

Power 100 2009

The World's Most Influential Arabs



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37# Talal Abu Ghazaleh

Country of Residence / Nationality: Palestine

Industry: Banking & Finance

Companies: Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organization

The chairman and founder of Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organisation (TAGorg), Talal Abu Ghazaleh has been dubbed the godfather of Arab accounting. He is also credited with highlighting the issue of intellectual property rights in the region.

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The chairman and founder of Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organisation (TAGorg), Talal Abu Ghazaleh has been dubbed the godfather of Arab accounting. He is also credited with highlighting the issue of intellectual property rights in the region.

Services provided by TAGorg include accounting, management consulting, training, intellectual property, legal services, credit information and legal translation.

The organisation has some 2,000 employees operating out of more than 65 offices across the Middle East and North Africa.

Born in Jaffa, Palestine, Abu Ghazaleh moved to the Lebanese village of Ghazziyeh at the age of ten. He attended the American University of Beirut on a scholarship, supplementing his income by working as a teacher and translator.

His first accountancy job was in an audit bureau in 1969, while he was inspired to work in the IP field after hearing a talk on intellectual property at a Time-Warner conference in San Francisco.

A vocal advocate of education, Abu Ghazaleh saw school as a path to success.

“I wanted to be the exception to the other kids, but in the right way,” he says.

“We have a lot of suffering in our part of the world but that suffering is, in a way, a blessing. Obviously, I could not afford to go to school without a scholarship, so that meant I had to excel in order to get one.”

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| # | NAME | COUNTRY | PRIMARY INDUSTRY | RANK 2008 | + / - |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Al Saud | Saudi Arabia | Banking & Finance | 1 | - |
| 2 | Mohammed Alabbar | UAE | Construction & Industry | 6 | +4 |
| 3 | Muntadar Al Zaidi | Iraq | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 4 | Dr Sulaiman Al Fahim | UAE | Construction & Industry | 16 | +12 |
| 5 | Esam Janahi | Bahrain | Banking & Finance | 29 | +24 |
| 6 | Amir Nizar Zuabi | Palestine | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 7 | Mohamed El Erian | Egypt | Banking & Finance | - | new |
| 8 | Dr Mohamed Nedal Alchaar | Syria | Banking & Finance | - | new |
| 9 | Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem | UAE | Transportation | 3 | -6 |
| 10 | Fayez Al Maliki | Saudi Arabia | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 11 | Dr Fawzieh Al Dorai | Kuwait | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 12 | Mohammed Hassan Omran | UAE | Technology | 57 | +45 |
| 13 | Joseph Ghossoub | Lebanon | Media & Marketing | 19 | +6 |
| 14 | Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber | UAE | Energy | - | new |
| 15 | Wadah Khanfar | Palestine | Media & Marketing | 8 | -7 |
| 16 | Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair | UAE | Banking & Finance | 42 | +26 |
| 17 | Akbar Al Baker | Qatar | Transportation | 14 | -3 |
| 18 | Dr Marcus George | Iraq | Construction & Industry | - | new |
| 19 | Nasser Al Kharafi | Kuwait | Banking & Finance | 31 | +12 |
| 20 | Ibrahim Dabdoub | Palestine | Banking & Finance | 81 | +61 |
| 21 | Dr Abdullah Al Rabiah | Saudi Arabia | Healthcare | - | new |
| 22 | Khalid Al Falih | Saudi Arabia | Energy | - | new |
| 23 | Rashid Ramzi | Bahrain | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 24 | Saad Al Barrak | Kuwait | Technology | 50 | +26 |
| 25 | Amr Al Dabbagh | Saudi Arabia | Construction & Industry | 23 | -2 |
| 26 | Nemir Kirdar | Iraq | Banking & Finance | - | new |
| 27 | Fadi Ghandour | Jordan | Transportation | 79 | +52 |
| 28 | Salah Al Hejailan | Saudi Arabia | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 29 | Marcel Khalifa | Lebanon | Culture & Society | 56 | +27 |
| 30 | Marwan Boodai | Kuwait | Travel & Hospitality | 51 | +21 |
| 31 | Mishal Kanoo | Bahrain | Banking & Finance | 22 | -9 |
| 32 | Lubna Olayan | Saudi Arabia | Banking & Finance | 44 | +12 |
| 33 | Samih Darwazah | Palestine | Healthcare | - | new |
| 34 | Mohamed Al Mady | Saudi Arabia | Energy | 12 | -22 |
| 35 | Mohammed Al Jaber | Saudi Arabia | Real Estate | 40 | +5 |
| 36 | Elie Saab | Lebanon | Culture & Society | 9 | -27 |
| 37 | Talal Abu Ghazaleh | Palestine | Banking & Finance | - | new |
| 38 | Samer Majali | Jordan | Travel & Hospitality | - | new |
| 39 | Mohamed Hasseinein Heikel | Egypt | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 40 | Mohammed Al Shaya | Kuwait | Retail | 39 | -1 |
| 41 | Amr Hassan Zaki | Egypt | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 42 | Ahmed Heikal | Egypt | Banking & Finance | - | new |
| 43 | Ziad Rahbani | Lebanon | Culture & Society | - | new |

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Jul 14 - Jul 20, 2009

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| 44 | Abdullah Salem Al Badri | Libya | Energy | 4 | -40 |
| 45 | Professor Lihadh Al Ghazali | Iraq | Healthcare | - | new |
| 46 | Amr Diab | Egypt | Culture & Society | 24 | -22 |
| 47 | Sheikh Waleed Al Ibrahim | Saudi Arabia | Media & Marketing | 20 | -27 |
| 48 | Hisham Melhem | Lebanon | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 49 | Ali Hassan Kolaghassi | Saudi Arabia | Construction & Industry | 73 | +24 |
| 50 | Antoine Choueiri | Lebanon | Media & Marketing | 37 | -13 |
| 51 | Walid Attalah | Lebanon | Culture & Society | 80 | +29 |
| 52 | Khaled Samawi | Syria | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 53 | Dr Michel Obeid | Lebanon | Healthcare | 7 | -46 |
| 54 | Tayem Hassan | Syria | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 55 | Magdi Yacoub | Egypt | Healthcare | 87 | +32 |
| 56 | Solaf Fawakherji | Syria | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 57 | Abdulsalam Al Bahar | Kuwait | Transportation | - | new |
| 58 | Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer | UAE | Transportation | - | new |
| 59 | Elie Khouri | Lebanon | Media & Marketing | 49 | -10 |
| 60 | Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned | Qatar | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 61 | Asma Al Assad | Syria | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 62 | Ahmed Mater Al-Ziad Aseeri | Saudi Arabia | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 63 | Tamer Hosny | Egypt | Culture & Society | 66 | +3 |
| 64 | Zuhair Murad | Lebanon | Culture & Society | 59 | -5 |
| 65 | Ghanim Bin Saad Al Saad | Qatar | Real Estate | - | new |
| 66 | Nahed Taher | Saudi Arabia | Banking & Finance | 45 | -21 |
| 67 | Samir Sajet | Iraq | Transportation | - | new |
| 68 | Hend Al Mansour | Saudi Arabia | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 69 | Mustafa Ali | Syria | Culture & Society | 17 | -52 |
| 70 | Riad Kamal | Palestine | Construction & Industry | - | new |
| 71 | Ayman Hariri | Lebanon | Construction & Industry | - | new |
| 72 | Fairuz | Lebanon | Culture & Society | 76 | +4 |
| 73 | Abdel Hamid Shoman | Palestine | Banking & Finance | 25 | -48 |
| 74 | Zahi Hawwas | Egypt | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 75 | Omar Al Fayed | Egypt | Retail | - | new |
| 76 | Mohamed Al Baradei | Egypt | Energy | 62 | -14 |
| 77 | Maan Al Sanea | Saudi Arabia | Construction & Industry | 55 | -22 |
| 78 | Said Khoury | Palestine | Construction & Industry | - | new |
| 79 | Adel Imam | Egypt | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 80 | Dr Amina Al Rostamani | UAE | Banking & Finance | - | new |
| 81 | Bakr Bin Ladin | Saudi Arabia | Construction & Industry | 54 | -27 |
| 82 | Nancy Ajram | Lebanon | Culture & Society | 60 | -22 |
| 83 | Emad Hajaj | Jordan | Culture & Society | 43 | -40 |
| 84 | Magdi El Glad | Egypt | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 85 | Ghassan Masoud | Syria | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 86 | Hatem Ali | Syria | Culture & Society | 72 | -14 |
| 87 | Adel Ali | Bahrain | Transportation | 28 | -59 |
| 88 | Ramzi Raad | Lebanon | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 89 | Rabia Zargarpur | UAE | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 90 | Soraya Narfeldt | Lebanon | Construction & Industry | - | new |
| 91 | Jihad Khazen | Lebanon | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 92 | Naguib Sawiris | Egypt | Technology | 32 | -60 |
| 93 | Karl Wolf | Lebanon | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 94 | Akram Al Agil | Saudi Arabia | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 95 | Amina Jassim | Saudi Arabia | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 96 | Kazem Al Saher | Iraq | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 97 | Nabil Al Busaidi | Oman | Culture & Society | - | new |
| 98 | Abdel Bari Atwan | Palestine | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 99 | Jaber Al Harami | Qatar | Media & Marketing | - | new |
| 100 | Mohammed Saeed Harib | UAE | Media & Marketing | 33 | -67 |