



# **Al-Zaytouna Centre**

**The Tenth Anniversary of Its Founding  
2004–2014**



**Al-Zaytouna Centre**  
For Studies & Consultations



# Al-Zaytouna Centre

## The Tenth Anniversary of Its Founding

### 2004–2014

Prepared by

Public Relations and Media Department





## ***Al-Zaytouna Centre's Speech on the Tenth Anniversary of its Founding***

Ten years of hard and creative work made our Centre grow, prosper, and take its pioneering position in conducting Palestinian studies. It has become an indispensable reference for researchers, specialists and students pursuing a Master's or Doctoral degree in Palestinian studies.

Al-Zaytouna a distinguished information center, having published more than 3,300 issues of its daily Arabic electronic newsletter "Palestine Today," and more than 22 Information Files, of around 200 pages each.

As a renowned research Centre, al-Zaytouna has published more than 120 books in English and Arabic, which adhere to strict academic standards, where objectivity, accuracy of information and thoroughness of research are strictly observed.

Al-Zaytouna Centre is also a distinguished think tank that has held more than 30 conferences and panel discussions, and issued dozens of Strategic Reports.

We continue to hold training courses and conduct consultations, besides publishing along translation series.

Our English and Arabic websites have succeeded in achieving a distinct rank among other sites of comparable centers concerned with the Palestinian issue, and are among the most visited. They offer a wealth of information, studies, research, and books, which are available for free download, in order to satisfy the needs of our readers inside and outside Palestine.

On our tenth anniversary, we do acknowledge and honor the role of the distinguished researchers who remarkably contribute to the Centre's achievements. The Centre is proud of his young, vital and professional team. It is also proud to be the home for all academics and

experts, regardless of their affiliations and it is fortunate to utilize the skills and knowledge of experts inside and all over the world.

The Centre has encountered many challenges and difficulties, working often in a disturbed and unstable political environment. Nevertheless, it has managed to overcome these obstacles by being adaptive and dynamic.

Finally, we would like to thank all who have supported us, stood by our side, and offered advice and constructive criticism.

### **The Administration**



## *Introduction*

**Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations** is an independent licensed corporation established in Beirut, Lebanon in 2004.



## *Overview*

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Al-Zaytouna Centre conducts contemporaneous strategic studies, along with projections for future developments, on the Arab and Muslim worlds. It focuses on the Palestinian issue and the conflict with Israel as well as related Palestinian, Arab, Islamic and international developments.

The Centre seeks to establish a wide ranging database, and classifies it along the most modern scientific and technical methods. In active cooperation with scholars, experts and specialists, the Centre drives to publish scholarly studies and research projects. The Centre is also concerned with organizing training courses, offering consultations and holding seminars, lectures and conferences.

The Centre strives to raise local, regional and international awareness about the realities and repercussions of the events in the region. It also aims to attract qualified researchers to conduct studies concerning national, Arab and Muslim world issues.

## *The Centre's General Policies*

1. Al-Zaytouna Centre is an independent and non-governmental scientific center that is not affiliated to any party or group.
2. Studies and consultations are conducted solely to promote knowledge and truth, and consolidate the legitimate rights of the people of the region.
3. Academic objectivity, accuracy of information and qualitative research are strictly observed and pursued.
4. Collaboration and integration with similar centers and institutions is a priority for the Centre.
5. Openness to all ideas and new intellectual and political trends is a prime concern of the Centre.
6. The Centre does not accept any preconditioned funds that may adversely affect its mission and objectives.

## *The Centre's Activities and Services*

- Data and archival material.
- Researches and studies.
- Specialized field and office consultations.
- Training courses.
- Seminars, conferences and panel discussions.
- Website.
- Polls and referendums.
- Newsletters and periodic reports.
- Specialized translations.



## *Al-Zaytouna's Board of Consultants*

■ Prof. Dr. ‘Abd al-Wahab al-Masiri*	Thinker and expert in Zionism and Israeli studies.
■ Prof. Dr. ‘Adnan al-Sayyid Hussein	President of the Lebanese University, former Lebanese minister of state.
■ Prof. Dr. Ahmad Mubarak al-Khalidi	Former minister of justice, former dean, Faculty of Law, An-Najah National University, Palestine.
■ Prof. Dr. Amin Mahmud Abdullah	Former minister of culture, minister of higher education and scientific research, Jordan.
■ Prof. Dr. Anis al-Sayegh*	Former director of PLO Research Centre.
■ Prof. Dr. Bayan Nuwayhed al-Hout	Expert in modern Palestinian history.
■ Prof. Dr. Hassan Ahmad Ibrahim	Expert in African and Middle Eastern history.
■ Prof. Dr. ‘Imad al-Din Khalil	Thinker and historian.
■ Prof. Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan	Former minister of education, former president of the Jordanian University.
■ Prof. Dr. Kamalin Shaath	President of the Islamic University of Gaza.
■ Dr. Mahmud al-Mubarak	Professor of international law, King Faisal University, KSA.

■ Prof. Dr. Mohammad ‘Amarah	Thinker and historian.
■ Prof. Dr. Mohammad ‘Issa Salhie <sup>*</sup>	Expert in Islamic and Arab history.
■ Prof. Dr. Mohammad al-Musfir	Professor of political science, Qatar University.
■ Prof. Dr. Mona Haddad Yakan <sup>*</sup>	President of Jinan University, Lebanon.
■ Mr. Munir Shafiq	Thinker and former director of the PLO Planning Bureau.
■ Prof. Dr. ‘Omar al-Ashqar <sup>*</sup>	Former dean, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Zarqa University, Jordan.
■ Mr. Salah ‘Abd al-Maqsoud	Former minister of Information, Egypt, and the director of Arab Media Centre.
■ Dr. Salahuddin al-Dabbagh	Former member of the Palestine National Council and Executive Committee of the PLO.
■ Dr. Tareq al-Suwaidan	Thinker and management expert.

<sup>\*</sup> Passed away.

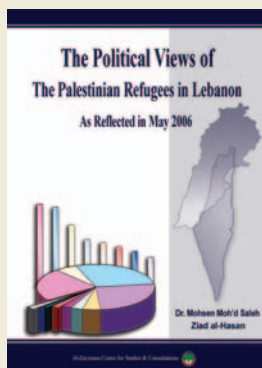
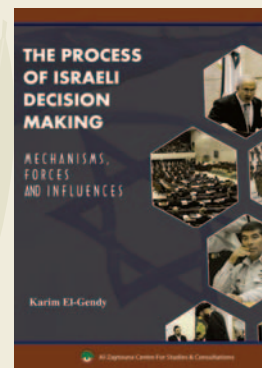




## *Works and Achievements*

### *First: Publications*

By the end of 2014, al-Zaytouna Centre had published 124 books in both English and Arabic. In these publications, the principles of academic objectivity, accuracy of information and quality research were strictly observed. In addition, the Centre adheres to the same professional standards in academic research and referencing systems used at universities and in graduate studies.

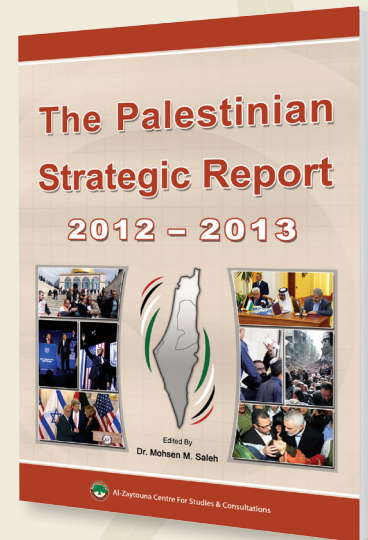
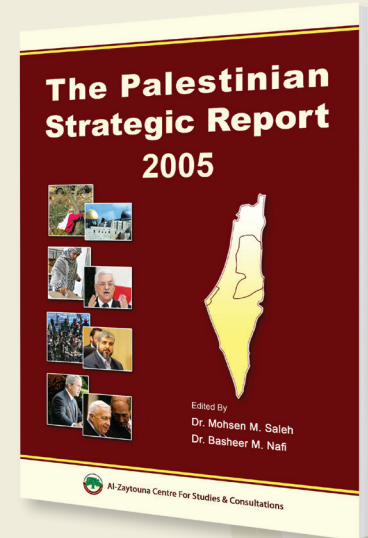
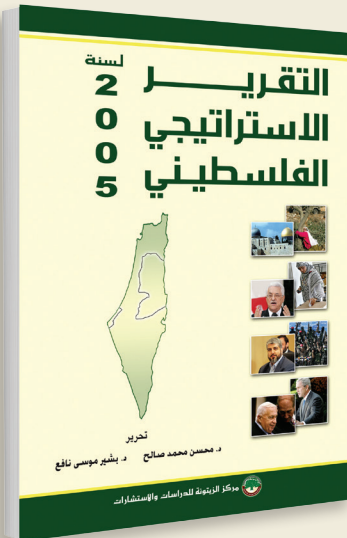


## Our Publications

### ■ The Palestinian Strategic Report Series

The Palestinian Strategic Report (PSR) is one of al-Zaytouna's most important academic studies, published in both English and Arabic. Eight volumes were published between 2005 and 2011, with the eighth volume covering the period 2012–2013. PSR reviews the various developments concerning the Palestinian question in a comprehensive, objective and academic manner. It offers a wealth of data, up-to-date statistics, and analyzes and offers an outlook of future events.

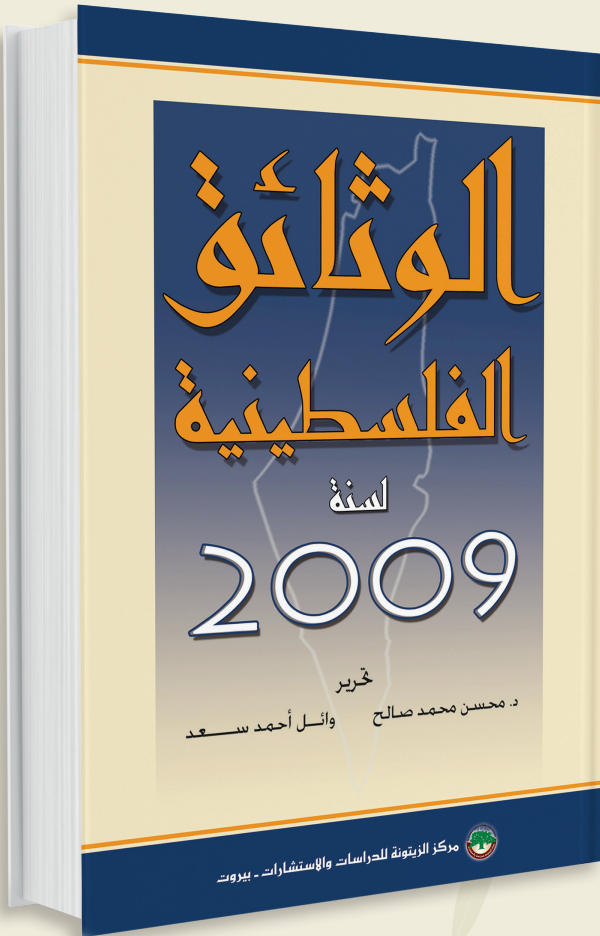
This report is the product of a massive team-work exerted by a group of affiliated researchers and specialists. The report, also, has its own Board of Consultants, and it is edited by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh.





### ■ The Palestinian Documents Series

The annual Palestinian Documents books are considered one of the most important publications of al-Zaytouna Centre. These documents establish a factual record of evidence, considered imperative for any researcher, specialist or anyone who seeks facts. By May 2013, the Centre had published five volumes: The Palestinian Documents of 2005–2009. This series is prepared and edited by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh and Mr. Wael Sa'ad.



## ■ Am I Not a Human? Series

This series seeks to highlight the humanitarian dimension of the Palestinian issue, by establishing a rich interactive documentation of Palestinian suffering under the Israeli occupation. It focuses on Israeli violations of the Palestinians' basic human rights. This series is also distinguished by its academic, well-documented, comprehensive, concise, and statistically supported information. It is published in both Arabic and English. By the end of August 2014, the Centre had published 11 volumes in this series in Arabic, while 9 volumes were published in English.

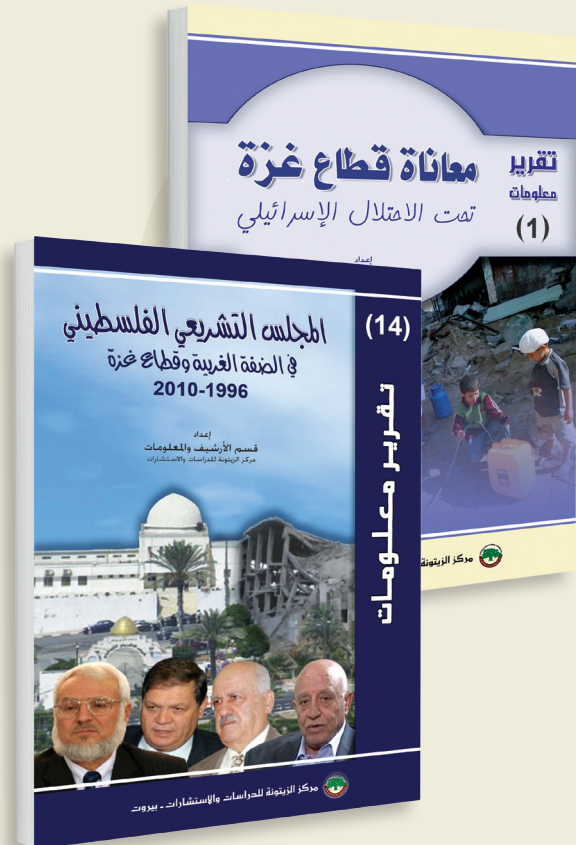
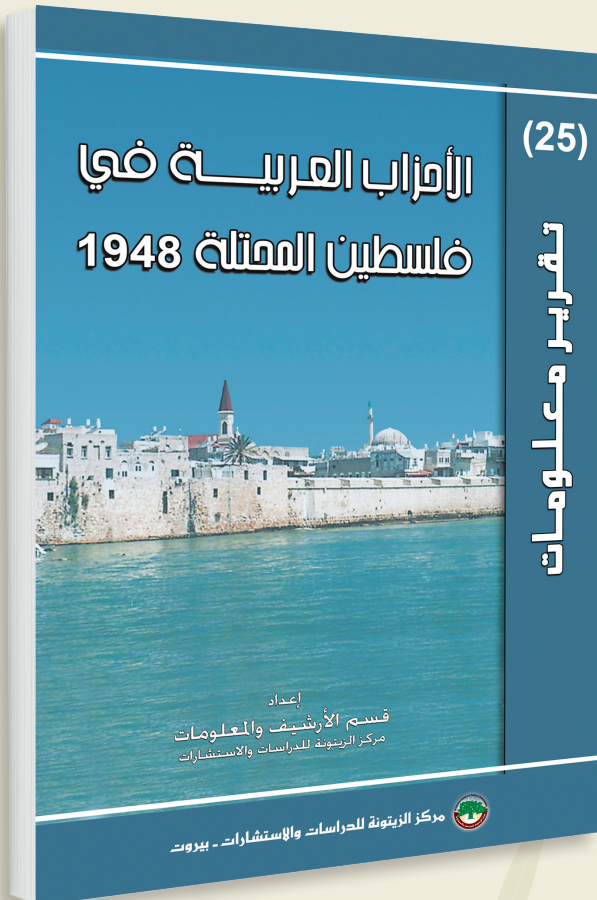






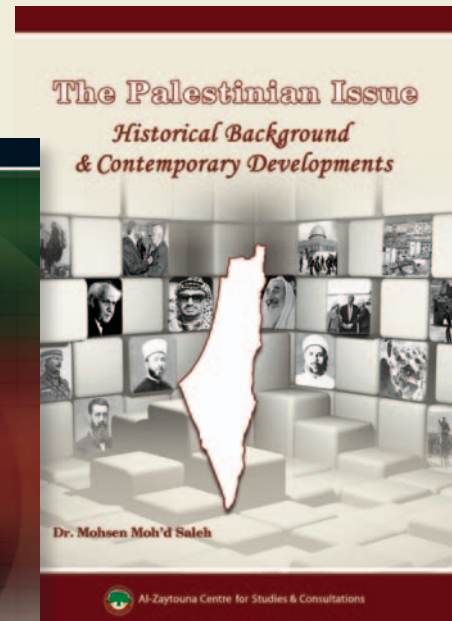
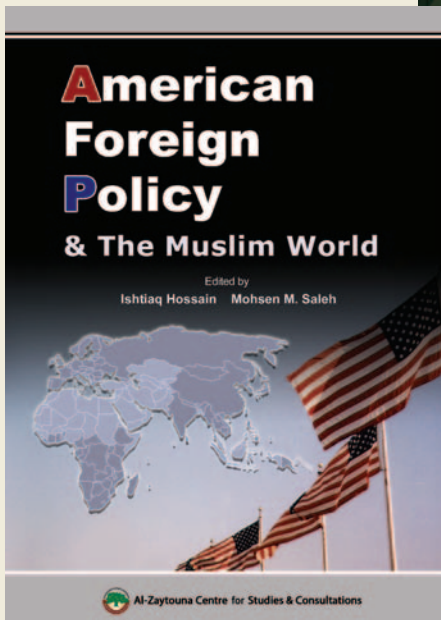
### ■ Information Report Series

This is a series of periodic reports prepared by the Archives and Information Department of al-Zaytouna Centre. It aims to provide the reader with informative, concise and well-documented information on selected issues of concern; Arab and Muslim World issues, with a particular focus on the Palestinian issue. By the end of August 2014, the Centre had published 26 volumes in this series.



## ■ Other Publications

Al-Zaytouna Centre has issued about 60 publications other than those mentioned above. These publications are distinguished for their importance and academic authenticity. In these publications, the Centre adheres to the highest standards of academic research and referencing systems. These Palestinian political and strategic studies are considered reference books for universities, researchers and specialists.



## *Second: Strategic Assessment*

This assessment is a periodic report characterized by its rich material. It seeks to study a particular incident or issue and anticipate its future developments. It highlights the likeliest scenario and then ends the assessment with some suggestions and recommendations. The strategic assessment usually addresses the Palestinian issue and the related Arab, Islamic and international dimensions. Al-Zaytouna Centre had published 72 strategic assessments by the end of October 2014.



### Third: Al-Zaytouna Translations

This is a translation series, which is periodically published by al-Zaytouna Centre. The series aims to shed light on the most prominent articles and studies issued by Israeli and Western study centers and think tanks, which have direct impact on the process of decision making in Israel and the West, particularly the US. Al-Zaytouna Centre is keen to present a selection of vital studies and articles, which directly address the issues of the Arab and Muslim worlds in general and the Palestinian issue in particular. Thus, it provides researchers with material that enriches academic research and presents a clear overview of the trends perceived by different decision making centers. In this sense, al-Zaytouna translations are characterized by thoroughness and professionalism. The Centre had published 78 translations by the end of September 2014.







## Fourth: Archives and Information Department

The Archives and Information Department daily follows the most important Arab, foreign and Israeli sources.

The department also issues “Palestine Today,” an Arabic daily electronic newsletter dealing with the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The electronic newsletter provides rich material for researchers and specialists sparing them time and effort. It is characterized by an academic categorization, by which news can be easily browsed. By the end of November 2014, the Centre had published 3,384 issues.



## Fifth: Al-Zaytouna Website (*alzaytouna.net*)

Al-Zaytouna's English and Arabic websites update visitors with the latest news, activities and publications. It also allows them access a wide range of materials and services including the daily electronic newsletter "Palestine Today," the Palestinian Strategic Report and al-Zaytouna translation series, in addition to a large collection of articles, studies, reports, documents, maps and selected books. To encourage the spread of information, the site offers visitors free downloads of a number of the Centre's publications.

According to a poll carried out by the "Alexa" website, al-Zaytouna Centre has succeeded in achieving a distinct rank among other sites of study centers concerned with the Palestinian issue, at home and abroad. The Centre is also active on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.





### ***Sixth: Conferences and Panel Discussions***

To spread awareness on regional events at local, regional and international levels, the Centre holds panel discussions in accordance with its policy of openness to all ideas and intellectual and political trends. These specialized, scientific, objective, and free discussions address key issues and topics concerning the Palestinian issue. Hence, attaining results that best serve the Centre's stated objectives. The discussions bring together a selection of specialists, researchers and experts on the Palestinian issue from around the world. They are highly organized and covered by the media.

These conferences and panel discussions are an important source for preparing books, reports and strategic assessments. The Centre publishes many of the papers and minutes of these activities on its site. Up to the end of October 2014, the Centre had held 33 conferences and panel discussions.





## *Seventh: Consultations and Training*

Al-Zaytouna Centre holds training courses and conducts consultations, in its respective fields, in collaboration with an elite team of experts and trainers from within and outside the center, or with participation of other training and consultation centers that work in the same domain.

The Centre has held training courses addressing the following titles:

1. Introduction into the Palestinian Issue.
2. Political Analysis.
3. Strategic Assessment.
4. Future Studies.
5. Negotiation Skills and Strategies.
6. Eagle Eye: The Formation of the World's Contemporary Political Map and its Future Prospects.
7. Research Methodology.





### *Eighth: Al-Zaytouna, in Their Eyes*

The following are a number of testimonials that al-Zaytouna had received from a selection of politicians, experts and academics. These testimonials reflect the high reputation the Centre enjoys in such circles. The following are excerpts from their letters.

#### **Dr. Salim al-Hoss**

Writer and thinker, former Lebanese prime minister



The experiment of al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations had been characterized since the Centre's inception by seriousness, persistence and commitment to the dictates of objectivity, impartiality and truth. We wish success for the Centre in all its endeavors, hoping that it will achieve the expected role of developing its potentialities according to the specified plan in this country, which is known for its patronage of distinguished advisory institutions. We hope that the Centre achieves its important objectives in a way that consolidates Lebanon's ongoing role in the area of balanced studies and consultations at the level of the entire Arab region. \*\*

#### **Prof. Dr. Ali Mahafzah**

Former president of Mutah and Yarmouk Universities in Jordan



Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations has a distinguished cultural and scholarly role, which Arab governments and states are incapable of undertaking. The Centre is highly regarded by Arab and foreign researchers and academics because of its strict commitment to objectivity and serious scholarship. I sincerely hope that the Centre... achieves further progress and success. \*\*

### **Prof. Dr. John Dugard**

Professor of international law, former special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967



I participated in a conference on Israel and International Law organized by al-Zaytouna Centre in Beirut in 2009. At the same time I had an opportunity to visit the Centre in Beirut itself. The conference was a great success—thanks to careful and efficient organization on the part of al-Zaytouna. This provided me with a good introduction to the work of al-Zaytouna Centre. The Centre is a major force for social, political and legal research in the region. I congratulate al-Zaytouna Centre on its vision and achievements.

### **Prof. Dr. Ahmad Mubarak al-Khalidi**

Former Palestinian minister of justice, former dean of the College of Law at An-Najah National University, Nablus



We thank *Allah* (God) for helping you put out such a large quantity of very important information, distinguished by its credibility and objectivity. It gives me great honor to register my thanks and appreciation to all those in charge at the Centre, which became, in a short while, a landmark of nationalist awakening to the issues of the homeland and the *Ummah* in general. For under your guidance, the Centre has occupied its distinguished position as a scientific academy specialized in Palestinian studies and a reference to those seeking to learn the truth about the struggle in Palestine and its environs.\*\*

### **Prof. Dr. Muhammad ‘Amara**

Thinker and historian



Being the intellectual patron of the Palestinian issue, al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations is an institution for heavy intellectual industry, so to speak, for the most holy of all the Arab and Muslim issues. The Centre is the lighthouse whose rays revive and alert the *Ummah's* memory to the realities of the mother of all issues, thus this awareness of the Arab-Muslim right on this issue will itself be a weapon to restore this right, and to confront the challenges.\*\*



**Prof. Dr. Norton Mezvinsky**

American researcher and historian



The materials I regularly receive from al-Zaytouna Centre are extremely informative and are useful to me for my writing and speaking. The analyses, contained therein, are thoughtful, penetrating and in-depth. I am additionally favorably impressed with the books published by the Centre. They are valuable studies. Finally, I am intrigued by the conferences that the Centre plans and holds... Please continue your good work.

**Dr. Basheer Nafi‘**

Palestinian researcher and academic



During the past years, al-Zaytouna has become the main monitoring Centre of developments in the Palestinian issue, with its various national, regional and international dimensions, and its political, economic and social manifestations, as well as in the realm of resistance. There was not one development in the Palestinian issue during these years that was not highlighted, whether in the Centre’s electronic daily newsletter “Palestine Today,” research publications, panel discussions or the annual [Palestinian] Strategic Report. This report in particular, has become one of the most important annual comprehensive references of the Palestinian issue. With determination and perseverance, this project has made considerable strides toward maturity and professionalism, to assert its presence as a very serious and profound research Centre, worthy of keeping abreast of the biggest issue in the Arab-Islamic east and in the world.\*\*

**Dr. Tareq al-Suwaidan**

Thinker and management expert



Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations is one of the most prominent and important centers widespread in the Arab world. The Centre is distinguished by its specialized team, which enjoy a high level of competence, experience and hard work. This is clearly shown in all their publications. Furthermore, the Centre is distinguished by its high scientific standard; accuracy in any subject put forth and outstanding analysis.\*\*

## Dr. Nahla Chahal

University professor, writer and media activist



What I like in al-Zaytouna...Profound professionalism, which requires continuity, collectivity, teamwork and perfection. The realization of this characteristic in the works and publications of al-Zaytouna Centre was a real, and pleasant, surprise to me. In addition to this admirable quality, is broadmindedness and tolerance that accept the other opinion (though the Centre has its own specific and comprehensive position). The Centre also tolerates criticism which all in all reflects its strict pursuit of objectivity. I am strongly convinced that this is what we particularly need in the region...\*\*

## Mr. Talal Salman

Publisher of *Assafir* newspaper



Al-Zaytouna Centre: A light on the path to the future... The establishment of al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations in Beirut came to meet a real need for a serious institution that would take an interest in entrenching the fundamentals of the foremost Arab issue, which has the gravest impact on the present, as well as, on the Arabic future: that of Palestine. Certainly, al-Zaytouna Centre will endeavor to compensate for the role that the Palestine Research Centre was intended to play; thus, consolidating the role played by the prestigious Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS), which continues to exert effort in that area. Learning through serious research; a document that confirms a right; awareness of the march of history; the facts of international conflicts and regional rivalries; and the place of the Palestinian issue among them; all of these bring victory day nearer. Surely, institutions similar to al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations will play a vital role in serving this goal.\*\*

\*\* Translated from Arabic.







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