

Al-Zaytouna Harvest 2011

Prepared by
Public Relations and
Media Department



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Al-Zaytouna Centre

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

Overview

Al-Zaytouna Centre conducts strategic and futuristic studies 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 range data base, 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 issues its own refereed journal. The Centre is also concerned with organizing training courses, conferences, seminars, lectures and brainstorming sessions.

The Centre strives to raise the local, regional and international awareness about the realities and repercussions of the events in the region. It also aims at attracting, qualifying and introducing researchers in west Asian strategic studies.

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 serve knowledge and truth, and consolidate the legitimate rights of the people of the region.
3. Academic objectivity, accuracy of information and qualitative research will be 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.

General Manager

The General Manager of al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations is Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh, an associate professor of Modern and Contemporary Arab History, editor-in-chief of the annual *Palestinian Strategic Report*, former head of Department of History and Civilization at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), and former executive manager of Middle East Studies Centre in Amman. He was granted the *Bait al-Maqdis* (Jerusalem) award for Young Muslims Scholars in 1997 and the Excellent Teaching Award (College level), given by IIUM in 2002. Dr. Mohsen is the author of ten books and some of his books are translated into several languages. He contributed chapters to seven books. He is the editor/ co-editor of 15 books. Dr. Mohsen is the editor of electronic daily newsletter "Palestine Today," which has so far published more than 2,300 issues. He has published many articles in refereed scholarly journals and magazines. He has presented papers at innumerable academic local and international conferences and seminars. He is a frequent commentator on current issues on broadcasting media.

Al-Zaytouna's Board of Consultants

Al-Zaytouna Centre has a Board of Consultants of eminent scholars, thinkers and researchers, whose names are alphabetically listed below:

1. Prof. Dr. 'Abd al-Wahab al-Masiri*: Thinker and expert in Zionism and Israeli studies.
2. Prof. Dr. 'Adnan al-Sayyid Hussein: Former Lebanese minister of state, professor of political science at the Lebanese University.
3. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Mubarak al-Khalidi: Former minister of justice, dean, Faculty of Law, An-Najah National University, Palestine.
4. Dr. Amin Mahmud: Former minister of culture, Jordan, former president of Amman Private University.
5. Prof. Dr. Anis al-Sayegh*: Expert in Palestinian studies, Former director of PLO Research Centre.
6. Prof. Dr. Bayan Nuwayhed al-Hout: Expert in modern Palestinian history.
7. Prof. Dr. Hassan Ahmad Ibrahim: Expert in African and Middle Eastern history.
8. Prof. Dr. 'Imad al-Din Khalil: Thinker and historian.
9. Prof. Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan: Former minister of education, former president of the Jordanian University, former president of Zarqa University.
10. Prof. Dr. Kamalin Shaath: President of the Islamic University of Gaza.
11. Dr. Mahmud al-Mubarak: Expert in international law, King Faisal University, KSA.
12. Prof. Dr. Mohammad 'Amarah: Thinker and historian.
13. Prof. Dr. Mohammad 'Issa Salhie*: Expert in Islamic and Arab history.
14. Prof. Dr. Mohammad al-Musfir: Professor of political science, Qatar University.
15. Prof. Dr. Mona Haddad Yakan: President of Jinan University, Lebanon.
16. Mr. Munir Shafiq: Thinker and former director of the PLO Planning Bureau.
17. Prof. Dr. 'Omar al-Ashqar: Former dean, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Zarqa University, Jordan.
18. Mr. Salah 'Abd al-Maqoud: Director of Arab Media Centre, vice syndic of Egyptian journalists.
19. Dr. Salahuddin al-Dabbagh: Expert in law, member of the Palestine National Council of the PLO.
20. Dr. Tareq al-Suwaidan: Thinker, management expert, general manager of al-Resalah Channel.

* Passed away.

The Centre's Activities and Services

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| 1. Data and archival material. | 6. Website. |
| 2. Researches and studies. | 7. Specialized translations. |
| 3. Office and field consultancies. | 8. "Palestine Today" electronic daily newsletter. |
| 4. Training and qualifying. | 9. Strategic Assessments. |
| 5. Conferences, seminars and lectures. | |

Administrative Departments

Al-Zaytouna Centre has several departments:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Information and Archives Department. | 4. Translation Department. |
| 2. Studies and Researches Department. | 5. Management and Finance Department. |
| 3. Consultations and Training Department. | 6. Public Relations and Media Department. |
| | 7. Website Department. |

Works and Achievements

First: Publications

During 2011, al-Zaytouna Centre has published 17 books in both English and Arabic. In these books, the policies of academic objectivity, accuracy of information and quality research were strictly observed.

In addition, the Centre adheres to the highest professional standards in publishing. Its books are well-formatted and professionally laid out, while their covers are artistically designed.

The Centre endeavors to provide a wide range of competitively-priced books, in order to make them available to the greatest number of readers.

The following is a list of the 2011 al-Zaytouna Centre publications:

No.	Title
1	<i>The Palestinian Strategic Report 2010</i>
2	<i>Palestinian Documents for the Year 2008</i>
3	<i>Israel and the International Law</i>
4	<i>The Process of Israeli Decision Making: Mechanisms, Forces and Influences</i>
5	<i>Crimes Perpetrated by Israel During Its Aggression Against the Gaza Strip: A Legal Study</i>
6	<i>The Israeli Foreign Policy Towards Africa: The Sudan Case</i>
7	<i>The Islamic Endowments in Palestine and Their Role in Facing the Israeli Occupation</i>
8	<i>The Palestinian Right of Return: Between the Two-State Solution and the Jewishness of the State</i>
9	<i>The Palestinian Community in Israel & the Jewishness of the State</i>
10	<i>The Russian Stance Towards Hamas (2006-2010)</i>
11	<i>Am I Not a Human? (4): The Suffering of the Palestinian Prisoners & Detainees under the Israeli Occupation (English)</i>
12	<i>Am I Not a Human? (7): The Suffering of Jerusalem and the Holy Sites under the Israeli Occupation</i>
13	<i>Am I Not a Human? (10): The Suffering of the Palestinian Worker under the Israeli Occupation</i>
14	<i>Am I Not a Human? (11): The Suffering of the Palestinian Patient under the Israeli Occupation</i>
15	<i>Information Report (18): The Dilemma of Granting the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Their Civil Rights</i>
16	<i>Information Report (19): The Israeli Labor Party</i>
17	<i>Information Report (20): The Convoys of Breaking the Siege of Gaza Strip</i>

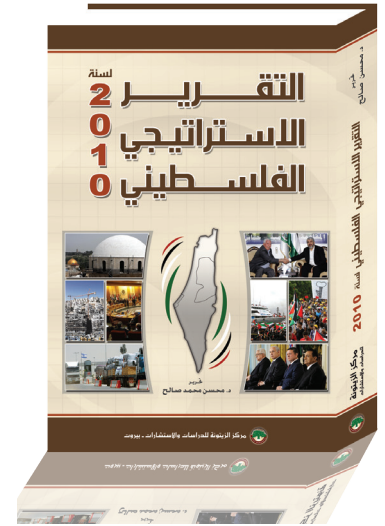
1. The Palestinian Strategic Report 2010 (Arabic)

The Palestinian Strategic Report is a highly academic annual report that assesses the Palestinian situation. It rigorously studies the developments of various aspects of the Palestinian issue, i.e., the internal political scene, economic development, demographic indicators, the Arab, Islamic and international stands and the Israeli attitudes and policies, all within an academic, well-documented context that is supported with the most recent statistical data.

This Report is the product of a massive team-work exerted by a group of affiliated researchers and specialists; editors, and consultants. It is published both in Arabic and English.

The first Report covered the year 2005. As later reports were released annually, the report was well-received and highly acclaimed, especially within academics. Today, it can be surely asserted that this Report is a must reference for every researcher or academic interests in the contemporary developments of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Moreover, its English version is among the few highly academic and objective writings in this field by an Arab research center.

Currently, they are distributed worldwide by Pluto Press one of the most prominent international publishers of academic books in the field of social and political sciences. The London-based publisher has been active since 40 years and has published more than 800 titles, including books by eminent authors such as Noam Chomsky.



Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Consultants

Mr. Ahmad Khalifah

Prof. Dr. Majdi Hammad

Dr. Hussien Abu al-Namel

Mr. Munir Shafiq

Writers

Mr. 'Abdul-Hameed al-Kayyali

Mr. Hani al-Masri

Dr. Johnny Mansour

Prof. Dr. Moein Muhammad 'Atta Ragab

Mr. Muhammad Jum'a

Prof. Dr. Talal 'Atrissi

Prof. Dr. Walid 'Abd al-Hay

Mr. 'Abdullah 'Abd al-'Aziz Najjar

Dr. Jad Isaac

Mr. Majid Abu Diak

Dr. Mohamed Nouredine

Mr. Suhail Khalilieh

Mr. Wael Sa'ad

Mr. Ziad Bhies

2. *Palestinian Documents for the Year 2008* (Arabic)

The annual Palestinian Documents are considered one of the most important publications of al-Zaytouna Centre. For documents are considered imperative for any researcher, specialist or anyone who seeks facts. The Centre has issued the Palestinian Documents of 2005 till 2008. It is preparing those of 2009 and 2010.

The *Palestinian Documents for the Year 2008* contains 382 documents which map the internal and external events associated with the Palestinian issue throughout 2008, thus presenting a comprehensive and objective view of these events.

The documents are meticulously selected and categorized according to their priority and role in changing the course of the Palestinian issue. This book series is adamant about ensuring balance between the different forces which are effective and influential on the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, Israeli and international levels. It takes into consideration the weight and role of these forces and their impact on the course of events throughout the year.

It took around a year of continuous work by the preparatory team for the documents to be gathered and then arranged chronologically, and their titles to be indexed according to the content of each document. The book is also enriched with indexes of names, places, organizations, conferences, agreements and initiatives to facilitate the work of researchers.

Editors: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh, Wael A. Sa'ad and 'Abdul-Hameed F. al-Kayyali



3. *Am I Not a Human? Series*

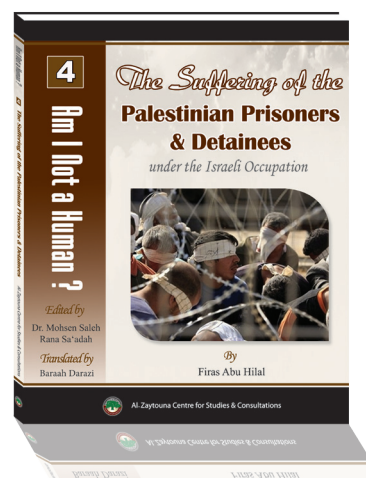
This series is a rich interactive documentation of the Palestinian suffering under the Israeli occupation. It focuses on the Israeli violations of the Palestinians' basic human rights. This series is also distinguished for its academic, well documented, comprehensive, concise, and graphically-supported information. It is being published in both Arabic and English.

Ten titles have been published in this series by the end of 2011, including:

a. *Am I Not a Human (4): The Suffering of the Palestinian Prisoners & Detainees under the Israeli Occupation* (English)

This book deals with the suffering of the Palestinian prisoners under the Israeli occupation, where statistics reveal that since 1967 around 25% of the Palestinian population has been detained.

This detention process involves various humiliation dimensions, violating international conventions and basic humanitarian conduct, in addition to the treaties and laws. All this is presented in this book, with special focus on the statistics and documented description on the sufferings and human rights violations.



Prepared by: Firas Abu Hilal

Edited by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh, Mariam Itani & Rana Sa'adah

Translated by: Baraah Darazi

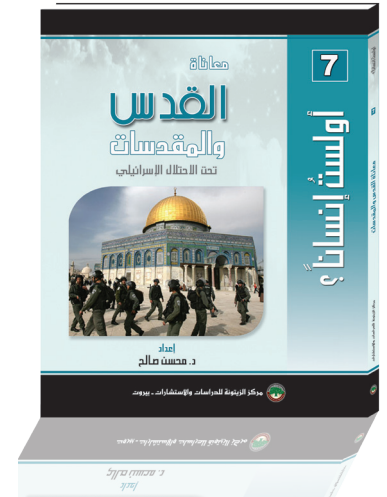
b. Am I not a Human? (7): *The Suffering of Jerusalem and the Holy Sites under the Israeli Occupation* (Arabic)

This book documents the suffering of the holy city, holy in Islam, Christianity and Judaism, and its population under the Israeli occupation; in addition to the occupation's infringements on other Muslim and Christian holy sites in Palestine generally.

It presents a historic and legal background on the issue of Jerusalem, since its occupation, including documented narratives of the occupation of the city and the continuous forced displacement of its population, in addition to documents that prove the illegality and de-legitimacy of the occupation. The book also considers the Israeli infringements on *al-Aqsa* mosque, including excavations beneath and near the mosque that threaten its infrastructure, the breakings into the mosque, the expropriation of its areas and of neighboring homes and neighborhoods, and the continuous attempts of the occupation to transform it into an open site for Jews and tourists, thus depriving its religious sanctity to Muslims.

Additionally, the book describes the Israeli occupation's practices in the issue of Judaizing Jerusalem and the various planning schemes that aim at isolating Jerusalem from its Palestinian neighboring villages and from the West Bank more generally, and the expropriation of vast lands around Jerusalem to annex them to its municipal borders. It explains that one of the major goals of building the Separation Wall is to have more flexibility in Judaizing Jerusalem.

Prepared by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

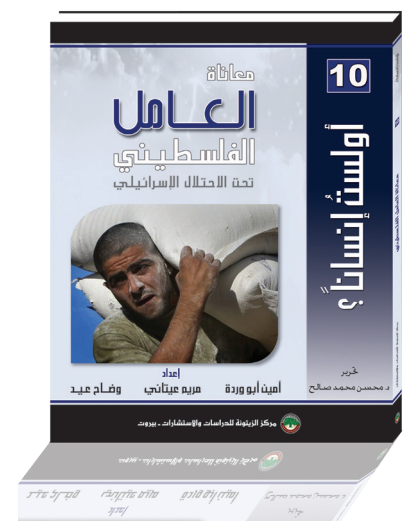


c. Am I Not a Human? (10): *The Suffering of the Palestinian Worker under the Israeli Occupation* (Arabic)

This book deals with the suffering of the Palestinian worker, and the history of the Palestinian labor movement and its struggle to restore its rights. It also talks about the direct targeting of the Palestinian workers, the infrastructure and the agriculture sector. In addition to the Israeli restrictions on the Palestinian economy.

The workers living in GS and WB are 24.4% of the Palestinian people, i.e., one quarter of the population there. Israel has always worked to strangle the Palestinian economy in order to make the Palestinians economically dependent on Israel.

Statistics reveal that more than 35% of the labor force is in GS, and 25-30% of the labor force in the WB had been working in very bad conditions from 1970 till 1993. The Palestinian workers salaries do not exceed 30-50% of the salaries of their Israeli counterparts.



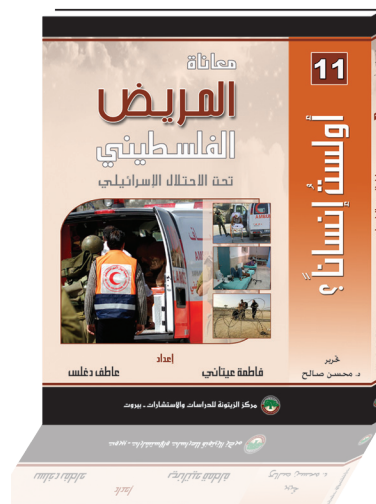
Prepared by: Mariam Itani, Amin Abu Wardeh and Waddah Eid

Edited by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

d. Am I not a Human? (11): *The Suffering of the Palestinian Patient under the Israeli Occupation* (Arabic)

The book addresses the suffering of the Palestinian patients and the Palestinian health sector due to Israeli violations. These include the vast difference in health care between the Jews and Arabs, the experimentations done on Arab patients, the repercussions of the siege on the Gazan patients; in addition to the influence of the Israeli checkpoints and the Separation Wall on the patients in the West Bank, the suffering of the patients held in the Israeli jails and the deliberate targeting of medical personnel.

The book cites many cases of patients whose suffering is exacerbated by Israeli obstacles and the difficult conditions of Palestinian health care institutions. It sheds light on the experimentations performed on Palestinian patients in the Israeli hospitals including children, old and mentally ill patients without their own or their legal custodians' permission.



The frequent Israeli attacks on Palestinian medical personnel were also exposed. The personnel are fired at, physically and verbally abused, and obstructed from reaching patients or even the injured. During Israeli military operations ambulances and medical facilities are always targeted.

Prepared by: Fatima Itani and Atef Daghlal

Edited by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

4. Information Report Series

The series was launched by the Information and Archives Department of al-Zaytouna Centre in early 2008. It aims to provide the reader with informative, concise and well-documented information set on selected issues of concern; Arab and Muslim World issues, and more specifically the Palestinian.

Prepared by: Information and Archives Department

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Managing Editor: Rabie el-Dannan

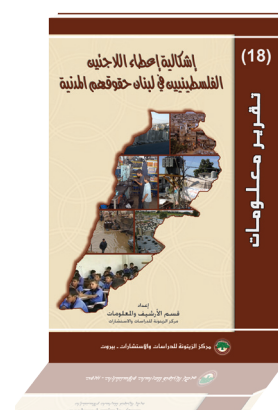
During 2011, the following titles have been published in this series:

a. Information Report (18): *The Dilemma of Granting the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Their Civil Rights* (Arabic)

This report sheds light on the Palestinians' refuge to Lebanon, their early arrival stage and how did their residential status develop until today. It states the rights and laws related to them in international law and texts, then summarizes the major texts related to them in Lebanese legislation texts and governmental decrees, including those in the fields of: visas, residency permits, labor law, property ownership law, etc...

The report also includes the stances of major Lebanese political parties towards the Palestinian refugees and their rights, and the stances and efforts of various Palestinian sides (the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian factions) in terms of defending and claiming these rights; in addition to the role of the Palestinian civil society organizations in Lebanon.

The report finally includes as well a briefing of Arab and international stances regarding the rights of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.



b. Information Report (19): *The Israeli Labor Party* (Arabic)

This report sheds light on the roots of the Labor Party, which began in 1930, i.e., before the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948.

The report details the internal differences and problems of the party. It explores the Labor Party platform, political vision, role in Israeli politics, and participation in Israeli governments. The report also includes a section that discusses the role of the party in the Arab-Israeli conflict; its role in the wars and its position concerning the peace settlement.

**c. Information Report (20): *The Convoys of Breaking the Siege of Gaza Strip* (Arabic)**

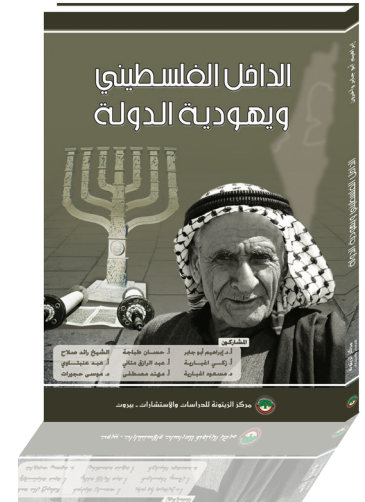
This report sheds light on the various Israeli procedures and restrictions concerning the aerial, maritime and land siege of the Gaza Strip. It explains the Egyptian restrictions on the Rafah border crossing. Various stances concerning this siege are explored including the stances of the Palestinian National Authority, the Palestinian factions in addition to the positions of the international community, and the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Then, the report discusses the most prominent sea and land flotillas and convoys, while explaining details concerning organizers, cargos, objectives, destinies and various reactions.

**5. Others****a. *The Palestinian Community in Israel & the Jewishness of the State* (Arabic)**

The book explores the conditions of the Arabs in the 1948 Palestinian territories, especially after Israel had proclaimed the “Jewishness of the State” and the arrival of the Netanyahu Government in 2009. This proclamation aims at liquidating the Palestinian issue, expelling those who are still there, confiscating and Judaizing their land and its sites, sabotaging sanctuaries and historical sites, destroying whole villages, changing the Arab names of places into Hebrew, and canceling the right of return.

The ten chapters discuss the population exchange projects and the effect of the “Jewishness of the State” on the identity of the Arabs in historic Palestine, the crisis of local Arab governance, razing Arab and Muslim relics, and the policy of Judaization planning. It also examines Israeli ethnic cleansing manifested in the destruction of homes, internal forced displacement and the revocation of IDs, Judaizing education, the Land Privatization Law which facilitates the transfer of the ownership of the State’s lands; which were originally Arab lands confiscated by Israel to Jewish ownership. Finally, the book sheds light on the role of the High Follow-up Committee for Arab Affairs.

**Prepared by:**

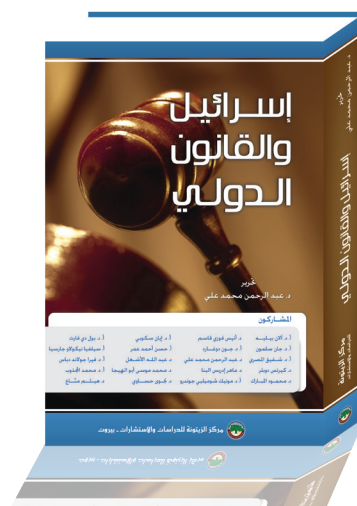
Mr. Abd Intbawi
Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Abu Jabir
Mr. Muhannad Mustafa

Mr. Abdul Razzaq Mitany
Dr. Musa Hujairat
Sheikh Raed Salah

Mr. Hassan Tabaja
Dr. Masoud Ighbariyeh,
Mr. Zeki Ighbariyeh

b. *Israel and the International Law* (Arabic)

This edited volume discusses the various aspects of the Israeli violations of international law, in twenty chapters prepared by specialized intellectuals in this domain. The book first presents the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in the context of international law, including most importantly the right of return, compensation and resistance. The book then deals with the Israeli violations related to perpetuating war crimes, aggression and occupation, and violations related to forced displacement, denial of the right of return, siege, house demolitions, land expropriation, settlement construction, the Separation Wall, the annexation of Jerusalem and its Judaization attempts, extrajudicial assassinations, and crimes against children, women and prisoners. In addition, the book discusses the role of legal organizations in legally pursuing Israel for its violations of the international law.



The release of this book crowns the efforts of a whole year in preparation and editing of the working papers that were presented in the international conference organized by al-Zaytouna Centre under the same title during 4-5/11/2009, with the participation of a select of intellectuals in international law. In addition, some significant chapters were later prepared and added to the book.

Edited by: Dr. Abdelrahman Mohamad Ali

Contributors:

Dr. Abdelrahman Mohamad Ali

Prof. Dr. Alain Pellet

Dr. Curtis F.J. Doebbler

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Prof. Dr. Monique Chemillier-Gendreau

Prof. Dr. Muhammad al-Majzoub

Prof. Dr. Paul De Waart

Ms. Silvia Nicolaou-Garcia

Dr. Abdullah al-Ash'al

Dr. Anis Fawzi Qassem

Dr. Haitham Manna

Prof. Dr. Iain Scobbie

Prof. Dr. John Dugard

Dr. Mahmud al-Mubarak

Dr. Muhammad Abu al-Haija

Dr. Najwa Hassawi

Prof. Dr. Shafiq Masri

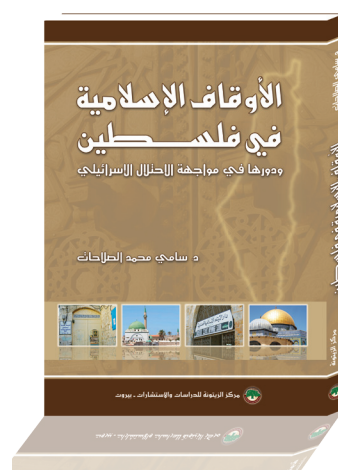
Prof. Dr. Vera Gowlland-Debbas

c. *The Islamic Endowments in Palestine and Their Role in Facing the Israeli Occupation* (Arabic)

This book addresses the Islamic endowments in Palestine and how they formed an economic, social and humanitarian support for the Palestinians. It also shows how they served the Palestinian national movement especially during the British occupation of Palestine and were consequently targeted by the Zionist movement and by Israel.

It also presents the mechanisms through which Israel targeted the Islamic endowments of Palestine in 1948 and 1967. It shows how military laws and decisions, such as the Absentee Property Law, were tailored to seize endowments and expropriate them for the benefit of the Israelis.

Prepared by: Dr. Sami Mohammad al-Salahat



d. *The Process of Israeli Decision Making: Mechanisms, Forces and Influences (Arabic)*

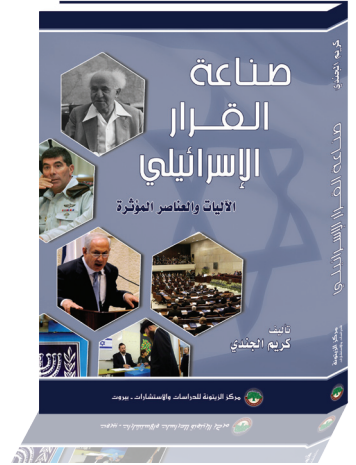
This study is an attempt to understand the Israeli decision-making process and identify its most important elements of strength and weakness. It further seeks to bridge the gap in the literature pertaining to this issue through analyzing the internal and external factors and how they overlap.

On another level, the study tries to explain the complexity of the factors and forces within the Israeli society. This complexity impacts the decision-making process and the mechanism of making national security and foreign policy decisions. It also addresses the relation between Israel and the Jewish communities abroad, in addition to the relation between Israel and the US and its impact on the Israeli decision-making process.

This study is notable for its attempt to adopt a comprehensive approach to the decision-making process rather than focusing only on decision-making in times of crises.

Author: Karim el- Gendy

Translated by: Amal Itani



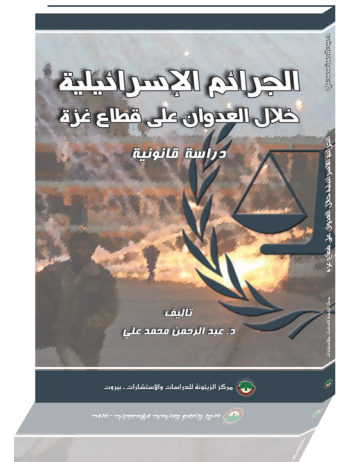
e. *Crimes Perpetrated by Israel During Its Aggression Against the Gaza Strip: A Legal Study (Arabic)*

This is a legal study of the alleged crimes committed by Israel during its aggression on the Gaza Strip in the period extending from 27/12/2008 to 18/1/2009, in accordance with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. It is written by Dr. Abdelrahman Mohamad Ali, an expert of International Law and a holder of a certificate from the Centre for Studies and Research of the Hague Academy of International Law.

The book points out that, while Israel claims that it had started its war against Gaza in order to stop Palestinian rockets from pounding southern Israel, and that it targeted only the strongholds of Palestinian resistance fighters, all human rights organizations' reports assert that Israel has used excessive force. They also report that most of the targeted facilities were civilian public facilities or private properties located in the midst of crowded neighborhoods. This led to the mass murder of entire families, in breach of all international conventions.

The book points out that the Palestinians have plenty of means to put legal pressure on Israel; one of them is to call on the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility and recognize the Palestinian state.

Prepared by: Dr. Abdelrahman Mohamad Ali



f. *The Israeli Foreign Policy Towards Africa: The Sudan Case* (Arabic)

In this book the Israeli vision of Sudan as a state is explained, where it reviews the history of Israeli-Sudanese relations that started in the early fifties of the last century. The Israeli keenness on building direct or indirect relations with Sudan is based on a fundamental Israeli strategy, i.e., tightening the relations with the African countries will provide an exit for Israel out of its isolation in the midst of the Arab region. Thus, these relations will secure for it alternative commercial, political and security relations. It proves that Israel has ambitions in Sudan's water and oil. Furthermore, the book tells how Israel took advantage of its good relations with Sudan during the period of the then President Jaafar Nimeiri to facilitate the migration of the Falasha Jews.



The author explores the Israeli role in the partitioning of Sudan, its relations with John Garang and the Darfur case, in addition to the effect of the Israeli foreign policy towards Africa on Arab national security. At the end, he puts forward several recommendations for facing the Israeli threats to the Arab countries in Africa.

Prepared by: 'Amer Khalil Ahmad 'Amer

g. *The Russian Stance Towards Hamas (2006-2010)* (Arabic)

This book considers the development of the relations between Russia and Hamas following the latter's legislative electoral victory in 2006.

The author, Wisam Abi 'Isa, discusses the backgrounds of the Russian interest in developing this relation, which was according to the book a pillar of a modern Russian approach to "interest-investments" in the Middle East region. Abi 'Isa identifies the determinants of this relation on the side of each party, i.e., Hamas and Russia, then briefs its major stages and moments. He argues that Russia is aiming at a larger regional role in the Middle East, namely towards the Palestinian issue, and thus didn't consider Hamas Movement a "terrorist" organization, but rather dealt openly with it and appreciated the movement's popular support and legitimacy in the Palestinian context.



The book explained that the Russian approach was two folds: while it was calling on the international level to lift the siege of Gaza Strip, Russia was pushing Hamas to get convinced with the two state solution and peaceful settlement of the conflict.

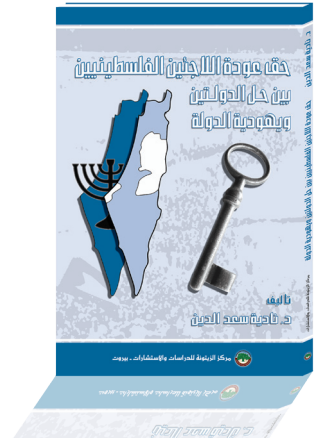
Prepared by: Wisam Abi 'Isa

h. *The Palestinian Right of Return: Between the Two-State Solution and the Jewishness of the State (Arabic)*

This book studies the prospects of implementing the right of return of the Palestinian refugees within the context of a two-state solution; and under the Israeli condition to include any Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement recognition of the “Jewishness” of Israel.

It explores the obstacles pertaining to the refugees issues within the context of an Israeli perspective of the two-state solution while explaining the danger of giving up the right of return. The author considers that this solution and the “Jewishness” of Israel will grant Israel a historical, religious and legal legitimacy.

The book analyzes the structure of Israel, contemporary Zionist ideology which opposes the peace settlement, and the dominance of ultra-rightists and ultra-Orthodox Jews. The author studies the timing, objectives and the dangers of demanding a Palestinian recognition of the “Jewishness” of Israel. For it would mean the nullification of the right of return of the Palestinian refugees and it would deny Palestinians in the 1948 territories their rights. The book tries to have a scientific understanding of inside Israel, the Israeli political map, and the position on establishing a Palestinian state and on the Palestinian national rights.



Prepared by: Dr. Nadia Said Al Deen



Second: Strategic Assessment

This assessment is a periodic report characterized by its rich material. It tries to study a particular incident or issue and track its future developments. It highlights the stronger scenario and presents the recommendations that best deal with it.

The strategic assessment usually addresses the Palestinian issue and the related Arab, Islamic and international dimensions. In addition, it tackles other issues which fall within the Centre's interests, and they are available in both Arabic and English.

Al-Zaytouna Centre has published 40 strategic assessments by the end of 2011, including 13 of which were published in that year and tackled the following topics:

1. The Implications of the Changes in the Arab Region on the Palestinian Issue (April 2011).
2. The Fatah– Hamas Reconciliation ... Developments and Prospects (April 2011).
3. The Future of the Israeli Position Towards Egypt Post the January 25 Revolution (May 2011).
4. The Future of the Palestinian Resistance in the Light of the Arab Uprisings (May 2011).
5. The Palestinians and the Right of Return... 15/5/2011 as a Model (June 2011).
6. The Arab Transformations and the Political Settlement (July 2011).
7. The American Policy Towards the Palestinian Issue in the Light of the Arab Developments (July 2011).
8. Declaration of the Palestinian State: The Scenarios and Implications (August 2011).
9. Israeli Approach to the Palestinian Reconciliation and its Deadlines (August 2011).
10. Attempts to Break the Gaza blockade ... Where to? (September 2011).
11. The Protests in Israel and their Implications (October 2011).
12. The Palestinian Internal Situation in Light of Developments in the Issues of Palestinian Statehood, Reconciliation, and Prisoner Exchange (December 2011).
13. The Future of the Bid for a UN Membership for a Palestinian State in the UN Security Council (December 2011).



Third: Al-Zaytouna Translations

It is a translation series which is periodically published by al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations. The series aims to shed light on the most prominent articles and studies issued by Israeli and Western studies centers, 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 scientific research and presents a clear overview of the thought trends perceived by different decision making centers. In this sense, al-Zaytouna translations are characterized by thoroughness, precision and professionalism.

The Centre has published 72 translations by the end of 2011, including 10 during that year which addressed the following titles:

1. Sudan's Secession Crisis: Can the South Part From the North Without War? (translated: January 2011).
2. Israel's Troubled Relationship with Turkey and Iran: the "Periphery" Dimension (translated: February 2011).
3. Two titles for March 2011 edition:
 - a. Egypt's Constitutional Ghosts: Deciding the Terms of Cairo's Democratic Transition
 - b. The Muslim Brotherhood After Mubarak: What the Brotherhood Is and How it Will Shape the Future.
4. Three titles for April 2011 edition:
 - a. The Arab Awakening and Syrian Exceptionalism.
 - b. Israel's Dilemma in Damascus: Jerusalem's View on the Syrian Uprising.
 - c. Syria's Race Against the Clock.
5. A New-Old Middle East: Current Developments and their Implications for Israel (translated: April 2011).
6. Should Israel Become a "Normal" Nation? (translated: June 2011).
7. Misplaced Priorities: Turkish Assessments of U.S. Power (July 2011).
8. Policy Options for Switching the PLO with the PA as the Palestinian Interlocutor (translated: September 2011).
9. The Next War: How Another Conflict Between Hizballah and Israel Could Look and How Both Sides Are Preparing For It (1) (translated: November 2011).
10. The Next War: How Another Conflict Between Hizballah and Israel Could Look and How Both Sides Are Preparing For It (2) (translated: December 2011).



Fourth: Information and Archives Department

The Information and Archives Department has an essential role in the work of al-Zaytouna Centre. The department follows, on a daily basis, more than 65 reliable electronic sources. The sources include the most important Arab, foreign and Israeli newspapers, and news sites. It also follows on a weekly basis 35 main Arab, Israeli and foreign research and studies centers. The department saves the material, which lies within the scope of its interest, documents and categorizes it in order to establish a rich information archive. This archive is used in the Centre's different publications, most notably the Arabic daily electronic newsletter "Palestine Today," the annual *Palestinian Strategic Report*, the Information Report Series, al-Zaytouna translations and other works.

Fifth: "Palestine Today" Newsletter

"Palestine Today" is an Arabic daily electronic newsletter dealing with all issues related to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is issued without interruption throughout the week. "Palestine Today" is the outcome of daily following of 65 reliable electronic sources. The sources include the most important Arab and foreign newspapers and news sites. In addition, to research and study centers where around 25 sources are effectively used in the daily issue.

The electronic newsletter provides rich material for researchers and specialists sparing them time and effort. It is characterized by the effective design, where news is easily browsed.

"Palestine Today" is available on al-Zaytouna website. By the end of 2011, the Centre published 2366 issues including 355 issues in this particular year.



Sixth: Al-Zaytouna Website

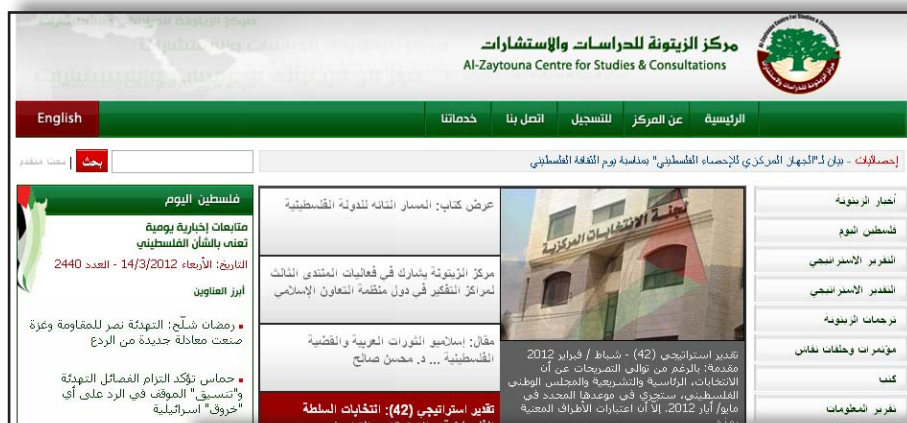
The English and Arabic websites of the Centre have undergone a series of progressive enhancements during 2011, which included new layouts and redesigns, improving the functionality of both sites, and offering new services to make both sites more user-friendly. The new look of the English website was launched in June 2011, while the upgraded Arabic site was launched in December 2011.

The site updates its visitors with the latest news of the Centre, its activities and publications. It also allows them access to 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.

On another hand, out of its keenness to spread information, the site provides its visitors with the chance for free download of a number of the Centre's publications. The download includes *The Palestinian Strategic Report*, the Information Report Series and another variety of valuable books.

Alzaytouna.net was originally launched in October 2005. It succeeded in two years from its inception in achieving a distinct rank among other sites of study centers concerned with the Palestinian issue, at home and abroad. Currently, it is one of the most visited sites.

Due to the Arab revolutions during 2011, there was a decline in those who follow the events of the Palestinian arena, but despite that the site achieved an increase in the number of visits by 5% and was visited more than 466 thousand times during that year, knowing that the number of visits increased by 30% in 2010. As for the number of hits in 2011, it reached 20 million and 130 thousand hits.



Seventh: Conferences and Panel Discussions

Al-Zaytouna focuses on spreading awareness on regional events at local, regional and international levels. The Centre holds panel discussions within the framework of its policy of openness to all ideas, and intellectual and political trends in the world. The panel discussions are specialized and scientific. They address key issues and topics within an environment of objective and meaningful dialogue and a climate of free discussion. Hence, attaining the results which best serve the reasons of holding these discussions.

The discussions bring together a select of specialists, researchers and experts on the Palestinian issue from around the world. They are highly organized and covered by the media.

These panel discussions are an important source for preparing books, reports and strategic assessments. The Centre publishes the minutes of the discussions on its site for the audience to benefit from them.

The Centre has held 22 conferences and panel discussions till the end of 2011 including 4 during that year under the following titles:

1. The Palestinian Issue: Strategic Evaluation 2010 – Strategic Assessment 2011.
2. The Implications of the Arab World's Uprisings on the Palestinian Issue.
3. The Palestinian Refugees' Right of Return... 15/5/2011 as a Model.
4. The Internal Palestinian Situation: The Reconciliation, the Declaration of the Palestinian State and the Prisoner Swap Deal.

1. Panel Discussion “The Palestinian Issue: Strategic Evaluation 2010 – Strategic Assessment 2011”

(13/1/2011 – Crowne Plaza Hotel – Beirut)

On 13/1/2011, al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations held its annual panel discussion concerning the strategic assessment of the Palestinian issue, which was entitled this year, “The Palestinian Issue: Strategic Evaluation 2010 – Strategic Assessment 2011.” The discussion was held with the participation of a select of academics and intellectuals who are concerned with the Palestinian issue.

The importance of the panel discussion is that it assessed the various developments of the Palestinian issue during 2010. It attempted to have a strategic forecasting to the 2011 developments. This panel has become an established annual event of the Centre, in line with the latter's continuous efforts in the field of the studies of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This panel discussion was the fourth in a row, as al-Zaytouna Centre was preparing for its annual *Palestinian Strategic Report*.



2. Panel Discussion “The Implications of the Arab World’s Uprisings on the Palestinian Issue”

(10/3/2011 – Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

The discussion was held at the Centre on 10/3/2011, and brought together a select of intellectuals and academics in the field of Palestinian and Arab studies.

The discussion was divided into two sessions, the first focused on laying the relevant and important informative foundations, and on analyzing the current situation and standings; while the second session considered the possible future scenarios regarding the implications of the developments in the Arab world on the Palestinian and Israeli realms. The Strategic Assessment “The Implications of the Changes in the Arab Region on the Palestinian Issue” (April 2011) was based on the proceedings of this panel discussion.



3. Panel Discussion “The Palestinian Refugees’ Right of Return... 15/5/2011 as a Model”

(25/5/2011 – Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

The panel discussion tackled the recent Palestinian popular movements marking the anniversary of the *Nakbah* (the catastrophe) and which were organized in different countries simultaneously. The panel discussion was held on 25/5/2011 and brought together a select of intellectuals and academics specialized in the Palestinian and Arab studies.

The discussion extended over two sessions; the first of which was dedicated for discussing the dimensions of the recent events, and their implications and motivations. It particularly focused on the rallies of Lebanon and Syria where more than ten were killed and hundreds injured. The session also tackled the different reactions on the Israeli, Arab and international levels.

The second session highlighted the future scenarios of the Palestinian popular actions demanding the right of return, the possibility to develop such actions and the needed mechanisms for their development. The Strategic Assessment “The Palestinians and the Right of Return... 15/5/2011 as a Model” (June 2011) was based on the proceedings of this panel discussion.



4. Panel Discussion “The Internal Palestinian Situation: The Reconciliation, the Declaration of the Palestinian State and the Prisoner Swap Deal”

(27/10/2011 – Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

The panel discussion addressed the files which had garnered much attention during that period, namely: the Palestinian national conciliation, the Palestinian bid for statehood and the prisoner swap deal dubbed “Faithfulness of Freeman Deal.”

The participants, including different researchers and specialists in the Palestinian issue, stressed that the basic solution to the Palestinian crisis, mainly represented in the failure of negotiations and the inactivity of the resistance, is the agreement on common ground and common national platform which redefines the Palestinian national project and sets its objectives and mechanisms of implementation.

The Strategic Assessment “The Palestinian Internal Situation in Light of Developments in the Issues of Palestinian Statehood, Reconciliation, and Prisoner Exchange” (December 2011) was based on the proceedings of this panel discussion.



Eighth: Training Courses

Al-Zaytouna Centre continued convening training courses in 2011. Two training courses on Futures Studies were held, and about 50 attendees participated. The first one was held on 2-3/6/2011 and the second on 7-9/9/2011.

The two courses were facilitated by Prof. Dr. Walid ‘Abd al-Hay. The world-known specialist introduced the trainees to the fundamentals of Futures Studies, their methodologies and techniques. The courses explored some futures case studies to explain the methodologies and mechanisms used; determination of the subject and its time frame, measurement of indicators, accumulation and analysis of data, and final decision-making.

The courses facilitated the active interaction of participants, which included workshops that teach the application of various methods.



Ninth: Participation in Book Fairs

The Centre is adamant about the participation in local and international book fairs. The Centre seeks to publicize its achievements in general and to present its publications and market them in particular, in addition to maintaining direct communication with its audience in various countries.

During 2011, al-Zaytouna participated in 12 book fairs including 4 local and 8 Arab international book fairs:

- The 16th Muscat International Book Fair (22/2–4/3/2011).
- The Riyadh International Book Fair (1–11/3/2011).
- The 21st Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (15–20/3/2011).
- The 24th Tehran International Book Fair (4–14/5/2011).
- The 27th Al-Assad National Library International Book Fair—Damascus (8–18/9/2011).
- The 30th Sharjah International Book Fair (16–26/11/2011).
- The 55th Beirut International Arab Book Fair (2–15/12/2011).
- The 22nd Doha International Book Fair (12–22/12/2011).



Tenth: Public Relations

The Centre was keen in 2011 to continue its work with the different parties engaged in decision making in the region. This is in consistence with its policy of openness to actors and institutions involved in decision making, in addition to its openness cooperation and integration with the universities and centers working in the same domain. The Centre brief them all on its work and publications of strategic nature. It holds discussions and exchanges views with those interested in the Centre's work, including Arab and foreign politicians and diplomats.

The Centre's network of contacts includes state leaders, kings, presidents, prime ministers, parliamentarians, foreign ministers, ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions and other figures working in the field of public policies related to the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. In this context, al-Zaytouna gave special attention to communicating with the Palestinian decision makers at home and abroad; the PLO, PA and different factions and political actors in the Palestinian arena.

The Centre is also keen to communicate with researchers and academics from different political and intellectual backgrounds. The communication occurs in academic conferences and panel discussions—whether held by al-Zaytouna or others—and by hosting researchers, consulting them, and briefing them continuously on its news and publications.

Al-Zaytouna Centre participated in many conferences in 2011, and the most prominent of these participations were in:

1. The 8th Annual Conference of al-Quds International Institution, which was held in Khartoum, Sudan, on 6–7/3/2011, under the auspices of the Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir. The General-Manager of al-Zaytouna Centre Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh, attended the conference, along with a select of academics, thinkers and dignitaries who came from various Arab and foreign countries.
2. The Sixth Al Jazeera Forum, entitled “The World in Transition: Has the Future Arrived?” It was held in Doha, on 12–14/3/2011.
3. The Second OIC Member Countries Think Tanks Forum which was organized by the TASAM Institute of Islamic Countries with the contribution of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The conference was held on 30–31/3/2011 and was focused on the main theme “Public Diplomacy.” Al-Zaytouna Centre has participated through its General Manager Dr. Mohsen Saleh, and the Executive Assistant Researcher Mr. Wael Sa'ad.
4. A training course held by The Diplomatic Institute of Oman, on 16–18/4/2011. The course was on the Palestinian issue and was presented by Dr. Mohsen Saleh. Among the participants were a number of students of the Institute, diplomatic personnel and part of Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs's staff.
5. The second conference of The International Forum for Islamist Parliamentarians, entitled “The Legitimacy of Change... and the Democratic Reform,” and was held in Langkawi, Malaysia, on 10–11/7/2011.
6. Academic Forum on Palestine which was organized by the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). It was held on 26/8/2011, and Dr. Mohsen Saleh, presented the keynote address.

Al-Zaytouna's Public Relations and Media Department also issued on the seventh anniversary of al-Zaytouna Centre's establishment a commemorative booklet, entitled "Al-Zaytouna in Their Eyes." It includes a number of testimonials that the Centre had received on this occasion and on other occasions, from a group of politicians, experts and academics. These testimonials reflect the excellent reputation that the Centre enjoys in their circles.



Eleventh: Al-Zaytouna in the Media

The Centre is keen to reach out to its audience. Its Public Relations and Media Department communicates with the various satellite channels, news agencies, local and international sites and websites, to introduce its activities and publications and to provide media coverage for the events it holds. In this context, the Centre supplies these institutions with the latest news on published books and summaries about the panel discussions, conferences and any other events it might organize. In addition, al-Zaytouna provides media outlets with the latest information reports and strategic assessments it publishes.

It is also keen to accept media invitations to introduce the work of the Centre and its activities, or to comment on the major events within its domain, and participate in the fora and discussions on the different events.

During 2011, the Public Relations and Media Department issued 33 press articles about the activities of the Centre and its works, and documented these articles' publication 383 times in 120 different sources including newspapers, magazines, news agencies and websites. It also documented the publication of tens of press articles about the Centre and its work in the media, other than the material published by the department itself.

In 2011, the department documented the participation of five of the Centre's researchers and representatives in more than 70 interviews with 18 media institutions, including TV channels, radio stations, newspapers, news agencies and websites.

The most prominent media outlets which have published about the Centre till the end of 2011 were:

1. Local and Satellite TV Channels and Radio Stations

Al-Jazeera, al-Jazeera Live, al-Hiwar, al-Quds, Alalam, Press TV, al-Aqsa, Alresalah, Ashorooq, Filastin al-Yawm, Future, al-Manar, National Broadcasting Network (NBN), Télé Liban (TL), and the radio stations: Lebanese Radio Station, al-Fajr (Lebanon), Alnour (Lebanon), al-Basha'ir (Lebanon), Hayat FM (Jordan), Radio 786 (South Africa), etc.



2. Local and International Arabic Newspapers and Magazines

Al-Hayat (London), *al-Quds al-Arabi* (London), *Filisteen Almuslima* magazine (London), *Al Awda* magazine (London), *Assafir* (Lebanon), *Annahar* (Lebanon), *Almustaqbal* (Lebanon), *al-Akhabr* (Lebanon), *Aliwaa* (Lebanon), *Albalad* (Lebanon), *al-Aman* weekly (Lebanon), *Addustour* (Jordan), *Alghad* (Jordan), *Alrai* (Jordan), *Alarab Alyawm* (Jordan), *Assabeel* (Jordan), *al-Liwa* weekly (Jordan), *Alquds* (Palestine), *al-Ayyam* (Palestine), *al-Hayat al-Jadida* (Palestine), *Felesteen* (Palestine), *Alresalah* weekly (Palestine), *al-Khaleej* (Emirates), *Alittihad* (Emirates), *Albayan* (Emirates), *Alayam* (Bahrain), *Akhbar Alkhaleej* (Bahrain), *Alnaba* weekly (Bahrain), *al-Watan* (KSA), *Okaz* (KSA), *al-Madina* (KSA), *al-Sharq* (Qatar), *al-Watan* (Qatar), *al-Raya* (Qatar), *Alarab* (Qatar), *al-Watan* (Kuwait), *Alrai* (Kuwait), *al-Qabas* (Kuwait), *Awan* (Kuwait), *Almujtamaa* magazine (Kuwait), etc.

3. News Websites and Agencies

Aljazeera.net, AlArabiya.net, IslamOnline.net, Arabs 48, The Palestinian Information Center (PIC), Palestine News Agency (WAFA), Quds Press International News Agency, Sama News Agency, Ma'an News Agency, Arabic Media Internet Network (AMIN), Moheet, Palestine News Network (PNN), Islam Today, Islam Times, etc.

