

# PALESTINIAN WOMEN

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## **ABDUL HADI, FAIHA**

Born in Nablus in 1951; earned a BA in Arabic Literature from Jordan University, Amman and a BA in Theater Criticism from the Institute of Advanced Theatrical Art, Cairo; followed by an MA and a PhD in Arabic Literature, Cairo University; worked as a poet, writer, journalist, lecturer and research consultant, particularly on literature, women and oral history; founded and organized Abbad Al-Shams in 1987 (a youth choir which won first prize at the ART competition, Cairo Opera House, 1994; lecturer at the Women's Studies Dept., Birzeit University; Dir.-Gen. of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee; consultant, MOPIC, Directorate of Gender Planning and Development; special coordinator for the OPT to the "1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005" Association.

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## **ABDUL RAHMAN, WAFA**

Born in 1971; received a BA in History and Political Science from BZU and an MA in Politics of Alternative Development Strategies from the Institute of Social Studies from The Hague; works as a television host and media analyst; has published many articles in local and regional newspapers; founder and Gen.-Dir. of FILASTINIYAT, a Palestinian NGO committed to supporting the equitable participation of women and youth at all levels of public discourse; founded and chief editor of Nawa, a Feminist News Agency; was chosen as an Eisenhower Fellow in 2007 and was subsequently selected as the Ward Wheelock Fellow, an award given annually to a recognized leader from the middle east who has best demonstrated a commitment to public causes.

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## **ABU AKLEH, SHIREEN**

Born in 1971 in Jerusalem; earned a BA in Journalism and Media from Yarmouk University, Jordan; worked in several locations, such as UNRWA, the "Voice of Palestine", Miftah in Ramallah, Radio Monte Carlo in France, and finally a reporter for Al-Jazeera Arabic channel.

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## **ABU BAKER, NAJAT**

Born in Arabeh in 1963; studied Sociology and Media at Al-Najah National University in Nablus; received an MA in Economic Planning; founded Bisan Media Center; worked as a program coordinator for the Union of Charitable Societies, and assumed the responsibilities of Public Relations Manager at Al-Quds Open University; was elected as a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council for the Jenin area in 2006; worked as a lecturer at Al-Quds Open University until 2010.

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**ABU DAYYEH, MAHA**

Born in 1951; co-founded the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling in Jerusalem; served as Board Member of the International Jury of the Body Shop Human Rights Award and of Equality Now, an international human rights organization dedicated to promoting the rights of girls and women; serves on the Board of several local and Palestinian human rights organizations, incl. PARC, the Jerusalem Link, and the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre; received the French Republic Human Rights Award in 1998 and the 2002 Ms. Woman of the Year Award in the US.

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**ABU GHAZALEH, SAMIRA**

Born in Nablus in 1928; graduated from the Teachers' College for Women in Jerusalem; obtained an MA from Cairo University with focus on Arabic Literature; established the Young Arab Women's Association in 1950; was elected Sec.-Gen. of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society in Jerusalem; worked as a teacher at Dar Al-Mu'allimat in Ramallah; established the Palestinian Women's Union in Cairo in 1963; was one of the founders of the GUPW in Jerusalem; was elected to the PNC; member of the PLO Central Council since 1985; her writings include: *Diaries of an Arab Girl* (Arabic, Cairo, 1962).

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**ABU KHADRA, SALWA**

Born in Jaffa in 1929; became the Director of an UNRWA center for girls' education in Gaza in the 1950s; founded the Pioneer Nursery as well as Dar Al-Hanan Private School in Kuwait; member of Fatah since 1965, and of the PNC since 1972; chaired the second and third Conference of the GUPW, and later became its Gen.-Sec.; member of the Palestinian Higher Council for Culture, Science and Education since 1976; member of Fatah Revolutionary Council since 1980; chaired the Palestinian delegation to the second and third World Conference for Women.

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**ABU HIJLEH, LANA**

Born in Cairo in 1963; lived in Nablus until she graduated from high school; pursued her higher education in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Iowa, USA; SERVED AS Deputy Resident Rep. of the UNDP Program of Assistance to the Palestinian People; serves as Country Dir. of Global Communities; the first Palestinian woman to become a member of the Board of Directors of the Palestine Investment Fund (PIF) and the Bank of Palestine; fellow at the Aspen Institute Global Leadership Network; member of the Middle East Leadership Initiative (MELI), the Global Young Presidents Organization (YPO/WPO), the Education for Employment Foundation-Palestine and the Business Women Forum; Vice-Chair of New Beginning (PNB) Palestine Chapter; serves on the Board of the Palestine Student Lending Fund, Riwaq, Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), El-Funoun Palestinian Dance Troupe, and the Palestinian Institute for Public Diplomacy.

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**ABU ZNEID, JIHAD**

Born in a refugee camp in Jerusalem in 1967; earned a BA in Psychology and an MA in American Studies from Al-Quds University; worked with refugees and Palestinian prisoners; was involved in human rights

projects with different organizations, incl. Al-Haq and Amnesty International; founder and head of the Administrative Committee of the Women's Centre of the Shu'fat Refugee Camp; member of the Board of the Jerusalem Center for Women; was elected to the PLC in 2006 (Fatah, Jerusalem) as a representative from Jerusalem.

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#### **AL-ALAMI, LAMIS**

Born in Jerusalem in 1943; received an MA in English Literature from the AUB, followed by a Higher Diploma in Applied Linguistics from the University of Edinburgh; worked as a teacher, training instructor as well as a part-time lecturer at Bethlehem and Birzeit Universities; served as Director of the UNRWA Field Education Program; became Minister of Education & Higher Education for the Palestinian emergency government formed in 2007 and appointed by PA President Mahmoud Abbas in 2009; Board member of various Palestinian organizations, incl. the Palestinian Human Rights Information Center, Jerusalem Link, Jerusalem Center for Women and the Women Center for Legal Aid and Counseling.

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#### **AL-AMAD, FARIDA**

Born in 1938; head of Inash Al-Usra Society since 1999; has supported many projects and Palestinian women's association, creating sewing centers in rural areas; member of the Commission for Social Research and Heritage, the GUPW, the Revival of the Countryside, the Social Solidarity as well as the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood in Palestine; has received many honors for her efforts to revive Palestinian folklore, incl. the 2006 Islamic Development Bank Award in Dubai for best cared rehabilitation project for women and the 2011 Palestine International Award for Excellence and Creativity for the institutional category.

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#### **AGARIEH, ASMA**

Born and raised in Jaffa in 1974; is a Palestinian-Israeli political activist who headed the Da'am Party, an organization for democratic action; was the first Arab woman to head a political party; received a BA in Arabic Literature from the Tel Aviv University in 1995; worked at Al-Sabar, the newly founded Da'am party and became active in its socio-political activities, focusing on housing shortage, quality of education and the status of women.

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#### **AL-AKHAL, TAMAM AREF**

Born in Yafa in 1935 and was displaced to Beirut in 1948; studied Fine Arts in Cairo and obtained a license to teach it as well; married Ismail Shamout, her artist colleague and shared with him various art exhibitions held in various countries; one of her most prominent work was having 120 galleries in 12 American states in four months in 1964; enrolled in the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Cairo in 1953; records the struggle of the Palestinian people in her work.

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**AMIRY, SUAD**

Born in Damascus in 1951 to a Palestinian family from Jaffa; earned a PhD in Architecture from the University of Edinburgh; returned to the West Bank and became Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Architecture at Birzeit University; has practiced her profession since 1975; her renovation contributions include the Sarayya Women Training Center, Al-Wasiti Arts Center, and the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center, etc; co-founded the Riwaq Center for Architectural Conservation in Ramallah; has written books on Palestinian architecture; published Ramallah diaries on life under occupation, entitled *Sharon and My Mother-in-Law* (2005), and, most recently, *Golda Slept Here* (2014).

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**AL-A'RAJ, LYDIA**

Born in Latin America in 1930 to a family from Beit Jala; worked as a teacher in the Chili Girls School in Beit Jala and later became Chairperson of the Women & Child Care Society; co-founded the Union of Charitable Societies in Jerusalem; was an elected PNC member; served as first treasurer of the GUPW in 1965; inaugurated the first branch of the Palestinian Family Planning and Protection Association in the Bethlehem district; founded the Women's Initiative Committee for Development that aims to train young women in income generating projects.

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**AL-ASHHAB, ITEDAL**

Born in Jerusalem in 1951; earned a BA in Business Administration from Beirut, a BA in Accounting from Cairo and a Diploma in Child Education; served in different educational positions as a teacher and principle; was the Vice-Principle of the Directorate of Education/General Awqaf Directorate in Jerusalem in 2009; has participated in different projects by the Ministry of Education, such as training school principles, strategic planning and school project/training unit; member of the Palestinian National Council, the Islamic-Christian Commission, the General Union of Palestinian Women, the Popular National Conference for Jerusalem, and the Arab Municipality of Jerusalem; head of Dar Al-Fatah Al-Lajia' Society and Vice-President of the Union of the Charitable Societies in the Jerusalem district.

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**ASHRAWI, HANAN**

Born in Ramallah in 1946; has been politically active since her youth, member of the GUPS in Beirut from 1967-70; member of the GUPW from 1967-72; became a leader during the first Intifada; joined the Political Committees, the Palestinian Steering Committee in the peace process; was the Palestinian delegation spokesperson for the negotiations at the Madrid and Washington talks; was elected PLC member for Jerusalem in 1966; founded the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) in 1996; established – together with Salam Fayyad – the Third Way faction in late 2005; was re-elected as PLC member (Third Way List) in the Jan. 2006 elections; Board member of several international organizations; was awarded numerous prizes, incl. the UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi Medal in 2005 for efforts to find a negotiated, non-violent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and her Sydney Peace Prize in 2003.

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**AL-ASSALI, NAHLA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1938; was sent by her father to Damascus in April 1948, following the Deir Yassin massacre; received a BA in English Literature from the AUB and an MA from Indiana State University; worked as a lecturer in the Dept. of English Language and Literature at Birzeit University for 25 years until her retirement; co-founder and chair of the Project Loving Care Society (for women and children) since 1968; co-founder and chair of Saraya Center for Community Services in the Old City of Jerusalem since 1991.

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**ARRAF, HUWAIDA**

Born in 1976; graduated with a degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan in 1998; co-founded the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), which has been twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; co-author of *Peace Under Fire: Israel, Palestine, and the International Solidarity Movement*; taught at Al-Quds University in a human rights law clinic; one of the initiators and organizers of a delegation of American lawyers to Gaza in February 2009 and co-editor of the report on their findings; Chairperson of the Free Gaza Movement; has led five successful sea voyages to the Gaza Strip since August 2008; one of the primary organizers of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla and was on board the ship when it was lethally attacked by Israeli forces on 31 May 2010.

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**ATTIREH, ANAN**

Born in 1961; graduated from Birzeit University in 1987; ex-detainee and wounded in 1982; member of the Advisory Board of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement; member of the Board of Directors of the Palestinian Fund for Employment; member of the GUPW, of the Association of Arab Women's Union, the Association of Payment for the Family, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society; serves as Deputy Governor of Nablus.

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**AWWAD, HANAN**

Born in Jerusalem in 1951; earned a BA in Arabic Language and Literature from Beirut University in 1974, an MA in Arabic Literature and Humanities; received a second MA and a PhD in the Image of Women in the Works of Ghassan Kanafani; founded the Palestinian Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in 1988 and served as its middle east advisor; was the cultural advisor of the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for some time; founding member of the Union of Palestinian Writers and its Sec.-Gen; founding member of the Palestinian Union of Journalists in 1986; founded the PEN Center of the Palestinian Council for GREN (Global Ratification & Elections Network) since 1992; Dir.-Gen. of the Institute of Policy Studies in Jerusalem.

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**BABOON, VERA**

Born in Bethlehem in 1964; earned an MA in American Ethnic Literature and is a PhD candidate in the same faculty; elected as the Mayor of Bethlehem Municipal Council in 2012, to be the first woman to

occupy that post since its inception; Secretary-General of the Association of the Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA); Vice-Pres. of Global Coordination of Local Authorities in the Mediterranean (CIELM); member of the Joint Council for the Arab-South American Relations; authorized researcher in the network GRACE for gender research for women's empowerment in the Middle East through the use of information technology; worked as a lecturer at Bethlehem University and the Dean of Student Affairs for many years prior to her election; Chairperson of the Board of the Guidance and Training Center for Child and Family (GTC) in Bethlehem; member of a number of non-profit associations in Palestine; received the International Award of "Bishop Pompeo Sarnelli" for 2014; was enlisted as one of the most influential on Al-monitor website as a Mideast woman leader.

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#### **BADR, LIANA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1950; raised in Jericho; received a BA in Philosophy and Psychology from the AUB; volunteered in various Palestinian women's organizations; worked as field reporter and editor of the cultural section of *Al-Huriyya Review*; founding editor of the PA Ministry of Culture's Periodical *Dafater Thaqafiyya*; RUNS THE Cinema and Audiovisual Dept. at the PA Ministry of Culture in Ramallah; was among the signatories of the Geneva Accords in 2003.

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#### **BANNA, RIM**

Born in Nazareth in the Galilee in 1966; studied Music and Signing at the Higher Music Conservatory (Gnesins) in Moscow; her musical productions are inspired by Palestinian heritage and culture with lyrics from famous Palestinian poets; produced *tahalill* music (children's bed-time stories) and resistance songs; has performed in several film, theater and TV productions; received several prizes and awards, incl. the Honorary Degree as "Personality of the Year" and "Ambassador of Peace" in Rovereto, Italy; was awarded the Singing Prize by the PA Ministry of Culture in 2004, as part of the Palestine Cultural Prizes of 2000.

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#### **AL-BARGHOUTHI, FADWA IBRAHIM**

Born in 1964; earned a diploma in Science and Mathematics, a BA in Law from Beirut Arab University; an MA in Law from University of Jerusalem; and is a PhD candidate in the University of Cairo; founded her own law firm since 1999; prominent advocate in her own right on behalf of Palestinian prisoners, before becoming the leading campaigner for her husband, Fatah leader Marwan Al-Barghouthi's release from his current jail term; internationally active in the field of human rights and defends the cause of prisoners in international forums since 2002; elected member of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah and the municipality of Ramallah since 2006; member of the Arab-International Forum for Women, the Socialist International representative of women, the Foreign Affairs Committee of Fatah, Social Action Framework for Women (Fatah), and the Union of Women Committees for Social Work.

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**AL-BARGHOUTH, SIHAM**

Born in Hebron in 1948; active in voluntary and community work; joined the DFLP in 1975; was prevented from traveling for 10 years by the Israeli authorities and put under house arrest for 2 ½ years; imprisoned by Israel for 2 ½ years from 1982-84 for affiliation with the DFLP; member of the Board of Directors of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee; joined the Steering Committee of the GUPW; President of the Association of Women's Action for Training and Rehabilitation; member of the politburo of FIDA since 1995; Dir.-Gen. of the Rural Development Dept. at the PA Ministry of Local Government since 1996.

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**BISHARA, SUHAD**

Born in 1971; received an L.L.B. in Law from the Faculty of Law, Hebrew University in 1993, and an L.L.M. in Public Service Law from New York University School of Law (USA); partner in a private law firm specialized in Urban Planning; served as a legal consultant to the association of Forty; the Arab Steering Committee for Urban Planning in the Galilee Society (RA), and the Hotline for Battered Women; was Chairperson of the Committee for Educational Guidance for Arab Students and founded Kayan!; has worked with Adalah since 2001, where she specializes in Land and Planning Rights; has litigated numerous constitutional rights cases before the Israeli Supreme Court concerning the land rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians living in the OPT; editor of *Makan*, Adalah's Journal of Land, Planning and Justice; co-authored a report entitled *Nomads Against Their Will* in 2011.

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**AL-BITAR, HANIA**

Born in 1967; received a BA in English Literature and Translation from Bethlehem University, earned an MA in English/American Literature from the Catholic University of America; founded the Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation (PYALARA) in 1999; co-founded the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace in 2005; ran as a candidate for the Palestinian Legislative Council elections within the Third Way national list in 2006; member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab-American University in Jenin; Vice-Pres. of the Democracy and Workers' Rights Center; member of the Board of Trustees of Miftah and FATEN; was nominated as a "Global Leader for Tomorrow" in 2002, a "Young Arab Leader" in 2003, and a "Young Global Leader" in 2005.

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**BOULLATA, TERRY**

Born in Jerusalem in 1966; studied Sociology at Birzeit University; was arrested several times by Israeli authorities during the first Intifada; worked as a human rights field worker and Assistant Research Officer at the UNRWA field office in Jerusalem; worked as Program Coordinator at the Women's Affairs Technical Committee; head of the Board of Trustees of the Women's Studies Center in Jerusalem; freelance proposal writer and translator; worked in the Advocacy and Lobbying Dept. of the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees since 2004; worked with the Swiss Cooperation and runs a school in Abu Dis.

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### **BUDEIRI, JIVARA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1976; graduated from Rosary Sisters' High School; earned a BA degree in Media and Press with a Major in Radio and Television from Al-Yarmouk University; started working with a number of Palestinian TV and Radio Stations while was still a student; worked with Qatar TV and was the youngest Palestinian News correspondent at Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel (JSC); has covered the Second Intifada in 2002, the Israeli War on Lebanon in 2006 and three Israeli Wars on Gaza; has produced and presented a series of documentary films and investigative reports, such as the investigation of the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat assassination; has received a number of awards and certificates, such as the Documentary Film Award of Tunis Media Festival.

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### **BUTTU, DIANA**

Born in 1970 and raised in Canada; earned a BA in the Middle East and Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto, a JD from Queen's University in Canada, an LLM from the University of Toronto, a JSM from Stanford Law School and an executive MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University; is a lawyer specializing in negotiations, international law, and international human rights law; moved from Canada to Palestine in 2000; served as legal advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team and later to PA President Mahmoud Abbas until 2005; frequently worked with journalists to get Palestinian voices in mainstream media during her time with the PLO; was labeled by *The Economist* as "closest thing to a Palestinian makeover"; was part of the team that worked on the wall case before the ICJ; currently works as private attorney and consultant; received the Stelle Solidariete Italian prize for her human rights work and received a fellowship at Stanford Center for Conflict Resolution and Negotiation, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and Harvard Law School.

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### **AL-DAJANI, MAHIRA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1932; worked as a teacher in the Jordanian Ministry of Education for 38 years; held an effective role in the Scouts Guides Movement; President of Board of Trustees of Dar Al-Tifel Al-Arabi since 1995; Steering Committee member of In'ash Al-Usra Society; received several honorary trophies from different institutions and noteworthy personalities, such as the Education Badge of Honor, Finland Girl Guides' Badge of Honor and Al-Quds University Trophy; received the Distinguished Senior Citizen Trophy representing Palestine through Turyak Organization and was honored by the Turkish Prime Minister, Tayyip Erdogan; has published three books: *The Flower and Girl Guides World* (1977), *Guides' Games* (1980), and *Tasaky* (2010).

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### **DARAWZEH, AFNAN**

Born in Nablus in 1979; earned a BA in Psychology, and MA in Educational Psychology and a PhD in Instructional Design, Development, & Evaluation to become Assistant Professor at An-Najah University; became a member of the American Association for Educational Communications and Technology; became the Dean of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research and Director of the Planning and Development Dept. at An-Najah from 1998-2001; Professor of Education in the College of Graduate Studies at An-Najah since 2001.

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**AL-DEEK, NAFISA**

Born in 1940 in Kufr Ne'meh, near Ramallah; became a grassroots leader, using her house as a center for rehabilitation and teaching, sewing, knitting, embroidery and cooking for local village women; overcame illiteracy by convincing an NGO to open adult-literacy classes in her village in 1981; was also politically active, for which she was detained by Israeli forces in 1981 and again in 1993; was always active in promoting girls' education; raised funds to develop her village's girls schools in 1986; was one of eight Palestinian women nominated for the Noble Peace Prize as part of the Project 1000 Women for the Noble Peace Prize 2005.

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**FADDA, MAJIDA**

Born in Nablus in 1960; earned an MA in Pharmacy and an MA in Political Development and Strategic Planning; received a certificate in Directing and Documentation from Al-Jazeera Network; was elected as Board member of Al-Itihad Arab Women Society in 1992; was elected as member of Nablus Municipality Council in 2005 and in 2008 (until 2010); founding member of the Scientific Forum of Pharmacists co-founding member and Sec.-Gen. of Pharmacist Housing.

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**FARSAKH, LAILA**

Born in Jordan in 1967; Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Research Affiliate at the Center for International Studies at MIT; holds a PhD from the University of London and an MPhil from the University of Cambridge in the UK; has worked with a number of international organizations, incl. the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute; has published various articles and studies on issues related to the Palestinian labor migration, the Oslo process, international migration and regional integration; has written a book entitled *Palestinian Labor Migration to Israel: Labour, Land and Occupation* which has been published by Routledge Press; won the Peace and Justice Award from the Cambridge Peace Commission in Cambridge, Mass. In 2001.

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**FEIDY, LILY**

Born in 1954; received a BA in English Literature and Education from BZU, an MA in Applied Linguistics from University of Michigan and a PhD in Applied Linguistics from the University of Delaware; worked in the Department of English at BZU, where she has been on the Faculty in various capacities; served as Dir. Gen. of International & Cultural Relations Department at the Ministry of Higher Education; served as Deputy Sec.-Gen. of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) in 2002 and has been the CEO since 2006; involved in several civil and international organizations; head of Board of Directors of Al-Haq, ASHTAR Theatre Production and Training, WCLAC – Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, MADAR; and the National Coalition of Accountability and Integrity; permanent fellow at the Salzburg Seminar in Austria; board member in several peace-building organizations, The American-Palestinian Peace Association (AMPAL) and The Arab Women Leadership Institute (AWLI).

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**GHADBAN, AMAL**

Born in 1961; social activist and business woman; earned a BA in Social and Human Sciences from BZU, a Higher Diploma in Educating People with Special Needs and a Higher Diploma in Journalism; founded Birzeit University Friends Association; co-founded the international campaign “Karama” for Palestinians’ freedom of movement in 2008, which resulted in issuing the first traveling document for Palestinians to cross Al-Karama border crossing; launched “Janayen Burham” project; Wheat Bakery, Sho Biddak Stationary Store, and more; Board of Trustees member of the Palestine Excellence and Creativity Award; member of the Business Women Forum; published *Learning Through Playing* and articles in several newspapers.

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**GHANNAM, LAILA**

Born in the village of Deir Dibwan near Ramallah in 1975; joined Fatah as a student and was elected to it Ramallah Council, later earned a senior position within the organization’s security forces; earned a PhD in Psychology; became General Director of the Ministry of Social Affairs, as well as head of several organizations, incl. the Board of Administration for the Watan Center for women’s leadership; Governor of Ramallah since 2010, making her the first female within the PA to hold the title.

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**HABASHI, ASIA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1936; holds a BA in Psychology and Education from the AUB and a PhD in Education from Bradford University; worked as an instructor at the UNRWA Men’s Teacher Training Center in Ramallah; co-founded the Arab Thought Forum in Jerusalem and the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem; Deputy-Chairperson of the National Mental Health Society since 1982; worked as a research coordinator at the Arab Thought Forum, Project Director of the Early Childhood Resource Center in Jerusalem; Board of Trustees member of the Palestinian Counseling Center (1987-91) and the Tamer Institute for Community Education in Ramallah (1990s).

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**HABASHI, CLAUDETTE**

Born in Jerusalem; graduated with a BA in Social Work from the Beirut College for Women; managed the Ayoub Trading Agency; Sec.-Gen. of Caritas Jerusalem; member of several working groups, commissions and committees of Caritas Internationalis; member of several councils and delegations of the Holy See, Pontificum Consilium – Cor Unum, etc.; Board of Trustees member of Bethlehem University; member of the Board of Directors of Society of Saint Yves; became an ambassador for Peace for the Inter-Religious and International Federation for World Peace in 2003; received the International Voluntary Service Award from the Catholic University of San Antonio, Murcia, Spain, in 2004.

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### **HALAWANI, RULA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1964; earned a BA in Math and Photography from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada; works as freelance photojournalist for the *Snenska Dagbladet*, Sweden and the US-based Middle East report; shot portraits of political leaders for John Walach's book *The New Palestinians*; worked for Sygma Agency, then for Reuters; worked as a director and teacher of photography workshops at Al-Ma'amal Foundation for Contemporary Art; founded the Photography Dept. at Birzeit University, where she also teaches; received many awards, incl. from KODAK, Canada, International Mother Jones, San Francisco, PA Ministry of Culture & Arts and more.

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### **HALILEH, SAMIA**

Born in Kuwait in 1959; lived in Jericho and Ramallah; graduated from the Friends Boys School; studied Medicine at Sheffield Medical School, UK; obtained a Diploma in Community Child Health and an MRCP in Pediatrics; served in many hospitals in London, such as Chelsea and Westminster and Kings College Hospitals; worked at Al-Makassed Islamic Hospital in Jerusalem for a short while; earned a PhD from Warwick University, UK, focusing on child development in Palestine from 0-3 years; the result was incorporated into Child Health Records; worked on different reports for the Ministry of Health, Ministries of Education and Social Affairs and Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS); published many articles on child health in international journals; currently works at the Arab Medical Center as a pediatrician; is one of five Vice-Presidents at BZU, responsible for nine institutes and centers.

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### **HAMDAN, RABIHA DIAB HUSSEIN**

Born in Durat Al-Qar', near Ramallah, in 1954; Fatah activist; was arrested by Israeli authorities several times; spend a total of about seven years in prison; held various Fatah positions; studied Sociology and Social Work; member of different Fatah committees; Chairperson of the Union of Women Committees for Social Work; board member of GUPW; member of the founding commission of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club, and the Fatah Revolutionary Council; participated in different women's activities locally and internationally.

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### **HAMMAMI, RIMA**

Born in Daharan, Saudi Arabia in 1960; earned a BA in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati, an MA and a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Temple University, Philadelphia; co-founded and served as Research Coordinator of the Gaza chapter of the Women's Affairs Research and Training Center and its executive Director; worked as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Birzeit University, Research Coordinator of the MA Program in Gender, Law and Development of Birzeit's Institute of Women's Studies as well as program Chairperson; participated in the Palestinian-Israeli Academic Discussion Group and the Faculty for Israeli Palestinian Peace; member of the Institute of Jerusalem Studies, the Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, Muwatin, Greenpeace Mediterranean, and MIFTAH; was Chair of Birzeit University Right to Education Committee; co-chaired the Israeli-Palestinian-South African Conference; was appointed as the Prince Claus Chair in Development and Equity for 2005-2006 at the institute of Social Studies in the Hague.

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**HANANIYA, AMIRA**

Began her journalism career at the age of 17 as an on-air talk-show host; one of the few female reporters in Palestine; former lead journalist for Ma'an News Agency; was the subject of a documentary "Live: From Bethlehem" that documented her struggles while working at the Ma'an Agency as well as shedding light on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the importance of truthful reporting of both sides of every news story; hosts a daily political talk-show on Palestine TV which discusses the latest local, regional and international developments concerning the Palestinian Question.

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**HDEIB-QANNAM, SALWA KAYED**

Born in Jerusalem in 1958; received a Higher Diploma in Nursing from the St. John Ophthalmic College of Nursing, a BA in Social and Family Development and an MA in Israeli Studies from Al-Quds Open University; worked as ophthalmic nurse at St. John's Hospital and served as chairperson of the Nursing Union; member of the Fatah Higher Committee; head of the Association of Women Committees for Social Work in Jerusalem; head of the Board of Trustees of the Jerusalem Center of Women; member of the Women's Affairs Technical Committees; Chairperson of the Women Dept. and the Israeli Affairs Dept. of Fatah in Jerusalem and became Sec.-Gen. in the PA Ministry of Women's Affairs; received the Peace Award from the Israeli Peace Organization and the Award of Exemplary Employee from Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain.

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**HIJAB, NADIA**

Born in Aleppo, Syria; earned a BA and an MA in English Literature from the American University of Beirut; became Editor-in-Chief of the London-based *Middle East Magazine*; worked for 10 years as a development specialist for the UNDP; has worked as an independent consultant for international organizations on human rights, human development, gender, and media since 1999; co-founded Al-Shabaka, the Palestinian Policy Network in 2010 and is now its Executive Director; frequent public speaker and media commentator joined the Institute for Palestinian Studies as a senior fellow in 2006.

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**AL-HUSSEINI, JUMANA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1932; lives in Paris; studies Fine Arts in Beirut and Paris; had her first exhibit in Paris; held a number of personal exhibits in different cities, incl. Tokyo, Rome, Amman, and Jerusalem; participated in several group exhibits, incl. the Venice Biennial of 1979, the Tokyo Modern Art Museum, and the Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington in 1994; received the Palestine Award for the Visual Arts in 1999.

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### **AL-HOUT, BAYAN NUWAYHED**

Born in Jerusalem in 1937; but forced to leave to Jordan after the Nakba; pursued her studies and settled in Beirut in 1959, where she worked as a journalist and gained a PhD in Political Science; became head of the documentary section at the Palestine Research Center in Beirut and at the Center for Arab Unity Studies in the late 1970s; taught the Palestinian Question and Middle Eastern Studies at the Lebanese University; researcher and freelance writer since 2001; has published articles and essays related to the Palestinian Question.

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### **JABARA, HUSNIYEH**

Born in 1958; first Palestinian woman to be elected to the Israeli Knesset; member of Meretz since 1989; was Women's and Youth Director in the Jewish-Arab Institute in Beit Ber; was a running candidate of the left-wing Meretz Party during the 1999 elections and won a seat; was blamed not to have run for one of the Arab parties active in Israel; was a member of different committees during her term, incl. the Committee on the Status of Women and the Subcommittee for the Advancement of the Status of Arab Women.

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### **JAD, ISLAH**

Born in Cairo in 1951; received a BA in Political Science from Cairo University and an MA in Political Science at Nanterre 'Paris X' University; earned a PhD from the School of Oriental Studies and African Studies, London, UK in 2004, majoring in Gender and Women Studies; worked as Assistant Professor of Development and Gender Studies at BZU; served as Director of the Women's Studies Center at Birzeit; co-founded the Women's Studies Institute at BZU; co-founded the Women's Affairs Technical Committee; has authored numerous papers, article and studies on women, children and politics; lectures on gender and politics at Birzeit's Women's Studies Program and Cultural Studies Department.

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### **JADOU, AMAL**

Born in a refugee camp near Bethlehem; earned a BA from Bethlehem University, an MA from BZU, and a PhD from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy as well as a graduate fellowship in The Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School; active within Fatah's Youth Movement; began working for the government in 2005 as the Prime Minister's Foreign Policy Advisor; served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington, DC.; served as Dir. Gen. of International Affairs for the President's Office; Assistant Minister on European Affairs and head of the European Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; was the only female representative in the Palestinian delegation to the Annapolis Conference; was the first co-winner of the internationally prestigious Sylff Leadership Prize.

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### **JARBAWI, TAFIDA**

Born in Tulkarem in 1955; received a BSc in Chemistry from BZU, an MSc and a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio; served as a lecturer and head of the Chemistry

Department at BZU; served as Director of UNRWA Ramallah Women's College and Dean of Educational Science Faculty; Gen.-Dir. of the Welfare Association; has authored more than 40 publications in education, chemistry and women's affairs; active member in the boards of many organizations at national, regional and international levels, incl. Higher Council for Vocational and Technical Education, Accreditation and Quality Assurance for Higher Education, the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue & Democracy (MIFTAH), UNESCO-World Commission of the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), and Bioethics Network on Women's Issues in the Arab Region.

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#### **JARJOURA, KATY**

Studies Music, Choral Conducting and Music Therapy at the Levinsky College for Education in Tel-Aviv; earned a certificate in the Practice of Voice Movement Therapy; has been the conductor of Ud Al-Nad since its foundation; works as a music therapist with children with multi-disabilities and autism in Nazareth; supervises MA Music Therapy at Haifa University; teaches Music Therapy at the Arab College for Education in Haifa.

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#### **JARRAR, KHALIDA KANAAN**

Born in Nablus in 1963; graduated with a BA in Business Administration and an MA in Democracy and Human Rights from Birzeit University; PFLP activist; was imprisoned during the first Intifada for activities related to the International Women's day; serves as a member in the Follow-Up Committee of the PNGO network; elected member of the Palestinian Council for Human Rights Organization, member of GUPW and Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association in Ramallah.

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#### **JUHA, OMAYYA**

Born in Gaza in 1972; regarded as the first women to draw political cartoons in Palestine and the Arab World; worked at *Al-Quds Newspaper* from 1999 to 2002; her work mocks the PA as well as the Arab states for their failure to support the Palestinian people and vilifies Israel; has also adopted a recurring character by the name of "Abu Aid" ("the Father of the Return); member of Naji Al Ali's Plastic Art Society in Palestine; member of the Illustration Agency for Caricature in Britain; won the prize for the "Best Caricaturist in the Arab World" in 2001.

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#### **KAMAL, ZAHIRA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1945; has focused on conflict resolution and gender issues on which she publishes extensively; studies Science, then Education; served on the board of In'ash Al-Usra Society; founded the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committees in 1978, but was imprisoned by Israel a year later for her membership in the DFLP's politburo; joined FIDA and many women's organizations, incl. Jerusalem Link, a Palestinian-Israeli women's network; was appointed Minister of Women's Affairs in the Feb. 2005 cabinet of PM Qrei'a.

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**KARMI, GHADA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1939; moved to England after the Nakba, where she studied Medicine; practiced as a doctor for many years, received a PhD in the History of Arabic Medicine; was among the founders of a British-Palestinian medical charity; former Pres. of the Palestinian Community Association in Britain; founded the International Campaign for Jerusalem in London; edited the *Jerusalem File*; was a research Fellow at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter; serves as Vice-Chair of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding in London.

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**KHALED, LEILA**

Born in Haifa in 1944; fled to Lebanon in 1948 and grew up in a refugee camp there; assumed a teaching position in Kuwait; was recruited to the PFLP in 1968; joined its Special Operations Squad and received paramilitary training; hijacked planes and fought in the battles between the Palestinian resistance and King Hussein's forces in Amman in 1970; became a member of the PFLP's Central Committee, the PNC; was elected the first Secretary of the Palestinian Women's Committees in 1986.

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**KHALIFA, SAHAR**

Born in Nablus in 1941; studied English Language at Birzeit University; earned an MA from Chapel-Hill University in North Carolina; received a PhD in Women's Studies and American Literature from Iowa University; began writing shortly after the 1967 War; published her first novel in 1974; returned to Palestine and founded the Women's Affairs Center in Nablus; won numerous literary prizes for her works, incl. the Peace Prize from the Organization for the Colored Women in the American Iowa State, the Albert Moravia Prize for the Foreign Novel in Italy, and the Qassem Amin Golden Medal for Feminist Writing.

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**JABARA, HUSNIYYEH**

Born in 1962; received a BA in Middle Eastern Studies and an MA in International Studies from BZU; worked as head of the Historical Photographic Archive at the Arab Studies Society; local and international NGO coordinator at Faisal Hussein Office; served as Gen. Dir. of the General Administration for NGOs in the Palestinian Ministry of the Interior; Dir. of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports in Palestine; Board member of the Women's Committee of Social Work; has volunteered at a number of organizations, incl. the General Union of Palestinian Women, the Centre of Micro Projects Development and UNICEF.

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**KHAYAT, KHOULUD DAJANI**

Born in Nablus in 1962; earned an MA in Medicine from Rostov Medical Institute, the Soviet Union, an MA in Hospital Management from the University of Jordan in cooperation with the John Hopkins University, a Diploma in Administrative Health from the Medical Council of Jordan, and a PhD in Health Policy and Science from Ben-Gurion University in Negev, Israel; was one of the founders of Al-Quds University where she held several positions throughout her career, incl. Dean of School of Public Health,

Assistant Professor, Chair; founded the Institute of Child Health and Learning; has participated in numerous international and domestic conferences and events; has published several publications on public health.

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#### **KHOURY, SAMIA NASIR**

Born in Jaffa in 1933; graduated from Birzeit College; earned a BA from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas; worked as Exec. Secretary, Registrar and Director of the women students activities at Birzeit College; won the Jordan Women's Table Tennis Championship in 1957; was the first Palestinian woman to be elected to the Church Council of the Local Anglican Congregation; became a board member of the YWCA; served as national Pres. of the YWCA of Palestine after its re-affiliation to the World YWCA; Treasurer of the Board of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center; member of In'ash Al-'Usrah Society, and the Project Loving Care Society.

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#### **KHOURY, HIND**

Born in Bethlehem in 1953; Palestinian economist with educational background in economics and business management; served as Minister of Jerusalem Affairs and the Ambassador of Palestine in France from 2006-2010; very active in local civil society organizations and groups; contributes to a large number of local and international conferences; published numerous articles related to the Palestinian struggle for peace and justice and conducted a research covering a range of issues such as the East Jerusalem Development Plan, tourism development, and post conflict normalization.

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#### **KHREISHEH, AMAL BARGHOUTH**

Born in Tulkarem in 1957; studied psychology in Amman; was one of the founders of the Union of Palestinian Working Women Committees; was an active unionist and women's rights activist; Dir.-Gen. of the Palestinian Working Women Society for Development in Ramallah since 1990; has worked with the Technical Affairs Committees, training women in leadership and lobbying; has coordinated the Palestinian Women Legal Charter submitted to the PA; taught literacy courses to Palestinian refugee women in Jordan; was actively involved with a number of Israeli women's organizations, incl. The Jerusalem Link.

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#### **KUTTAB, EILEEN**

Born in Jerusalem in 1951; received a BA in Sociology from the AUB and Birzeit University and an MA in Sociology from Northeastern University; was a founding member and coordinator of 'Our Production is Our Pride'; co-founded the Bisan Center for Research and Development; became a member of several local and international organizations, incl. the Human Development Report Committee on Palestine, a team for accreditation and evaluation of social science programs in the Palestinian national colleges and universities, the consultative team for the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and more; was promoted to

Assistant Professor (PhD rank) in 2001 due to her publications; heads a team of researchers to mainstream gender in UNRWA's programs and activities.

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#### **MALHEES, GHANIA**

Earned a BA in Accounting from Arab University of Beirut, an MA in Economics and a PhD in Economics and Political Science from University of Sophia, Bulgaria; served as Gen. Dir. of MAS – Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute; an expert at the League of Arab States in Cairo on Palestinian economy, development and reconstruction, international and Arab assistance to the Palestinian territories; is currently an economic researcher consultant at Free Lance; member of Palestinian National Council, Palestine Center for Policy Research and Strategic studies, the Bulgarian-Palestinian Friendship Association and Chairwoman of Board of Trustees of Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS); published *Developing a Coordinated Arab Strategy towards Obama's Administration*, 2009, *Analytical Reading of Palestinian President Speech*, 2009 and *Palestinian Socio-Economic Indicators and Main Challenges for Rehabilitation and Development*, 2006.

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#### **MANSOUR, MUNA**

Born in Nablus in 1961; earned a BA in Physics from An-Najah National University; worked as a teacher at the Islamic Community College in Al-Zarqa as well as the schools of Nablus and Qalqilya governorates; former member of the Administrative Board for Al-Juthour Cultural Center, Islamic Solidarity Charitable Association and the Islamic Association of Palestinian Women; distinguished leader in women affairs and community development; has been elected nominee for Hamas quota for the Palestinian Legislative Council elections in 2006; was arrested by the Israeli forces in 2008; Parliament representative of Nablus Governorate; member of the Women Union Association and the Political and Educational Committees of the PLC; co-founded the Islamic International Parliament Forum.

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#### **MASRI, A'SMAA**

Born in Nablus in 1959, earned a BA in Administration from Al-Najah National University; served as President of An-Najah University Alumni Association, worked as Gen.-Dir. Of Target Jordan Palestine Securities Co.; served as President of Businesswomen Assembly at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry; elected Council Member of Nablus Municipality; member of Nablus Advisory Council; Chairman of Board of Directors of Masri & Qasrawi Co.; Board member of Target Jordan Palestine Securities Co. I Martyr Zafer Al-Masri Charitable Foundation, and Pal Aqar Co.; Administrative Committee member of Al-Tadamon Charitable Society and Family Defense Society; founding member of Palestinian Women's Club (PWC) in Nablus, Palestinian Governance Institute and Rawabi Society; representative of Youth Tomorrow Organization.

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**MASRI, HANAN**

Born in Jordan; was raised in Syria, Lebanon and Tunisia; returned to Gaza in 1993; has been *Al-Arabiya News Channel's* correspondent in Palestine for more than 10 years; one of few Palestinian women who were able to endure being a field reporter in the conservative society of Gaza.

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**MASRI, MAI**

Born in Amman in 1959; grew up in Beirut; studied Film at San Francisco State University; co-founded Nour Production, together with her husband; produced several films, such as *The Shadows of the City*, which won the Cannes Junior Award in 2001; her film *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* (2001) was broadcasted in several languages and has won ten international awards; incl. Best Documentary at the Arab World Institute's Film Festival in Paris; has received numerous other awards and prizes for her films and documentaries.

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**MASRI, MAJIDA**

Born in Haifa in 1947; lived in Nablus where she completed High School; earned a BA in Chemistry; enrolled in the Arab Nationalist Movement in Nablus at a very early age; participated in all aspects of struggle, incl. national, political, union work, women's movement, and social and mass work in Cairo, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine; returned to Palestine in 1996 after a forced deportation for 28 years; member of the Palestinian National Council; member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; served as a Minister of Social Affairs Palestinian governments from 2009 to 2013.

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**MURKUS, AMAL**

Born and raised in Kufr Yasif in Galilee in 1968; graduated from the Institute for Stage Art in Tel Aviv; studying Art as Tool for Social Change at Musrara College in Jerusalem; has devoted her career to promoting Palestinian music and culture in Israel and abroad; has been performing since she was five years old; won first prize in the Israeli Arab Children's Song Festival in 1979; member of the Counseling Board of Free Muse; released her first album, Amal, in 1998, and her second, Shauq, in 2004; completed projects with the Palestinian poets Mahmoud Darwish and Samih Al-Qasim; has received many commendations for her unique art and music and for her work with local communities.

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**NABULSI, KARMA**

Born in the US in 1957; earned a DPhil in Politics from Oxford University, was a prize research fellow in politics at Oxford University; was a PLO representative from 1977-90; was advisory member of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington talks; worked as a university lecturer and Director of Graduate Research at the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford University; serves as Patron of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, advisor for the Badil Center Legal Unit in Bethlehem, and Chair of Trustees of the London-based Hoping Foundation, supporting grassroots organizations working with Palestinian youth in refugee camps.

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**NASER, SUMAYA FARHAT**

Born in Ramallah in 1948; women and peace advocate; co-founded numerous women's organizations, incl. the Birzeit Women Charitable Society; Board member of the Arab Thought Forum in Jerusalem; Director of the Jerusalem Center for Women; involved in Israeli-Palestinian women's initiatives for peace; co-founded the Jerusalem Link; was among the founders of the "Waging Peace Global Network" at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; received many awards for her efforts, incl. the Bruno-Kreisky Prize for Human Rights in 1995.

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**NASER EL-DIN, SAFA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1969; earned a BA in Electronic Engineering, an MA in Signal and Image Processing and a PhD in Electronic Engineering; active member in the boards of many organizations, incl. National Task Force for WTO Accession; National Committee for the Population Registry Development & Automation, Palestinian Open Source Community (POSC), IEEE; has served as Minister's Technical Advisor at the Ministry of Telecom and Information Technology and Dean of Hind Hussein College for Women at Al-Quds University; Minister of Telecom and Information Technology since 2012.

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**NASHASHIBI, RANA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1962; studied Counseling Psychology in the US; worked as a lecturer at Al-Quds University and Birzeit University; Director of the Palestinian Counseling Center since 1991; served as a Consultant at the PA Ministries of Social Affairs and Education; supervised social workers at the Women's Society for Development; PhD candidate at the European Graduate School in Switzerland since 2002.

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**NAWAHDAH, RAJAA**

Born in 1973; graduated from Dar Al-Tifel Al-Arabi School in Jerusalem; earned a BA in Electrical Engineering from BZU, an MA in Information and Communication Engineering from the University Gesamthochschule Duisburg, Germany; worked as electrical engineer at the Shorok Engineering Office S.E.O.; lecturer in Faculty of Engineering at Al-Quds University since 2003.

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**NAZZAL, LAILA**

Born in Palestine; received a BA, an MA in Sociology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia; has taught at many universities; incl. the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Harvard University; founding member of the Association for Personalist Psychology and Psychotherapy in Zurich; Associate Professor of Sociology at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem; has published numerous articles in books and periodicals; co-authored the *Historical Dictionary of Palestine* (Scarecrow Press, 1997).

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### **NUSSEIBEH, LUCY**

Born in 1955; studied at the University of Oxford and Harvard University; taught for nine years in the Cultural Studies and Philosophy Department at BZU; founder and director of MEND, established in 1998 (Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy); senior research fellow at Harvard university's Kennedy School of Government in the Women and Public Policy Program from 2004 to 2006; served on the International Governance Council (Executive Committee) of Nonviolent Peaceforce; served as member of the MENA Regional Steering Committee for the Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict; Gen.-Dir. of the Institute of Modern Media at Al-Quds University since 2007; Board member of the Middle East Citizens Assembly and the Palestine-Israel Journal; founding member of the Conflict Transformation Collaborative; serves as an advisor to the Fetzer Institute in their Faculty of Humanities.

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### **ODEH, RASMIYA YOUSEF**

Born in 1948; was active in the student movement; became a PFLP member in 1967 in Beirut; was arrested and accused of involvement in bomb attacks in Jerusalem, for which she spent about 10 years in Israeli jails and was tortured and abused psychologically, physically and sexually; was deported in 1979, continued her social and political work in exile; was elected member of the PFLP Central Committee; served as member of the Administrative Council of the GUPW and continues her work on women's issues.

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### **OMARI, AREEN**

Actress and producer; started out in theater; has performed in the Palestinian National Theater in Jerusalem and Al-Qasaba Theater in Ramallah; became famous for *Laila's Birthday* (2008), *Private* (2004) and *Ticket to Jerusalem* (2002); often works with award winning Palestinian Director, Rashid Masharawi; played an important role in the *Son of the Other* (2014) by Lorraine Levy; her latest film is *Eyes of a Thief* (2014).

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### **QAOUR, WIDAD**

Born in Bethlehem in 1932; earned a BA and an MA in Middle Eastern History in the American University of Beirut; started a collection of Palestinian traditional clothing that eventually became the most important collection of folklore fashion in Palestine, Jordan and Syria; presented her collection in Colon Museum in Germany; her works include research papers on Palestinian folklore and publications, incl. *Palestinian Embroidery: Traditional "Fallahi" Cross-stitch* (Munich State Museum of Ethnography); held her latest gallery in Tokyo, where around 3,500 people attended the opening night.

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### **QAZZAZ, HADEEL**

Born in Gaza in 1966; earned an Ed.D from Leeds University; specialist in education, gender, and development; activist in the Palestinian Women's Movement; active member of the Palestinian Civil Society Movement; involved in different types of cultural dialogue and exchange; has organized and participated in many regional and international conference on issues of development, women's rights,

and democratization processes; has contributed to Palestinian human development reports, the *Palestine National Poverty Report*, and reports on the right to education; was involved in the adaptation of *the Transparency International Source Book* into Arabic; joined Tiri in April 2009 as Programme Director responsible for Tiri's Pro-Poor Integrity Programme; member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Thought Forum since 2010.

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#### **SABBAGH, SUHA**

Born in Haifa; writer and former Director of the Institute for Arab Women's Studies; left to Washington, DC, to study; taught Art History at La Crosse, Wisconsin; earned a PhD in Comparative Literature in Madison; wrote her thesis on "Frantz Fanon and the Cultural Aspect of Colonization"; teaches Women's Studies at Birzeit's University; her publications focus on gender in the Arab World and in Arabic literature.

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#### **SAFADI, SAWSAN**

Born in 1965 in Amman; graduated from Al-Nithamieh High School in Jerusalem; received a BA in English Language and a Diploma in Education from the University of Jordan; served as a teacher for English Language; turned to administrative work in 2005 and became the principle of Riyadh Al-Aqsa Islamic School and Modern Islamic Rawda School; head of the Department of Public Relations, International Relations & Educational Media in the Directorate of Education/General Awqaf Directorate in Jerusalem; head of Al-Nayzak Organization for Supportive Education & Scientific Innovation; co-founding member of Women's Gathering Organization; head of Mqdsyat Mbadrat (Jerusalemite Women Initiators), member of the Women Committee affiliated to Beit Hanina Local Charitable & Educational Association (BLCEA).

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#### **SALAMEH, DALAL ABDUL HAFITH**

Born in 1965; was raised in Balata Refugee Camp in Nablus; studied at An-Najah University; was the first female student to be elected to the University Student Council in 1987; was a Fatah activist; was elected to the PLC for the Nablus district in the January 1966 elections; became Secretary of the PLC's Political Committee and of its Education and Social Affairs Committees; member of several women's organizations, inc. the Women's Affairs Technical Committee, and the Fatah Women's Union.

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#### **SALEH, MARIAM**

Born in the refugee camp of Deir Ammar, near Ramallah in 1952; moved to Saudi Arabia, where she earned her PhD in Islamic Law (Sharia); returned to Palestine in 1993; became a professor at Al-Quds University established the Huda Association for Women in 1996; serves on the Board of Directors of several charitable organizations; became the Hamas Minister of Women's Affairs and was elected to the PLC; her works include research papers on divorce in Islamic law, political rights of women in Islam and Islamic culture.

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### **SHAHID, LEILA**

Born in Beirut in 1949; studied Anthropology at the AUB, where she became a member of the Fatah; was editor-in-chief of the student magazine "Outlook" during the AUB strike in the 1970s; left to France to continue her PhD; became GUPS Pres. in France; was appointed as the first Palestinian female Ambassador in Ireland in 1989, followed by postings in different European countries; took part in the founding of the *Revue des Etudes Palestiniennes*; Board of Trustees member of the IPS as well as the Arab Development Society in Jericho.

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### **SHAWA, RAWYA RASHAD**

Born in Gaza in 1948; worked as a journalist, columnist and businesswoman in the women's fashion design industry; founded the Gaza Cultural and Development Group; Agency Manager of Opel in Gaza since 1995; was elected PLC member for the Gaza City district, and served on its Human Rights Committee; contributes as a columnist and writer on socioeconomic and political issues to *Al-Quds* and *Al-Ayyam* newspapers since 1998; serves on the Board of several cultural centers; Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees since 1999.

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### **SHOMALI, ROSE**

Born in 1946; poet, writer and women's rights activist; her experience in Tel Al-Za'ater Refugee Camp in Beirut influenced her decision to join the Administrative Committee of the GUPW in Lebanon; worked with women in refugee camps; returned to Palestine and became a lecturer at the University of Bethlehem, then Director of UNICEF's educational programs for the West Bank and Gaza; became Gen. Dir. of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee in 2002; her works include poetry collections, translations, and books; focused on children's stories, for which she has received several national awards.

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### **SLEMIAN, NAWAL**

Born in 1966; founded Women in Hebron, an embroidery cooperative with which has helped empower local women in Hebron, providing them with a source of income; began to sell her embroidery in the Old City of Hebron in 2005; has been all over the world since promoting her cooperative and speaking about life under occupation; opened a community center in her village in Idna, near Hebron, where she established embroidery workshops after the success of Women in Hebron; currently focuses on opening a center for women and children in Idna.

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### **TALHAMI, REEM**

Born in Shefa-'Amr, West Galilee in 1968; studied Opera Music at the Rubin Academy of Music in West Jerusalem; joined the music band Gorbah in Jerusalem, then the group Washem, and performed in their only production 'Ashiqah; her voice has accompanied several Palestinian theater plays; was involved with the Zimar Contemporary Palestinian Music Group; has appeared in duet performances with Jamil Al-

Sayeh; participated in several film and theater productions and plays; has participated at numerous festivals locally and abroad; produced several cassettes and CDs, in cooperation with musical groups, such as Sabreen and Zimar.

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#### **TAMARA, VERA**

Born in Jerusalem in 1945; studied Fine Arts at the Beirut College for Women; specialized in Ceramics at the Instituto Statale per la Ceramica in Florence; earned an MPhil in Islamic Art and Architecture from Oxford University; member of the League of Palestinian Artists; founding member of the Al-Wasiti Art Center; member of the Sakakini General Assembly; lecturer on Islamic Art and Architecture in Birzeit University; headed the Birzeit University's Founding Committee for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage; has participated in numerous local and international shows; her art work is mostly ceramic based and sculpted paintings, representing Palestinian scenery, people, and old family photographs.

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#### **TARAKI, LISA**

Born in Afghanistan to an American mother and Afghan father in 1948; earned a BA in Sociology at Mills College, California, an MA and a PhD from the State University of New York; joined the Sociology and Anthropology Dept. at Birzeit University in 1976, following her marriage to George Giacaman; held several administrative positions at Birzeit; founding member of the Institute of Women's Studies; her research and publications have focused on urban social history, the Palestinian national movement, gender dynamics in the Middle East, and informal justice systems in Palestine; has served on the Boards of several Palestinian organizations; Associate Professor of Sociology at Birzeit University; founding member and coordinator of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel.

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#### **TARAZI, RIMA NASIR**

Born in Jaffa in 1932; studied Music at Birzeit College with the renowned Palestinian musician Salvador Arnita; received an Associate in Arts degree from the American Junior College in Beirut; studied Psychology and Arabic at the AUB; composes songs expressing the aspirations and dreams of the Palestinian people and put to music poems written by Arab poets; her songs have been performed locally and internationally; was involved in several women's cultural and educational organizations; was an executive member of the In'ash Al-Usra Center in Ramallah; Board of Trustees member of Birzeit University; served as Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the YWCA, and as Pres. of the YWCA in Ramallah; co-founder and chairperson of the Supervisory Board of the National Conservatory of Music (now the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music); held several important positions, such as National Pres. of the YWCA of Palestine and Pres. of the Administrative Board of the GUPW.

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#### **TAWIL, RAYMONDA HAWA**

Born in Galilee in 1940; studied at an Israeli school and moved to Jordan in 1957, renouncing her Israeli citizenship; moved to Nablus where she joined the Arab Women's Union but remained critical of its

segregation between men and women; organized acts of defiance against the Israeli occupation and the social structure, in the form of concerts and sit-in strikes; advocated the Palestinian cause by gathering different intellectuals, politicians, journalists and diplomats at her house; was criticized by some Palestinians for her dialogue with Israel, where she discussed the two-state solution in the late 1970s.

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#### **AL-WAZIR, INTISAR (UM JIHAD)**

Born in Gaza City in 1942; long-term leader of the Palestinian women's movement; was the first female member to join Fatah in 1959; participated in the first Conference for Palestinian Women (1965); founding member of the GUPW; serves as head of the PLO's Social Welfare Dept. and the Families of Martyrs Foundation since the 1960s; has founded numerous centers for women, literacy training and rehabilitation; became Vice-President of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; member of the Fatah Central Committee since the 1980s; returned to Gaza in the wake of the Oslo Accords.

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#### **YOUNIS, SHIREEN**

Born in 'Ara Village in the Triangle area inside the Green Line in 1979; completed High School at the Franciscan Sisters' School in Nazareth; earned a BA in Political Science from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; began her career in Media in 2001; was the first Palestinian female correspondent inside the Green Line; has worked with different TV Channels, incl. BBC and Abu Dhabi TV; works as a correspondent at the Sky News Arabia in Jerusalem.

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#### **ZARU, SAMIA TAQTAQ**

Born in Nablus in 1938; earned an Associate Degree from Beirut College for Women and a BA in Fine Arts from the AUB; went for her post-graduate studies to the US, enrolling in the Corcoran School of Art and the American University in Washington, DC.; attended art education and UNESCO seminars in Beirut; held different exhibitions reflecting Palestinian cultural identity by using pieces of Palestinian embroidery and printed textiles in her works; was instrumental in developing an arts program for the government curricula in Jordan; works as textile designer, painter, welder, weaver, graphic artist and installation artists between Palestine and Jordan.

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#### **ZOABI, HANEEN**

Born in Nazareth in 1969; obtained a BA in Philosophy and Psychology from the University of Haifa; attended the Hebrew University where she became the first Palestinian to graduate from a media studies course in Israel; earned an MA in Communications and Media; joined the Balad Party in 1997; co-founded and managed the 'I'am Media Center for Arab Palestinians in Israel; ran in the Israeli legislative elections for the Balad Party in 2009 and became a member of the Israeli Knesset; the first woman to have been elected to the Knesset on an Arab party slot.

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