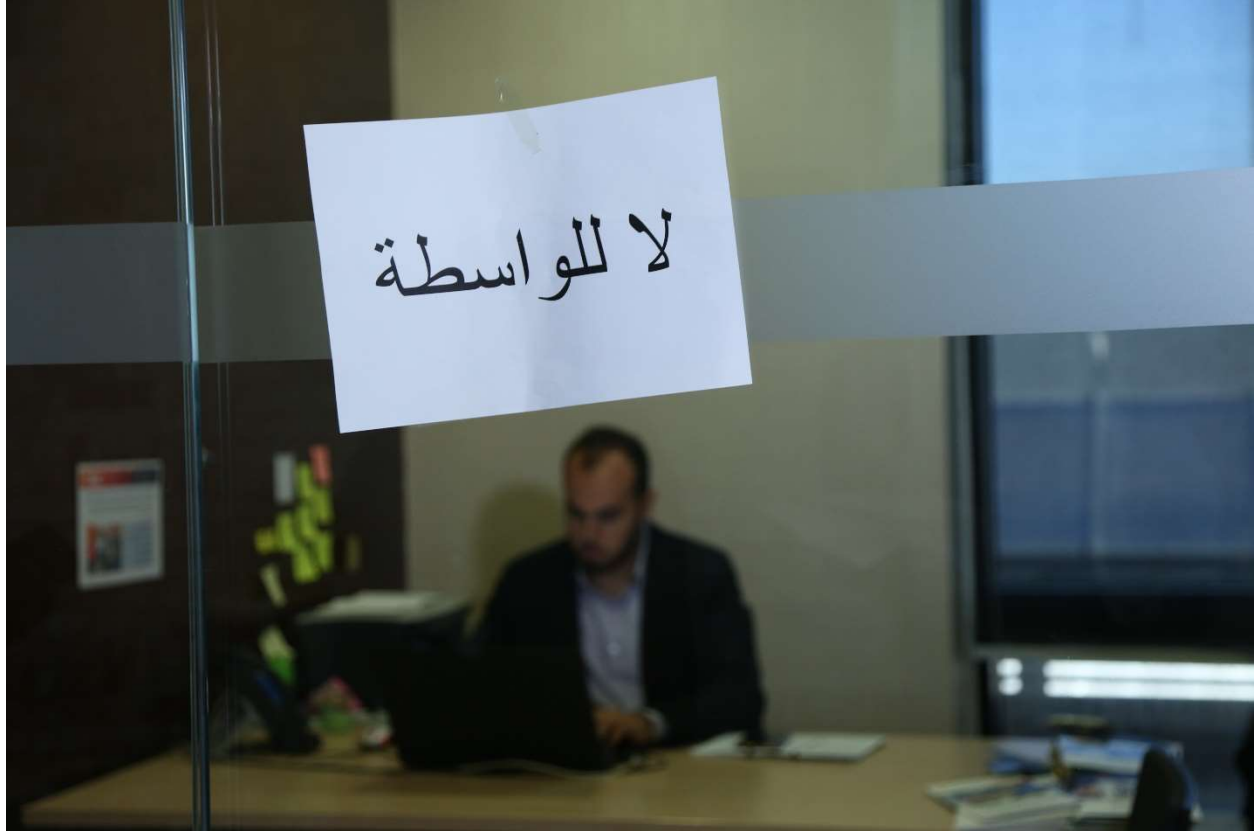
without wasta, that can take a long time, with a wasta, poof its done. Got a speeding ticket? Poof, its gone. Want a job as body guard for the king, poof, you're hired. Basically it's a golden ticket for the chocolate factory. If you happened to be a person of no merit or strength of character, then Wasta is your best friend. Jordanian companies and businesses like to flaunt the idea that they have zero tolerance for Nepotism, and that anyone caught practicing such a 'disgraceful' act is not to be welcomed, but we all know that's a big fat lie, it's so big you can almost smell it. The more you're exposed to people in this country, you realize all over again that Jordan's leading industry is still the manufacture, distribution, packaging and marketing of Wasta. High quality Wasta, world-class designer Wasta to be sure, Hospital tested, clinically proven Wasta, But Wasta nonetheless. And it always amuses to me that so many people seem to think that Wasta only comes from certain sources, such as advertising, politicians, salesmen, NOT TRUE.

Wasta is everywhere. Wasta is rampant. Parents are into it, teachers are into it, students are into it, law enforcement people and government officials are into it. The entire country is into it. In fact, some of the leading businesses in this country were founded by people into it who had the audacity to claim “lift your head high, you’re Jordanian!” That is what I call being stunningly into it.

Dangers

A lot of people seem to show their ignorance when they say they want Wasta politicians to be honest. What are these people talking about? If honesty was suddenly introduced into Wasta Politics, it would throw everything off, the whole system would collapse, And I believe deep down the Jordanian people know that. The Jordanian people like their Wasta upfront, so they could get a good strong whiff of it. That’s why the train system down in jubeiha that was meant to be installed took 10 years! And it’s still on hold. The government might be run Wasta, but at least it lets you know it. They don’t even try to hide it, Good on them! The government said ‘Hi, we run on Wasta, how do you like that?’ and the people said ‘at least they’re honest’ It’s like the corporate world, 60% of business men in Jordan run on Wasta, just the worst type of people you could ever run into – business men. And the proof of it is they don’t even trust each other and that ultimately seeps into the local markets. The first thing a business owner in this country does when negotiating a deal with another is to automatically assume that the other guy is a complete lying thief who is trying to cheat him on the deal, so he has to do everything he can to cheat the other guy a little bit harder and a little faster. This era has been coined ‘the worst era’ for Jordan by the newspapers for the ridiculous amounts of Wasta being pumped into the managerial and financial sectors in this country, because of national debt that has exceeded 90% to become the 4th Arabic nation in massive debt after Yemen, Sudan, and Egypt. Studies have been conducted over the last ten years that show the results that Wasta is the biggest threat and main cause of corruption in this country with statistics showing that 96% of people use it and it is expected that 92% of people will still continue to use it in the future in all sectors of life, educational, medical, and financial. In ten years, nothing will change, even though we are seeing campaigns that have tried to abolish this practice with force in accordance with law, however it has become so

deeply imbedded into our culture that it is almost impossible anymore according to official work forces and now have come to see it as part of their culture, even though it affects them negatively, and the public treasury and private sectors losing tens of millions annually.



Former Parliament has reduced the practice of Wasta and has criminalized those who practice it, and perhaps that is the reason we have been seeing a small decline in its usage, and in cases that have dealt with the anti-corruption committee, we have not heard of any cases that have dealt with Wasta directly, even though the reality shows that it is increasing day by day.

We are talking about a society that is rewarded by seizing the chances that are laid down to it, believing that it will achieve the ability to reach success, and it will free up a massive space for justice, however, we are still seeing our excellent sons and daughters graduating from schools, joining the giant herds of unemployment, and we continue to see the sons of executives gaining the best of jobs in the next right after graduation, and these are only

a few examples of what is happening and will happen and continue to happen in Jordan.

Public officials still boast that 'Wasta is bad and is ruining our country and is a violation against human rights, blah, blah' But we are hardly seeing any results. Clarifying that the feeling of oppression is one of main reasons of instability and the endangerment of society. Specialists have concluded that around 83% of families believe that Wasta is one of the biggest forms of corruption posed on this country. And have also said that around 65% of families believe that Wasta is necessary to gain employment, and that families who live in the country side are more in pursuit of jobs than families who live suburban areas. It is interesting to think that the results were almost identical in some of the answers, but they differed in other answers. It is clear that the phenomenon of Wasta in Jordan still requires vigorous action to combat it. Although there is a general conviction of its harm and consideration as a form of corruption, its use is a must. As we did with the first study, we presented it to the press, writers, civil society activists and the public and private sectors to present to you today, on World Anti-Corruption Day, to study them and deal with them, shed more light on them and try to start a genuine national campaign. The first study gained a broad public interest, and was written about hundreds of articles and follow-up news, and became a reference in dozens of studies dealing with the phenomenon in Jordan and the Arab world. Many observers in Jordan see that the phenomenon of administrative corruption has become a common reality, which reflects many problems of political, social, economic, cultural and security. Corruption in Jordan is characterized by crimes against public functions such as bribery, embezzlement and exploitation of the job, and others that undermine public trust, such as stamping a chamber and falsifying cash or debt securities, financial instruments and economic crimes that cause damage to public money to crimes that violate international agreements. In the Transparency International annual report on corruption, Jordan ranked 49th among 180 countries, and sixth in the Arab world. The report, which focused on relations between the United States and Jordan, pointed out that among the problems faced by Jordan since the time of the 14.4% poverty problem, corruption and slow economic growth, in addition to the high unemployment rates (including female unemployment) estimated at 12.5 Or "between 25% and 30%, according to locals". Corruption abounds

when economic conditions worsen, life burdens rise, prices rise, unemployment rises and the number of poor increases, making it a suitable environment for the corrupt to show their alternatives. These economic problems produce social, moral and other problems that drive people to greater corruption, and the goal of the corrupt becomes the struggle for survival, which ultimately pays the people. The various aspects of corruption and its various methods, such as the lack of information, lack of transparency, official interventions, preference for personal, family and organizational interests, moderation and favoritism, and the decline of morals, values and principles, are indicators of perceptions of corruption.

PREVENTION

According to the annual report issued by the Anti-Corruption Authority, the Information and Investigations Department of the Authority dealt with 303 cases during 2012 and took the necessary legal measures, turning 21 investigation files to the Public Prosecutor. He was dismissed in 52 files from previous years.



Both of my files took advantage of the abuse of power and the waste of public money on the largest share of the total cases, each of which amounted to 29%, followed by the item of career investment and fraud and breach of duties. For his part, Head of the Anti-Corruption Commission Samih Bino confirmed that Jordan has recently achieved remarkable progress in combating corruption at the Arab level, according to international reports, indicating "the seriousness of the Kingdom's institutions in its public and private sectors, including the Anti-Corruption Authority and the regulatory bodies in combating this phenomenon, As well as the role of the Jordanian media in dealing with corruption issues with awareness and positive", pointing out that the report of the International Organization will help Jordan to achieve more opportunities for foreign investment and to benefit from grants from several countries, and strengthen its position among them and stimulate government institutions and private to continue to besiege the Corruption and reduce the threat to the society and development, and enhance the confidence of citizens.



The update also came with the exception of some questions which we found to be of no use, and the addition of questions related to the development during the past ten years, including the addition of an article on the law of the Anti-Corruption Authority, which fights the medium: Article 5: Corruption for the purposes of this law shall be considered as follows:- Paragraph (f) Acceptance of favoritism and favoritism that invalidates or nullifies a right. It is interesting to note that 91.3% of the respondents do not know that there is such an article in Jordanian law. It is also interesting to note that the proportion of those who have confirmed that the medium must be eliminated in the new survey from 87% to 81.3%, a negative result. Those who thought they would need the medium in the future also dropped from 93.04% to 87%, a positive result. He said economic aid would reach about 812.3 million dollars, military aid would be estimated at about 450 million dollars, while 200 million dollars would be allocated to the anti-terrorism partnership fund.

CONCLUSION

This is a problem all of the country is affected by, in the long run it will only cost more money and inflict more damage in the long run, in the end, we hope people will see the error of their ways. If we don't find a way for this problem we will all end up trying to eat our money and desperately chock on it.

