

## Workshops on Strategy and Security

### Background / Introduction

A key factor in the numerous calls for a comprehensive reform of Palestinian institutions, that have been made from both inside and outside the Occupied Territories, especially since the outbreak of the second *Intifada* in 2000, is the reform of the Palestinian security sector, in particular its police forces and intelligence services and their political oversight and control mechanisms. The Palestinian Territories thereby constitute a unique backdrop for efforts of security as one does not deal with a sovereign state, but a transitional regime with contested legitimacy and a disputed territorial basis.

The government, however, cannot handle all tasks alone; it needs the full cooperation and devotion of its citizens. The security sector in Palestine suffers from many problems such as corruption, chaos, absence of a clear vision and a no sense of direction. In addition, most citizens have lost their confidence and trust in the security forces and fear a further deterioration of the lawlessness.

Another challenge that lies ahead for the Palestinians, not least in the face of the recent developments, and here first and foremost the sweeping victory of the Hamas movement in the PLC elections, is more of a strategic dimension and relates to the interaction between Palestinians and other regional and international players.

To tackle those topical questions, PASSIA organized three one-day workshops to analyze and debate issues of relevance to Palestinian security and strategy and to find answer to questions such as: What are the scope and elements of a national security policy and how should it be governed? What is the nature of civil-security relations in Palestine? And: What are the current strategic realities and imperatives of Palestine with regard to other international players?

### Workshops held:

#### **WORKSHOP 1: PALESTINIAN SECURITY GOVERNANCE**

27 May 2006, PASSIA, Ramallah

**Participants:** Dr. Feras Melhem, Lecturer in Law, Birzeit University; Fadwa Shaer, Ministry of Interior, Ramallah; Asem Khalil, Acting Director of Research, Institute of Law, Birzeit University; Ahmed Soboh, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Rab'e Hantuli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mirvat Hasan, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Muzna Shihabi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Ali Jirbawi Professor of Political Science, Birzeit University; Dr. Faisal Awartani, Professor of Statistics, Birzeit University/ CEO, Alpha International for Polling, Research and Informatics; Majed Arouri, The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights; Ghazaleh Arar, Member of GUPT (General Union of Palestinian Teachers); Dr. Khalil Nakleh, Team Leader, Mu'assasat (Civil Societies Institutions); Raji Al-Najami, Brigadier-General, Palestinian Security Forces; Dr. Mohammad Altherf, Lawyer; Roland Friedrich, Advisor, MENA Program, DCAF, Geneva; Jamil Rabah, Near East Consulting, Ramallah; Mohammad Hussein Abdullah, Lawyer; Amr Khalefa, Massar Company; Dr. Mansur Gharabeh, Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees; Kammal Al-Sheikh, Ministry of Interior; Ismail Abu-Jabber, retired Major General, Ramallah; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA, Jerusalem; Sophie Shiber, PASSIA.

## PROGRAM

- 9.30-10.00      **OPENING ADDRESS**  
Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, *Chairman of PASSIA*
- 10.00-10.30      **SESSION I**  
**The Security White Paper**  
Raji Najami, *Assistant to the Minister of Interior, Ramallah*
- 10.30-11.00      Open Discussion
- 11.00-11.15      Coffee Break
- 11.15-11.45      **SESSION II**  
**Palestinian Security – Public Perceptions**  
Jamil Rabah, *Pollster, Analyst and Co-Director of Near East Consulting, Ramallah*
- 11.45-12.15      Open Discussion
- 12.30-13.30      Lunch
- 13.30-14.00      **SESSION III**  
**Palestinian Security – Civilian Aspects**  
Dr. Ali Jirbawi, *Professor of Political Science, Birzeit University*
- 14.00-15.00      Open and Final Discussion



## WORKSHOP 2: SOCIETY-SECURITY RELATIONS

20 September 2006, PASSIA, Ramallah

**Participants:** Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Chairman of PASSIA; Knut Dethlefsen, Director of FES, Jerusalem; Dr. Asem Khalil, Acting Director of Research, Institute of Law, Birzeit University; Dr. Azmi Shuai'bi, General Coordinator for Transparency Palestine; Ahmad Issa, Intelligence & International Affairs Department, Ministry of Interior, Gaza; Colonel Ziad Hab Ar-Rih, Head of Preventive Security, West Bank & Gaza; Bernt Berger, Research Associate, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, Hamburg University; Roland Friedrich, Fellow DCAF; Katja Franke; FES; Royce Kuzwayo, Deputy Representative, South African Representative Office, Ramallah; Oham Brakash, Indian Representative, Ramallah; Ghazaleh Arar, Member, GUPT; Fadwa Shaer, Ministry of Interior; et al.

**PROGRAM**

- 10:00-10:30 **OPENING ADDRESS**  
Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, *Chairman of PASSIA*  
Mr. Knut Dethlefsen, *Director of FES, Jerusalem*
- 10:30-10:45 **SESSION I**  
**Society-Security Relations – Legal Aspects**  
Dr. Asem Khalil, *Lecturer, Birzeit Law Institute*
- 10:45-11:30 **SESSION II**  
**Society-Security Relations – Citizens’ Perspectives**  
Dr. Azmi Shuai’bi, *General Coordinator for Transparency Palestine*
- 11:30-12:00 Open Discussion
- 12:00-12:30 **Society-Security Relations – Security Perspectives**  
Colonel Ziad Hab Ar-Rih, *Head of Preventive Security, West Bank & Gaza*  
Mr. Ahmad Issa, *Intelligence & International Affairs Department, Ministry of Interior, Gaza*
- 12:30-13:00 Open Discussion
- 13:00-13:30 **SESSION III**  
**Society-Security Relations - Learning from the Lessons and Best Practices of Others**  
Bernt Berger, *Research Associate, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, Hamburg University*
- 13:30-14:15 Open and Final Discussion
- 14:15-15:00 Lunch (at the Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah)



## **WORKSHOP 3: PALESTINIAN FOREIGN RELATIONS – STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES**

12 November 2006, PASSIA, Ramallah

**Participants:** Knut Dethlefsen, Resident Representative of Friedrich-Ebert Foundation (FES, Jerusalem); Sabri Saidam, Academic; Jörg Ranau, Representative of Germany, Ramallah; Nasser Al-Kidwa, Former Foreign Minister; Jamil Rabah, Near East Consulting; Ghassan Khatib, Director, Jerusalem Media & Communication Center (JMCC); Dr. Mohammed Al Tharf; Katja Franke, FES; Usama Antar, FES; Roland Friedrich, Fellow DCAF; Rima Tarazi, GUPW; Asem Khalil, Head of Research, Institute of Law, Birzeit University; Fadwa Al-Sha'er, Ministry of Interior; Rahmeh Mansour, Bisan Center Community Development; Dr. Faisal Awartani, CEO, Alpha International for Polling, Research and Informatics; Ghazaleh Arar, GUPT; Samir Huleileh, Former General Secretary for the PA Government; Samira Fahham, FES.



### **PROGRAM**

10:00-10:30

#### **OPENING ADDRESSES**

Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, *Chairman of PASSIA*  
Mr. Knut Dethlefsen, *Director of FES, Jerusalem*

10:30-11.15

#### **SESSION I**

##### **Scenarios for German and European Policies in the Middle East**

Dr. Andrä Gärber, *Head of the Department of Middle East and North Africa, FES, Berlin*

Open Discussion

11.15-12:00

#### **SESSION II**

##### **Palestine and the World - Strategic Review of Palestinian Foreign Policy Principles and Parameters**

Dr. Nasser Al-Qudwa, *Fateh Central Council member, former PA Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Open Discussion

12.15-13:30

#### **SESSION III**

##### **Palestine's Strategic Relations: Mistakes of the Past and Priorities for the Future**

Ghassan Al-Khatib, *Co-editor of bitterlemons.org, Political Analyst and former PA Minister of Planning*

Open and Final Discussion

13:45

Lunch (at the Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah)