

PLO 60 YEARS ANNIVERSARY – 1964-2024

1964, January 13-17: Egypt's Gamal Abdul Nasser called for the first Arab League Summit in Cairo. The agenda included the question of Israel's water diversion plans with the Jordan River and established a Palestinian representative (Ahmad Shuqeiri). The summit thus announced the intention to organize the Palestinian people so that they can contribute to the liberation of Palestine.



1964, May 29-June 2: The first Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting was held in Jerusalem, headed by King Hussein and attended by the Arab League. Following calls from Arab governments for the Palestinians to form their own policy-making body, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was created,



with Ahmad Shuqeiri as Chairman of its Executive Committee. The meeting also adopted the Palestinian National Charter. Later that year, the Arab Summit in September 1964 agreed on the establishment of the Palestine Liberation Army.

1965: In **March**, the PLO Executive Committee adopted its bylaws and a PLO delegation led by Shuqeiri visited the People's Republic of China for the first time. In **May**, the PLO established a diplomatic office in China.



From **May 31-June 4**, the 2nd PNC meeting took place in Cairo. It sought to enact a "liberation tax" in the Arab States modelled on the "liberation tax law" that was enacted in Gaza in 1965 to fund the PLO's activities and also asked Jordan to arm Palestinian villages adjacent to Israel. Both requests were rejected.

Ahmad Shuqeiri with Mao Zedong

1966, May 20-24: The 3rd PNC meeting in Gaza voted to separate between the chairman of the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee. It also affirmed the necessity of "unifying all the national forces under the PLO framework and on the basis of a revolutionary action plan."



Yasser Arafat (left) sitting with fellow PLO fighters in a camp in Jordan, 1966.

1967: Fatah, formed in 1959 by Yasser Arafat, Salah Khalaf, Khalil Al-Wazir, and Khaled Yashruti, joined the PLO and was allocated 33 of 105 seats in the PNC. After the Six-Day War, Israel occupied the West-Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem and Palestinian fighters, known in Arabic as *fedayeen*, established their bases in Jordan.

On **December 25**, Yahya Hamoudeh succeeded Ahmad Shuqeiri as Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Yahya Hamoudeh



1968, July 10-17: Following the June 1967 War and Israel's occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, the 4th PNC session called for the total liberation of Palestine through armed struggle as the means to "recover the land and Palestinian usurped rights", agreed to set the number of PLO Executive Committee members at 11, and revised the Palestinian National Charter. It also decided to separate the position of the speaker of the PNC from the Chairman of the Executive Committee and elected Abdel Mohsen Al-Qattan as speaker.

Abdel Mohsen Al-Qattan



1969: At the 5th PNC session in Cairo, held **February 1-4**, Fatah chairman Yasser Arafat was elected the third chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. Henceforth, the PLO became the political umbrella organization for the majority of the Palestinian factions with the mission to serve as *the* Palestinian national movement.

5th PNC



Later the year, the 6th PNC, which met from **September 1-6** in Cairo, decided to enlarge the Executive Committee to between 12 and 15 members. It stated the need to liberate the region from the "Zionist occupation" and establish a "Palestinian democratic state devoid of any form of religious or racial segregation."

Yasser Arafat



1970: The 7th PNC convened in Cairo from **May 30-June 4**. It created the PLO Central Committee to "act as a supreme command for the struggle in such matters as are referred to it." It agreed that the chairman of the Executive Committee would also chair the new body. The meeting also discussed the idea of Palestine as both a secular and democratic state.

From **August 27-28**, the PNC This held its 1st extraordinary session in Amman in response to two events: the William Rogers Plan, which the PLO rejected, and the increasing tensions between the PLO and Jordan.

On **September 6**, the PLO struggle for power and authority on Jordanian soil led to the "Black September" confrontations with the Jordanian Armed Forces. The bloody battle came to



an end at an extraordinary Arab League Summit held in Cairo on **September 27**, attended by both King Hussein of Jordan and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and brokered by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.



1971: Following the fighting between the PLO and the Jordanian army in Jordan the 8th PNC convened from **February 28-March 5** to discuss the events and national unity. The meeting also agreed that Palestine should be a democratic, secular state and that the PNC should meet at least once a year for the next three years.

The 9th PNC, from **July 7-13**, focused on strengthening unity in Palestine and further discussed Palestinian-Jordanian clashes. The PNC membership was increased to 155.

During **July-August**, the PLO moved its headquarters from Jordan to Beirut, Lebanon.



1972, April 6-12: The 10th PNC meeting in Cairo: rejection of King Hussein's mid-March proposal on unification of the East and West Banks of the Jordan River in the framework of a United Arab Kingdom. The meeting also condemned Israeli attempts to hold municipal elections in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and affirmed that "nobody has the right to decide on Palestine's land and people, except the Palestinian people themselves represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization".

1973: From **January 6-12**, the 11th PNC met in Cairo and called for the creation of a PLO Central Council to act as an intermediate body between the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting further decided to develop and foster the Palestinian trade unions as democratic and organizational components of the Palestinian political system and to establish a united National Front in the Occupied Territory, the creation of which was announced on **August 15**.

1974, June 1-8: At the 12th PNC, following the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war, the PLO adopted the "Ten Point Program" – an interim political program calling for the establishment of an "independent combatant national authority for the people over every part of Palestinian territory that is liberated". Radical Palestinian factions who rejected the plan as a first step towards a two-state proposal subsequently formed the Rejectionist Front.



1974, September 21: In Cairo, the PLO, Egypt, and Syria issued a joint communiqué, recognizing the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

On the same day and for the first time since 1952, the UN General Assembly decided to include the Question of Palestine as a separate item in its agenda. Ever since, it is part of the General Assembly's agenda.



1974, October: On **October 14**, UN General Assembly Resolution 3210, "considering that the Palestinian people is the principal party to the question of Palestine" invited the PLO, "the representative of the Palestinian people, to participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine in plenary meetings.

From **October 26-29**, the 7th Arab League summit took place in Rabat; it declared the PLO the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people".



Arafat at the Arab Summit in Rabat

1974, November 13: Yasser Arafat addressed the UN General Assembly for the first time with what is often referred to as the "gun and olive branch" speech calling for the creation in Palestine of a democratic State where Christians, Jews and Muslims can live in justice, equality and brotherhood. He ended with the famous declaration: "Today I have come bearing an olive branch and a freedom-fighter's gun. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand. I repeat: do not let the olive branch fall from my hand."



1974, November 22: UN General Assembly Resolution 3236 recognized the "inalienable rights Palestinian people in Palestine, including the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return". officialized UN contact with the PLO and added the "Question of Palestine" to the UN Agenda. UN General Assembly Resolution 3237 granted the PLO observer status The PLO was the first non-governmental organization to take part in a plenary assembly of the UN.



PLO delegate Abdul Jawad Saleh following the passing of UNGA Resolution 3236

1975, April 13: On the way back to Sabra refugee camp after a political rally at Tel Al-Zaatar, a PLO bus was attacked by Lebanese Phalangists at Ain Al-Rammaneh, killing 27 and wounding 19 of its passengers. This incident, also known as “Black Sunday”, marked the beginning of the 15-year-long Lebanese civil war.



1976, January 12: The UN Security Council voted 11-1 with 3 abstentions to allow the PLO to participate in a Security Council debate without voting rights, a privilege usually restricted to UN member states.

1977, March 12-22: The 13th PNC meeting in Cairo emphasized "the importance of connecting and coordinating with the Jewish progressive and democratic forces inside and outside the occupied homeland, that struggle against Zionism as doctrine and practice."

Presidents Assad of Syria, Boumedienne of Algeria, and Ghaddafi of Libya at the “Front summit” in Tripoli



On **December 4**, following the visit by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Israel on November 19, (which began the peace negotiations that would eventually lead to the 1978 Camp David Accords), the PLO formed with other Arab states (Libya, Algeria, Syria, South-Yemen) the “Steadfastness and Confrontation Front” to reiterate the unwillingness to recognize Israel or negotiate with it.



1978, March: In the wake of Israel’s invasion of South Lebanon (“Operation Litani”), the PLO was forced to withdraw from the area and pushed north of the Litani River. The ensuing war resulted in the deaths of 1,100–2,000 Lebanese and Palestinians, 20 Israelis, and the internal displacement of 100,000 to 250,000 people in Lebanon.

“Operation Litani”



1979, January 15-22: At the 14th PNC meeting held in Damascus due to deteriorating relations with Egypt following its signing of the Camp David Accords with Israel, the PLO declared its rejection of the Accords.



1981: At the 15th PNC, taking place from April 11-19 in Damascus, the PLO stressed the importance of building the National Front in the occupied territories as "the political arm of the PLO."

On **November 25**, the 12th Arab Summit met in Fez, expected to adopt Saudi Prince Fahd's peace plan, but adjourned due to Syrian and Palestinian opposition to the plan, the later especially because it made no reference to the PLO.

1982, June-September: The failed attempt to assassinate Shlomo Argov, Israel's ambassador to the UK by the anti-PLO Abu Nidal group on **June 3**, eventually provided Israel with the pretext it needed: on **June 6**, a massive Israeli force led by Sharon and Begin invaded Lebanon with the goal to end the PLO presence there. In **August**, the PLO began to withdraw from Beirut and on **September 30**, Arafat and 87 PLO leaders left on board the Greek ship Atlantis to Tunis, where the PLO headquarters remained until they relocated to Gaza in 1994. In total, 8,500 PLO men were expelled to Tunisia and 2,500 to Yemen, Syria and Jordan, supervised by an international (French, American and Italian) force.



Israeli troops in Lebanon



Israeli bombardment of a PLO position in Lebanon



PLO arriving in Tunis

Also in **September**, the 12th Arab League summit in Fez reaffirmed “the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the exercise of their inalienable and imprescriptible national rights, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole and legitimate representative, and the indemnification of those who do not desire to return.”

1983: February 14-22: After the withdrawal of PLO forces from Lebanon, the 16th PNC meeting was held in Algiers. It refused the Reagan Plan (Jordanian controlled Palestinian state) accepted the Breshnev Plan as well as the outcome of the Arab summit in Fez, defined relations with Jordan in terms of two independent states, and relations with Egypt in light of Egypt abandoning the Camp David Accords.

On **August 3**, the PLO Central Council met in Tunis. A split in Fatah, the main PLO faction: the Syrian-backed faction *Fatah Al-Intifada* was formed and joined by a number of Palestinians attracted by the more leftist view and socialist rhetoric and disillusioned with Arafat's role in Fatah and the PLO.



1984, November 22-29: The 17th PNC session in Amman was boycotted by Syrian-backed factions, the PFLP, the DFLP and the Palestine Communist Party. The meeting called for improved relations with Syria, Jordan and Egypt. Jordan's King Hussein and PLO chief Yasser Arafat walked into the meeting side by side, signaling reconciliation.



1985-1986: King Hussein and the PLO agreed on a joint proposal for a settlement that included a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation based on UN resolutions and to be negotiated at an international conference, including the permanent members of the UN Security Council, Israel, and a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation. The plan was given up in **February 1986** as it became clear that both sides had differences and as it was opposed by the US and Israel.

On **October 1, 1985**, following the killing of 3 Israelis in Cyprus, Israel's air force bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunis ("Operation Wooden Leg"), killing over 60 people.

In **April 1986**, the Asian Group of the UN accepted the PLO as a full member.



Bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunis

1987, April 20-26: At the 18th PNC session in Algiers, the PLO reunified with dissident factions (Syrian backed organizations, PFLP, DFLP) and requested an international conference under the UN with the participation of the PLO, with Palestine and Jordan relations "on the basis of a confederation between two independent states."

On **December 9**, the first Intifada began. PLO factions inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory created the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising (UNLU) to coordinate the resistance through popular committees, communiqués and leaflets, which organized strikes and demonstrations and mobilized the masses - usually agreed upon beforehand with the PLO leadership in Tunis.



Ozrail, Samar, "The Palestine Red Crescent Society Collection", archival inventory, 30 April - 4 June 2018, the Palestinian Museum Digital Archive.

1988: In **July**, Jordan renounced claims to the West Bank and recognized the PLO as "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

From **November 12-15**, the 19th PNC session in Algiers adopted the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, proclaiming the State of Palestine, condemning terrorism, and recognizing UN Resolutions 181, 242 and 338, thus accepting the land-for-peace principle and implicitly recognizing Israel's right to exist in its pre-1967 borders.

PNC poster on the Declaration of Independence, 1988



On **December 13**, PLO Chairman Arafat addressed the UN General Assembly in Geneva (after the US refused him a visa) and repeated the statements made by the PNC in November in Algiers. Washington subsequently agreed to open a “substantive dialogue” with the PLO.



Arafat addressing the UN General Assembly in Geneva

On **December 15**, UNGA Resolution 43/177 acknowledged the PNC's November proclamation and decided the designation “Palestine” should be used in place of “Palestine Liberation Organization” in the UN system.

1989, March 31: The PLO Central Council meeting in Tunis elected the Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian State proclaimed during the 19th PNC meeting in Algiers.

1990: Due to Arafat's support of Iraq, Kuwait severed ties with the PLO, cutting its financial backing and expelling hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. As support for the PLO dwindled further following the Gulf War and with the end of the Cold War (1990-1991), the PLO pursued a new approach by opening several channels of negotiations with the occupying power, Israel.



1991: On **June 27**, Tayyeb Abdel Rahim announced that the PLO would be willing to participate in a peace conference as part of a Jordanian-PLO delegation.

From **September 23-28**, the 20th PNC meeting took place in Algiers to discuss the potential participation in the Middle East peace process. It stressed its commitment to the Palestinian national program and decided that the PLO Executive Committee should determine the terms of participation and these should be approved by the Central Council.

On **October 17**, the PLO Central Council meeting in Tunis approved participation in the Madrid Conference and accepted the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Madrid Peace Conference then

convened from **October 30 to November 1**, co-chaired by US President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was and attended by Israeli, Egyptian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations as well as a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but without the PLO “to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict” (President Bush).

President Bush addressing the Madrid Middle East Conference



1992: On **January 14**, the Palestinian delegation presented a PLO-approved “outline model of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority (PISGA)” to the peace talks in Washington, DC, as “the basis for negotiations during this phase after the necessary preparatory steps referred to in our agenda have been taken, including the total cessation of all settlement activities.”

October 17: At the end of a two-day conference in Tunis, the PLO Central Council endorsed the 7th round of the peace talks. The DFLP, the PFLP, and most other PLO factions expressed disapproval over the continuation of the peace talks.

1993: On **September 9-10**, the secret negotiations in Oslo delivered the PLO’s recognition of Israel’s right to exist in return of Israel’s recognition of the PLO as representative of the Palestinian people and their acceptance as negotiation partners in order to reach a political settlement (Letters of Mutual Recognition).



On **September 13**, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government (DoP) at the White House and witnessed by US President Bill Clinton. It provided the guidelines for future negotiations as well as for a five-year interim period, followed by a permanent settlement based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Issues such as Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, water, security, and borders were reserved for permanent status negotiations. The DoP was accompanied by letters from Arafat promising to change the PLO Charter, which called for the destruction of Israel, and from Yitzhak Rabin, proclaiming Israel's intent to allow normalization of life in the occupied territories.

On **October 10**, the PLO Central Council meeting in Tunis discussed the Oslo Agreement, boycotted by the PFLP and the DFLP, and tasked the PLO Executive Council to form the Council of the Palestinian Authority.

1994: On **May 4**, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the Gaza-Jericho Agreement (Oslo I) in Cairo, initiating a partial Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, establishing the Palestinian Authority in these areas, including security forces, and including the so-called Paris Protocol as basis for economic relations between the PA and Israel. On May 6, the PLO Executive Committee met in Tunis and approved the appointment of a 24-member PA.

On **July 1**, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat returned to Palestine, crossing the Rafah border, welcomed by cheering crowds.



1995, September 28: In Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Oslo II), which was concluded two days earlier in Taba. It outlined the second stage of Palestinian autonomy, extending it to the remaining parts of the West Bank (after “Jericho first”), divided the West Bank into Area A (full Palestinian civil jurisdiction and internal security), Area B (full Palestinian civil jurisdiction, joint Israeli-Palestinian internal security), and Area C (Israeli civil and overall security control), and determined the election and powers of a Palestinian Legislative Council. By October 1999 a final status agreement was to be reached.

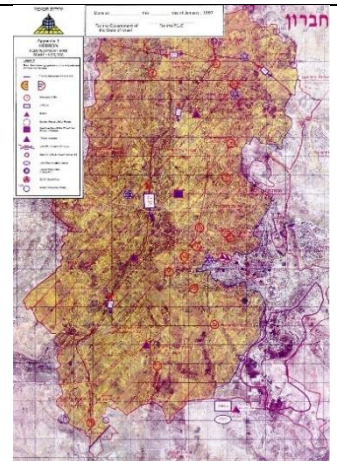


1996: On January 20, the first Palestinian parliamentary elections (PLC) took place and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was elected President of the Palestinian Authority.

From **April 22-25**, the 21st PNC met in Gaza – the first time on Palestinian soil since 1966. Members living outside of Palestine required special entry permits from Israel. Amendments were made to the Palestinian National Charter which were to be approved by the PLO Central Council. They voted 504 to 54, with 14 abstentions, to annul anything in the charter which referred to the destruction of Israel. The meeting further stressed the importance of the Palestinian Authority achieving the evacuation of Israeli forces, strengthening the emerging Palestinian national entity and establishing an independent State with Jerusalem as capital.



1997, January 17: The Hebron Protocol concerning the redeployment of Israeli military forces from Hebron in accordance with the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was concluded between the PLO and Israel and signed by PLO negotiator Saeb Erekat and retired Israeli general Dan Shomron.



Hebron Redeployment Map

1998, July 13: UN General Assembly Resolution 52/250 accorded the PLO additional rights associated with the work of the United Nations, such as the right to participate in the general debate of the General Assembly, co-sponsor resolutions and be seated immediately following non-member states. Israel and the PLO signed the Wye River Memorandum for the implementation of the Oslo II Agreement and the resumption of final status talks.

From **December 10-14**, in the continuation of the peace process, the PNC met in Gaza. On **December 14**, in the attendance of US President Clinton, it reaffirmed - after the PLO Central Council had voted to repeal those articles of the charter which had called for the destruction of Israel in 1996 - the annulling of those parts of the Palestine National Charter which denied Israel's right to exist.



1999, April 27-29: The PLO Central Council met in Gaza in an emergency session to discuss the statehood declaration. It reiterated the Palestinian national program (i.e., establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital). It decided to move forward in taking the necessary steps and measures to complete the elements and institutions of the state, including the formation of a special committee for drawing up the draft constitution of the state.

On **November 8**, the Israeli and PLO/PA negotiating teams - headed by Oded Eran and PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo - met in Ramallah to start final status talks aimed at forging a final peace agreement by September 2000.



Yasser Abed Rabbo

2000: On **February 2**, the PLO Central Council meeting in Gaza stressed "the necessity of proclaiming the embodiment of the State of Palestine sovereignty this year" according to the Sharm Al-Sheikh Memorandum (Wye River II). It also reiterated refugees' right to return in application of UN Resolution 194 and demanded Israeli withdrawal from Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.

On **July 2**, the PLO Central Council meeting, Gaza, reiterated the proclamation of the establishment of an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital and mandated the PLO Executive Committee to take "the adequate measures for proclaiming the independent Palestinian state."

From **July 11-25**, in yet another effort to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a summit meeting was held at Camp David between US President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and PLO/PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

At Camp David



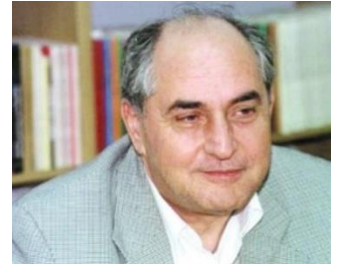
On **September 9**, the PLO Central Council meeting in Gaza discussed the need for implementation of statehood and reported on the Camp David negotiations.

2001, January 21-27: In a last-minute attempt to reach a final status agreement before the Israeli elections, Israeli and PLO/PA delegations opened marathon talks in Taba based on the so-called Clinton Parameters, which both sides had accepted "with reservations". The talks ended with a joint statement saying that although they have made substantial progress, it was not possible to finalize an agreement before the 6-February election.

On **May 21**, PLO Executive Committee member in charge of Jerusalem affairs and head of the Orient House, the nonofficial PLO offices in Jerusalem, Faisal Al-Husseini, died of a heart attack in Kuwait.



On **August 10**, Israeli forces occupied the Orient House and ordered its closure.



2003, March 8: The PLO Central Council meeting in Ramallah discussed the creation of a Prime Minister position for the PA and approved Arafat's nomination of Mahmoud Abbas, then secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, for the post. Abbas was formally sworn in as first Palestinian Prime Minister on **April 29**, but resigned in **October** and was replaced by Arafat-nominee PLO Executive Committee member Ahmed Qrei'a.



Ahmed Qrei'a

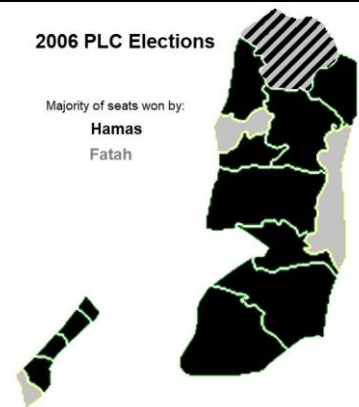
2004-2005: On **November 11, 2004**, PLO Chairman and President of the PA, Yasser Arafat, died in a Paris hospital after being airlifted there on October 29 for treatment of an unknown condition that saw his health deteriorating rapidly. The following day, his body was flown first to Cairo for an official memorial service with high representatives from 61 countries, and then to Ramallah for burial. The PLO Executive Committee elected its member Mahmoud Abbas as new PLO Chairman and in accordance with the Basic Law, Rawhi Fattouh, speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, was sworn in as PA president, pending elections to be held. Two months later, on **January 9, 2005**, Mahmoud Abbas was elected President of the PA.



2006, January-2007, June: In **January 2006**, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which is not a PLO faction, won a majority of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections. Following a number of failed attempts to reach a deal to share government power between Fatah and Hamas and increased internal Palestinian fighting, Hamas seized control over the Gaza Strip in **June 2007** and removed Fatah officials, leading to a division of the Palestinian territories. Mahmoud Abbas subsequently declared a state of emergency and appointed Salam Fayyad as prime minister of an emergency government.

2006 PLC Elections

Majority of seats won by:
Hamas
Fatah



2007: On **June 20**, the PLO Central Council meeting in Ramallah condemned Hamas' forcible takeover of Gaza and its "coup" against "the national legitimacy and the unity of the homeland" and called for Palestinian unity.

On **July 18**, the PLO Central Council meeting, met again in Ramallah to assert the legitimacy of the PLO and its affiliated organizations towards the challenge represented by Hamas's Gaza takeover. It also decided to set up an electoral system for both the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and the Palestinian National Council (PNC) on the basis of full proportional representation.

2008-2009: On **November 23, 2008** the PLO Central Council meeting in Ramallah attributed the failing reconciliation to Hamas and condemned Israel's siege of Gaza. It symbolically elected Mahmoud Abbas as president of the State of Palestine.

PNC meeting, Ramallah

On **August 26-27, 2009**, the PNC convened to a special meeting (not requiring a quorum) to elect a new PLO Executive Committee after a third of the Executive Committee seats (6 out of 18) became vacant after the death of Samir Ghosheh, making it a constitutional requirement to convene the special PNC meeting.



On **December 16, 2009**, the PLO Central Council voted to extend Abbas's term as president indefinitely until new elections.

2011, March-May: After a few other fruitless unity meetings, Fatah and Hamas created five dialogue committees on **March 11** (on government, elections, the PLO reform, reform of security forces, and reconciliation) and in **April** announced an Egypt-mediated agreement to form a joint transitional government of technocrats and a joint security committee, to hold elections in 2012, and to prepare for Hamas' accession to the PLO. That agreement was formally signed by Abbas and Mashaal on **May 4** in Cairo, but failed to achieve its goals due to differences on the position of prime minister.



2012, November 29: The UN General Assembly voted to admit Palestine to 'non-member observer State' status.



2014-2015: On **April 23, 2014** the PLO and Hamas signed the “Gaza Agreement” paving the way for reconciliation and a new unity government.

On **June 3**, President Abbas swore in a new PA unity government after seven years of harsh political and social division, and on **September 25**, Haniyeh and Abbas concluded the Cairo Agreement stipulating that the unity government was to assume responsibilities in the Gaza Strip and the PA was to take control of the border crossings. However, on **June 17, 2015** President Abbas dissolved the unity government, saying it was unable to operate in the Gaza Strip. Also in 2015, the PLO became a member of the International Criminal Court.



Swearing in the unity government

2018, January 14: Accusing Israel of ending the Oslo Accords, President Abbas called on the PLO to “revise all the agreements signed between the PLO and Israel because Israel has brought these agreements to a dead end.”

From **April 30-May 3**, the 23rd PNC convened in Ramallah for the first time since 1996. The PFLP did not attend. Mahmoud Abbas was re-elected and 103 new members approved.



2020-2021: On **September 3, 2020**, a video-conference between Palestinian factions, headed by PA President Abbas in Ramallah and attended by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, agreed to hold elections in **May, July and August 2021**, but all three planned elections – for the Palestinian Legislative Council, the PA Presidency, and the PNC were postponed until further notice.

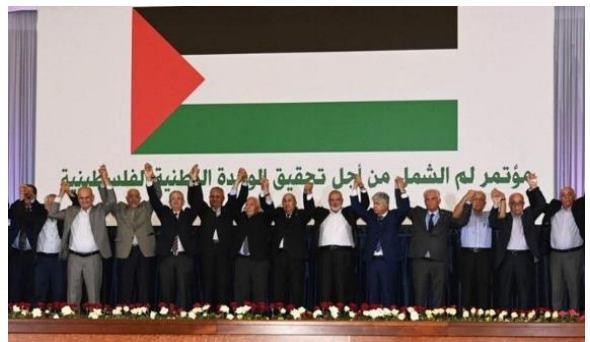


2022, February 6-7: The 31st session of the PLO Central Council in Ramallah “decided to suspend the recognition of the State of Israel until it recognizes the independent state of Palestine on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the cessation of settlements.” It also reaffirmed total commitment to the Oslo accords and elected Rawhi Fattouh as new PNC speaker.

On **May 26**, President Abbas named Hussein Al-Sheikh new Secretary-General of the PLO Executive Committee.

In **October**, Palestinian factions signed a reconciliation agreement in Algeria, including clauses on developing the structures of the PLO, forming the PNC and holding elections. It also recognized the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

In early **November**, over 1,500 Palestinian political and civil society activists from all over the world participated in the “Palestinian Popular Conference-14 Million”, calling, *inter alia*, for rebuilding, developing and activating the PLO to regain its central role in the national liberation struggle.



2023: On **June 21**, PLO Executive Committee Secretary General Hussein Al-Sheikh called upon the ICC to expedite the examination of case files on Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people.



Hussein Al-Sheikh