



Al-Zaytouna Harvest 2014

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

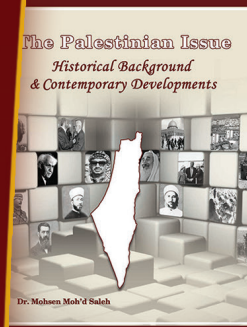


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Al-Zaytouna Centre

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

Overview

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

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

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

The Centre's General Policies

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

Al-Zaytouna's Board of Consultants

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

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

* Passed away.

The Centre's Activities and Services

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data and archival material. 2. Researches and studies. 3. Palestinian Strategic Report. 4. Annual Palestinian Documents. 5. Information Report series. 6. "Palestine Today" electronic daily newsletter. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information and Archives Department. 2. Studies and Researches Department. 3. Translation Department. 4. Consultations and Training Department. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Website Department. 6. Public Relations and Media Department. 7. Administrative Affairs. 8. Finance Department. |
|---|---|

Works and Achievements

First: Publications

During 2014, al-Zaytouna Centre had published 14 books in both English and Arabic. In these publications, the principles of academic objectivity, accuracy of information and quality research were strictly observed. In addition, the Centre adheres to the same professional standards in academic research and referencing systems used at universities and in graduate studies.

The following is a list of the 2014 al-Zaytouna Centre publications:

No.	Title
1	<i>The Palestinian Strategic Report 2012–2013</i> (Arabic)
2	<i>Am I not a Human? (10): The Suffering of the Palestinian Worker under the Israeli Occupation</i> (English)
3	<i>Information Report (25): Arab Parties in 1948 Occupied Palestine (in Israel)</i> (Arabic)
4	<i>Information Report (26): The Popular Resistance in Palestine</i> (Arabic)
5	<i>Information File 21: The Israeli Position on the Events & Changes in Egypt: 15 June 2013–15 July 2014</i> (Arabic)
6	<i>Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas): Studies of Thought and Experience</i> (Arabic)
7	<i>Palestinian Liberation Army & Popular Liberation Forces & Their Role in the Resistance to the Israeli Occupation 1964–1973</i> (Arabic)
8	<i>The Road to Jerusalem: A Historical Study of the Islamic Experience in the Land of Palestine since the Time of the Prophets until Late Twentieth Century</i> (Arabic)
9	<i>Introduction to the Issue of Palestinian Refugees</i> (Arabic)
10	<i>Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian National Council: Overview-Documents-Resolutions</i> (Arabic)
11	<i>The Organizational Structure of the Palestinian Prisoners in the Naqab (Negev) Prison</i> (Arabic)
12	<i>Gaza Strip: Development and Construction in the Face of Siege and Destruction</i> (Arabic)
13	<i>Gaza Strip: Development and Construction in the Face of Siege and Destruction</i> (English e-book)
14	<i>The Palestinian Issue: Historical Background & Contemporary Developments</i> (English)

1. The Palestinian Strategic Report 2012–2013 (Arabic)

The Palestinian Strategic Report (PSR) is one of al-Zaytouna's most important academic studies, published in both English and Arabic since 2005. PSR reviews biennially the various developments concerning the Palestinian question in a comprehensive, objective and academic manner. It offers a wealth of data, up-to-date statistics, and analyzes and offers an outlook of future events.

This report is the product of a massive team-work exerted by a group of affiliated researchers and specialists. It has its own Board of Consultants, and is edited by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh. Today, it can be surely asserted that PSR is a must reference for every researcher and academic who are interested in the contemporary developments of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The PSR 2012–2013 falls in 360 pages and seven chapters: The internal Palestinian scene, the Israeli-Palestinian scene, the Palestinian issue and the Arab world, the Palestinian issue and the Muslim world, the Palestinian issue and the international situation, the land and the holy sites, and the demographic, economic and educational Indicators.



Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Consultants

- Ahmad Khalifah
- Prof. Dr. Majdi Hammad
- Munir Shafiq

Writers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Dr. 'Abdul-Hameed al-Kayyali | - 'Abdullah 'Abd al-'Aziz Najjar |
| - Hani al-Masri | - Hasan Ibhais |
| - Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Abu Jabir | - Dr. Johnny Mansour |
| - Prof. Dr. Moein 'Atta Ragab | - Muhammad Zahid Gül |
| - Mu'min Bsiso | - Prof. Dr. Talal 'Atrissi |
| - Wael Ahmad Sa'd | - Prof. Dr. Walid 'Abd al-Hay |
| - Ziad Bhies | |

Assistant Editors

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| - Fatima 'Itani | - Ghina Jamal al-Din |
| - Hayat Dada | - Iman Barghout |
| - Iqbal 'Omeish | |

Hardcover: 360 pages

2. Am I Not a Human? Series

This series seeks to highlight the humanitarian dimension of the Palestinian issue, by establishing a rich interactive documentation of Palestinian suffering under the Israeli occupation. It focuses on Israeli violations of the Palestinians' basic human rights.

This series is also distinguished by its academic, well-documented, comprehensive, concise, and statistically supported information. It is published in both Arabic and English. By the end of 2014, the Centre had published 11 Arabic volumes in this series, of which 9 were translated. In 2014, only the following volume was published:

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

This book reviews the history and struggle of the labor movement in Palestine, as well as the direct targeting of Palestinian workers, infrastructure and the agricultural sector. It also highlights the policies of the Israeli occupation aimed at strangling the Palestinian economy, the economic consequences of restricting workers' freedom of movement, and the suffering of Palestinian workers inside Israel and in Israeli settlements.

Prepared by

- Mariam Itani
- Amin Abu Wardeh
- Waddah Eid

Edited by

- Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh
- Rana Sa'adah

Translated by: Salma al-Houry

Reviewed by: Tom Charles

Paperback: 111 pages

3. Information Report Series

This is a series of academic studies prepared by the Information and Archives Department of al-Zaytouna Centre. It aims to provide researchers and readers with informative, concise and well-documented information on selected issues of concern; Arab and Muslim World issues, with a particular focus on the Palestinian issue.

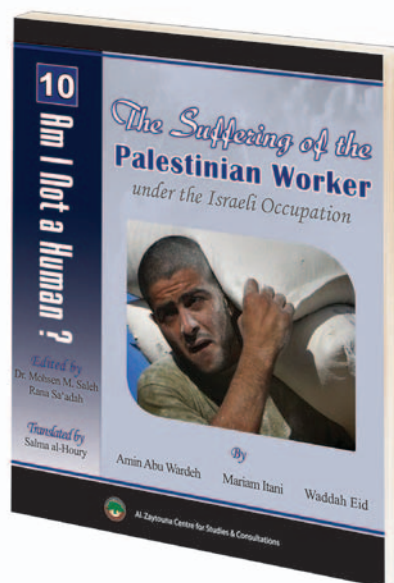
Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Managing Editor: Basem Elkassem

Editing Team

- Baraa Zeidan
- Rabie el-Dannan
- Saleh Al-Shannat
- Samer Hussein

During 2014, the following two titles have been published in this series:



a. Information Report (25): Arab Parties in 1948 Occupied Palestine (in Israel) (Arabic)

The book explores the emergence of Arab parties and their programs and how they were influenced by the political, economic, and cultural developments that have occurred over time to the Palestinians in 1948 territories.

Moreover, the book highlights the role of the Arab parties in the Israeli domestic political system, their participation in the Knesset and municipal elections, and their impact on the laws and policies of Israeli governments. It also points to the stances of these parties towards the Palestinian issue, peace process, right of return, prisoners, and national reconciliation..., and the milestones in Palestinian issue history.

It discusses the Israeli laws and measures taken to limit the efficiency of these parties.

Paperback: 69 pages

**b. Information Report (26): The Popular Resistance in Palestine (Arabic)**

This report is on the history of popular resistance in Palestine and its development both in terms of style and performance. It examines the role of popular resistance in the Palestinian issue in general and in facing the occupation and Israeli violations against Palestinians in particular.

It also highlights the stances of the PA and the Palestinian factions towards popular resistance and presents the Israeli approach towards this form of resistance in addition to the Arab and Islamic position in this respect.

Paperback: 78 pages

**4. Information File Series**

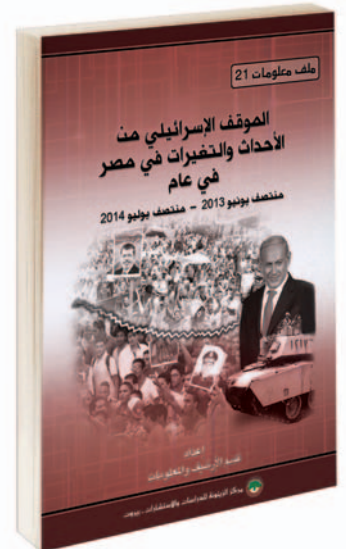
This is a series of non-periodic files prepared by the Information and Archives Department of al-Zaytouna Centre. It provides the researchers and those interested, with detailed news enriched with reports, stances and related articles on selected issues of concern; Arab and Muslim World issues, with a particular focus on the Palestinian issue.

During 2014, the following title has been published in this series:

Information File 21: The Israeli Position on the Events & Changes in Egypt: 15 June 2013–15 July 2014 (Arabic)

The file sheds light on the most prominent Israeli stances toward the events and changes in Egypt after 30 June 2013. It tackles the statements and attitudes of Israeli political, official and military leaders, as well as those of academics and media members, concerning the events in Egypt and Sinai. It explores the impact of the Egyptian internal situation on Israel.

Paperback: 414 pages



5. Others

a. *Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas): Studies of Thought and Experience (Arabic)*

This book considered a major reference in Hamas thought and experience. It is authored by a select of experts specialized in the Palestinian issue in addition to contributions by five Hamas leaders.

It is divided into two parts; the first of which includes 11 refereed studies regarding Hamas and its experience. The articles present a historical overview of the emergence of Hamas and its development, and they tackle Hamas' political vision and its stance towards Israel, the peace process and Palestinian factions. They also present Hamas' perspective towards political and social reform as well as the Movement's relations on the Arab, Islamic and international levels.



The other part of the book includes contributions by five senior Hamas leaders attempting to answer a miscellany of questions regarding different issues appertaining to the Movement. These contributions are by Khalid Mish'al, head of Hamas Political Bureau; Isma'il Haniyyah, deputy head of Hamas Political Bureau and head of the Gaza caretaker government; Musa Abu Marzuq, head of Hamas Media Bureau and former head of its Political Bureau; in addition to the two leaders Usama Hamdan and Sami Khatir.

The book includes an appendix of major documents related to Hamas and its experience since the issuance of its charter in 1987 until the memorandum of enforcement of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas (al-Shati' Agreement) in 2014 besides a number of important documents issued between the two years.

An English version will be published soon.

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Authors

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Dr. 'Adnan Abu 'Amer | - Prof. Dr. Ahmad Sa'id Nufal |
| - Belal Shobaki | - Dr. Hafez al-Karmi |
| - Dr. Ishtiaq Hossain | - Isma'il Haniyyah |
| - Khalid Mish'al | - Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh |
| - Dr. Musa Abu Marzuq | - Prof. Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway |
| - Dr. Ra'id Inairat | - Sameeh Hammoudah |
| - Sami Khatir | - Prof. Dr. Talal 'Atrissi |
| - Usamah Hamdan | - Yousef Abu Ossuood |
| - Prof. Dr. Yusuf Rizqa | |

Hardcover: 671 pages

b. *Palestinian Liberation Army & Popular Liberation Forces & Their Role in the Resistance to the Israeli Occupation 1964–1973 (Arabic)*

The author sheds light on the experience of the Palestinian resistance in general, the establishment and evolution of the Palestinian Liberation Army (PLA), and in particular the experience of the Popular Liberation Forces (PLF) from 1967–1973, in some Arab countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and afterwards Jordan).

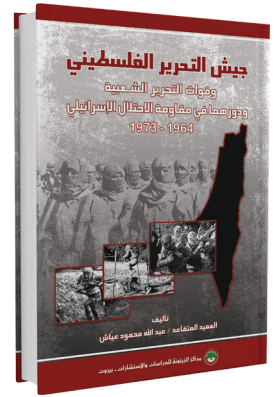
The book explores the role of the PLA in the June 1967 war, the details of the battles it fought on all fronts, the operations carried out between 1967 and 1973, and the arrests and chases of its members by the Israeli occupation forces.

This is an important book whose author is a retired officer of the PLA. He was able to reach many published and unpublished documents related to the PLA. Moreover, the personal interviews and testimonies in addition to the meetings with eyewitnesses added authenticity to the book.

This book is a Master's thesis in Modern and Contemporary History.

Author: Brig. Gen. (Ret) 'Abdullah Mahmud 'Ayyash

Hardcover: 538 pages



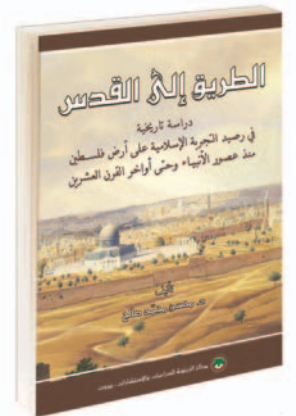
c. *The Road to Jerusalem: A Historical Study of the Islamic Experience in the Land of Palestine since the Time of the Prophets until Late Twentieth Century (Arabic)*

The 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 is an academic book scientifically documented and rich with information displayed in a smooth language. Worth of mention is that this is the fifth edition of this book that was first published in 1995, and which reaped wide success among Arab readers.

Author: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Paperback: 245 pages



d. *Introduction to the Issue of Palestinian Refugees (Arabic)*

This book sheds light on the Palestinian refugees issue, exploring the historical backgrounds of the Palestine issue and the emergence of the Palestinian refugee problem. It also explains the current situation of the Palestinian refugees.

Al-Zaytouna Centre has published this book in collaboration with the Academy of Refugee Studies. It is originally a group of lectures by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh (Author) which were delivered in the Academy. Indeed, this book contains material of interest to those who study and specialize in the Palestinian issue.

Author: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Paperback: 72 pages



e. *Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian National Council: Overview-Documents-Resolutions (Arabic)*

This book gives an overview on the PLO and its institutions, exhibiting the most important documents and resolutions issued by the organization, without any analysis or critique.

The four-chapter book includes an overview on the organization, its charter and its amendments; and the Palestinian national councils including the Palestinian National Council, Palestinian Central Council and Executive Committee. The third chapter displays these councils' resolutions, while the fourth is a collection of texts related to the PLO.

Compiled by: Information and Archives Department

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Paperback: 475 pages



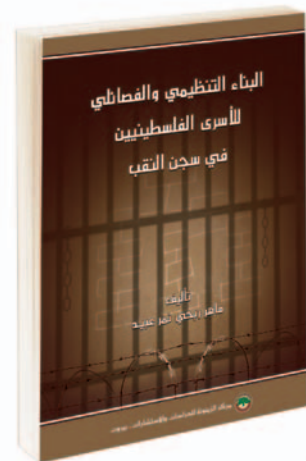
f. *The Organizational Structure of the Palestinian Prisoners in the Naqab (Negev) Prison (Arabic)*

The book describes the Negev prison, its various divisions and facilities, and the incarceration and factional life inside it, pointing out the existence of an organizational referential entity that has a well defined and precise structure, at the level of each faction as well as at the level of all detainees. The factions' authorities determine the nature of the relationship between each faction and the other factions represented inside the prison. While the prison's organizational entity determines the duties of each prisoner and explains to him his rights; and determines the relationship between the detainees and factions together and the prison's administration.

The importance of this book lies in the fact that it presents the fruit of the prolonged efforts and administrative experiences of the shared struggle of thousands of leaders, activists and detainees inside Israeli prisons; noting the scarcity of references and studies that tackle the subject of Palestinian prisoners and their lives inside the prisons. This adds to the value and importance of the book as a reference for researchers and those interested in the detainees' issue.

Author: Maher Ribhi Nimr 'Ubeid

Paperback: 222 pages



g. *Gaza Strip: Development and Construction in the Face of Siege and Destruction* (Arabic) & (English e-book)

This study focuses on the demographic, economic, educational and health situation in GS. It explores the damages and destruction caused by the recent Israeli aggression, which began in July 2014 and lasted for 50 days.

The study also discusses the challenges facing economic development, and the opportunities and future prospects of overcoming the obstacles, and going ahead to reconstruction and advancement.

Arabic Version

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

Prepared by

- Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh
- Prof. Dr. Moein Muhammad 'Atta Ragab
- Iqbal 'Omeish
- Ghina Jamal al-Din
- Basem Jalal Elkassem

Paperback: 64 pages

English Version

Translated by

- Baraah Darazi
- Karim Traboulsi

Language Editors

- Ghina Jamal al-Din
- Rana Sa'adah

Paperback: 44 pages



h. *The Palestinian Issue: Historical Background & Contemporary Developments* (English)

This book presents a general overview of the Palestinian issue, by tracing its historical junctures and its current developments. For the reader, this will facilitate his comprehension of its overall picture, the intertwined factors connected to it, at any stage and in a logical sequence, up to the present stage.

This book is of special importance to the group of readers who wish to get a general idea of the Palestinian issue, or those who do not find time for detailed specialized studies. The book is written in a smooth English language, and is full of information updated till 2013; all the while retaining a scientific, academic and documented wording, far from emotional structural discourse.

Author: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh

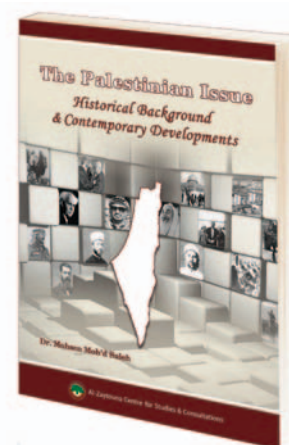
Translated by

- Karim Traboulsi
- Marilyn Chbeir

Language Editing: Rana Sa'adah

Reviewed by: Tom Charles

Paperback: 224 pages



Second: Strategic Assessment

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

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

Al-Zaytouna Centre had published 73 strategic assessments by the end of 2014, including 13 of which were published in that year and addressed the following topics:

1. The Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees in Syria: Where Do We Go From Here? (March 2014).
2. Future Relations Between Hamas and Iran (March 2014).
3. The Conflict Between 'Abbas and Dahlan and Future Scenarios (April 2014).
4. Al-Shati' Agreement and Future of the Palestinian Reconciliation (May 2014).
5. The Future of Egyptian-Palestinian Relations After the Egyptian Elections (July 2014)
6. Gaza: What Happens Next? (July 2014).
7. The Future of the Gaza Strip on the Day that Follows the End of the Aggression (August 2014).
8. An Assessment of the Performance of the Israeli Political and Military Establishments During the Israeli Assault on Gaza Strip and Forecasts for Future Developments (August 2014).
9. Resistance in the WB: Challenges and Prospects for the Future (August 2014).
10. A Reading in the Performance of the Palestinian Authority During the Gaza War of 2014 and its Future Implications (September 2014).
11. Palestinian Reconciliation: Is There a New Horizon After the Israeli Assault on Gaza? (October 2014).
12. Public Support for Palestine in Europe During the Israeli Aggression on Gaza Strip in summer 2014 and its Potential Prospects (October 2014).
13. Prospects for Popular Resistance in the WB (November 2014).



Third: Al-Zaytouna Translations

This 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 study centers and think tanks, which have direct impact on the process of decision making in Israel and the West, particularly the US.

Al-Zaytouna Centre is keen to present a selection of vital studies and articles, which directly address the issues of the Arab and Muslim worlds in general and the Palestinian issue in particular. Thus, it provides researchers with material that enriches 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 had published 78 translations by the end of 2014, including three during that year which addressed the following titles:

1. A Time for Decisions: Toward Agreements and Alternative Plans (translated: April 2014).
2. The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission Against Amos Yaron & The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission Against The State of Israel (translated: July 2014).
3. Excerpts from the following two Articles and their related documents: "Cash, Weapons and Surveillance: the U.S. is a Key Party to Every Israeli Attack" & "NSA shares raw intelligence including Americans' data with Israel" (translated: September 2014).



Fourth: Information and Archives Department

The Information and Archives Department has an essential role in the work of al-Zaytouna Centre. The department daily follows the most important Arab, foreign and Israeli newspapers, news sites, Israeli and foreign research and study centers.

Apart from its regular work, the department provides information assistance to many researchers, besides preparing several news reports on important current issue. It also prepares the Information Report series and the Information File series.

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

The electronic newsletter provides rich material for researchers and specialists sparing them time and effort. It is characterized by an academic categorization, by which news can be easily browsed. By the end of 2014, the Centre had published 3,445 issues, out of which 362 were published the same year.

In addition, “The Palestine Daily Chronicle” Arabic report is issued monthly. It deals with important events, decisions and stances that express the nature of a phase or reflect the changes in political tracks; specifically, the stances of powers active on the Palestinian, Israeli, Arab, Islamic, and international levels. The reported events are carefully chosen by the editorial team who looks into dozens of daily and periodic sources and adopts an accurate mechanism in choosing the news according to its importance and its role in shaping the map of events and developments related to the Palestinian issue.



Fifth: Al-Zaytouna Website (alzaytouna.net)

The English and Arabic websites of the Centre have undergone a series of progressive enhancements during 2014. It released the updated version of its English website, which offers several key advantages as it is devoted to highlighting materials within new divisions that are sorted by topics, content or publication types, offering visitors a smooth and effective access to information.

The site updates its visitors with the latest news of the Centre, its activities and publications. It also allows them access a wide range of materials and services including the daily electronic newsletter "Palestine Today," the Palestinian Strategic Report and al-Zaytouna translation series, in addition to a large collection of articles, studies, reports, documents, maps and selected books.

To encourage the spread of information, the site offers visitors free downloads of a number of the Centre's publications. 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 two years from its inception in achieving a distinct rank among other sites of study centers concerned with the Palestinian issue, at home and abroad. Currently, it is one of the most visited sites.

In 2014, the site achieved an increase in the number of visits by 37%, and an increase of the number of hits by 21% compared to 2013.

The Centre's pages in social media sites witnessed a major leap where the number of fans on Facebook raised from 16,083 at the end of 2013 to 34,339 by the end of 2014.



Sixth: Conferences and Panel Discussions

To spread awareness on regional events at local, regional and international levels, the Centre holds panel discussions in accordance with its policy of openness to all ideas and intellectual and political trends. These specialized, scientific, objective, and free discussions address key issues and topics concerning the Palestinian issue. Hence, attaining results that best serve the Centre's stated objectives.

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

These 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.

Up to the end of 2014, the Centre had held 36 conferences and panel discussions, out of which 5 were held in 2014, and they are:

1. Panel Discussion: "The Issue of Palestine: Strategic Evaluation 2013 – Strategic Assessment 2014"

(16/1/2014 – Ramada Plaza Hotel – Beirut)

The seminar evaluated the developments of the Palestinian issue throughout 2013, and tried to explore its possible trends in 2014.

The seminar comprised three sessions and brought together a select of specialists and those interested in the Palestinian issue who discussed the Palestinian internal situation, the Arab-Israeli issue, and the external environment affecting the Palestinian issue.

2. Panel Discussion: "The Developments of the Syrian Issue and Its Impact on the Palestinian Issue"

(20/3/2014 – Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

The panel discussion was held with the participation of a select of researchers and specialists in the Palestinian issue. The participants reiterated that the resolution of the Palestinian crisis in Syria could be primarily attained through distancing the Palestinians from the ongoing conflict, in addition to doing what it takes to alleviate the suffering of the refugees.



They attested that the developments in Syria have had a negative impact on the Palestinian issue, especially on the Palestinians in Syria. The participants also warned against the attempts to implicate the Palestinian side in the Syrian crisis.

3. Panel Discussion: “The Israeli Offensive on Gaza Strip and Its Impact”

(14/8/2014 – Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

The panel was at al-Zaytouna’s headquarters, where a select of researchers, academics, and specialists participated, and which was divided into two sessions.

In the first session, participants analyzed the Palestinian scene after the Israeli war, whereas the second session explored the possible scenarios of the future of Gaza Strip.

4. Conference: The Accession of the State of Palestine to the International Criminal Court and Possible Outcomes

(23/10/2014 – Crowne Plaza Hotel – Beirut)

Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations and the Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness) held this conference.

It had three main sessions and was attended by a group of elite legal experts and experts on Palestinian affairs, who discussed the State of Palestine’s accession to the Rome Statute, the prospects for prosecuting Israel and Israeli leaders, and the expected outcomes of Palestine resorting to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The participants discussed the legal status of the Palestinian territories, the role of international human rights institutions and their role in the realization of international justice, and the Israeli violations in the assault on the Gaza Strip and their classification according to international law.



5. Conference: The Future of the Palestinian Resistance in Light of the War on Gaza Strip

(27/11/2014 – Crowne Plaza Hotel – Beirut)

The conference, which had three sessions, discussed the future of the Palestinian resistance and the challenges it faces, following the Israeli ferocious assault on Gaza Strip, dubbed Operation Protective Edge by Israel and Operation Eat Straw (*al-‘Asf al-Ma’kul*) by Hamas, 7/7/2014–26/8/2014.

The first session tackled the Palestinian scene by assessing the military performance of the Palestinian resistance, discussing its future in light of national reconciliation, and examining the public support for resistance at home and abroad. As for the second session, it was about the Arab-Israeli axis, the position of Qatar and Turkey and other forces supporting the resistance, and the position of Iran and the “Refusal Front.” Whereas the third session shed light on the external environment that influences the Palestinian issue; the Western and international attitudes vis-à-vis the resistance; the Arab, Islamic, and international public support for the resistance; and the prospects for an effective popular resistance under occupation.



Seventh: Consultations and Training

Al-Zaytouna Centre continued holding training courses and conducting consultations in 2014. Thus, it provided consulting services and scientific support for many of the masters and doctoral researchers. Nine training courses were held addressing the following titles:

1. Introduction into the Palestinian Issue

This English course was held on 24–25/4/2014, in Beirut, for a number of Malaysian Students, who are studying abroad. It was facilitated by: Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh and Rana Sa'adah.

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.

2. Futures Studies

This course was held on 3–5/6/2014, in Beirut, where 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 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.



3. Political Analysis

This training course was held three times, the first in Istanbul in the midst of February 2014, the second in Beirut on 26–28/3/2014, and the third in Kuwait on 25–27/12/2014, 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.



4. Strategic Assessment

This course, which was presented by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh, was held twice, the first in Istanbul in February 2014 and the second in Beirut in mid May 2014. 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.

5. Eagle Eye: The Formation of the World's Contemporary Political Map and Its Future Prospects

This training course was held twice; the first in Beirut on 22–24/1/2014, and the second in Kuala Lumpur on 4–6/4/2014 in collaboration with the Palestinian Cultural Organization Malaysia (PCOM), and they were facilitated by Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh.

In this course, the intertwined broader picture of the modern world is explained, in addition to the historical background that led to the formation of the contemporary political map including the spheres of influence of the Great Powers. The balance of power and various factors affecting the course of events are explained, in addition to the prospects of change, the forces likely to rise or decline, and the potential tasks of the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Eighth: 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 2014, al-Zaytouna participated in four book fairs:

1. The 45th Cairo International Book Fair (22/1–4/2/2014); Delegatee: Dar al-Rawa'i.
2. Palestine International Forum for Media and Communication – Istanbul (23–24/4/2014).
3. The 15th Amman International Book Fair (3–13/9/2014).
4. The 58th Beirut International Arab Book Fair (28/11–11/12/2014)



Ninth: Public Relations

The Centre was keen in 2014 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 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 several worldwide conferences and panel discussions. The most prominent of these participations were in:

1. The dialogue meeting facilitated by the Crisis Management Initiative and The Palestinian Center for Policy Research & Strategic Studies—Masarat, in Istanbul during the months of January and September 2014.
2. The workshop that was held to establish The Strategic Thinking Group in Turkey, on 25–26/4/2014.

3. First Qatar Charity Humanitarian Forum in Support of the Palestinian People, on 29–31/10/2014.
4. The GCC Countries: Politics and Economics in Light of Regional and Global Shifts and Changes conference held by The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha on 6–8/12/2014.
5. Seminar: The Changes in the Arab-Israeli Conflict After the War on Gaza 2014 held by the Middle East Studies Center, on 9–10/12/2014.

Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations marked the tenth anniversary of its founding with an event that was held at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Beirut on 26/11/2014. The event featured wide participation of experts, intellectuals, journalists, specialists in the Palestinian issue, and a number of politicians. It's program included the Centre's opening speech by al-Zaytouna General Manager Dr. Mohsen Moh'd Saleh, speech of the Centre's Board of Consultants by former Justice Minister Prof. Dr. Ahmad Mubarak al-Khaldi, and a speech on behalf of academicians and researchers by the expert in modern Palestinian history Prof. Dr. Bayan Nuwayhed al-Hout.

The event included a short documentary entitled "Al-Zaytouna in Ten Years." It also included granting the 2014 Best Employee Award and the Ideal Employee Award over the ten year period (2004–2014).

Tenth: 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 2014, the Public Relations and Media Department issued 42 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 2014, the department documented the participation of six 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 have focused on the issue of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli 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, al-Aqsa TV (Palestine), Filastin al-Yawm, Al-Jazeera Mubasher Misr, al-Mayadeen TV, TRTalarabiya TV, al-Alam TV, al-Manar, al-Thabat TV.

The radio stations: Al-Fajr (Lebanon), Alnour (Lebanon)

2. Local and International Arabic Newspapers and Magazines

Assafir, Aliwaa, Anbaa, al-Aman weekly (Lebanon)/ *Alghad, Assabeel, al-Mustaqbal al-Arabi* (Jordan)/ *Felesteen, Alresalah* weekly (Palestine)/ *al-Shaab, Assiyassa Addawliya* magazine (Egypt)/ *al-Sharq, al-Watan* (Qatar)/ *Alwatan* (KSA)/ *Oman* (Oman)/ *Almujtamaa* magazine (Kuwait).

3. News Websites and Agencies

Aljazeera.net, Islamweb.net, Arabs 48, The Palestinian Information Center (PIC), National News Agency (Lebanon), Today's Opinion, Arabi21, Almonitor, Quds Press International News Agency, Sama News Agency, Palestinian Press Agency (SAFA), Felesteen Al'an, IslamWay.net, AlamatOnline.net, Basaer, Masralarabia, Felesteen Online, al-Quds al-Ikhbariya network, laji-net, Quds Net News Agency, al-Watantoday (Egypt).

