



Al-Zaytouna Harvest 2013

Prepared by
Public Relations and Media Department
Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies & Consultations
Beirut-Lebanon



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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 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: Former minister of Information, Egypt, and the director of Arab Media Centre.
8. Dr. Salahuddin al-Dabbagh: Former member of the Palestine National Council and Executive Committee 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 Salhieh: 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: Former 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. | 7. Website. |
| 2. Researches and studies. | 8. Strategic Assessment. |
| 3. Palestinian Strategic Report. | 9. Specialized translations. |
| 4. Annual Palestinian Documents. | 10. Conferences, seminars and lectures. |
| 5. Information Report series. | 11. Participation in Book Fairs and conferences. |
| 6. "Palestine Today" electronic daily newsletter | 12. Consultations and training. |

Administrative Departments

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

Works and Achievements

First: Publications

During 2013, al-Zaytouna Centre published 9 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.

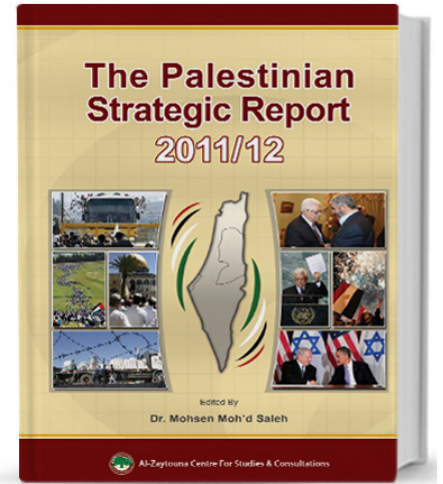
The following is a list of the 2013 al-Zaytouna Centre publications:

No.	Title
1	<i>The Palestinian Strategic Report 2011/12</i> (English)
2	<i>Am I not a Human? (8): The Separation Wall in the West Bank</i> (English)
3	<i>Am I not a Human? (12): The Suffering of Palestinian Environment and Farmer under the Israeli Occupation</i> (Arabic)
4	<i>Information Report (24):The Israeli Army 2000-2012</i>
5	<i>Towards Confrontation: Memoirs of Dr. Adnan Maswady Regarding the Muslim Brotherhood in the West Bank & the Founding of Hamas</i>
6	<i>The Crisis of the Palestinian National Project and its Prospects</i>
7	<i>American Foreign Policy Towards the Palestinian Issue 2001-2011</i>
8	<i>The Fake Democracy and the Usurped Immunity: Sighings of a West Bank Deputy in the Palestinian Legislative Council</i>
9	<i>The Red Minaret: Memoirs of Ibrahim Ghushah (Ex-Spokesman of Hamas)</i> (English)

1. *The Palestinian Strategic Report 2011/12 (English)*

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.

The Palestinian Strategic Report is a highly academic 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.

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Consultants

Mr. Ahmad Khalifah

Prof. Dr. Majdi Hammad

Dr. Hussien Abu al-Namel

Mr. Munir Shafiq

Writers

Mr. Hani al-Masri

Mr. Muhammad Jum'a

Mr. Hasan Ibhais

Mr. Mu'min Bsiso

Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Hassan Abu Jabir

Prof. Dr. Talal 'Atrissi

Dr. Johnny Mansour

Mr. Wael A. Sa'ad

Dr. Mohamed Nouredine

Prof. Dr. Walid 'Abd al-Hay

Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Mr. Ziad Bhies

Translators

Prof. Dr. Hassan Ahmad Ibrahim (Senior Translator)

Ms. Baraah Darazi

Ms. Karim Traboulsi

Ms. Salma al-Houry

Ms. Yosra Zoghby

Senior Language Editor: Rana Sa'adah

Reviewed by: Mr. Tom Charles

Hardcover: 415 pages

2. 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.

11 titles have been published in this series in which two of them were published in 2013:

a. Am I Not a Human? (8): *The Separation Wall in the West Bank* (English)

This book sheds light on the development of "The Wall" idea in the Israeli Occupation mentality, contending the Israeli argument of "security" purposes behind the construction, and illustrating the various political and settlement-expansion motives.

It also considers the International law position from the wall, including the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the illegality of the Wall.

The book explores the stance of the Israeli Supreme Court towards the Wall and some of its rulings to modify its route.

The book then moves to discussing the various humanitarian impacts of the wall on the lives of the Palestinian people.

The book also studies the Wall in Jerusalem in a separate chapter. This Wall is a manifestation of Israel's most important goals; Judaizing the city, confiscating its lands, surrounding it with settlements and walls, and pressuring the indigenous Jerusalemites into leaving the city.

It dedicates another chapter to the case of Bil'in village as a form of possible popular resistance against the Wall.

Prepared by: Hasan Ibhais & Dr. Khaled 'Ayed

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

Translated by: Ms. Baraah Darazi

Paperback: 118 pages

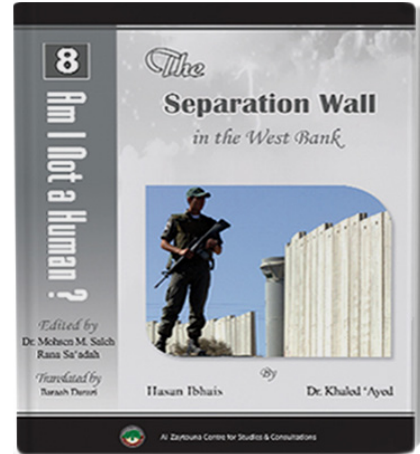
b. Am I Not a Human? (12): *The Suffering of Palestinian Environment and Farmer under the Israeli Occupation* (Arabic)

The book addresses the most important Palestinian and international laws and regulations related to the protection of the environment only to show how Israel ignores these laws and violates the minimal Palestinian environmental rights. It adopts the policy of confiscating lands, destroying forests, uprooting trees and depleting water sources, building settlements, opening roads, closing agricultural areas for military or security reasons, converting large areas of land into natural reserves that are later confiscated, in order to deprive the Palestinian people from their bare necessities, and force them to leave.

Prepared by: Fatima Itani and Nitham Ataya

Edited by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Paperback: 112 pages



3. Information Report Series

The series is prepared by the Information and Archives Department of al-Zaytouna Centre. 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 al-Dannan

Editing Team: Basem al-Kasem, Hayat Dada, Samer Hussein, Saleh al-Shannat, and Mohammad Barakeh

During 2013, the following title has been published in this series:

Information Report (24): *The Israeli Army 2000–2012* (Arabic)

The book sheds light on the Israeli Army during 2000–2012. It discusses the establishment of the Army, its structure and arsenal of weapons. The book points out to the great military power maintained by the Israeli military establishment as a part of a strategy that would enable Israel to defeat all Arab countries, supported by its strategic alliance with the US that guarantees this superiority.

The book addresses the problems and challenges facing the Israeli Army, including the weak strategic depth, the deterioration of deterrence capacity, the imbalance of the strategy of moving the confrontation to the enemy's field, the financial, moral and political corruption, military service evasion, suicide, and the changes in the military and political environment.

Paperback: 86 pages

4. Others:

a. *Towards Confrontation: Memoirs of Dr. Adnan Maswady Regarding the Muslim Brotherhood in the West Bank & the Founding of Hamas* (Arabic)

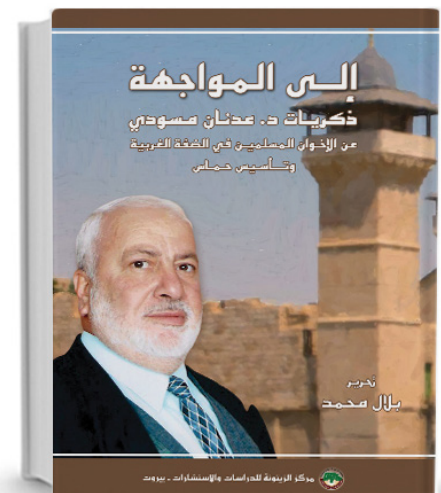
This book casts light on the memoirs of the Muslim Brothers movement (MB) in the West Bank (WB) and the founding of Hamas, in addition to the efforts of MB leaders in the WB in different fields.

The book, shows that the MB is characterized by its openness to new arguments and proposals, its readiness for revision and renewal, and its commitment to the principle of Shura (consultation) that guarantees its moderation.

The memoirs display the details of decision making within Hamas, the meetings of its first leadership, the formulation of its declarations, the drafting of Hamas Charter, and the coordination with the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising (UNLU). Maswady, thus, had a prominent role in Hamas, as a guide, leader and educator.

Edited by: Bilal Muhammad

Paperback: 184 pages



b. The Crisis of the Palestinian National Project and its Prospects (Arabic)

The book, to which ten specialists and experts contributed, tries to spot the shortcomings in the national project, and the aspects of the Arab, Islamic Israeli, and international (especially American) impact on its crisis, in addition to the ways to resolve it.

The book also presents a historical criticism of the Palestinian national project and it considers the PLO a national achievement that yet suffers five problems. These problems, according to the book, undermine the Organization’s representation of the Palestinian people and incapacitate it. These problems are the dilemma of representation, the institutions and institutional work, decision-making and its mechanisms, the dwindling role and influence, in addition to the problem of vision, track, and frame of reference, emphasizing the importance of restoring the Arab and Islamic role.

Editor: Mohsen Moh’d Saleh

Writers

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Dr. Ibrahim Sharqieh | Usama Hamdan |
| Ref’at Shana’ah | Dr. Maher al-Taher |
| Dr. Mohsen Moh’d Saleh | Ahmad Khalifah |
| Dr. Hussein Abu al-Namel | Dr. Abdul Hamid Kayali |
| Dr. Majdi Hammad | Wael A. Sa’ad |

Paperback: 168 pages

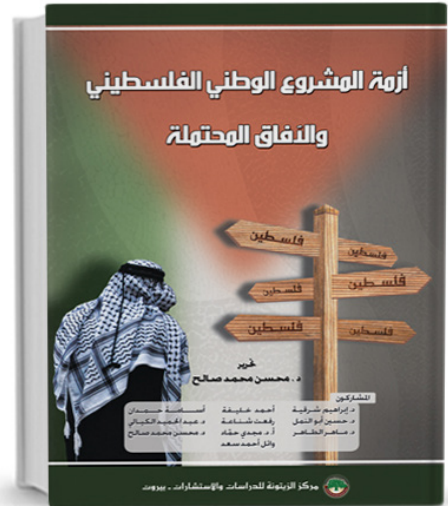
c. American Foreign Policy Towards the Palestinian Issue 2001–2011 (Arabic)

The book discusses the American foreign policy towards the Palestinian issue during the terms of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama from 2001 to 2011. It tackles the historical development of the American policy towards the Palestinian issue since 1917 to 2000, and the determinants of this policy.

The author argues that Israel is the cornerstone of the US Middle East foreign policy, which explains why successive American administrations have based their approach to the Palestinian issue on the Israeli interest, and on conflict management rather conflict resolution. Accordingly, most solutions proposed by these administrations would not acknowledge the Palestinians’ right to self-determination. They were the same solution in different forms. This policy has been pursued since the establishment of the State of Israel, while US support to Israel hits a climax during George W. Bush term.

Author: Ahmad Jawad al-Wadiyah

Paperback: 272 pages



d. *The Fake Democracy and the Usurped Immunity: Sighings of a West Bank Deputy in the Palestinian Legislative Council (Arabic)*

The book addresses the infringements on the rights of West Bank (WB) legislators affiliated with the Islamic movement, namely their detention by the Israeli occupation during the second term of the Palestinian Legislative Council. The book also sheds light on what faced the Islamic movement, its supporters and institutions in the WB during the same period. It is worth mentioning that Dr. Naser A. Abdaljawwad, the author, is a prominent member of the Palestinian Legislative Council from Salfit governorate detained by Israel.

Author: Naser A. Abdaljawwad

Paperback: 222 pages



e. *The Red Minaret: Memoirs of Ibrahim Ghushah (Ex-Spokesman of Hamas) (English)*

This book is not merely the autobiography of Mr. Ibrahim Ghushah, it is also a living testimony of the Palestinian and Jordanian Muslim Brothers' experience over a fifty years span.

These memoirs are rich with information published for the first time by a man who has lived in the Jordanian and Palestinian MB environment for over 50 years, and acted as Hamas's official spokesperson in 1991–1999. They also reflect the life and vision of one of the most prominent political decision makers, especially in the first 12 years of the movement's inception.

Ghushah's memoirs are characterized by their clarity and candor. They bring to light many of Hamas' stands and viewpoints regarding a number of issues, which could be considered points of controversy among researchers, in particular during the period leading to al-Aqsa Intifadah.

“The Red Minaret” is a book rich with information and stances that any researcher of modern and contemporary history might need in relation to the Palestinian issue.

Author: Ibrahim Ghushah

Translators

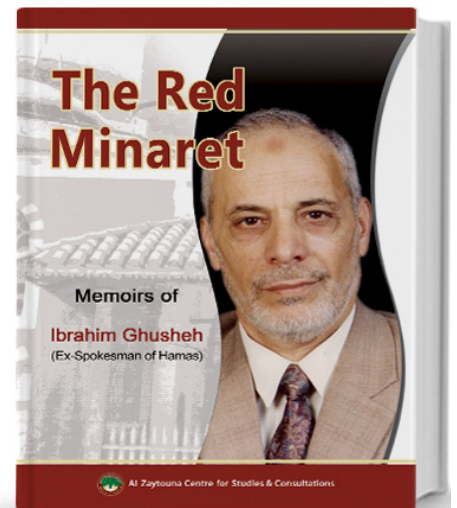
Prof. Dr. Hassan Ibrahim

Ms. Salma al-Houry

Language Editing by: Ms. Rana Sa'adah

Reviewed by: Mr. Tom Charles

Paperback: 288 pages



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 63 strategic assessments by the end of 2013, including 11 of which were published in that year and addressed the following topics:

1. Implications of Israeli Elections for the Composition and Policies of the Government (February 2013).
2. Obama's Visit to the Middle East: The Possible and the Probable (March 2013).
3. The Impact of the Situation in Syria on Palestinian Refugees (April 2013).
4. The Strategic Implications of Energy Discoveries in the Mediterranean for Israel (May 2013).
5. The Future of the Palestinian Government after the Resignation of Rami al-Hamadallah (July 2013).
6. The Repercussions of the Military Coup in Egypt on the Gaza Strip (July 2013).
7. US Efforts to Revive the Peace Process and the Prospects for its Success (September 2013).
8. Egyptian Measures in the Sinai Peninsula and their Potential Repercussions (October 2013).
9. Destruction of Tunnels Under the Palestinian-Egyptian Borders: Background and Implications (November 2013).
10. The Future of the Egyptian-Israeli Relations in Light of the Coup (December 2013).
11. The Implications of the Iranian Nuclear Program on the Palestinian Issue (December 2013).

تقرير استراتيجي (٦٣)
كانون الأول / ديسمبر ٢٠١٣

مركز الزيتونة
الدراسات والبحوث

انعكاسات الاتفاق المتعلق بالبرنامج النووي الإيراني على القضية الفلسطينية

ملخص

يشير الاتفاق الإيراني مع القوى الكبرى حول برنامجها النووي، في ١٢/١١/٢٠١٣ إلى أنه إذا وجدت الإرادة الدولية، فإنه يمكن تحقيق تسويات سياسية، وإن كان هذا الأمر بعيد المنال في القضية الفلسطينية. وقد وجدت هذه الأطراف في الاتفاق مصالح مشتركة، ففي حين تسعى إيران من وراء هذا الاتفاق إلى تخفيف أعباء الحصار الاقتصادي المفروض عليها نتيجة لبرنامجها النووي، فإن الأطراف الأخرى ترى في هذا الاتفاق الأمل في حلحلة نحو لجم الخطر النووي الإيراني تجاه مصمعيها في المنطقة وتحد مخافة العرب الأثريين فيها "إسرائيل".

لا تتسع الأطراف المشاركة في الاتفاق الملف الفلسطيني على مادة بحثها في الوقت الراهن، إذ يركز الثابت الإصلاحي الإيراني أولوياته الحالية على القضايا الفلسطينية والاقتصادية، كما أن الطرف الإسرائيلي غير مستعمل في التوصل إلى حل للقضية الفلسطينية، بشكل يمس مباشرة إيران ودورها، مطلقاً أن برنامجها الاستراتيجي يسير على قدم وساق. ولذلك فليس من المتوقع أن يعكس الاتفاق النووي الإيراني في هذه المرحلة بشكل مباشر على القضية الفلسطينية، كما أن أي ترتيبات قائمة ستتمتع على مدى رغبة إيران في الإحتراف في الترتيبات الإقليمية الفلسطينية، ومدى رغبة القوى الكبرى في السماح لإيران بتسلطها على الدول، ومدى إمكانية الأطراف من توافق قوة غير أنه ليس من المتوقع في المدى المنظور أن يحدث تغيير جوهري في عقيدة النظام السياسي الإيراني القائم على اعتبار "إسرائيل" عدواً، وعلى دورها المحوري في محور المصالحة والواجهة.

تقرير استراتيجي (٦٢)
كانون الأول / ديسمبر ٢٠١٣

مستقبل العلاقات المصرية الإسرائيلية في

ملخص

لم تخف الألبان السياسية والعسكرية والمثقلة في "إسرائيل" أربع "الإسلام السياسي". كما قامت أجهزة الانقلاب بتشنيد الحصار وبمحاولة تشويه إعلامية واسعة ضد قوى المقاومة الفلسطينية. و"الإحتلال العربي" الذي يدعم مسار التسوية السلمية، يحفظ به المتحدة. وعطل الانقلاب بظرة الظروف بتجاه إلغاء اتفاق كامب ديفيد كل ذلك من مخاطر التفجرات، التي قد تشمل طابعاً "إسرائيلي".

من الصعب ترجيح سيناريو محدد بشأن السياسة المصرية تجاه القريب، غير أنه من المرجح أن نجاح الانقلاب سيعزز من مع سيطرته وعودة الشرعية، فإنه قد يفسر عن اضمحلال وترافع العميقة التي راكمت على استمرار العلاقة القوية مع "إسرائيل" ونور مصري نشط وفاعل في دعم القضية الفلسطينية وقواها العفوان أن يقوم بلذ إجراءات مباشرة قوية تجاه إلغاء اتفاقية كامب ديفيد. وفي كل الأحوال فإن الروح الوطنية والعربية والإسلامية للشعب الفلسطيني، تجعل من الصعوبة يمكن على أي نظام يحكمها تسويق مسؤيتها بدرجة كبيرة.

تقرير استراتيجي (٦١)
تشرين الثاني / نوفمبر ٢٠١٣

هدم الاتفاق على الحدود المصرية الفلسطينية

ملخص

كان للإجراءات القاسية وغير المسبوقة التي قام بها الجيش الإسرائيلي في هدم الاتفاق وتشنيد الحصار على قطاع غزة، آثار كبيرة في إجراءات لا يظهر أنها تستهدف فقط حماية الأمن المصري، و"الربيع العربي" و"مخرجها"، وتشتد أهداف الحكومة التي أعدت لعمليات "الإسلام السياسي" التي برز أثر التورات والتفجرات من المسببات في المرحلة الحالية أن تحدث إحتفالات عسكرية أنه على ما يبدو فإن سياسة خلق القطاع مستمرة، سيما تلك الإحتفالية في وجه حماس، ومحاولة تكليب الجماهير ضد حماس، إن المصالح الوطنية والقومية والإنسانية تقتضي رفع الحصار الناس لغرض إحيات سياسية، وكما أن على قيادة حماس تذكّر المصري، فإن على قيادة السلطة في رام الله العمل الإيجابي والمصالح العليا، من خلال تسريع إجراءات المصالحة الوطنية و

تقرير استراتيجي (٦٠)
تشرين الأول / أكتوبر ٢٠١٣

الإجراءات المصرية في شبه جزيرة

المحتلة

ملخص

ما إن وقع الانقلاب العسكري في مصر حتى بدأ الجيش تحريضه واسعة ضد حماس وحكومتها. كما قام الجيش بمحاولة طرد سنيته، بقطاع غزة، مع إغلاق معبر رفح لمعظم الوقت، ولم تتأهل الحملة في سوق ما أعلنت عنه السلطات المصرية أنه الأمن والاستقرار في سيناء. غير أن هذه الحملة تراكمت مع تحريضه واسعة ضد حماس وحكومتها. كما تترافق مع إعادة بين القيادة الفلسطينية في رام الله وبين "إسرائيل"، ومع محاور العربي، وضرب الإسلام السياسي في المنطقة.

وبالرغم من وجود عدة سيناريوهات محتملة لمسار الأحداث الوضع الداخلي غير المستقر في مصر، والطبيعة الخاصة به القائم على خط المقاومة، والعداء على ضغوط الحصار وعلى شعبياً عربياً وإسلامياً واسعة، تسجل من الصعب على نظام الأمنية والعسكرية، والتي سياسة الحصار الخلق نفسها، وهو إلى تسويات معقولة تضمن له سيطرة النظام وإعادة هيئته تنمية فيها، فضلاً عن التخفيف التدريجي للحصار عن القطاع

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 75 translations by the end of 2013, including two during that year which addressed the following titles:

1. Middle East: New Maps are Drawn (translated: January 2013)
2. The Deepening Chaos in Sinai (translated: September 2013)



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 80 electronic sources. The sources include the most important Arab, foreign and Israeli newspapers, news sites, and around 50 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.

Apart from its regular work, the department provides information assistance to many researchers, besides preparing several news reports on important current issue. It provided researchers from inside and outside the centre with information and reports related to about 38 topics.

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 tens of 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 2013, the Centre published 3,083 issues including 358 issues in this particular year.



Sixth: Al-Zaytouna Website (alzaytouna.net)

The English and Arabic websites of the Centre have undergone a series of progressive enhancements during 2013, which included improving the way the content of the Centre's publications are displayed, and adding a section for displaying the newest video recordings on the website's main page. In addition, a page was launched on Sound Cloud, a platform for sharing audio recordings. A mobile version of Al-Zaytouna website was launched also during this year.

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 2013, and despite the decline of interest in the Palestinian issue as a result of the changes and uprisings in the Arab world, the site achieved an increase in the number of visits by 16%, and an increase of the number of hits by 36% compared to 2012.

The Centre's pages in social media sites witnessed a major leap where the number of Fans on Facebook raised from 2,419 at the end of 2012 to 16,083 by the end of 2013.

The website team also added a new emailing design to update those subscribed to the Centre's emailing list with its publications in an easier and more elegant way. Quick Response Code (QR) was also added to facilitate electronic access to these publications.



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 31 conferences and panel discussions till the end of 2013 including 4 during that year. One of the conferences was held conjointly with other institutions.

The Titles of the Conferences Held During 2013:

1. One-Day Seminar: “The Palestinian Issue: Strategic Evaluation 2012 – Strategic Assessment 2013”

(6/2/2013 – Crowne Plaza Hotel – Beirut)

The seminar entailed an assessment of the developments related to the Palestinian issue on different levels, in addition to the attempt at mapping the possible trends that are likely to shape the Palestinian scene in 2013.

The seminar comprised three sessions where experts in the Palestinian issue discussed topics related to the Palestinian-Israeli scene, the external role and its impact on the Palestinian issue, in addition to the role of the Palestinians in the Diaspora and the potential of regaining their initiative.



2. Conference: War on Gaza: Consequences and Future Prospects

(23–24/2/2013 – Mövenpick Hotel– Gaza)

This two-day conference was held on 23–24/2/2013 in the Gaza Strip in collaboration between al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, TIDA Research Foundation, and Pal-Think for Strategic Studies. Participants included a number of international experts, researchers and politicians, in addition to diplomats and civil society representatives. Papers presented in the conference focused on the long-term implications of the war on the social and economic situation in Gaza in addition to the role of social media during the war. They also tackled the military and security sides of the Israeli offensive on Gaza Strip and its implications on the future of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The conference concluded with a group of recommendations in an attempt to direct the strategies of the Palestinian national project according to a scientific and objective approach.



3. Workshop: “The Needs and Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan”

(10/4/2013 – Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

The workshop brought together a select of specialists and experts and those interested in the issue of Palestinian refugees. Participants discussed the developing conditions of Palestinian refugees in the three mentioned countries and tackled the reports and studies conducted on refugees and their social, educational and health needs, and their main priorities.

The participants discussed the social, legal, and political conditions of the Palestinian refugees and stressed the need to support their rights and needs. They also asserted the importance of coordination between specialized organizations, especially in the absence of a unified frame of reference, which made it difficult to specify the needs and priorities of Palestinian refugees.



4. One-day Seminar: “The Latest Developments in the Arab Region”

(19/9/2013– Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

This seminar was held in collaboration with the Institute of Contemporary Islamic Thought and focused on the latest developments in the Arab region. The participants discussed the military coup in Egypt, the potential attack by the US and the West against Syria, the re-launch of the negotiations track regarding the Palestinian issue, and the consequent implications on the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic levels. The seminar comprised two sessions and participants included a select of experts, specialists, and those interested in the Arab and Palestinian issue.

Eighth: Consultations and Training

In 2013, Al-Zaytouna Centre continued holding training courses and conducting consultations. It was consulted by many masters and doctoral researchers, and it also held 13 training courses addressing the following titles:

1. Introduction into the Palestinian Issue

This course was held twice; the first one was presented in English in Beirut on 28–31/3/2012, for a number of Malaysian students, who are studying abroad. It was facilitated by: Yassir Kaddoura, Ayman Zeidan, Rana Sa'adah, and Mariam Itani.

The “Introduction into the Palestinian Issue” training course included the following topics; The Land of Palestine, People of Palestine, The Palestinian Armed Struggle in the Course of History, The State of Israel, and The Current Situation in Palestine & its Political Map.

The course included field visits to Burj Barajneh Refugee Camp to closely see the difficult living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, and visits to a number of humanitarian Palestinian organizations.

The second was presented in Arabic in Doha, Qatar on 21–22/6/2013, and was presented by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh.

2. Futures Studies

This course was held twice and was facilitated by Prof. Dr. Walid 'Abd al-Hay; the first was in Cairo on 5–6/4/2013 in coordination with Nile Center for Strategic Studies, where 35 members attended the course, and the second was held in Beirut on 28–30/5/2013, where about 20 members attended the three-day course.

The world-known specialist in futures studies introduced the trainees to the fundamentals of Futures Studies, their methodologies and techniques in around 15-hour course.

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.

The 15-hour course facilitated the active interaction of participants, which included workshops that teach the application of various Futures Studies methods.

3. Jerusalem

This training course was held in Amman, Jordan, on 13-14/4/2013, and it included 60 trainees. The course was delivered by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh and focused on the issue of Jerusalem and on the historical and contemporary background of the Palestinian issue.

4. Political Analysis

This training course was held three times, the first in Cairo in early May, the second in Kuwait in June, and the third in Beirut from 30/10 to 1/11/2013. 20 trainees participated in each of the three sessions which were presented by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh. The 18-hour training course introduced the trainees to the basics of political analysis and the mechanisms for writing analysis. The course also highlighted the elements affecting political events and their impact on writing the analysis, and at the end of the course there was a workshop in which the participants actually wrote a political analysis.



5. Strategic Assessment

This course, which was presented by Dr. Mohsen Saleh, was held three times, the first in Kuwait in June, the second in Cairo in mid June in collaboration with Nile Centre for Economic and Strategic Studies, and the third in Beirut on 27–28/11/2013. The 12-hour training session focused on developing the political capabilities of the participants and enhancing their ability to understand different situations, analyze them, and build scenarios and trends. The session also focused on developing the trainees' abilities in drafting a political assessment.



6. Political Conflict Management

This training course was held in Beirut on 13–14/11/2013 with the participation of 15 trainees. The course was delivered by 'Atef al-Joulani and comprised 12 training hours with focus on enhancing the trainees' ability to understand the trends of events, mechanisms of decision-making, and facing political crises and conflicts. The concepts and objectives of political conflict and the strategies of conflict management were explained, and the course included also several workshops.



7. Social Media Marketing for NGOs

This training course was held on 18–19/11/2013 with the participation of 30 trainees, and was presented by Eng. Huda Shehab. The 12-hour course enhanced the participants' abilities to use social media platforms to market NGOs, and it included several workshops.



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 2013, al-Zaytouna participated in five book fairs including three local and two Arab international book fairs:

1. The 44th Cairo International Book Fair (23/1–5/2/2013)
2. The 57th Beirut International Arab Book Fair (6–19/12/2013)



Tenth: Public Relations

The Centre was keen in 2013 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 consistency 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 ten worldwide conferences and Panel Discussions. The most prominent of these participations were in:

1. The Fourth Forum of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member Countries' Think Tanks, which was held by the Egyptian Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) on 26–27/3/2013 with the cooperation of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies TASAM. The General Manager of Al-Zaytouna Centre Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh and Al-Zaytouna researchers Wael Sa'ad and Rabie al-Dannan represented the centre in the forum.
2. The "Palestinian National Security" Conference in Gaza Strip, on 30-31/3/2013.
3. The second annual conference of political and strategic studies centers of the Arab world, which was organized by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha, Qatar, on 7–9/12/2013, and was entitled "The Question of Palestine and the Future of the Palestinian National Project."

In addition, the Centre participated in regional and international conferences and panel discussions, thus enhancing the relations with similar institutions.

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 2013, the Public Relations and Media Department issued 28 press articles about the activities of the Centre and its works, and documented these articles' publication in more than 60 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 2013, the department documented the participation of three of the Centre's researchers and representatives in tens of interviews with media institutions, including TV channels, radio stations, newspapers, news agencies and websites. Most of these events focused on the issue of Palestine and the Arab Zionist conflict

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-Quds TV, Filastin al-Yawm, al-Manar, Daleel TV, Kaif TV (Jordan), al-Masirah TV, Télé Liban (TL), al-Aqsa TV (Palestine). The radio stations: al-Fajr (Lebanon), Alnour (Lebanon), al-Basha'ir (Lebanon).



2. Local and International Arabic Newspapers and Magazines

al-Quds al-Arabi, Al Awda magazine (London)/ Assafir, Aman weekly, al-Wahda al-Islamiya magazine , Minbar al-Daeyat magazine (Lebanon) ,Alghad, Assabeel (Jordan), al-Hayat al-Jadida, Felesteen, Alresalah weekly, al-Manar (Palestine)/ al-Ahram, al-Shaab, Assiyassa Addawliya magazine (Egypt)/ Albayan (Emirates)/ al-Bayan magazine (KSA)/ al-Sharq, al-Raya (Qatar)/ Almujtamaa magazine (Kuwait).



3. News Websites and Agencies

Aljazeera.net, AlArabiya.net, Islamweb.net, Arabs 48, The Palestinian Information Center (PIC), Palestine News Agency (Wafa), National News Agency (Lebanon), Middle East News Agency (Egypt), Quds Press International News Agency, Sama News Agency, Ma'an News Agency, Palestinian Press Agency (SAFA), Asian Society Information Agency (ASIA), Felesteen Al'an, al-Ahram Arrakami, Great Middle East Gate, Palestine News Network (PNN), Islam Today, IslamWay.net, AlamatOnline.net, Islamion, Basaer, Felesteen Online, al-Quds al-Ikhbariya network, Afrasia, Palestinian Refugees News Network in Lebanon, Thabit Organization for the Right of Return, Donia al-Watan, Sada al-Balad (Egypt).

