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# Training & Education in International Affairs

## Introduction

Initiated in 1992, PASSIA's *Education and Training in International Affairs* program has served as a pioneer in the field of educational seminars for Palestinian graduates and professionals. The seminars are conducted by Palestinian and foreign experts of the highest level and aim at enabling the participants to deepen their knowledge and expertise in specific areas of international affairs. Subjects dealt with thus far include *Strategic Studies and Security, The European Union, Diplomacy and Protocol, The Foreign Policies of Arab States, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution in the Middle East, The US and Canada – Political Systems, Policy-Making and the Middle East, Japan, Palestine and the Middle East, and Israel – State Society and Politics.*

The PASSIA seminar on ***Ireland and Palestine – Divided Countries United by History*** aimed at providing Palestinian participants with the following:

1. an introduction to the history, society, and political system of the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland;
2. an increased ability to analyze the concepts, processes and terminology of conflict resolution as they apply to the cases of Ireland and Palestine;
3. the ability to understand and analyze Ireland 's negotiation process as well as its international relations and foreign policy positions, especially toward the Middle East region, the peace process, and the Palestinians.

## The Seminar

In mid-2004, PASSIA began to discuss with Irish scholars and colleagues the outline and implementation of the seminar. In August and September 2004, the seminar was advertised in the local press, *Al-Quds* and *Al-Ayyam*; notification was also given to certain local organizations, including institutions of the Palestinian Authority. No fees for undertaking the course were required by the participants.

PASSIA received applications from all over the Palestinian Territories and short-listed applicants were invited for interviews, as a result of which 18 candidates were selected to participate in the seminar, as well as four reserves. PASSIA, meanwhile, selected material to be included in the preparatory reading packages, drafted the lecture program and began to arrange the necessary logistics.

The participants received the preparatory reading package with assorted articles in order to familiarize themselves with the seminar contents. The reading period included the preparation of a background paper; each participant was assigned to write about if and how Palestine and the Palestinians can learn from other countries (such as Ireland) which have tried to overcome conflict. Discussion of these papers formed part of the seminar.

The actual seminar took place from 10 to 14 October 2004 at PASSIA's premises in Ramallah, with a series of lectures and discussions conducted by mainly Irish scholars and political activists. Travel, accommodation, food and all other expenses involved with participation in the course were provided for the participants.

Those participants, who completed all assignments as required and attended the entire seminar, received a certificate from PASSIA recognizing their successful completion of the seminar program.

### The Lecture Program



#### Day One: Sunday, 10 October 2004

9.30-10.00	Welcoming Address / Opening Remarks <b>Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi</b> , <i>Head of PASSIA, Jerusalem</i>	
10.00-10.30	Welcoming Address / Introduction <b>Niall Holohan</b> , <i>Head of the Irish Representative Office to the PA, Ramallah</i>	
10.30-11.15	Break	<i>Mahdi Abdul Hadi</i>
11.15-12.30	Economy & Society (The Development of a Modern Society & Economy, Land Reforms, Industrialisation & Commercial Development) <b>Dr. John Logan</b> , <i>Department of History, University of Limerick</i>	
12.30-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-15:00	Economy and Society, contd. <b>Dr John Logan</b>	
15.00-15.15	Break	
15:15-16.30	Participants' Assignments	



### Day Two: Monday, 11 October 2004

- 9.15-10.30 Ethnic Conflict and the Two-State Solution: The Irish Experience of Partition  
**Prof. John Coakley**, *Department of Politics, National University of Ireland, Dublin*
- 10.30-10.45 Break
- 10.45-12.00 Ireland - North and South - the UN and Other Global Bodies  
**Prof. John Coakley**
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-16.00 **Film: Michael Collins**



John Coakley



### Day Three: Tuesday, 12 October 2004

- 9.15-10.30 Politics and Society in Modern Ireland: Media, Civic Society and Violence  
**Prof. J.J. Lee**, *Professor of Irish Studies, New York University*
- 10.30-10.45 Break
- 10.45-12.00 Ireland Today - Political and Civic Culture in Contemporary Ireland  
**Prof. J.J. Lee**, *Professor of Irish Studies, New York University*
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-14.30 Ireland Today – contd.  
**Prof. J.J. Lee**
- 14.30-14.45 Break
- 14.45-16.00 Conflict Resolution: Theories and Approaches  
**Dr. Samir Awad**, *Professor of International Relations, Birzeit University*



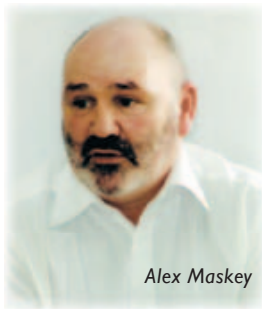
J.J. Lee



**Day Four: Wednesday, 13 October 2004**

9.15-10.30 Session I: Violence Conflict Resolution and Media & Civil Society

**Alex Maskey**, *Sinn Fein member of Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly; member of Sinn Fein negotiating team; first Sinn Fein, Lord Mayor of Belfast*



Alex Maskey

10.30-10.45 Break

10.45-12.00 Session II: Partition experience, India, Ireland and Palestine

**Prof. Tom Frazer**, *Provost, University of Ulster*



Tom Frazer

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-16.00 Session III: European Funding Support for North Ireland and Border Countries

**Jack O'Connor**, *Public Servant working on North-South cross-border EU development project*



Jack O'Connor

14.30-14.45 Break

14.45-16.00 **Community Relations**

**Helen Lewis**, *Project Coordinator /INCORE, University of Ulster Community Development and Peace Building*

**Liam Maskey**, *Director, Intercom, (Community Reconciliation and Development Project)*



Liam Maskey



Helen Lewis



**Day FIVE: Thursday, 14 October 2004**

9.15-10.30

The Peace Process 1990s to 2004  
**Niall Holohan**, *Head of the Irish Representative Office to the PA, Ramallah*

*Niall Holohan*



10.30-10.45

Break

10.45-12.00

Ireland and Palestine  
**Niall Holohan**

12.00-13.00

Lunch

13.00-14.30

Similarities and differences of the conflicts/peace process in Northern Ireland and Palestine-Israel - Discussion

14.30-14.45

Break

14.45-15.30

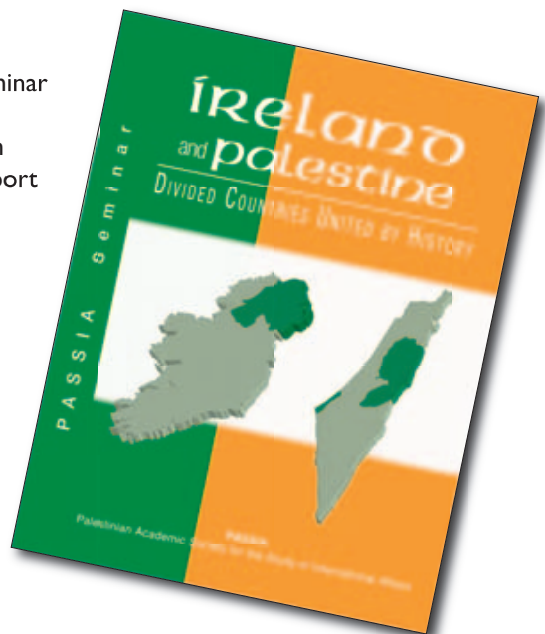
Final Discussion and Wrap-up





## Publication

Selected presentations made at the seminar have been edited and will be published together with additional information on Ireland / North Ireland in a seminar report (forthcoming).



## The Participants

**ABU KARSH, ODAY** - Ramallah

External Relations Department, Ministry of Labor, Ramallah

**AMRO, NISRINE** - Hebron

Ministry of Education, Hebron

**AKER, ABDUL AFU** - Nablus

Administrative Assistance, Portfolio of National and International Relations at the PLO, Nablus

**AWEIDAH, RAWAN** - Ramallah

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**DAJANI, AMAL** - Bethlehem

BA, Business Administration, Bethlehem University

**FAQIH, OMAR** - Ramallah

Director, North America Dept., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ramallah

**HARB, SHURUQ** - Ramallah

Research & Preparation of Contents for the Across Borders English website, Continuing Education, Birzeit University, Ramallah

**IRIQAT, DALAL** - Jericho

MA, Diplomatic Studies, Westminster University; BA, Political Science, Jordan University



**KHALIFEH, ABDULLAH**

- Nablus  
MA, English Language, An-Najah  
National University, Nablus



**KHAYYAT, NAMEER** - Ramallah  
Director of Aftercare Department,  
Palestinian Investment Promotion  
Agency, PIPA, Ramallah

**MALIK, YAFAA** - Ramallah  
Director of British & Irish  
Department, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, Ramallah



**MUSMAR, RAFA** - Ramallah  
Head of PR and Media Department,  
Council of Ministers, Ramallah

**SALEH, MUNJED** - Nablus  
Director of Palestinians Abroad Dept., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ramallah

**SAMMAN, GHADA** - Ramallah  
Public Relation & Media Department, State Ministry, Ramallah

**TAMIMI, HAMED** - Hebron  
Inter-Religion Dialogue Committee Advisor, Supreme Judge Department, Hebron

**YAGHI, MOHAMMAD** - Ramallah  
Executive Director Palestinian Center for Mass Communication (PCMC), Ramallah

