



Al-Zaytouna Harvest 2015

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 Salhie: Expert in Islamic and Arab history.*
14. Prof. Dr. Mohammad al-Musfir: Professor of political science, Qatar University.
15. Prof. Dr. Mona Haddad Yakan: 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. |
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Works and Achievements

First: Publications

During 2015, al-Zaytouna Centre had published 12 books in both English and Arabic. In these publications, the principles of academic objectivity, accuracy of information and quality research were strictly observed.

Besides, the center is keen to print out its publications and design them according to the best technical specifications, taking into consideration the pricing of these books in a policy that aims to achieve a wider spread of them and enabling the greatest number of interests to acquire and make use of these books.

The following is a list of the 2015 al-Zaytouna Centre publications:

No.	Title
1	<i>The Palestinian National Authority: Studies of the Experience and Performance 1994–2013</i> (Arabic)
2	<i>Palestinian Documents for the Year 2010</i> (Arabic)
3	<i>The Palestine Daily Chronicle: year 2014</i> (Arabic)
4	<i>Egypt and Gaza Strip: From the Revolution of 25 January 2011 to Summer 2014</i> (Arabic)
5	<i>The Conditions of the Palestinian Refugees in Syria 2011–2015</i> (Arabic)
6	<i>The Suffering of the Palestinian Student under the Israeli Occupation</i> (Arabic)
7	<i>The Suffering of Palestinians at the Israeli Roadblocks in the West Bank</i> (Arabic)
8	<i>Iranian Nuclear Program</i> (Arabic)
9	<i>Resistance Rockets in Gaza: A Palestinian Deterrent Weapon</i> (Arabic)
10	<i>Israeli Aggression on Gaza Strip: Operation the Eaten Straw (al-'Asf al-Ma'kul) – Operation Protective Edge, 7/7/2014–26/8/2014</i> (Arabic)
11	<i>The Palestinian Strategic Report 2012–2013</i> (English)
12	<i>Egypt, Syria and the War on Gaza: A Study on the Egyptian and Syrian Foreign Policy Responses to the 2008/2009 Gaza War</i> (English)

1. *The Palestinian National Authority: Studies of the Experience and Performance 1994–2013 (Arabic)*

This book endeavors to present a comprehensive study of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and its experience. The book is composed of 15 chapters that examine all aspects related to the establishment of the PA and its legislative, judicial and presidential institutions, as well as the performance of its various governments.

This book deals with the Palestinian internal situation, security forces, the position on resistance forces, and the economic, demographic, educational and health conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also addresses the problem of corruption in the Authority, its dealings with the media and its foreign relations.

This book offers an academic methodological documented study of the PA's experience. It was academically edited, reviewed, and documented.

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

Writers

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| – Prof. Dr. Ahmad Mubarak al-Khaldi | – ‘Aziz Kayid | – Basem ElKassem |
| – Dr. Farid Abu Duheir | – Fatima ‘Itani | – Firas Abu Hilal |
| – Ghina Jamal al-Din | – Hasan Ibhais | – Hayat Dada |
| – Iqbal ‘Omeish | – Dr. Mohsen Moh’d Saleh | – Nadia Sa’d al-Deen |
| – Rabie el-Dannan | – Saleh al-Shanat | – Wael Sa’ad |
| – Prof Dr. Walid ‘Abd al-Hay | | |

Hardcover: 757 pages



2. *Palestinian Documents for the Year 2010 (Arabic)*

Palestinian Documents is one of the most important periodic publications issued by al-Zaytouna. These documents are considered one of the most important sources of information that are indispensable for any researcher or specialist. The center has issued six volumes of Palestinian Documents for the years 2005–2010, and in the course of publishing the Documents for the Year 2011.

The book includes 305 documents related to the events of the Palestinian issue in 2010 that witnessed many developments on the internal, regional and international levels.

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, and conferences.

Editors: Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh and Wael Sa’ad

Hardcover: 752 pages



3. *The Palestine Daily Chronicle: year 2014*

The Palestine Daily Chronicle is considered one of the most important books published by al-Zaytouna Centre. This book addresses the most prominent events related to the Palestinian issue, documenting its daily important events, decisions and stances that express the nature of a phase or reflect the changes in political tracks.

The book puts forth information and statistics of significance, related to both the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The information include various aspects of Palestinian political, economic, cultural, social and educational performance, information about Jerusalem, and the performance of the resistance. The book also covers matters related to settlement building, Judaization programs, attacks on holy sites, and the peace process.

The center has published during 2015 the first volume of this series that includes the events of 2014.



Supervised and edited by: Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

Prepared by: Rabie el-Dannan and Wael Wehbe

Hardcover: 499 pages

4. *Egypt and Gaza Strip: From the Revolution of 25 January 2011 to Summer 2014* (Arabic)

This report highlights the common files between Gaza Strip (GS) and Egypt from the 25 January 2011 Revolution to the end of the Israeli aggression on GS in 2014, regarding the relation with the resistance, the prisoners swap deal “Devotion of the Free,” the Palestinian reconciliation, in addition to the GS siege. Moreover, the book explores the Egyptian stance towards the two Israeli aggressions on GS in 2012 and 2014.

This book is the 27th publication in the Information Report series prepared by al-Zaytouna Centre.



Editor: Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

Managing Editor: Basem ElKassem

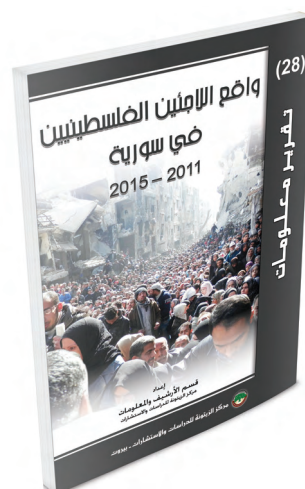
Paperback: 104 pages

5. *The Conditions of the Palestinian Refugees in Syria 2011–2015* (Arabic)

This information report casts light on the conditions of the Palestinian refugees in Syria, especially in the aftermath of the events that took place on 15/3/2011 and until mid-April 2015. The report tackles the impact of the events on the Palestinian refugees in Syria and the consequent suffering, killing, home destruction and displacement they had to face.

The report displays the position and performance of the various Palestinian parties towards the Palestinian refugees in Syria. It also addresses the stance of Syrian parties and some Arab and foreign countries.

This book is the 28th publication of the Information Report series prepared by the center.



Editor: Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

Managing Editor: Basem ElKassem

Paperback: 103 pages

6. *The Suffering of the Palestinian Student under the Israeli Occupation* (Arabic)

This reviews the most prominent international legislation related to the right to education in peace and war. Moreover, it highlights the impact of Israeli policies aimed at keeping the Palestinian people ignorant, and the impact of daily attacks, the siege, and the Separation Wall on the Palestinian student.

This book is the ninth in the “Am I not a Human?” series issued by the center.

Prepared by: Hayat Dada

Edited by: Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

Paperback: 95 pages



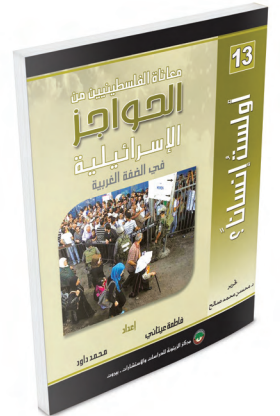
7. *The Suffering of Palestinians at the Israeli Roadblocks in the West Bank* (Arabic)

The legal preamble in this book reviews international and humanitarian laws that prove the illegality of the Israeli barriers. Then it gives an account of how the numbers and types of these barriers have evolved in the West Bank during the period 2001–2014. This book is the thirteenth in the “Am I not a Human” series published by the al-Zaytouna.

Prepared by: Fatima ‘Itani and Mohammed Dawood

Edited by: Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

Paperback: 111 pages



8. *Iranian Nuclear Program* (Arabic)

This book tackles the Iranian nuclear program and displays the Iranian ambitions and motivations associated with this program tracking its consequences and developments.

The book casts light on the negotiations between Iran and the West displaying their different concepts and views amidst their conflicting interest, this is in addition to the problem of lost confidence.

The book also informs us about the aspects of diplomatic options in dealing with this issue, and the possible trends that are likely to shape this program.

Author: Prof. ‘Ata Muhammad Zahra

Paperback: 104 pages



9. *Resistance Rockets in Gaza: A Palestinian Deterrent Weapon* (Arabic)

This scientific documented study casts light on the development of Palestinian rocket capacities from 2001 to 2014. The book presents the stages of development of Palestinian rocket capacity, the manufacturers, then it highlights Israel's focus on countering the development of Resistance rockets. The book also casts light on the impact of Palestinian rockets and their role in Palestinian Resistance. These rockets had a deterrent role during the three wars Israel has waged against the GS, and inflicted material, economic, financial, and military losses upon Israel. The last section of the book discusses the development of rockets in terms of quantity, quality and range throughout the period of thirteen years.



Author: Basem ElKassem

Paperback: 92 pages

10. *Israeli Aggression on Gaza Strip: Operation the Eaten Straw (al-'Asfal-Ma'kul) – Operation Protective Edge, 7/7/2014–26/8/2014* (Arabic)

This book is the 22nd publication in the Information File series that provide a wide comprehensive informative material, casting light on the important events related to the Palestinian affairs.

The book sheds light on the Israelis aggression on GS from 7/7/2014–26/8/2014 as being one of its most brutal aggressions against the Palestinian people since the 1948 war. The Palestinian resistance in GS, in return, has shown steadfastness in facing the Israeli Forces.

The book covers the events of the Israeli aggression on GS revealing its consequences and impacts on the Palestinian issue, moreover, displaying the Arab, Muslim and international countries' stance on the aggression.

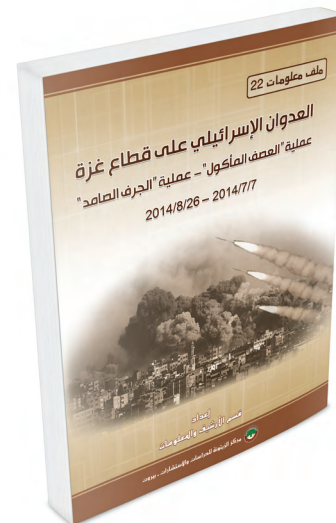
The file addresses the developments of the Israeli attack on GS and its impact on the Palestinian issue. It also discusses various Arab, Islamic and international positions.

Editor: Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

Deputy Editor: Rabie el-Dannan

Managing Editor: Wael Wehbe

Paperback: 679 pages



11. *The Palestinian Strategic Report 2012–2013 (English)*

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 issue 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 that adheres to the principles of academic objectivity and accuracy of information, 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, including: university professors, students of history, sociology and political science, writers and journalists.

The PSR 2012–2013 tackles in 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 Mohammad Saleh

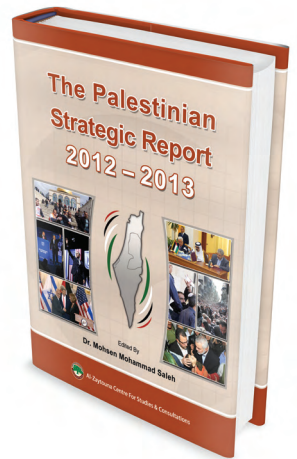
Writers

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

English Text Editor: Rana Sa'adah

Proofreading: Tom Charles

Hardcover: 400 pages

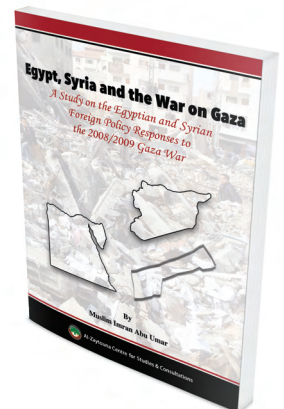


12. *Egypt, Syria and the War on Gaza: A Study on the Egyptian and Syrian Foreign Policy Responses to the 2008/2009 Gaza War (English)*

This book focuses on the differences and similarities in the foreign policy responses of Egypt and Syria towards the 2008/2009 Gaza War. Five domestic and external factors are used to compare the foreign policy responses of Egypt and Syria, these are; Arab Nationalism, Islam, security concerns, economic concerns, and type of alliance. The author analyzes the official statements of the officials of Egypt, Syria, Israel, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority to understand, classify, and compare the policies adopted.

Author: Muslim Imran Abu Umar

Paperback: 103 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 85 strategic assessments by the end of 2015, including 12 of which were published in that year and addressed the following topics:

1. The Future of Palestinian Authority Security Coordination with Israel (May 2015).
2. Internal Differences in the Muslim Brothers Movement in Jordan and Their Impact on the Palestinian Issue (May 2015).
3. The Prospects of a Palestinian Prisoner Release Deal (June 2015).
4. The Prospect of a Long-term Truce Between the Palestinian Resistance in Gaza Strip and Israel (June 2015).
5. The Future of the Palestinians in Syria (July 2015).
6. European Contacts with Hamas and the Efforts to Secure a Truce in Gaza Strip (September 2015).
7. The Palestinian Authority... Post-'Abbas (October 2015).
8. The Future of the Jerusalem Intifadah (October 2015).
9. Salafi Jihadist Groups... and the Possibilities of Proliferating Among Palestinians (November 2015).
10. The Impact of Egyptian Actions on the Future of the Relationship with the Resistance in the Gaza Strip (November 2015).
11. Turkey and the Palestinian Issue Following the Turkish Legislative Elections (November 2015).
12. Future Relations Between Hamas and the European Union (December 2015).



Third: Al-Zaytouna Translations

Al-Zaytouna Centre published in September 2015 an Arabic translation of the Hebrew text entitled "IDF Strategy." This Israeli army document sets its next strategy and the way it should behave in times of peace, emergency and war. It includes the bases of the Israeli security theory; decisiveness, warning, self-defense and deterrence. In addition, it determines the relation between the military and political levels and identifies the current and main enemy of Israel.

This is the 79th translation in the translations series published by al-Zaytouna Centre. It 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.



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 and academics, besides preparing several news reports on important current issue. It also prepares the Information Report series and the Information File series mentioned above.

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. “Palestine Today,” is issued without interruption throughout the days of the year where the department daily follows dozens of news sources in order to achieve this work.

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. After the news had been re-edited while maintaining their basic content, they are classified in an easy and comprehensive tab.

This electronic newsletter is freely available on the center’s website. By the end of 2015, the Centre had published 3,799 issues, out of which 354 were published the same year.



Fifth: Al-Zaytouna Website (alzaytouna.net)

Al-Zaytouna Centre has achieved a major success by releasing the updated version of its Arabic and English Website. These versions include numerous software and visual advantages that are designed to keep up with the progress cyberspace has been featuring, and to facilitate the ways readers, researchers and academicians benefit from the websites' services.

The new design 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 new design is responsive offering a full-screen layout, and allowing room to display more items in a clearer view. It adapts automatically to different screens when surfed via mobile phones and tablet devices.

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. 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 more than 41 thousand by the end of 2015.



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 2015, the Centre had held 39 conferences and panel discussions, out of which three were held in 2015, and they are:

1. Conference: “Palestinian Reconciliations: Prospects and Challenges”

(25–26/3/2015 – Crowne Plaza Hotel – Beirut)

The Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations and the Afro-Middle East Centre (AMEC) held a conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Beirut on 25–26/3/2015, titled: Palestinian Reconciliations: Prospects and Challenges, attended by more than hundred experts, thinkers, and decision-makers in the Palestinian and international arenas.



The conference discussed the future of Palestinian reconciliation and the challenges facing it over four sessions in the first day and three sessions in the second day, where 25 papers were presented.

The conference sought to discuss the issue of Palestinian division, its causes, and practical solutions to overcome it, to create a fruitful and serious atmosphere for Palestinian political leaders and experts, as well as to benefit from the South African and international expertise in resolving conflicts and to activate the role of think-tanks in supporting Palestinian decision-makers.

2. Panel Discussion: The Future of Palestinian Refugees in Syria

(21/5/2015 – Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

This panel was held with the participation of a select of researchers and experts on the Palestinian issue. The session overviewed the situation of the Palestinian refugees in Syria, and the killing, dispossession, detention, and suffering that has affected them during the conflict in Syria. The interventions made by the participants stressed the need for Palestinian factions and refugees in Syria to pursue a neutrality policy, in order to reduce the impact of the incidents on the refugees. They also stressed the need to have a unified Palestinian reference frame that has a unified political vision to address the refugee issue there, and work to protect them and keep them away from the conflict. On the subject of forecasting the future of the refugees in Syria both in the event the crisis continues and in the event a resolution is reached, a number of possible scenarios were discussed.



3. Panel Discussion: The Future of Palestinians in Lebanon

(29/10/2015 – Al-Zaytouna Centre – Beirut)

This panel was held with the participation of a select of researchers and specialists in the Palestinian issue. It tackled the Palestinian refugees conditions in Lebanon and their suffering due to their deprivation of civil and human rights. It also discussed the impact of local, regional and international conditions on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

Interventions by participants stressed the need for a unified Lebanese-Palestinian vision and agenda to protect Palestinians in Lebanon from the repercussions of regional sweeping developments. Interventions also stressed the need to build Lebanese Palestinian mutual trust in order to form a safety net for both sides. As for the future of Palestinians in Lebanon, several scenarios were presented.



Seventh: Consultations and Training

Al-Zaytouna Centre continued holding training courses and conducting consultations in 2015. Thus, it provided consulting services and scientific support for many of the masters and doctoral researchers. Six training courses were held addressing the following titles:

1. Political Analysis

This training course was conducted twice, first in Saida, Lebanon, in cooperation with Al-Ufuk Center for Studies and Training, on 14–15/3/2015, and the second in Amman, Jordan, on 9–10/4/2015. This course was facilitated by Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh. The course represented the trainees with the basics of political analysis, and mechanisms for writing the 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.

2. Situation Assessment

Al-Zaytouna Centre held this training course twice, first in Kuwait in cooperation with Al-Ufuk Center for Consultations and Studies on 16–18/4/2015. The second course was held in Amman in cooperation with Jerusalem Cultural Forum on 28–30/5/2015. This course was facilitated by Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh. 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.

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

This training course was held twice, first in Amman in cooperation with Jerusalem Cultural Forum, on 28–31/1/2015, and the second in Kuwait on 8–10/10/2015. This 18-hour training course was facilitated by Dr. Mohsen Mohammad 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 2015, al-Zaytouna participated in five book fairs:

1. The 46th Cairo International Book Fair (28/1–12/2/2015).
2. The 34th Sharjah International Book Fair (4–14/11/2015).
3. The First Arabic Book Fair in Istanbul (6–15/11/2015).
4. The 59th Beirut International Arab Book Fair (27/11–10/12/2015).
5. Jeddah International Book Fair (11/12–22/12/2015).



Ninth: Public Relations

The Centre was keen in 2015 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.

In 2015, al-Zaytouna Centre participated in several worldwide conferences and panel discussions. The most prominent of these participations were in:

- “The 13th Palestinians in Europe” conference, Berlin, on 25/4/2015, where the general manager of al-Zaytouna Centre had a speech at the opening ceremony.
- The 9th Al Jazeera Forum “Conflict and Change in the Arab World,” Doha, on 4–6/5/2015. (Paper)
- “The Religious Ruling on Visiting Jerusalem Under the Israeli Occupation” conference held by the Council of Palestinians Scholars Abroad in Istanbul on 12/6/2015. (Paper)
- The “Refuge and the Security, Political and Social Dimensions” conference that was by the College of Strategic Studies at Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), held in Riyadh, on 1–3/9/2015. (Paper)
- The “Palestine and Latin America in the 21st Century: Building Solidarity for National Rights” conference, which was held by Middle East Monitor in London, on 22/8/2015. (Paper)
- “The Future of the Palestinian National Project” symposium, which was held by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha, 14–15/11/2015. (Paper)

The Centre also participated in many other local and worldwide conferences and panel discussions in its aim to build bridges of communication with Arab, Islamic and International research institutions. Among these institutions, al-Zaytouna Centre met with The Strategic Thinking Group in Turkey, in Istanbul, on 6/8/2015. The Centre also participated in a workshop held by the Palestinian Center for Policy Research and Strategic Studies (Masarat) in Jordan, on 12/12/2015, etc.

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 2015, the Public Relations and Media Department issued 58 press articles about the activities of the Centre and its works, and documented these articles' publication in more than 100 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 2015, 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:

Local and Satellite TV Channels and Radio Stations

Al-Quds TV, al-Aqsa TV (Palestine), Filastin al-Yawm, Al-Jazeera Mubasher Misr, Al-Hiwar TV, al-Mayadeen TV, Al-Yarmouk TV, al-Alam TV, al-Manar.

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

Local and International Arabic Newspapers and Magazines

Assafir, al-Mustaqbal, al-Binaa, al-Aman (Lebanon). Alghad, Addustour, Assabeel, al-Arab al-Yawm, al-Mustaqbal al-Arabi (Jordan). Felesteen, Alresalah, al-Hayat al-Jadida, al-Ayyam, al-Quds (Palestine). Al-Yawm al-Sabe', al-Shaab, Assiyassa Addawliya magazine (Egypt). Al-Sharq, al-Raya, al-Watan (Qatar). Alwatan (KSA). Alkhaleej, Albayan (UAE). Almujtamaa magazine (Kuwait). Asharq Alawsat, Alquds Alarabi (UK).

News Websites and Agencies

Anadolu Agency, Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), National News Agency (Lebanon), Al Gerie Press Service, Quds Press International News Agency, Alray Palestinian Media Agency, Palestinian Press Agency (SAFA), Ma' an News Agency, Sama News Agency, Quds Net News Agency, Wattan News Agency, Seventh News Agency, Sawa News Agency, Alhayat Press Agency, Alquds News Agency, Naba News Agency, Noon News Agency.

Aljazeera.net, The Huffington Post Arabi, Lebanon Files, Alwasat, Arabi21, Sasa Post, Turkey Post, Arabs 48, Raialyoum, Almajd, Hamas Islamic Resistance website, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine website, Palestinian People's Party website, Palestinian Popular Struggle Front website, Action Group For Palestinians of Syria website, Tayyar al-'Azm website, Filastin al-Yawm website, Al-Quds TV website, al-Aqsa TV website, al-Fajer al-Jadid TV website, MTV website (Lebanon), The Palestinian Information Center, Democratic Arabic Center, Umayya Center for Research And Strategic Studies, Palestinian Return Centre, al-Natour Center for Studies and Research, Islamic University of Gaza, Felesteen Online, Alresalah.ps, Islam today, Islam Online, Alamat Online, Basaer-Online, Islam Memo, Insan Online, Laji-Net, Al Awda News Network, Sham News Network, Eldorar al-Shameyyah, Alquds City, Saida Gate, Alkhaleej Online, New Khaleej, Noqta Info, Waraa el Ahdath, Masr al Arabia website, Klmyt website, Arrai Newspaper, Akhbar elyom, Al-Monitor, Middle East Panorama, al-Arabi Net, Sky News Arabia, al-Omah, Amad, Alrased, Almokhtsar, Filastin al-Yawm, Pls48, Palestine News Network (Naba'a), Sada al-Watan, Nissan, al-Rawasi, Donia Al-Watan, Fateh Voice, Al Karama Press, Middle East Monitor (MEMO), Bernama Arabic, Alkhaleej magazine.

