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LET4CAP

Law Enforcement Training for Capacity Building

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Downloadable Country Booklet

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OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Country Information Package

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has been prepared by

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Within the framework of LET4CAP and with the financial support to the Internal Security Fund of the EU

LET4CAP aims to contribute to more *consistent* and *efficient* assistance in law enforcement capacity building to third countries. The Project consists in the design and provision of training interventions drawn on the experience of the partners and fine-tuned after a piloting and consolidation phase.

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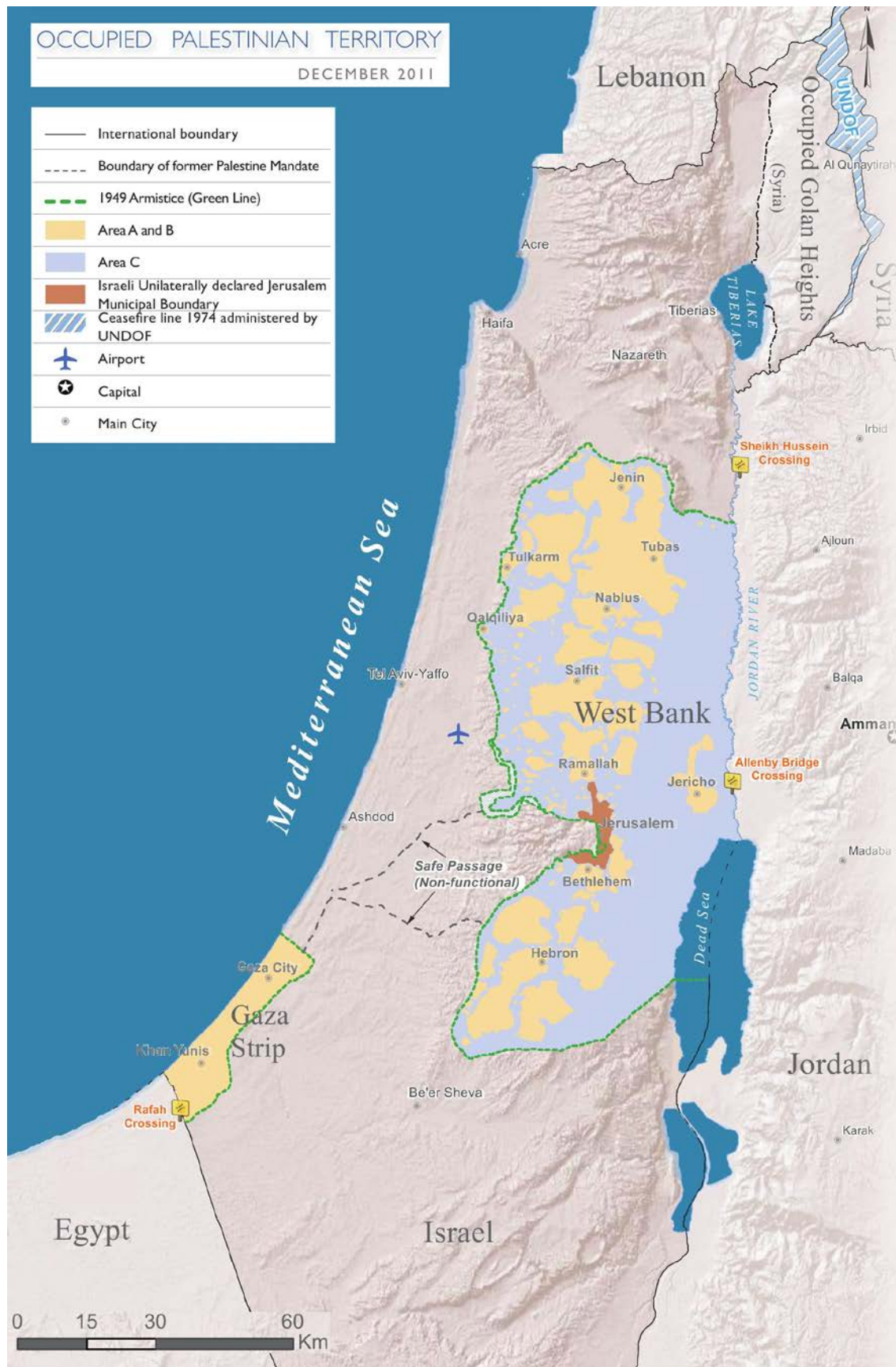
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1. Country Profile

1.1 Country in Brief



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Formal Name: Occupied Palestinian Territories (used by UN, disputed); State of Palestine (used by Palestinian National Authority, disputed)

Previous formal names: Mandatory Palestine, Eyalet of Damascus (part of the Ottoman Empire)

Population: 4,543,126 (July 2017 estimates)

Term for Citizens: none; Palestinians (informal)

Area (sq km): 6,220 (of which West Bank 5,860 km², Gaza Strip 360 km²)

Capital City: East Jerusalem (claimed), Ramallah (*de facto* administrative capital)

Independence: 14 May 1948 (end of British Mandate; *de facto* partly occupied by Israel); 15 November 1988 (as State of Palestine, recognized by 136 out of 193 member states of the United Nations as of 2015).

1.2 Modern and Contemporary History of Occupied Palestinian Territories

Early History

The term Occupied Palestinian Territories refers to modern day West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are located in what is widely referred to as historical Palestine. Given its geographical position, at the intersection of three continents (Africa, Asia, Europe) and near fertile areas such as the Nile basin and the Mesopotamian plain, since ancient times this region has been at the centre of the development of the first urban civilizations in human history. The city of Jericho, located not far from the Dead Sea and River Jordan, is believed to be one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world, with archaeological evidences that show traces of habitations dating back to 9000 BC. For the very same reasons, historical Palestine has been for thousand years a land of immigrations, invasions and clash of empires, and the crossroad for culture, religions and commerce. Between the Bronze Age (3300 BC) and the Arab conquest (7th century CE), historical Palestine was controlled by numerous peoples including Ancient Egyptians, confederations of Semitic-speaking tribes such as the Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and Romans. In the first half of the 7th century CE, the Arab armies under the command of the First Caliph Abu Bakr successfully waged war against the Byzantine Empire and occupied the area, before extending their rule as far as Morocco and Spain in the West and the Indus valley in the East. With the Arab takeover of historical Palestine, the region underwent a process of Islamization while still retaining its fundamental importance as the cradle of other monotheistic religions, Judaism and Christianity. Thus, under the Muslim dynasty of Umayyads, in the Temple Mount area of Jerusalem were erected the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. From the Arab conquest up to 1500, the historical Palestine was shaken by frequent conflicts and not only became the theatre of rivalries between the competing dynasties for the rule of the Caliphate (Umayyads, Abbasids, Fatimids, Mamluks), but also experienced the hostilities between Arabs and the Crusaders, Christian warriors from Europe that tried to conquer the Holy Land in several waves from 1096 to 1291.

The Ottoman Era

By the end of the 15th century, the rise of the Ottoman empire and its expansion beyond its area of origin in the Anatolian peninsula was menacing the rule of Mamluks over historical Palestine. After several decades of hostilities for the possession of some border towns, the balance eventually turned in favour of the Turks on August 24, 1516, when the Mamluk armies were defeated by Ottoman Sultan Selim I at the battle of Marj Dabiq. Palestine and the entire Levant passed under the control of the Sublime Porte in what would become a 4 centuries long domination.

In general, in these first centuries of domination, the Ottoman rule over Palestine was characterized by a wide degree of autonomy conceded by political élites in Constantinople to local rulers, in exchange for compliance with certain obligations such as payment of taxes and loyalty to central institutions. This led to the swift emergence to power of local dynasties like the

Ridwans in Gaza, the Turabays in al-Lajjun and the Farrukhs in Nablus, who governed Palestine on behalf of the Porte during 16th and 17th centuries, with large autonomy and often in direct competition with the Ottoman-appointed governor of Damascus, under whose eyalet (a mid-level administrative division) they were formally placed. Indirect rule over Palestine continued also in the 18th century. In fact, the political life of the region was dominated by several local figures like Zahir al-Umar of the Zaydani clan, who managed to turn the port of Acre into a major regional power thanks to the establishment of a monopoly over cotton and olive oil production and trade to Europe; and its successor Ahmad al-Jazzar, who further loosened ties with Damascus and defended Acre against Napoleon I in 1799. Napoleon's unsuccessful attempt to expand the French Empire in Egypt and the Levant was soon followed by years of expansionist policy at the expense of Constantinople carried forward by the new ruler of Egypt, Muhammad Ali, who militarily occupied Palestine in 1831. In 1840 the Ottoman Empire regained the control of the region with the aid of British, Russians and Austrians and expanded its push for administrative reforms to the region.

Jewish migration in Historical Palestine

In the second half of the 19th century, Palestine witnessed not only an increased interest by European powers but also a mounting presence of immigrants and foreign settlements and colonies. In particular, the arrival of several dozen of thousands of Jewish immigrants from Russia during the last decades of the century had by far the most important repercussions on the region. While small in absolute numbers (Jewish migrants in Palestine are estimated in just 70,000 between 1881 and 1914), their presence was coupled with the development of the Zionist movement led by Theodor Herzl, who advocated an autonomous Jewish state in Palestine and struggled to get support from Western powers. Ultimately, building on the development and the ramification of the movement, Herzl's efforts laid the foundations for what would become the embryonic bureaucratic and administrative structures of the future state of Israel. Jewish immigration (mainly from Europe) continued throughout all the first half of the 20th century with several waves ("aliyah") and the establishment of a number of agricultural settlements on plots of land purchased by the Jewish National Fund, a branch of the Zionist organisation.

World War I and the British mandate

During World War I, the British attacked Ottoman troops in Palestine. The war reached the southernmost part of the region in 1917. By the end of that year British had secured Gaza and Jerusalem and continued their campaign northward into the Jordan valley, eventually capturing Haifa and Damascus in October 1918. Conflicting options regarding the future organisation of the region in anticipation of the defeat of the Ottomans were outlined already during the war. In an exchange of letters in 1915-1916 between Sir Henry McMahon, British high commissioner in Egypt, and the Emir of Mecca Husayn ibn

Ali (known as the Husayn-McMahon correspondence), Great Britain vaguely promised the Arabs support for the establishment of an independent state in the Levant in exchange for their support against the Ottomans. In May 1916 Great Britain and France reached the Sykes-Picot agreement according to which historical Palestine was to be under international control or included in the British sphere of influence. In a letter addressed in November 1917 to Lord Rothschild, a wealthy Zionist activist, the British Secretary of state for foreign affairs Arthur Balfour supported the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people, without prejudice to the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine. Eventually, the southern part of former Ottoman provinces in the Levant was mandated to Great Britain at the peace conference held in San Remo in April 1920. The mandate was officially sanctioned by the League of Nations in 1922. This decision was widely regarded by Arab Palestinians as a British betrayal of earlier commitments.

Growing tensions between Jews and Arabs

The British Mandate over Palestine was characterized by the increase of tensions between Arabs and the Jewish minority. At the beginning of World War I, Palestine had a population of about 690,000, including a preponderant majority of Arabs (605,000, of whom about 70,000 were Christians and the remaining Muslims) and a large minority of about 85,000 Jews. Several factors contributed to rekindle political and economic tensions between those communities: the establishment of the Mandate and the consequent failure of any Arab nationalist project, the desire of Palestinian Arab élites to preserve their privileges, the continuous influx of Jewish migrants, the proliferation of Jewish settlements in rural areas, the tangible growth of economic power held by the Jewish community. Moreover, while the Arab leadership was divided, was essentially the expression of prominent families of urban notables (like the Husaynis and the Nashashibis), and lacked a strong bond with the populace, Jews organised themselves through the Jewish Agency, a structure tasked with supervising the material development of the community, coordinating its efforts and directing them towards a common goal, assisting immigrants for housing and jobs, purchasing land, and managing relations with the British authorities. In fact, the Jewish community in Palestine came to establish its own assembly, trade union, labour movement, taxation system, schools and courts.

The non-Jewish Palestinians revolted in 1920, 1929 and 1936. During the riots in 1936-1939 (known as the "Great Revolt"), violence spread through all Palestine with frequent clashes between Arabs and Jews and Arabs and British troops. The Zionist response to the violence was the strengthening of the Haganah (literally "the Defense"), a paramilitary organisation established in 1920 for the supervision of rural and urban Jewish settlements and progressively structured as a proper popular militia, and the creation of Irgun, a more radical and uncompromising offshoot of the Haganah. In the very first days of the Great Revolt, British authorities appointed the Peel Commission to investigate the causes of the unrest. The final report of the Commission emphasized that the Mandate had

become untenable for Great Britain and recommended the partition of the region between Arab and a Jewish state, in stark contrast with policies endorsed in several previous white papers adopted since 1922, through which British authorities sought to ease tensions between the communities by establishing precise limits to Jewish immigration and, often, by binding it to the capacity of the Palestinian economic fabric to absorb the influx. Arab rebellion was eventually suppressed in August 1939 by British troops, just days before the start of World War II.

World War II and the end of the Mandate

The outbreak of the World War II caused an increase in tensions between the Zionists and the British. In fact, while the former had a growing urgency to facilitate Jewish immigration in Palestine in order to provide a safe haven to the victims of Nazi persecution, the latter saw the arrival in mass of Jews as a dangerous element of destabilization for a region such as Palestine, which they deemed essential to the war effort. In this context, the Haganah announced and widely respected a truce in the fight against the mandatary power, but other Jewish armed groups such as the already mentioned Irgun and Lehi (also known as Stern Gang) embarked on widespread attacks on the British that culminated in the killing of a British minister of State in Cairo in November 1944. At the same time, the political component of the Zionist movement also increased the pressure on the British. In May 1942, the Zionist movement met at the Biltmore Hotel in New York and officially advanced the request for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

On the contrary, Arab leadership didn't overcome its internal divisions and failed in organising an effective opposition to the British, also because many of its prominent member were wanted by British after the revolt and forced into exile. As the war was coming to an end, neighbouring Arab countries began to show a growing interest in the future of Palestine. In a meeting that took place in Alexandria in October 1944, five Arab countries laid the foundation of the organisation that would eventually become the Arab League one year later and emphasized the Arab character of Palestine, thus utterly refuting any Zionist request. In March 1945, the Arab League recognized a newly created Arab Higher Executive for Palestine, which included a broad spectrum of Palestinian leaders, as the legitimate voice of Palestinian Arabs.

At the end of the war, therefore, all the elements were present to transform the tensions between Arabs and Jews in an open conflict. In this context, the Jewish paramilitary armed groups resumed hostilities against the British, launching a long and insidious campaign of hit and run attacks against the objectives of the mandated power and sabotages of infrastructure network. The new impetus of Jewish organizations, combined with continued Jewish immigration to Palestine and the difficulties encountered by British troops in providing an effective military response, convinced London that the problem of a definitive settlement of the question of Palestine could not be postponed any longer. In 1947 Great Britain deferred the issue to the United Nations. On August 31, 1947, a report of the UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) recommended that the region be partitioned into an Arab and a Jewish state, which in

any case should constitute an economic union, while Jerusalem and its environs were to be under international control. These recommendations were adopted by a two-thirds majority of the UN General Assembly in Resolution 181 on November 29, 1947. The proposal was welcomed by Jews because it recognized the right to an independent state for their community, while Arabs rejected the partition of Palestine in principle. Soon after the UN resolution, a proper civil war broke out in Palestine. Both Jews and Palestinian armed groups were involved in an escalation of violence, that saw the former usually prevail over the latter and displaced thousands of Palestinians from their villages. One of the most dramatic of these events took place on April 9, 1948 in the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin. Under pressure and increasingly unable to ease tensions, Great Britain announced that the mandate on Palestine would be terminated on May 15, 1948 even in absence of an agreement for the partition. By the time Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948, after over six months of daily clashes, the Haganah had maturely transformed into an army and local Palestinian Arab militias were almost crushed.

The first Arab-Israeli war and its outcomes

The day after Israel declaration of independence, within a territory that encompassed roughly the region proposed in the UN partition plan as the future Israeli state, a coalition of Arab armies entered Palestine and declared war on the new-born state, thus transforming the civil war in a proper inter-state conflict. The invasion was led by Egypt, Syria and Jordan plus small expeditionary forces from Iraq. After having taken control of Arab areas, the coalition attacked Israel and Jewish settlements, but in a series of campaigns alternating with truces between May and December 1948 the Arab armies were routed and finally forced into signing armistices by the summer of 1949. As a result of the war, Israel not only controlled the area assigned by the UN resolution 181 as the proposed Jewish state, but also almost 60% of the area the partition plan assigned to the proposed Arab state, including Jaffa, Lydda, Ramle, Galilee region, some parts of the Negev, West Jerusalem and some portions of territories in the West Bank. The Arab state never saw the light: Jordan unilaterally annexed the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, while the Egyptian military retained control of the Gaza strip without annexing it. The war had caused a significant demographic change in the region. Around 700,000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were expelled from their homes and became refugees. The United Nations established UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) as a relief and human development agency tasked with providing humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees. Arab nations widely refused to absorb Palestinian refugees, instead keeping them in refugee camps while insisting that they be allowed to return. On the contrary, Jordan granted Palestinians Jordanian citizenship in order to consolidate its control over their political future. In the years after 1948 a new common consciousness arose within Palestinian diaspora and led to the emergence of a new Palestinian leadership. While Nasser's Egypt was waging a guerrilla war against Israel in the '50s through the hit and run attacks of fedaiyyin (Palestinian warriors) from the Gaza Strip,

in 1959 the Palestinian movement Fatah was founded by Yasser Arafat. In 1964 the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded in Cairo, in order to give unity to several Palestinian movements. In fact, in addition to Fatah, the largest and most influential guerrilla organization, several others emerged in the late 1960s. The most important ones were the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP – GC, a splinter group from the PFLP), and al-Sa'iqah (backed by Syria).

The Six Days War

In the course of the Six Day War in June 1967, Israel captured the rest of the area that had been part of the British Mandate of Palestine, taking the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) from Jordan and the Gaza Strip from Egypt, and occupied also the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula. Israel's victory gave rise to another exodus of Palestinians, with more than 250,000 people fleeing to the eastern bank of the Jordan River. However, roughly 600,000 Palestinians remained in the West Bank and 300,000 in Gaza, while in the following decade several thousands of Israeli Jews settled in the Occupied territories, a policy that has been widely encouraged under a number of Israeli governments. With resolution 242, adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council on November 22, 1967, the International Community condemned the Israeli occupation of remaining Palestinian territories, since then deemed illegal. The resolution promoted a "land for peace" formula; it called for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied during the 1967 conflict, the termination of all claims or states of belligerency and for the respect for and the acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area.

The rise of PLO

The 1967 war marked the collapse of Nasser's Arab nationalism and created the conditions for Arafat's leadership to emerge as a leading figure in the Palestinian armed struggle for the liberation of occupied territories, that culminated in his elections as the head of PLO in 1969. Arafat's PLO revamped the strategy of armed struggle and led a war of attrition toward Israeli forces from its bases in Jordan. While attacking mainly Israeli forces, Palestinians carved out a state within a state in Jordan and ended up in attacking also Jordanian forces, whose strong armed reaction during the events of September 1970 (known as "Black September") led to the expulsion of PLO leadership from the country and its relocation to Lebanon. In the years following the 1973 Yom Kippur war between Arab states and Israel, PLO acquired stronger international legitimacy. In 1974 the PLO was recognized by the Arab League as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians and gained the non-state observer status at the UN, while announcing the will to create an independent national authority on territories already under its control as an intermediate goal toward the establishment of a Palestinian state and refusing to recognize the existence of the state of Israel. While this goal underwent severe criticism even within the Palestinian leadership because

it was feared as a preparatory step to a sort of two-state solution, in its 1974 Ten Point Program the PLO called for the establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian binational state, thus underlining its commitment to a one-state solution. The Egyptian-Israeli peace accord signed in 1978 at Camp David, Maryland included a provision that outlined the establishment of a self-governing authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and a transitional period of not more than five years, at the end of which the inhabitants would become autonomous. Also the Soviet Union recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians and in 1981 extended formal diplomatic recognition.

The First Intifada and the rise of Hamas

Under the Likud Party government of the late 1970s and early '80s, led by Menachem Begin, Israel's settlements in the West Bank grew dramatically, as part of a new policy that aimed to maintain strategic dominance in the area. The growth in settlements was accompanied by an increase in Israeli control over the territories, and large parts of those territories were incorporated into Israel's infrastructure. Moreover, since the second half of the '70s, Israel multiplied its efforts to stop the attacks the PLO launched from its new bases in southern Lebanon. Israeli involvement in the Lebanese civil war led to the launch of Operation Litani (1978), which aimed to expel the Palestinian guerrillas from the region between the border and the Litani river, and then to Operation Peace in Galilee (1982), when Israeli forces pushed to Beirut and succeeded in forcing the PLO to leave the country and relocating in Tunisia. The forced displacement of Palestinian leadership contributed to deepening the gap with the population, especially in the occupied territories. This dynamic culminated in the outbreak of the First Intifada in 1987, a 4-year popular uprising against Israeli occupation of West Bank and Gaza led by a new generation of militants that initially caught PLO by surprise. Even though largely spontaneous and leaderless, the uprising allowed some more Islamic-leaning Palestinian movements such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad to build on popular resentment and to emerge as credible competitors to Arafat's Fatah. In particular, the First Intifada was an opportunity for Hamas, an Islamic movement with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood that had proselytized in the Palestinian territories since the 1970s, to weld nationalist rhetoric to the themes of political Islamism and gain a solid basis of consensus among the Palestinian population.

The peace process begins

The growth of movements such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad was also due to the more conciliatory and open attitude to compromise that the leadership of the PLO was taking. The year 1988 marked an historical turning point in this respect. On November 15, the PLO declared the creation of a State of Palestine and Arafat assumed the title of President of Palestine, while the PLO central council formed a government in exile. Even though unilateral, this move signalled a shift to a more compromising approach by the PLO. In fact, the borders of the state of Palestine were not specified and the new entity called for multilateral negotiations based on UN resolution 242, thus entailing the acceptance of a two-state solution and implicitly

recognizing the legitimacy of Israel. At the same time, Jordan extended recognition to the state of Palestine and renounced its claim over the West Bank, that was declared legally and administratively distinct from Jordan. In this way, in the eyes of the United States the PLO became an acceptable party to diplomatic negotiations.

The end of the Cold War and the will of the US to compensate Arab countries for their support in the First Gulf War shaped a more convenient international climate for the start of a negotiation process for the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian issue. From January 1993, several secret meetings took place in Norway between PLO and Israeli officials. On September 9, 1993 Israel and PLO signed a Letter of Mutual Recognition, officially and overtly accepting each other as a negotiation partner. Four days later the parties signed a declaration of principles in Washington that came to be known as Oslo I Accords. The accord included mutual recognition and terms whereby governing functions in the West Bank and Gaza would be progressively handed over to a Palestinian Council for an interim period of five years. During this period of time, Israel and Palestinians would negotiate a permanent settlement of unresolved issues based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Oslo Accords didn't detail the nature of the post-Oslo Palestinian self-government and its powers and responsibilities, didn't define the borders of the territory it eventually would govern, nor dealt with crucial issues such as the future status of Jerusalem, the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, and the issue of Israeli settlements. Following agreements such as the Gaza-Jericho Agreement signed in 1994 and the Oslo II Accord signed in 1995 regulated mainly a partial Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and Jericho area, a transfer of limited power to a newly created Palestinian Authority (PA), economic relations between the parties, and the division of the West Bank into three administrative divisions. Area A initially encompassed around 3% of the West Bank and was put under full civil and security control of the Palestinian Authority. Area B initially extended over around 23% of the West Bank and was put under Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli-Palestinian security control. Area C (around 72% of the West Bank) was put under full Israeli civil and security control.

The collapse of the peace process

The peace process soon began to falter. While act of violence didn't stop, culminating in the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in November 1995 by an Israeli ultranationalist, subsequent attempts to restart and improve the peace accords stalled. In a meeting held at Camp David under the auspices of US President Clinton in July 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Barak offered to form a Palestinian state initially on 73% of the West Bank and 100% of the Gaza Strip that, in 10 to 25 years, would expand to a maximum of 91% of the West Bank; Israeli withdrawal from more than 60 settlements; Palestinian sovereignty over parts of East Jerusalem and a sort of custody over the Temple Mount. The Palestinian delegation refused the agreement because it did not concede full Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem nor addressed the issue of the right to return.

In September 2000, a five year long uprising known as the Second Intifada started when former Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Ariel Sharon made a visit to the Temple Mount seen as highly provocative by the Palestinians. The uprising destroyed the mutual trust that had been built during the years of the peace process and the new negotiating formats proposed, such as the Quartet on the Middle East (UN, US, European Union and Russia; established in 2002), the Road Map advanced by US President Bush (2003), and the Arab Peace Initiative (2002) put in place by the Arab League, remained largely ineffective. Subsequent Israeli-Palestinian bilateral efforts to put the peace process back on track were equally inconclusive. From December 2006 to mid-September 2008, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority met 36 times, plus there were also lower-level talks. In the meanwhile, Israel continued its unilateral disengagement policy, which responded to specific Israeli domestic political and security needs. After having completed the withdrawal of its contingent from southern Lebanon in 2000, Israel withdrew its army and dismantled all its settlements from the Gaza Strip in September 2005. Thus, the PA nominally gained full control of the Gaza Strip, with the exception of its borders, airspace, and territorial waters.

Gaza under Hamas

The Israeli withdrawal from Gaza allowed Hamas to increase its maneuvering space in the Strip. In fact, the Islamic movement soon took effectively total control of the area at the expense of Fatah. This exacerbated the internal tensions of the various Palestinian factions and eventually led to the stalling of the Palestinian Authority, inaugurating a long phase of a crisis of legitimacy that continues today. Under Hamas, the popular uprising of the Second Intifada decreased in number and intensity. However, in parallel rocket and missile launches from the Strip to Israeli territory increased, mirroring - albeit in a minor tone - the war of attrition of some decade earlier. Altogether, the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the growth of Hamas led to two important consequences: the definitive rupture between Hamas and Fatah and the beginning of a military confrontation between Hamas and Israel that had been alternatively fluctuating between phases of low-intensity conflict and periods of proper direct military confrontation on a larger scale.

On January 25, 2006 elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council were held in the Occupied Territories. Hamas won a surprise victory over Fatah that eventually led to the formation of a coalition government. But tensions between the two parties soon escalated, especially in the Gaza strip. After a week of intense fighting, Hamas forces defeated Fatah and took control of the whole Strip. The Palestinian Authority was thus splintered into two polities, each claiming to be the true representatives of the Palestinian people. Even though President Abbas formally dissolved the Hamas-led government and declared the state of emergency in June 2007, Fatah controlled the Palestinian National Authority just in the West Bank and Hamas kept on governing in Gaza. This led to a blockade on the Strip enforced by Israel and Egypt.

Since Hamas' takeover of the Strip, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued to clash with Israeli forces, as well as launching rocket attacks on Israeli territory. In response to a cross-border raid by Palestinians armed groups and the abduction of an Israeli military official, Israel launched Operation Summer Rains on June 28, 2006 (followed by Operation "Autumn Clouds" on November 1, 2006) with the goal of suppressing Qassam rocket fire and dismantle the network of underground tunnels used by militants to smuggle weapons. Following Israeli operations, rocket attacks continued with varying intensity. Israel and Hamas agreed in June 2008 to a six-month cease-fire in negotiations brokered by Egypt. When the cease-fire expired, a major conflict broke out in late December when Israel launched Operation Cast Lead and conducted air strikes on Hamas targets in response to increased rocket attacks. A week after commencing the air strikes, Israel mounted a ground offensive into the Gaza Strip. The conflict ended on January 18, 2009 when Israel and Hamas declared unilateral cease-fires.

Further attempts of direct Israeli-Palestinian talks

On November 25, 2009 Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu imposed a 10-month construction freeze on all of its settlements in the West Bank. The move came at a time of increasing pressure from the United States to restart the peace process and was intended as a gesture to demonstrate Israeli goodwill. In any case, Netanyahu stressed that this decision was to be accompanied by some concessions on the Palestinian side, specifically that the whole of Jerusalem was considered the capital of Israel and that the Palestinians renounced their right of return. Direct negotiations between Israel and Palestinian Authority took place during 2010 with the ultimate aim of implementing a two-state solution, now vaguely endorsed also by Israeli leadership, but broke down in late September 2010 when the Israeli moratorium on settlement construction in the West Bank expired and Netanyahu refused to extend the freeze unless the Palestinian Authority recognized Israel as a Jewish State, while the Palestinian leadership refused to continue negotiating unless Israel extended the moratorium.

The enduring Hamas-Israel conflict

While rockets attacks from Gaza sporadically grew in intensity and led to two smaller Israeli operations in March and October 2012 ("Returning Echo" and "Pillar of Defense"), a wider confrontation began in July-August 2014, when Israel launched a full-scale military operation called "Protective Edge". The operation began with a week of aerial bombardment and progressed to an incursion by ground troops. The stated aim of the Israeli operation was once again to stop rocket fire from Gaza into Israel and to disrupt underground tunnels, while Hamas's goal was to increase international pressure to lift Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip and eventually to overcome its political isolation. After several weeks of fighting, Israel withdrew its forces from the Gaza Strip, declaring that their mission had been fulfilled. The war caused widespread destruction in the Strip, that coupled with the enduring blockade resulted in a prolonged slowdown in reconstruction and a further deterioration of the living conditions of the inhabitants of the Strip.

The PA under late President Abbas

The collapse of direct talks in 2010 pushed President Abbas to pursue alternatively two different goals. On the one hand, he promoted several attempts to reconcile Fatah with Hamas and mend the rift inside the PA. On the other hand, he tried to gain international recognition multiplying its efforts in a large number of international fora.

After a four-year schism, Palestinian officials announced in April 2011 that Hamas and Fatah had reached a reconciliation agreement in negotiations mediated by Egypt. In June 2011, the negotiations regarding the formation of a unity government were suspended because of disagreements over who the Prime Minister will be. The process was briefly revived by the signing of a deal in Doha, Qatar, by the President of the PA Abbas and the leader of Hamas Khaled Meshaal, but to no avail. Further, yet ultimately unsuccessful, attempts to put the reconciliation process back on track were made in May 2012 (Cairo Agreement), April 2014 (Gaza and Cairo Agreements), and December 2015 – February 2016 (Doha Agreement). All these attempts concerned the possibility of forming a new government of national unity and of establishing a roadmap for legislative and presidential elections.

In the meanwhile, Abbas shifted his efforts from direct peace talks with Israel toward gaining international recognition for a Palestinian state according to its 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. In September 2011 he submitted a request to the UN Security Council asking for the admission of an independent Palestinian state, but the bid fell short of a clear majority and was openly opposed by the US. Thus, Abbas submitted a resolution to the UN General Assembly requesting an upgrade of the official status of the Palestinian mission to the UN, shifting from “permanent observer” to “non-member observer state”. The resolution passed on November 29, 2012 and allowed Palestinians to seek membership in international bodies, thus gaining a sort of implicit international recognition. In 2015, Palestine became a party to the International Criminal Court. This admission allows the PA to request from the ICC Prosecutor an assessment of any war crimes committed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially in relation to the 2014 conflict. On September 30, 2015, in a speech to the UN General Assembly, President Abbas said Palestinians no longer considered themselves bound by the Oslo Accords.

An uncertain future

The three main dynamics that have characterized the Palestinian Territories since the 2000s – the stalemate in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the unsuccessful attempts to bring unity into the Palestinian Authority and episodic explosions of violence – continued to affect deeply the political and security framework in the course of the last 3 years.

In late September 2015 a sudden increase in violence occurred in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, mainly represented by a wave of stabbing attacks against Israeli civilians and security officials by Palestinians. Even though media worldwide framed this outburst of violence as a “Knife Intifada”, suggesting that these were planned and coordinated actions, the episodes were conducted by lone, not organised actors, nor there has been a widespread support for the attacks by the Palestinian political

leadership. The incidents were related in part to tensions between Palestinians and Israelis regarding the status of the Temple Mount. Although the stabbings in fact continued until June 2016, the phase with the highest rate of attacks was recorded in the last quarter of 2015. In total, 38 Israelis and 235 Palestinians died, while the injured amounted to 558 and almost 4,000 respectively.

On March 30, 2018 a six-week protest campaign, planned and run by Hamas with the launch of rocks and the burning of tyres, was launched in the Gaza Strip near the Gaza-Israel border. It was supposed to last between 30 March and 15 May, the day in which Palestinians remember the creation of the state of Israel as the day of the Nakba (“Catastrophe”). In fact, the demonstrations and clashes with the Israeli security forces continued in the following months throughout 2018. A fragile ceasefire was put in place since May 30, but it has since been frequently violated. Since March 30, Israeli security forces and army have killed more than 120 Palestinians and wounded several thousands. Since early June 2018, Palestinians protesters started sending fire-starting kites into Israel to set fire to farmland and forests, in a new tactic that led Israeli security forces to increase monitoring and targeting activities over the Strip.

In mid November 2018 tensions rapidly escalated. In the first known ground incursion in the Strip by Israeli forces since the last war in 2014, on November 11 Israeli forces killed seven Palestinians, four of them militants, including the Hamas commander Nour Baraka. Israeli Airforce launched missiles in the Strip to cover the commando’s retreat. The following day Hamas and other Palestinian factions fired a barrage of rockets in retaliation. More than 300 rockets were fired in the span of a few hours, saturating the capabilities of the Israeli air-defence system Iron Dome. Several rockets did hit civilian targets in Israeli cities and villages. Israel responded with a new wave of airstrikes aimed at neutralizing rocket launchers. This episode was the most significant exchange of fire between parties since the war in 2014.

The PA leadership redoubled its efforts to reach an agreement with Hamas since early 2017. In May 2017, Hamas unveiled its new charter, in an attempt to moderate its image, and replaced its longtime leader Khaled Meshaal with Ismail Haniyeh. The charter no longer calls for Israel’s destruction, but still calls for liberation of Palestine. It also confirms acceptance of the 1967 borders as the basis for establishing a Palestinian state, thus recognizing the right to existence to Israel, although still implicitly. The following month, with a mix of political pressure (aggravating the blockade of the Gaza Strip, included cutting the salaries of Palestinian National Authority employees living in Gaza and reducing the electricity supply to the Strip) and vague promises, Abbas eventually succeeded in bringing Hamas back to the negotiating table. A role in this latest attempt toward reconciliation has been played by Mohamed Dahlan, a former Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip and one of Abbas’s main contenders for the leadership of the PA. An agreement was signed in Cairo on October 12, 2017 under pressure from Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. The agreement stipulated that Hamas gives Fatah full civilian control of the Gaza Strip in return for an ease of the economic blockade, a joint Fatah-

Hamas security control in the Strip and at border crossings. In large part, as of November 2018 the agreement was not followed by real developments on the ground. On March 13, 2018 Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah survived an assassination attempt in northern Gaza when a bomb detonated near his convoy. Abbas accused Hamas of being behind the attack, a circumstance that the Islamic movement strongly denied. In November, after months of negotiations, Qatar delivered \$15 million to Gaza, with the intention of paying salaries for Gaza's civil servants and easing the humanitarian situation.

As far as the peace process is concerned, the Trump Administration has repeatedly announced it has been working on a comprehensive plan which is yet to be officially submitted to the parties. Yet, in a widely unexpected move, on December 6, 2017 Trump announced the United States recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, reversing decades of American foreign policy on the matter, and ordered the planning of the relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu welcomed the decision, while Palestinian President Abbas he denounced Washington's choice with very harsh tones. On December 21, the UN General Assembly voted by a huge majority to reject his unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Although largely

symbolic, the vote highlighted a wide opposition front against the US decision. The resolution, supporting the longstanding international consensus that the status of Jerusalem can only be settled as an agreed final issue in a peace deal between Israel and Palestinians, received 128 votes for and 9 votes against (US, Israel, Togo, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Marshall Islands, Guatemala and Honduras), while 35 countries abstained. Criticism towards the US decision was express also by the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit held in Istanbul on December 13, 2017 and by the Arab League meeting that took place in Saudi Arabia on April 15, 2018. The US embassy was actually moved to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018.

Throughout 2018, US envoys for the Middle East held a number of separate meetings with Palestinians and Israeli authorities, in addition to other meetings with neighbouring states such as Egypt and Jordan. No detail of the plan has been officially revealed, but Palestinians authorities claimed that the US is trying to unilaterally change the terms of reference for any future proposal, and that the Trump administration is siding with Israel on the core issues of the decades-old conflict. A generic opposition to the American peace plan was also advanced by Jordan.

1.3 Geography

Location: Occupied Palestinian Territories are located in the Middle East, in South-Western Asia. They consist of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip. They are bordered by Israel; the Mediterranean Sea to the west; Egypt to the south; the Dead Sea and Jordan to the east.

Area: Occupied Palestinian Territories' total area is approximately 6,220 square kilometres of landmass (of which West Bank 5,860 sq km, Gaza Strip 360 sq km).

Land Boundaries: The Gaza Strip is bordered by Egypt (12 km) and Israel (51 km). The West Bank is bordered by Israel (330 km), Jordan (148 km). The total length of their borders is 550 km.

Length of Coastline: Gaza Strip's length of coastline is 40 km. West Bank is landlocked, but has a coastline with the Dead Sea of approximately 40 km.

Maritime Claims: The Gaza maritime area is closed to all maritime traffic and is under blockade imposed by Israeli Navy. Under the Oslo Accords, the fishing distance is put at 20 nautical miles. As part of Israeli blockade, Gaza fishermen are allowed to operate only within a limited "designated fishing zone" of 6 nautical miles from Gaza's shore.

Topography: Gaza Strip consist mostly of sand- and dune-covered coastal plain. West Bank is characterized by rugged uplands in the West and flat plains in the East. The shores of the Dead Sea are the lowest point on dry land on Earth, reaching around -400 m below sea level.

Natural Resources: Occupied Palestinian Territories main natural resources are arable land and natural gas.

Land Use: Around 40% of Occupied Palestinian Territories consists of arable land; permanent crops occupy around 11% of the land.

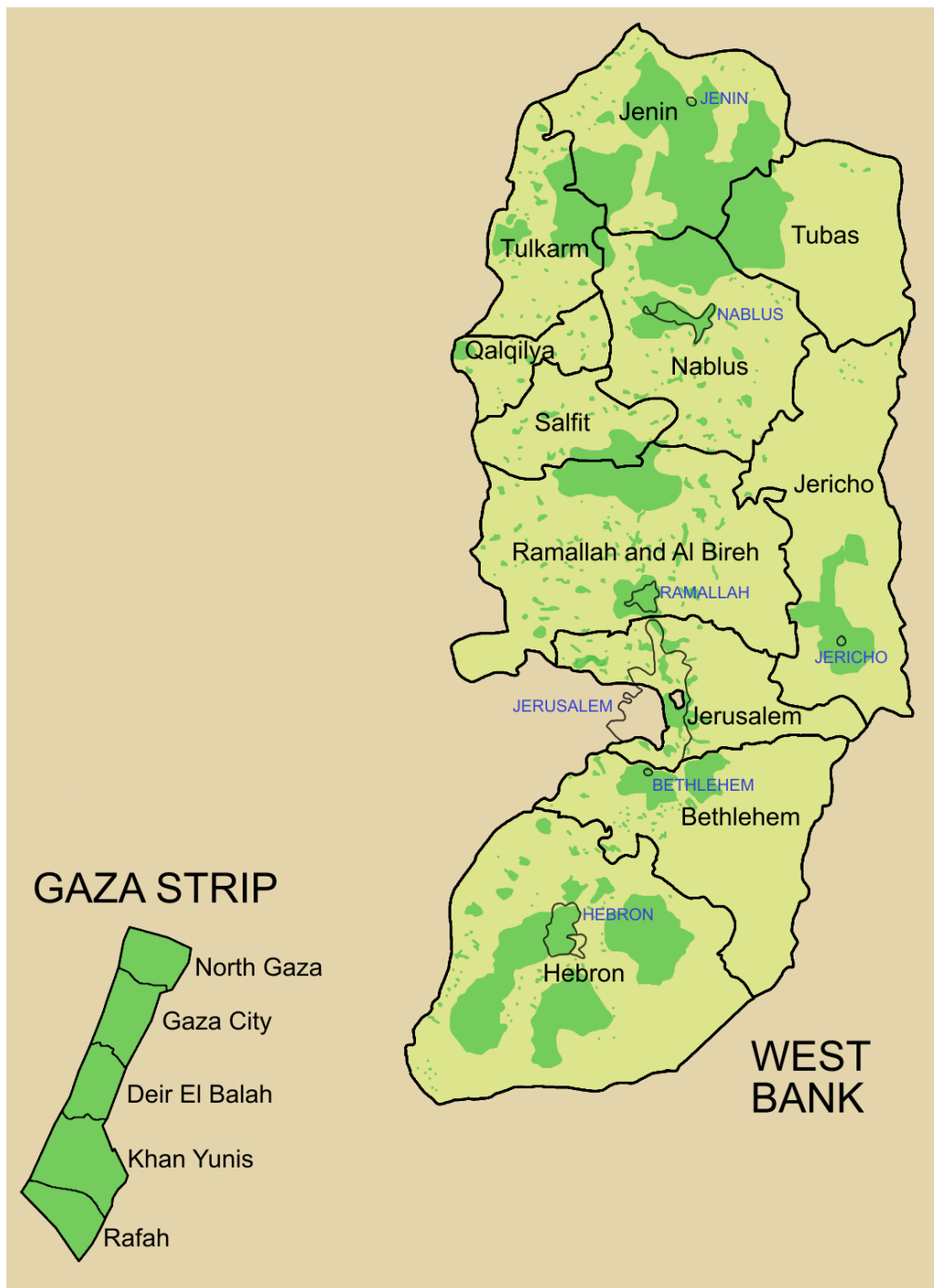
Environmental Factors: Occupied Palestinian Territories' most pressing environmental issues are related to accessibility, quality and treatment of water. There are frequent problems with freshwater supplies caused both by the salination of fresh water, the depletion and the contamination of underground water resources, and environmental events such as droughts. Moreover, poor quality water is cause to water-borne diseases. Desertification and soil degradation are a threat to arable land.

1.4 Territorial and Administrative Units

Occupied Palestinian Territories are officially recognized as the State of Palestine by 136 out of 193 member states of the United Nations. Since its declaration of independence in 1988, Palestine is a unitary republic. After the signing of the Oslo Accords, both West Bank and the Gaza Strip were divided into areas (A, B and C) and governorates. Area A refers to the area under Palestinian Authority security and civilian control. Area B refers to the area under Palestinian civilian and Israeli security control. Area C refers to the area under full Israeli control such as settlements. Palestine is divided into 16 governorates (called “muhafazhat”).

List of State of Palestine governorates:

- Bethlehem
- Deir al-Balah
- Gaza
- Hebron
- Jenin
- Jericho
- Jerusalem
- Khan Younis
- Nablus
- North Gaza
- Qalqiliya
- Rafah
- Ramallah ad al-Bireh
- Salfit
- Tubas
- Tulkarm

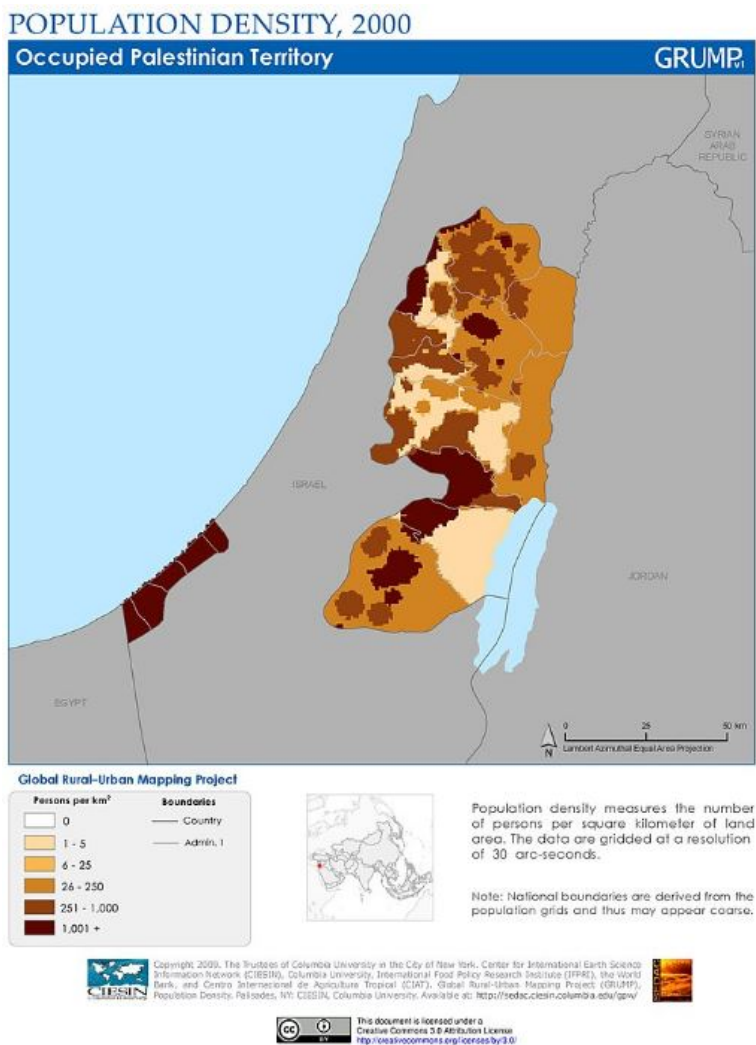


Source: Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0

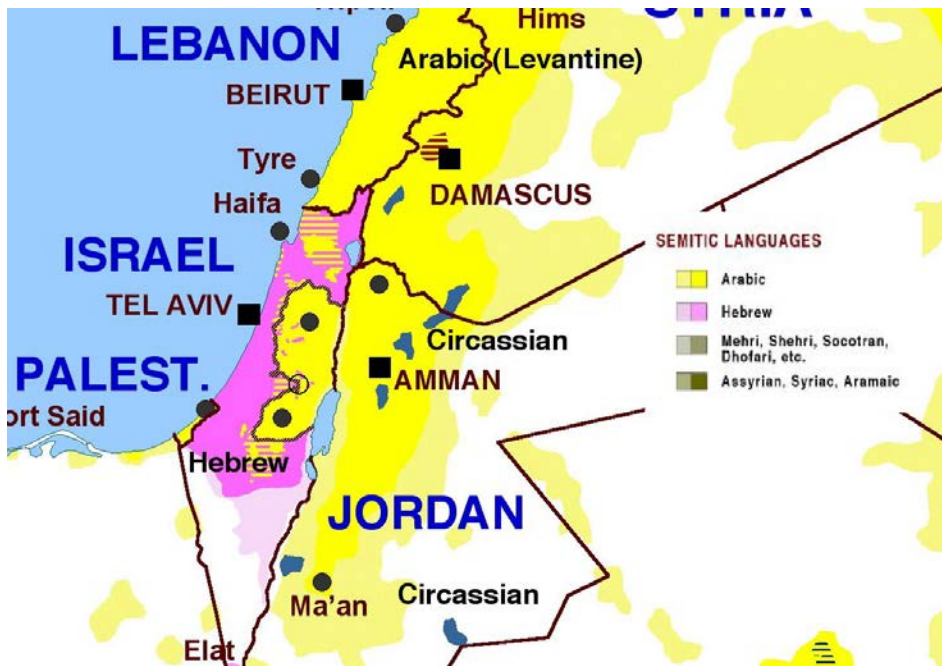
1.5 Population

According to 2017 estimates, Occupied Palestinian Territories have a population of 4,543,126. Population living in urban areas is around 76% of the total, the biggest cities being Gaza City, East Jerusalem, Khan Younis, Jabaliya, Hebron. The population density in the West Bank is of 580 inhabitants for square kilometre, while in the Gaza Strip is more than 5,000 inhabitants for square kilometre. West Bank has a population growth of 1.84% and the

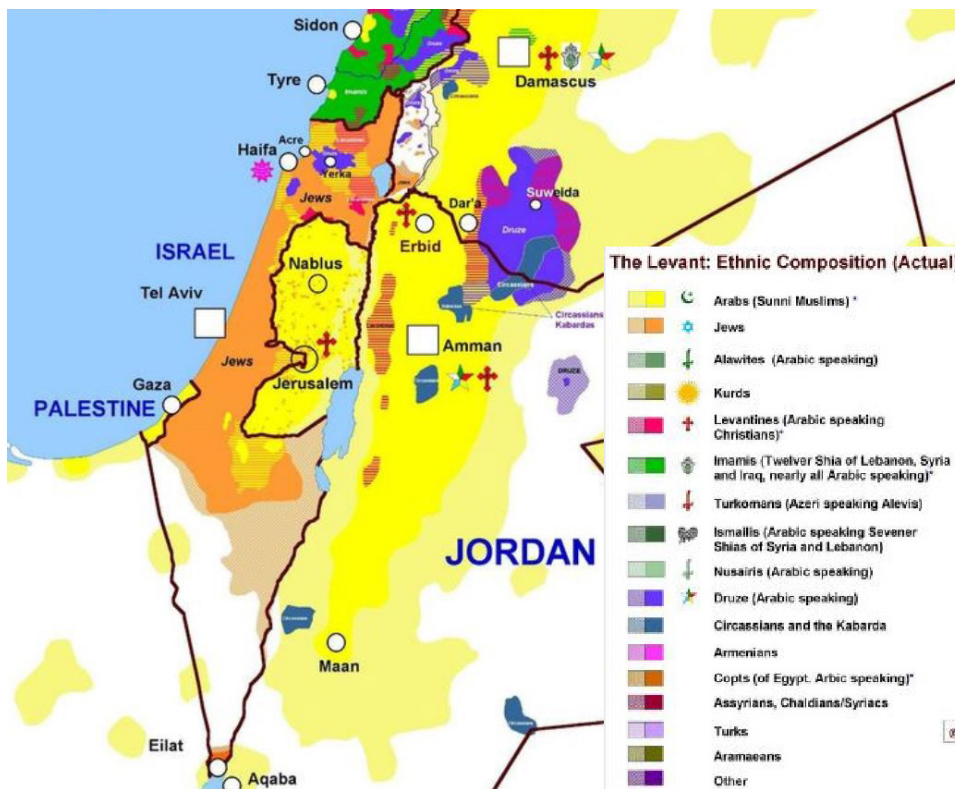
Gaza Strip has a population growth of 2.33%, the life expectancy at birth being respectively 75.2 and 74.2 years. According to 2017 estimates, the birth rate is 26.3 births/1,000 population in West Bank and 31.4 births/1,000 population in the Gaza Strip, while the fertility rate is respectively 3.27 and 4.13 children born/woman. As of 2017 estimates, the infant mortality rate was 14.1 deaths/1,000 live births in West Bank and 16.6 in the Gaza Strip.



Source: NASA's SEDAC (Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center)



Source: Columbia University (detail; modified)



Source: Columbia University (detail; modified)

1.6 Ethnic Groups, Languages, Religion

Ethnic Groups

The presence and distribution of ethnic groups in the Occupied Palestinian Territories have been profoundly influenced by historical events in the region over the past 150 years. The arrival of multiple waves of Jewish immigrants (*aliyah*), mostly from Eastern Europe, has increased the Jewish presence of hundreds of thousands of units since the last decades of the nineteenth century, mainly due to the growing commitment of Zionist activists. This dynamic has affected the region of historical Palestine as a whole, decreasing the percentage of the Arab majority, especially in coastal areas and major urban centers. According to a report by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), by 1948 the population in the whole region had risen to 1,900,000, of whom 68% were Arabs and 32% were Jews. Further shifts in the demographic composition of the region occurred both as a consequence of the 1967 war, when Israel occupied West Bank and Gaza, leading to the displacement of thousands of Palestinians, and as a consequence of Israeli politics of encouraging the spread of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

On 30 June 2014, according to the Yesha Council (an umbrella organization of municipal councils of Israeli settlements in the West Bank), 382,031 Israeli citizens lived in the 121 officially recognised Israeli settlements in the West Bank, almost exclusively Jewish citizens of Israel. At the end of 2008, the population of East Jerusalem was 456,300. Of these, 195,500 (43%) were Jews and 260,800 (57%) were Arabs. As for the Gaza Strip, following the unilateral withdrawal of Israel from the area in 2005, which also involved the departure of all Israeli settlers, virtually the entire population is made up of Palestinian Arabs.

Apart from Arab and Jews, the remainder of the population in the Occupied Palestinian Territories include some small minorities such as Samaritans (less than 400 people, living mostly in Kiryat Luza near Nablus) and Kurds (mainly in Hebron, Jerusalem and Nablus).

Languages

The vast majority of people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories speak Palestinian Arabic, which is considered one of the Southern dialects of Levantine Arabic, alongside Outer Southern Levantine Arabic (spoken in Gaza Strip and by Negev Bedouins in Israel) and South-Eastern Levantine Arabic (spoken by Palestinians in Hebron area, in most of Jordan and South Western Syria). Levantine Arabic is one of five major varieties of Arabic, widely spoken in the Levant area on the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Arabic belongs to the same Semitic language family which includes also Hebrew, the second most spoken language in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. English is widely understood.

Religion

The predominant religion in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, practised by more than 80% of the population, is Sunni Islam. Minority religions include Judaism (12-14%), Christianity mainly in its Greek Orthodox (1-2,5%) and Catholic (mostly Latin rite, with a minor Melkite rite community) branches. Jerusalem is the seat of the Eastern Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which is regarded by Eastern Orthodox Christians as the mother church of all of Christendom.

1.7 Health

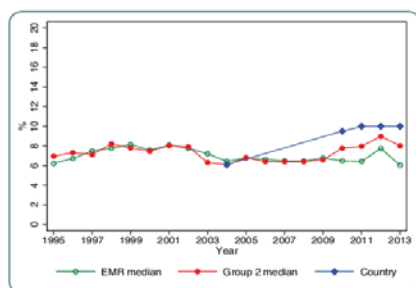
Under the Oslo accords, responsibility for health care was transferred from Israel to the Palestinian Authority (PA). Through its Ministry of Health (MOH), the PA provides health services to Palestinians under its jurisdiction in accordance with the Constitution and the Public Health Law. Additionally, the PA government insurance plan is the principal insurance provider in the PA run territories. Since the ascendancy of the Hamas government in Gaza, the PA's MOH no longer serves a governmental function in Gaza healthcare, having been replaced by Hamas. The majority of funding for MOH services emanates from foreign aid and taxes.

UNRWA has money in its budget (which is determined by the UN) to provide free health services to eligible Palestinians living in the West Bank and in Gaza provided that they are registered as refugees. Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) bankrolled by private benefactors encompass a sizable portion of the health care economy in the Palestinian Authority.

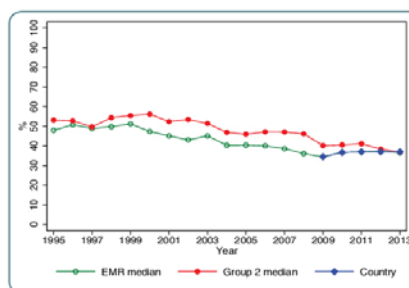
Total expenditure on health as a percentage of the gross domestic product in the Occupied Palestinian Territories has decreased from 12.5% in 2005 to 10.9% in 2013. In addition, the share of out-of-pocket spending has increased from 34.1% in 2005 to 37.7% in 2013. In 2015, total expenditure totalled 710,942,001 NIS (New Israeli Shekels), equivalent to \$180,666,819 and 56% of the total operating health budget (excluding salaries). In 2015, there was a budget deficit of 44% or 559,031,959 NIS, equivalent to \$142,062,961.

West Bank has a physician density of 1.3 physicians/1,000 population and a hospital bed density of 1.26 beds/1,000 population, while the Gaza Strip has a physician density of 2.2 physicians/1,000 population and a hospital bed density of 1.32 beds/1,000 population. According to a 2015 UN estimate, more than 58% of the population has access to improved drinking water resources and more than 92% of the population has access to improved sanitation facilities.

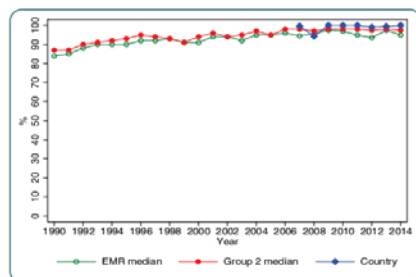
General government expenditure on health as % of general government expenditure (18)



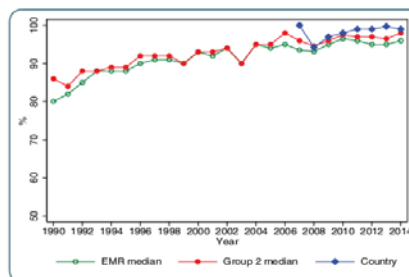
Out-of-pocket expenditure as % of total health expenditure (18)



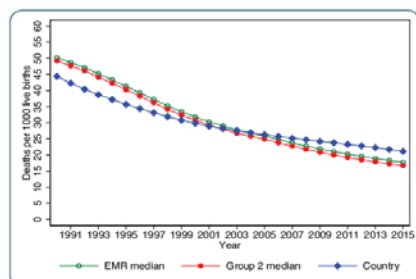
DPT3/pentavalent coverage among children under 1 year of age (%)¹



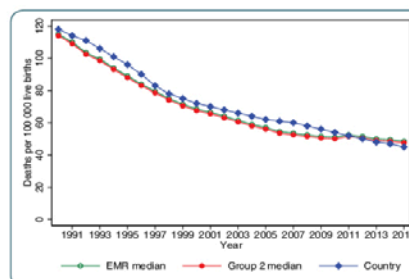
Measles immunization coverage (%)¹



Under-5 mortality (per 1000 live births) (12)



Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births) (11)

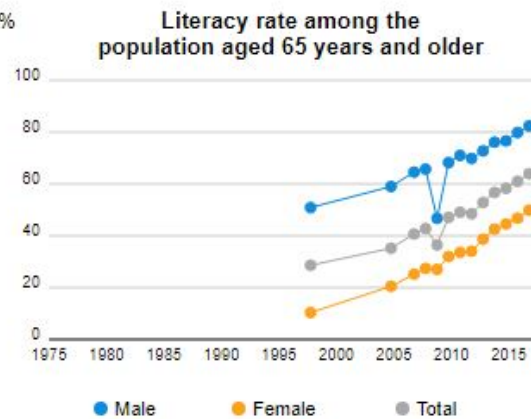
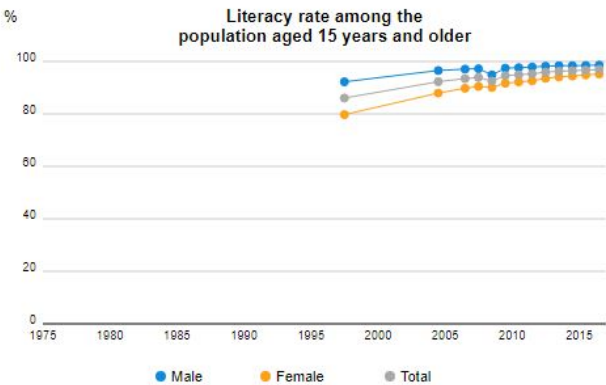


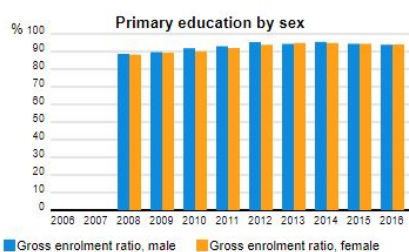
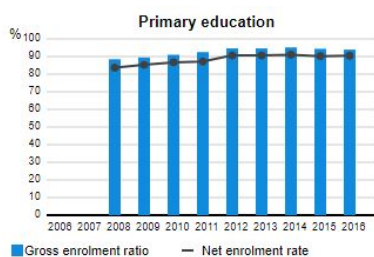
¹ Ministry of Health, unpublished data, 2014.

Source: WHO

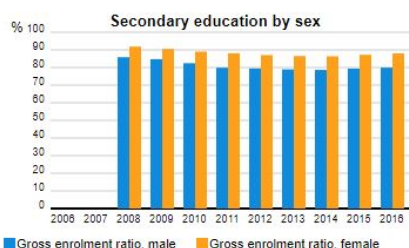
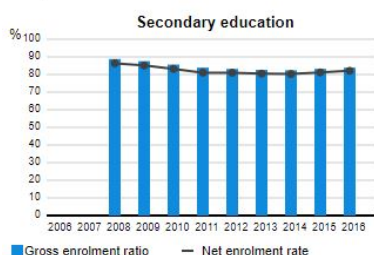
1.8 Education and Literacy

According to UNESCO figures, virtually all Palestinians youth and adults under 65 are literate. Figures for adult over 65 show a literacy rate of 63.93%. More than 93% of Palestinians attended primary school, while more than 83% attended secondary school. The government expenditure on education amounts to 5.73% of the GDP.





PRIMARY EDUCATION	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Gross enrolment ratio (%)										
Total	88.46	89.47	91	92.52	94.61	94.59	95.17	94.39	93.92	...
Female	88.26	89.29	90.1	92.02	93.81	94.87	94.87	94.39	93.99	...
Male	88.66	89.64	91.87	92.99	95.37	94.33	95.46	94.4	93.86	...
Net enrolment rate (%)										
Total	83.66	85.3	86.7	87.17	90.6	90.6	91.08	90.24	90.45	...
Female	83.64	85.01	85.71	86.79	90.17	91.29	91.3	90.75	90.85	...
Male	83.68	85.57	87.65	87.54	91.01	89.95	90.88	89.75	90.06	...



SECONDARY EDUCATION	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Gross enrolment ratio (%)										
Total	88.79	87.58	85.65	83.9	83.17	82.66	82.41	83.22	83.87	...
Female	91.86	90.54	89	88.09	87.05	86.59	86.36	87.21	87.98	...
Male	85.85	84.74	82.44	79.88	79.45	78.94	78.62	79.38	79.92	...
Net enrolment rate (%)										
Total	86.39	85.1	83.19	81.05	81	80.47	80.29	81.17	82.09	...
Female	89.09	87.7	86.14	85	84.61	84.14	84.05	84.88	85.94	...
Male	83.79	82.61	80.37	77.27	77.53	76.95	76.68	77.61	78.4	...

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Government expenditure on education										
as % of GDP	6.73	5.7	5.13	5.3	...	5.14	5.73	...
as % of total government expenditure
Government expenditure per student (in PPPs)										
Primary education
Secondary education
Tertiary education

Source: UNESCO Institute for statistics

1.9 Country Economy

Israeli and Palestinian economies are deeply intertwined. This is the result of the Protocol on Economic Relations (Paris Protocol) signed on April 29, 1994 and incorporated with minor amendments into the Oslo II Accord of September 1995. Essentially, the Protocol integrated the Palestinian economy into the Israeli one through a customs union, with Israel to control all borders, both its own and those of the Palestinian Authority. The protocol regulates the relationship and interaction between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in six major areas: customs, taxes, labor, agriculture, industry and tourism. Israel collects and transfers to the Palestinian Authority the import taxes on goods that were intended for the Occupied Territories and then transfers the collected tax revenue for goods and services sold in Israel and intended for consumption in the Occupied Territories. Pursuant to the Protocol, Israel withholds 25% of these income taxes by default (not from Palestinians employed in settlements). Additionally, 3% of the total revenue is levied as collection and processing fees.

The economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territories has been strongly affected by the Israeli occupation; by limitations to the movement of people and goods resulting from the security policies implemented by the Israeli side and, following the Oslo agreements, jointly by Israel and the Palestinian Authority; by the air, sea and land blockade of the Gaza Strip. A degraded security environment and widespread corruption further contribute to weakening the Palestinian economy.

According to the World Bank, the economic outlook for the Palestinian territories is worrying with GDP expected to decrease by 2.5% in 2018 from 2.7% in 2017. Unemployment in the Palestinian territories continued to be high at 27% in 2017. In Gaza, it reached 44% compared to 18% in the West Bank. In 2017, only 41% of those aged between 15 and 29 were active in the labor market, reflecting high pessimism regarding employment prospects. Despite a low participation rate, unemployment amongst this category reached a staggering 60% in Gaza. There are also dramatic differences in labor force participation by gender. Male participation rates reached 71% in 2017 while women have recent participation rates of 19%. The latest poverty numbers for 2011 suggest that about 21% of the Palestinian population lives below the US\$5.5 a day poverty line. Poverty is expected to have been volatile in the following years witnessing a strong increase after the war in 2014 before gradually declining to pre-crises levels and then increasing again in 2017 due to a decline in incomes in Gaza in early 2018. According to a 2016 World Bank report, Israeli restrictions remain the main constraint to Palestinian economic competitiveness and have pushed private investment levels to amongst the lowest in the world, particularly the ones on Area C which cost Palestinian economy around 35% of its GDP. GDP losses in Gaza since the blockade of 2007 are above 50%. The Palestinian economy is dependent on international aid and around 4 in 5 Gazans rely on donations for their survival. As a percentage of its GDP, the Palestinian Territories are one of the most dependent economies in the world on remittances. Data from International Monetary Fund in 2010 show US\$ 431m being transferred by workers employed abroad.

Furthermore, the Israel-West Bank separation barrier has a deep impact on Palestinian economy. The barrier was built by Israel in early 2000s and it is 708 km long, of which 15% runs along the Green Line (the line of 1949 armistice) or in Israel, while the remaining 85% cuts at times 18 kilometres deep into the West Bank, isolating about 9% of it. This complex web of checkpoints and roadblocks make it difficult for Palestinians to travel within the Palestinian Territories for jobs. Farmers whose land is now behind the barrier are required to apply for visitor permits to Israeli authorities, which are often rejected.

Economic growth

(% unless otherwise indicated)

	2017	2018	2019
US GDP	2.3	2.6	2.5
OECD GDP	2.4	2.3	2.2
World GDP	3.0	3.0	3.0
World trade	4.6	4.1	3.8

Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit

2. Political and Security Context

2.1 The Constitution of Occupied Palestinian Territories

Palestinian Territories do not have an official Constitution, but have adopted instead a Basic Law. The Palestinian Basic Law is to function as a temporary constitution for the Palestinian Authority until the establishment of an independent state and a permanent constitution for Palestine can be achieved. The Basic Law was passed by the Palestinian Legislative Council in 1997 and ratified by President Yasser Arafat in 2002. It has subsequently been amended twice; in 2003 the political system was changed to introduce a prime minister. In 2005 it was amended to conform to the new Election Law. The 2003 reform was comprehensive and affected the whole nature of the Palestinian political system, whereas the 2005 amendment was only minor and affected only a few paragraphs.

The Palestinian Authority is the interim governing body, pending final status determination, resulted from the agreement between Israel and Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1994 (PLO declared the establishment of the State of Palestine in 1988).

Under this provisional framework, Palestinian Territories are a semi-presidential multi-party republic. The president of the State of Palestine is the highest-ranking political position (equivalent to head of state) in the Palestinian Authority. The president is elected by popular elections. The prime minister is appointed by the president and thus not directly elected by voters nor deputies. The legislative power rests with the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), a

unicameral body with 132 members. The PLC was inaugurated for the first time on 7 March 1996 and served as the legislature of the Palestinian Authority for 11 years.

The leadership of the PA has been disputed since the Fatah-Hamas civil war in 2007. The government broke up on 14 June 2007 when President Abbas declared a state of emergency and moved to dismiss Ismail Haniyeh as Prime Minister, but the latter and the Palestinian Legislative Council did not acknowledge the legitimacy of this step. The situation was aggravated on 9 January 2009 when Abbas's term of office expired and Hamas appointed its own acting president. Currently, the Fatah-led government has *de facto* authority only over the West Bank, while the Hamas-led government has *de facto* authority over the Gaza Strip. Both regimes regard themselves as the sole legitimate government of the Palestinian National Authority. The rift worsened further in March 2017, when Hamas created an Administrative Committee in order to widen its governance in the Strip. Although this institutional dualism should find a rearrangement by virtue of the reconciliation agreements signed by Hamas and Fatah in October 2017, the agreement has in large part remained on paper.

2.2 Elections

Palestinian general elections, 20 January 1996

The general elections of 1996 were the first elections for the President of the Palestinian Authority and for the members of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Voter turnout was 736,825 or 71.66% of total registered voters. The total valid votes was 715,966 or 97% of total cast votes. The elections were observed by 519 International observers and more than 2000 local observers. In their final report observers deemed that the elections had been conducted in a free and democratic manner.

Two candidates competed for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority: Yasser Arafat and Samiha Khalil. Arafat was the candidate of Fatah, the largest faction of the confederated multi-party Palestine Liberation Organization. Khalil was the candidate of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). The Islamist Hamas, Fatah's main rival, refused to participate in the election in order not to lend legitimacy to the Palestinian Authority, which was created after an agreement with Israel. Hamas rejected the agreement and pursued its longtime uncompromising attitude towards Israel. Arafat won the presidential elections with 88.2% of the votes, while Khalil got 11.5%.

The legislative election saw 88 PLC members elected from multi-member constituencies, with the number of representatives from each constituency determined by population. 672 candidates, 370 from the West Bank and 302 from Gaza, competed for a seat in the Palestinian Legislative Council. Some seats were set aside for the Christian and Samaritan communities. 51 seats were allocated to the West Bank, 37 to the Gaza Strip. Fatah gained 55 seats, which is the absolute majority of the PLC.

Palestinian presidential elections, 9 January 2005

The 2005 presidential elections were the first to be held since 1996. Vote took place in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip some three months after former President Yasser Arafat's death in November 2004.

Fatah's candidate and former prime minister Mahmoud Abbas won the election and the four-year presidential mandate with over 62% of the votes cast. 70% of those listed in the electoral register voted; however, over 30% of eligible citizens were not registered. The General Secretary of the Palestinian National Initiative party Mustafa Barghouti came in second with slightly less than 20% of votes.

Abbas' presidential mandate expired in 2009, but no other presidential elections were held to date.

Palestinian general elections, 25 January 2006

Legislative elections held in 2006 marked the second time Palestinians elected members to the Palestine Legislative Council. Elections had been postponed for many years due to discord between Fatah and Hamas, the two leading Palestinian factions. An agreement was eventually reached in March 2005 when all Palestinian factions signed the Palestinian Cairo Declaration, that called for a reorganization of the Palestine Liberation Organization in order to include also Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Moreover, the Declaration led to the adoption of a mixed voting system instead of the majority electoral system adopted for 1996 elections. In fact,

after Fatah's Mahmud Abbas won the presidential elections in January 2005, the electoral system had been changed by presidential decree into a full proportional representation system.

Thus, Palestinian electoral law was changed to expand the PLC from 88 to 132 seats and to introduce a degree of proportional representation via a parallel voting system: 50% elected by proportional representation taking the Palestinian Territories as a single district and 50% by the majoritarian system in different districts. 66 of the PLC seats were distributed in accordance with the Sainte-Laguë method to those lists that received more than 2% of the total list votes.

The Central Elections Commission released the final results on Sunday, January 29, 2006, and announced that Change and Reform (Hamas) had won 74 of the 132 seats, while Fatah trailed with 45. Hamas won the large majority of the constituency seats but was more narrowly ahead on the lists. Fatah did beat Hamas in the constituencies in Qalqilya, Rafah, and Jericho. Jenin was split evenly, and Fatah won the seats reserved for Christians in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Ramallah. The Central Elections Commission said turnout was 74.6%–76.0% in the Gaza Strip and 73.1% in the West Bank.

Following the 2006 elections, no other legislatives elections were held.

1996 legislative elections

Legislative Council	88 Seats
Fatah (Palestine Liberation Movement)	55
Independent Fatah	7
Independent Islamists	4
Independent Christians	3
Independents	15
Samaritans	1
Others	1
Vacant	2

Source: Central Election Commission Palestine

2006 legislative elections

The second 2006 PLC elections The final distribution of PLC seats

	Political affiliation	No. of seats in the lists	No. of seats in the districts	Total No. of seats
1	Change and Reform	29	45	74
2	Fatah Movement	28	17	45
3	Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa	3	0	3
4	The Third Way	2	0	2
5	The Alternative	2	0	2
6	Independent Palestine	2	0	2
7	Independents	0	4	4
	Total	66	66	132

Source: Central Election Commission Palestine

2.3 Political Parties



Fatah (Harakat al-tahriri al-filastini)

Fatah was founded as a political movement in 1959 by Yasser Arafat, Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), Farouq Kadumi, Khalid al-Hassan and other Palestinian refugees in Kuwait. In 1965 Fatah became a political party. The party is one of the oldest and most prominent Palestinian political movements. It espouses a Palestinian nationalist ideology that had led the fight of the Palestinians against Israel, through both a wide array of armed groups and its political leadership. Fatah's historical leader Yasser Arafat became an iconic figure of the Palestinian cause, holding relations with all his foreign sponsors, Arab countries and other liberation movements and terrorist groups for much of the second half of the twentieth century. Later, as president of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO, an umbrella gathering the main Palestinian parties and movements), Arafat led negotiations with Israel that resulted in the Oslo accords, sharply modifying Fatah's approach, recognizing the right of existence of Israel and favouring a two-state solution. Its current leader is President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen). While not significantly modifying Fatah's political stance towards Israel, since Arafat's death President Abbas has been dragging Fatah into a deep legitimacy crisis in the eyes of Palestinian population. Fatah has "Member Party" status at the Socialist International and has "Observer Party" status within the Party of European Socialists.



Hamas (Harakat al-muqawama al-islamiyya)

An acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Islamic Resistance Movement), Hamas was officially created as the armed wing of the religious revivalist Muslim Brotherhood (Ikhwan al-

Muslimin) in Gaza, in 1987, by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi, Mahmoud Zahar and others. Its current chief of the political bureau is Ismail Haniyeh, who replaced his predecessor and longtime Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal in 2017. Hamas has a social service wing, Dawah, and a military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. It has been the *de facto* governing authority of the Gaza Strip since its takeover of that area in 2007. Hamas' ideology can be defined as a merger of political Islamism and Palestinian nationalism. For decades the party has been a supporter of total opposition to Israel and Zionism, not without a certain amount of anti-Semitism. It has declared its favour to the use of armed struggle and other violent means as tools for the liberation of the region of historical Palestine. The new party charter, approved in 2017, dampened the tone and rhetoric towards Israel and sanctioned a shift towards a more conciliatory position regarding the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian issue. Per its new charter, Hamas accepts the creation of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders and, therefore, implicitly recognizes the existence of Israel. However, as of mid 2018 these political positions have not yet been translated into concrete actions that clearly indicate a real change in Hamas.



Democratic Alliance List

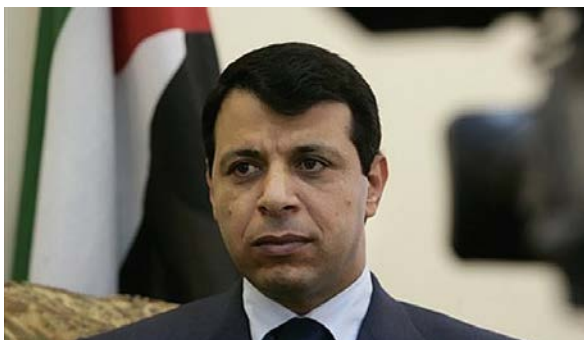
The Democratic Alliance is a coalition of five left-wing parties created in 2016 to contest the local elections scheduled in October that year (postponed; eventually held in May 2017). The coalition aimed at breaking the Fatah-Hamas duopoly. The Democratic Alliance includes the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestinian People's Party (PPP), the Palestinian Democratic Union (Fida), and the Palestinian National Initiative (PNI). Mohammed Hamarsheh is the coordinator of the Democratic Alliance List.

2.4 Key Political Leaders



Mahmoud Abbas

Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, won the election to succeed Arafat as president of the Palestinian Authority in 2005 and was re-elected in 2009. He currently serves as president of the PA even if his mandate is expired. Born in 1935, fled with his family in Syria during the 1948 war. In the late 1950s Abbas was one of the early members of Fatah. In the 70s he headed the PLO international department. Since early 90s, Abbas was one of the leading figures of the peace process and helped shaping Palestinian negotiating strategy. He was a senior member of the Palestinian delegation at the Camp David summit in 2000. After the death of Yasser Arafat and the collapse of the peace process, Abbas has repeatedly attempted to restart negotiations with Israel. Beginning in the second half of the 2000s, he endured a growing crisis of legitimacy, both due to the absence of diplomatic steps forward with Israel, and to the growing competition with Hamas. In the years 2010s Abbas recalibrated his strategy by seeking recognition of the State of Palestine in several international fora, instead of focusing primarily on direct dialogue with Israel as he did in the past.



Mohammed Dahlan

A former head of the Palestinian Security Forces (PSF) in Gaza, Dahlan is seen as a member of Fatah's younger "new guard" and one of the main competitors to Abbas' succession. Born in a Gaza refugee camp, Dahlan was a founder of the Fatah Youth Association in 1981. After being arrested by Israel, he was deported in 1987 and made his way to PLO headquarters in Tunis where he earned Arafat's trust. After the 2007 Fatah-Hamas civil war in Gaza he left the Strip and went into exile in the United Arab Emirates. The father of four, who holds both Serbian and

Montenegrin citizenship, has developed since then a rather conflictual relationship with the main Palestinian political actors. In 2014 he was tried in absentia in the West Bank. Thanks to good relations with the UAE leadership and with the Egyptian President al-Sisi, in recent years Dahlan has established himself as one of the most prominent figures in the negotiations for reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah.



Marwan Barghouti

Born in 1958 in the village of Kobar, near the city of Ramallah, Barghouti came to prominence as a leader of the Second Intifada. A member of the Fatah Central Committee, he has been imprisoned by Israel for the past 17 years. He continued to conduct numerous political battles which earned him vast and transversal popularity and credit both with the Palestinian political leadership and with the Palestinian population. According to polling data in mid-2012, 60% of Palestinians would vote for him for president of the Palestinian Authority if they were given that chance, beating both Abbas and Hamas' Haniyeh.



Khaled Meshaal

Meshaal is the former chairman of Hamas' political bureau, a position he held for 21 years until May 2017. Meshaal was born in 1956 in Silwad in the West Bank. After the founding of Hamas in 1987, Meshaal came to lead the Kuwaiti branch of the organization. He lived in exile for most of its time as a political leader in Hamas,

a movement labelled as terrorist organization by Israel and the US among others. Since 2012, Meshaal has been living in Qatar after he fled Damascus due to the worsening of the Syrian civil conflict.



Ismail Haniyeh

Haniyeh is a senior political leader of Hamas and formerly one of two disputed Prime Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority. Since May 2017 he is the chief of Hamas political bureau. He was born in 1962 in the Al-Shati refugee camp in the Egyptian-occupied Gaza Strip. After Israel released Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin from prison in 1997, Haniyeh was appointed to head his office. Thanks to his close relation with Yassin, Haniyeh came to prominence within Hamas' hierarchy and was appointed as the representative to the Palestinian Authority. As Hamas' politburo chairman, he has led reconciliation efforts between Fatah and Hamas and eventually signed the agreement in October 2017.



Rami Hamdallah

Hamdallah is the Prime Minister of Palestinian Authority since 2014, following the resignation of previous incumbent Salam Fayyad after six years in office. He has long been seen as a moderate in Palestinian politics. Hamdallah was born in Anabta in the northern West Bank in 1958. On March 13, 2018 he escaped

an assassination attempt during his visit to the Gaza Strip in the framework of the reconciliation efforts with Hamas.



Jibril Rajoub

Jibril Rajoub is the Secretary of the Fatah Central Committee since February 2017. He is a former member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council (until Aug. 2009), the former Deputy-Secretary of the Fatah Central Committee (2009-2017), the former National Security Advisor to Yasser Arafat, rank of Brigadier-General, and the former Head of the West Bank Preventive Security Forces (1994-2002). A longtime rival to Mohamed Dahlan, he is considered one of Abbas's probable successors to the presidency of the Palestinian Authority.



Mahmoud Aoul

A longtime Fatah member who sits in the party's Central Committee, Aoul rose to prominence in the party after the Six Days war and consolidated its position during the permanence in Lebanon of Fatah leadership. Exponent of the new generation of Palestinian militants and politicians, Aoul was named vice-president of the Palestinian Authority in March 2018. Thus, he is among the main candidates for the succession of Abbas.

2.5 Media Landscape and Civil Society

Media Landscape

The media environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories reflects the rivalry between Fatah, which controls the West Bank, and Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip. The Freedom of the press 2017 report published by Freedom House assesses that media status in the Territories is “not free”, adding that the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank continued its long-standing practice of arresting and temporarily detaining journalists without charge, while Hamas in the Gaza Strip stepped up its use of summonses and interrogations to intimidate journalists who produced critical coverage. Journalists (especially local reporters) are also regularly subjected to arrest, detention, and interrogation by Israeli forces.

The Palestinian Basic Law guarantees a free press, enshrines the right to establish media outlets, and prohibits government censorship. However, the 1995 Press and Publication Law imposes burdensome administrative regulations and bans content that undermines “the general system” or “national unity,” or that is “inconsistent with morals”. In addition to Palestinian laws, as administered by the different authorities in the West Bank and Gaza, journalists in the territories are subject to controls imposed by the Israeli military, including measures banning incitement to terrorism. The legal standard for incitement under the Israeli military code, to which the West Bank is subject, is much lower than in Israeli civilian law. The PA regulates all television and radio licenses in the West Bank. In order to obtain a broadcast license, applicants must gain approval from the interior, information, and telecommunications ministries, which review financing sources, content, and technical issues, respectively. Licenses must be renewed each year. Critics accuse the PA of arbitrarily increasing licensing fees (even though prices are supposed to correspond to the strength and reach of the broadcast frequency) in order to force certain outlets off the air. Hamas, which has controlled Gaza since 2007, has introduced a system of accreditation that requires all outlets and journalists to register with its authorities.

The key broadcasting outlets are the Palestinian Authority's PBC and Hamas's Al-Aqsa Media Network, each of which runs TV and radio stations. There are dozens of private broadcasters. Pan-Arab satellite TVs, including Qatar's Al-Jazeera, are popular. Newspapers include pro-Palestinian Authority titles and a pro-Hamas daily.

Civil Society

Palestinian Territories' unique history has in many ways proved conducive to the development of a vibrant and active civil society, by both regional and global standards. In the absence of a state and under occupation, these organisations found their main role in the provision of services and relief work. A more active political role was assumed by civil society organizations during the surge of the First Intifada movement (1987), with a stronger focus on the defence of human rights. A new phase in these organizations' development was initiated in 1994, with the creation of the

Palestinian Authority (PA). Many services which were provided by these organizations before 1994 were transferred to the public authorities, but the former retained a fundamental role as channels of international aid.

There are nearly 3,000 civil society organizations distributed across Palestine. About 57% of these organisations operate only in a confined area, such as: a single village, a city in which they are based, or in some cases, a district or a governorate. The other 43% of these organizations work within a whole region or across the whole of Palestinian Territories.

2.6 Security Sector

The peculiar history of the Palestinian Territories has had in the past and continues to have a profound impact on the region's security landscape today. The panorama of the security sector is characterized by the presence of weak institutions that are often unable to exercise real control over the entire territory; Israeli security forces that, according to the agreements in force with the Palestinian Authority, manage the security in some areas of the Territories; armed groups, often a military expression of political parties or movements, which are rooted in the long decades of armed struggle conducted by the different Palestinian factions against the state of Israel. The overall security framework that regulates the Palestinian Territories entered into force with the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993-1995. According to the Accords, the whole Territories were divided in three areas: A, B and C. Area A is under full civil and security control of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Area B is under civilian control of the PA, while being under joint Israeli-PA security control. Area C is under full Israeli civil and security control.

The security situation of the Palestinian Territories presents profound and significant differences between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank all the three different areas can be found; the Israel-West Bank separation wall runs partly along the Green Line and partly inside the West Bank; military checkpoints manned by Israeli forces are disseminated throughout much of the region; there are around 120 Israeli settlements in the West Bank; Palestinian Authority's political leadership in the West Bank has largely renounced organized armed struggle as a political tool but there are still some more extreme fringes, capable of carrying out attacks and attacks against Israeli security forces showing a certain level of coordination, and a political, social and economic context that motivate individuals to carry out attacks, even in complete autonomy and with a low level of sophistication. On several occasions, over the past few years, the Palestinian Authority has threatened the Israeli counterpart to stop security cooperation,

opening up to the prospect of increased violence and attacks, with the ultimate goal of exploiting such threats to gaining political leverage towards Israel regarding the progress of the peace process. Furthermore, a question of primary importance with regard to security in the West Bank is the accessibility to the Holy Places of Jerusalem, and specifically to the Esplanade of the Mosques (Haram al-Sharif). In fact, even minor accidents occurring in this area are affected by the great symbolic and religious importance of the site and can trigger a sudden and lasting deterioration of the general security conditions in the totality of the Palestinian Territories. As an example, it can be recalled the Temple Mount crisis that started in July 2017 when a shooting occurred inside the holy complex and Israeli authorities installed metal detectors at the entrance, triggering a wave of protest that caused at least 11 deaths among Palestinians.

In the Gaza Strip, following the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces and settlers, and after the crisis that broke out between Hamas and Fatah in 2007, the security situation deteriorated sharply. In fact, the Gaza Strip is being administered in substantial autonomy by the government led by Hamas, which is not recognized as legitimate by the Palestinian Authority. Several armed groups proliferate in the Strip, to whom security management is de facto delegated, including al-Qassam Brigades (Hamas' military wing) and al-Quds Brigades (Palestinian Islamic Jihad's armed wing). In this context, it must be taken into account also the repeated armed conflicts with the Israeli Armed Forces and the frequent air strikes conducted by the Israelis that aim to destroy the network of underground tunnels through which both smuggling and attacks inside Israeli territory are conducted, as well as to target political or military figures from the Palestinian movements in Gaza, considered terrorists by Israel, through targeted killings.

3. Law enforcement structures and actors

3.1 The Police

Palestinian Authority's law enforcement sector was formally established in 1994 in the framework of the Oslo Accords. It is divided into different security branches and agencies whose mission and organizational placement within the Palestinian Authority (PA) has remained largely undefined, especially in earlier years, causing much duplication and functional overlaps. Other quasi-military security organizations, such as the military intelligence organization, also exercised *de facto* law enforcement powers. In general, in the first decade since their creation, the Palestinian security apparatuses have constituted more of a heterogeneous set of forces loyal to specific commanders, and not infrequently active outside a defined line of command, than an actual apparatus inserted in an effective and harmonious way into the institutional landscape that was emerging.

In the aftermath of the civil conflict between Fatah and Hamas in 2007 and the loss of control of the PA on the Gaza Strip, the new government led by Salam Fayyad undertook a profound reform of the security sector. Among the most relevant actions are the demobilization of al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades, a military group with deep links with Fatah, and the reorganization of the sector to adapt it to the Basic Law, which led Fayyad to tackling the fragmentation, rivalries, overlap and lack of coordination that traditionally characterized the institution. This push for reforming the whole security apparatus was supported both internally by President Abbas' strong political will, and internationally thanks to the commitments of a wide array of countries and international institutions. In parallel, in the Gaza Strip, after having confronted and disarmed significant Fatah-supporting clans, Hamas had a near monopoly on arms inside Gaza. This situation changed over time, and Hamas' overwhelming control over security in the Strip has been increasingly contested by other armed groups.

As part of the aforementioned domestic and international reform efforts, the Palestinian Authority security forces have been consolidated in 7 branches, in addition to the Palestinian Civil Police. They are based in the West Bank.

Palestinian Civil Police

The PA's main law enforcement body is the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP), often informally referred to as the "Blue Police", that reports to the interior minister. It is responsible for combating crime, enforcing public order, and engaging in traffic control. Moreover, it runs the official penal system and has a Special Police Force unit for riot control. The PCP personnel currently amounts to approximately 8,000 members across all ten PA-controlled governorates in the West Bank. The ability of PCP to enter into action is affected by limited accessibility to Palestinian civilians living in or near Area B and C. PCP is assisted by several international bodies, EUPOL COPPS being the most relevant at present.

Excerpts from 1994 Cairo Agreement, Annex I: Protocol Concerning Withdrawal of Israeli Military Forces and Security Arrangements, article III

1. General

The Palestinian Directorate of Police Force (hereinafter "the Palestinian Police") shall function in accordance with the following principles:

a. It will be responsible for public order and internal security within the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority in accordance with Article V of the Agreement.

b. Movement of Palestinian policemen between the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area will be conducted in accordance with Article IX of this Annex.

2. Duties and Functions

Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, in the areas under Palestinian jurisdiction the duties of the Palestinian Police shall be as follows:

a. performing normal police functions, including maintaining internal security and public order;

b. protecting the public and its property and acting to provide a feeling of security and safety;

c. adopting all measures necessary for preventing crime in accordance with the law; and

d. protecting public installations and places of special importance.

3. Structure and Composition

a. The Palestinian Police shall consist of one integral unit under the control of the Palestinian Authority. It shall be composed of four branches:

i. Civil Police (Al Shurta);

ii. Public Security;

iii. Intelligence; and

iv. Emergency Services and Rescue (Al Difa'a Al Madani).

In each district, all members of the four Police branches shall be subordinate to one central command.

b. The Palestinian Police will establish a Palestinian Coastal Police unit (hereinafter the "Palestinian Coastal Police") in accordance with Article XI of this Annex.

c. The Palestinian Police will be comprised of up to 9,000 policemen in all its branches.

4. Recruitment

a. The Palestinian Police shall consist of policemen recruited locally, and from abroad (from among individuals holding Jordanian passports or Palestinian documents issued by Egypt). The number of Palestinian recruits from abroad shall not exceed 7,000, of whom 1,000 will arrive three months after the signing of the Agreement.

b. Palestinians recruited from abroad should be trained as policemen. The employment of policemen who have been convicted of serious crimes or have been found to be actively involved in terrorist activities subsequent to their employment will be immediately terminated. The list of Palestinians recruited, whether locally or from abroad, shall be agreed on by both sides.

c. Palestinian policemen coming from abroad may be accompanied by spouse and children.

5. Arms, Ammunition and Equipment

a. Uniformed policemen, as well as other policemen on duty who hold special accreditation, may carry arms.

b. The Palestinian Police will possess the following arms and equipment:

- i. 7,000 light personal weapons.
- ii. Up to 120 machine guns of 0.3" or 0.5" caliber.
- iii. Up to 45 wheeled armored vehicles of a type to be agreed on between the two sides, and of which 22 will be deployed in protecting Palestinian Authority installations. The use of wheeled armored vehicles in the Security Perimeter, on the Lateral Roads and on their adjacent sides, or in the vicinity of the Settlements shall be approved through the relevant DCO. Movement of such vehicles along the central North-South road (Road No. 4) in the Gaza Strip may take place only after providing notification to the relevant DCO.
- iv. Communication systems, subject to Article II of Annex II of this Agreement.
- v. Distinctive uniforms, identification badges and vehicle markings.

c. Relevant police equipment and infrastructure funded from the budget of the Civil Administration shall be transferred to the Palestinian Police.

6. Introduction of Arms and Equipment and Foreign Assistance
a. All foreign contributions and other forms of assistance to the Palestinian Police must comply with the provisions of this Agreement.

b. The introduction into the Gaza Strip or the Jericho Area of arms, ammunition or equipment for the Palestinian Police, from all sources, shall be coordinated through the JSC.

7. Deployment

The Palestinian Police shall be initially deployed in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area as shown on attached maps Nos. 4 and 5. Any changes to this deployment will be agreed on in the JSC.

Excerpts from The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Annex I, article IV

The Palestinian Police

1. Duties and Functions

As detailed in the Palestinian law, the Palestinian Police shall carry out its duties and functions in accordance with this Agreement as follows:

- a. maintaining internal security and public order;
- b. protecting the public and all other persons present in the areas, as well as protecting their property, and acting to provide a feeling of security, safety and stability;
- c. adopting all measures necessary for preventing crime in accordance with the law;
- d. protecting public installations, infrastructure and places of special importance;
- e. preventing acts of harassment and retribution;
- f. combating terrorism and violence, and preventing incitement to violence; and
- g. performing any other normal police functions.

2. Structure and Composition

- a. The Palestinian Police shall consist of one integral unit under the control of the Council. It shall be composed of six branches:
 - i. Civil Police (Al Shurta);
 - ii. Public Security;

iii. Preventive Security;

iv. Amn Al Ri'asah;

v. Intelligence; and

vi. Emergency Services and Rescue (Al Difa'a Al Madani).

In each district, all members of the six Police branches shall be subordinate to one central command.

b. The Palestinian Police shall have a Palestinian Coastal Police unit in accordance with Article XIV of this Annex.

3. Deployment

a. During the interim period, the total number of policemen of the Palestinian Police in all its branches in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be no more than 30,000 out of which up to 12,000 policemen may be deployed in the West Bank and up to 18,000 policemen in the Gaza Strip. These numbers may be changed by agreement, if necessary. The Palestinian side will notify Israel of the names of the policemen recruited to the Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip.

b. In accordance with the stages of the first phase of redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank, up to 6,000 of the above-mentioned 12,000 Palestinian policemen may be deployed in the West Bank in Area A and, as set out in paragraph 3 of Article V, in Area B, as detailed in Appendix 2

c. The remaining 6,000 Palestinian policemen will be deployed in the West Bank according to the phases of the further redeployments or as needed, as agreed upon by the two Parties.

d. The Palestinian Police shall be deployed as shown on attached map Nos. 3 and 5.

4. Recruitment

a. The Palestinian Police shall consist of policemen recruited locally, and from abroad (from among individuals holding Jordanian passports or Palestinian documents issued by Egypt). The number of Palestinian recruits from abroad shall not exceed 5,000 in the West Bank and 7,000 in the Gaza Strip.

b. Palestinian policemen coming from abroad may be accompanied by their spouse and sons and daughters.

c. The Palestinian policemen to be recruited pursuant to this Agreement shall be West Bank or Gaza Strip residents who will be duly trained to perform police functions.

d. The Palestinian side will notify Israel of any candidate for recruitment to the Palestinian Police. Should Israel object to the recruitment of any such candidate, that person shall not be recruited.

e. In accordance with Palestinian law, the employment of policemen who have been convicted of serious crimes, or have been found to be actively involved in terrorist activities subsequent to their recruitment, will be immediately terminated, and their weapons and police identification documentation will be confiscated.

5. Arms, Ammunition and Equipment

a. In the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, uniformed policemen may carry arms, and plainclothes policemen on duty who hold special accreditation may carry personal light arms concealed in their clothing, in accordance with this Agreement.

b. In the West Bank, the Palestinian Police will possess the following arms and equipment:

- i. up to 4,000 rifles;
- ii. up to 4,000 pistols;
- iii. up to 120 machine guns of 0.3" or 0.5" caliber; and

iv. up to 15 light, unarmed riot vehicles of a type to be agreed on between the two sides in the JSC.

c. In the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Police will possess the following arms and equipment:

i. 7,000 light personal weapons;

ii. up to 120 machine guns of 0.3" or 0.5" caliber; and

iii. up to 45 wheeled armored vehicles of a type to be agreed on between the two sides, and of which 22 will be deployed in protecting Council installations. The use of wheeled armored vehicles in the Security Perimeter, on the Lateral Roads and on their adjacent sides, or in the vicinity of the Settlements shall be approved through the relevant DCO. Movement of such vehicles along the central North-South road (Road No. 4) in the Gaza Strip may take place only after providing notification to the relevant DCO.

d. The number of arms or items of equipment specified in subparagraphs b. and c. above may be increased subject to the agreement of both sides.

e. The Palestinian Police will maintain an updated register of all weapons held by its personnel.

f. The Palestinian Police may possess communication systems, subject to Article 36 of Annex III, and distinctive uniforms, identification badges and vehicle markings.

g. In this Annex, the term "weapons" includes firearms, ammunition and explosives of all kinds.

6. Introduction of Arms, Equipment and Foreign Assistance

a. All foreign contributions and other forms of assistance to the Palestinian Police must comply with the provisions of this Agreement.

b. The introduction of arms, ammunition or equipment intended for the Palestinian Police shall be coordinated through the JSC, in accordance with its established practices.

7. Movement

Movement of Palestinian policemen between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be conducted in accordance with Article X of this Annex.

Excerpts from The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Annex I, Appendix II

Deployment of Palestinian Policemen

1. Pursuant to paragraph 3 b of Article IV of this Annex, the details of the deployment of the 6,000 Palestinian policemen in Areas A and B will be as follows:

a. in the Jenin District: 1,000 policemen;

b. in the Tulkarm District: 400 policemen;

c. in the Qalqilia District: 400 policemen;

d. in the Nablus District: 1,200 policemen;

e. in the Ramallah District: 1,200 policemen;

f. in the Bethlehem District: 850 policemen;

g. in the Hebron District: 950 policemen including 400 policemen in the City of Hebron; and

h. in the Jericho District: 600 policemen that will be considered part of the number of policemen allocated to the Gaza Strip in accordance with Article IV of this Annex.

2. Changes in the numbers of policemen in each district during the further redeployment phases, when the number of policemen in the West Bank will increase to 12,000, will be agreed upon in the West Bank RSC.

Excerpts from The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Annex I, Appendix III

Police Stations and Posts in Area B

1. The Palestinian Police shall establish 25 Civil Police (Al Shurta) police stations and posts in the towns, villages and other places listed below and shown on map No. 3, with personnel and equipment as follows:

a. Jenin District: i. El-Yamun: 50 policemen, 2 vehicles, 9 rifles, 17 pistols; ii. Meithalun: 50 policemen, 2 vehicles, 9 rifles, 17 pistols; iii. Kafr Rai: 45 policemen, 2 vehicles, 8 rifles, 15 pistols; iv. Jalqamus: 45 policemen, 2 vehicles, 8 rifles, 15 pistols; and v. Burqin: 45 policemen, 2 vehicles, 8 rifles, 15 pistols.

b. Nablus District: i. Asiraat A-Shumaliyya: 50 policemen, 2 vehicles, 9 rifles, 17 pistols; ii. Talouza: 45 policemen, 2 vehicles, 8 rifles, 15 pistols; iii. Tell: 30 policemen, 2 vehicles, 5 rifles, 10 pistols; iv. Talfit: 60 policemen, 2 vehicles, 12 rifles, 20 pistols; v. Tamun: 50 policemen, 2 vehicles, 9 rifles, 17 pistols; and vi. Aqraba: 50 policemen, 2 vehicles, 9 rifles, 17 pistols.

c. Tulkarm and Qalqilya District: i. Shuweika: 45 policemen, 2 vehicles, 8 rifles, 15 pistols; ii. Kafr Zibad: 50 policemen, 2 vehicles, 9 rifles, 17 pistols; iii. Anabta: 50 policemen, 2 vehicles, 9 rifles, 17 pistols; and iv. Illar: 45 policemen, 2 vehicles, 8 rifles, 15 pistols.

d. Ramallah District: i. Arura: 50 policemen, 2 vehicles, 9 rifles, 17 pistols; ii. Deir Ghassana: 45 policemen, 2 vehicles, 8 rifles, 15 pistols; iii. Khirbat Abu Falah: 45 policemen, 2 vehicles, 8 rifles, 15 pistols; and iv. Bir Zeit: 70 policemen, 3 vehicles, 14 rifles, 23 pistols;

e. Bethlehem District: i. Tuqua: 50 policemen, 3 vehicles, 9 rifles, 17 pistols.

f. Hebron District: i. Yata: 80 policemen, 3 vehicles, 15 rifles, 27 pistols; ii. Dhahiriya: 70 policemen, 3 vehicles, 14 rifles, 23 pistols; iii. Nuba: 45 policemen, 2 vehicles, 8 rifles, 15 pistols; iv. Dura: 70 policemen, 3 vehicles, 14 rifles, 23 pistols; and v. Bani-Naiem: 45 policemen, 3 vehicles, 8 rifles, 17 pistols.

2. The rifles in each of these police stations will be used only for the purpose of guarding the police station. In special cases, where the use of rifles outside the police station is required for the exercise of public order responsibility, prior notification shall be given to the DCO.

3.2 Other security forces

National Security Force

It is based in the West Bank. It is the largest Palestinian security branch. It serves mainly as a national gendarmerie, but lacks arrest powers. It also supports other Palestinian Authority security forces for law-and-order operations beyond the capacity of the Civil Police. In addition, it is responsible for manning and patrolling the borders of Area A. National Security Force personnel amounts to around 10,500 members, including nine special battalions, an elite rapid response battalion (RRB). The RRB's tasks include high-risk arrest operations and hostage rescues in densely populated areas such as refugee camps. The NSF reports to the president.

Presidential Guard

It is based in the West Bank. It reports directly to the Palestinian president's office. It is responsible for protecting the president, other senior officials, and critical PA infrastructure and institutions. It can conduct high-risk counterterrorism and arrest operations. The personnel of the Presidential Guard amounts to around 2,700 members, divided into four battalions and two specialized units (Security and Protection; Security Intelligence).

General Intelligence

It is based in the West Bank. It is the main intelligence branch of the Palestinian Authority security forces and it is responsible for Palestinian Authority external intelligence operations. It reports directly to the president's office. The General Intelligence also runs domestic intelligence-gathering and countersubversion operations. Its personnel amounts to around 3,200 members.

Military Intelligence

It is based in the West Bank. The Military Intelligence reports to the president and is tasked with upholding security within the security services. It investigates security forces personnel for terrorism ties, serious crimes, collaboration with Israel, and other disciplinary violations. In addition, it provides

investigative support to the military judicial system, internal security to other security forces branches, and general security for some security forces headquarters. The Military Intelligence has approximately 1,700 personnel.

Preventive Security

It is based in the West Bank. Its main task is counterterrorism, which mainly consists in tracking and countering Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad cells in the West Bank. It is also tasked with broader internal intelligence and security. The Preventive Security service has around 3,400 members who hold judicial powers of arrest and investigation. It also runs its own detention centers. The service officially reports to the interior minister.

District Coordination Office

It is tasked with facilitating Israeli-Palestinian security coordination on both the tactical and operational levels. The Office personnel amounts to approximately 260 members. It facilitates the return of Israeli civilians from PA territory, coordinates Palestinian security forces movement outside Area A, and handles advanced warnings from the Israeli Defense Forces with respect to incursions into Area A. It is also tasked with coordinating with the Civil Administration for Palestinians living in Areas B and C. The District Coordination Office reports to the president.

Civil Defense

It is the emergency service branch of the Palestinian Authority security forces, responsible for first responses, handling of routine emergencies such as search and rescue, and remediation of natural and man-made disasters. It has approximately 1,100-1,200 active personnel, with another 3,000 reserves. It reports to the interior minister.

3.3 The judiciary

Palestinian Territories' legal system is a mix of laws derived from Ottoman, British Mandate, Jordanian, and Egyptian law, as well as Israeli military orders and laws promulgated by the Palestinian Authority. The independence of the judiciary is guaranteed by the Basic Law. In 2002 the Law of Judicial Organization was promulgated. The law provides for the judiciary to operate independently and autonomously from the executive branch. Nevertheless, the implementation of the law has been slow in a tortuous process continually characterized by the conflict between different institutional realities.

The High Judicial Council is the supreme judicial authority which represents the Palestinian Judicial Authority. It is entrusted with the administrative supervision of the judiciary system. It reviews policies regarding the structure and function of the judiciary, and appoints, promotes, and transfers judges. The council was established pursuant to the provisions of the Judicial Authority Law n°1/2002.

The judicial system is organized around a three-tiered court structure. Magistrate Courts (Mahakim al-Sulh) are single-judge courts that hear minor civil and criminal matters. District Courts are multi-judge courts that hear more serious civil and criminal matters, as well as appeals to judgments of the Magistrate Courts. The third tier includes courts of Appeal. The highest court is the High Court, which is divided into 8 chambers: civil, social, commercial, maritime, property, criminal, personal status, and injunctions. The Supreme Court is composed of two departments, the Court of Cassation and the High Court of

Justice, that are at the apex of the ordinary judicial structure, serving as the final courts of appeal for issues in their respective departments. The Court of Cassation serves as the final court of appeals for civil, criminal, and commercial matters, and the High Court of Justice for administrative disputes.

Despite the existence of this institutional architecture, it should be emphasized that the actual functioning of the judicial system differs significantly from what is provided for on paper. This happens for several reasons. First of all, it is necessary to consider the temporary nature that characterizes the Palestinian institutions as a whole, starting with the Basic Law. In this sense, the judiciary system of the Palestinian Territories must necessarily be considered still in the process of being established. However, it must be emphasized that there are still rather deep-rooted issues concerning both the balancing of powers and the high level of corruption. One of the main constants behind these issues is the hegemonic position maintained by Fatah in the Palestinian political landscape, especially in the West Bank. This hegemonic role manifested itself through a constant attempt by the executive to take advantage of its powers at the expense of the judiciary. The most evident expression of this dynamic is the continuous disagreement between the Ministry of Justice and the main organs of the judiciary.

4. Migrations and Human Rights Issues

4.1 Internal and International Migration

Since 1949, internal displacement has deeply affected the region and the Palestinian population in particular. Thousands of Palestinians throughout the occupied Palestinian Territories have been forcibly displaced or are at risk of forced displacement. The complexity of the phenomenon makes it difficult to provide data. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), as of December 31, 2016 there were in total around 193,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, displacement is primarily driven by occupation-related policies, including the inability to obtain building permits and related demolitions, residency status issues and the impact of the separation barrier built by Israeli authorities. In some cases, entire West Bank communities are at risk of forcible transfer. The expansion of Israeli settlements, restrictions on access to land and natural resources and ongoing displacement due to demolitions in particular, are ongoing. Moreover, Israeli policies curtail the ability of Palestinians in Area C and East Jerusalem to plan their communities and build homes and infrastructure. The result is further fragmentation of the West Bank.

In the Gaza Strip, displacement has primarily resulted from damage or destruction to homes during hostilities or military operations. The hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups from 7 July to 26 August 2014 were the most devastating in the Gaza Strip since the start of the Israeli occupation in 1967. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), some 17,800 housing units were destroyed or severely damaged,

causing approximately 100,000 IDPs. As of early 2018, more than 22,000 people were still displaced. Many displaced people in Gaza are currently unable to rebuild or repair their homes due to the inability of the Palestinian Government of National Consensus to assume effective government functions; Israel's longstanding restrictions on the import of building materials defined as "dual use items"; and the slow pace of disbursement of pledges made by member states for reconstruction.

Nearly 5 million Palestinians are registered as refugees with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). According to UNRWA, Palestine refugees are defined as "persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict". The descendants of Palestine refugee males, including adopted children, are also eligible for registration. Nearly one-third of the registered Palestine refugees, more than 1.5 million individuals, live in 58 recognized Palestine refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Slightly less than 100,000 Palestinian refugees were registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the main population being in Gulf States, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt. As of 2015, there were an estimated 1 million Palestinian refugees not registered with any agency. In September 2018, the Trump administration cut all US funding for the main UN programme for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). The US has long been the largest individual donor to UNRWA, pledging about one third of the agency's \$1.1bn annual budget.

4.2 Human Rights Situation

Universal and regional human rights instruments ratified

The Palestinian Authority (PA) is a party to a number of core international human rights instruments, that is seven of the nine core human rights treaties plus one of the substantive protocols: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in armed conflict (CRC-OPAC). PA also ratified the Geneva Conventions and associated protocols, the UN Genocide Convention, the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court.

Rights to life, liberty, security and physical integrity

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Palestinian civilians across the occupied Palestinian territory are subject to threats to their lives and physical safety from conflict-related violence, and from policies and practices related to the Israeli occupation, including settler violence. In the Gaza Strip, three large rounds of hostilities between Palestinian armed groups and Israel since 2008, have left thousands of civilian deaths and injuries. According to UN figures, during the 2014 Gaza war alone, 2,251 Palestinians were killed, including 1,462 Palestinian civilians with 299 women and 551 children, while 11,231 Palestinians, including 3,540 women and 3,436 children were injured. During 2018 Gaza border protests, as of late April thousands of Palestinian were injured and dozens were shot dead by Israeli security forces.

Tensions around the Al-Aqsa/Temple Mount compound in July-August 2017 triggered an escalation in violence. Israeli security forces used lethal force against demonstrators and against suspected attackers in the West Bank and at the Gaza border. Palestinian assailants, most of them apparently acting without the formal sponsorship of any armed group, carried out stabbings and occasional shootings against Israelis.

In the West Bank, casualties have also been on the rise in recent years, mainly in the context of confrontations with Israeli forces and increasing frustration over continued occupation. Throughout the Palestinian Territories, concerns have been raised over excessive use of force. Although the specific contexts in which civilians are killed or injured varies, there is a pervasive crisis of accountability, with no effective remedy for the vast majority of alleged violations of international law, to ensure justice for the victims and to prevent future violations

Arbitrary and illegal detention and enforced disappearances

Israeli military authorities keep on detaining Palestinian protesters, including those who advocated nonviolent protest against Israeli settlements and the route of the separation barrier. Israeli authorities try the majority of Palestinian children incarcerated in the occupied territory in military courts, which have a near-100 percent conviction rate. Israeli security forces arrest Palestinian children suspected of criminal offenses, usually stone-throwing, often using unnecessary force, questioned them without a family member present, and made them sign confessions in Hebrew, which most did not understand. The Israeli military detained Palestinian children separately from adults during remand hearings and military court trials, but often detained children with adults immediately after arrest. As of June 30, 2017 Israeli authorities held 315 Palestinian children in military detention. As of October 2017, Israel held 453 Palestinian administrative detainees without charge or trial, based on secret evidence, many for prolonged periods. Israel jails many Palestinian detainees and prisoners inside Israel, violating international humanitarian law requiring that they not be transferred outside the occupied territory and restricting the ability of family members to visit them.

Authorities in the West Bank and Gaza use threats and intimidation against activists and journalists to suppress peaceful expression, including reporting and criticism. According to the NGO Palestinian Centre for Development and Media Freedoms, as of early 2018 the Palestinian authorities in the West Bank were responsible for 147 attacks on media freedom since 2017. These included arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment during interrogations, confiscation of equipment, physical assaults, bans on reporting and the banning of 29 websites critical of the West Bank authorities. In the same period, Hamas authorities in Gaza were responsible for 35 such attacks.

Accountability for Human Rights Violations

Lack of accountability for violations of humanitarian and human rights law has been identified by UNOCHA as one of the key sources of humanitarian vulnerability in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Impunity for human rights abuses including unlawful killings and torture in the West Bank and Gaza persists. No criminal investigations were launched into the apparent extrajudicial executions of Fares Halawa and Khaled al-Aghbar by Palestinian security forces in Nablus in August 2016, nor was anyone brought to justice for the death of Ahmad Izzat Halawa under torture in Jneid prison in the same month. In Gaza, Hamas authorities took no steps to prosecute members of its forces and Hamas' military wing, the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, for extrajudicial executions they carried out in 2014 and 2016.

In February 2017, an Israeli military court sentenced to 18 months in prison soldier Elor Azaria, who had been convicted of manslaughter for the 2016 killing at close range of a Palestinian who lay immobilized on the ground after stabbing another Israeli soldier. The IDF chief of staff reduced the sentence to 14 months in September, and in March 2018 an Israeli military court agreed to an early release of the soldier after serving nine of the 14 months. The conviction marked a rare exception, as Israeli authorities continued in 2017 to fail to hold accountable security forces and settlers who attack Palestinians and destroy or damage Palestinian mosques, homes, schools, olive trees, cars, and other property. Between 2013 and 2016, police closed 91.8 percent of cases of reported settler violence against Palestinian persons and property tracked by the Israeli human rights group Yesh Din without indicting anyone. According to a 2018 report by UN OHCHR, alleged violations during the 2014 hostilities in Gaza mirror those documented and investigated in 2008/09 and 2012, underscoring the recurrent nature of the violations in Gaza and the failure of efforts to prevent their repetition, and serious concerns persist regarding the lack of accountability by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities for alleged violations of international humanitarian law – including allegations of war crimes – and alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law. The lack of independence, impartiality, promptness and transparency of the Office of the Israeli Military Advocate-General (MAG) is an additional concern.

Religious Freedom

The Palestinian Authority Basic Law, which serves as an interim constitution, establishes Islam as the official religion, but calls for respect of “all other divine religions”. It provides for freedom of belief, worship, and the performance of religious rites unless they violate public order or morality. The Basic Law also proscribes discrimination based on religion and stipulates all citizens are equal before the law.

There is no specified process by which religious organizations gain official recognition; each religious group must negotiate its own bilateral relationship with the PA. Nineteenth century status quo arrangements reached with the Ottoman authorities, which are observed by the PA, recognize the presence and rights of the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Assyrian, Coptic, Ethiopian Orthodox, Greek

Catholic, and Syrian Orthodox Churches. Later agreements with the PA recognized the rights of the Episcopal (Anglican) and Evangelical Lutheran Churches. Legally recognized religious groups are empowered to adjudicate personal status matters.

In the Palestinian-Israeli context, because religion and ethnicity or nationality are often closely linked, it was difficult to categorize much of this violence as being solely based on religious identity.

Israeli police, citing security concerns, often restricts broad Muslim access at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount. Incidents related to the access the holy site can easily escalate into major security issues with an impact over the whole region.

Although the Palestinian Authority removed the religious affiliation category from Palestinian identity cards in 2014, older identity cards continued to circulate, listing the holder as either Muslim or Christian per requirements existing before 2014.

In Gaza, there continued to be instances where Hamas “morality police” or internal security officers punished men and women with fines for infractions such as dressing “inappropriately”. In the Gaza Strip, parties and movements such as Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad often issue statements with clear anti-Semitic rhetoric and threats. Although as of mid 2018 there have not been obvious and extensive practical consequences, the new version of the Hamas statute presented in May 2017 abandons anti-Semitic rhetoric in favor of more clearly anti-Zionist positions.

Death Penalty

By inheriting laws from pre-existing Jordanian and Egyptian legal systems in the West Bank and Gaza (that include the Jordanian Penal Code (16/1960), and the Mandatory Penal Code (74/1936), the Palestinian Authority introduced capital punishment, which is included in these codes.

During 2017, the death penalty was applied in Gaza. Six people were executed after civil and military courts sentenced them to death after convicting them of “collaboration with Israel” or other offences. No one was sentenced to death or executed in the West Bank.

5. The UN and Occupied Palestinian Territories

The United Nations has been actively involved in the events that have led to the emergence of Palestinian institutions and a form of statehood since the very first years after the end of the World War II. The adoption on November 29, 1947 by the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution recommending the adoption and implementation of a plan of partition of Palestine was one of the earliest acts of the United Nations. This followed the report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. Since then, it has maintained a central role in this region, especially by providing support for Palestinian refugees via the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) created in December 1949. Moreover, the UN provided a platform for Palestinian political claims via the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People, the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL) and the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Since 1948, the UN Security Council has adopted around 190 resolutions concerning various Palestinian issues, of which more than 100 were related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The UN has sponsored several peace negotiations between Israel and Palestinian representatives. UN resolution 242 (S/RES/242), adopted in 1967 at the end of the Six Days War and claiming for Israel to withdraw from territories occupied during the war, has become over the years the main point of reference for the peace process and one of the cornerstones of the international consensus regarding the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Resolution 1435 (September 24, 2002) was the first to explicitly call for a two-state solution of the conflict. During the 29th session of the UN General Assembly in 1974, the Assembly invited the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), as representative of the Palestinian people, to participate in its deliberations on the question of Palestine in plenary meetings. PLO was thus granted non-state observer status. On November 29, 2012 the Palestinian Authority was granted non-member observer state status and the designation "State of Palestine" is used in all official UN documents since then.

Some of the United Nations activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are often severely criticized by the Israeli authorities for allegedly being biased in favour of Palestinian authorities. Israel specifically accuses the Geneva-based Human Rights Council of adopting one-sided biased and political resolutions in the body's reviews of Israel human rights record; claims UNESCO has anti-Israeli bias (especially because it repeatedly condemned Israeli's policies at religious sites in East Jerusalem and the West Bank); calls for the dismantlement of UNRWA citing its alleged role in anti-Israeli incitement among Palestinian youth.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Palestine, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC), comprises all heads of UN agencies operating in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The UNCT ensures inter-agency coordination and decision making at the country-level on issues ranging from development assistance to issues pertaining to common or

shared facilities and services. The overall framework under which the UNCT delivers is the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which presents the key shared development objectives of the UN system in the country. In this context, the UNCT works to ensure that implementation of the UNDAF is harmonized and is responsive to national priorities and targets.

The following UN agencies, funds and programmes are active in the Occupied Palestinian Territories:

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United Nations Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Register of Damages (UNRoD)
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

International Trade Commission (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are non-resident agencies and do not have office presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The UNDP/Program of Assistance to the Palestinian People (whose mandate derives from the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 33/147 of December 20, 1978) links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals in the occupied Palestinian territory in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and the UN country team.

In June 2017, the United Nations and the Government of Palestine headed by Rami Hamdallah signed the second United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the occupied Palestinian territory, covering the period 2018-2022. The goal of this strategy is to enhance development prospects for the people of Palestine, by advancing Palestinian statehood, transparent and effective institutions, and by addressing key drivers of vulnerability. In order to achieve this goal, the UNDAF is configured around projects in four core

programming areas: supporting Palestine's path to independence; supporting access to accountable, effective and responsive democratic governance; supporting sustainable and inclusive economic development; and promoting social development and protection.

The UN agencies which are signatory to the new UN Development Assistance Framework are the following: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, International Trade Centre, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Habitat, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, United Nations Volunteers, United Nations Women, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, and United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The estimated annual budget for the UNDAF of approximately \$250 million.

5.1 The UN and the 2014 Gaza war

The first Security Council meeting on the situation in the Gaza Strip was held on July 10, 2014 three days after the beginning of the war. It was called for by Secretary general Ban ki-Moon but did not issue a statement. The Secretary General called for restraint and warned of the risks of escalation into full-blown war. During a second UN Security Council meeting held on July 18 the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman said that a ceasefire was indispensable and urgent. He claimed that the crisis was the result of a collective failure to advance a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and urged the international community to assume its responsibility to restore a serious prospect of a two-State solution. Calls for a ceasefire were renewed by the Secretary General during a third UN Security Council meeting held on July 22. On July 28, a statement issued by the Security Council expressed strong support for the call by international partners and the UN Secretary-General for an immediate and unconditional humanitarian ceasefire, and called for the full implementation of resolution 1860 (2009) and stressed the need for immediate provision of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. The statement was passed unanimously, with all 15 Security Council members voting in favour of the statement.

On July 23, 2014, the Human Rights Council, by resolution S-21/1, decided to urgently dispatch an independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East

Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, in the context of the military operations. The commission formally began its work on 16 September 2014. The commission addressed to the Government of Israel and the Government of the State of Palestine a list of questions relating to specific incidents and legal and policy issues. A comparable list was sent to Hamas. Only the State of Palestine responded. A final report drafted by the independent commission of inquiry and published in June 2015 accused Israeli and Palestinian factions of multiple potential violations of international law including suspected war crimes, while laying most of the blame for Israel's suspected violations at the feet of the country's political and military leadership. Both Israel and Hamas rejected the findings.

The commission recognized that the general warnings issued by the Israel Defence Forces saved lives. At the same time, these warnings were often used in a context where people fleeing were unable to identify a safe place to go owing to the unpredictability of many attacks over a lengthy period of time.

In particular, the final report pointed out that at times 44% of the coastal strip was either under an evacuation order or attack, leaving many with no safe place to go. According to the report, in many incidents the weapons used, the timing of attacks, and the fact that the targets were located in densely populated areas indicate that the Israel Defence Forces may not have done everything feasible to avoid or limit civilian casualties.

5.2 The UN and the issue of Israeli settlements

United Nations Security Council resolution 446, adopted on 22 March 1979, concerned the issue of Israeli settlements in the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. In the resolution the Security Council determines that the policy and practices of Israel in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving peace in the region. The Resolution was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 3 abstentions from Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

United Nations Security Council resolution 465, adopted unanimously on 1 March 1980, expressed concern at Israeli settlement policy in the Arab territories and called upon the State and people of Israel to dismantle such settlements. Then US Ambassador to the UN Donald McHenry stated that the US considered the resolution recommendatory and not binding. Moreover, the resolution determines that all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity and that Israel's policy of supporting the proliferation of settlements violates the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

On December 23, 2016 was adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 concerning the Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem. It was the first UN resolution to specifically address the issue of Israeli settlements since resolution 465. It stated that Israel's settlement activity constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and has no legal validity. It demanded that Israel stop such activity and fulfill its obligations as an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Convention. The resolution did not include any sanction or coercive measure and was adopted under the non-binding Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter. It passed with 14 votes for while the United States abstained. Washington stance was in stark contrast with the decision to exercise its veto right taken in February 2011 to stop a similar UN Security Council resolution.

According to the Israeli settlement watchdog Peace Now, as of December 2016 there were 131 settlements in the West Bank, housing about 385,000 Israeli Jewish settlers, and 97 outposts, that is settlements built without official authorisation. The Quartet sponsoring the stalled Middle East peace process (United States, Russia, European Union and United Nations) said in a July 2016 report that at least 570,000 Israelis were living in the settlements. According to an European Union report, in 2017, after UN resolution 2334, more than 13,000 housing units in Israeli settlements in West Bank were promoted through plans and tenders. This development accounts for an extraordinary three- to four-fold increase in advancement of housing units in 2017 through plans and tenders compared to 2016.



Israeli settlements in West Bank as of October 2017 (light and dark magenta in the map). Source: OCHA

6. The EU – Occupied Palestinian Territories Relations

6.1 A strong partnership

The European Union (EU) has a long-standing commitment to the vision of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine, living side by side with Israel in peace and security. The EU and the Palestinian Authority (PA) enjoy a strong partnership guided by the principles of mutual accountability, transparency and deep democracy that are essential to the establishment of a future democratic Palestinian state. The European Commission is the biggest donor of financial assistance to the Palestinians.

Relations between the European Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were first established in 1975 as part of the Euro-Arab Dialogue, a permanent forum for discussion and dialogue on issues of common interest between then European Economic Community and the Arab League. Euro Arab Dialogue was launched within the framework of the European Global Mediterranean Policy (1970-1990) with the aim of strengthening relations with third countries in the Mediterranean. The legal basis for the EU's relations with the Palestinian Authority is the Interim Association Agreement on Trade and Cooperation signed in 1997 with the Palestine Liberation Organization on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. In the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the EU has entered into a number of partnership arrangements which collectively guide the relationship between the EU and the Palestinian Authority. Beyond the abovementioned Interim Association Agreement, these arrangements include: the European Neighbourhood Instrument, which defines the EU financial support for Palestine for the implementation of ENP initiatives; the ENP bilateral Action Plan, entered into force in 2013, which sets out an agreed agenda for political and economic reforms; the Single Support Framework (SSF), covering 2014, 2015 and 2016 and setting out assistance priorities for the three sectors of intervention on a multi-annual basis. These sectors include support to governance at local and national levels; support to the private sector and sustainable economic development; support to water and land development.

Political relations

The EU and its predecessor, the European Community, since 1973 through various declarations have legitimized Palestinian rights. European institutions have recognized the Palestinians as a people, the need for them to have homeland and exercising their right to self-determination.

The EU designated Hamas as a terrorist group from 2003, while its military wing from 2001. In December 2014, the General Court of the European Union ordered to remove Hamas from the register. The court stated that the move was technical and was not a reassessment of Hamas' classification as a terrorist group. In March 2015, EU decided to keep Hamas on its terrorism blacklist, appealing the court's judgment. In July 2017, the European Court of Justice overruled the General Court's view of 2014 that the Council of the European Union had insufficient evidence to maintain asset freezes and travel bans on Hamas. Hamas was kept on the EU terrorism blacklist.

The EU is active in the Middle East Peace Process and is a member of the Middle East Quartet (with the United States, Russia and the United Nations), working towards a two-state solution based on the 2003 Roadmap for Peace. These efforts are regularly debated by the EU Council of Ministers. The EU has insisted on multiple occasions that it will not recognise any changes to the 1967 borders other than those agreed between the parties in a negotiated solution of the conflict. In July 2009, the EU's High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana called for the United Nations to recognise the Palestinian state by a set deadline even if a settlement had not been reached.

In December 2009, the Council of the European Union endorsed a set of conclusions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict which forms the basis of present EU policy. The conclusions called for the urgent resumption of negotiations that will lead, within an agreed time-frame, to a two-state solution; stressed that EU will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders including with regard to Jerusalem; urged the government of Israel to immediately end all settlement activities, in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank and including natural growth, and to dismantle all outposts erected since March 2001; recalled that it has never recognised the annexation of East Jerusalem.

In December 2014, the European Parliament voted in favour of a non-binding resolution calling for the recognition of Palestinian statehood as part of a two-state solution and alongside the development of the peace process with 498 votes in favour, 88 against and 111 abstentions.

Israel's settlement policy has often led to some tensions. EU states consider these settlements illegal under international law and condemned the expansion several times. Following the 2008-9 Gaza War, the European Parliament endorsed the Goldstone Report by the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict that accused both the Israel Defense Forces and the Palestinian militants of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity. During the 2014 Gaza war, EU called for an immediate ceasefire and reiterated its support for a two-state solution on the basis of 1967 borders. On multiple occasions the EU has called for the blockade on Gaza to be lifted, since it amounts to "collective punishment". Following US President Trump's decision announced in early December 2017 to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini reiterated the EU stance on the status of Jerusalem.

As of November 2018, 9 out of 28 EU member states have recognized the State of Palestine. These member states are:

- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Malta
- Poland
- Romania

- Slovakia
- Sweden

Trade

The Interim Association Agreement on Trade and Cooperation provides for duty-free access to EU markets for Palestinian industrial goods, and a phase-out of tariffs on EU exports to Palestine over five years. An Agreement for further liberalisation of agricultural products, processed agricultural products and fish and fishery products entered into force on 1 January 2012.

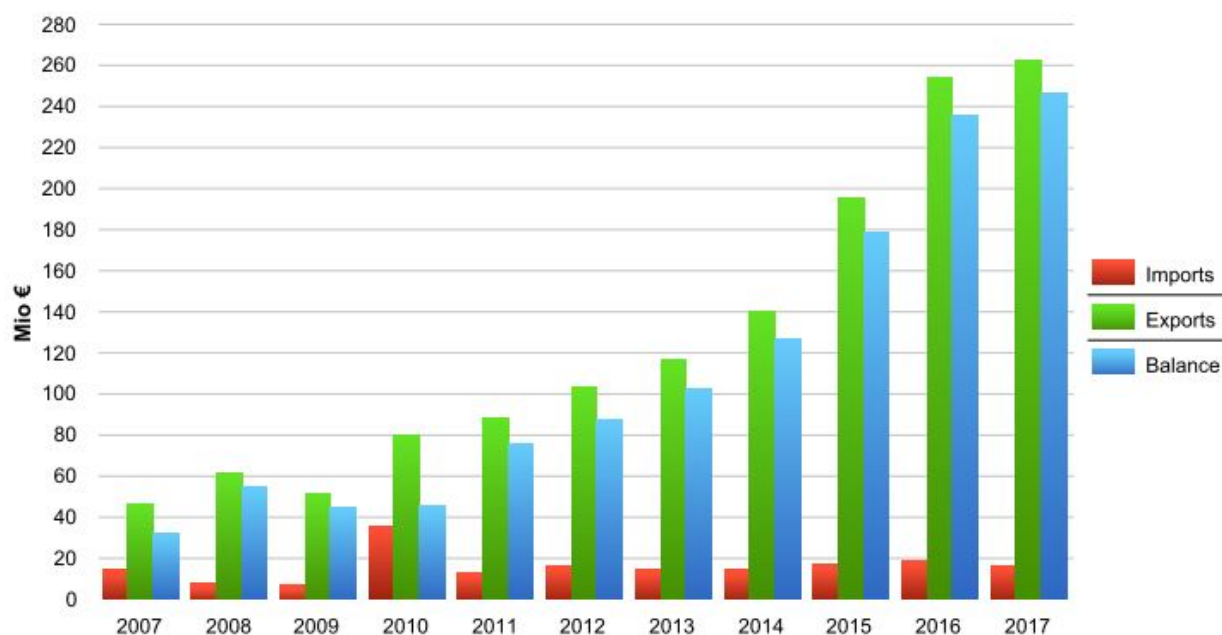
Due to difficult economic situation and restrictions on movement and access, trade with the EU is very limited (€272

million in 2016). Imports from Palestine to the EU are very low, only €17 million in 2016. They consist mainly of agricultural products (79.6%), mainly tropical fruits and olive oil, and chemicals (9.9%), mainly pharmaceuticals. EU exports to Palestine are composed mainly of machinery and transport equipment (53.9%), as well as agricultural products (23.4%) and chemicals (11.9%), again mainly pharmaceuticals. They amounted to €255 million in 2016.

Palestine has acceded to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin (a unified framework for origin protocols) on 1 July 2014.

Total goods: EU Trade flows and balance, annual data 2007 - 2017

Source Eurostat Comext - Statistical regime 4



6.2 Bilateral cooperation and financial support

From 2007-2013, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) was the main EU financial instrument to fund development cooperation programmes with the Neighbourhood partner countries (including Palestine). Under this instrument, Palestine benefitted of a baseline amount of €300 million per year for bi-lateral cooperation distributed among direct financial support to the Palestinian Authority (through PEGASE), support to Palestine refugees (through UNRWA) and development programmes (including projects in East Jerusalem). PEGASE aims at supporting the Palestinian Authority to deliver to the Palestinian population essential basic services by maintaining the functioning of the administration; at improving the economic opportunities of poor, vulnerable and isolated population; and at supporting the Palestinian Authority in reducing its budget deficit and implementing its reform agenda while increasing its transparency and accountability.

EU also channels support through ECHO, the European Commission's humanitarian aid department, and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Since the end of 2015, European development partners have been working on developing the first-ever European Joint Strategy, which is closely aligned to the new Palestinian National Policy Agenda (NPA) 2017-2022 and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. This Strategy is locally-owned and is the result of extensive meetings and discussions amongst the European development partners, Palestinian ministries, civil society organisations, the business community, the United Nations (UN) family and many other key actors. The aim of the strategy is to maximise aid coordination and aid effectiveness amongst EU Development Partners and reinforce our ability to address through development funding our objectives. EU's interventions focus on the following five pillars:

- Pillar 1: Governance reform, fiscal consolidation and policy (Pillar led by the EU, the United-Kingdom and Denmark)
- Pillar 2: Rule of law, citizen safety and human rights (Pillar led by the United-Kingdom and the Netherlands)
- Pillar 3: Sustainable service delivery (Pillar led by Finland/Belgium, Italy and the EU)
- Pillar 4: Access to self-sufficient water and energy services (Pillar led by Germany and France)
- Pillar 5: Sustainable economic development (Pillar led by Spain and the EU)

The European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is the main EU financial instrument for 2014-2020. The indicative annual bilateral allocation is around €300 million. Targeted priority

sectors of EU cooperation are: support to governance at local and national levels; support to private sector and economic development; support to water and land development. In 2016, EU funding through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) amounted to €291.1 million. The bulk of it (€170.5 million) was channelled through the PEGASE Direct Financial Support. €82 million have been allocated to UNRWA in support of Palestinian refugees. The remaining amount of €38.6 million has been allocated to support to governance (€8.1 million); support economic enablers (€20 million); and support to East Jerusalem (€0.5 million).

In 2017, EU funding through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) originally amounted to €220.1 million, but was later expanded. The bulk of it (€138.1 million) was channelled through the PEGASE Direct Financial Support. €82 million have been allocated to UNRWA in support of Palestinian refugees. In December 2017 the European Commission adopted a new €42.5 million assistance package benefiting Palestinians, including substantial support in East Jerusalem. The package includes €4.9 million for activities in East Jerusalem to preserve the Palestinian character of the city and counter the worrying deterioration of socio-economic indicators that include widespread poverty. Projects will focus on advocacy and protection actions, youth and education and support to the private sector, with the overall aim to boost economic development. In addition, the package includes €27.6 million to support the building of a democratic and accountable Palestinian State through targeted policy reforms, fiscal consolidation, reinforcing businesses and SMEs, strengthening of Palestinian Civil Society and providing access to water and energy.

Palestine is also eligible for funding under the following EU's thematic programmes, such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR - €1.5 million annually) or the Non-state Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme.

Together with Israel and Jordan, Palestine participates to the European Peacebuilding Initiative (former Partnership for Peace programme); its overall objective is to facilitate the peace process by supporting a solid foundation at civil society level for a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East. The programme receives an annual contribution of €5 million.

Overall, EU support in 2017 amounted to nearly €359 million from all financing sources.

6.3 EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS)

The European Union Police and Rule of Law Mission for the Palestinian Territory, official title EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS), is a European Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission for the Palestinian territories, based and operational in the West Bank. It is part of the wider efforts of the European Union in support of Palestinian state building in the context of working towards a comprehensive peace based on a two-State solution.

The European Union Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support was formally established by an Exchange of Letters on 20 April 2005 between the Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei and the EU Special Representative to the Middle-East Peace Process Marc Otte. In a letter of invitation of 25 October 2005 the Palestinian Authority invited the EU to launch EUPOL COPPS. The initiative followed the expression by EU leaders in June 2004 of their readiness to support the Palestinian Authority in taking responsibility for law and order, and in particular, in improving its Palestinian Civil Police Force and law enforcement capacity. EUPOL COPPS was established following an EU Council decision in November 2005 (COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2005/797/CFSP of 14 November 2005). It officially started on 1 January 2006 and it is headquartered in Ramallah.

The aim of the Mission is to contribute to the establishment of sustainable and effective policing arrangements and to advise Palestinian counterparts on criminal justice and rule of law related aspects under Palestinian ownership, in accordance with the best international standards and in co-operation with the EU institution-building programs conducted by the European Commission and with other international efforts in the wider context of the security sector, including criminal justice reform. The mission strategic objectives are: to support the Palestinian Civil Police Reform and Development; to strengthen and support the Criminal Justice System; to improve Prosecution-Police interaction.

The mission strength is composed of 70 international staff and 45 national staff. The mission budget was €12.372 million for the period July 2017 – June 2018. Budget was slightly increased to €12.667 million (from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019). EUPOL COPPS is supported by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden and United Kingdom augmented by contributing countries from Canada, Turkey and Norway.

The mission structure includes four sections.

- The Mission Support section ensures the smooth day to day running of the Mission. The Head of Mission Support (HoMS) supervises and coordinates all general and administrative support activities in the Mission (including Finance, Procurement and contracting, Human Resources, General Support Services (i.e. logistics and transportation),

and Information System (CIS) and Software Development. The Mission Support Section is composed by 27 staff.

- The Rule of Law section's main focus is the strengthening of the criminal justice system, and the enhancement of Palestinian Police-Prosecution cooperation. This is done by the implementation of operational objectives through the provision of strategic advice, mentoring, and support provided by senior experts from EU member states working within the mission.
- The Police Advisory Section (PAS) comprises 27 experienced Advisers, from across the EU Members States, Canada and Norway, who possess expertise in several domains (Criminal Investigation, Uniformed Police, Support and Oversight). The aim of the section is to support the reform and development of the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) at strategic and operational levels, with emphasis placed on sustainability and local ownership. The section covers the full spectrum of policing activities from advisers co-located in the Ministry of the Interior through to supporting heads of departments at headquarters and district levels. PAS provides training and developmental opportunities at strategic and operational levels, playing a pivotal role in supporting and advising the PCP, cooperating with and coordinating the activities of key stakeholders and donors.
- The Planning & Evaluation Department (PED) supports the implementation of the Mission's operational portfolio providing a programmatic approach and a monitoring and evaluation system in line with the benchmarking methodology in place for civilian CSDP missions. PED currently supports and coordinates the implementation of twelve large-scale, medium to long-term capacity building projects under three different programmatic areas, i.e. support the Palestinian Civil Police's reform and development; strengthen and support the Palestinian criminal justice system; improve prosecution-police cooperation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

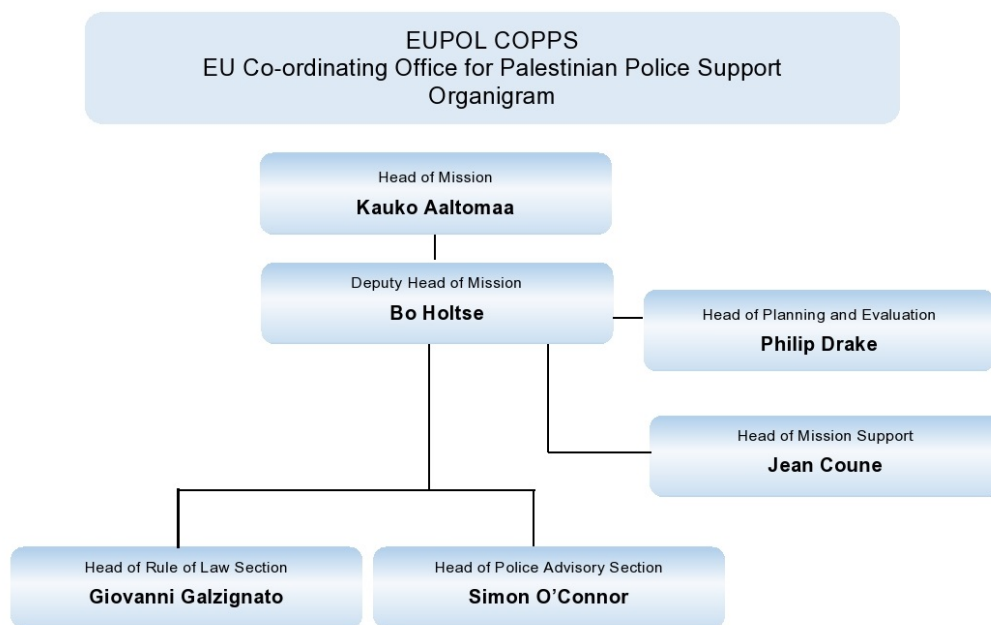
In supporting the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) Reform and Development, the Minister of Interior Advisors work at strategic level with senior officials at the Ministry of the Interior, supporting the reform and development of the Palestinian Civilian Police. One of the aim is to embed the concept of civilian police primacy through cooperation and coordination with the wider security sector agencies and their international advisers. Current priorities include the development of a Police Law and clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the Police. The Police Advisory Section (PAS) promote, coordinate and facilitate a number of joint Israeli and Palestinian workshops on topics such as legal procedures, local agreements in joint investigations, exchange of criminal intelligence, joint operations and the improvement of continuity of evidence. PAS

supports the PCP in empowering its Human Resources Administration to further develop its internal administrative procedures and human resources management capacities. PAS promotes community-oriented policing, by supporting frontline policing administrations in a wide-range of activities, including criminal investigation, traffic, patrol and public order duties. Moreover, the mission supports PCP accountability and oversight.

In strengthening the rule of law, EUPOL COPPS supports the development of a coherent framework of Criminal Justice Institutions which clearly defines their respective mandates, roles and responsibilities. The mission's legal experts are working to improve and strengthen the internal organizational and administrative structures of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), High Judicial Council (HJC), Attorney General's Office (AGO),

and the Palestinian Bar Association (PBA). EUPOL COPPS is currently supporting prosecutors, judges, defence lawyers, and the PBA in acquiring appropriate knowledge and skills to investigate, prosecute, defend, and adjudicate criminal cases in an efficient and effective way, in key areas: cybercrime, violent crimes, economic and financial crimes, legal drafting, litigation techniques and case management.

In improving Police-Prosecution interaction, EUPOL COPPS assists its counterparts in implementing the joint memorandum of understanding between the Public Prosecution and the Palestinian Civil Police.



Source: EUPOL COPPS (organigram retrieved on April 25, 2018)

6.4 EU Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah Crossing Point - EU BAM Rafah

EU BAM Rafah was launched on 24 November 2005, to monitor the operations at the Rafah Border Crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, after Israel and the Palestinian Authority concluded an Agreement on Movement and Access on 15 November 2005. The operational phase of the mission began on 30 November 2005. The Rafah Crossing Point was last opened with the presence of EUBAM monitors on 9 June 2007.

On 13 June 2007, following the Hamas take over in the Gaza Strip, the EU BAM Head of Mission declared a temporary suspension of operations.

The regular opening of the Rafah Crossing Point is deemed by the EU a vital issue for any future agreements concerning the

Gaza Strip. Under the 2005 Agreements, the EU third-party presence took into account Israel's security concerns and ensured the freedom of movement of the 1,5 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip.

From the start of the Mission on 25 November 2005, until the last day of opening under EUBAM monitoring on 9 June 2007, a total of 443,975 passengers crossed the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt at the Rafah Crossing Point (RCP): 229,429 persons left Gaza to enter Egypt while 214,117 entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt.

7. Other regional organisations and Occupied Palestinian Territories

7.1 Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Occupied Palestinian Territories

Since its foundation in 1969, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has supported the Palestinian people and its political leadership. Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was among the 24 Muslim majority countries that became OIC founding members. The OIC supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The 57-member body supports the sovereignty of the State of Palestine over all the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, as well as its airspace, territorial waters, and borders with neighbouring countries.

During the Fifth Extraordinary Islamic Summit on Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif held in Jakarta on March 7, 2016 OIC issued the Jakarta Declaration, in which it supported the boycott of products produced in or by the illegal Israeli settlements.

During the 44th session of the council of Foreign ministers of OIC, held in Abidjan on 10-11 July 2017, OIC condemned the so called “Regulation Law”, an Israeli law that aims to

retroactively legalize Israeli settlements in the West Bank Area C and was voted in the Israeli Knesset in February 2017. OIC has regularly expressed concerns for the Israeli settlement policy.

During an extraordinary OIC summit held in Istanbul on December 13, 2017, OIC issued the Istanbul Declaration, in which rejected and condemned the decision by the US President Trump to move US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem that seems to lead to full recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel. OIC regarded the decision as a declaration of the US Administration's withdrawal from the role it played in the past decades as sponsor of peace. During the same summit, OIC recognized East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine, while Palestinian Authority President Abbas claimed he deems no longer acceptable for the US to play a role in the political process for the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

7.2 Arab League and Occupied Palestinian Territories

The Arab League supported the Palestinian people and its political leadership since its very first summit held in Cairo in April 1964, when it was mandated the creation of a Palestinian entity that the following month would eventually become the Palestine Liberation Organization. The organisation's establishment was formally approved at the Arab League's second summit, held in Alexandria in October. The PLO was granted full membership in 1976.

In 2002, Saudi Arabia proposed the Arab Peace Initiative for a solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which was endorsed unanimously at a summit of the Arab League in Beirut in March 2002 (further re-endorsed in 2007 and 2017). The plan is based on UN Security Council Resolution 242 and Resolution 338. It calls for normalizing relations between the Arab region and Israel, in exchange for a full withdrawal by Israel from the occupied territories (including East Jerusalem) and a "just settlement" of the Palestinian refugee problem based on UN Resolution 194. The initiative called for the establishment of a special committee composed of a portion of the Arab League's concerned member states and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to pursue the necessary contacts to gain support for the initiative at all levels, particularly from the United Nations, the United Nations Security Council, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the Muslim states and the European Union.

In the days following US President Trump's December 2017 decision to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the Arab League denounced the move on the basis that it would spur violence throughout the region, described Trump's announcement as a dangerous violation of international law, and claimed the decision had no legal impact.

In January 2018, the Arab League announced a diplomatic drive to persuade the United Nations to recognize a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Arab League position regarding the issue of Jerusalem was reiterated during the 29th summit held in Dhahran in April 2018. A number of donations were announced, including \$150 million for the maintenance of the Islamic endowment in Jerusalem and \$50 million to help cover the annual budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees after the United States cut its aid to the agency earlier in January 2018.

8. Other Practical Info

8.1 Local Customs Cultural Awareness

Social Etiquette

a) Meeting Etiquette

When two Palestinians greet one another they usually shake hands. It is also common for two women to kiss one another on the cheeks in greeting. Informal greetings between people of the same gender may involve a hug, or two kisses on each cheek between males. The rules for greeting someone from the opposite sex will differ depending on religious adherence, conservativeness of hosts, and the location of the gathering or meeting.

The typical greeting is a gentle, protracted handshake, maintaining direct eye contact, and repeating your name. Palestinian names are often comprised of:

- First name, which is the person's given name. It is not unusual for Palestinians to refer to others using only the first name, even in formal situations or together with someone's title.
- Middle name(s), which can be both a second or third name or a patronymic. Middle names can be preceded by "al-" ("belonging to") or "bin" / "bint" ("son of" / "daughter of").
- Last name, which is the family name.
- In certain situations, a man can be referred to by using the name of his son / daughter preceded by "abu" ("father of"). Women do not take their husband's name in marriage.

During greetings, it is normal to take the time to exchange pleasantries. At the beginning of a conversation, both formal and informal, it is considered rude not to show a keen interest in their health, family and general wellbeing.

In formal settings, greetings involve a handshake with the right hand only. Palestinians, like Arab men in general, may shake hands very gently. Shaking a female's hand is not appropriate unless she outstretches her hand first. In this isn't the case, usually men greet women by placing their hand on their chest and saying hello.

Palestinians are very welcoming and open to meeting people from the outside. They are also forgiving of small social blunders as they understand that a person comes from a different culture to their own.

"Hello" in Arabic is *marhaba* or *ahlan*, to which one replies, *marhabtayn* or *ahlayn*. Other common greetings are *as-salam alaykum* (Peace be with you), with the reply of *wa 'alaykum as-salam* (and to you peace). *Ma'assalama* means "goodbye" with the literal translation being "go with peace". "Thank you" is *shukran*, and "You're welcome" is *'afwan*.

When meeting a Palestinian for the first time, it is advisable to greet him/her in Arabic. This often softens the tone for the rest of the conversation. Palestinians are always eager to talk to outsiders about the challenges they face, the hardships they endure daily and the ways they try to cope under occupation.

If the meeting takes place in their home, it is important to make positive comments about their home and hospitality. Showing

admiration for any specific items might induce the host to feel obliged to give the object as a gift.

It is customary to stand up when greeting each other, if people are seated at a gathering, they stand up every time an adult enters the room for the first time. It is rude for a person to say his/her greetings while sitting down. Some hand gestures can be offensive. The O.K. sign common in the West is inappropriate in Palestinian culture. Putting up feet, showing the back of shoes or sole of feet in any social gathering is deemed a sign of disrespect.

During the month of Ramadan, when Muslims are fasting, it is better to refrain from eating, smoking or drinking when around those who fast. If a person visits someone during Ramadan while they are fasting, the person will offer him/her a drink, but it is highly recommended that the person visiting refuse profusely.

The Palestinians have what is known as the second offer rule. It is common to offer a Palestinian guests at home or in at the office a snack and coffee or tea. It is considered polite for the guests to decline the first time. The offer is made again and any decline is accepted only after insisting the second time. The same rule applies in reverse. If a person is a guest in someone's home or office, and they offer food or drinks, the person must decline the first offer and only accept when they insist a second time. This applies to meal (lunch or dinner) invitations as well.

b) Gift Giving Etiquette

Palestinians celebrate Eid al-Adha (the Feast of Sacrifice) and Christmas with gift-givings. It is good manners when invited to a Palestinian home to go visit with a gift. Best gift is often one or two kilos of sweets. Other gifts can be flower, fruits, and toys for the children. Gifts don't need to be expensive.

c) Dining Etiquette

Table manners are generally casual. When in doubt, watch what others are doing and emulate their behaviour. The food may be a variety of dishes served on common platters or a plate for each individual. Use only right hand for eating and wash hands before the meal. If invited over for a meal, Make sure not to finish eating quickly. The minute the guest, says he/she is full, everyone else will have to stop eating. So take the time to make sure everyone around the table eats well. The guest leaving a little bit of food on the plate when done eating tells the host that the guest is now full. An empty plate invites more food portions to be put into it. It is common to pass food by handling the food directly with the fingers. This is a sign of friendship and acceptance.

Business Etiquette and Protocol

a) Meeting and Greeting

The Palestinian culture is less formal regarding business meetings than the formalities expected in the West. It is a common practice for business discussions to occur in private residences or over meals at a restaurant. The reason for eating in someone's home is to break passed formalities and cultivate genuine conversation. However, Palestinians seek to combine

that relaxed atmosphere with a level of significance and respect. It is important for foreigners to remain respectful of their hosts at all times and mirror the same courteous behaviour. When meeting a Palestinian for the first time, introduction should be done, starting with full name and the name of the company. This is when the formal handshake (or pat on the chest) may take place. It is a good time to exchange business cards. If the meeting is very official, address those present using Mr. or Mrs., and use their first (not family) name.

There is a thin line separating the business from the personal in much of the Arab world. The business culture in Palestinian Territories tends to be less formal than that of the western world.

b) Communication Style

Palestinians consider it polite conduct to express agreement in front of outsiders, even if what is being said is contrary to their own personal beliefs. Often, the level of the relationship will determine how direct someone is. Obviously the newer a

relationship, the more cautious people will be. Once a relationship has developed, people will then feel more comfortable speaking frankly.

c) Business Meetings

Most businesses in Palestine are owned and run by families, so often business meetings and discussions can take place in the home or in social settings over a meal. The abovementioned rules and tips regarding meals apply here. Relationships are highly important in Palestinian culture, so it is not uncommon that part of the meeting is devoted to non-business discussions. Engage in small talk and wait for the other party to change the subject to business.

8.2 Medical Travel Recommendations for XXX

The impact of a continuous state of war has left the Palestinian health system in a chronic state of disarray, especially in the Gaza Strip. Thus, medical facilities in the Palestinian Territories are generally poor. Healthcare quality is generally higher in bigger Palestinian cities, but they can be short of supplies. For basic medical advice, assistance is good in Jerusalem, acceptable in the West Bank. For specialist interventions it is preferable to contact the hospitals in Jerusalem. English is generally understood.

Recommended Vaccinations:

- Diphtheria;
- Polio;
- Tetanus;
- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B;
- Rabies.

Diarrhoea

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travellers. Prevention consists mainly in: “Boil it, wash it, peel it, cook it... or forget it”. Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol);
- drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes (even though water in Jerusalem is potable);
- make sure food is fully cooked; avoid eating fruits and vegetables unless they have been peeled or cooked.

Most episodes are self-limiting, clear up within 48 to 72 hours and do not require treatment with antibiotics. The primary goal of treating any form of diarrhoea (viral, bacterial, parasitic or non-infectious) is preventing dehydration or appropriately re-hydrating persons presenting with dehydration.

In particular:

- oral re-hydration solutions (ORS) or similar solutions should be used for re-hydration and absorbed in small, frequent volumes;
- an age-appropriate unrestricted diet is recommended as soon as dehydration is corrected;
- no routine laboratory tests or medications are recommended;
- anti-motility agents such as Loperamid should be considered only for adult patients who do not have a fever or bloody diarrhoea; anti-motility agents may reduce diarrhea output and cramps, but do not accelerate cure.

Gas Heater

You should never go to sleep with your gas heater switched on. The pressure may drop resulting in the flame extinguishing. As a result gas will then leak from the heater. Carbon monoxide poisoning can also be a problem with old appliances.

Road Traffic Accidents

Remember to:

1. wear your safety belt;
2. follow the local customs and laws regarding pedestrian safety and vehicle speed;
3. obey the rules of the road;
4. use helmets on bicycles and motorbikes;
5. avoid boarding an overloaded bus or mini-bus;
6. if not familiar with driving in Palestinian Territories, hire a trustworthy local driver;
7. do not drink and drive.

8.3 Other Travel Info

Time

Time zone: Eastern European Time (UTC+2). Summer (DST): Eastern European Summer Time (UTC+3)

Money

Currencies used in Palestine include the Jordanian Dinar and the US Dollar, but the most popular is the New Israeli Shekel (NIS). The shekel is divided into 100 Agorot. There are 200, 100, 50, and 20 NIS notes; 10, 5 and 1 NIS coins; and 50 and 10 Agorot coins. Visitors are advised to take dollars and euros, but any other major European currency can also be freely changed at banks and money changers. ATMs are also available and credit cards are widely used in cities. Outside of cities you should make sure you have sufficient cash in local currency.

Climate

The climate in the West Bank is mostly Mediterranean, slightly cooler at elevated areas compared with the shoreline, west to the area. In the east, the West Bank includes much of the Judean Desert including the western shoreline of the Dead Sea, characterised by dry and hot climate. Gaza has a hot semi-arid climate with mild winters and dry hot summers. Spring arrives around March–April and the hottest months are July and August, with the average high being 33 °C (91 °F) in Gaza and 38 °C (100 °F) in West Bank. The coldest month is January with temperatures usually at 4-7 °C (40-45 °F). Rain is scarce and generally falls between November and March, with annual precipitation rates approximately at 4.57 inches (116 mm).

8.4 Radio Transmissions

The radio is not a secure means of communication as it can be listened to by practically anyone. It is useful to establish a set of simple code words, which should be known by everyone in the network. In no case should military information be transmitted.

Basic Rules

Discipline: listen before transmitting. Brevity: be brief and to the point. Rhythm: use short complete phrases that make sense. Speed: not too fast, not too slow. Volume: don't shout. Preparation: know what you are going to say before transmitting.

Prior to transmission

- a. Check the power source and cables to ensure there is a power supply.
- b. Check the antenna and cables ensuring a tight and correct connection to the radio set.
- c. Connect the audio accessories and check the functioning of switches.

Transmitting

- a. Make your message brief but precise.
- b. Break the message into sensible passages with pauses between.
- c. Make sure no-one else is transmitting at the same time.
- d. When transmitting maintain a high standard of articulation, normal rhythm and moderate volume. Do not shout. Hold the microphone close to your mouth.
- e. Avoid excessive calling and unofficial voice procedure.

Four Golden Rules

Clarity; Brevity; Security; Simplicity.

Respect these rules; your radios may be the only link to the outside world. Don't interfere with radios unless you are a trained technician. Don't use the radio like a telephone, keep transmissions short. Organize your thinking and your message before transmitting. Security matters are best dealt with by using simple code words; likewise when dealing with sensitive issues.

Procedure Words

A proword is a word or phrase, which has been given a special meaning in order to speed up the handling of messages. The only authorised prowords are listed below:

Prowords explanation:

BREAK

I now indicate a separation of the text from other portions of the message.

CORRECT

You are correct, or what you have transmitted is correct.

CORRECTION

I have made an error in this transmission. I will continue from the last correct word.

I SAY AGAIN

I am repeating my transmission again.

MESSAGE

A message follows: prepare to copy or record it.

MORE TO FOLLOW

The transmitting station has additional traffic for the receiving station.

OUT

This is the end of my transmission to you and no answer is required.

OVER

This is the end of my transmission to you and a response is expected. Go ahead transmit.

READ BACK

Repeat this entire transmission back to me exactly as received.

ROGER

I have received your last transmission satisfactorily.

SPEAK SLOWER

You are speaking too fast. Please speak slower.

STAND-BY

Do not transmit until contacted: I need extra time.

THIS IS

Give call sign, i.e. "Delta one".

WAIT

I must pause for a few seconds, please wait.

WAIT OUT

I must pause longer than a few seconds, I will return.

WILCO

I have received your signal, understand it, and will comply (do not use roger and wilco together).

WRONG

Your last transmission was incorrect the correct version was ...

Phonetics

The international phonetic alphabet listed below shall be used. Numerals shall be transmitted digit by digit except round figures such as hundreds and thousands.

Examples:

Message examples:

To give you confidence, make sure you practise using the radio before you find yourself in urgent need of using it. An example of the kind of language you must learn to use is shown right. It is an example of a radio check:

Call

Five - Two, Five - Two, this is Hotel – Three - Niner, Hotel – Three - Niner. Radio check. Over.

Reply

Hotel – Three - Niner, from Five - Two. I read you loud and clear. Over.

Call

Five - Two from Hotel – Three - Niner. Loud and clear. Over.

Reply

From Five-Two. Roger. Out.

What to do in an emergency

Call for help as follows:

emergency. emergency. emergency.

Five-two five-two. this is hotel-three-niner, hotel-three-niner. emergency. do you copy? over. (Note: emergency is repeated three times).

Wait for response and then proceed. For a lesser degree of urgency, use the word "security" instead of "emergency". Any station hearing an "emergency" or "security" call, should immediately stop transmitting and listen out. If you need to interrupt another radio conversation wait for a pause (immediately after you hear "over"); call: break. break. this is hotel-three-niner, hotel-three-niner. I have an emergency. please stand by.

Pause transmission and listen to ensure the other communication has ceased, then proceed with emergency call.

12 wun too;

44 fo-wer fo-wer;

90 niner zero;

136 wun three six;

500 fi-yiv hundred;

7000 seven thousand;

16000 wun six thousand;

1278 wun too seven ate;

19A wun niner alfa

CHARACTER	MORSE CODE	TELEPHONY	PHONIC (PRONUNCIATION)
A	• —	Alfa	(AL-FAH)
B	— • • •	Bravo	(BRAH-VOH)
C	— • — •	Charlie	(CHAR-LEE) or (SHAR-LEE)
D	— • •	Delta	(DELL-TAH)
E	•	Echo	(ECK-OH)
F	• • — •	Foxtrot	(FOKS-TROT)
G	— — •	Golf	(GOLF)
H	• • • •	Hotel	(HOH-TEL)
I	• •	India	(IN-DEE-AH)
J	• — — —	Juliett	(JEW-LEE-ETT)
K	— • —	Kilo	(KEY-LOH)
L	• — • •	Lim a	(LEE-MAH)
M	— —	Mike	(MIKE)
N	— •	November	(NO-VEM-BER)
O	— — —	Oscar	(OSS-CAH)
P	• — — •	Papa	(PAH-PAH)
Q	— — • —	Quebec	(KEH-BECK)
R	• — •	Romeo	(ROW-ME-OH)
S	• • •	Sierra	(SEE-AIR-RAH)
T	—	Tango	(TANG-GO)
U	• • —	Uniform	(YOU-NEE-FORM) or (OO-NEE-FORM)
V	• • • —	Victor	(VIK-TAH)
W	• — —	Whiskey	(WISS-KEY)
X	— • • —	Xray	(ECKS-RAY)
Y	— • — —	Yankee	(YANG-KEY)
Z	— — • •	Zulu	(ZOO-LOO)
1	• — — — —	One	(WUN)
2	• • — — —	Two	(TOO)
3	• • • — —	Three	(TREE)
4	• • • • —	Four	(FOW-ER)
5	• • • • •	Five	(FIFE)
6	— • • • •	Six	(SIX)
7	— — • • •	Seven	(SEV-EN)
8	— — — • •	Eight	(AIT)
9	— — — — •	Nine	(NIN-ER)
0	— — — — —	Zero	(ZEE-RO)

9. Useful contacts

Emergencies

In case of emergency in the Palestinian Territories, call the following emergency numbers:

Fire – 102

Police – 100

Ambulance – 101

Embassies

Republic of Austria Representation in Palestinian Territories
Chief: Andrea Nasi

Address: VIP Centre, 100 Al-Kawthar Street, El-Bireh,
Ramallah

Phone: (+972 / 2) 240 14 77

Fax: (+972 / 2) 240 04 79

Email: ramallah(at)ada.gv.at

Web: www.entwicklung.at

Embassy of the Republic of Austria in Israel

Chief: Martin Weiss

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Address: Sason Hogi Tower, Abba Hillel Silver Street 12, 4.
Stock, Ramat Gan 5250606

Phone: (+972) 3 612 0924 (Amt)

Fax: (+972) 3 751 0716 (Amt)

Email: tel-aviv-ob(at)bmeia.gv.at

Web: www.aussenministerium.at/telaviv

Consulate General of the Kingdom of Belgium in Jerusalem

Chief: Danielle Haven

Consul General

Address: 5, Baibars Street, Sheikh Jarrah 9711769 Jerusalem

Phone: +972 2 582 82 63

Fax: +972 2 581 40 63

Email: Jerusalem@diplobel.fed.be

Web: http://jerusalem.diplomatie.belgium.be

Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Israel

Chief: Olivier Belle

Ambassador

Address: Abba Hillel Silver St. 12, 15th floor 5250606 Ramat-
Gan

Phone: +972 3 613 81 30

Fax: +972 3 613 81 60

Email: TelAviv@diplobel.fed.be

Web: http://israel.diplomatie.belgium.be

Diplomatic representation of the Republic of Bulgaria in
Ramallah

Chief: Svilen Bozhanov

Chargés d'affaires en pied

Address: Al Kawtar st. VIP Centre 2nd floor, Al Bireh -
Ramallah

Phone: +970 2 24 13 143

Fax: +970 2 241 3144

Email: Mission.Ramallah@mfa.bg

Web: www.mfa.bg/embassies/palestina

Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Israel

Chief: Dimitar Mihaylov

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Address: 21, "Leonardo da Vinci" str., Tel Aviv 64733, Israel

Phone: +972 3 696 13 78

Fax:

Email: Embassy.TelAviv@mfa.bg;

bulgaria.embassy.telaviv@gmail.com

Web: http://www.mfa.bg/embassies/israel/setlang/en

Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in the State of Israel

Chief: Tina Krce

Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Address: 2, Weizman Street Amot Investment Building 8th
floor 64239 Tel Aviv

Phone: + 972 (0) 3643 8654

Fax: + 972 (0) 3 643 8503

Email: croemb.israel@mvep.hr

Web: il.mvep.hr/en

Representative Office of the Republic of Cyprus in Ramallah

Chief: Savvas Vladimirov

Representative

Address: 100 Al Kawthar Street Al Bireh Ramallah

Phone: +972 2241 3206

Fax: +972 2241 3208

Email: cyprusoffice@palnet.com

Web:

http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/PermRep/representation_ramallah.n
sf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument

Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Tel Aviv

Chief: Thessalia-Salina Shambos

Ambassador

Address: 61 Dizengoff Str Dizengoff Center, Gate 3 Top Tower,
14th floor TEL AVIV 6433233

Phone: +972 (0) 3 - 525 7442

Fax: +972 (0) 3 - 525 7443

Email: cto@netvision.net.il

Web:

http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/embassies/embassy_telaviv.nsf/DM
Lindex_en/DMLindex_en?OpenDocument

Representative Office of the Czech Republic in Ramallah
Chief: Petr Starý
Representative
Address: Beit Assia Bldg., 3rd floor Al-Irsal Str., Ramallah -
Al-Bireh - P.O.Box 4035 (Post Al-Bireh)
Phone: 00 970-2-296 55 95
Fax: 00970-2-296 55 96
Email: ramallah@embassy.mzv.cz
Web: <https://www.mzv.cz/ramallah/en/index.html>

Embassy of the Czech Republic in Israel
Chief: Ivo Schwarz
Ambassador
Address: Zeitlin 23, 6495518 Tel Aviv
Phone: +972-3-6918282
Fax: +972-3-6918286
Email: telaviv@embassy.mzv.cz
Web: <https://www.mzv.cz/telaviv/en/index.html>

Representative Office of Denmark, Ramallah
Chief:
Address: 48 Othman Ben Affan Street, Al-Bireh – Ramallah -
P.O. Box 2444 Ramallah
Phone: +972 2 241 5280
Fax: +972 2 242 0331
Email: ramrkt@um.dk
Web: <http://ramallah.um.dk/>

Embassy of Denmark, Israel
Chief: Charlotte Slente
Ambassador
Address: Museum Tower, 11th floor Berkowitz Street 46423806
Tel Aviv
Phone: +972 (0)3 608 5850
Fax: +972 (0)3 608 5851
Email: tlamb@um.dk
Web: <http://israel.um.dk/>

Special Representative of Estonia to Palestine
Chief: Ann Hänni
Address: residing in Tallinn
Note: Estonia is represented in issuing visas to Estonia by
Switzerland

Representative Office of Switzerland Ramallah
Address: Al-Wataniah Bldg., 5th floor, Jerusalem Street, Al-
Bireh - Ramallah
Phone: +970 2 240 83 60
Fax: +970 2 240 83 62
Email: rah.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
Web: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/ramallah>

Embassy of Estonia in Tel Aviv
Chief: Sulev Kannike
Ambassador
Address: Menachem Begin Rd. 125 / Kaplan str 44, HaYovel
Tower, 24th floor, 61071 Tel Aviv

Phone: +972 3 710 3910
Fax: +972 3 710 3919
Email: embassy.telaviv@mfa.ee
Web: <http://www.telaviv.vm.ee>

Representative Office Of Finland, Ramallah
Chief: Anna-Kaisa Heikkinen
Ambassador
Address: Trust Building, Othman Ben Affan Street 48, Al-Bireh,
Ramallah
Phone: (972-2) 242 0340
Email: sanomat.ram@formin.fi
Website: <http://www.finland.ps>

Embassy of Finland in Israel
Chief: Niina Nykänen
Deputy Head of Mission, First Secretary
Address: P.O. Box 9101 - 6109002 Tel Aviv, Israel
Phone: +972-3-745 6600
Fax: +972 3 744 0314
Email: sanomat.tel@formin.fi
Website: <http://www.finland.org.il>

General Consulate of France in Jerusalem
Note: its constituency extends to Jerusalem and its environs, as
well as to the Palestinian territories (West Bank and Gaza).
Chief: Pierre Cochard
Consul General
Address: 5, rue Paul Emile Botta - Jerusalem
Phone: (02) 629 85 00
Website: <https://jerusalem.consulfrance.org/>

Embassy of France in Israel
Chief: Hélène Le Gal
Ambassador
Address: 112 promenade Herbert Samuel BP 3480 - 6357231
Tel Aviv
Phone: [972] (3) 520 85 00
Fax: [972] (3) 520 83 40
Website: <https://il.ambafrance.org/-Francais->

Representative Office of Germany in Ramallah
Chief: Peter Beerwerth
Minister plenipotentiary
Address: 13, Berlin Street, Ramallah.
Phone: +972 2 297 76 30
Fax: +972 2 298 47 86
Website: <http://www.ramallah.diplo.de>

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Israel
Chief: Clemens von Goetze
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Address: 3, Daniel Frisch Street, 19. Stock, 64731 Tel Aviv
Phone: +972 3 693 13 13
Fax: +972 3 696 92 17
Website: <http://www.tel-aviv.diplo.de>

British Consulate General in Jerusalem

Note: represents the UK government in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza

Chief: Philip Hall

Consul-General

Address: 15 Nashashibi Street, Sheikh Jarrah Quarter, Jerusalem, East Jerusalem 97200

Phone: +972 (02) 541 4100

Fax: +972 (02) 532 2368

Email: britain.jerusalem@fco.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-general-jerusalem>

Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Israel

Chief: David Quarrey

Ambassador

Address: 192 Hayarkon Street, 6340502 Tel Aviv

Phone: +972 (0)3 725 1222

Fax: +972 (0)3 725 1203

Email: webmaster.telaviv@fco.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-tel-aviv>

Consulate General of the Hellenic Republic in Jerusalem

Note: it is competent for Greece's relations with Palestine

Chief: Christos Sofianopoulos

Consul General

Address: 31 Rachel Immenu, Kattamon, Jerusalem

Phone: +9722 5619583 5619584

Fax: +9722 5610325

Email: grgencon.jer@mfa.gr

Website: <https://www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/jerusalem-en>

Consulate General of the Hellenic Republic in Jerusalem Office in East Jerusalem

Address: 11-21 Latin Patriarchate St., Old City, Jerusalem

Phone: (00972) 2 5828316

Fax: (00972) 2 5325392

Email: grgencon.jer@mfa.gr

Website: <https://www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/jerusalem-en>

Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Israel

Chief: Konstantinos Bikas

Ambassador

Address: 3, Daniel Frisch, Tel Aviv, P.O.Box 64731 Israel

Phone: +9723 6953060, 6094981

Fax: +9723 6951329

Website: <https://www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/israel.html>

Representative Office of Hungary in Palestine

Chief: Csaba Rada

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Address: Ramallah, Al Watania Tower Building, P.O.B. 4255, Al Bireh

Phone: (00)-(972)-(2) 240-7676

Fax: (02) 240 76 7

Email: mission.ram@mfa.gov.hu

Website: ramallah.mfa.gov.hu

Embassy of Hungary in Israel

Chief: Andor Nagy

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Address: Tel-Aviv 6266108, Pinkas St. 18. (PO Box 21203)

Phone: (00)-(972)-(3)-545-6666

Fax: (00)-(972)-(3)-546-7018

Email: mission.tlv@mfa.gov.hu

Website: telaviv.mfa.gov.hu

Representative Office of the Republic of Ireland in Ramallah

Chief: Jonathan Conlon

Representative

Address: Al-Watania Towers Building, 2nd Floor, Al Bireh - Ramallah

Website: <https://www.dfa.ie/prep/ramallah/>

Embassy of the Republic of Ireland in Israel

Chief: Alison Kelly

Ambassador

Address: Amot Atrium Tower 2 Ze'ev Jabotinsky Ramat Gan 5250501

Phone: +972-03-696 4166

Website: <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/israel/>

General Consulate of the Italian Republic in Jerusalem

Note: It is responsible for relations with Palestinian authorities

Chief: Fabio Sokolowicz

Consul General

Address: West: Katamon-16, Kaf Tet Benovember St. Jerusalem 9104402 - East: Sheikh Jarrah 2, Mujeer Eddin St. Jerusalem

Phone: 0097225618966

Fax: 0097225618944

Email: consolare.gerusalemme@esteri.it

Website:

https://consgerusalemme.esteri.it/consolato_gerusalemme/it/

Embassy of the Italian Republic in Israel

Chief: Gianluigi Benedetti

Ambassador

Address: Trade Tower Building, 25 Hamered Street 21° floor, 68125 TelAviv

Phone: 0097235104004

Fax: 0097235100235

Email: info.telaviv@esteri.it

Website: https://ambtelaviv.esteri.it/ambasciata_telaviv/en/

Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in Israel

Chief: Elita Gavele

Ambassador

Address: 2 Rehov Weizman, Amot Investments Tower, 15th Floor, Tel Aviv 64239
Phone: (972) 3 777 58 00
Fax: (972) 3 695 31 01
Email: embassy.israel@mfa.gov.lv
Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/israel>

Representative Office of the Republic of Lithuania in Ramallah
Chief: Artūras Gailiūnas
Minister-Counsellor
Address: Trust Building, 5th floor, 48 Othman Ben Affan street, Al-Bireh - Ramallah, PALESTINE
Phone: +972 2 241 5290
Email: office.ramallah@mfa.lt

Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the State of Israel
Chief: Edminas Bagdonas
Ambassador
Address: Sason Hogi Tower, 12 Abba Hillel Silver St., Ramat Gan 5250606, ISRAEL
Phone: +972 3 6958 685
Fax: +972 3 6958 691
Email: amb.il@urm.lt
Website: <https://il.mfa.lt>

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is represented by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Israel regarding both Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Representative Office of the Republic of Malta in Palestine
Chief: Reuben Gauci
Representative
Address: VIP Centre, Al-Kawthar Street, Al-Bireh, Ramallah
Phone: +970 2 2413210/1
Fax: +970 2 2413212
Email: info.ramallah@gov.mt
Website: https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/embassies/rep_ramallah/pages/rep_ramallah.aspx

Embassy of the Republic of Malta in Israel
Chief: CECILIA ATTARD-PIROTTA
Ambassador
Address: 50, Dizengoff Street, Top Tower, 14th Floor, 64332 Tel Aviv
Phone: 00972 3 6295916
Fax: 00972 03 6295917
Email: maltaembassy.telaviv@gov.mt

Representative Office of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Ramallah
Chief: Peter Mollema
Consul
Address: 12 Hollanda Street, El Bireh Ramallah
Phone: +97222406639
Fax: +97222409638

Email: ram@minbuza.nl
Website: <https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/your-country-and-the-netherlands/palestinian-territories/about-us/representative-office-in-ramallah>

Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Israel
Chief: Gilles Beschoor Plug
Ambassador
Address: Beit Oz, 13th floor 14 Abba Hillel Street Ramat Gan 52506 Tel Aviv
Phone: +97237540777
Fax: +97237540751
Email: tel@minbuza.nl
Website: <https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/your-country-and-the-netherlands/israel/about-us/embassy-in-tel-aviv>

Representation of the Republic of Poland to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah
Chief: Aleksandra Bukowska - McCabe
Representative
Address: Palestine Capitol Studios Building, Al-Maahed St., Al-Masyoun
Phone: +972 22971318
Fax: +972 22971319
Email: sadeen.qubbaj@msz.gov.pl barbara.urban@msz.gov.pl
Website: http://www.ramallah.msz.gov.pl/en/p/ramallah_ps_p_en/

Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Israel
Chief: Jacez Chodorowicz
Ambassador
Address: 16, Soutine St., Tel Aviv 64684, Israel
Phone: +972 (0)3 725 31 11 - +972 (0)3 725 31 19
Fax:
Email: telaviv.amb.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl; telaviv.konsul@msz.gov.pl;
Website: http://www.telawiw.msz.gov.pl/en/p/telawiw_il_a_en/

Embassy of the Portuguese Republic in Israel
Chief: João Bernardo Weinstein
Ambassador
Address: 3 Daniel Frisch Street Telavive Israel 6473104
Phone: (00972) (0)3 6956372
Email: telavive@mne.pt
Website: <https://www.telavive.embaixadaportugal.mne.pt/en/>

Representative Office of the Portuguese Republic in Ramallah
Chief: Jorge Eduardo Perestrelo Botelho Lobo de Mesquita Câmara Leme
Counsellor
Address: 48 Othman Ben Affan St. Trust Building, 4th floor P.O. Box 4152 Al Bireh
Phone: +(970) 22407291/3
Fax: +(970) 22407294
Email: portugal@p-ol.com

Representative Office of Romania in Ramallah - Palestine
Chief: Cătălin-Mihai ȚÎRLEA
Representative
Address: PRICO House Building, 2nd floor, Al-Masyoun, Ramallah
Phone: + 972 2 296 1900
Fax: + 972 2 296 1800
Email: ramallah@mae.ro
Website: ramallah.mae.ro

Embassy of Romania in Israel
Chief:
Address: Str. Adam Hachohen, nr. 24, Tel Aviv, 64585
Phone: +972 3 571 3067; +972 3 571 3183
Fax: +972 3 5247379
Email: telaviv@mae.ro
Website: <http://telaviv.mae.ro/>

Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Israel
Note: it has territorial jurisdiction also over Palestinian Territories
Chief: HULÉNYI, Peter
Ambassador
Address: Jabotinsky 37, Tel Aviv, State of Izrael
Phone: +972 35449649
Fax: +972 35449657
Email: emb.telaviv@mzv.sk
Website: <https://www.mzv.sk/web/telaviv-en>

Representative Office of the Republic of Slovenia to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah
Chief: Milko Dolinšek
Representative
Address: Al-Mobaadin Street VIP Center 6th Floor Al-Bireh Ramallah
Phone: (+) 972 224 130 55
Fax: (+) 972 224 130 54
Email: slooffice.ramallah(at)gov.si
Website: <http://ramala.predstavnistvo.si/>

Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Israel
Chief: Barbara Sušnik
Ambassador
Address: 50 Dizengof Street, Top Tower, 19th Floor Tel Aviv 64332 Israel
Phone: (+) 972 3 629 35 63
Fax: (+) 972 3 528 22 14
Email: sloembassy.telaviv(at)gov.si
Website: <http://telaviv.embassy.si/en>

Consulate General of the Kingdom of Spain in Jerusalem
Chief: Rafael Matos González de Careaga
Consul General
Address: Sheikh Jarrah, Mahal Street, 32 – Jerusalem - P.O.B.: 19128 9100102
Phone: 02 - 535 01 00
Fax: (+972 2) 532 67 31

Email: cog.jerusalen@maec.es
Website:
<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/JERUSALEN/es/Paginas/inicio.aspx>

Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Israel
Chief: Manuel Gómez-Acebo
Ambassador
Address: «The Tower» Daniel Frisch 3, 18th floor, Tel Aviv 6473104
Phone: +972-3-7697900, (03)-7697900 / 074-7250500
Fax: (03)-6965217
Email: emb.telaviv@maec.es
Website:
<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/TELAVIV/es/Paginas/inicio.aspx>

Consulate General of the Kingdom of Sweden in Jerusalem
Chief: Ann-Sofie Nilsson
Consul General
Address: 5, Ibn Jubir Street Sheikh Jarrah Jerusalem
Phone: +972 2 646 58 60
Fax: +972 2 646 58 61
Email: generalkonsulat.jerusalem@gov.se
Website:
<https://www.swedenabroad.se/en/embassies/jerusalem/about-us/>

Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden in Israel
Chief: Magnus Hellgren
Ambassador
Phone: + 972 (0)3 718 00 00
Fax: +972 3 718 00 05
Email: ambassaden.tel-aviv@gov.se
Website: <https://www.swedenabroad.se/en/embassies/israel-tel-aviv>

Office of the European Union Representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA)
Chief: Ralph Tarraf
Representative
Address: Main office: Al - Mashtal Hotel, First Floor, Salah Khalaf Street, P.O. Box 576, Gaza City; Temporary and unofficial address: P.O.Box 22207, Jerusalem
Phone: (+972) 02-5415888
Fax: (+972) 02-5415848
Email: delegation-west-bank-gaza@eeas.europa.eu
Website: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip_en

International Organizations

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Phone: +44 20 7338 7168
Email: newbusiness@ebrd.com
Website: <http://www.ebrd.com/west-bank-and-gaza.html>

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Office in West Bank and Gaza
 Chief: Marina Wes
 Country Director, West Bank and Gaza
 Phone: +972 -2-2366500
 Email: mkoussa@worldbank.org
 Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/westbankandgaza>

Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel and the Occupied Territories
 In Tel Aviv :
 Chief: Jacques De Maio
 Head of Delegation
 Address: 1 Ben Yehuda st. Migdalar Building 15th floor TEL AVIV 6380101
 Phone: (+972) 35 24 52 86
 Fax: (+972) 35 27 03 70
 Email: jer_jerusalem@icrc.org
 In Jerusalem:
 Chief: David Quesne
 Head of Mission
 Address: Nablus Road 26 Sheikh Jarrah District PO Box 20253 91202 JERUSALEM
 Phone: (+972) 2 59 17 900
 Fax: (+972) 2 59 17 920
 Email: jer_jerusalem@icrc.org
 In Gaza:
 Chief: Guislain Defurne
 Head of sub delegation
 Address: Jalaa street 50 / 43 Rimal PO Box 29
 Phone: (+972) 8 2828 874 or (+972) 8 2822 644/5
 Fax: (+972) 8 2828 884
 Email: jer_jerusalem@icrc.org

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 Chief: John Entwistle
 Address: Ramallah - Jerusalem St. Al Bireh - Postal Address: P.O. Box 3637 Al Bireh
 Phone: (972)(2) 297 85 20
 Fax: (972)(2) 24 06 518
 Email: info@palestinercs.org
 Website: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/where-we-work/middle-east-and-north-africa/palestine-red-crescent/> - <http://www.palestinercs.org>

International Monetary Fund Resident Representative Office in West Bank and Gaza
 Chief: Robert Tchaidze
 Resident Representative
 Address: PO Box 54842 World Bank Bldg. Dahiet Al-Barid, Jerusalem

Phone: 972 2 2366530
 Fax: 972 2 2366543
 Email: rtchaidze@imf.org
 Website: <http://www.imf.org/en/Countries/ResRep/WBG>

International Organization for Migration Regional Office For The Middle East And North Africa
 Address: 47 C, Abu-Elfeda Street 11211 Cairo Egypt
 Phone: +202 27 36 51 40, +202 27 36 51 41, +202 27 36 51 42
 Fax: +202 27 36 51 39
 Email: ROCairo@iom.int
 Website: rocairo.iom.int

UNRWA Headquarters in Amman
 Address: Bayader Wadi Seer PO Box 140157, Amman 11814 Jordan
 Phone: (+ 962 6) 580 8100
 Fax: (+ 962 6) 580 8335

UNRWA Headquarters Gaza
 Address: Gamal Abdul Nasser Street, Gaza City
 Gaza City, or PO Box 338, IL- 78100, Ashqelon, Israel
 Phone: (+ 972 8) 288 7701, (+ 970 8) 288 7709
 Fax: (+ 972 8) 288 7699

UNRWA Gaza Field Office
 Address: Al-Azhar Road (opposite Islamic University) Rimal Quarter Gaza City
 Phone: (+ 970 8) 288 7457, (+ 970) 599416877
 Fax: (+ 970 8) 288 7219

UNRWA West Bank Office
 Address: Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem
 Jerusalem
 Phone: (+ 972 2) 589 0400
 Fax: (+ 972 2) 532 2714

UN OCHA
 Main Office and West Bank Sub-Office
 Address: MAC House 7 St. George Street P.O. Box 38712, East Jerusalem
 Phone: +972 (02) 582 9962 / 5853
 Fax: +972 (02) 582 5841
 Email: ochaopt@un.org

Gaza Sub-Office and Field Coordination Unit
 Phone: +972 (08) 2887068
 Fax: +972 (08) 282 0966

Sources

Country Profile

Country in Brief

- http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/palestinian_territory.htm

Modern and Contemporary History of Occupied Palestinian Territories

- Encyclopaedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/>
- BBC, www.bbc.com

Geography

- Encyclopaedia Britannica <https://www.britannica.com/>
- https://www.indexmundi.com/west_bank/
- https://www.indexmundi.com/gaza_strip/

Territorial and Administrative Units

- Ministry of Interior of Palestinian National Authority, moi.gov.ps/en

Population

- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/default.aspx>

Ethnic Groups, Languages, Religion

- Encyclopaedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/>
- CIA World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/we.html>

Health

- World Health Organisation, <http://www.who.int/en/>

Education and literacy

- UNESCO, <https://en.unesco.org/>

Country Economy

- Economist Intelligence Unit, <http://www.eiu.com/home.aspx>
- World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/>

Political and Security Context

The Basic Law of Occupied Palestinian Territories

- Encyclopaedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/>

Elections

- Central Election Commission – Palestine, <http://www.elections.ps/tabid/40/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- UN / The question of Palestine, <https://www.un.org/unispal/>

Political Parties

- BBC, www.bbc.com
- Carnegie Middle East Center, <https://carnegie-mec.org/2010/12/09/palestine-pub-42107#intro>

Key Political Leaders

- BBC, www.bbc.com
- Carnegie Middle East Center, <https://carnegie-mec.org/2010/12/09/palestine-pub-42107#intro>

Media Landscape and Civil Society

- UNESCO, <https://en.unesco.org/programme/ipdc/initiatives/mdis>
- Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
- Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/>

Law Enforcement Structures and Actors

The Police

- Palestinian Police, <http://www.palpolice.ps/en/>
- Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/>

- BBC, www.bbc.com
- The Washington Institute, <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/>

Other Security Forces

- The Washington Institute, <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/>
- Congressional Research Service, <http://www.crs.gov/>

The Judiciary

- State of Palestine Judicial Authority, <http://www.courts.gov.ps/details.aspx?id=dNr5cga128486655adNr5cg>
- Carnegie Middle East Center, <https://carnegie-mec.org/2010/12/09/palestine-pub-42107#intro>

Migrations and Human Rights issues

Internal and International Migration

- IDMC, <http://www.internal-displacement.org/>
- Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/>
- Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
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Human Rights Situation

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