

**Inauguration
of Mahatma Gandhi Street**
[10 October; 1640 hrs]
Comments by H'ble President

On arrival at Mahatma Gandhi's street, H'ble President will be received by His Excellency, the Mayor of Amman. H'ble President will be invited to unveil the plaque. Following this, the Mayor will say a few words and H'ble President will be invited to make brief comments. The following remarks are suggested.

Your Excellency Dr.Akel Biltaji,
Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality,

Friends,

1. I feel privileged to participate in the naming of the Mahatma Gandhi Street in Amman. On this historic occasion, it is an honour for me to represent the people of India as Jordan pays tribute to the Father of our nation in this magnificent manner.
2. Mahatma Gandhi had inspired and guided the freedom movement in India. He had embraced the truly unique method of *satyagraha* or passive political resistance, to successfully lead the people of India from subjugation to independence on the 15th of August, 1947. Gandhiji lived by the very principles he taught and these form the cornerstone of India's Constitution and governmental policies.
3. His universal message of harmonious coexistence is valid today – especially in a world that is threatened by the scourge of extremism, intolerance and violence. He is revered to this day, in India and all over the world as an apostle of peace and non violence. He had firmly believed that *“all through history, the ways of truth and love have won..... Victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat for it is momentary.”*
4. Mr. Mayor, I have only been in your beautiful city of Amman for a few hours. However, I have felt its unmistakable warmth and hospitality and the optimism and dynamism of its people even during this short time.
5. I have been informed that that it is your hard work and leadership in the face of many constraints and challenges that is transforming this city into an oasis of modernity and inclusive

development. I must compliment you for your single minded commitment to this goal– and congratulate you on your success.

6. Mr. Mayor, I am aware of your long association with India. The identification of this prominent street as 'Mahatma Gandhi Street' makes it a symbol of the expanding co-operation and friendship between India and Jordan. This gesture exemplifies your faith in Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of peace and non-violence and the brotherhood of all men.
7. His Majesty, King Abdullah-II has referred to “seven essential steps” for building tolerance and dialogue for peaceful co-existence of mankind. He has stated that what separates humanity is miniscule compared to what we hold in common: deep values of love, peace, justice and compassion. These are values that we share and must inculcate in our future generations.
8. I understand that on the birth day of His Majesty King Hussein, you and the Ambassador of India have planned to organise a conference on "Mahatma Gandhi and King Hussein - the men of peace" . I wish the event great success and have no doubt that that the deliberations and outcomes of the conference will inspire peace in the region and beyond.
9. With these words, I would like to convey my appreciation to the Greater Amman Municipality and to the people of Jordan for this gesture of respect to the memory and spirit of sacrifice of Mahatma Gandhi. In honouring him, you truly honour the people of India. I extend through you, my warm greetings to the people of the city of Amman.

Once again, I thank you.

518 words

