



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JORDAN'S WOMEN LEGISLATORS  
PROFILED IN NEW NDI BOOKLET AND DOCUMENTARY FILM**

WASHINGTON – The ascension and accomplishments of the first class of 14 trailblazing female members of the Jordanian Parliament are profiled in new materials published by The National Democratic Institute (NDI) with the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

A booklet and documentary film, *First Class – Profiles of Women Members of Parliament and Senators in Jordan, 2003-2007*, present the profiles, stories and triumphs of the women legislators.

“These women senators and MPs have reached unprecedented positions, have shouldered great responsibility and have many accomplishments that have not been recognized or applauded,” said Roula Attar, NDI’s resident country director in Jordan. “These new materials showcase who these women are and what their legacy has been during these critical four years in Jordan’s history.”

Six women were elected to Jordan’s Lower House of Parliament in 2003 and eight women were appointed to the Senate, challenging traditional attitudes about women’s role in society, Attar said. “The introduction of a quota system laid the foundation for these women to achieve success in positions of leadership, though a lack of media coverage meant that their efforts went largely unnoticed.”

“If more women are to run for office and get elected in Jordan and if the public and decision-making elite are to support legislation and initiatives that strengthen women’s political participation, the women parliamentarians must be visible and share their experiences – challenges as well as successes,” she said.

NDI conducted programs in Jordan from 1993-1997 – supporting the efforts of women candidates for the 1997 parliamentary election. NDI’s program was then reactivated in 2003. Most recently, NDI worked with more than 50 women candidates in advance of the 2007 election.

Copies of the booklet are available in English and Arabic on the NDI website, [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org). The film may be viewed here: <http://ndiaction.org/node/289#video>.

*NDI is a non-profit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness, and accountability in government. More information is available at [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org).*

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