# PASSIA ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - CONTENTS

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2018 was a year that symbolised the continuous collective trauma imposed upon the Palestinian people and their homeland. Further punitive infringements from Israel’s legislature and military, ignorant policy formation from a growingly isolated United States, and a weakening International consensus has the Palestinian people in despair. Dealing with these entrenched issues might seem difficult enough, yet 2018 would hold a painful reminder of just how far the Palestinian question has been marginalised and neglected. 2018 was the 70th anniversary of the Nakba (“The Catastrophe”), the tragic exodus of 700,000 Palestinians during the 1948 War that has fragmented a country, destroyed historic infrastructure and ultimately assigned the Palestinian people to a status of refugee hood. The ostracised status of the 1.4 million Palestinians living in Israel was cemented this year with the controversial “Jewish Nation-State Law” that declared Israel to be the homeland for the Jewish people. 2018 was also the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Oslo Accords, a sharp reminder of how superficial the “right of self-determination” can be, particularly in the backdrop of occupation.

The year began on a treacherous note; the decision on the 6 December 2017 of President Trump to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem (recognising the Holy City as Israel’s capital) had angered the Palestinian Authority, which in response convened a PLO Central Council meeting on 14 January in Ramallah where President Abbas declared the Oslo Accords dead and Trump’s Middle East peace plan a “slap in the face”. This feeling of betrayal was exacerbated just two days later with Trump’s decision to withhold half of the its total allowance of its UNRWA budget ($65 million), followed by a more direct message to Palestinians on 24 January: if you don’t accept Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, your aid will be cut. The hegemonic legitimisation of Israel’s actions started a process of incursion in Jerusalem throughout 2018, most prominently at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Despite a longstanding agreement by Jordan and Israel that prevents non-Muslim religious rituals being practiced, the month of January saw at least 191 settlers and yeshiva students perform prayers in the site, a systemic abuse of power and prior agreement.

In the international arena, President Mahmoud Abbas addressed the UN Security Council on 20 February, proposing an international conference to be held by mid-2018 based on international law and relevant UN resolutions, hoping to achieve a Palestinian state based on 1967 borders. Nevertheless, as is the case throughout this report, unrest wouldn’t be far away. Israel’s attempt to control and contain the Palestinian populous of Jerusalem resulted in a dystopian atmosphere hanging over the city: the instigation of a police watchtower checkpoint outside Damascus Gate (17 February) and CCTV cameras set up throughout the Old City created an environment of further suspicion for inhabitants. Judicial pressure would also manifest. The Jerusalem municipality’s decision to start collecting an arnona tax on multi-pur-
pose buildings (including UN and Church property) led to vehement protests by Palestinians and Christian leaders. The 650 million NIS bill and likelihood of expropriation of Church property culminated on the closure of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for three days, initiated by community led-resistance that compelled Church leaders to oppose Israeli legislative aggression.

**March** began with the Knesset passing the “Breach of Loyalty” bill that allows the Interior Minister to revoke the permanent residency status of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem if their status was granted under false pretences, the resident endangered public security, or betrayed the State of Israel. On **13 February**, the convoy of Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and the head of the General Intelligence Service Majid Faraj was struck by an explosion, seen as an assassination attempt, as they entered Gaza via the Erez checkpoint. The blast lightly injured several PA guards, nonetheless serves as a preliminary sign of a month of violence across the occupied territories. The Great Return March launched in Gaza on **30 March** - the anniversary of Land Day - saw at least 17 Palestinians killed and over 1,400 injured as Israeli forces suppressed protestors with excessive force. It marked the beginning of a bloody 45-day protest across the border fence, which was initiated by Palestinian activists as a grassroots movement that sought to break free from the decade-long blockade of Gaza and fulfil the refugees’ right to return, but which Israel tried to portray as protests organised by Hamas. In the meantime, Israel Transportation Minister approved a plan for the first-ever light rail connecting Israeli settlements in the northern West Bank with Israeli proper by 2025.

More blood would be shed between Palestinian protestors and Israeli forces in continuation of the Great Return March in **April**. Any legitimacy of their protests was continually hampered by the United States’ veto in the UN Security Council, where the Trump administration blocked draft resolutions (1 and **8 April**) that called for the investigation into the killing of Palestinian protestors in Gaza and Israel respecting international law and the right of Palestinian civilians to peacefully protest, respectively. In Jerusalem, in and amongst a growing trend of countries replicating the US’s decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem (Guatemala, Paraguay and Romania), Germany’s president Angela Merkel issued a public statement assuring that her country will not move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, maintaining Germany’s official rejection of a unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The validity of the two-state solution was subsequently upheld by King Salman of Saudi Arabia at the Arab League Summit on **15 April** with a $150 m donation for the maintenance of Islamic heritage and to “support the administration of Jerusalem’s Islamic property”.


May 2018 will be remembered as a historic marker both for the Palestinian people and within the contemporary conflict. The decision to open US Embassy in the Arnona neighbourhood of Jerusalem (cutting across the 1949 Armistice Line) a day prior to Nakba Day was disastrous. Israeli forces killed at least 68 Palestinians, wounding 1,200, as tens of thousands of protesters lined themselves up against the Gaza fence. A day later, the Palestinians would mourn the loss of their family members whilst remembering the anniversary of 70 years since the ‘Nakba’, where many were displaced and dispossessed, remaining refugees until this day (15 May). The international community criticized the disproportionate force used by the Israeli army, most prominently the UN Human Rights Council that called for an international investigation into Israel’s use of force along the Gaza border as well as the state of human rights in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. The resolution was passed 29-2 with 14 abstentions, with UNHRC’s chief Prince Zeid Ibn Ra’ad commenting that Gazans “are, in essence, caged in a toxic slum from birth to death; deprived of dignity; dehumanized by the Israeli authorities to such a point it appears officials do not even consider that these men and women have a right, as well as a reason, to protest”. Ten days after the Nakba commemoration, it seemed normal service resumed, with Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman announcing plans for 2,500 settler homes in the West Bank, approving the destruction of 1,400 homes (24 May). A week later, another 2,070 new settlement units in the West Bank were approved.

In posterity, the Month of June will be remembered by the US actions to silence the international community’s condemnation of Israel. This began on the 1 June with the Trump administration considering changing the status of the US Consulate General in Jerusalem (which handles Palestinian affairs) and consolidate it within the newly built embassy. This ruling has since been implemented and serves as formal recognition by the US that Israel controls the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The second instance of US hegemonic power and the undermining of international organisations occurred on 19 June, when the Trump administration announced that it has withdrawn from the UN Human Rights Council, believing it to have an anti-Israel bias and a tolerance of abusive regimes. One week later, on 26 June, the US suspended funds to the Palestinian Authority under the “Taylor Force Law”, which sought to prevent the Palestinian Authority from paying monthly stipends to the families of killed, wounded and imprisoned Palestinians. The impunity paid to the due diligence of international law served as a hammer-blow to peace efforts. Also in June, Israel’s High Court ruled in favour of razing the Palestinian Bedouin village of Khan Al-Ahmar, located between Jericho and Jerusalem near the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim.
In contrast to June where the Palestinian question was played out on the international stage, the month of July would be characterised by the role of the Knesset in constraining the rights and privileges of the Palestinians. On 16 July, the Knesset approved (43:24) a second and third reading of the “Breaking the Silence” law which outlaws organisations that “oppose Israeli soldiers and the Israeli state education” from entering schools and meeting with parents. One day later, the Knesset passed the first reading of the “Facebook Bill” which demands deleting “inciting” content from social media. If passed, it will give courts authorisation to issue orders to delete internet content of social media platforms such as Facebook/Twitter/YouTube and private blogs classified as harmful to “human safety, public, economic, state or vital infrastructure safety”. Finally, and most controversially, was the Knesset’s approval on 18-19 July of the long-debated Jewish Nation-State Law by 62-55. The law, now one of Israel’s Basic Laws, *inter alia* enshrines Israel as the “national home of the Jewish people” and abolishes the status of Arabic as an official language. In response, President Mahmoud Abbas stressed it “will not change the historical situation of Jerusalem as the capital of the occupied state of Palestine, and will not discourage our people from their legitimate struggle to defeat the occupation and establish their independent state”.

August, vis-a-vis international scrutiny, was a relatively quiet one. At the beginning of the month, exiled Hamas leaders, including Hussam Badran and Khalil Al-Hayya, arrived to Gaza City for high-level discussions in the context of indirect negotiations between Hamas and Israel over Gaza (5 August), after they given guarantees that Israel would not target them while there. On 11 August, tens of thousands of people protest against Israel’s Nation-State Law in Tel Aviv and its provisions, among them defining Israel as “the national home of the Jewish people” with Hebrew as its official language and Jerusalem as its capital. On 23 August, press reports revealed that the Israeli Interior Ministry planned to open just six polling stations in Jerusalem’s Palestinian neighbourhoods for the upcoming municipality elections in October compared to 187 within Jewish neighbourhoods. That same day, the Trump administration continued its isolatory policies by announcing that it would redirect funding meant for USAID programs in the Palestinian territories. In regard to judicial pressure, events on 28 August at the Jerusalem District Court would set a dangerous precedent for any Palestinian legal authority over settlers and pave the way for regulating dozens of other illegal hilltop communities. The Court accepted an ownership claim made by settlers from the illegal Mitzpeh Kramim outpost in the West Bank, based on the “market overt concept” of property ownership, in which transactions conducted in good faith under certain conditions are considered valid – even if they have legal faults, such as in the case of sale of stolen goods, ruling that the outpost can be “legalised, even though part of the land on which it is
built is not owned and Palestinians have claimed ownership”. The month was rounded up on 31 August with the decision that, from 2019, the US will cut its entire aid budget to the UNRWA.

On 10 September, the US announced that it would be shutting down the PLO diplomatic delegation in Washington, claiming that the “PLO has not taken steps to advance the start of direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel”. Palestinians responded with a clear message, including President Abbas, who told the UN General Assembly on 28 September that Palestinians rights are not up for sale or negotiation and refused to be subject of blackmail and threats by the US government. In lieu of this international attention, the State of Palestine instituted proceedings against the US before the International Court of Justice, asking its judges to order Washington to remove the recently relocated US embassy from Jerusalem, concerning alleged violations of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961.

October provided temporarily respite for the Palestinian cause with a number of important consensuses on the international stage that condemned Israeli incursions. On 10 October, UNESCO adopted two resolutions on Palestine. The first confirmed Jerusalem as “the sacred city of the three monotheistic religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam”, the second clarified that “all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel that have been altered to change the character and status of the Holy City are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith”. This was followed up one week later on 17 October by a stark warning by the prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, stating that “extensive destruction of property without military necessity and population transfers in an occupied territory constitute war crimes under the Rome Statute”. Meanwhile in Jerusalem, the Israeli executive continued its impunity towards international organisations. In particular, the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat announced his plans to remove UNRWA from East Jerusalem and take over its schools, claiming that there were no refugees in the city and accusing the agency of “operating illegally and promoting incitement against Israel”. UNRWA dismissed these threats, arguing that they would not change facts, international resolutions and binding bilateral agreements and saying this part of an aggressive campaign launched by the Israeli occupation to further Judaize the city of Jerusalem and erase its Palestinian identity. At the end of the month, on 30 October, Palestinians in Jerusalem proved their resilience. It was the Jerusalem municipal elections. After 51 years of occupation, enforcement of Israeli laws and neglect - despite discussion about whether to continue the election boycott due to the Palestinian “in-limbo” situation (with three small groups of East Jerusalemites initially planning an unprecedented run for the municipal council withstanding a 30 July Fatwa forbidding participating in the election) the vast majority of Palestinians did not take to
the polls, considering it as recognition of the legitimacy of Israel’s occupation. Meanwhile, Palestinians in the West Bank protested against a new social security law (29 October) due to take effect days later, arguing that the PA is not stable enough to be entrusted with workers’ money and some called for the law to be postponed or made optional.

While Gaza remained under fire and arrest raids continued in the West Bank in November, surprising news came from the business world: after continuous pressure from alternative Western media outlets, the home-rental company Airbnb decided on 19 November to remove about 200 listings in Israeli West Bank settlements, considered to be illegal under international law. Other news came from Brazil, with controversial premier Jair Bolsonaro aligning himself with Israel and the US position regarding Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. The month ended with yet another Israeli assault on a West Bank village – this time on Al-Mughayyir near Ramallah – where Palestinians protested against land seizures for Jewish settlements (30 November).

Frankly speaking, the year 2018 ended on the same note that it began: arrests, demolitions, attacks and intrusions. The focal point of the city, the Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif continues a power struggle that exists between: the Waqf guards, secular politicians who use the site as a tactical pawn in their quest for votes and the divine quest of orthodox Jewish figures that call for the construction of the Temple. This has led to a toxic atmosphere in the Old City, and one which could regretfully and unfortunately escalate at any point. General frustration with the overall desperate situation often discharges into attacks, creating a new spiral of violence triggered by Israeli actions. This was observed on 13 and 19 December with deadly Palestinian shootings near West Bank settlements and the Israeli army’s subsequent complete closure of the Ramallah area. On 19 December, the Knesset voted 69:38 on the first reading of a Bill, proposed by the “Jewish Home” party, which would allow expelling families of Palestinians involved in attacks against Israelis. These two occurrences effectively describe the situation the contemporary plight of the Palestinian, driven to resort to desperate violence that plunges the Palestinian community further and further into the occupier’s narrative of “terrorist”. The response by Israel is regularly collective punishment, a total lockdown of Palestinian communities that disables its society, politics and economy. This then culminates in further domestic legislative and judicial pressure that continues to serve to legitimise Israel’s actions, often in defiance of international law. 2018 has been a reminder of what was, what is, and unfortunately, what is to come.
RESEARCH STUDIES PROGRAM

PASSIA has undertaken its Research Studies Program ever since its foundation in 1987. To date, over 200 publications have been published under the auspices of this program, researched and written by PASSIA team members or by specifically contracted researchers, who, over the years, have been as diverse as the subjects covered. Authors of PASSIA publications have included Palestinian, Arab, Israeli and international academics, scholars and experts.

In its efforts to provide background information, in-depth studies, and documentation on issues of concern as well as to promote a better understanding of the Palestinian cause, PASSIA maintains that all research and publishing are done within the context of academic freedom. PASSIA publications aim to be specialized, scientific and objective, yet they often address controversial or neglected issues and allow the expression of a wide range of perspectives.

PASSIA is proud that its publications have become a valuable reference source for academics, diplomats, professionals, libraries and anyone with an interest in Palestinian issues and their relations to regional and international affairs.

As part of the 2018 Research Program, PASSIA published three educational bulletins, reprinted one of its out-of-print books and updated the factsheet section of its website.

Jerusalem and its Changing Boundaries

PASSIA Publication, English and Arabic, 12 pages each, January 2018.

Jerusalem is much more referred to as a symbol and a claim than a precise geographic area. Even many locals – Palestinians and Israelis – do not know the extent of present-day Jerusalem or what part of it is relevant to the negotiations. Is it the 1947 corpus separatum, or West Jerusalem in its pre-1967 borders, or Jerusalem in Israel’s post-1967 unilaterally extended borders? And how and by whom were these different municipal boundaries drafted over time? This bulletin intends to answer those questions by explaining the development of Jerusalem’s geographic boundaries and what Jerusalem is currently being referred to. It also discusses the main approaches to Jerusalem that have been put forward in some of the key proposals since the time of the British Mandate period and describes the geo-political ramifications of the situation on the ground in Jerusalem today.
The Nakba: 70 Years On
PASSIA Publication, English, 16 pages, May 2018

As Palestinians commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Nakba in 2018, this bulletin presents a Palestinian narrative of the history of the events preceding and surrounding the Nakba and the partition of Palestine (1947-49). It shows how Palestine became a pawn in the hands of European countries, Jewish Zionists and Arab leaders, and explains why and how the Nakba – displacement and dispossession – continues to this day with land confiscations, settlement construction, and the denial of basic rights. At the same time, it emphasizes the steadfastness and resistance of the Palestinians to this day – despite all the repressions and attempts at erasing or distorting their history and memory they face – and argues that the 1948 Nakba not only remains the root cause of both the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and of the gross injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people, but will continue to fuel the Palestinian struggle for freedom and self-determination.

Understanding Gaza
PASSIA Publication, English, 16 pages, July 2018

Violations of international law and the commission of war crimes by the state of Israel are frequently mentioned in the context of the ongoing occupation, currently in its 50th year, but often people are not fully aware of what this “international law” actually refers to or where and why it is being “violated”. This bulletin intends to shed some light on these questions by surveying the international law regulations currently violated by Israel, which include UN resolutions and articles from treaties and declarations. It introduces the different sources of international law and explains third states’ responsibility to enforce them. It further elaborates on the authority and legal power of different sources of international law and gives an overview of Israel’s duties following from it, be it as a state party to treaties, as a subject of UN resolutions, or otherwise.

The bulletin includes a comprehensive appendix listing the main Israeli violations of the different sources of international law and what obligations follow from that for Israel as well as the international community.
The Other Side of the Coin – A Native Palestinian Tells His Story


The Other Side of the Coin was originally published in Stockholm in 1962 and is a very personal but unemotional account of the phase in the history of the Palestinian people that preceded and centered around the Naqba. It is based on the author's desire to describe the Arabs' side of the story from his personal perspective, whilst reflecting at the same time the way of thinking of many Palestinians.

Through the book, we follow Dr. Abdul Hadi on his journey from Palestine to Europe - where he spent the war years in Germany - and then back to Jerusalem, from where he was forced to flee to several neighboring Arab countries in 1948 along with hundreds of thousands of other Palestinians as a result of the Naqba.

The publication of this testimony - a unique narrative of the experiences of an upper class Palestinian family before and during this traumatic period in the history of the Palestinian people - coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Naqba. Dr. Abdul Hadi’s book should therefore prove itself a timely and interesting account for anyone with an interest in learning about the Palestinian 'Catastrophe' and what it meant, not only to those Palestinians directly involved but to the new generation of Palestinians who are still trying to come to grips with their loss.
The Question of Jerusalem has been a primary focus of PASSIA’s activities ever since its foundation in 1987, including hosting meetings, academic research, documentation, publication and cooperation with other institutions.

PASSIA projects intend to facilitate the exchange of information, to identify various needs and interests in the city and to encourage the development of possible future scenarios. These goals, in turn, have led to the discussion of a broad range of topics, including infrastructure, demographic and geopolitical issues, settlements and land use, ‘absentee property’, the Old City, religion and religious affiliation with the city, Israeli institutions, and future scenarios for the status of the city.

Over the years, Palestinian, Israeli, and foreign speakers from a variety of backgrounds - including scholars and academics, representatives from the three monotheistic religions, political figures, diplomats and visiting scholars or researchers - have been invited to give presentations, present research findings, and encourage debate on the issues at hand.

During 2018, PASSIA’s ongoing work on Jerusalem included:

(1) roundtable discussions and briefings (see below);
(2) research and documentation on the deteriorating situation in East Jerusalem in general and at Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in particular;
(3) preparation and publication of a poster on the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound;
(4) publication of a Bulletin on Jerusalem and its Changing Boundaries (see Research Studies Program above).

For events or meetings related to religious issues and Al-Aqsa Mosque please see the chapter on the Religious Studies Unit below.

◆ MEETINGS

2 January 2018, American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem
Topic: Jerusalem in the Aftermath of President Trump’s Speech
Participant(s): Arne Lietz, Member, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Germany.

22 January 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: The Situation in Jerusalem
20 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem

**Topic:** How to Defend Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem - Bab Ar-Rahmeh as a Case Study

**Participant(s):** Sheikh Abdel Azim Salhab, Head, High Council of Waqf, Jerusalem; Rev. Patriarch Michel Sabbah, Head, the Islamic-Christian Commission in Support of Jerusalem & Holy Sites, former Latin Patriarch; Prof. Imad Abu Kishek, President, Al-Quds University; Dr. Hani Abdeen, Member, Awqaf Council, Dean of Medical School, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem; Mazen Sinokrot, Member, Awqaf Council, Chairman of AlQuds Holding, Jerusalem; Eng. Fouad Dakkak, Member, Awqaf Council; Eng. Adnan Hussein, Governor of Jerusalem and Minister of Jerusalem Affairs; Hatem Abdel Qader, Fatah member, former Minister of Jerusalem Affairs, former PLC member for Jerusalem; Sami Irsheid, Lawyer, Jerusalem; Usama Halabi, Lawyer, Researcher, Jerusalem; Fouad Hallak, Policy Advisor, PLO Negotiations Affairs Department, Ramallah; Mohammad Hadieh, Legal Counselor; Dr. Safa Nasser Eddin, Vice-President, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem; Ghassan Deik, Dean of Registration, Al-Quds University; Dr. Suleiman Ghosheh, Medical Doctor, Jerusalem; Khalil Assali, Journalist, Akhbar El Balad; Ratebeh Natsheh, Social Youth Activist; Walid Salem, Lecturer; Sheikh Jamil Hamami, Lecturer, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem; Nabeel Hammodeh, Businessman; Naim Maslamani, Professor, Al-Quds University.

6 March 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem

**Topic:** The Future of Jerusalem, Negotiations & the Question of Palestinian Representation in the City

**Participant(s):** Center for Jerusalem Studies, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem: Dr. Munir Nuseibah, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, Director, Al-Quds Human Rights Clinic and Community Action Center, Al-Quds University; MA Students: Khaled Mudaber, Lawyer; Shorouq Issa, Administrative Officer; Wiam Al-Shihabi, Attended Lawyer; Hiba Al-Fattash, Teacher; Oday Sinokrot, Employee.
20 March 2018, Golden Walls Hotel, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Jerusalem and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict  
**Organizer:** Siraj Center for Holy Land Studies, Beit Sahour  
**Participant(s):** Irish Delegation.

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23 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Education on Jerusalem  
**Participant(s):** Delegation from Prime Ministry/Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities: Mehmet Nedim Aslan, Middle East Coordinator; Sevinç Ebru Temel, Expert; Mehmet Zahit Uzun, Head of Section, Deputy Directorate General for the Council of Europe and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey.

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29 May 2018, Legacy Hotel, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** What’s behind Israel’s New Plans of Survey & Registration of Land in East Jerusalem  
**Speakers:** Khalil Tafakji, Director of the Mapping and Geographic Information Systems Department of the Arab Studies Society; Elias Khoury, Lawyer, Jerusalem.  
**Participants:** Mehmet Zahit Uzun, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Turkey, Jerusalem; Takeshi Ota, Deputy Head, Representative Office of Japan, Ramallah; Diego Ciliento, Intern, Consulate General of Italy, Jerusalem; Basia Nino, Development Expert, Representative Office of Poland, Ramallah; Ashraf Suliman, Head, Representative Office of South Africa to the PA, Ramallah; Choi Young-Sam, Korean Representative; Andre Cortez, First Secretary, Representative Office of Brazil, Ramallah; Felix Makarowski, Consulate General of Sweden, Jerusalem; Rémy Bouallegue, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of France, Jerusalem; Christoph Klement, Project Manager, FES; Christina Stahlbock, Representative, DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service); Eveline Muhareb, DAAD; Joris Van Winckel, Political Officer, Office of the European Union Representative (EUREP); Maria Marti, Attaché in EU Delegation to West Bank and Gaza Strip (JPD), EUREP; Samah Jaouny, Program Manager, East Jerusalem Programme, EUREP; Raymond Dolphin, OCHA; Andy Dwonch, Mission Director for Palestine, Mercy Corps; Lasse Jacobsen, Intern; Neele Eilers, Intern, FES, Jerusalem; Wolfgang Schmidt, Propst, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer; José Vericat, Country Representative & Field Office Director, Carter Center; Isobel Scott-Barrett, Programmes Officer, Forward Thinking, UK; Shifa Jayousi, Program Officer, UNESCO; Jumana Jaouni, Head of Mission Advisor, ICRC; Jamal Al-Aref, UNDP; Terry Bullata, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); Saad Halawani, National Programme Manager, SCD; Ayham Nasser, UNDP; Rev. Patriarch Michel Sabbah, Head, Islamic-Christian Commission in Support of Jerusalem & Holy Sites, former Latin Patriarch; Sana’ Hasna, Researcher, Jerusalem File, Palestinian Negotiation Support Project, Negotiations Affairs Department, Ramallah; May Hallaq, Lawyer; Mahmoud Jarallah, Businessman; Imad Abu Diab, General Manager, JDC; Khalil Assali, Journalist, Akhbar El Balad; Mohammad Abu Khdeir, Journal-
ist, Al-Quds Newspaper; Muntaser Edkeidek, Executive Manager, Burj Al-Luqluq Social Center, Jerusalem; Khalil Issa, Advocacy Officer, PalVision; Dr. Amjad Shihab, General Manager, Al-Shihab Al-Maqdisi College; Walid Salem, Director, CDCD; Ratebeh Aladin, FIDA; Maha Samman, Professor, Al-Quds University; Samer Nusseibeh, Engineer, Jerusalem; Dr. Munir Nuseibah, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, Director, Al-Quds Human Rights Clinic and Community Action Center, Al-Quds University; Rawan Dajani, Deputy Director, Deputy Director General, Community Action Center, Al-Quds University; Christine Rinawi, Palestine TV, Jerusalem; Zakaria Al-Qaq, Al-Quds University; Nora Carmi, Kairos Palestine; Fayzeh Zalatimo, Consultant, Red Crescent Society & Member of the Board of Trustees, Dar Al-Tifl Al-Arabi, Jerusalem; Amal Nashedib, Chair of Board, Al-Mirsat; Sylvia Abu Laban, President, Basmet Amal Society; George Zeidan, Co-Founder of Palestine Marathon, Palestine Marathon Organizing Committee, Right to Movement; Hiba Aslan, Palestine TV; Kholoud Al-Khayyat Al-Dajani, Professor, Dean, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem; Feras Abu Diab, Engineer; Dr. Safa Nasser Eddin, Vice-President, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem; Khaled Kaloti, Businessman, Jerusalem; Haifa Siam, Translator; Rania Muhareb, Al-Haq; Mohammed Nuseibeh, Al-Dar Hotel, Jerusalem; Ahmad Jalajel, Al-Quds Newspaper; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA; Hiba Zayed, Intern, PASSIA; Hind Husseini, PASSIA Team.

7 July 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Jerusalem in the History of the Palestinian Cause and in Palestine’s Diplomatic Relations and the Increasing Israeli Settler Presence in the City
Participant(s): University of Cambridge Students: Jay Mens; Frida Winzell; Hani El-Bay; Naman Habtom; Barry Colfer; Ishaan Bhardwaj; Sudipta Purkayastha; Daniela Bosnjak; Micayla Colman; Kate Sligo; Olivia Grace Cowgill; Isuru Devendra; Theo Demotele.

24 September 2018, YWCA, Jerusalem
Topic: Current Israeli Agendas in Occupied East Jerusalem & Their Implications for the Two-State-Solution
Speaker: Ofer Zalzberg, Senior Analyst, Middle East and North Africa Program, International Crisis Group
Participant(s): Amb. Anna-Kaisa Heikkinen, Head, Representative Office of Finland, Ramallah; Douglas Scott Proudfoot, Head, Representative Office of Canada, Ramallah; Aleksandra Bukowska-McCabe, Head, the Representative Office of the Republic of Poland, Ramallah; Rodolfo Sahium Ribeiro, Second Secretary, Representative Office of Brazil, Ramallah; Danielle Haven, Consul General of Belgium; Francesco Paolo Russi, Intern, Italian Consulate; Tom Rutledge, British Consul General; Unni Rambøll, Deputy Head,
8 January 2018, YWCA, Jerusalem

**Topic:** Jerusalem, Palestine, and the “Jewish Nation-State” Law

**Speaker:** Dr. Ahmed Tibi, Member of the Knesset, Head of the Jerusalem Committee in the Arab Joint List

**Participants:** Danielle Haven, Consul General of Belgium; Arnaud Foray, Assistant à la Chancellerie Politique, French Consulate; Matilda Rosenkvists, Intern, Swedish Consulate; Francesco Paolo Russi, Intern, Italian Consulate; Simon Mmutle, First Secretary, Representative Office of South Africa; Sigbjørn Litland, First Secretary, Representative Office of Norway; Patrick Jacobs, Counsellor Political, Representative Office of South Africa; Rodolfo Sahium Ribeiro, Second Secretary, Representative Office of Brazil, Ramallah; Justyna Pabian, Representative Office of the Republic of Poland; Amb. Afif Safieh, Roving PLO Ambassador for Special Missions, UK; Andreas Hermann, Head of the GIZ Civil Society Program; Greg Mahler, Professor of Politics, Earlham College, USA; Andrew Hebert, PIJ; Thomas Dallal, Deputy Director, Diakonia; Anna Reimann, Spiegel Journalist; Eman Kasz, Journalist; Suleiman Abu Dayyeh, Head, Palestine Desk, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF); Christoph Klement, Project Manager, FES; Salima Engel, Intern, FES; Majdoleen Jibril, PCBS; Jamal Al-Natsheh, Dr. Social Affairs; Ibrahim Mattar; Sheikh Jamil Hamami, Lecturer, Al-Quds University, Member of the Islamic Higher Committee; Ahmad Rwaidy, Head, Representative Office, Organization of Islamic Cooperation
to the State of Palestine; Claudette Habash, Caritas; Azzam Dakkak; Mazen Jabari, Director, Youth Development Department (YDD); Samer Nusseibeh, CEO and Vice President, Mohammed Zaki Nuseibeh & Sons Group; Ibrahim Abudalo, Lawyer; Yasin Abu Ghazaleh, Palestinian Family Planning & Protection Association; Walid Salem, Lecturer; Usama Halabi, Lawyer; Maha Samman, Lecturer, Al-Quds University; Salah Zuhikeh, Fateh; Fouad Dakkak, Engineer; Fouad Hallak, Policy Advisor, PLO Negotiations Affairs Department, Ramallah; Sana' Hasna, Researcher, Jerusalem File, Palestinian Negotiation Support Project, Negotiations Affairs Department, Ramallah; Samia Khouri, Retiree; Imad Muna, General Manager, Educational Bookshop; Dr. Safa Nasser Eddin, Vice President for Jerusalem Affairs Al-Quds University; Dr. Khuloud Khayyat Dajani, Al-Quds University; Mohammad Abu Khdeir, Journalist, Al-Quds Newspaper; Mohammad Abed Rabbo, Miftah; Areej Deibes, Translator; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA; Hind Husseini, PASSIA Team; Tasneem Qasem, PASSIA Team; Jeanne Dubroca, Intern, PASSIA; Irena Dahl, Intern, PASSIA.

15 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: The Political History and Current Status of Jerusalem
Participant(s): Members of Norwegian Palestina Komiteen: Trine Sollie, Journalist; Mia Korosmo Sundberg, Student; Nathalie Aune, Legal Secretary; Afran Zaheri, Student; Kjetil Løken, Pensioner; Sophia Løksa, Doctor; Maria Løksa, Medical Vet; Birte Bødtker, Art Director; Kristine Martisen, Palestine Committee of Norway; Wenche Wie, Family Therapist; Ragnar Børsheim, Doctor; Marwa Jubeh, Intern, PASSIA; Liana Hammouri, Intern, PASSIA; Irena Dahl, Intern, PASSIA; Jeanne Dubroca, Intern, PASSIA.

21 November 2018, American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem
Topic: The Political History and Current Status of Jerusalem
Participant(s): Martin Larose, Director for Israel, West Bank & Gaza Relations Division, Global Affairs, Canada; Amb. Deborah Lyons, Embassy of Canada in Israel; Adv. Hiba Husseini, Manager, Husseini & Husseini Attorneys & Counselors-at-Law; Walid Salem, Lecturer; Lior Schillat, Director General, Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research; Yudith Oppenheimer, Executive Director, Ir Amim.

5 December 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: The Question of Palestine: What Lies ahead?
Speaker: Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Chairman of PASSIA
Participant(s): Delegation from the Comenius Leergangen Group, Netherlands: Jan Willem Weck, Moderator; Annelies Jorna, Researcher; Anho van Hoepa, Vice-Chairman; Hans van Dijk, Private Banker; Corni de Voght, Banker; Fenny van Veghen, Prosecutor; Erik Pool, Director; Jolanda Hillebrand, Coach, Pieter-Matthijs Gijsbers, Director.
31 December 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic**: Education in Jerusalem  
**Participant(s)**: Dr. Ishaq Qutob, President, Arab Student Aid International; Mohammad Qutob, Doctor of Chemistry; Prof. Maher Natsheh, Acting President, Al-Najah University, Nablus; Lamis Alami, Former Minister of Education; Dr. Hisham Dajani, Head, Arab Orphan’s Committee.

◆ **BRIEFINGS**

3 January 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic**: Al-Azhar Upcoming International Conference in Support of Jerusalem  
**Participant(s)**: Ahmad Abu Owf, Representative Office of Egypt to the PA, Ramallah

7 January 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic**: Jerusalem and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict  
**Participant(s)**: Hawazi Daipi, Singapore’s Representative to the PNA, Singapore; Wu Jiaju, Country Officer, International Economic Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore; Mitchel Lee, Deputy Director, Technical Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

13 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic**: Jerusalem after Trump’s Declaration  
**Participant(s)**: Ian Anderson, Counsellor and Head of Political Section, Representative Office of Canada to the PA; Christian Bedford, Senior Policy Advisor, Israel, West Bank and Gaza (ELA), Canada; Michael Atallah, Senior Analyst, Middle East and North Africa Division, Canada.

13 March 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic**: The Crisis of Palestinian Leadership and the Question of Jerusalem  
**Participant(s)**: Ahmad Abu Owf, Representative Office of Egypt to the PA, Ramallah.

28 April 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic**: Jerusalem Issues  
**Participant(s)**: Sheikh Azzam Al-Khatib, General Director of the Islamic Waqf, Jerusalem.
15 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Developments in Jerusalem
Participant(s): Hrair Balian, Director of the Conflict Resolution Program, Carter Center; José Vericat, Country Representative & Field Office Director, Carter Center; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

16 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Jerusalem Issues
Participant(s): Oliver McTernan, Director, Forward Thinking, UK.

30 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Civil Society Problems in Jerusalem
Participant(s): Danielle Haven, Belgian Consul General, Jerusalem; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

5 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Jerusalem Municipal Elections 2018
Participant(s): Amb. Francisco Mauro Brasil de Holanda, Head, Representative Office of Brazil to the PA, Ramallah; Rodolfo Sahium Ribeiro, Second Secretary, Representative Office of Brazil to the PA, Ramallah.

25 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Recent Developments in Jerusalem
Participant(s): Ofer Zalzberg, Senior Analyst, Middle East and North Africa Program, International Crisis Group; Meejeong Hong, Professor, Dankook University, Seoul, Korea; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA, Hiba Zayed, Intern, PASSIA.

13 August 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Jerusalem

15 August 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Jerusalem History and Culture
Participant(s): Akihisa Matsuno, Professor, Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP), Osaka University, Japan; Dr. Munir Nuseibah, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, Director, Al-Quds Human Rights Clinic and Community Action Center, Al-Quds University.
29 August 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Jerusalem: Current Threats and Scope of Action  
**Participant(s):** Daniel Seidemann, Israeli Attorney, Expert on Geo-Political Jerusalem, Director, Terrestrial Jerusalem; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

30 August 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Municipal Elections in Jerusalem  
**Participant(s):** Etienne Monin, Foreign Correspondent, Radio France, Jerusalem; Dareen Jubeh, Producer.

6 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Israeli Agendas on Jerusalem  
**Participant:** Ofer Zalzberg, Senior Analyst, Middle East & North Africa Program, International Crisis Group.

12 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Historic/Religious Places in Jerusalem  
**Participant(s):** Ofer Zalzberg, Senior Analyst, Middle East and North Africa Program, International Crisis Group; Yonathan Mizrachi, Executive Director, Emek Shaveh; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

16 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Representativeness of Civil Society Organizations and Inclusion of Marginalized Groups in Jerusalem  
**Participant(s):** GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH: Sarmina Ferhad-Stavginsky, German Consultant; Susan Klinker, Development Advisor, Civil Society Programme; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

8 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Creative Exchange with Professionals in the Cultural Field in Jerusalem  
**Participant(s):** Christine Elise Bernhardt, Founder, Jerusalem International Fellows (JIF) Program; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

8 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** The Question of Elections in Jerusalem  
**Participant(s):** Italian Consulate General, Jerusalem: Luigi Mattiolo, Deputy Consul General; Francesco Paolo Russi, Intern; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.
9 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Jerusalem
Participant(s): Ambassador Afif Safieh, Roving PLO Ambassador for Special Missions, UK.

◆ MEDIA

2 January 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Knesset Bill Preventing Division of Jerusalem Effectively Preempting Future Negotiations
Participant(s): Christine Rinawi, Palestine TV, Jerusalem.

19 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Documentary on Jerusalem
Participant(s): Alaa Abu Ghosh, Collage Productions, Ramallah.

24 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: President Trump's Decision on Moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May
Participant(s): On Live

24 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: President Trump's Decision on Moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May
Participant(s): Palestine TV: Ihab Dmeiri, Correspondent; Ali Yassin, Cameraman.

8 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem
Participant(s): Nawal Assad, BBC.

12 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem
Participant(s): Steffen Jensen, Journalist, TV2 Denmark.

14 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem
Participant(s): Shuroq Al-As‘ad, Dubai TV.

14 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem
Participant(s): Le Monde: Suheir Hashimeh; Allam Kaval.
16 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Jerusalem Issues  
**Participant(s):** Al-Jazeera English.

16 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Jerusalem Issues  
**Participant(s):** Sky News English.

6 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** The Shock of Defeat of the Generation That Witnessed the Fall of Jerusalem  
**Participant(s):** MusawaChannel.

21 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** The Impact of President Trump's Decision on Jerusalem  
**Participant(s):** Mehul Srivastava. Financial Times, UK; Diana Buttu, Private Attorney and Consultant, Haifa/Jerusalem; Nidal Rafa, Journalist, Jerusalem.

18 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Israeli Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat's Plan to End UNRWA Services in Jerusalem  
**Participant(s):** Ahmad Jaradat, Al-Arabi TV.

22 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** The Arrest of PA Jerusalem Governor Adnan Ghaith, the Abduction a Palestinian Resident, and the Sale of an Old City Property to Jews  
**Participant(s):** Ashams Radio.

29 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Jerusalem Municipal Elections 2018  
**Participant(s):** BBC Radio- English: Tom Bateman, Middle East Correspondent; Yousef Shomali, Producer; Rajai Khatib, Fixer.
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Realizing the increasing need for a better understanding of religious issues and the various religious communities, PASSIA establish its Religious Studies Unit in 1998. The Unit promotes inter-religious dialogue and activities, dealing primarily with the causes and consequences of problems within and between the established religious communities as well as the political repercussions of religious conflict.

To do so, PASSIA’s Religious Studies Unit combines the following activities, some of which held ‘off the record’ to allow for the frankest exchange and debates possible:

- Workshops and seminars on a specific topic, involving either members of the three monotheistic religions or only representatives of the Christian or Muslim community, aimed at finding common ground and mutual understanding.

- Participation in conferences, here and abroad, that deal with aspects of religion, belief and interfaith, or foster an open debate on religious issues and aspects as they concern the people in the Holy Land.

- Roundtable and brainstorming sessions, involving members of PASSIA’s Religious Studies Unit and local and foreign counterparts from one or more of the three monotheistic religions, which usually include a guest speaker presenting a certain inter- or intra-religious topic, followed by a discussion.

- Documentation and publication of research studies or proceedings from meetings/seminars.

For meetings related to Jerusalem please see also the Chapter on Jerusalem.

For more details and related materials on activities under the Religious Studies Unit please refer to PASSIA’s website (www.passia.org).

◆ MEETINGS

24 January 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Jerusalem and the Holy Places
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Al-Ghazali’s Work at the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Quds University
Participant(s): Delegation of Dutch and German public and private sector executives from the Comenius Leergangen group.
5 December 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Jerusalem and the Holy Places
**Speaker:** Prof. Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Al-Ghazali’s Work at the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Quds University
**Participant(s):** Delegation from the Comenius Leergangen Group, Netherlands: Jan Willem Weck, Moderator; Annelies Jorna, Researcher; Anho van Hoepa, Vice-Chairman; Hans van Dijk, Private Banker; Corni de Voght, Banker; Fenny van Veghen, Prosecutor; Erik Pool, Director; Jolanda Hillebrand, Coach, Pieter-Matthijs Gijsbers, Director.

◆ **BRIEFINGS**

6 March 2018, Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Al-Aqsa Mosque
**Participant(s):** Sheikh Abdel Azim Salhab, Head, High Council of Waqf, Jerusalem; Sheikh Jamil Hamami, Lecturer, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem.

2 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Al-Aqsa Mosque & Al-Awqaf
**Participant(s):** Sheikh Azzam Al-Khatib, General Director of the Islamic Waqf, Jerusalem.

7 July 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Challenges Facing the Holy Places in Jerusalem
**Participant:** Sheikh Azzam Al-Khatib, General Director of the Islamic Waqf, Jerusalem.

22 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Developments at Al-Aqsa Mosque
**Participant(s):** Sheikh Azzam Al-Khatib, General Director of the Islamic Waqf, Jerusalem.

27 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Al-Aqsa Mosque (Al-Haram Ash-Sharif)
**Participant(s):** Sheikh Azzam Al-Khatib, General Director of the Islamic Waqf, Jerusalem.
MEDIA

8 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Jews Prevented from Entering Al-Aqsa Mosque due to Recent Tension on the Compound
Participant(s): Mohammad Abu Khdeir, Journalist, Al-Quds Newspaper.

30 July 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Recent Events at Al-Aqsa Mosque
Participant(s): Al-Jazeera Arabic.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Jerusalem’s Identity and its Religious and Universal Status
Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Arabic, January 2018

This paper presents a brief reading of the religious and secular scene in Jerusalem in “Ten Stations” and through the review of religious texts and historical documents. It is based on a lecture presented by Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi at the Al-Azhar International Conference in Support of Jerusalem.

PASSIA has also been working on a new monograph of its series on religious figures in the three monotheistic faiths, this time dealing with Ishmael and Isaac. Contributions were made by Dr. Yehezkel Landau, Fr. Rafiq Khoury, Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, and the publication will be released in early 2019.

In addition, PASSIA prepared, designed and published a poster depicting 143 monuments located on the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, including mosques, domes, arched gates, schools, corridors, gates, pulpits, platforms, Al-Buraq Wall, and water sources.

Poster on Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, English and Arabic, 100 x 70 cm, December 2018

Ever since its foundation, PASSIA has striven to promote free expression within Palestinian society and to foster a better understanding of Palestinian affairs, be they in the domestic or international context. In doing so, PASSIA has earned a reputation for providing a unique forum for dialogue and exchange and for serving as a catalyst for civic debate.

Central to these efforts has been the presentation and analysis of a plurality of Palestinian perspectives and approaches through PASSIA’s Dialogue Program. Topics addressed and discussed cover a wide range of subjects broadly and specifically related to the Palestine Question, from historical aspects to the current Middle East Peace Process and internal Palestinian affairs.

The PASSIA Dialogue Program is composed of roundtable meetings and briefings. As part of the former, speakers are invited (and sometimes a discussant as well) to lecture on a certain topic, followed by a discussion with the audience present. These meetings aim to promote thought and debate among Palestinians and between Palestinians and their foreign counterparts. In order to accommodate a larger audience attending those meetings ‘public lectures’, most of them take place in hotel halls (in Jerusalem or Ramallah). Speakers, discussants and participants usually include local and foreign figures from a diversity of backgrounds and schools of thought: scholars, professionals, officials and intellectuals from Palestine, Israel and abroad; members of Palestinian NGOs, political factions and the media, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps.

In comparison, PASSIA briefings are a venue for encounters, dialogue and discussions involving representatives and organizations from various backgrounds. These meetings typically focus on current Palestinian affairs and are designed to build bridges of communication and understanding between Palestinians from different streams of society and to develop constructive and focused academic contact between Palestinians and their counterparts. Briefings also include meetings in which resident diplomats, visiting foreign delegations or student groups from international universities discuss Palestinian affairs and exchange thoughts and opinions concerning the situation in the Palestinian Territories, as well as media briefings with resident and visiting correspondents and journalists. In return, PASSIA receives invitations to meetings with diplomats and visiting foreign dignitaries at other venues helping to consolidate relationships and forge connections between Palestinians and their foreign counterparts.

All meetings were attended by Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA. The summary or full text of some meetings, as well as related materials, can be found on PASSIA’s website (http://www.passia.org). For meetings on Jerusalem or on religious issues please see the corresponding chapters in this report.

**MEETINGS**

23 January 2018, Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem

**Topic:** Welcoming Reception for Mr. José S. Vericat, New Country Representative/ Field Office Director of the Carter Center

**Organizer:** The Carter Center, Ramallah.
24 January 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem

topic: The Question of Palestine, What Lies ahead?

Speaker: Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Chairman of PASSIA

Participant(s): Delegation of Dutch and German public and private sector executives from the Comenius Leergangen group.

25 January 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem

topic: FES-PASSIA Annual Cooperation 2018

Participant(s): Dr. Beyhan Senturk, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES); Christoph Klement, Project Manager, FES; Sofia Sturm, Junior Guest Researcher, FES; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

1 February 2018, Consul General's Residence, Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem

topic: Working Dinner

Organizer: British Consulate General, Jerusalem

Participant(s): Dr. John Jenkins, Corresponding Director of the Middle East Branch of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Bahrain; Philip Hall, HM Consul General, British Consulate General, Jerusalem; Jamie Wheeler, Head of the Political Team, British Consulate General, Jerusalem; Clarisse Pasztory, Head of EU Liaison Office Erbil, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Iraq; Hind Khoury, Secretary-General, Kairos Palestine; Jumana Jaouni, Head of Mission Advisor, ICRC; Richard Zananiri, Peace International.

5 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem

topic: Palestinian Culture and Art

Participant(s): Senator Cristovam Buarque, Former Minister of Education, Governor of the Federal District, and Dean of the University of Brasilia; Amb. Francisco Mauro Brasil de Holanda, Head, Representative Office of Brazil to the PA, Ramallah; Leandro Vieira Silva, First Secretary, Representative Office of Brazil to the PA, Ramallah; Issa Issa Qawasmi, Writer & Photographer; Azzam Abu Saud, Writer; Sani Meo, General Manager & Publisher, This Week in Palestine; Khalil Touma, Poet & Interpreter; Dr. Safa Nasser Eddin, Vice-President, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem; Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, Professor, Al-Quds University.
15 March 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem

**Topic:** Annual Mission of the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Delegation to the oPT

**Participant(s):** Frank Hagemann, Deputy Regional Director for the Arab States, Beirut; Steven Kapsos, Head, Data Production and Analysis Unit, Department of Statistics, ILO, Geneva; Katerine Landuyt, ILO, Geneva; Mounir Kleibo, Representative, ILO Jerusalem; Rasha El-Shurafa, Senior Programme Officer, ILO Jerusalem.

3 April 2018, Legacy Hotel, Jerusalem

**Topic:** Israel Today: The Rise of the Right and its Implications

**Speakers:** Ayman Odeh, Member of the Knesset; Head of the Joint List; Anton Shalhat, Author, Researcher and Director of the Israel Unit at MADAR Center, Ramallah.

**Participant(s):** Amb. Francisco Mauro Brasil de Holanda, Head, Representative Office of Brazil to the PA, Ramallah; Rodolfo Sahium Ribeiro, Second Secretary, Representative Office of Brazil to the PA, Ramallah; Andre Cartez, Representative Office of Brazil to the PA, Ramallah; Patrick Jacobs, Counsellor, Representative Office of South Africa to the PA, Ramallah; Pauline Besson, Press Attachée, French Consulate, Jerusalem; Elina Eloranta, Deputy Head, Representative Office of Finland to the PA, Ramallah; Francesco Brusaporco, Consulate General of Italy, Jerusalem; Artūras Gailiūnas, Head, Representative of Lithuania, Ramallah; Wade Jacobs, Student, South Africa; Dr. Beyhan Senturk, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES); Christoph Klement, Project Manager, FES; Judith Stellmach, Program Manager, FES Israel, Herzliya; Nisreen Al-Aref, Head of Administration and Finance, FES, Jerusalem; Kora Loeble, Intern, FES, Jerusalem; Sana’ Hasna, Researcher, Jerusalem File, Palestinian Negotiation Support Project, Negotiations Affairs Department, Ramallah; Dr. Mohammed Dajani, Professor; Bashir Muhtaseb, Lawyer; Elias Khoury, Lawyer; Mahmoud Abu Eid, Tour Guide; Maher Deeb, Physician; Mahmoud Jarallah, Businessman; Diana Safieh, Safia Tours; Samer Nusseibeh, Engineer, Jerusalem; Jamal Al-Aref, Program Manager, UNDP; Walid Salem, Director, CDCCD; Aref Hussein, Founder of Al-Nayzak; Khaled Kaloti, Businessman, Jerusalem; Ali Dowani, Cameraman, Roya TV; Saman Khoury, PDF, Jerusalem; Terry Bullata, Swiss Development Cooperation; Khalil Assali, Journalist, Akhbar El Balad; Mohammad Abu Khdeir, Journalist, Al-Quds Newspaper; Mazen Sinokrot, Chairman of AlQuds Holding, Jerusalem; Hani abu Diab; Azmi Qaddomi, Kaddomi Co.; Hani Bullata, AFD; Tamer Sawalha; Nora Kort, President, Community Development Consultant; Dr. Amjad Shihab, General Manager, Al-Shihab Al-Maqdisi College; Dr. Suleiman Ghosheh, Medical Doctor, Jerusalem; Raed Saadeh, Jerusalem Tourism Cluster, TAJ; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA; Tasneem Qasem, Volunteer, PASSIA; Hind Hussein, PASSIA.
19 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict  
**Participant(s):** Norwich University Students - Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Field Study: Dr. Travis Morris, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Director of the Peace and War Center, Norwich University; Thomas DeMag, Sophomore, Business Management; Dylan O’Brien, Sophomore, Political Science & English; Morgan Woods, Junior, Psychology & Spanish and Criminal Justice; Amber Reichart, Junior, Spanish, International Studies, and Political Science; Joe Santangelo, Junior, Mechanical Engineering; Christopher Schwenck, Junior, Political Science & History and German; Jake Center; Junior, Civil Engineering; Evan Bowley, Junior, Criminal Justice; Anastasia Ichim, Cadet, Royal Military College of Saint-Jean, Canada, International Relations and English.

23 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** The Palestine Question  
**Participant(s):** Delegation of 23 Members of the 16 Air Assault Brigade, Colchester, UK.

14 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** The Present Political Situation in Palestine and Future Prospects  
**Participant(s):** International Academic Exchange Delegation: Cameron Ballard-Rosa, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Corey Brettschneider, Professor of Political Science at Brown University; Eleanor Brown, Professor of Law at Penn State; Dianne Pfundstein Chamberlain, Associate Research Scholar at the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University; Steve Chan, College Professor of Distinction, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Farrand Residential Academic Program at the University of Colorado, Boulder; Terry Chapman, Senior Editor of International Studies Quarterly and Associate Professor of Government at the University of Texas at Austin; Rachel A. Epstein, Professor of International Relations at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver; Matthew Fuhrmann, Professor of Political Science at Texas A&M University; Jonathan Hillman, Fellow and Director of the Reconnecting Asia Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); Mike Hoffman, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame; Marcus Holmes, Assistant Professor of Government at William and Mary Zeit; Elizabeth Kier, Professor of Political Science at the University of Washington; Charles Kupchan, Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University, and Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, former Special Assistant to
the President for National Security; Roseanne McManus, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Baruch College, CUNY; Jonathan Mercer, Professor of Political Science at the University of Washington; Nuno Monteiro, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of International Security Studies at Yale University; Andrew Moravcsik, Professor of Politics and Director of the European Union Program at Princeton University; Dan Reiter, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Political Science at Emory College; Joshua Rovner, Associate Professor in the School of International Service at American University; Branislav L. Slantchev, Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego; Anne-Marie Slaughter, President and CEO of New America, a think and action tank dedicated to renewing America in the Digital Age, Bert G. Kerstetter ’66 University Professor Emerita of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University; Matias Spektor, Associate Professor in International Relations at FGV in Brazil and a columnist with leading newspaper Folha de S. Paulo; Robert Trager, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles; Alex Zakaras, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Vermont; Emuna Braverman, adult Jewish education and writing for aish.com; Nachum Braverman, Executive Director of Academic Exchange; Jay Levine, President and Chief Executive Officer of OneMain Holdings, Inc., Board Member of a number of philanthropic organizations (e.g., The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and Say Yes to Education); Tammy Levine, active in philanthropy and on numerous charitable boards including Rye Country Day School, UJA of Greenwich, Greenwich Jewish Family Services, and J-Teen.UK.

**18 June 2018, Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem**

**Topic:** Austrian-Palestinian Relations

**Participant(s):** Thomas Nader, Director, Near and Middle East, Maghreb and Mashreq States, Europe Integration Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry, Republic of Austria; Dr. Andrea Nasi, Austrian Representative; José Vericat, Country Representative & Field Office Director, Carter Center; Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Director, Palestinian Center for Policy & Survey Research (PSR), Ramallah; Dr. Jad Isaac, Director, Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ).

**28 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem**

**Topic:** The Strategic Leadership Course of the Austrian Government

**Participant(s):** Dr. Andrea Nasi, Austrian Representative; Strategic Leadership Course of the Austrian Government: Michala Amschl; Walter Auer; Philipp Bodzenta; Karl-Heinz Bohl; Wolfgang Bont; Bernhard Collini-Nocker; Renate Doplinger; Josef Eltantawi; Peter Engert; Johann Essl; Norbert Frischau; Norbert Griesmayr; Gottfried Haber; Michaela Huber; Philipp Ita; Andreas Januskovic; Sandra Kick; Kurt Koleznik; Margaretha Kopeinig; Peter Koren; Franz Kueberl; Brigitte Mang; Julius Marhold; Arthur Maurer; Felix Montecuccoli; Peter Newole; Sigrid Oblak; Thomas Possert; Michaela Reitterer; Thomas Rochowsky; Angelika Schaetz; Ronald Schranz; Gregor Schuetze; Peter Skiczuk; Martin Stift; Albert Stoeger; Sabine Strasser; Thomas Von Der Gathen; Siegfried Voessner; Siegfried Walch; Brigitte Wolf.
1 July 2018, Residence of the Belgian Consul General, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Working Dinner for the Visiting Minister President of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels  
**Participant(s):** Rudy Demotte, Minister President of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, Belgium; Belgian Diplomats; Palestinian Civil Society Members.

2 July 2018, Turkish Consulate General, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Paying Condolences to Turkish Historian Fuat Sezgin; Latest Elections in Turkey; Cancelling Visas for Palestinians  
**Participant(s):** Erman Topcu, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey, Jerusalem; Palestinian Delegation: Sheikh Abdel Azim Salhab, Head, High Council of Waqf, Jerusalem; Dr. Wasfi al-Bakri, Acting Supreme Judge of Jerusalem; Sheikh Jamil Hamami, General Secretary, Islamic Higher Committee.

3 July 2018, Residence of the EU Representative, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Working Dinner on the Occasion of Visitors from the European Commission.  
**Participant(s):** Christian Danielsson, Director General in DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, European Commission, and Michael Miller, Head of Unit, Middle East in DG Neighbourhood South, European Commission; Ralph Tarraf, EU Representative, Jerusalem; Alessandra Viezzer, Head of Cooperation, EU Representative Office, Jerusalem; Dr. Nasser Qudwa, Chairperson, Yasser Arafat Foundation; Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh, Head, PEC DAR, Ramallah; Diana Buttu, Private Attorney and Consultant, Haifa/Jerusalem.

1 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Jewish-Arab Relations vis-à-vis Israel’s National State Law  
**Participant(s):** Shlomo Abulafia, Agronomist; Danny Rubinstein, Journalist; Avishe Margalit, Professor; Uri Katz, Biologist; Peleg Radoy, Retiree; Maya Bar-Hillel, Professor.

29 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** 25 Years Since the Oslo Accords Were Signed  
**Participant(s):** Unni Rambøll, Acting Norwegian Representative to the PA, Ramallah; Delegation from the Verdens Gang-VG: Grethe M Malkmus, Organization Director, HR & Economy; Hanne Skartveit, Political Editor; Christian Haneborg, Commercial Director; Jane Throndsen, Editor Magazines & Consumer Business; Gard Steiro, Chief Editor; Tora Bakke Håndlykken, News Editor; Ola Stenberg, Digital Editor; Jeanne Dubroca, Intern, PASSIA; Irena Dahl, Intern, PASSIA.
BRIE芬GS

11 January 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Education and Culture in Palestine
Participant(s): Dr. Csaba Rada, Head, Hungarian Representative Office to the PA, Ramallah; Tivadar Takcas; Deputy Head, Hungarian Representative Office to the PA, Ramallah.

12 January 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Planning a Conference on Palestinian Youth
Participant(s): Lila Cherrih, Programme Assistant, Middle East Programme, Forward Thinking, UK; Jordan Morgan, Research & Development Officer, Forward Thinking, UK.

20 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: The Munich Security Conference and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict
Participant(s): José Vericat, Country Representative, Field Office Director, The Carter Center, Ramallah.

21 February 2017, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: President Abbas' Speech at the UN Security Council on 20 February 2018
Participant(s): Edward Channer, Projects Officer, Forward Thinking, UK.

5 March 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Civil Society Issues
Participant(s): Steven Ehrenber, Associate Director, Technology and Learning.

19 April 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: PASSIA-FES Cooperation
Participant(s): Nisreen Al-Aref, Head of Administration and Finance, FES, Jerusalem; Malak Ammuri, Team Assistant to the FES Director and the Head of Administration and Finance; Islam Abdul Jabbar, Team Assistant, FES Programs; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

26 April 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: The Upcoming 2018 PNC Meeting
Participant(s): Salim Lone, former UN high-level official, particularly in the field of Information and Communication, and former UN spokesperson in Iraq and other places.
2 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Human Rights Due Diligence Regarding Israel’s Light Rail
**Participant(s):** Michael Barron, Director, Michael Barron Consulting, Middle East Politics and Business Expert; Dr. Kathryn Tomlinson, International Consultant on Human Rights and Business; Cianan Whelan, Volunteer, PASSIA; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

10 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Conflict in the Region and the Palestinian Question
**Participant(s):** Ofer Zalzberg, Senior Analyst, Middle East and North Africa Program, International Crisis Group.

7 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Reviewing the Current Situation in Palestine
**Participant(s):** Edward Channer, Projects Officer, Forward Thinking, UK.

9 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Current Situation on the Ground and Preparation for an Upcoming Visiting Delegation from Austria
**Participant(s):** Dr. Andrea Nasi, Head, Representative Office of Austria to the PA, Ramallah; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA; Hiba Zayed, Intern.

11 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Greek-Palestinian Relations
**Participant(s):** Christos Sofianopoulos, Consul General of Greece, Jerusalem; Deniz Altayli, Program Director.

19 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** PASSIA’s Work
**Participant(s):** Mahmoud Jarallah, Businessman; Assem Alami, Lawyer, Berlin; Damis Alami; Valery Alami; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

20 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Sumud - Palestinian Everyday Resistance Practices and their Effects on Relations of Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territories
**Participant(s):** Carol Daniel Kasbari, Ph.D. Candidate, Provost Fellow, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, USA.

4 July 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Gaza Strip Issues
**Participant(s):** Oliver McTernan, Director, Forward Thinking, UK; Edward Channer, Projects Officer, Forward Thinking, UK; Isobel Scott-Barrett, Programmes Officer, Forward Thinking; Edward Channer, Projects Officer, Forward Thinking; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.
15 August 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Understanding Gaza
Participant(s): Oliver McTernan, Director, Forward Thinking, UK.

28 August 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Understanding Gaza
Participant(s): Representative Office of Brazil to the PA, Ramallah: Amb. Francisco Mauro Brasil de Holanda, Head; Andre Cortez, Deputy Representative; Rodolfo Sahium Ribeiro, Second Secretary.

4 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: EU-Funded Projects in Palestine
Participant(s): Tomas Precht, Political Affairs, Office of the European Union Representative; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

10 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: Research Issues
Participant(s): Gregory Mahler, Professor of Politics, Earlham College, USA; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

12 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: FES-PASSIA Cooperation
Participant(s): Christoph Klement, Project Manager, FES; Saliha Engel, Intern, FES; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

25 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: 25 Years Since the Oslo Accords Were Signed
Participant(s): Thomas Dallal, Award-winning Photojournalist, Haifa.

29 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: The Influence of Arab Foreign Policies, Especially Jordan and Egypt, on Palestinian Domestic Politics since 2011
Participant(s): Sarah Daoud, Ph.D. Student, Political Science/ International Relations, Sciences Po Paris, France.

3 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
Topic: The Jewish Nation-State Law
Participant(s): Dr. Uri Davis, Chairman, Al-Beit - Association for the Defence of Human Rights in Israel.
6 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Palestinian Refugees
**Participant(s):** Francesca P. Albanese, Associate Researcher, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University, Affiliate, Issam Fares Institute for Public Studies for Public Policies and International Affairs, American University of Beirut; Rania Muhareb, Al-Haq.

9 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Struggles Palestinians Face and Where Are the Opportunities for Impact
**Participant(s):** Laura Devere, Social Impact Investor/Philanthropist, Social Capital Foundation; Mohenad Itayim, VP Ventures, USA; Deniz Altayli. Program Director, PASSIA.

17 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** FES-PASSIA Annual Cooperation 2018
**Participant(s):** Dr. Beyhan Senturk, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES); Christoph Klement, Project Manager, FES; Miriam Foerstle, Junior Guest Researcher, FES.

20 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Korean-Palestinian Relations
**Participant:** Young-sam Choi, Head, Representative Office of Korea, Ramallah.

23 October 2018, American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Current Palestinian Impasse
**Organizer:** The Carter Center, Ramallah
**Participant(s):** Amb. (ret.) Mary-Ann Peters, CEO, The Carter Center (TCC), USA; Hrair A. Balian, Director of Conflict Resolution Program, TCC, USA; José Vericat, Country Representative & Field Office Director, TCC, Ramallah; Qais As’ad, Program Manager, TCC, Ramallah; Dr. Yara Hawari, Palestine Policy Fellow, Al-Shabaka, The Palestinian Policy Network.

31 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Palestinian Central Council Meeting & the Palestinian Agenda
**Participant(s):** Representative Office of Brazil to the PA, Ramallah: Amb. Francisco Mauro Brasil de Holanda, Head; Andre Cortez, Deputy Representative; Rodolfo Sahium Ribeiro, Second Secretary.

19 November 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** PASSIA’s Vision and Work
**Participant(s):** FES Interns: Miriam, Carolin, Philip, Lisa-Marlen Gronemeier; Jeanne Dubroca, Intern, PASSIA; Irena Dahl, Intern, PASSIA.

26 November 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Egyptian-Palestinian Relations
**Participant(s):** Amb. Issam Ashor, Egyptian Representative to the PA, Ramallah.
26 November 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** FES-PASSIA Annual Cooperation 2019  
**Participant(s):** FES, Jerusalem: Christoph Klement, Project Manager; Miriam Foerstle, Junior Guest Researcher; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA.

29 November 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** The So-called One State Solution  
**Participant(s):** Itxaso Domínguez de Olazábal, Middle East and Maghreb Coordinator, Observatory of Spanish Foreign Policy (OPEX).

31 December 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Palestinian-Israeli Impasse  
**Participant(s):** Koji Morito, Professor, Shizuoka Sangyo University, Japan.

**MEDIA**

5 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** What Prevents Palestinians from Disengaging from Israel  
**Participant(s):** Wahib Abu Wasel, Monte Carlo Doualiya.

7 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Palestinian Youth: Activism Beyond Factional Politics.  
**Participant(s):** Ashams Radio.

10 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Visit to Ramallah  
**Participant(s):** WION TV

10 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Israel-Iran-Hizbullah: A Possible War?  
**Participant(s):** Shorouq Asad, Correspondents, Jerusalem & West Bank, Dubai TV.

13 February 2018, American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Documentary on the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict  
**Participant(s):** Ahmad Mashaal, Producer, ZDF German TV.

13 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** President Mahmoud Abbas’ Visit to Russia  
**Participant(s):** Dalia Namhari, Journalist, Russia Today; Mohammad Osho, Cameraman, Russia Today.
13 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Israel Building New Checkpoints at Damascus Gate
**Participant(s):** Middle East Eye.

15 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Military Observation Towers at Damascus Gate - Implementation of the Gilad Erdan Plan
**Participant(s):** Sahafa.ps

19 February 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Documentary by the Palestinian Ministry of Information on the Situation of Jerusalemites and their Exposure to Violations
**Participant(s):** Alaa Abu Ghosh, Collage Productions, Ramallah.

28 March 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Palestinian and Israeli Demographic Developments and their Implications for the Future
**Participant(s):** Al-Hadath Al-Arabiya: Rima Mustafa, Correspondent; Tawfiq Salib, Cameraman.

28 March 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Palestinian and Israeli Demographic Developments and their Implications for the Future
**Participant(s):** Nidal Kanaaneh, Sky News.

2 April 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** 70 Years of Palestinian Nakba
**Participant(s):** Roya TV: Aya Khatib, Correspondent; Ali Dowani, Cameraman.

25 April 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Upcoming 2018 PNC Meeting
**Participant(s):** Stephen Farrell, Bureau Chief, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Thomas Reuters, Jerusalem.

30 April 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** 70 Years of Palestinian Nakba
**Participant(s):** Nobuhisa Degawa, Senior Commentator, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation).

30 April 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** 2018 PNC Meeting
**Participant(s):** Ashams Radio.

3 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** 2018 PNC Meeting
**Participant(s):** Radio Ajyal.

3 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** President Abbas’ Remarks at the PNC Sparking Accusations of Anti-Semitism
**Participant(s):** Wahib Abu Wasel, Monte Carlo Doualiya.
14 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** A Day of Victory for Israel - A Day of Rage in Gaza
**Participant(s):** Ilene Prusher, Time.

21 May 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** Palestinian Leadership
**Participant(s):** Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC): Norman Hermant, Journalist; Fouad Abu Ghosh, Producer.

4 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Palestinian Nakba 1948
**Participant(s):** Dalia Nammari, Journalist, Russia Today; Mohammad Osho, Cameraman, Russia Today.

19 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Upcoming Visit of Prince William, Duke of Cambridge
**Participant(s):** CNN.

11 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Upcoming Visit of Prince William
**Participant(s):** Peter Obrone, Chief Political Commentator, the Daily Mail.

20 June 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The British Legacy in Palestine
**Participant(s):** Stephen Farrell, Bureau Chief, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Thomas Reuters, Jerusalem.

19 July 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Knesset’s Approval of the Jewish Nation-State Law
**Participant(s):** Mohammed Jamjoon, Senior Correspondent, English Channel, Al-Jazeera Media Network.

19 July 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** The Knesset’s Approval of the Jewish Nation-State Law
**Participant(s):** TRT Arabia: Ahmad Jaradat, Correspondent; Ghassan Abu Eid, Cameraman.

11 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** 25 Years since the Oslo Accords Were Signed
**Participant(s):** Ahmad Budeiri, Correspondent, Al-Ghad TV.

12 September 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem
**Topic:** 25 Years since the Oslo Accords Were Signed
**Participant(s):** Turkish TV.
1 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Salah Eddin Al-Ayoubi  
**Participant(s):** Anadolu News: Mustafa Deveci, Journalist; Mustafa Al-Kharouf, Photographer; Faiz Abu Rmeileh, Cameraman.

17 October 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** UN General Assembly Resolution Vote Enabling the Palestinians to Act as Chair of the Group of 77  
**Participant(s):** Najwa Ben Mubarak, Monte Carlo Doualiya.

19 November 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Abdel Qader Al-Husseini (1907-1948)  
**Participant(s):** Al-Ghad TV: Iman Jbour, Correspondent; Jihad Muhtaseb, Cameraman.

31 December 2018, PASSIA, Jerusalem  
**Topic:** Summary of 2018  
**Participant(s):** Dalia Nammari, Journalist, Russia Today; Mohammad Osho, Cameraman, Russia Today.
CONFERENCES

17-18 January 2018, Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, Cairo
Topic: Al-Azhar International Conference in Support of Jerusalem
Organizer: Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, Cairo
Participants: Representatives from over 80 Countries

27 February 2016, Headquarters of the Arab League, Cairo, Egypt
Topic: 11th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Yasser Arafat Foundation
Organizer: Yasser Arafat Foundation (YAF)

24 March 2018, Al-Quds University, Abu Dis
Topic: International Congress on Social Studies: Jerusalem between Religious and Secular
Organizer: Al-Quds University; Gazi University, Turkey; Turkish Studies Journal
Participant(s): More than 500 scientists and academic personalities from 50 countries
29 April 2018, Carmel Hotel, Ramallah
**Topic:** East Jerusalem - The Capital of the State of Palestine (Presentation by Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi as part of the 3-day International Seminar on Palestine and the Peace Process on the Occasion of the 23rd Session of the Palestine National Council (PNC))
**Organizer:** Al-Quds University; Gazi University, Turkey; Turkish Studies Journal

11 May 2018, Palestine Red Crescent, Ramallah
**Topic:** Jerusalem: The Dangers of the Demographic Conflict & President Donald Trump’s Plans Presentation by Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi at the 7th Annual Masarat Conference on “Towards a Plan of National Advancement to Confront the Dangers Facing the Palestinian Cause”
**Organizer:** The Palestinian Center for Policy Research & Strategic Studies - Masarat

14 July 2018, Centre for Development Studies Hall, Birzeit University
**Topic:** 7th Annual Palestinian Diaspora Conference - Panel: “Countering Negative Practices in Jerusalem and the American Stand on Jerusalem: Local, Regional, and International Responses”
**Organizer:** Know Thy Heritage
PASSIA’s wall calendars depict paintings and drawings by various Palestinian artists, helping to promote them and their works as well as to introduce the world of Palestinian art to a wider audience. Now in its fifth year, the wall calendar for the year 2019 depicted beautiful artworks by Palestinian women artists and included short biographical information about the respective artist.

Wall Calendar 2019 – Beautiful Artworks by Palestinian Women Artists.
PASSIA Publication, English, December 2018
PASSIA DESK DIARY

Introduction

At the end of 2018, PASSIA published the 31st edition of its annual Desk Diary! As in previous years, the goal was to provide a comprehensive “tool” for all those who work in or on Palestine or are interested in the Palestine Question in which way ever. As every year, the current edition was updated, amended and revised according to new information that had become available throughout the year. On over 500 pages, the PASSIA Desk Diary contains a directory of contact information for relevant organizations operating in the West Bank and Gaza (listing names, addresses, main activities), as well as a full day-to-day planner (calendar) for the year, and a comprehensive compilation of facts and figures related to Palestine and the Palestinians. PASSIA is very proud to say that its diary has become an invaluable source of information for many people, both locally and abroad, and as yet there is no equivalent publication in Palestine.

Contents

The PASSIA Diary is divided into three sections - the Directory, the Calendar, and the Agenda:

Directory

The Directory contains details of Palestinian and international institutions operating in the Palestinian Territories as well as selected Arab and Israeli organizations located in Israel: names of contact persons, phone and fax numbers, e-mail and mailing addresses, websites, and a few keywords describing an organization’s main field of work. At the end of the directory there is an alphabetical index to facilitate searches for certain entries. In the 2015 edition, Directory entries included the following:

- **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)**
  - PLO Executive Committee & PLO Departments
  - Palestinian National Council
  - PLO Delegations Abroad
  - Representation in International Bodies
- **Palestinian Authority (PA)**
  - President’s Office
  - Ministries
  - Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)
  - PA Attorney General- General Prosecution
  - PA Higher Judicial Council
  - Supreme Judge Department
  - The Upper Council of Sharia Jurisdiction
  - PA Institutions
  - PA Councils & Commissions
  - Police and Security
  - Local Government Administration
  - Governorates
  - Municipalities & Village Councils
- **Political Parties and Factions**
- **Academic and Research Centers**
- **Agriculture**
- **Associations & Unions**

- **Chambers of Commerce**
- **Charitable Organizations**
- **Culture**
  - Art & Galleries
  - Cultural & Folklore Centers
  - Film & Cinema
  - Literature
  - Jewelry and Crafts
  - Museums
  - Music & Dance
  - Theater
- **Democracy, Peace & Community Development Centers**
- **Diplomatic Missions**
  - Consulates
  - Representative Offices to the PA
  - Embassies
- **Education**
  - Universities
  - Colleges
  - Training & Vocational Centers
  - Schools
  - Early Childhood Education
Educational Institutes
Libraries

Environment & Water

Financial & Development Institutions
Banks
Investment, Financial Consulting & Credit Companies
Money Changers

Governmental Aid Missions

Health

Human Rights & Law
Human Rights Centers
Law Offices
Lawyers

International & UN Organizations

Israel & Activist Groups

Media & Press
Palestinian
Internet Press
Newspapers & Media Services
Radio & TV Stations
Arab TV
International
Israeli

NGOs Coordinating Groups
Canadian NGOs
European NGOs
US NGOs
Others & International NGOs

Palestinian Organizations in Israel
Religious Forums & Centers

Islamic
Christian Churches & Centers

Restaurants

Services
Accountants
Advertisement, Print & Design
Bookshops & Stationary
Business & ICT Incubators
Car Rentals
Computers, Software & Information Technology
Courier & Express Services
E-mail & Internet
Insurances
Management & Development Consulting
Photo Studios & Video
Planning & Engineering
Real Estates
Telecommunication & Office Equipment
Translation & Editing
Other Services

Sports Clubs & Fitness Centers

Trade - Import/Export

Travel & Tourism
Airlines
Hotels & Resorts
Hospices & Guesthouses
Recreational & Touristic Sites
Travel Agencies, Tourism Companies & Tour Operators

Taxis & Transport

Women’s Organizations

Youth Organizations

Calendar

The second section of the Diary includes all the standard features of a calendar, such as a day by-day planner, calendars for the previous and following years, address and note space, and anniversaries and national holidays of foreign countries. In each calendar page, the 2018 edition includes informative textboxes on important anniversaries in the history of Palestine.
The Agenda

The Diary’s third and final section is the Agenda, which a yearbook-style compendium of information. It contains a wealth of facts and statistics about Palestine and the Palestinians, supported by tables, illustrative graphs, and suggestions for further research (reading material and website references). The Agenda is divided into the 14 main and several sub-chapters, dealing with the following aspects of Palestinian society and the Palestine Question:

1. Dictionary of Palestinian Terms
2. Israeli Occupation
3. Geography
4. Population
5. Refugees
6. Land and Settlements
7. Water and Environment
8. Economy
   8.1 Background & Overview
   8.2 Agriculture
   8.3 Industry & Private Sector
   8.4 Labor Market & Employment
   8.5 Tourism
   8.6 Trade
   8.7 Finances
9. Education
10. Health
11. Infrastructure
   11.1 Housing & Construction
   11.2 Electricity & Energy
   11.3 Transportation & Roads
   11.4 Communication
12. Society & Living Conditions
   12.1 General Social Features
   12.2 Household & Living Conditions
13. Government
   13.1 Administration
   13.2 Elections
   13.3 Rule of Law
   13.4 Negotiations
   13.5 Police & Security
   13.6 State of Palestine
14. Jerusalem
   14.1 Historical Facts & Figures
   14.2 Legal Status
   14.3 Jerusalem in Negotiations
   14.4 Population
   14.5 Residency Rights
   14.6 Housing & House Demolitions
   14.7 Land & Settlement
   14.8 The Old City
   14.9 Education
   14.10 Israeli Municipal Policies

Graphs & Figures
- Milestones in Palestinian History
- Chronology of Main Events 2014
- PLO Central Council (members)
- Fateh – Central and Revolutionary Council (members)

PASSIA publications 1987-2016

Maps
- (A section of historical and thematic maps on Palestine).
APPENDICES

Board of Trustees

Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi - Chairman
Political scientist; historian; columnist; author; (co-)founder and member of various Palestinian, Arab
and International institutions; founder and head of PASSIA

Dr. Kamal Abdul Fattah - Vice-Chairman
Professor of Geography, Birzeit University; author of various publications on the geography of
Palestine

Dr. Adnan Musallam - Secretary
Associate Professor of History, Bethlehem University; founder and vice president of Al-Liqa’ Center
for Religious and Heritage Studies in the Holy Land, Bethlehem

Dr. Sari Nusseibeh
Professor of Philosophy; political analyst; author; President of Al-Quds University, Jerusalem

Dr. Bernard Sabella
Professor of Sociology, Bethlehem University; demographer; columnist and author of various
studies; Executive Secretary, Middle East Council of Churches, Jerusalem

Diana Safieh - Treasurer
Founder/General Manageress of a private Palestinian travel company, Jerusalem; member of various
Palestinian women organizations, Jerusalem.

Dr. Said Zeedani
Professor of Philosophy; former Director of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen
Rights (PICCR), former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Birzeit University.

PASSIA Administration

PASSIA employs its staff on a contractual basis, full or part time. The 2018 PASSIA team, headed by
Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, handled the execution of all projects, with other researchers or part-timers
commissioned for specific tasks related to these projects. This included also a number of volunteers
and interns, whose contribution is/was highly appreciated by PASSIA.

Deniz Altayli, Program Director
MA Sociology (with Economics & Political Science), Heidelberg University, Germany

Imad Farrah, IT Specialist; Network Administrator, Webmaster & Graphic Designer
BA Information Technology, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem

Hind Al-Husseini, Administration
BA English Language and Translation, Applied Science University, Jordan

Yousef Salman, Accountant
MBA, BS Accounting; St. John Fisher College 1994.

Wa’el Sa’adi, Auditor (C.P.A)
BA Accounting & Economics; MBA Business Administration; Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Mazen Qubti, Legal Advisor
Attorney, Jerusalem
Volunteers and Interns 2018:

Ruba Al-Imam (Palestine); Aya Qassas (Palestine); Yasmine Bakri (Palestine); Leen Joulani (Palestine); Irina Dahl (Norway); Hiba Zayed (Palestine); Jeanne Dubroca (France); Rozana Jaber (Palestine); Liana Hammouri (Palestine); Marwa Jube (Palestine); Ruth del Pino Bleijerveld (Spain); Joshua House (UK).

Financial Support

Below is a list of sources of financial support PASSIA received for projects undertaken during 2018. PASSIA would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation for the trust, cooperation and support of our donors, without which we could not do our work.

Research Studies Program

a) Bulletins on Jerusalem & Its Changing Boundaries in English and translated into Arabic
   Supported by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Jerusalem
b) Bulletin on The Nakba: 70 Years On

c) Bulletin on Understanding Gaza
   Supported by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Jerusalem

Dialogue Program

Partially supported by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Jerusalem.

Religious Studies Unit

Meetings supported by sale of PASSIA publications.

Poster on Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound
Supported by Hashemite Fund for the Restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock/Department of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Amman.

PASSIA Desk Diary

Supported by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Jerusalem

Networking

PASSIA is a member of the following networks and associations:

PALESTINIAN NGO NETWORK (PNGO)

The PNGO Network, established in 1995, strives to promote coordination and cooperation among Palestinian NGOs and to advocate their right to exist and function without restrictions. It is active in advancing democratic values and in strengthening the role of the civil society in Palestine. (See also http://www.pngo.net/).
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN STUDY COMMISSION (EUROMESCO)

EuroMeSCo was established in 1994 (PASSIA was a founding member) in order to provide Mediterranean countries with a forum for debating international policy and security issues from a regional point of view. In principle, network members deal with international relations and security, carry out policy-oriented research, enjoy a domestically and internationally recognized reputation, and are NGOs. In 1996, EuroMeSCo’s scope was expanded to include institutes from non-Mediterranean countries.

EuroMeSCo strives to promote dialogue and the exchange of information between its members; to support their institution-building and research capacities, and to foster cooperation between the civil societies in the member countries. (For further details see: http://www.euromesco.net).

List of Available Publications

Ever since its foundation, PASSIA has been extensively engaged in publishing and documenting. Currently, the following studies, monographs, research world and reports are available (for more information and/or to order, please visit our website at www.passia.org or email us at passia@passia.org):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>E/A</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The Conservation of Jerusalem</td>
<td>Khaled A. Khatib, Jerusalem</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>June 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Dutch Development Policy Towards the Middle East</td>
<td>Tom de Quaasteniet, MERA, Amsterdam</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>May 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Peace Enemies - The Past and Present Conflict between Israel and Palestine</td>
<td>Ludwig Watzal, Bonn (translated from German by Deniz Altayli)</td>
<td></td>
<td>E June 1999</td>
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