



Al-Zaytouna Harvest 2012

Prepared by

Public Relations and Media Department
Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies & Consultations
Beirut-Libanon

القيصرية الفلسطينية 2012

في ضوء الثورات والتغيرات في العالم العربي
تقدير استراتيجي

19 كانون الثاني / يناير 2012
فندق كرونيال بلازا - بيروت - لبنان



الوثائق
الفلسطينية
الأممية
2009
محرر:
د. منصور محمد صالح - د. وائل أحمد حبيب

The Palestinian
Strategic Report
2010/11



مركز الزيتونة للدراسات والاستشارات

H17



فلسطين اليوم

الجزء الرئيسي



لما اكل هذا الثمر وتشر على ارضه طرية فوجية وزعمها ان
مؤتمرا لأقصى والقدس - استمر



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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.

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. Ahmad Mubarak al-Khaldi: Former minister of justice, former dean, Faculty of Law, An-Najah National University, Palestine.
2. Prof. Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan: Former minister of education, former president of the Jordanian University.
3. Prof. Dr. Amin Mahmud: Former minister of culture, Jordan.
4. Prof. Dr. Anis al-Sayegh: Former director of PLO Research Centre.*
5. Prof. Dr. Bayan Nuwayhed al-Hout: Expert in modern Palestinian history.
6. Prof. Dr. Hassan Ahmad Ibrahim: Expert in African and Middle Eastern history.
7. Mr. Salah 'Abd al-Maqsoud: Minister of Information, Egypt, and the director of Arab Media Centre.

8. Dr. Salahuddin al-Dabbagh: Lawyer, former member of the Palestine National Council of the PLO.
9. Dr. Tareq al-Suwaidan: Thinker, management expert.
10. Prof. Dr. ‘Abd al-Wahab al-Masiri: Thinker and expert in Zionism and Israeli studies.*
11. Prof. Dr. ‘Adnan al-Sayyid Hussein: President of the Lebanese University, former Lebanese minister of state.
12. Prof. Dr. ‘Imad al-Din Khalil: Thinker and historian.
13. Prof. Dr. ‘Omar al-Ashqar: Former dean, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Zarqa University, Jordan.*
14. Prof. Dr. Kamalin Shaath: President of the Islamic University of Gaza.
15. Prof. Dr. Mohammad ‘Amarah: Thinker and historian.
16. Prof. Dr. Mohammad ‘Issa Salhie: Expert in Islamic and Arab history.*
17. Prof. Dr. Mohammad al-Musfir: Professor of political science, Qatar University.
18. Dr. Mahmud al-Mubarak: Expert of international law, King Faisal University, KSA.
19. Prof. Dr. Mona Haddad Yakan: President of Jinan University, Lebanon.
20. Mr. Munir Shafiq: Thinker and former director of the PLO Planning Bureau.

* Passed away.

The Centre’s Activities and Services

1. Data and archival material.
2. Researches and studies.
3. Annual Palestinian Strategic Report.
4. Annual Palestinian Documents.
5. Information Report.
6. “Palestine Today” electronic daily newsletter.
7. Website.
8. Strategic Assessment.
9. Specialized translations.
10. Conferences, seminars and lectures.
11. Participation in Book Fairs and conferences.
12. Consultations and training.

Administrative Departments

1. Information and Archives Department.
2. Studies and Researches Department.
3. Translation Department.
4. Consultations and Training Department
5. Website Department.
6. Public Relations and Media Department.
7. Administrative Affairs
8. Finance Department

Works and Achievements

First: Publications

During 2012, al-Zaytouna Centre published 16 books in both English and Arabic. In these publications, the policies of academic objectivity, accuracy of information and quality research were strictly observed. In addition, the Centre adheres to professional standards in publishing and formatting its books.

Al-Zaytouna Centre celebrated the publication of its 100th academic book with the release of Palestinian Documents for the Year 2009, which is the fifth in a series issued since 2005.

The following is a list of the 2012 al-Zaytouna Centre publications:

No.	Title
1	<i>The Palestinian Strategic Report 2011</i>
2	<i>The Palestinian Strategic Report 2010/11(English)</i>
3	<i>Palestinian Documents for the Year 2009</i>
4	<i>The Palestinian Issue: Historical Background and Contemporary Developments</i>
5	<i>Islamic Rules Regarding Prisoners in the Israeli Jails: A Comparative Jurisprudence Study</i>
6	<i>Marj al-Zuhur: A Key Event in the History of the Islamic Movement in Palestine</i>
7	<i>The Zionist Settlers in the West Bank: Aggression on Land and Man</i>
8	<i>Conditions of the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (2nd edition)</i>
9	<i>The Road to Jerusalem</i>
10	<i>The Islamic Student Movement in Palestine: The Islamic Bloc: A Case Study</i>
11	<i>Opposition in the Political Thought of Hamas Movement 1994-2006: Analytical Study</i>
12	<i>Am I not a Human? (7): The Suffering of Jerusalem & the Holy Sites under the Israeli Occupation (English)</i>
13	<i>Am I not a Human? (11): The Suffering of the Palestinian Patient under the Israeli Occupation (English)</i>
14	<i>Information Report (21): Israeli Settlement Activities in the West Bank 1993–2011</i>
15	<i>Information Report (22): Shalit: From the “Dispelled Illusion” Operation till “Devotion of the Free” Deal</i>
16	<i>Information Report (23): The Israeli Stance Towards Egypt’s January 25 Revolution</i>

1. *The Palestinian Strategic Report 2011 (Arabic)*

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Consultants

Mr. Ahmad Khalifah

Dr. Hussien Abu al-Nameh

Prof. Dr. Majdi Hammad

Mr. Munir Shafiq

Writers

Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Abu Jabir

Prof. Dr. Talal 'Atrissi

Dr. Mohamed Nouredine

Dr. Johnny Mansour

Mr. Mu'min Bsiso

Mr. Hani al-Masri

Mr. Hasan Ibhais

Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Mr. Wael Sa'ad

Mr. Ziad Bhies

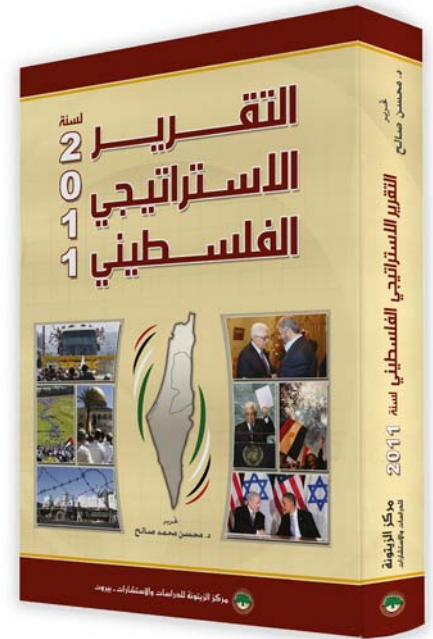
Mr. Muhammad Jum'a

Prof. Dr. Walid 'Abd al-Hay

Hardcover: 362 pages

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. 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.



2. *The Palestinian Strategic Report 2010/11 (English)*

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Senior Language Editor: Rana Sa'adah

Translators:

Prof. Dr. Hassan Ibrahim

Ms. Baraah Darazi

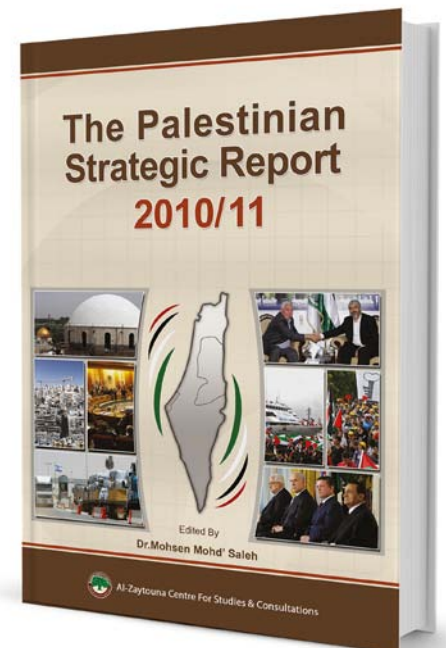
Ms. Marilyn Chbeir

Ms. Salma al-Houry

Ms. Yosra Zoghby

Hardcover: 444 pages

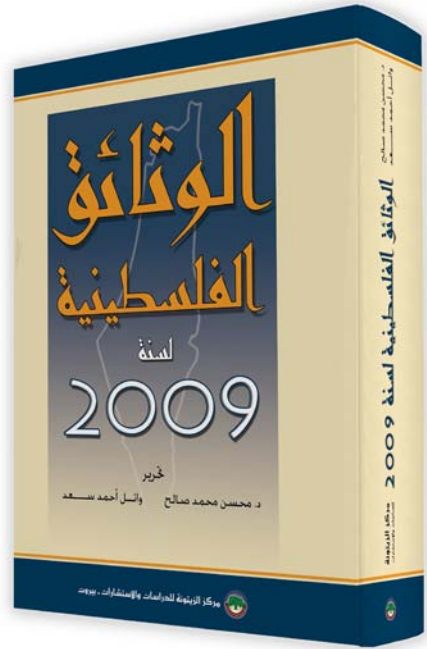
The English version of the Palestinian Strategic Report is considered as a valuable addition to publications on the Palestinian issue. Besides its important and comprehensive information, it's also subjected to strict academic standards. It discusses the Chapters of the Arabic version of the Report.



3. *Palestinian Documents for the Year 2009* (Arabic)

Editors: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh and Wael A. Sa'ad

Hardcover: 862 pages



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 2009.

The Palestinian Documents for the Year 2009 contains 309 documents which map the internal and external events associated with the Palestinian issue throughout 2009, 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.

The editorial team insists on strictly adhering to academic standards. The texts of the documents were revised both academically and linguistically.

The book is also enriched with indexes of names, places, organizations, conferences, agreements and initiatives to facilitate the work of researchers.

4. *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 with 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 in which two of them were published in 2012:



a. Am I Not a Human (7): *The Suffering of Jerusalem and Holy Sites under the Israeli Occupation* (English)

Prepared by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Translated by: Ms. Salma al-Houry

Language Editor: Rana Sa'adah

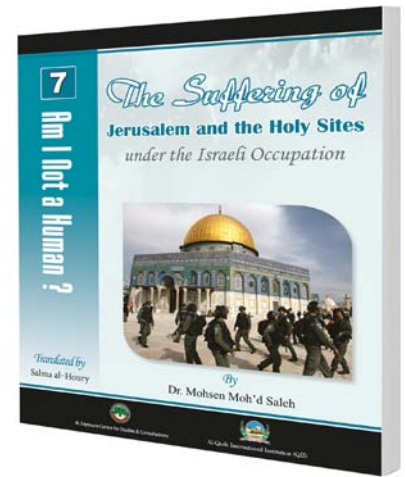
Paperback: 142 pages

It 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.

Additionally, the book describes the Israeli Occupation's practices in the issue of Judaizing Jerusalem and imposing a Jewish façade on the city instead of its currently Muslim-Christian dominant Arab identity; and works in constructing a parallel "holy" Jewish city in the project named "Jerusalem first".

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 neighbouring homes and neighborhoods.

The Occupation's settlement expansion in Jerusalem is also among the major issues considered by the book, not to mention the various planning schemes that aim at isolating Jerusalem from its Palestinian neighboring villages and from the West Bank (WB) more generally.



b. Am I Not a Human (11): *The Suffering of the Palestinian Patient under the Israeli Occupation* (English)

Prepared by: Fatima H. Itani and Atef Daghlas

Edited by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh and Rana Sa'adah

Translated by: Mohammad El-Jadili and Saja El-Shami

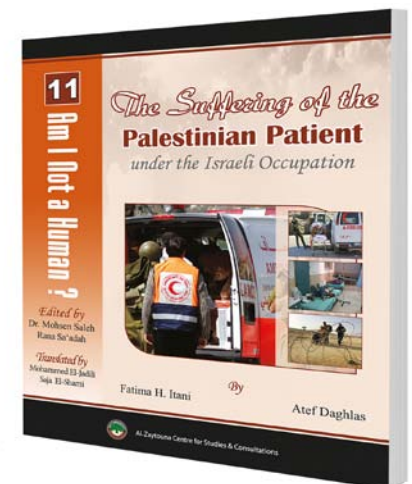
Language Editor: Rana Sa'adah

Paperback: 128 pages

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 WB, 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.



5. 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.

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Managing Editor: Rabie el-Dannan

Editing Team: Basem El-Kasem, Hayat Dada, Samer Hussein, Saleh Al-Shannat & Mohammad Barakeh

During 2012, the following titles have been published in this series:

a. Information Report (21): *Israeli Settlement Activities in the West Bank 1993–2011* (Arabic)

Paperback: 72 pages

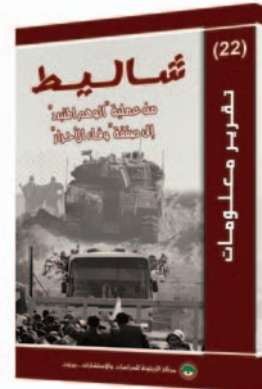
This report discusses the Israeli settlement building in the WB. It tackles the ideology of the Israeli settlements and explores their historical development in the WB from 1993 to 2011. Besides, the impact of Israeli settlement activities on the Palestinian political, economic, social and environmental conditions are thoroughly examined.



b. Information Report (22): *Shalit: From the “Dispelled Illusion” Operation till “Devotion of the Free” Deal* (Arabic)

Paperback: 78 pages

This report sheds light on an issue that has contributed to the release of more than a thousand Palestinian prisoners. It is the prisoner exchange operation between Hamas and Israel concluded in October 2011. The report reviews the history of detaining prisoners, and points out the most prominent prisoner exchange operations that took place between the Palestinian resistance and Israel. It speaks about the “Dispelled Illusion” operation, during which Gilad Shalit was captured; and then it deals with the subject of indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas, mainly under Egyptian mediation.



c. Information Report (23): *The Israeli Stance Towards Egypt’s January 25 Revolution* (Arabic)

Paperback: 80 pages

The report, which casts light on the Israeli position towards the Egyptian revolution, dedicates its first section to address the Egyptian-Israeli relations since Camp David Accords throughout the tenures of Presidents Anwar al-Sadat and Hosni Mubarak. The second section displays an overview of Egypt’s 25 January revolution and the subsequent Israeli reaction besides describing how the Israelis failed to anticipate the revolution. In addition, the section displays the standing of the Israeli military institution and trends of Israeli public opinion regarding the consequent events.



The third section tackles the impact of the Egyptian revolution on Israel, the future of the peace treaty, the military situation in Israel and the balance of power in the region. The fourth and last section addresses the repercussions of the revolution on the Israeli policy regarding the Palestinian cause.

6. Others:

a. *The Palestinian Issue: Historical Background and Contemporary Development* (Arabic)

Prepared by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Paperback: 208 pages

This book is of special importance to the readers who wish to get a general idea of the Palestinian issue, and those who do not find time for detailed specialized studies. The book is written in a smooth language, and is full of information updated till mid 2011. It adhered to scientific, academic and research methods.

In its first chapter, the book deals with the backgrounds of the Palestinian issue up to 1918. It reviews Palestine's history through the ages, its geography, its Islamic standing, and the Jews' religious and historical claims, in addition to its political developments up to the end of World War I in 1918. The second chapter highlights the period of the British occupation of Palestine during 1918–1948. It discusses the development of the Zionist project, the emergence of the Palestinian national movement and the 1936 revolt, as well as the political events that followed, up to the 1948 war and its implications.

Moreover this book deals with the rise of Fatah movement and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and the war of June 1967 and its implications, as well as the period starting with the outbreak of the 1987 Intifadah until the failure of the Camp David negotiations in 2000, going through the emergence of Hamas. The last chapter in the book reviews the developments that occurred following the outbreak of *al-Aqsa Intifadah* in September 2000 and until mid 2011.



b. *Islamic Rules Regarding Prisoners in the Israeli Jails: A Comparative Jurisprudence Study* (Arabic)

Prepared by: Na'el Isma'il Ramadan

Paperback: 168 pages

There is an evident need for such a study in view of the fact that, since 1967, more than 700 thousand Palestinians have been detained in Israeli jails.

These and others who may be detained in the future need to know the jurisprudential rules applicable to them, regarding various aspects of their lives in detention. Thus this study sheds light on the jurisprudence related to their worship inside Israeli jails, such as purification, prayer, fasting, alms-giving (zakat) and pilgrimage (hajj), laws of personal status, rules governing marriage and divorce, inheritance and wills. This is in addition to laws that concern the prisoner himself, such as hunger strikes and others. The study also highlights the Muslim Ummah's duty toward these prisoners, including making every effort to free them, besides taking care of their families and children, etc.

It should be mentioned that, in his study, the researcher has adhered to a scientific research methodology. He applied in his study the comparative jurisprudential method. As he was studying the Islamic rules, he drew his conclusions from the Holy Qur'an and the traditions of the Prophet; and sought guidance from respected Muslim jurists and scholars, relying on the best evidence, he may find.

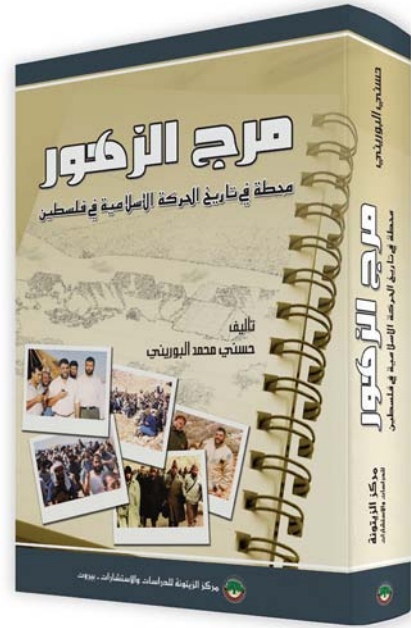


c. Marj al-Zuhur: A Key Event in the History of the Islamic Movement in Palestine (Arabic)

Author: Hosni Mohamad Borini

Hardcover: 687 pages

The book, displays the experience of Marj al-Zuhur deportees whom Israel expelled from the WB and Gaza Strip (GS) to south Lebanon in late 1992. The book also tackles the role of such deportation in shedding lights on the Islamic movement in Palestine. The 687-page book is characterized by its comprehensive approach to the deportation experience which is detailed from its very early stages. The book depicts the personal experience of the author, a current member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, who was one of the 415 deportees expelled to south Lebanon on 17/12/1992. The book includes six chapters which narrate in details the suffering of the deportees, since they were arrested and gathered by the Israeli forces following an operation carried out by Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. The book also talks about the creativity of the deportees and their capacities in management and organization. It sheds light on the media battle between them and Israel. The author displays the deportees' influence on the Arabs in general, and on the Palestinian and Lebanese masses in particular.



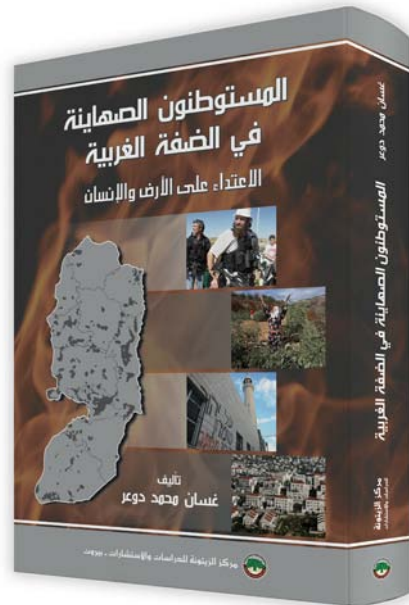
The book is supported by five appendices which contain the deportees names and pictures, etc.

d. The Zionist Settlers in the West Bank: Aggression on Land and Man (Arabic)

Author: Ghassan Mohammad Duuar

Hardcover: 487 pages

The book points out that settlement is considered one of the fundamental pillars of the Zionist project, and an essential means for implementing the Judaization programs in the Palestinian land. It reviews Zionist settlement ideology and its applications in the WB, as well as its motives, plans and stages. It also speaks about the characteristics of the settlers community, its social structure, political positions, and the political organizations working within it. The book also discusses Israeli armed groups' activities against the Palestinians, their provocations and attacks, the patterns and forms of settlement terrorism, as well as its victims.



This book is considered one of the most comprehensive publications on the subject of Israeli settlers in the WB.

e. *Conditions of the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (2nd edition) (Arabic)*

Edited by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Contributors:

Amal Itani

Mahmud al-Hanafi

Ziad El-Hassan

Mo'in Manna'

'Ali Howeidi

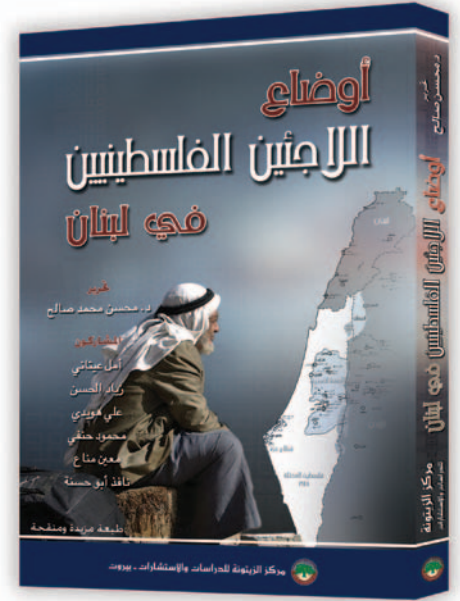
Nafiz Abu Hasna

Paperback: 207 pages

This book discusses the demographic, legal, educational and social conditions of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. It also discusses the prospects of peace projects regarding the Palestinian refugees. Additionally, one of its chapters is dedicated to explaining the Nahr al-Bared refugees camp tragedy in summer 2007.

In its chapters, the book reveals the suffering of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, who are deprived from many of their civil rights.

It is an academic well documented study, supported by updated facts and figures till 2012.



f. *The Road to Jerusalem (electronic book) (Arabic)*

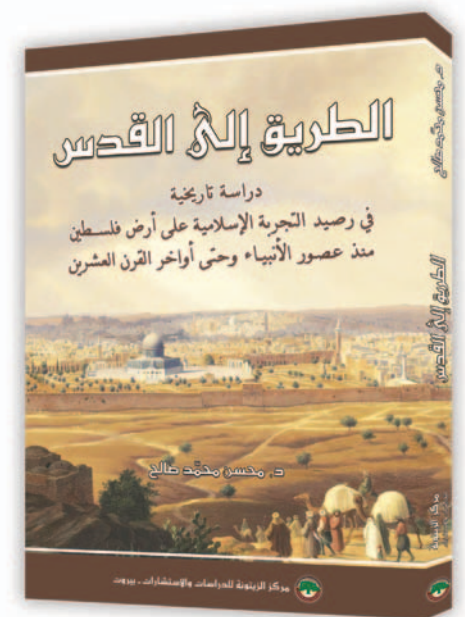
Author: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Lenght: 245 pages

The book, is a historical study that displays the Islamic experience in Palestine since the time of the prophets until late 20th century (1996).

The 245-page book studies pre-Islamic history, the rise of Islamic Palestine, the liberation of Palestine from the crusaders and Mongols. It also focuses on the Islamic trend and its role in the 20th century.

The book was written in an Islamic point of view. However, it is an academic book scientifically documented and rich with information displayed in a smooth language.



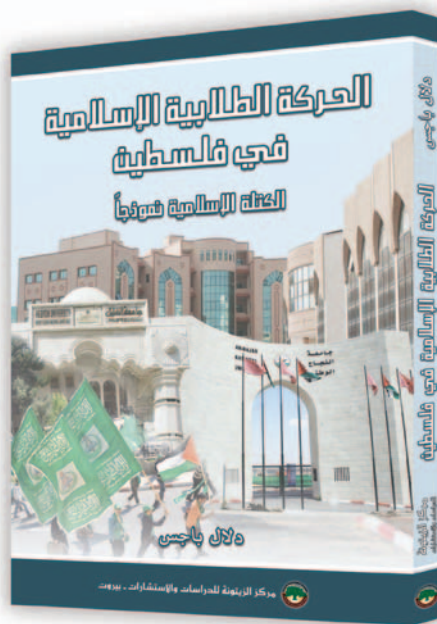
g. *The Islamic Student Movement in Palestine: The Islamic Bloc: A Case Study (Arabic)*

Author: Dalal Bajes

Paperback: 165 pages

The book gains its importance from addressing a topic that, despite its significance, has not been studied sufficiently. Indeed, the Islamic student movement represents the roots of Hamas movement in Palestine. It also represents the young age group that adopts the movement’s policies and defends them.

It starts with a historical background study of the Islamic student movements in the Arab world, the WB and the GS. The book also explains how the Islamic Bloc develops its students; politically, spiritually, culturally, and socially. The Bloc provided security education for its followers held in the Israeli prisoners. The book also talks about the Bloc’s relationship with the mother Islamic movement (i.e., Hamas), with universities administrations and other student blocs besides its base and governmental institutions over different periods. It also discusses whether the Islamic Bloc has succeeded in achieving its set goals. Moreover, the book examines the formulation of collective identity of the Bloc’s followers.



h. *Opposition in the Political Thought of Hamas Movement 1994-2006: Analytical Study (Arabic)*

Author: Wael El Mabhouh

Paperback: 166 pages

This book presents Hamas’ notions and its stances vis-à-vis the Palestinian National Authority (PA) and its institutions, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and the national and Islamic movements working in Palestine. It analyzes these stances, focusing on the period that followed the Oslo Accords (1994-2006).

The book explains the movement’s understanding of political participation, elections and resistance, and how it dealt, on the one hand, with internal Palestinian issues, and on the other, with the struggle with the occupation; in light of the regional, international and local changes that occurred during that period.

The book sheds light on the way Hamas envisioned the concept of opposition before it won the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006. It discusses how it manages its relationships with its partners, irrespective of their agreement with its thoughts and methods or not.



Second: Strategic Assessment

This assessment is a periodic report characterized by its rich material. It tries to study a particular incident or issue and anticipate its future developments. It highlights the stronger scenario and then ending the assessment with some suggestions and recommendations.

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 52 strategic assessments by the end of 2012, including 12 of which were published in that year and addressed the following topics:

1. Prospects for an Israeli War on the Gaza Strip (February 2012).
2. The Palestinian Authority Elections: Prospects and Implications (February 2012).
3. Palestinian Popular Resistance: The Scenarios and Challenges (March 2012).
4. The Future of Partnership in Palestinian National Decision-Making (May 2012).
5. The West Bank: Between the Palestinian State Project and Israeli Settlement (June 2012).
6. The Israeli Unity Government and its Ramification on the Palestinian Side (June 2012).
7. The Future of the Palestinian National Consensus Government (July 2012).
8. The Palestinian Public Finance Crisis: Treating the Symptom and Keeping the Disease! (September 2012).
9. Palestinian Protests: Analysis and Outlook (October 2012).
10. The Future of the Blockade on the Gaza Strip in Light of the Crossings, the Tunnels and the Free Trade Zone (November 2012).
11. The Dilemma of Political Elections in Light of the Municipal Elections in the West Bank (December 2012).
12. The Prospects of the 2012 Gaza Truce Understandings (December 2012).



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 73 translations by the end of 2012, including one during that year which addressed the following title:

Keeping Hamas and Hezbollah Out of a War with Iran (translated: Fall 2012)



Fourth: Information and Archives Department

The Information and Archives Department has an essential role in the work of al-Zaytouna Centre. The department follows more than 120 electronic sources. The sources include the most important Arab, foreign and Israeli newspapers, news sites, and 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.

Apart from its regular work, the department provides information assistance to many researchers, besides preparing several news reports on important current issue.



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.

“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.

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

“Palestine Today” is available on al-Zaytouna website. By the end of 2012, the Centre published 2,725 issues including 359 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 2012, which included the verification of the site by the “SiteLock Secure” service, launching facebook and twitter pages, and launching YouTube channel. The centre started using the (Livestream) technique to live stream conferences over the site. Online survey, online commenting, and free download for publications and archive of “Palestine Today” newsletter; are made available to provide the best possible service for visitors to the site.

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 within three 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.

In 2012 the site achieved an increase in the number of visits by 7%, and an increase of the number of hits by 54% compared to 2011.



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 27 conferences and panel discussions till the end of 2012 including 5 during that year under the following titles:

1. The Palestinian Issue 2012 in Light of the Uprisings and Changes in the Arab World.
2. The West Bank: Between the State Project and Settlement Building.
3. The Crisis of the Palestinian National Project and its Prospects.
4. The Islamists: The Regimes and Palestine after Arab Uprisings.
5. The Islamists of the Arab World and the Palestinian Issue in Light of the Arab Uprisings.

1. One-Day Seminar “The Palestinian Issue 2012 in Light of the Uprisings and Changes in the Arab World”

(19/1/2012 – Crowne Plaza Hotel – Beirut)

The panel discussion was divided into three sessions, and it sought to explore the expected impact of the uprisings and changes taking place in the Arab world on the Palestinian issue during 2012, as well as to evaluate their impact during 2011.

Nine academic papers were discussed by the participants, who were a group of distinguished researchers, experts and specialists in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue, in addition to representatives of the most prominent Palestinian political parties, as well as a representative of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in Egypt

The first session discussed the reflection of the changes in the Arab World on the Palestinian internal situation, while the second session addressed the stances of the Arab and Muslim Worlds vis-à-vis the Palestinian issue, in light of the recent developments in the Arab world. On the other hand, the final session discussed the Israeli scene and the international stances toward the Palestinian issue in light of the transformations taking place in the Arab world.



2. Panel Discussion “The West Bank: Between the State Project and Settlement Building”

(25/4/2012 – Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

The panel discussed the possibility of establishing a viable Palestinian state while Israel is still imposing facts on the ground in the WB. These facts include settlement building, bypass roads, the Separation Wall and military checkpoints alongside the security control of large areas of the WB. The participants in the panel included a group of researchers and specialists in the Palestinian issue.

3. One-Day Seminar “The Crisis of the Palestinian National Project and its Prospects”

(28/6/2012 – Coral Suites Hotel – Beirut)

The seminar, which comprised three sessions was held in Coral Suites Hotel in Beirut. It discussed nine academic papers with the participation of a number of politicians, intellectuals, experts, academicians and those interested in the Palestinian issue.

It addressed the dilemma of the Palestinian national project, in light of the stalemate in the peace process, the disruption of the Palestinian resistance, the failure of national reconciliation in addition to the Palestinian interaction which is not commensurate with the changes in the Arab world.

The first session presented the vision of Fatah, Hamas and the Palestinian left whereas the second session presented a critical reading of the crisis in addition to the experience of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and that of the Palestinian Authority (PA). The third session tackled the impact of the changes in the Arab world on the Palestinian reconciliation and national project and the latter’s susceptibility to the Israeli impact. It further addressed the influence of the external factor, especially the US, on the decision making process and the best ways to deal with such influence.



4. Conference “The Islamists: The Regimes and Palestine after Arab Uprisings”

(12–13/9/2012 – Saha Heritage Village – Beirut)

Al-Zaytouna Centre, the Contemporary Islamic Thought Foundation and Palestine and the World Studies Center jointly held the academic conference with the participation of a select of politicians, academics and experts from a number of Arab and Islamic countries.

The conference comprised six sessions with 13 papers that respectively addressed the political dimension, the social and economic sides, the Palestinian issue, the uprisings and foreign relations, political pluralism and freedoms and Islamic unity.



5. Conference “The Islamists of the Arab World and the Palestinian Issue in Light of the Arab Uprisings”

(28–29/11/2012 – Crowne Plaza Hotel – Beirut)

The conference shed light on the new political map of the Arab region, and its impact on the Palestinian issue, and tried to identify the reality of the positions of Islamist movements vis-à-vis the question of Palestine, especially those that took office, and determine where Palestine ranks in their priorities, plans and programs.

The conference also attempted to identify the main challenges faced by the Islamist vision for Palestine, and to highlight the opportunities offered by the process of change in the Arab world in this regard. Furthermore, it sought to reach the best possible scenario for dealing with the Palestinian issue, in light of the changes and revolutions taking place in the Arab world.

More than 140 participants attended the conference. Around 40 were important figures of Islamist groups in Arab countries, especially countries that neighbor occupied Palestine and those who witnessed uprisings as part of the Arab Spring, in addition to a distinguished group of political and academic figures from several countries.

The opening speech included the speech of General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) in Egypt, and of the Head of Hamas Political Bureau, and the speech of Secretary General of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). The conference comprised six sessions including 18 work papers that discussed the position of Islamists in several Arab countries towards Palestinian issue, the position of Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and the Salafi Da‘wah, impact of changes and revolutions in the Arab world on the stances of Islamists towards peace treaties, impact of the rise of the Islamists in the Arab world on the Palestinian internal situation, and on the Iranian position towards the Palestinian issue, impact of American pressures and policies on the stances of Islamists in the Arab world towards the Palestinian issue, in addition to other topics.

This Conference enjoyed wide media coverage, attended by around 40 TV satellite channels, newspapers, radios and news agencies. The conference was successful in bringing the attention of specialists and researches by tackling this important issue in an academic and objective method.



Eighth: Training Courses

Al-Zaytouna Centre continued convening training courses in 2012. Six training courses were held addressing the following titles:

1. Introduction into the Palestinian Issue:

On 7-11/4/2012, Al-Zaytouna Centre held a training course, presented by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh. The course included the following topics; The Land of Palestine, People of Palestine, Jerusalem & the Holy Sites, The Zionist Movement & Israel, and The Palestinian National Movement.

2. Political Analysis

The Political Analysis training course was held on 10-11/5/2012, and was facilitated by Majid Abu Diak. The 12-hour course included an introduction to political analysis and its objectives, requirements needed to be a competent political analyzer, and the most important factors effecting political decision making. In addition, the trainees were introduced to the practical steps for doing political analysis and they analyzed themselves some political events.

3. Intensive course in Political Analysis

The course was held on 18/5/2012 where 12 participants attended it. It was presented by Majid Abu Diak.

4. Intensive course in Crisis Management

The course was held on 19/5/2012 with the participation of 12 trainees. It was facilitated by 'Atef al-Joulani

5. Futures Studies

On 6-8/6/2012, Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations held a third training course on Futures Studies at its headquarters in Beirut. About 20 members attended the three-day course which was facilitated by Prof. Dr. Walid 'Abd al-Hay.

The world-known specialist in futures studies introduced the trainees to the fundamentals of Futures Studies, their methodologies and techniques.

The course 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.

6. Negotiating Skills

The course was held on 12-14/7/2012 with the participation of about 15 trainees. It was presented by Dr. Ibrahim Abu 'Arqoub.



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 2012, al-Zaytouna participated in 10 book fairs including four local and six Arab international book fairs:

1. Palestine International Book Fair- Gaza
(3-13/10/2012)
2. The 14th 'Amman International Book Fair
(5-15/9/2012)
3. Erbil's Seventh International Book Fair
(2-11/4/2012)
4. The 44th Cairo International Book Fair
(22/1-7/2/2012)
5. The 31th Sharjah International Book Fair
(7-17/11/2012)
6. The 56th Beirut International Arab Book Fair
(3-16/12/2012)



Tenth: Public Relations

The Centre was keen in 2012 to continue its academic relations with those who are interested and specialized in political and strategic studies. Besides those who are 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 keeps in touch with them through its publications, mailing list, website, conferences and seminars, visits and media.

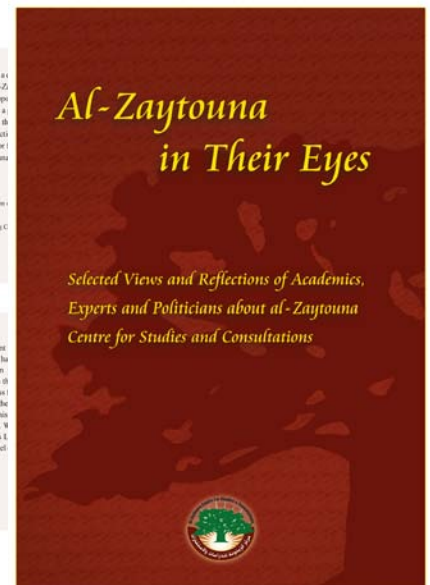
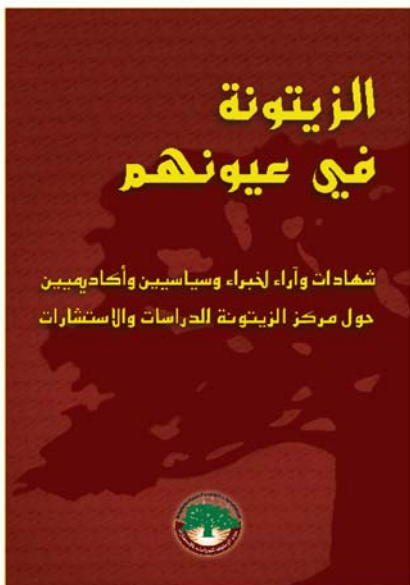
The Centre's network of contacts includes politicians, academicians, researchers, think tanks and other figures working in the field of public policies related to the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. In this context, al-Zaytouna gave special attention to communicating with the Palestinian decision makers at home and abroad; the PLO, PA and different factions and political actors in the Palestinian arena.

Al-Zaytouna Centre participated in more than 15 worldwide conferences and Panel Discussions. The most prominent of these participations were in:

1. Al-Zaytouna Centre took part in the Third Forum of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member Countries' Think Tanks, organized by the Azeri Center for Strategic Studies (SAM) on 2-3/3/2012 in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The delegation included Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh and Wael A. Sa'ad. The paper presented by the Centre's General Manager, Dr. Mohsen Saleh, entitled "The Implications of the Changes and Uprisings in the Arab World on the Palestinian Issue". The forum included a select group of experts, thinkers and researchers from various study centers, which have influence on decision-making in Islamic countries, in addition to a number of Islamic official and diplomatic figures.

2. Al-Zaytouna Centre, participated in the “Palestinian Refugees in the Arab World: Reality & Prospects” seminar which was organized by Aljazeera Center for Studies in collaboration with The Palestinian Return Centre, on 14–15/4/2012, in Doha, Qatar. Dr. Mohsen Moh’d Saleh discussed the impact of the Arab revolutions on the Palestinian issue and the refugees.
3. Al-Zaytouna Centre, participated in a symposium on the changing regional and political landscape following the recent Arab uprisings, entitled “Critically Assessing the Changing Landscape of Power and Players,” that was held at the American University of Beirut, on 31/5 & 1/6/2012. On the second day of the event, Dr. Saleh presented a paper discussing the stand of the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) on the changes in the Arab world
4. Al-Zaytouna Centre participated in the conference “MENA: A transforming region and its impact on the African continent”, that was organized by AFRO-MIDDLE EAST CENTRE (AMEC) on 27-29/8/2012 in Pretoria, South Africa. Dr. Saleh presented a paper under the title “Can the Palestinian-Israeli issue remain unchanged after the uprisings?.”
5. Al-Zaytouna Centre participated on 9-11/10/2012 in the conference under the title “International Conference on Islam In Asia and Oceania: Historical, Cultural and Global Perspectives,” in International Islamic University Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Campus. The conference was organized by International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM). Dr. Saleh was a keynote Speaker that presented a paper entitled “The Palestinian Issue within an Asian Perspective.”
6. Al-Zaytouna Centre participated in the annual conference of Political and Strategic Studies centers of the Arab world, held by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, in Doha, Qatar, during 15-17/12/2012. Al-Zaytouna delegation consisted of three researchers, i.e., Dr. Mohsen Moh’d Saleh, Mo’in Manna’ and Wael A. Sa’ad. Dr. Mohsen presented a paper titled “The goals and interests of Israel in the Arab political system.”

This in addition to 9 conferences and Panel Discussions with several institutions and research centers in different Arab and international countries.



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 2012, the Public Relations and Media Department issued 24 press articles about the activities of the Centre and its works, and documented these articles' publication in more than 62 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 2012, the department documented the participation of four of the Centre's researchers and representatives in tens of interviews with media institutions, including TV channels, radio stations, newspapers, news agencies and websites.

The most prominent media outlets which have published about the Centre and still publishing were:

1. Local and Satellite TV Channels and Radio Stations

Al-Jazeera, al-Jazeera Live (Qatar), al-Hiwar, al-Quds, Alalam, Press TV, Filastin al-Yawm, al-Manar, National Broadcasting Network (NBN), élé Liban (TL), almayadeen TV (Lebanon), aleman TV (Yemen), ITV Channel Network (South Africa), Yarmouk TV (Jordan), al-Aqsa TV (Palestine), and RT TV. The radio stations: al-Fajr (Lebanon), Alnour (Lebanon), al-Basha'ir (Lebanon), Hayat FM (Jordan), etc.



2. Local and International Arabic Newspapers and Magazines

Al-Hayat (London), *al-Quds al-Arabi* (London)/ *Assafir* (Lebanon), *Annahar* (Lebanon), *Almustaqbal* (Lebanon), *al-Akhabr* (Lebanon), *Aliwaa* (Lebanon), *Albalad* (Lebanon), *al-Aman* weekly (Lebanon), *Bayynat* (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)/ *Filisteen Almuslima* magazine (London), *Al Awda* magazine (London), and *The New York Times*, 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, Felesteen Online, etc.

