

The Palestinian Strategic Report

2009/10



Edited By

Dr. Mohsen M. Saleh



Al-Zaytouna Centre For Studies & Consultations

The Palestinian Strategic Report 2009/10



**Al-Zaytouna Centre
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List of Abbreviations

ARIJ	Applied Research Institute—Jerusalem
CBR	Crude Birth Rate
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDR	Crude Death Rate
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
DFLP	Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
EUNIDA	European Network of Implementing Development Agencies
Fatah	Palestinian National Liberation Movement
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERRP	Gaza Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan
GS	Gaza Strip
Hamas	Islamic Resistance Movement
HRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IAA	Israel Antiquities Authority
ICHR	The Independent Commission for Human Rights
ILA	Israel Lands Administration
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISESCO	Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
JDA	Jerusalem Development Authority
JNF	Jewish National Fund
JWC	Joint Water Committee
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
MCM	Million Cubic Meters
MK	Member of Knesset
MOTJ	Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem
MP	Member of Parliament
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OCHA-oPt	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs-occupied Palestinian territory

OIC	Organization of the Islamic Conference
PA	Palestinian Authority
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PCHR	Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
PECDAR	Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction
PEGASE	Palestino-Européen de Gestion et d'Aide Socio-Economique
PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PFLP-GC	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command
PHC	Statistics of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census
PIC	The Palestinian Information Center
PIJ	Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine
PLC	Palestinian Legislative Council
PLO	Palestinian Liberation Organization
PMA	Palestine Monetary Authority
PNC	Palestinian National Council
PPSF	Palestinian Popular Struggle Front
PRC	Palestinian Return Centre
PRDP	Palestinian Reform and Development Plan
PSS	Preventive Security Service
PWA	Palestinian Water Authority
Shabak	Israel Security Agency
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UK	United Kingdom
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
US/ USA	United States of America
WB	West Bank
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Chapter Four:

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Chapter Eight:

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Introduction

The Palestinian Strategic Report 2009/10 is the fifth in the series of annual reports issued by al-Zaytouna Centre. It is now considered an essential reference among the Palestinian studies' references. The *Report* discusses the annual developments in the Palestinian issue in a comprehensive, scientific and objective manner. It offers the reader the latest information accompanied with precise up-to-date statistics, within an analytical reading and in a futuristic approach.

In 2009, the steadfastness of the Palestinian resistance in confronting the Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip (27/12/2008–18/1/2009), gave the Palestinian people a big morale boost. It also encouraged the resumption of the national Palestinian reconciliation talks. Alas, the glow of this steadfastness was soon absorbed by the Palestinian-Arab-international environment incapable of investing in it. This happened at a time while the siege continued, alongside with the destruction of war. Hence, the wounds of Gazans were left to bleed and rot.

Despite the long rounds of national dialogue, and the intensive Egyptian efforts, during 2009, to reach national reconciliation, and despite the fact that this dialogue has gone a long way on its five various tracks connected to national reconciliation, security, PLO, caretaker government and the elections; the year 2009 ended without signing an agreement.

The year 2010 began with the national Palestinian efforts still suffering from rifts and schisms. It suffers also expired or partial legitimacies of the representative and leading Palestinian organizations, in addition to the contradictory work of the conflicting parties that usually leads to a zero summation, if not a negative one. The Palestinian political track is still lost between the choices of a peace settlement and military resistance, and on how to handle the relations with Israel, the Arabs and the international community. The Palestinian decision-making process is still suffering from the negative foreign interference, that can't be overcome except by placing the higher national interests and priorities of the Palestinian people ahead of any external pressure.

The year 2009 and also 2010, haven't achieved any substantial development whether on the level of reconciliation, unity or any Palestinian national accomplishments. Whereas the Israelis succeeded in eluding the peace settlement requirements and American pressure. Israel has continued its dangerous and active agenda of Judaizing Jerusalem, expanding settlements and imposing facts on the ground. While the impotence of the official Palestinian, Arab and Islamic leadership in addition to the international community have tempted Israel to go unrestricted in its siege, aggression and Judaization.

Fourteen professors and researchers specialized in the Palestinian studies have contributed to this *Report*. It discusses in eight chapters the internal Palestinian conditions, the Israeli-Palestinian scene and its intricacies, the Palestinian issue from an Arab, Islamic, and international perspectives, the Palestinian demographic and economic conditions, in addition to shedding light on Jerusalem, the holy sites and the suffering of land and man under the Israeli occupation.

We acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of the consultants of the *Report*, whose remarks played an important role in enhancing academic work of the *Report*. Al-Zaytouna Centre welcomes its two dear colleagues Dr. Majdi Hammad and Dr. Hussein Abu al-Namel to the team of the *Report's* consultants. Al-Zaytouna also extends its gratitude to all its staff, co-editors and archive department team, who made outstanding efforts to deliver this *Report* in its known standards.

Al-Zaytouna Centre and *The Palestinian Strategic Report 2009/10* have lost one of its distinguished supporters and consultants, Prof. Dr. Anis Sayigh. He was one of the most renowned scholars in Palestinian studies and a consultant for the *Report* for the last four consecutive years. Al-Zaytouna Centre also suffered the loss of one of the eminent members of its board of consultants, the distinguished historian, Prof. Dr. Mohammed 'Eisa Salhieh, whose support, researches and consultations enriched the Centre. The Centre also lost Mr. Shafiq al-Hout, a leader of the Palestinian national movement and the former representative of the PLO in Lebanon, and Dr. Kamal Midhat, the legal expert, a Fatah leader and the deputy representative of PLO in Lebanon. They both stood by the Centre with their advice, encouragement and participation in its activities. It is truly hard to replace such scientific and national scholars. We find our consolation in our determinism to continue in their footsteps, trying to produce the serious scientific research that would serve the pressing issues of our countries and nation.

It is noteworthy to mention that this English version is issued as *The Palestinian Strategic Report 2009/10*, although the original Arabic version did not include in its title the year 2010. It must be explained that this *Report* covers parts of the events of 2010 and that some more information and details were added in this English version. However, the core of discussion and analysis was still focusing in 2009.

In the end, we are very much pleased with the success and the good response that the *Report* is getting. We thank all those who support it and encouraged its continuation, and those who helped us with the critique, advice and guidance.

The Editor,
Dr. Mohsen Saleh

This Report

The Palestinian Strategic Report 2009/10 is the fifth in a series of annual resourceful scientific studies. It discusses the developments of the Palestinian issue in this period, in an objective and comprehensive manner. The meticulous analytical reading of events tries also to foresee the future. This Report has become a basic reference in Palestinian studies, it is a must to all those concerned.

An outstanding team of 14 academics and experts contributed to this Report in eight chapters. They covered the internal Palestinian situation, the Israeli scene and the Israeli-Palestinian relations, the Arab, Muslim and international stances toward the Palestinian issue. This Report focuses also on the issue of Jerusalem and the holy sites, whereas, the demographic and economic indicators are studied and analyzed in two separate chapters.

Undoubtedly, this Report is a serious addition to the field of Palestinian studies.

The Palestinian Strategic Report 2009/10



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