

# The Palestine Strategic Report 2020 – 2021



Edited By

**Prof. Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh**



Al-Zaytouna Centre For Studies & Consultations

# **The Palestine Strategic Report 2020 – 2021**



**Al-Zaytouna Centre  
For Studies & Consultations  
Beirut - Lebanon**

# **The Palestine Strategic Report 2020–2021**

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## **Editor:**

Prof. Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

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P.O. Box: 14-5034, Beirut, Lebanon

Tel: +961 1 803644

Tel-fax: +961 1 803643

E-mail: [info@alzaytouna.net](mailto:info@alzaytouna.net)

Website: [www.alzaytouna.net](http://www.alzaytouna.net)

**You can contact us and view the center's pages by clicking on the applications below:**



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## **Designed by:**

Ms. Marwa Ghalayini

# The Palestine Strategic Report 2020 – 2021

## Editor

Prof. Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

## Consultants

Mr. Munir Shafiq

Prof. Dr. Nizam Barakat

Prof. Dr. Sami al-Arian

## Contributors

Dr. ‘Abdullatif Khader Sedda

Mr. Ashraf Uthman Badr

Dr. Basem Jalal Elkassem

Mr. Hani Mohammad ‘Adnan al-Masri

Ms. Iqbal Walid ‘Omeish

Prof. Dr. Moein Muhammad ‘Atta Ragab

Prof. Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

Dr. Mohannad Mustafa

Mr. Rabi‘ Mohammad al-Dannan

Dr. Sa‘id Walid al-Haj

Mr. Sari ‘Orabi

Prof. Dr. Talal ‘Atrissi

Mr. Wael Ahmad Sa‘ad

Prof. Dr. Walid ‘Abd al-Hay

Mr. Ziad Mohammad Bhies

## Translators

Mr. Amin Kharraz

Mr. Baraa Zeidan

Ms. Baraah Darazi

Mr. Karim Traboulsi

Ms. Marilyn Chbeir

## Senior Language Editor

Ms. Rana Sa‘adah

## Language Revision

Mr. Tom Charles

## Assistant Editors

Ms. Fatima ‘Itani

Ms. Ghina Jamal al-Din

Ms. Iqbal ‘Omeish

Ms. Rana Jarjour



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## List of Abbreviations

AIPAC	American Israel Public Affairs Committee
AKP	Justice and Development Party ( <i>Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi</i> )
ARIJ	Applied Research Institute–Jerusalem
AU	African Union
BDS	Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions Campaign
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
CBR	Crude Birth Rate
CBS	Israel Central Bureau of Statistics
CDR	Crude Death Rate
CENTCOM	US Central Command
CRS	Congressional Research Service
DFLP	Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine
EU	European Union
EUCOM	European Command
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNA	Libyan Government of National Accord
GS	Gaza Strip
HRC	UN Human Rights Council
IAA	Israel Antiquities Authority
IAI	Israel Aerospace Industries
ICC	International Criminal Court
ISA	Israel Security Agency ( <i>Shabak</i> )
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
LAS	League of Arab States
MK	Member of Knesset
MoU	memorandum of understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OCHA-oPt	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – occupied Palestinian territory
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
PA	Palestinian Authority
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics





PCC	Palestinian Central Council
PEGASE	Mecanisme Palestino-Européen de Gestion et d'Aide Socio-Economique
PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PIJ	Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine
PLC	Palestinian Legislative Council
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PNC	Palestine National Council
PPP	Palestinian People's Party
RC	Refugee Camp
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UAL	United Arab List ( <i>Ra'am</i> )
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
US	United States of America
VAT	Value added tax
WB	West Bank

## List of Contributors

### *Editor*

**Mohsen Mohammad Saleh**, Ph.D., is a professor of Palestine Studies, specialized in the historical, political and strategic fields. The General Manager of al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations since 2004 and former head of Department of History and Civilization at the International Islamic University (IIUM), Malaysia. He was granted the Baital-Maqdis (Jerusalem) award for Young Muslims Scholars in 1997 and the Excellent Teaching Award (College level), given by IIUM in 2002. He is the author of 14 books and 20 chapters of academic books on the Palestine issue, and the editor of more than 90 books, including: *The Palestine Strategic Report* (12 volumes, 2005–2021), *The Palestine Documents* (7 volumes, 2005–2011), and *The Palestine Daily Chronicle* (8 volumes, 2014–2021), in addition to editing the Strategic Assessment Series (129 assessments). Saleh has published many articles in refereed scholarly journals and magazines, presented papers at more than 100 academic local and international conferences and seminars, and gave hundreds of television, radio and newspaper interviews. He is a constant contributor to leading papers and online platforms.

### *Contributors*

#### *Chapter One:*

#### *The Internal Palestinian Scene*

**Sari ‘Orabi**, a researcher on Arab and Islamic issues, the Palestinian national movement in particular, in addition to his interest in Islamic thought. He has a Master’s Degree in Contemporary Arab Studies from Birzeit University, and his thesis is titled “The Ideology and Politics Transformations in the Palestinian National Movement: The Student Brigade as a Model.” ‘Orabi collaborates with a number of research



centers, and has written numerous research papers, reports and position assessment studies. He is a political analyst, who has been hosted by Palestinian, Arab and international TV channels. He co-authored a book, part of a series discussing the concepts and terminologies of the Palestine issue, and has published hundreds of articles, in both Arabic and English, on intellectual and political issues.

## Chapter Two:

### *Demographic and Economic Indicators*

#### **\* Demographic Indicators**

#### **Prof. Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh**

**Iqbal Walid ‘Omeish**, the head of the Academic Editing unit and a researcher at al-Zaytouna Centre, specialized in the Palestine issue. ‘Omeish participated in preparing the demographic, economic and educational indicators in several volumes of *The Palestine Strategic Report* series, in addition to preparing the Arabic book of: *Gaza Strip: Development and Construction in the Face of Siege and Destruction*. She participated in the editing of many al-Zaytouna books and publications. She contributed two chapters titled “Economic Indicators for the Palestinian Authority 1994–2013” and “Human Development Under the Palestinian Authority” to the Arabic book: *The Palestinian National Authority: Studies of the Experience and Performance 1994–2013*.

#### **\* Economic Indicators**

**Moein Muhammad ‘Atta Ragab**, Ph.D., a professor of Economics at a number of universities and an economic expert and analyst in local and foreign media. He participated in founding the Faculty of Commerce at the Islamic University in Gaza Strip and the Faculty of Commerce (later it was known as Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences) at al-Azhar University, and was appointed dean there. A former consultant at the Palestinian Monetary Authority and a former coordinator at The Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS). Prof. Ragab is a member in several economic scientific societies and has many scientific researches and working

*Chapter Three:**The Land and the Holy Sites***\* Jerusalem and Holy Sites**

papers that were published in scientific periodicals. Ragab participated in local, Arab and international conferences, and is the author of several textbooks in economics, public finance, money and banking, international trade, Islamic economics, economic integration, the Palestinian economy, scientific research methods, economic planning and the history of economic thought. He also supervised many MA theses.

**Ziad Mohammad Bhies**, a specialized researcher in Jerusalem issues. He holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Jordan, and is conducting his doctoral studies there. He edited An Eye on al-Aqsa report (2006–2008), and co-prepared the volumes of the same report during 2009–2013. He was head of Media and Research Department at al-Quds International Institution (2004–2007) then he was its executive director (2008–2010), and currently, he is a researcher coordinating with the same Institution.

**\* Settlement Expansion in WB**

**'Abdullatif Khader Sedda**, Ph.D., He received his Ph.D. in public law from Istanbul University in 2020, and the title of his dissertation was "Israeli Settlement in Palestine From an International Law Perspective." He has been a member of the Palestinian Bar Association since 2012. Sedda is the head of the Palestinian Observer for Settlement and Apartheid Wall Affairs organization, and the executive director of The International Legal Alliance for Palestine. He wrote an Arabic book entitled, *Judaization in Historic Palestine: Israeli Settlements: The Etymology of the Name and Connotation*. Sedda co-authored the Arabic book, *Zionist Settlement in the West Bank 2015–2016*. He authored the section on Settlement Building in the West Bank, in the Land and Holy Sites chapter in *The Palestine Strategic Report 2020–2021*.



## Chapter Four:

### *The Courses of Aggression, Resistance and the Peace Process*

#### **\* Israeli Aggression and Palestinian Resistance**

#### **\*The Peace Process**

**Rabi' Mohammad al-Dannan**, a researcher specialized in the Palestine issue. He holds a BA degree in Arabic language and literature. He participates in the preparation and editing of *The Palestine Daily Chronicle*, which has been issued by al-Zaytouna Centre since 2014. Al-Dannan also participated in the writing of a number of Arabic books issued by the Centre, most notably; *Information Report* series, *Information File* series and the book: *Egypt Between Two Eras: Morsi and al-Sisi: A Comparative Study*. He contributed a chapter titled “The Palestinian Authority’s Policies Towards the Palestinian Resistance” to the Arabic book: *The Palestinian National Authority: Studies of the Experience and Performance 1994–2013*. Al-Dannan has also participated in several local and international conferences and seminars.

**Hani Mohammad ‘Adnan al-Masri**, author, political analyst, journalist in *Alquds* newspaper, former writer in: *al-Ayyam* (Ramallah), *Assafir* (Beirut), *al-Khaleej* (al-Shariqa), and *al-Hayat* (London), and a member of the General Union of Palestinian Journalists and Writers and the Union of International Journalists since 1980. One of the founders and the general manager of the Palestinian Center for Policy Research and Strategic Studies—*Masarat* since April 2011. From 2005 till 2011, he was the general manager of the Palestine Media, Research and Studies Centre—*Badael*. He was the general director of the Department of Publication and Media Organizations Affairs at the Palestinian Ministry of Information 1995–2005. He published hundreds of articles, studies and researches, was interviewed by many media outlets, and contributed in several Arab and international conferences. Former member of Board of Trustees of Yasser Arafat Foundation until 2021, and a consultant at the Palestinian Policies Network.

**Chapter Five:****The Israeli Scene****\* The Internal  
Israeli Political  
Scene**

**Mohannad Mustafa**, Ph.D. He received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Haifa. The General Manager of Mada al-Carmel – Arab Center for Applied Social Research and head of the History Department at Arab Academic Institute for Education at Beit Berl Academic College. He has published dozens of studies and books on Israeli and Palestinian affairs, in Arabic, English and Hebrew. He co-authored two Arabic books; *The Palestinians in Israel: The Policies of Indigenous Minority in the Ethnic State* (2009); and *Israel's Foreign Policy Toward Emerging the Powers: Turkey, India, China and Russia* (2010).

**\* Israeli  
Demographic  
and Economic  
Indicators**

**Prof. Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh  
Iqbal Walid ‘Omeish**

**\* Israeli Military  
Indicators and  
the Position on  
the Internal  
Palestinian  
Situation**

**Basem Jalal Elkassem**, Ph. D., a researcher specialized in the Palestine issue. He received his Ph.D. in political science from Beirut Arab University and a master's degree in International and Diplomatic Relations from the Lebanese University. ElKassem is the head of the Archives and Information Department at al-Zaytouna Centre, and the Deputy Editor of “Palestine Today” Newsletter. He is the author of the Arabic book *Resistance Rockets in Gaza: A Palestinian Deterrent Weapon*, has published a refereed study entitled, *The Israeli Strategy Towards the Syrian Crisis 2011–2018*, and participated in the preparation of many Arabic studies and publications such as: *The Information Report* series and the *Information File* series and the Arabic book: *Egypt Between Two Eras: Morsi and al-Sisi: A Comparative Study*. He also contributed a chapter titled “The Establishment of the Palestinian National Authority” to the Arabic book: *The Palestinian National Authority: Studies of the Experience and Performance 1994–2013*. He participated in several local and international conferences.



**Chapter Six:*****The Palestine  
Issue and the Arab  
World***

**Ashraf Uthman Badr**, a lecturer at the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies at Birzeit University, and a Ph.D. candidate in social sciences, who holds a master's degree in Israeli studies. His thesis was published in 2016 by al-Zaytouna Centre in an Arabic book entitled, *Israel and Hamas: The Dialectic of Mutual Restraining, Communication, and Negotiation 1987–2014*. He has co-authored several books and has published papers in refereed journals. He was granted the Palestine Cultural Award in its fourth session, 2015, presented by the Palestine International Institute (Ahmad Al-Shuqeiri Award on the Question of Palestine and International Law). Badr is interested in Israeli military rule, the concept of settler colonialism in Palestine and political sociology.

**Chapter Seven:*****The Palestine  
Issue and the  
Muslim World*****\* Organisation  
of Islamic  
Cooperation**

**Wael Ahmad Sa'ad**, a specialized researcher in the Palestine studies. Currently, a researcher and assistant general manager at al-Zaytouna Centre. He authored the book: *Al-Hisar* (The Siege), and participated in preparing and editing several Arabic publications, among them: Al-Zaytouna's annual *The Palestine Documents* series, *The Palestinian National Authority: Studies of the Experience and Performance 1994–2013*, *Conflict of Wills Between Fatah and Hamas and Other Relevant Parties*, *Security Developments in the Palestinian Authority 2006–2007*, and *Critical Assessments of the Experience of Hamas and Its Government 2006–2007*.

Sa'ad heads the Editorial Board of the "Palestine Today" Newsletter and is the managing editor of the Palestinian Strategic Assessment. He participated in several local and international conferences and seminars.

- \* Turkey** **Sa'ïd Walid al-Haj**, author and a specialized researcher in Turkish studies and the Arab and Islamic region issues. A Palestinian physician, who studied at the Hacettepe University in Istanbul. He published hundreds of articles in several newspapers and renowned Arabic websites, as well as dozens of research papers on the Turkish issue in many renowned studies centers. He is the author of an Arabic book titled "*The Turkish Arab Relations: Prospects and Challenges*" published in 2016, and contributed a chapter titled "Turkey and the Arab World in the Justice and Development Term" to the book *The Experience of the Justice and Development of Governance*, published by SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, 2018. Al-Haj participated in dozens of seminars, and local and international conferences, and was interviewed by different media outlets to discuss Turkish and Palestinian affairs.
- \* Iran** **Talal 'Atrissi, Ph.D.**, former dean of Higher Institute of Doctorate, former dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences in the Lebanese University and a former general director of the Center for Strategic Studies, Beirut. A professor at the Lebanese University, a scientific and academic advisor at Al Maaref University, and a researcher in Middle East issues. A lecturer at the Command and Staff College of the Lebanese Army, and a member of several scientific and consultative committees in Lebanese and Arab research centers. He issued a number of studies and researches in many Arab and foreign journals, participated in regional and international conferences discussing the cultural, political and social issues of the Middle East, and the author of several Arabic books; *Islam and Political Thought: Democracy –The West– Iran* (et al.; 2003), *The Geostrategy of the Iranian Hill: Problems and Alternatives* (2009), *Supporting Marginalized Groups: Civil Society Experience in Supporting the Families of Prisoners* (2014), *The Image*





**Chapter Eight:*****The Palestine  
Issue and the  
International  
Situation***

*of Germany in the Arabic School History Books* (2016), and *Between Two Awakenings: Political Islam in a Transformed Middle East* (2020).

**Walid ‘Abd al-Hay**, Ph.D., professor of Political Sciences at Yarmouk University, Jordan. He had taught at several Arab universities. He is a member of the board of trustees of al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan, the National Center For Human Rights (NCHR) in Jordan, and Irbid National University. He is the chief editor of *Abhath Al-Yarmouk Journal - Humanities and Social Science Series*, issued by the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies, Yarmouk University. ‘Abd al-Hay taught in many universities, was the head of the Political Science Department at the Yarmouk University, and a consultant at the Higher Media Council and the Board of Grievances in Jordan. He published 33 Arabic books mostly focused on futuristic studies in theory and application. His books include: *Futuristic Studies in International Relations*; *Futuristic Studies in Political Sciences*; *Methods of Futuristic Studies and Their Applications in the Arab World*; *The Futuristic Status of China in the International Power Scale 1978–2010*; and *Iran: The Future of Regional Status 2020*. He translated many books and studies from English into Arabic, and published more than 120 researches in refereed academic journals.

# Introduction

This is the 12th edition of the Palestine Strategic Report (PSR) series. It has come to occupy a distinguished position as a reference for Palestine studies and as an indispensable document for researchers studying the Palestinian affairs. The PSR is a source of comprehensive and well-documented information and data, presenting its material within an objective and analytical framework of academic discipline. The PSR also contains forecasts covering future scenarios in the near term. The PSR's scope covers the internal Palestinian situation, the Israeli scene, the paths of resistance and peace process, and the Arab, Islamic, and international dimensions of the Palestine issue. It also presents updates concerning the land, Jerusalem, the holy sites, and the state of Palestinian demographics and economy.

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The period covered by the strategic report 2020–2021 brought great Palestinian hopes that the Palestinian reconciliation and the reform of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) would be achieved, and the legislative and executive institutions would be activated. However, the leadership of the PLO and the Palestinian Authority (PA) disrupted the elections and the reconciliation process, making this period end up with one of the greatest frustrations in the Palestine modern and contemporary history, and this leadership losing a lot of trust and credibility among the Palestinian public. As a result, the PA and PLO leadership has further insisted on continuing its dominance, weakening the PLO, and continuing the peace process and security coordination with the Israeli occupation.

At the same time, the Israeli scene is becoming more religiously extreme and radically nationalist, with the potential of further enactment of laws that entrench the Jewish-Zionist identity of Israel. This was accompanied by more settlement and Judaization plans in the West Bank (WB), particularly Jerusalem, and attempts to impose the Israeli vision on the end of the Palestine issue. The Israeli political system has experienced confusion due to holding four general elections in two years and the accession of an Arab party to the government coalition, whose cohesion depends on the rivalry with Netanyahu.

The Sword of Jerusalem battle (dubbed by Israel Operation Guardian of the Walls), in May 2021, has brought Hamas and the resistance forces to the forefront of the Palestinian scene, linked the resistance action of Gaza Strip (GS) to Jerusalem,



consolidated the unity of the Palestinians inside Palestine and abroad, and led to a decline in Israel's international status.

Although the Palestinian people were united against the “Trump deal”; the Israeli side, with US cover and support, was able to make an official normalization breakthrough in the weak and “soft spot” of the Arab and Muslim countries, when the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco signed agreements to normalize relations with Israel. Nevertheless, Israel is still facing a broad Arab and Muslim public, who rejects normalization and supports the liberation path.

The Palestine issue is still internationally supported, as evident in the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and its institutions. Despite the enormous Israeli efforts to enhance its image, distort the Palestine issue and criminalize the resistance, indicators have shown a gradual and slow increase in the international public opinion sympathizing with Palestine.

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As has been our policy in previous editions of the report, the names of contributors, chapter titles, or the titles of their research are mentioned at the start of the book, but not at the start of each chapter, reflecting the fact that the PSR is one collective effort and because the editing of this PSR, as in all previous editions, is above and beyond the usual task. As a result, crucial additions, amendments and updates in some chapters were made, making the responsibility for their final shape a joint responsibility.

We must extend our gratitude to the experts who have taken part in drafting the report, the advisers who have revised its texts, and the staff team at al-Zaytouna Centre, including editor's assistants and archivists, who had an important role in providing material, revising texts and designing the report to the required standard. This edition came despite the exceptional circumstances that Lebanon is going through, and the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work environment.

Finally, praise be to Allah for the good success of this report and its position as a specialized reference. We would like to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged the work behind it. We also welcome all constructive criticism, advice and suggestions.

**Editor**

**Prof. Dr. Mohsen Mohammed Saleh**



## This Report

Al-Zaytouna Centre is pleased to present to its readers the Palestine Strategic Report (PSR) 2020–2021, the 12th PSR to be published.

With an academic methodology and comprehensive objective approach, the report details the developments concerning the Palestine issue and provides the latest information and data available at the end of 2021, along with analyses and forecasts.

This report is the result of collaborative work of 15 experts and researchers. In eight chapters, it addresses the internal Palestinian scene; Palestinian demographic and economic indicators; the situation in Jerusalem and the holy sites; the specifics of Israeli aggression, Palestinian resistance and the peace process; the internal situation in Israel, politically, economically and militarily; and Palestine's Arab, Islamic, and international relations.

The PSR now occupies a prominent position as an indispensable reference, integral to Palestine studies and research. Al-Zaytouna Centre hopes the PSR will continue to make valuable contributions in this field.

Prof. Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh

# The Palestine Strategic Report 2020 – 2021



Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies & Consultations

مركز الزيتونة للدراسات والاستشارات

P.O. Box: 14-5034 Beirut - Lebanon

Tel: +961 1 803 644 | Tel-Fax: +961 1 803 643

info@alzaytouna.net | www.alzaytouna.net



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