

Party Development

Background

The establishment of both an effective Palestinian civil society and a functioning public administration is a critical component of the state-building process, but Palestine presents a unique challenge for institution building. In 1994, with the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA) a new political culture emerged, marking a transition from a revolutionary resistance model embodied in the PLO to a state-building one embodied in the PA. In the last 13 years, however, the progress of reform and political and economic development was negligible.

A functioning democracy is based on a pluralistic system, at the centre of which are political parties. Starting from this principle, PASSIA undertook some years ago a first project aimed at fostering the institutional development and capacity-building of political parties in Palestine, which are still at nascent levels. The goal was to help create a viable framework in which democratic parties grow stronger; however, at that time PASSIA did not realize the extent to which there was a need for such activities.

Therefore, in 2007 PASSIA drew upon its previous experience in conducting training seminars, its record of facilitating the exchange of ideas and promoting dialogue among the various sectors of society, and its extensive research activity on a wide range of issues, and in cooperation with its long-standing partner Friedrich-Ebert Foundation launched a project designed to offer independent assistance in policy and platform development for members of parties, factions and related civic groups.

PASSIA believes that such hands-on training in the field of party formation can play an important role in shaping the political debate and in the formation of more programmatically based parties in Palestine, which in turn can act as tools for promoting reform and political development.

The project's overall objectives are thus to develop the internal capacities of parties, to enhance people's participation in the political decision-making process, and to empower of future party leaders.

To achieve this end, PASSIA will run a total of four intensive training programs. From among the participants the most outstanding will be selected to undergo a further program, which will include a field visit to Europe.

[For **related activities** see also previous Party Development seminars under the PASSIA's **Training Young Leaders** project (**Chapter 9**)].

Party Development (I)

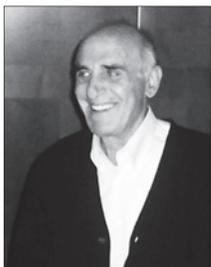
This first of the training programs was organized and implemented in 2007 (three others will follow in 2008). It established a general introduction in the field of parties and party systems and focused on the knowledge of party practices needed to foster the institutional development and capacity-building of political parties in Palestine.

The program of the seminar, which took place from 7-10 December 2007 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Jericho, was as follows:

DAY ONE: Friday, 7 December 2007

9.30-10.00	Welcoming Address / Opening Remarks Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi , <i>Head of PASSIA, Jerusalem</i>	 Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi
10.00-11.30	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Definition of 'party' and 'party system'▪ Formation of parties: what purposes/functions do they serve?▪ Parties vs. other political actors (e.g., movements/interest groups)▪ Role of parties and their differences in democratic and non-democratic systems.▪ The role of political parties in emerging democracies.▪ Party systems and their origins (historical legacies, social cleavages, etc.)▪ Formation and establishment of opposition parties within the party system▪ Party System in Palestine – Historical Overview▪ Why do new parties form? Dr. Samir Awad , <i>Political Science Department, Birzeit University.</i>	
11.30-11.45	Break	
11.45-13.15	Introduction, contd. Dr. Samir Awad	
13.15-14.15	Lunch	
14.15-16:00	Palestinian Electoral and Parliamentary System and the Internal Democracy of Palestinian Parties Baha Al-Bakri , <i>Lecturer of Law, Birzeit University</i>	
16.00-18.00	Break	
18.00-19.30	Party Formation (II): History of Palestinian Political Parties Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi , <i>Chairman of PASSIA</i>	
20.00	Dinner	

DAY TWO: Sunday, 8 December 2007

9.15-10.45	Party Formation (III): Legal & constitutional frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisions and rules governing the creation, registration, operation, financing and dissolution of political parties. Baha Al-Bakri	
10.45-11.00	Break	
11.00-12.30	Case Study: Forming a New Party in Palestine Munib Al-Masri , <i>President of The Palestine Forum (Al-Muntada Falastin)</i>	
12.30-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-16.00	Case Study: Forming a New Party in Palestine, contd. Munib Al-Masri	
16.00-16.45	Break	
16.45-19.45	Leadership Styles (leadership types, various personalities, convincing others, leaving an impression, understanding what makes a leader. Motivating others, leadership in cultural and situational contexts, leadership ethics) Dr. Mahmoud Baidoun , <i>Psychologist and Clinical Supervisor, Ramallah</i>	
20.00	Dinner	

Munib Al-Masri**DAY THREE: Monday, 9 December 2007**

9.15-10.45	Institutional & Organizational Requirements of Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing persuasive (& unique) messages & party platforms Effectively communicating the party's vision Communicating party policy & strategies to accomplish the message Building and nurturing relationships with interest groups Christian Kröning , <i>Executive Director of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) in the State of Schleswig-Holstein</i>	
10.45-11.00	Break	
11.00-12.30	Institutional & Organizational Requirements, contd. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Party leadership Membership recruitment (broadening the party base) Organization of party congress or events Campaigning, especially for elections Communications – internally and with the electorate Christian Kröning	

Christian Kröning

12.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-15.45 Intra-Party Politics

- Issue and policy research
- Development of party policies and strategies
- Dealing with intra-party conflicts
- Recruit candidates

Azzam Ahmad, Head, Fateh Parliamentary Bloc



Azzam Ahmad

15.45-16.15 Break

16.15-17.30 Discussion with local party practitioners with **Qais Abdul Karim** (Badil - Alternative), **Bassam Salhi** (Palestinian People's Party), **Azzam Ahmad** (Fateh), and **Saleh Ra'fat** (FIDA)



Saleh Ra'fat

18.00-19.30 Constitutional Systems & Parliamentary Government

Dr. Gregory Mahler, Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Earlham College, Richmond, US

20.00 Dinner

DAY FOUR: Tuesday, 10 December 2007

9.15-10.45 Exercise: Preparing for a new Political Party in Palestine with **Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi**

10.45-11.00 Break

11.00-12.30 How to Improve the Palestinian Party System - Prospects and Problems
Dr. Ghassan Al-Khatib, Vice-President of Birzeit University

12.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 Party Formation Process in Israel
Dr. Gregory Mahler



Dr. Gregory Mahler

16.00-18.00 Break

18.00-19.30 Wrap up and final discussion – FES - PASSIA

20.00 Dinner

Participants:

Abu Sba', Anis – Ramallah
Director Assigning and Planning, Central Education Commission, Ramallah

Abu Sharkh, Imad – Hebron
Academic Monitor, Al-Quds Open University, Hebron

Awad, Atiya – Hebron
Director, Refugees Documentation Program in the West Bank, UNRWA, Jerusalem

Darwish, Hiba – Ramallah
Program Manager, Palestinian Information Technology Association (PITA), Ramallah

Gayyusi, Maysa – Ramallah
Information Assistant, US Consulate, Jerusalem

Hallaq, Khalil – Ramallah
Rule of Law Enforcement, Central Election Commission, Ramallah

Hamarsheh, Maysa' – Jenin
Legal Advisor, Ministry of Justice, Ramallah

Hamarsheh, Riyad – Ramallah
Director, Legal Department, Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession – MUSAWA, Ramallah

Irgan, Mohammad – Hebron
Lecturer, Al-Quds Open University, Hebron

Melhem, Ashraf – Ramallah
Member of Media Committee, Mobilization & Organization, Fateh, Ramallah

Al-Qarout, Raed – Tulkarem
Coordinator of Public Relations & Lecturer, Al-Quds Open University, Tulkarem

Rabadi, Issa – Jerusalem
Director, Zeina Center, Jerusalem

As-Seekh, Nidal – Hebron
Director, Banat Al-Majd High School, Hebron

Shuaibi, Raeda – Ramallah
Teacher, St. Joseph School, Ramallah

Taha, Abdul Raheem – Ramallah
Researcher and Legal Advisor, Palestinian Legislative Council, Ramallah

