

## Background / Introduction

In 2005, PASSIA undertook a special project, entitled *Palestinian Political Landscape*, which was designed against the background that the Palestinian political landscape is currently made up of several factions or movements - mostly former national struggle organizations - represented by the PLO (and dominated by Fateh) as well as the "opposition", mainly constituting Islamic and leftist organizations and some independent groups. In addition, several small political parties have emerged over the last years. However none of these groups have succeeded in mobilizing the public support needed in order to surface as a powerful political actor representing a significant constituency.

Parties need to develop democratic institutional structures and clear political platforms and positions if they want to garner popular support. Drawing upon PASSIA's previous experience in facilitating the exchange of ideas and promoting dialogue among the various sectors of society, the project aimed at setting off a fruitful Palestinian debate on the issue of political parties, their "status quo" as well as their future prospects to become "real" parties.

*In doing so, PASSIA held a series of workshops to examine the legal framework in which parties form and function as well as the strategic and organizational levels of the main movements existing in Palestine.*

## Meetings held:

16 March 2005, Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah

**Topic: The Party Law in Palestine**

**Speaker:** Ammar Dwaik, Chief Electoral Officer, Central Elections Commission

**Participant(s):** Mohammed Nusseibeh, Engineer, Jerusalem; Sam Bahour, Consultant; Khaled Salah Al-Din, Journalist; Ghazaleh Arar, Teacher; Elizabeth Petersen, Project Coordinator; Jihad Al-Araj; Faraj Barghouti, Public Relations, Ministry of Interior; Radi Jara'l, Deputy Minister, Samer Nusseibeh, Engineer; Fou'ad Majdalani; Michel Auga, Director, FES; Murad Sabi, Public Relations, Ramez Jamhour, Assistant, Rammaz Offices; Iyad Masrouji, Managing Director; Faisal Awartani, Birzeit University; Ali Qasrawi, YRC; Ziad Bakri, Advocate; Ya'coub Abu Asab, Executive Manager; Ihsan Ala' Eddin, Chairman of Board, Patient's Friend Society; Simona Gallotta, Political Analyst; Hussein Abu Hanoud, Lawyer; Rula Sarhan, Journalist, Election Central Committee; Mohammed Al-Rabi, Lawyer, Deniz Altayli, Sana Shannak, PASSIA. ▼



Ammar  
Dwaik



5 April 2005, Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah

**Topic: Future Requirements for Palestinian Political Parties**

**Speaker:** Dr. George Giacaman, Director, The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy, Muwatin, Ramallah

**Participant(s):** Jamal Hassan, Popular Committees; Peter Schafer, FES; Michel Auga, FES; Elisabeth Petersen, Program Coordinator, FES; Ulnlu Schelle, FES; Amal Elwan, Headmistress; Rose Shomali, Director General; Tami Rafidi, Public Relations Officer; Manal Dajani, Advocate; Hussein Al-Deek, Ministry of Finance; Barthe Benjamin, Journalist; Ghazaleh Arar, G.U.P.T; Ma'moun Silmi, Director; Omar Faqih, Mofa; Dr. Munjed Saleh, Director; Thuqan Qishawi, Program Coordinator; Hazem Kawasmi, GTZ, MNE. ►



George  
Giacaman

25 April 2005, PASSIA, Ramallah

**Topic: Fateh Movement and Future Challenges**

**Participant(s):** Basel Jabir, Amin Maqbool, Rafiq Natsheh, Ahmed Ghnaim, Ziad Abu Ein, Jamal Shobaki, Ahmad Suboh, Mohammed Horani.

12 July 2005, PASSIA, Ramallah

**Topic: The Political Agenda of the opposition in Palestine**

**Speaker:** Qais Abdul Karim, DFLP

**Participant(s):** Dr. Mohammed Tharf, Lawyer; Mohammed Nusseibeh, Member, Higher Islamic Council; Ali Abu Hilal, Advocate, JCDHR; Ghazaleh Arar, GUPT; Abdul Fattah Ghanem, Meethaq Party; Saleh Ra'fat, FIDA; Muzna Shihabi, UNDP, Ministry of National Economy; Ghada Karmi, UNDP; Faisal Awartani, Birzeit University; Nisreen Abu-Zayyad, PCPSR. ▼



Qais  
Abdul  
Karim



27 July 2005, Grand-Park Hotel, Ramallah

**Topic: The Crisis of Fateh**

**Speakers:** Mohammed Al Hourani, Jamal Shobaki ▼



**Participant(s):** Walid Hammoudeh, Architect; Omar Yousef, Architect, Urban Planner; Nihad Abu Ghazaleh, Ministry of Education; Muwaffaq Yasin; Ahmad Saqrabi, PLC; Ismail Muhsen, Information; Mahmoud Abu Ein, Palestinian Importers Society; Isam Salahat, Researcher; Adnan Nabil, Student; Thomas Birringer; Ibrahim Khreishi, Chief Clerk, PLC; Adeb Ziadeh, Mohammed Najib, Journalist; Taleb Awad, Researcher; Iyad Masrouji, Manager; Manal Dajani, Advocate; Hussein Al-Deek; Abed Abu Diab; Jawad Dar-Ali; Karsetn Hudel, Student; Mahmoud Assad; Khalil Refa'e; Tariq Odet Allah, Advocate; Mu'tasem Al-Ashhab; Abdul Rahman Tamimi; Khadijeh Abu Ali, GUPW; Fadwa Sha'er, Ministry of

Interior; Osama El-Goul, Al-Rai' Newspaper; Saed Abu-Farha, Journalist; Amin Abu Alsoud, Agricultural Engineer; Saed Zein, Researcher; Jamal Mansour; Ahmed Suboh, Deputy Minister; Ghadeer Dajani, Program Officer, National Democratic Institute; Jihad Harb, PSR; Nadia Hajal, Freelancer; Dr. Hanan Awad, Palestinian P.E.H; Nedal Omar, PCBS; Ross Allen, British Consulate; Nicole Neumeister, British Consulate; Ali Khilleh, Consultant; Allam Jarrar, Director; Ghassan Abdullah; Ala' Al Lahlouh, Researcher, PSR; Ruba Abu Roqtti, Program Manager; Leonhard Moll, Head, Austrian Representative ; Emily Harding, NDI; Holger Tillman, German Representative Office; Miguel Berger, German Representative Office; Mohannad Toyh, Researcher; Nadia Dibs, Deputy Head of Mission; Silvia Ishaq, Hijazi Eid, Tour Guide; Peter Schafer, FES; Nasser Ramieh, Lawyer; Mohammed Thabet, Lawyer; Odeh Younes, Civil Defense; Ahmad Al-Qasim, Director; Samer Sami, Press; Sam'an Khoury, Media Consultant; Dr. Hassan Khreishi, PLC; Abed Rabbo Hussein Abu-Oz, PLC; Hani Odeh, PLC; Nihad Hussein; Basil Mansour, Fateh Movement; Samir Bernat, Civil Force, Fateh; Rose Shomali, Director; Dr. Faisal Awartani; Nedal Ismail; Rawan Natsheh, JCW; Jamal Aruri, Al-Ayyam ; Mohammed Abed Rabbo, Journalist; Kifah Al-Ja'bari; Munjed Hussein; Mohammed Johari, Ministry of Finance; Riyadh Qadriyeh, Correspondent, Kuwait TV.

22 October 2005 , PASSIA Ramallah

**Topic: The Vision & Political Agenda of Hamas in the Current Political Environment**

Open discussion ▼



**Participant(s):** Peter Schafer, FES; Saed Zain, PCPSR; Ala' Lahlouh, PSR; Jamil Hilal, Researcher; Mamdouh Nofal, Writer, PNC Member; Ahmed Suboh, Deputy Minister of Information; Dr. George Gacaman, Head, Muwatin; Dr. Mahmoud Khalifeh, Deputy General, Ministry of Information; Dr. Khalil Nakhleh; Sa'ad Abdul Hadi, Nasher; Dr. Faisal Awartani, CEO; Ali Jarbawi, Birzeit University.

29 November 2005, PASSIA Ramallah

**Topic: The Search for A Third Way to the Palestinian National Agenda**

**Speakers:** Bassam Abu Sharif; Dr. Hassan Khreisheh

**Participant(s):** Nidal Omar, Palestinian Bureau of Statistics; Dr. Salim Tamari, Director, Institute of Jerusalem Studies; Dr. Gabi Baramki; Mahmoud Abdul Rahman, General Director, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics; Mamdouh Nofal, Researcher, Writer; Mohammed Nusseibeh, Engineer, Member, Higher Islamic Council; Dr. Hasan Khreisheh, PLC Member; Dr. Ahmad Suboh, Deputy Ministry of Information; Daoud Talhami, Massar; Dr. Mohammed Tharf, Advocate, Lecturer; Dr. Khalil Nakhleh, Writer, Researcher, Consultant; Atef Odeh, Consultant. ►



Bassam  
Abu Sharif