



COVER STORY

Taher Masri, 65 Vice President, Senate

...long span of his political career, which started in 1971. It doesn't seem to be a post in the government that Taher Masri hasn't filled. He has been a prime minister, a House member of parliament, a foreign minister, a minister of defense, a six-time ambassador, a speaker of the House, and currently Vice President of the Senate. Taher Masri is undoubtedly one of the most decorated politicians in Jordan's history. He was a vocal figure concerning Jordan's foreign policy throughout the 1990s, specifically with regard to the rapid path towards normalization with Israel, which led to his joining of an Islamic boycott of the parliamentary elections during the late 1990s. His beliefs were to be briefly marginalized with the regime, before being brought back into the spotlight in 1998 with a Senate appointment. It was an indication of the regime's willingness to engage with that

What does power mean to you?

Power means the ability to be in control of your life, and to influence or decide positively on the behavior of others in order to help them achieve their aims. This necessitates having an inner power, or soft power. Will, self-commitment, goodwill and a wide view of life and the world more broadly are the main ingredients of inner power. Once one has the inner power, that person can be a candidate to the genuine realm of power.

The aim of inner power for me, in public office, is synonymous with democracy and reform. I have used power to push the best and most reform-minded document in the modern history of Jordan, the National Agenda. I was the head of political committee that produced the political chapter (section) of the Agenda. In 1990, I was the secretary of the Na-