



**European Union Election Observation Mission
West Bank and Gaza
Palestinian Legislative Council Elections 2006**
www.eueomwbq.org

Short Term Observer Manual

Dear Observers,

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) for observation of the 2006 Elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council. As a short term observer (STO) you have a demanding task ahead, but we hope you will find the experience rewarding and enjoyable.

Election observation is part of a broader democracy-building process, and we believe that the mission can make a valuable contribution in the renewed effort for the democratisation of the Palestinian institutions. Election observation is also a difficult task. It relies on the sensitivity, perceptive skills and sound judgment of the observers themselves. Over the last years, the EU has developed a more precise and exacting methodology, which give greater continuity and credibility to the work of election observation missions - this manual and the observation forms are designed in accordance with this methodology.

The STO role is particularly important, as you represent our broad presence throughout the country and build upon the earlier work carried out by the mission since mid-December 2005. The EUEOM will deploy a proportionally large number of international observers in the West Bank and Gaza – it is likely that we will observe the voting process in more than half the polling stations – which gives additional weight to our conclusions.

These are only the second legislative elections to the Palestinian Authority, following the 1996 elections, and they represent an important and vital step for the Palestinian government. It is clear that the elections are not taking place under normal circumstances with large parts of the West Bank under Israeli military control. There are considerable restrictions on freedom of movement and a level of tension and uncertainty not ordinarily associated with elections. The security situation in Gaza has meant that the EUEOM has been able to conduct only a limited observation of the electoral process in Gaza.

Your work in the West Bank and Gaza will be influenced by unique political and security environments. We ask that throughout the mission you apply strict neutrality as much to relations between Israel and the Palestinians as to the competing candidates and electoral lists. Some of you may have strong opinions about the subject of Israel-Palestinian relations, but we ask that you keep them to yourself while you are on the mission.

There will be strict security measures enforced on all mission members, particularly in terms of movement and reporting. The security of the observers is paramount and we ask that you respect all security instructions given to you by the mission's security experts, or by your LTOs. A separate security manual will be distributed to all observers, please follow the instructions in this security manual consistently.

At the same time, you will be working in a place not only rich with history, but also with one of the most interesting contemporary political landscapes. You will have an opportunity to experience some diverse and fascinating places and to meet a variety of different people. We hope you find the experience memorable and valuable.

Have a safe flight and see you in Jerusalem!

Chief Observer, Core Team and Long Term Observers
EU Election Observation Mission West Bank and Gaza 2006



European Union Election Observation Mission West Bank and Gaza Palestinian Legislative Council Elections 2006

Ambassador Tower, Gemzo Suites, Al-Bireh, Ramallah
P.O. Box: 4101, Al Bireh Tel: + 972 (0) 2 240 5610 Fax: + 972 (0) 2 240 5612/13

Short Term Observer Manual

Contents

1. Introductory Information.....	4
2. The European Union and Election Observation.....	11
3. Political Environment	14
4. Legal Framework	23
5. Election Administration	29
6. Media and the Elections.....	31
7. Election Day Procedures	36
8. Observation Methodology and Election Day Reporting.....	43
9. Logistics.....	48
Annex A: EUEOM WBG 2005 Presidential Elections Final Report (Extract)	50
Annex B: Parties – Names and Symbols.....	55
Annex C: Basic figures and charts on PLC seats, contestants and voters.....	56
Annex D: West Bank and Gaza Electoral Districts	60
Annex E: District Election Offices	61

1. Introductory Information

1.1 Calendar for Short-Term Observers

Friday 20 January	E-Day – 5
--------------------------	------------------

Following their arrival at Tel Aviv airport, all Short-Term Observers (STOs) will be brought to a hotel in Jerusalem. All observers **MUST** stay in their designated hotel while they are in Jerusalem. Each STO will receive a comprehensive briefing pack and visibility materials. The final STO deployment plan for election day will be posted in the receptions of the hotels.

Saturday 21 January	E-Day – 4
----------------------------	------------------

All STOs are required to attend a 'Briefing for International Observers', which will take place in the Hotel St George. The briefing schedule will be given on your arrival in Jerusalem.

Sunday 22 January	E-Day – 3
--------------------------	------------------

STOs will depart to their deployment area.

STOs will receive a regional briefing from the LTO team in their deployment area. The LTO team will advise on relevant issues such as specific political issues, potential logistical problems or regional security concerns. STOs will meet with their driver and interpreter.

Selected STOs will observe security forces voting.

Monday 23 January	E-Day – 2
--------------------------	------------------

All STOs will familiarise themselves with their deployment area. LTOs will give each STO team a draft movement plans for election day, including preliminary choices for opening and closing, that allows a cross-section of polling stations to be observed.

STOs may be approached with information about electoral violations or other complaints. Detailed notes should be taken and the LTO team should be informed. Depending on the circumstances, observers may need to take follow-up action or investigations.

Selected STOs will observe security forces voting.

Tuesday 24 January	E-Day – 1
---------------------------	------------------

All STOs will continue to familiarise themselves with their deployment area. STOs should be aware of the general 'electoral climate' and take note of any incidents, or campaigning during the election silence. It is likely that STOs will meet polling station officials preparing for election day, and it is usual to discuss how preparations are going.

Again, STOs may be approached with information about electoral violations or other complaints. Detailed notes should be taken and the LTO team should be informed.

Selected STOs will observe security forces voting.

Wednesday 25 January	E-Day
-----------------------------	--------------

See Chapter 9 for details of Election Day observation. **All STOs must report back to their LTOs upon return to their accommodation.**

Thursday 26 January

E-Day + 1

STOs will participate in an early regional debriefing held by their LTO team (note that this also may be held during the night of the 25 January). LTOs will submit a report based on this meeting to the core team.

STOs will return to Jerusalem in the afternoon.

At 19:00, a central debriefing of all STOs will take place St George Hotel in Jerusalem.

Friday 27 January

E-Day + 2

STOs must not leave Jerusalem and should carry their passports and their three ID Cards with them at all times.

Saturday 28 January

E-Day + 3

STOs depart.

Note: The security and safety of observers is of the highest priority and will take precedence in all EOM activities, including the deployment plan. An ongoing security assessment will be conducted by the EOM Security Officer. All observers will receive a security manual and security briefing upon arrival and will be required to operate in accordance with security guidelines.
--

1.2 European Union Election Observation Mission Core Team Staff

Chief Observer	Veronique de Keyser	Ms. Veronique de Keyser is a Belgian member of the European Parliament with the Socialist Worker's Party, part of the Socialist Group and sits on the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs. Born in 1945 in Brussels, Belgium, she graduated from the University of Brussels with a degree in psychology in 1968 followed by a Doctorate in work psychology in 1974. After 16 years as researcher in psychology at the ULB and the Brussels Industrial Study and Research Center, she became a junior lecturer at the University of Liege. Between 1990 and 1998 she was Dean of the Psychology and Education Science Faculty at the Liege University. During this time she was also the President of the Belgian Psychology Society. She became a Member of the European Parliament in 2001 and is a substitute on the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection. As a member of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs' Committee, she has been strongly engaged in Human Rights issues in the Middle East.	
Deputy Chief Observer	Richard Chambers	Background in law and elections, Team Leader of the EU Democracy and Election Support Mission to the Afghanistan Presidential Elections 2004, also observed numerous elections for the OSCE/ODIHR as Deputy Head of Mission. Most recently, Richard has acted as an independent technical adviser to the National Election Board of Ethiopia. A former practicing barrister in Wales, Richard has also worked for the OSCE Missions to Serbia & Montenegro and in Kosovo.	
Legal Expert	Rebecca Cox	Rebecca Cox is a lawyer specialising in democratisation and human rights issues. She has observed many elections around the world, from Cambodia to Bosnia, from Ghana to Guatemala. Most recently she worked as an election commissioner on the joint international/Afghan election commission that oversaw the Afghanistan parliamentary elections of September 2005. She has worked for several years as a human rights lawyer with the U.N. in Latin America, and she has also practiced law in London and in New York. Rebecca is particularly interested in women's political participation.	
Election Expert	Ron Herrmann	Brussels-based international consultant for human rights, democratization and election processes, also a lecturer on electoral affairs and a trainer on domestic and international election observations for various organizations. Election Expert of the EU EOMission to West Bank & Gaza in the 2004/05 presidential election, then participated in the elections in Lebanon. As Head Serbia-Montenegro (EUMM) he was also the EU's chief observer for all elections in the State Union from 2002 – 2004; election expert in Albania (2003), LTO for the EU election observation missions in Bangladesh (2001) Zimbabwe (2000). OSCE/ODIHR EOM Kosovo (FRY) in 2001, Albania (1998) and various elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the late 1990s.	
Media Expert	Giuseppe Milazzo	Giuseppe Milazzo is a researcher at the <i>Osservatorio di Pavia</i>, an Italian based Media Research Institute, where he manages projects of communication research, particularly related to media monitoring of political pluralism, gender studies and agenda setting. He is involved in training activities on media monitoring both at a national and international level. He has been a Media Expert on a number of international election observation missions, including Serbia (1997), Slovakia (1998), Kazakhstan (1999 and 2004) and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2000 and 2002).	
Press Officer	Mathias Eick	Prior to his appointment as the Spokesperson of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro, he has worked as a Media Development Officer in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. In 1999-2000 he was the OSCE Project Manager for Radio TV Kosovo (RTK). He participated in a number of international election observation missions in the former Yugoslav republics. Following his graduation from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, Mathias Eick worked as a journalist for a number of international media outlets, including the Deutsche Welle, BBC, APTV and WTN, travelling extensively in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.	

LTO Coordinator	Richard Atwood 054 6907101	Richard Atwood has a background in elections, with experience both in technical assistance and in observation. He has frequently worked for the EU, and also for the UN, the OSCE and IFES in a variety of different positions in more than twenty countries across the world. Most recently, he worked with the election administration in Afghanistan.	
LTO Coordinator Deputy 1	Miguel Alonso Majagranzas 054 6908776	Madrid-based consultant has a degree in law and wide experience in development cooperation and elections. He was recently a Long-term Observer for the OSCE in Azerbaijan. Some of his previous experiences include two years as the Representative for the Spanish International Cooperation Agency in Amman (portfolios like UNRWA, UNAMI, UNDP, the EU Development Group & UN Regional Agencies). From 1998-2000 he was the UNDP Programme Manager in the Ombudsman's Office in Curitiba, Brazil. He has also previously worked as Core Supervisor, Supervisor and Regional Registration Officer for the OSCE in Bosnia and more recently as a Long-term Observer for the EU in Venezuela, Peru, Nicaragua, Republic of Congo and Ecuador.	
LTO Coordinator Deputy 2	Narcisse Mukalay Banze 054 6985706	Has experience in Election Observation, Supervision and Technical Assistance., since 1997 in more than 20 elections missions for the EU, UN and OSCE as Project Manager, Management Advisor, Electoral Officer, Election and Registration Supervisor, Long Term and Short Term Observer. His work has taken him in Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Suriname, Guyana, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nigeria and Liberia. He holds a Master degree in Political Science and International Relations from Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.	
Operations Expert	Thomas Goransson	Thomas Goransson has extensive experience in International Humanitarian Missions as a Logistics expert and Team Leader. He has a BA in International Economics and Business Management and worked 10 years for commercial transport companies. In addition he has participated in 3 EU Election Observation Missions before as Core Mission Member in Nicaragua and twice in Mozambique. In 1997-98, he worked as the Chief Procurement Officer for TIPH in Hebron, West Bank.	
Deputy Operations	Maria Rosa Acuna	Based in Barcelona and has a degree in Law, Master in International Law and PhD Courses in International Relations. Started working for the Spanish Embassy in Egypt as an Analyst almost 15 years ago and has since then been working on Human Rights for UNICEF in Colombia, the UNHCHR in Geneva Participated as a Long-term Observer (LTO) in elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Madagascar, Cambodia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.	
Deputy Operations Gaza	Dariusz Rasinski	has taken part in many election, observation and peacekeeping missions on the Balkans, in Africa, South-East and East Asia with the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) and EUOM. He holds an engineering degree and a masters in economics. He served for more than 20 years in the Polish Navy as an officer in the field of IT, logistics and command posts. He has been on several missions related to elections on the Balkans, in Cambodia, East Timor, Mozambique, Palestine, Ethiopia and Afghanistan	
Security Coordinator	Juan Garcia	Graduate of Guardia Civil Military Academy, helicopter pilot. From 1999 to 2004, he worked for the United Nations as a Coordinator of the Police Development Program first with UNMIBH and thereafter as a Security Officer with UNMIK in Kosovo. He has participated in various election missions including the Iraq Out-of-Country as Deputy Country Security Advisor in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Most recently he was a member of the European Commission's Electoral Observation Mission in Ethiopia and Sri Lanka.	
Security Expert Gaza	Harald Haas	Dr Harald Haas works as a senior researcher with the Institute for Strategic Research/Austrian National Defence Academy in Vienna. Since 1999, he has been living in Gaza city working on a research project on psycho-political aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Previously, he served as a commissioned officer with the Austrian Armed Forces and as a civil servant with the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs (in Vienna as well as at the Austrian Embassy in Bangkok). From 1996-1997 he served with UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOP) on the Syrian Golan Heights. He graduated in political sciences from University of Vienna.	

1.3 Long Term Observers

LTO Team 1

Jenin

Christine Smers (DEU)

Org. 0546951809

Robert Bystricky (SVK)

Org. 0546985194

Jawwal. 0599933109

Christine Smers

Programme coordinator at an intercultural association in Germany. While her studies of oriental sciences at Leipzig University, she gained different working experiences in the Middle East and South East Asia. She worked in several Election Observation Missions for OSCE and EU.

Robert Bystricky

Assistant professor at Dep. Of mathematics of Slovak Uni. He was a supervisor in parliamentary elections in Kosovo 2001, STO in Georgia 2003, and Ukraine in 2004, LTO in West Bank & Gaza and in Afghanistan in 2005



LTO Team 2

Jenin

Peter Egloff (SWI)

Org. 0544659625

Anne Marie Agatha

Steeman (NLD)

Org. 0546908678

Jawwal. 059993310

Peter Egloff

Background in cultural anthropology, journalist, missions as an ICRC delegate in Thailand-Cambodia, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Bosnia. STO and LTO for the UN, OSCE and EU in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

Anne Marie Steeman

Has an experience in election observation in Yemen, South Africa, Malawi, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Pakistan, East Timor, Afghanistan, Palestine, Tanzania, Uganda, Bosnia, Macedonia. Croatia. Tajikistan and Cambodia.



LTO Team 3

Tubas

Hans Leopolder (NOR)

Org. 0544659245

Egle Zalckiene (LIT)

Org. 0546840937

Jawwal. 0599933107

Hans Leopolder

Has a Law degree from Uni. of Oslo and Uni. of Edinburgh, works as a legal advisor in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Affairs in Norway. STO in WB & Gaza in Jan 2005 and OSCE Election Observation Mission to the Macedonian Referendum 2003.

Egle Zalckiene

Has a degree in economy and master's degree in international business. Supervised elections in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina as a OSCE Supervisor for a few time. STO in 2005 in Palestine.



LTO Team 4

Tulkarm

Michiel Irish' Stephenson (NLD)

Org. 0546979313

Fotini Rantsiou

(GRC)

Org. 0546971269

Jawwal. 0599933108

Michiel Irish Stephenson

Marketing director-Africa in Africa and Europe. He is a reserve captain in a cavalry reconnaissance regiment. STO & LTO in several humanitarian missions

Fotini Rantsiou

STO-LTO in Nicaragua, WB & G, Lebanon, Venezuela. Supervisor in Bosnia, Herzegovina & Serbia. Also worked as a free-lance interpreter in AUS, IRL, GRC.



LTO Team 5

Nablus

Audrone Ranonyte Sidiskiene (LIT)

Org. 0546971283

Jawwal. 0599933103

Robert Anciaux (BEL)

Org. 0546596379

Audrone Sidiskiene

OSCE supervisor in Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in 2000 EU observer in presidential elections in Palestine 2005. Involved in the election process in 1989-1991 in Lithuania

Robert Anciaux

Professor at Free University of Brussels; speciality: History and Political Sociology of contemporary Muslim World. LTO for Legislative Elections in Palestine and Lebanon and STO in Azerbaidjan, 2005 STO for Palestinian presidential elections



LTO Team 6

Nablus

Anne Bourlond (BEL)

Org. 0546970792

Jawwal. 0599933102

Renato Giglio Cacioppo (ITA)

Org. 0546979309

Anne Bourlond

2 masters degrees in Int. law, and Int. politics. Worked for 10 years in the M.East in the framework of Int. cooperation. Participated in EU missions in Lebanon, Afghanistan, and currently in Palestine.

Renato Cacioppo

Professional journalist, political and foreign correspondent in the Italian parliament and Palestine for the second Tempo of Rome. Participated in the EUEOM missions in Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, and Venezuela



LTO Team 7

Qalqiliya

Alexandra Priess (DEU)
Org. 0546979294
Jawwal. 0599933104

Janno Simm (EST)

Org. 0546971241

Alexandra Priess

Master degree in political science, she's specialized in human rights in Russia, CIS states. Participated in OSCE Election Observation Missions in Russia, Georgia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan. She was a STO in the EUEOM in Ethiopia in 2005.

Janno Simm

Background in cross-cultural psychology and visual anthropology. He has been a STO for European Union Observation Missions in Lebanon and Liberia, 2005.



LTO Team 8

Ramallah

Polona Rifelj (SLO)
Org. 0544658254

Jean Francois Bougeant (FRA)

Org. 0546951827

Polona Rifelj

Graduated masters in Political science at Ljubljana University after BA in Economics and Communications at Ljubljana and Maribor Universities. She has a media background and has been cooperating with mostly with Slovenian national TV. She recently participated as a LTO in OSCE Mission in Azerbaijan.

Jean Francois Bougeant

Graduated a master in European business. Worked in Ukraine as a director of the French center in Kiev where he developed project for civil society. Works in Elections observations Missions with the EU and OSCE recently in Afghanistan and Kazakhstan



LTO Team 9

Ramallah/ Salfit

Jitka Adamcikova (CZK)
Org. 0546592748

Karoly Soos (HUN)

Org. 0546592767

Jitka Adamcikova

Has a degree in sociology and cultural anthropology. Doctorate in Development Issues. Worked with NGO in South Africa and since 2002. participated in EUEOM in Palestine, Balkans, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Afghanistan.

Karoly Soos

Extensive experience in peacekeeping and EOM. Worked in Mozambique, Bosnia, Sinai, and with the EUPM as an operational analysis officer. Also as an LTO in Lebanon and WB & Gaza. CT security expert in Liberia. He has an advanced university degree in security and defense politics.



LTO Team 10

Jerusalem

Isabelle Ribot (FRA)
Org. 0546908679

Mariusz Wojtan (POL)

Org. 0546985298

Isabel Ribot

Graduate of public law and political science. Participated in many EOMs. Working as an independent consultant, she specializes in Evaluation and Monitoring of relief, rehabilitation and development programs.

Mariusz Wojtan

Ph.D. degree in Social Sciences and International Relations. a leader of Conflict and Peace Studies Unit of International Relations Forecasting Institute. His research work is focusing on contemporary conflicts and peace building. Also working with (OSCE) and EOM in Belarus, Ethiopia and Afghanistan.



LTO Team 11

Jerusalem

Naledi Trine Lester (UK)
Org. 0542259167

Peter Ballagh (IRL)

Org. 0542259096

Naledi Lester

Has a background in asylum legislation, working as a legal representative and as a researcher. She has observed elections in Rwanda, Guatemala, Ethiopia and Venezuela.

Peter Ballagh

Freelance writer and director of Historical Insights Ireland. LTO in Palestine 2006, Pakistan and Cambodia 2002, STO for OSCE in Georgia 2004 and Montenegro 2001. He attended the Long Term Observation seminar at the Escuela Superiore in Pisa 2001.



LTO Team 12

Jericho

Catherine Clarke (UK)
Org. 0542259124
Gregorio Aranda Bricio (ESP)

Org. 0542259085

Catherine Clarke

Postgraduate degree in conflict, security and development. worked as election observer in South America, Africa, South East Asia and the Balkans

Gregorio Aranda Bricio

Background in development countries in social and humanitarian fields election background as STO, LTO and supervisor with OSCE and EOM Albania, Ukraine, Indonesia, BiH, Venezuela.



LTO Team 13

Bethlehem

Dimitra Ioannou (GRC)

Org. 0542259118

Soren Ingemar
Enochsson (SWE)

Org. 0542259078

Dimitra Ioannou

Has a degree in Law, master in Human Rights- International Law and a second one in Inter. Relations and Foreign Policy. participated in a lot of missions in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, Indonesia, Malawi (2004), West Bank and Gaza Strip, Ethiopia, Moldova, Afghanistan, D.R of Congo(2005).

Soren Enochsson

BA in Business Administration and works as a Tax Auditor in Sweden, worked with different development projects in Africa and Bosnia. He has participated in election observation missions in West Bank, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Russia, South-Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya and Ethiopia.



LTO Team 14

Hebron

Jan Solovic (SVK)

Org. 0542259081

Jawwal. 0599519768

Claudia Aranda (POR)

Org. 0542259125

Jawwal. 0599519777

Jan Solovic

Degree from Natural Sciences. Election experience in LTO-STO, as well as in technical assistance and media development during elections. Worked for OSCE in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Serbia Montenegro. Recently joint EU observation missions (LTO in Ethiopia).

Claudia Aranda

Degree in International Relations. Specialisation in Political and Economical Relations, Journalist and Photographer, Experience in elections observation and supervision. EU LTO in Mozambique, Indonesia, Ethiopia and Liberia.



LTO Team 15

Hebron

Petr Franc (CZK)

Org. 0542259082

Jawwal 0599519769

Henning Maagard (DK)

Org. 0542259083

Jawwal 0599519770

Petr Franc

Experience in Election Observation and Civil Administration in conflict or post conflict areas. Working several times in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo. Most recently he worked with election observation mission in Afghanistan

Henning Maagard

Participated in Election Observations in Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Bosnia, Serbska and Croatia. Leader of 2 Democracy-projects concerning invitations of local Politicians from Bosnia and Kosovo to Denmark. Worked as EU-Municipal-Expert in Kosovo.



LTO Team 16

Hebron

Monique Nobs-Margairaz

(SWI)

Org. 0542259084

Jawwal 0599519771

Leif Broch (NOR)

Org. 0542259160

Jawwal 0599519772

Monique Nobs Margairaz

1996- Election observer in Bosnia-Herzegovina, worked with the OSCE, ODIHR & the council of Europe in the Balkans, Caucasus, also with the EU in Cambodia & the Middle East. She was a delegate for ICRC in Africa and the Middle East

Leif Broch

Worked as a city clerk / leader of the polical secretariat at Eigersund municipality in organizing elections and consultative referendums, the Secretary for the election committee, teaching courses in personal management, management, labour law, communication, organization theory and project management, officer in UNIFIL in Lebanon, STO in former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia.



LTO Team 17

Gaza / North Gaza

Hanna Wolasiewicz (POL)

Org. 0542259116

Jawwal 0599519773

Mirc Cell. 0577862803

Mirc Radio. 21434

Luis Castellar (ESP)

Org. 0542259161

Jawwal 0599519774

Hanna Wolasiewicz

Participated in the OSCE Election Mission to Kosovo as a polling station supervisor, STO with EUEOM in Palestine and LTO in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka. She is a judge in the district court in Warsaw

Luis Castellar

Has a Law degree and a Masters in International Relations, worked as technical assistance to the EC on the Institutional Strengthening, Human Rights & Democracy framework contract, participated with the EU and UN in El Salvador, WB & Gaza and Lebanon, monitoring a participative democracy project in Colombia.



LTO Team 18

Gaza / Dier Albalah/ Khan

Yunis/ Rafah

Tania Marques (POR)

Org. 0542259162

Jawwal 0599519776

Mirc Cell. 0577878601

Mirc Radio. 22199

Jorma Esko Virtanen (FIN)

Org. 0542259086

Jawwal 0599519775

Tania Marques

a graduate in International Relations. she has worked for the Portuguese Embassy in Pakistan and more recently, has been working in Election Observation in Guinea-Bissau, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

Jorma Esko Virtanen

Worked for ICRC in Sudan and for FINNIDA as Project Manager in Mozambique. Member of the Committee of the Regions of the EU. EO in Kosovo, Macedonia, Mozambique, Cambodia, WB & Gaza.



2. The European Union and Election Observation

The EU has undertaken an increasing number of election observation missions (EOM) in recent years, as well as undertaking projects, such as the training of Long Term Observers (LTOs) and the commissioning of a handbook on election observation, in order to standardise the EU approach to election observation. These developments reflect the importance the EU place on election observation.

The observation of elections is an important component of the EU's policy in promoting human rights and democratisation throughout the world. The EU undertakes such activities on the basis of partnership with the host country and with the objective of developing national capacity.

2.1 EU Election Observation Methodology

Prior to deciding whether or not to deploy an EOM, the EU will send an Exploratory Mission (ExM) to take account of the legal framework and political situation. In short, the EU will wish to determine whether its involvement in monitoring is likely to promote further democratisation in the country.

The ExM will also determine whether the minimum conditions for democratic elections are present. These minimum conditions include the following factors:

- voting franchise is genuinely universal
- political parties and candidates are able to enjoy their legitimate right to participate
- there is freedom of expression, freedom of movement and freedom of assembly
- contesting parties and candidates have reasonable access to the media

The EU will also require an invitation from the host government as well as assurances that other pre-conditions for the work of observers are present. These include: the welcoming of observers by contesting parties; sufficient lead-in time for an effective observation; clearly stated objectives written and agreed with host country; freedom of access to all parties; access to the polling and counting processes; freedom of movement; access to information; and, confidence in the security situation.

If there is no possibility of an election being held under minimum conditions, or if the pre-conditions for observation are not present, then the EU may decide not to deploy an EOM in order to avoid giving credibility to a flawed election. However, this decision will also take account of other factors, such as whether the election is the first for the country, if it follows a period of conflict or oppression or whether the elections are part of a peace process and the possible return of refugees.

2.2 EU Election Observation Missions

The EU has developed a long term methodology for the conduct of its EOMs, in accordance with good international practice. Each mission will, wherever possible, consist of a Core Team, Long Term Observers (LTOs) and Short Term Observers (STOs). The EOM will be led by the Chief Observer, who is usually a Member of the European Parliament and the core team will comprise a substantive and an operational logistics component.

The key objectives of a mission are to:

- conduct a comprehensive and national analysis of the electoral process,
- to be able to offer an impartial, balanced and informed assessment of the election, with a series of recommendations for the further consolidation and development of the democratic process in a country;
- by the presence of observers, to seek to reduce tension, minimise instances of fraud, intimidation and violence and hopefully give confidence to contestants and voters to participate freely.

In recent years the EU has organised EOMs in a large number of countries, including: Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Togo, Tanzania, Guyana, Zimbabwe, Peru, Nicaragua, Ivory Coast, Palestine, Indonesia, Bangladesh, East Timor, Suriname, Cambodia, South Africa, Zambia and Nigeria.

The observation mission assesses the registration of voters and candidates, the campaign and the preparations for election day, as well as making an assessment of the electoral framework, the democratic and human rights environment and sometimes conducting a monitoring of the media during the campaign. Regular meetings are held with election officials at the national, regional and local levels, and with political parties, candidates, civil society and media throughout the country.

Usually on the day after the election, the Chief Observer of the EU EOM issues a preliminary statement based on the long term and short term observations of the entire process. One month after the final results, a more comprehensive report will be issued, which will include a series of recommendations for improvements to the overall electoral process and democratic environment.

In making its assessment of the entire electoral process an EU EOM will consider

- **The impartiality of the electoral administration**
- **The campaign freedoms afforded to political contestants, including the fair use of state resources**
- **The fair access for all contestants to the media, and in particular the state media**
- **The universal franchise afforded to voters**
- **The conduct of the polling and counting of votes**
- **Any other issues that concern the democratic nature of the election**

2.3 European Union Election Observation Mission to West Bank and Gaza 2006

Elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) are scheduled to take place on 25 January 2006. Following an invitation from the Palestinian Central Election Commission (CEC), the EU has established an Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) in West Bank and Gaza for the duration of the election process. The Chief Observer is Ms. Véronique De Keyser MEP (Belgium). The mandate of the EUEOM is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process and to offer an assessment of whether the elections are conducted in accordance with domestic law and international standards relating to democratic elections.

The EUEOM was deployed on 14 December and a press conference announcing its launch took place on 21 December. Based in Ramallah, with offices also in Gaza and East Jerusalem, the EUEOM consists of a core team of fourteen experts. On 29 December, 36 long term observers (LTOs) joined the mission to allow for a widening of its assessment of the technical and political aspects of the electoral process. They have observed the campaign and electoral preparations across Palestine's sixteen electoral districts. The EUEOM and its long term observers have met with many of the candidates for the upcoming elections, and have held regular meetings with the election authority at national and district level. In addition, they have met with national NGOs and national observers, and have coordinated their work with the other international observer organizations.

Ahead of Election Day, approximately a further 140 short-term observers (STOs) from 23 EU Member States will observe voting and counting in a majority of the polling stations. The EUEOM will cooperate closely with an observation delegation from the European Parliament as well as a number of other international observation missions. In line with the recent conclusions of the Council of Ministers, the EUEOM will meet with all candidates and liaises closely with the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Government of Israel. Observers from Switzerland and Norway also form part of the Mission.

2.4 EU Observer Code of Conduct

European Union election observers have always signed a Code of Conduct, the key elements of which are below. In October 2005, the European Commission and around twenty other international organisations commemorated the Declaration of Principles for Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which will be signed by all EUEOM mission members on their arrival.

Key elements of the EU Code of Conduct for observers

- ❖ Observers shall maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of their duties, and shall at no time express any bias or preference in relation to national authorities, parties, candidates or with reference to any issues in contention in the electoral process
- ❖ Observers will **refrain from making any personal or premature comments** about their observations to the media or any other interested persons, but shall provide, through a designated person, general information about the nature of their activities as observers
- ❖ Observers must **respect the laws of the land**. Observers enjoy no special immunities unless so afforded by the host country. Observers must therefore comply with all national laws and regulations, but take note where such rules prevent them from carrying out their duties, such as limiting their freedom of movement or assembly
- ❖ Observers will **undertake their duties in an unobtrusive manner**, and will not disrupt or interfere in the electoral process
- ❖ Observers may bring irregularities to the attention of election officials, but will not give instructions or countermand decisions of election officials
- ❖ Observers will be **subject to the direction and management of the observer team leadership**, carrying out their written terms of reference and covering the geographical schedules specified by team leaders
- ❖ At all times during the mission, including during private time away from work, each election observer should behave blamelessly, exercise sound judgement and observe the **highest level of personal discretion**

The Rights and Responsibilities of International Election Observers in the West Bank and Gaza

All international observers are accredited by the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Palestine. Accredited observers have rights under Article 113 of the 2005 Election Law: **The EUEOM will have no hesitation in asking the CEC to remove the accreditation of any international observer who fails to fulfill their obligations under the Declaration of Principles or their duties under the relevant law. In such cases, the EUEOM shall also give formal notice to the European Commission and to the relevant government of any such person.**

3. Political Environment

3.1 Historical Context

History of the Israeli-Palestinian and general Arab-Israeli conflicts is a contentious matter, with fierce debate on either side. It is expected that most observers will have read their own chosen history, but the following timelines are offered as a way of highlighting key events.

- According to Ottoman records, in 1878 there were 462,465 subject inhabitants of Jerusalem, Nablus and Acre districts: 403,795 Muslims (including Druze), 43,659 Christians and 15,011 Jews. In addition, there were perhaps 10,000 Jews with foreign citizenship (recent immigrants to the country), and several thousand Muslim Arab nomads (bedouin) who were not counted as Ottoman.
- At the beginning of World War I, the British agreed to support the creation of an Arab state in the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire (Husayn-Mc Mahon agreement).
- In 1917 the British Foreign Minister, Lord Arthur Balfour issued a declaration announcing his Government support for the establishment of the "Jewish National Home" in Palestine.
- In 1921 (after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire) the British divided the region in two: east of Jordan River became the Emirate of Transjordan, the west bank of the Jordan became the Palestine Mandate.
- During the persecution of Jews in Europe (1935/1945) a immigration of Jews to Palestine increased.
- The United Nations Partition Plan (1947) divided the country in such a way that each state would have a majority of its own population, although some Jewish settlements would fall within the proposed Palestinian state and many Palestinians would live within the boundaries of the proposed Jewish state.
- In May 1948 the British evacuated Palestine and the state of Israel was proclaimed. First Arab-Israeli war involving Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq. The state of Israel encompassed over 77% of the territory. Palestine divided into three parts each under separate political control. Over 700.000 Palestinian refugees abroad.
- The following period was characterized by difficult living conditions for the Palestinians in Israeli territory as well as for the Jewish colony in Palestinian areas.
- In 1956, Israel joined the French and British to attack Egypt in Suez canal.
- In 1967, the Israeli military carried out a "pre-emptive" attack and destroyed the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian armies in the area. The six day war established Israel as the dominant regional military power. Israel occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt and the Golan Heights from Syria, and created a second wave of Palestinian refugees.
- As a consequence of the occupation, the Palestinian National Movement emerged as a major actor in the form of a political and military group that made up the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization).
- In 1967, the UN resolution 242 called for Israel to withdraw from "the territories."
- In 1973, the Egyptian and Syrian army stormed over Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights, during Yom Kippur, claiming the "territories" still occupied by Israeli forces. The attack was eventually repelled.
- 1979 brought the Camp David I accords. The first agreement led to the Egyptian-Israeli Peace treaty and the second agreement proposed to grant autonomy to the Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- In 1987, the Palestinian population started a massive uprising against the Israeli occupation in West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This first Palestinian Intifada shifted the center of gravity of Palestinian political initiative from the PLO leadership in Tunis (in exile) to the occupied territory.

- In 1991, a US coalition attacked Iraq. The PLO's opposition to US policy led to the cut off of financial support from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, leading to PLO diplomatic isolation.
- The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) and the Islamic Jihad became more and more popular in the occupied territories. This led to a confrontation with Israeli forces and the beginning of secret negotiations between PLO (considered now as a moderate) and the Rabin Government.
- In 1993, the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles was signed in Washington, based on the mutual recognition of Israel and PLO. It established that Israel would withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho with further withdrawals in areas of the West Bank within five years. During this period, the PLO formed the "Palestinian Authorities" with "self-governing" powers.
- In 1995, the Oslo II agreement was signed, foreseeing 7% of territory going to full Palestinian control and 21% to joint Palestinian-Israeli control. Palestinian prisoners were released.
- In 1995, Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. Netanyahu (Likud) elected as prime minister of Israel, and Israeli policy moves away from the Oslo Accords.
- 1996, elections for president (Ra'is) of PA and 88-member Palestinian Legislative Council
- In 2000, the Camp David II summit ended in a failure of the Palestinian-Israeli talks over east Jerusalem leading to the second intifada.
- In 2002, Al-Aqsa Martyrs started suicide attacks inside Israel. Israel's re-invasion of most of the West Bank. Road Map launched by international community as framework for addressing problems of peace and reform.
- 2003, Palestinian suicide bombings and Israeli "targeted killings" continued. Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) was chosen as Palestinian prime minister.
- Thursday Nov. 11. 2004 Mr. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader who led his people's struggle for 40 years, died at a French Hospital at the age of 75. A presidential election is called. Elections for the PLC, initially envisaged to be held concurrently with the presidential election, are postponed to July.
- The presidential elections take place on 9 January 2005. Generally peaceful, they were described by the EU EOM as "represent[ing] a genuine effort to conduct a regular electoral process....However, the occupation and continuing violence as well as restrictions on freedom of movement meant that a truly free election was always going to be difficult to achieve." The elections were won by the Fatah candidate and former prime minister Mahmoud Abbas.
- January 2005: Hamas and Islamic Jihad agree to suspend attacks on Israel in order to give the new Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, time to secure international guarantees for a comprehensive ceasefire that would end more than four years of intifada.
- February 2005 The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, and the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, agree a ceasefire and pledge to end violence after more than four years of intifada. Israel says it will lift roadblocks around some West Bank cities to allow freer movement and will take other steps to ease controls on Palestinians as both sides seek to build on the newly announced ceasefire.
- June: The PLC elections are postponed again to January 2006.
- August/September: Israel military and settlers unilaterally 'disengage' from Gaza.
- November The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, resigns as leader of the ruling Likud party, saying it is unfit to run the country. He is joined by former PM Shimon Peres from the Labour party and an election is called.
- December A Palestinian suicide bomber – the seventh since January - kills at least five people and wounds at least 35 outside a shopping mall in the Israeli city of Netanya.
- January 2006: PM Sharon suffers a stroke. Ehud Olmert, the Finance Minister, takes over as Acting Prime Minister. The Israeli Defence Force imposes a 'buffer zone' in North Gaza to prevent missile attacks.

3.2 Palestinian National Authority (PNA)

Political Structure

The Palestinian Leadership body consists of the PLO and the PNA. The PLO is the highest political body that represents the Palestinian people in the Palestinian homeland and the Diaspora. The Palestinian Authority (PA) is the highest political authority responsible for the Palestinian people in the Palestinian Territories. The highest executive body in the PLO is the PLO Executive Committee

PLO Executive Committee (EC):

Consists of 18 members elected by the Palestine National Council (a body of over 500 members mostly from diaspora), with full operational authority over all PLO organizations and budget. Directs the activities of the PLO in accordance with the Covenant and the Basic Law. Members have ministerial positions in the various PLO departments responsible for foreign affairs, higher education, military, the OPT, national relations (with Arab states), popular organizations, information and culture, administration, social affairs, economics, planning, health and finance. The current head of the PLO is Mahmoud Abbas

The PA structure

The PA is a combination of parliamentary and presidential systems, divided into executive and legislative bodies. The balance of power between these bodies has been a matter of tension for some time and is a highly pertinent issue in the post-Arafat period. The President of the PA, together with the government, holds the executive authority and the PLC performs the legislative role.

Dr. Mahmoud Abbas (born 1935), commonly known as Abu Mazen was elected President (Ra'ees) of the PA on 9 January 2005 with 62% of the vote. He took office six days later. Abbas is a leading politician in Fatah. He served as the first Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority from March to October 2003 when he resigned citing lack of support from Israel and the United States as well as "internal incitement" against his government. Before being named Prime Minister, Abbas led the PLO's Negotiations Affairs Department. He has served as Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee since November 11, 2004, after Yasser Arafat's death. His reputation in the West is that of a moderating influence in the Palestinian Authority. "Abu Mazen" is an Arab honorific title, meaning "father of Mazen", his eldest son.



The current Prime Minister is Ahmad Qurei from Fatah. He has previously indicated his intention to be a candidate in the elections but withdrew on 28 December.

The PA also consists of:

- Council of Ministers
- The currently 88-member Palestinian Legislative Council
- Palestinian National Security Council

Palestinian Authority Security Forces:

Consists of six separate forces: National-Security Force; General Intelligence; Military Intelligence; Civil Police; Preventive Security; Civil Defence

3.3 2006 Palestinian Legislative Council elections

Electoral Districts by numbers of seats, district candidates and number of registered voters.

Table One – Electoral Districts by numbers of seats, final number of district contest candidates and number of registered voters.

District	District Constituency Seats	Seats set aside for Christians	Final Number of Candidates (2 Jan)	Number of Registered voters (CEC, 6 Jan 06)
1 Jerusalem	6	2	39	39,562
2 Jenin	4		32	97,173
3 Tulkarem	3		17	69,704
4 Tubas	1		9	20,171
5 Nablus	6		30	125,652
6 Qalqilya	2		10	32,783
7 Salfit	1		11	25,165
8 Ramallah & Albireh	5	1	34	103,476
9 Jericho	1		5	15,247
10 Bethlehem	4	2	32	67,137
11 Hebron	9		46	179,570
12 North Gaza	5		27	92,208
13 Gaza (City)	8	1	49	163,336
14 Der Elbalah	3		18	75,966
15 Khan Younis	5		43	98,037
16 Rafah	3		12	63,534
TOTAL	66	6	414	1,268,721

Table Two – Final National Proportional Lists submitted by Political Party and number of candidates

Position on List	Name of List (in English) (Party affiliation in italics)	Final Number of Candidates (2 Jan)
1	The Alternative (<i>DFLP, PPP, FEDA</i>)	40
2	Independent Palestine/ Mustafa Bargouthi (<i>NPI</i>)	41
3	Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa (<i>PFLP</i>)	50
4	Martyr Abu Alabbas (<i>PLF</i>)	11
5	Freedom and Social Justice (<i>PPSF, Kaffa, PGP</i>)	13
6	Change and Reform (<i>HAMAS</i>)	59
7	National Coalition for Justice and Democracy	12
8	The Third Way	25
9	Freedom and Independence (<i>ALF</i>)	10
10	Palestinian Justice	8
11	Fateh	45
		314

3.4 Political Parties and Factions contesting the 2005 PLC Elections

FATEH

فـتـح
Fateh

Position on national proportional list ballot: 11

Heading List: Marwan Barghouti
Mohamad Ebraheem Abu Ali
Intisar Al-Wazir (F)

Number of proportional list candidates: 49

Number of district candidates: 66

Profile/Orientation: Dominant ruling party, divided in two, now back together.



Fatah (literally meaning victory or conquest; also a reverse acronym of *Harakat al-Tahrir al-Watani al-Filastin*, Palestinian National Liberation Movement) was founded by Yasser Arafat and others refugees in the late 1950s. It is the traditionally dominant political force in Palestine. It is a secular nationalist party that won the majority of seats in the 1996 PLC elections and, following Arafat's death, its candidate won the 2005 presidential election. Although it retains connections to militia groups, most notably the al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades, it has accepted the 'two-state' solution proposed by Oslo and the Road Map.

With widespread public perception that many of its established members are tainted by corruption and lack of authority, the party has seen internal cleavage between the 'old guard' and the 'young guard' who seek a new direction. This split led to violence during the primaries used to select its candidates for the 2006 PLC elections, which was followed by the 'young guard', headed by **Marwan Barghouti** submitting a separate '**Future**' (*al Mustaqbel*) list of 36 of its leading figures. This episode caused embarrassment and confusion within Fateh – not least as Barghouti also headed the list that had been submitted by Fateh – and caused many analysts to consider that the political strength of the old guard was near collapse. In the expectation that their vote would be split in these elections to the benefit of Hamas, steps were taken to ensure the 'merging' of lists, including a legal challenge and intense negotiations.

Following a court decision to re-open registration, on 28 December a 'unified' Fateh list was submitted. The new list remains dominated by the 'old guard' of Fatah, with many of the names of the 'Future list removed. Some names from both lists have been re-nominated as candidates for district elections. It remains to be seen what impact this whole episode will have on re-asserting the dominance of Fateh against Hamas, but there is likely to be substantial benefit from the re-alignment support from Barghouti, – currently in prison in Israel for murder – who is extremely popular for his stand on anti-corruption and the Israeli occupation.

Fateh Lists submitted on 28 December			
Position on new list	Candidates on new list from previous lists		'New' Candidates
	Fateh	Future	
1 to 10	8	1	1
11 to 20	4	3	3
21 to 30	6	2	2
31 to 40	6	0	4
41 to 49	4	0	5
Total	28	6	15

	Fateh	Future
Candidates on new list retained from previous list	28	6
Candidates Moved to District Contests	6	7
Candidates from previous list removed from new list	13	23



Marwan Barghouti



Intisar Al-Wazir

This is not an official EU document. Its contents should not necessarily be seen as reflecting the view of EU EOM observers and are used for training purposes only

CHANGE & REFORM

التغيير والإصلاح

Attaghyeer Waleslah

Position on national proportional list ballot: 06

Heading List: Ismaiel Abdaslame Hanieya

Number of proportional list candidates: 59

Number of district candidates: 51

Profile/Orientation: Radical Islamic movement with rapidly strengthening electoral support.



This list represents the political wing of **Hamas**, a radical Islamist movement which has committed terrorist attacks against Israel. Hamas is an acronym of Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyyah (literally "Islamic Resistance Movement") and in Arabic means 'zeal' or 'courage'. The movement's popularity, especially in Gaza, stems from its paramilitary activities and from its provision of welfare and social services to the Palestinian poor. Hamas does not recognise Israel and, in its Charter, is committed to the destruction of Israel. A number of its leaders have been killed by the Israeli military. Hamas has begun to engage in political activity through elections. It boycotted the 1996 PLC and also the 2005 presidential election on the basis of the delay in the holding of PLC elections. However, it has performed very strongly in municipal elections and has won control of over one third of Palestinian municipal councils, including Jenin and Nablus. This popularity may reflect growing public disillusionment in the PA and the Fatah party in particular, especially in relation to corruption and relations with Israel. Its list for the PLC elections – in which it is expected to win a significant number of seats through its internal discipline – is headed by the person who is considered to be its second-in-command. Analysts identify that many of the persons on the list are not typical Hamas supporters and includes business leaders. In its conclusions of 21 November, the EU Council of Ministers welcomed, "the Palestinian Authority's statements condemning violence and urging Palestinian groups who have engaged in terrorism to abandon this course and engage in the democratic process. The Council recalls the EU's position that all factions, including Hamas, should renounce violence, recognise Israel's right to exist, and disarm. Ultimately, those who want to be part of the political process should not engage in armed activities, as there is a fundamental contradiction between such activities and the building of a democratic State."



Hanieya

THIRD PATH

الطريق الثالث

Attareeq Athaleth

Position on national proportional list ballot: 08

Heading List: Salam Khaled Fayyad

Number of proportional list candidates: 28

Number of district candidates: 1

Profile/Orientation: Centrist coalition of independent candidates with close connection to civil society.



The list is headed by **Salam Fayyad**, the former senior IMF employee and PA Minister of Finance. The second-placed candidate is **Hanan Ashrawi**, the high-profile former negotiator of the PLO in Oslo, who runs an NGO called **MIFTAH** (the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – see www.miftah.org).



This is not an official EU document. Its contents should not necessarily be seen as reflecting the view of EU EOM observers and are used for training purposes only

INDEPENDENT PALESTINE

فلسطين المستقلة

Falastin Almusaqellah

Position on national proportional list ballot: **02**

Heading List: Mustafa Kamel Barghouti

Number of proportional list candidates: 41

Number of district candidates: Non-affiliated independents

Profile/Orientation: 'Liberal' coalition of PNI, independents and NGOs



The Independent Palestine list is a coalition of independents and NGO members and includes the **PALESTINE NATIONAL INITIATIVE (PNI) (Al Mubadara)**. It is headed by an influential civil society activist, Mustafa Barghouti, who was also a candidate in the January 2005 presidential election where he came second with 19.8% of the vote. During the campaign, he was arrested by Israeli forces while trying to enter East Jerusalem and was also prevented from entering Nablus and Gaza. The list has promised to fight corruption and nepotism, demand the dismantlement of the barrier, and fight against Fatah corruption and radical Islam.



Mustafa Barghouti

Dr Barghouti is Secretary-General of the PNI who is also a distant cousin of Marwan Barghouti from the Future list. The list was in discussion to be part of a coalition of left-wing parties and movements (see below 'Alternative', 'Abu Ali Mustafa' and 'Freedom and Social Justice'). See: www.almubadara.org

MARTYR ABU ALI MUSTAFA

الشهيد أبو علي مصطفى

Ashahid Abu Ali Mustafa

Position on national proportional list ballot: **03**

Heading List: Ahmad Sadat Abed Alrasoul

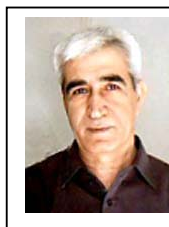
Number of proportional list candidates: 50

Number of district candidates: 24

Profile/Orientation: Party of 'Leftist-Democrats' with militant background



This election list represents the **POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)**. It is named after Abu Ali Mustafa, its former general secretary who was killed by Israeli forces in 2001. It is headed by the current Secretary-General who is currently in prison in Jericho. The PFLP is a Marxist-Leninist, nationalist party with links to a military wing (who allegedly have been involved in kidnappings of foreign nationals in Gaza in December 2005). The party selected its candidates through primaries which saw the election of 11 women candidates. They have a defined electoral platform, claiming to focus on social and economic justice. They boycotted the 1996 election but recently performed well in local elections, winning control of the municipal councils in Bethlehem, Bre Zeit and – possibly – Ramallah. Ahead of these elections, they were in failed attempts to negotiate a coalition of 'democratic left' parties. (see 'Alternative' etc)



Ahmad Sadat

This is not an official EU document. Its contents should not necessarily be seen as reflecting the view of EU EOM observers and are used for training purposes only

THE ALTERNATIVE

البديل

Al-Badeel

Position on national proportional list ballot: 01

Heading List: Qais Kamal Abdul Karim

Number of proportional list candidates: 40

Number of district candidates: 6

Profile/Orientation: Left-wing coalition of small parties and Independent candidates seeking to offer 'middle-ground' between Fatah and Hamas.



This election list is a coalition of the **DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (DFLP)**, the **PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (PPP)**, the **PALESTINIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (FIDA)** and a number of independent candidates. Attempts to create a 'grand coalition' of smaller parties – including Independent Palestine, PFLP and PPSF (see elsewhere) – did not succeed. Hope to play decisive role as 'power-broker' in a hung parliament. See <http://www.dflp-palestine.org> and <http://www.palpeople.org>.

MARTYR ABU al-ABBAS

الشهيد أبو العباس

Ashahid Abu Alabbas

Position on national proportional list ballot: 04

Heading List: Omar Ahmed Shibly

Number of proportional list candidates: 11

Number of district candidates: 0

Profile/Orientation: Radical movement.



This election list represents the **PALESTINIAN LIBERATION FRONT (PLF)**. It is named after Abu Al-Abbass, one of its former leaders who died in Abu Ghrab prison in Iraq in 2004.

FREEDOM & SOCIAL JUSTICE

الحرية والعدالة الاجتماعية

Alhoreya Waladalah Alejtima'eya

Position on national proportional list ballot: 05

Heading List: Ahmad Abd Al-Salam Majdalany

Number of proportional list candidates: 13

Number of district candidates: 2

Profile/Orientation: Left-wing Coalition including 'Enough!' and 'Greens'



This list consists of members of **PALESTINIAN POPULAR STRUGGLE FRONT (PPSF)**, the **'KAFFA!' ('Enough!')** movement and the **PALESTINIAN GREEN PARTY**. All are left-wing centred and considered joining a larger coalition with DPLF etc but could not agree on party lists.

This is not an official EU document. Its contents should not necessarily be seen as reflecting the view of EU EOM observers and are used for training purposes only

National Coalition for JUSTICE & DEMOCRACY

الائتلاف الوطني للعدالة والديمقراطية

Ale'telaf Alwataney laladālah Wademoqratelyyah

Position on national proportional list ballot: 07

Heading List: Ghazi Mahmoud Abu Jayyab

Number of proportional list candidates: 12

Number of district candidates: Independents

Profile/Orientation: Leftist Party of Intellectuals



The list is a coalition of independent candidates, mostly intellectuals or academics with leftist beliefs. They argue for non-violent resistance.

FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE

الحرية والاستقلال

Alhorreya Walestiqal

Position on national proportional list ballot: 09

Heading List: Salem Ali Albredeny

Number of proportional list candidates: 10

Number of district candidates: 1

Profile/Orientation: Ba'athist-linked party



This group seems to be connected to the **ARAB LIBERATION FRONT (ALF)**, a former military group with links to the Ba'athists of Iraq and Syria. The first-placed candidate is based in Gaza.

PALESTINIAN JUSTICE

العدالة الفلسطينية

Aladalah Alfalastineyyah

Position on national proportional list ballot: 10

Heading List: Smeer Sadik Kadri

Number of proportional list candidates: 8

Number of district candidates: 0

Profile/Orientation: Small, northern based party.



The recently-establish party is based in Jenin and claims to have strength in the northern West Bank.

This is not an official EU document. Its contents should not necessarily be seen as reflecting the view of EU EOM observers and are used for training purposes only

4. Legal Framework

4.1 Overview

The first and so far only Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections were held on 20 January 1996. At that time 1,028,280 voters had been registered in the 16 districts and there was a 71% turnout. For these elections there are 1.2 million registered voters. In 1996 672 candidates competed for the 88 seats in the PLC in a simple majority system with a specified number of seats per constituency. The Election Law of 1995 was amended on 18 June 2005 and the major change was to increase the number of seats to 132, and to introduce a new mixed system. 50% of the seats will be elected by the majority system in district races. 50% will be elected by proportional representation from national lists.

4.2 The Election Law

In addition to the amended Election Law of 1995, the legal framework and procedures are supplemented by a number of Presidential Decrees, CEC by-laws, the 1995 Oslo Accords Protocol Concerning Elections (especially with regard to Jerusalem), and a CEC handbook for polling and counting procedures. There is some concern that not all of the CEC's decisions and procedures are formalized and made public. It is thought that this is due to work pressures, rather than anything else. However, greater transparency in this area would be an improvement.

4.3 The Electoral Framework

The PLC is a unicameral legislature. It will be composed of 132 Deputies. 66 MPs are elected individually by a simple majority from the 16 constituencies. The other 66 MPs are elected by a closed (party/faction) list proportional representation system from one nationwide electoral district (West Bank with Jerusalem and Gaza).

Majority system

Voters are free to mark as many candidates' names on the respective ballot as they wish, as long as it does not exceed the number of parliamentary seats allotted to the respective constituency (eg 9 seats in Hebron, 4 in Bethlehem).

In the majority system (also known as the district or constituency system), the seats allocated to each electoral district are won by the candidates who obtain the highest number of valid votes in that district. In the event of two or more candidates obtaining an equal number of votes in an electoral district with one seat, or the last seat in a multiple seats district, a full by-election is held between two or more candidates within ten days. Six out of the 66 seats allocated to the majority system are reserved for Christians.

Proportional system

Voters vote for just one list. This is a closed list system, meaning that the voter cannot specify preferences for individual candidates on a list. 11 political parties or coalitions have put forward lists.

Each list obtains a number of seats in proportion to the number of valid votes obtained. The counting method is the Sainte-Lague method, and works as follows:

The percentage of all valid votes obtained by each electoral list (EL) – which PASSED the 2% THRESHOLD – is calculated to determine which one qualifies. Then the number of valid votes for each EL is divided by successive odd numbers (1/3/5/7...). That division results in descending order. Finally PLC seats are allocated according to that order (starting from the highest number) until all 66 seats have been assigned. The Sainte-Lague method is designed to eliminate the problem of fractions in the allocation process. It is also used in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and Kosovo.

Voting is not mandatory, and any Palestinian - male or female over the age of 18 - is eligible to vote in national elections, as long as s/he is not disenfranchised (see below). Who qualifies as a "Palestinian" is defined in Article 8 and 9 of the Election Law (see the section below on Voter Registration).

Local Elections

The most recent round of local elections was held on December 15, 2005, to elect local councilors and mayors in Jenin, Nablus, Al-Bireh, Ramallah and another 36 smaller municipal districts. On 23 December 2004 the first round of local elections was held in 26 municipal districts in West Bank (followed by municipal elections in 10 districts in Gaza on 27 January 2005). After the Presidential Elections of 9 January, 2005, the second round of local elections was held on 4 May in 84 local districts, followed by the third round on 29 September in 82 local districts. The final stage of local elections is foreseen for 2006 either in one final round or several ones.

4.4 Voter Registration

Palestine had a census in 1997, but accurate population figures are difficult to obtain, due to population movement in and out of the country. Since September 2004 the CEC has run various voter registration exercises. According to the CEC, the total number of constituents enrolled in the Voters' List was 1,273,803, representing over 70% of all estimated eligible voters. The final drive of voter registration, exhibition and challenges at the 16 district electoral offices ended on 20 December 2005. The final voters' list is not expected to be available for public view until election day. Since voters are usually registered at the traditional residence of the family, many voters must travel home from their place of work in order to cast their ballot.

The Election Law (Article 9 and 10) states that persons eligible to vote must be:

- ✓ Palestinian
 - o be born in Palestine as defined by British Mandate, or
 - o be born in Gaza or West Bank, including Jerusalem, or
 - o irrespective of place of birth having one or more direct ancestors born as above,
 - o or is the spouse of an eligible Palestinian
 - o and never acquired Israeli nationality
- ✓ at least 18 years of age on election day
- ✓ entered in the final voters' list
- ✓ not deprived of the right to vote by a judicial sentence from a Palestinian court.

The situation in East Jerusalem is different, as the Israeli authorities did not allow any voter registration to be carried out in the city of East Jerusalem.

4.5 Registration of candidates and electoral lists

According to the law, contestants had to register either as individual candidates on the district level or as part of national 'electoral lists' at the CEC or its regional offices by 14 December 2005. The period for candidate registration was reopened for one day on 28 December, due to a decision of the Election Appeals Court (see below). This reopening allowed Fatah to submit one list, rather than the two that it had before. Candidates must be Palestinians, at least 28 years of age on the day of elections, permanent residents in the Palestinian territories, and registered to vote. There is no specific bar on them having a criminal record, except for the crime of high treason, or if a Palestinian court has deprived them of the right to vote.

Candidates for the constituency elections must be supported by 500 signatures of eligible voters. All individual candidates must pay a deposit of \$1,000 (or the equivalent in NIS). If the candidate is elected s/he would recover that deposit. The registration of an electoral list must be supported by 3,000 signatures of eligible voters and a deposit of \$6,000 (or the equivalent in NIS). If any members of the list are elected, that deposit is refunded. Each electoral list must include a minimum of 7 candidates and a maximum number of 66.

4.6 Holding Public Office and Use of Public Resources

According to the law, civil servants, members of the security forces, anyone whose salary is paid from PNA funds, employees of international organizations, and (unusually for an Election Law) employees of non-governmental organizations cannot stand as candidates for the PLC unless they resign from their position by the date of publication of the final candidate lists (2 January).

Article 59 of the Election Law prohibits the PNA and any affiliated body from showing support for one candidate or list, and requires it to remain impartial. These provisions are important and need to be closely monitored during the campaign.

4.7 Female Candidates

Although Palestinian women have reached a recognizable level of social participation and are guaranteed equal rights, including the fundamental right to vote and to be elected (according to the Basic Law), only a small number of women contested in previous elections. In 1996 only 5 of the 25 female candidates won one of the 88 Parliamentary seats (5.7%). For the 2006 PLC elections a women's quota is provided by law which guarantees female candidates certain positions on the national electoral lists. Each electoral list must include at least 1 woman within the first three nominees, at least another woman within the following four nominees and at least 1 woman in each following group of five nominees on the electoral list. There is no female quota in the constituency elections. The quota system has produced the result that there are 69 women candidates out of 314 in the national lists, but only 15 out of 414 in the district elections where there is no quota.

4.8 Election Campaign

The period for electoral campaigning is defined by law, starting 22 days prior to Election Day, ie 3rd January, and ending at midnight on the night of the 23rd January, ie 24 hours before polling. The campaign silence period ends at the end of polling day. All key players in the electoral process - individual candidates, electoral lists, political parties, movements, fractions etc, and also public and private media - have to obey this provision.

Campaign activities are prohibited in mosques and churches, and in governmental or public buildings. Inflammatory propaganda that defames or humiliates any other candidate or that may lead to tribal or factional conflicts is also prohibited. PNA slogans or logos are not to be used for campaigning.

4.9 Campaign Financing

The Election Law prohibits any candidate or list from financing its campaign from foreign resources. No electoral list may spend more than one million US dollars on its campaign, and no constituency candidate may spend more than sixty thousand US dollars. All electoral lists and all successful candidates are required to submit a detailed financial report to the CEC within 30 days of the final results. It remains to be seen how this provision will be enforced.

4.10 Security Forces Voting

When and where the security forces vote has been the subject of great controversy. In the Presidential elections of 2005, security forces complained that they did not have adequate facilities to cast their votes as well as being on duty. To address this problem the Election Law was amended in December 2005 and again in January 2006 to allow for early voting by the security forces on the three days prior to election day. The Ministry of Interior was not content with this arrangement, and pressed the CEC in January 2006 to allow security forces to be able to vote in their barracks (which would mean an absentee ballot for their district votes, since many work outside their home district). This is not provided for in the law, it would be very logistically complex, and it raises concerns about possible fraud and intimidation. The CEC submitted a letter of resignation to the President over this issue, and over the political interference in their work. Eventually the Ministry of Interior accepted that security forces must vote in their home districts, opening the way for the CEC to retract its resignation. Nonetheless, it remains to be seen how the Ministry of Interior will deal with this in practice, arranging both the movement of forces around the country so that they can vote, and also arranging adequate security cover for the elections. Given the problematic security situation in a number of places, this is a concern.

Security forces will vote in special polling centres located in each district capital from 7am to 7pm on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th. They will be counted after the close of voting on 25th. Observers and agents should be allowed to observe all stages of the process. The integrity of the ballot boxes and ballots during the overnight storage will need to be carefully monitored.

4.11 Special Provisions for Elections in East Jerusalem

The question of whether elections take place in East Jerusalem is very controversial, and of great symbolic significance for Palestinians (who seek to have their capital in East Jerusalem), and Israelis (who claim sovereignty over the entire city of Jerusalem and designate it as their capital). As happened in the Presidential elections, there were not any direct negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and no definite announcement made by the Israelis as of two weeks before election day. If any voting is allowed in the city of East Jerusalem (the Old City plus the immediate surrounding area), it seems most likely that it would be the same system as was used in 1996 and 2005. Under this system, ballots can be cast in five to six Israeli postal offices. This provision has its roots in Protocol II to the Oslo Accords of 1995. It attracted widespread criticism from observers and others, as the number of voters permitted to vote there was very small (only a few thousand out of an electorate of more than 100,000), and the arrangements were made at the last minute. No voter registration was allowed to take place in East Jerusalem, so it is possible that the right to vote might only be verified by presenting the 'blue ID' issued by the Israeli authorities.

All other voters from East Jerusalem will have to vote in Jerusalem district (outside the municipal boundaries, in places such as Abu Dis etc), which mostly involve passing through a checkpoint.

There have also been problems for candidates who wish to campaign in East Jerusalem. If they do not obtain permission from the Israeli police for their rallies or meetings (which many are unwilling to do because they do not recognize Israeli sovereignty over East Jerusalem), their rallies are liable to be broken up, and speakers detained by the police. A number of candidates have been arrested, fined, and even placed under house arrest for attempting to campaign in East Jerusalem.

4.12 Electoral Complaints and Appeals

The Election Appeals Court (EAC) is constituted by Presidential Decree and consists of 9 judges. It hears appeals from decisions of the CEC, including the announcement of the final results. Appeals can be received at the EAC's offices in Ramallah or Gaza City. A person has two days from the date of a CEC decision to file an appeal, and the EAC must make a decision within five days of receiving the appeal. A number of appeals have been heard already, including several from candidates who were not permitted to register. The EAC overturned the CEC's decision in several of these cases. An important appeal at the end of December ordered the CEC to reopen the candidate registration period, which allowed Fatah to submit one list (previously two lists had been submitted, due to internal differences in Fatah).

The CEC can receive complaints, but it has no sanction against candidates or violators. The CEC has not published details of complaints received, or of its complaints-handling procedures, or of how it has dealt with the complaints received, which is an unfortunate lack of transparency.

The amended Election Law sets out various electoral offences, which are criminally punishable by fine or imprisonment. These include:

- taking a weapon into a polling station
- threatening or obstructing voters
- assisting non-eligible voters
- forcing a person to reveal who they voted for
- bribery
- multiple voting
- falsification, destruction or damage of electoral materials and protocols

Neither the EAC nor the CEC have criminal jurisdiction to deal with cases where an electoral offence is alleged to have been committed. Electoral offences should go to the ordinary criminal courts, which are unlikely to have the resources to deal with cases quickly. This lack of effective enforcement mechanisms is a significant gap in the Election Law.

4.13 The Code of Conduct

Initiated by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), sponsored by the USAID-funded Tampkin project, and carried out by the Palestinian NGO 'Arab Thought Forum' under the auspices of the CEC, all major political forces have signed a Code of Conduct, reiterating their commitment to a peaceful, non-violent and democratic electoral process. In addition to the restrictions on campaigning and campaign financing already outlined in the amended election law, the code of conduct also requires the signatories to abstain from any armed electoral rallies or meetings, and prohibits them from sabotaging or removing the posters of other candidates. The Arab Thought Forum set up monitoring committees in each district made up of representatives of the parties and factions, and the hope is that this initiative would have some moral and persuasive force over the candidates.

4.14 Election Observation

Article 113 of the Election Law sets out the right for local and international observers to monitor all phases of the electoral process. From 14 May until 19 November 2005 Palestinian organisations and individuals were entitled to register at the CEC and its constituency offices as domestic PLC election observers. 254 organisations were granted 17,261 personalized accreditation cards. International observers were able to be accredited on a later schedule.

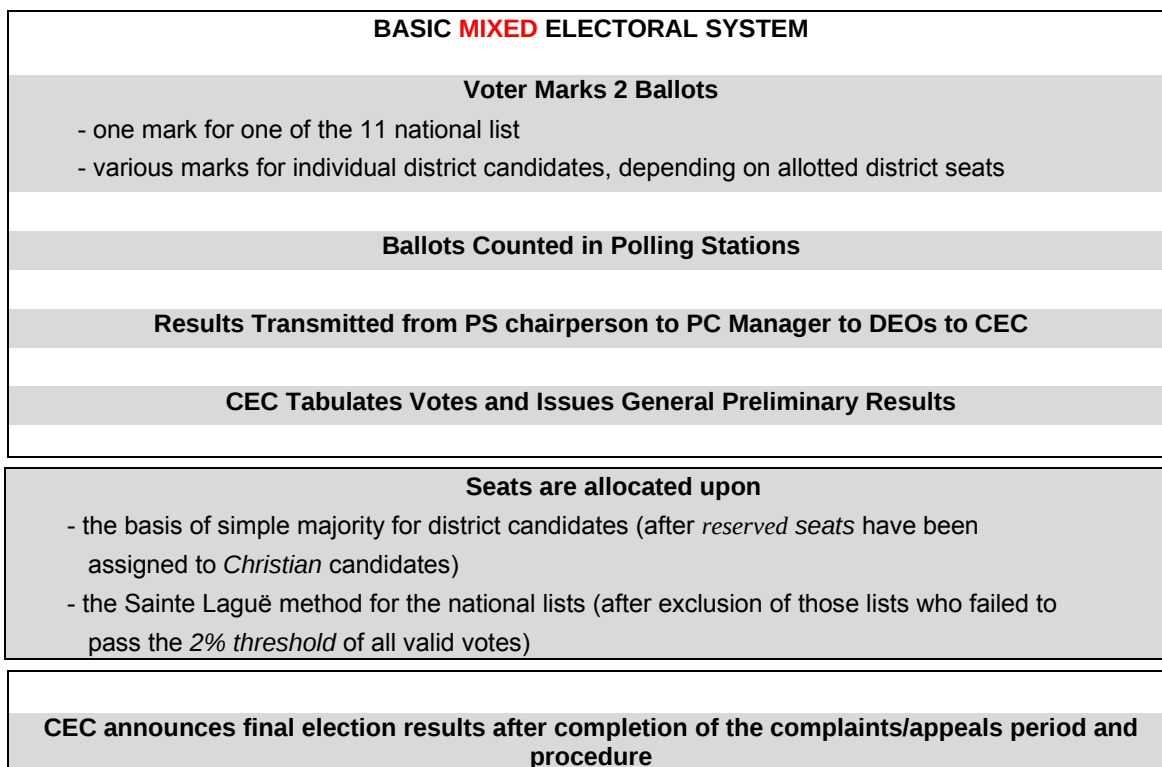
4.15 Electoral Calendar

Date	
May 05	1 st national drive for voter registration at all registration offices
14 May 05	Start to register domestic observers
18 Jun 05	Adoption of amended Election Law
20 Aug 05	President issued decree defining 25 January 2006 as Election-Day
Nov 05	2 nd national drive for voter registration at all registration offices
19 Nov 05	End of accreditation period for domestic observers (254 organizations with 17261 representatives)
03 Dec 05	Opening of registration for candidates and electoral lists
14 Dec 05	Closing of registration for candidates and electoral lists
16-18 Dec 05	3 rd and final national drive of voter registration (incl. exhibition and challenge)
17 Dec 05	Deadline for CEC to process registration applications of candidates and electoral lists
18 Dec 05	CEC announces preliminary roll of candidates (not required by law)
18-20 Dec 05	Period to submit challenge to registered candidates and electoral lists
21 Dec 05	Deadline for CEC to resolve accreditation issues of candidates and electoral lists
22-24 Dec 05	Period to appeal at EAC against CEC decisions on accredited candidates and electoral lists
28 Dec 05	Candidate registration re-opened for one day following Election Appeal Court ruling
31 Dec 05	Start of 2-day training of 300 CEC supervisors (training of trainers - 200 for WB and 100 for G)
2006	
01 Jan 06	2400hrs - Deadline for withdrawal of candidacy
02 Jan 06	CEC publishes final record of candidates and electoral lists
02-17 Jan 06	Period to submit application for candidates' and electoral lists' agents
03 Jan 06	Start of electoral campaign period
23 Jan 06	2400hrs Start of campaign silence period (until end of Election Day)
22, 23 and 24 Jan 06	Security forces will cast their ballots
25 Jan 06	Polling Day (7am-7pm, or 9pm if extended)

5. Election Administration

5.1 Electoral System

- The election system is mixed containing a proportional system and a simple majority system.
- The 2 kinds of ballots (one for individual district candidates and one for national lists) contain either the formal or 'custom' name or optionally the symbol of the list or the candidate's affiliation.
- Voters cast TWO ballots, expressing their electoral choice.



5.2 Central Election Commission (CEC)

Its 9 members were appointed by a Presidential Decree of 01 April 2005, and include academics and judges. The CEC headquarters are in Ramallah, and there is also a CEC Regional Office in Gaza City. The CEC's mandate includes the following:

- Supreme authority conducting and supervising the elections
- Adopting measures and procedures necessary to organize and conduct the elections, "ensuring the integrity and freedom of the elections"
- Supervising the work of the electoral constituency committees and the Central Elections Office
- Registering the candidate lists and the electoral lists
- Accrediting observers and agents
- Re-conducting elections in any polling stations in which it is proven that violations have taken place that could affect the results
- Adjudicating appeals against decisions of the electoral constituency committees or polling station committees
- Announcing the final results
- To be totally independent in political, financial and administrative terms

They are located at the 16 District Election Offices (see Annex E).

5.3 Central Election Office (CEO)

The CEO is the administrative and executive body of the CEC, responsible for planning and carrying out all overall electoral operations, including to

- select and train all election officials
- be in charge of public information and voter education
- supervises the work of 16 District EOs
- ensures the implementation of electoral operations

5.4 District Election Offices (DEO)

All 16 DEO's are run by at least 5 members appointed by CEC and shall

- implement all CEC regulations and instructions
- supervise voter registration
- monitor the election operations
- receive and rule on complaints during pre-election period and against the work of PSCs
- verify election results provided by the Polling Station Commissions, prior to submitting them to the CEC.

The 16 District Election Offices are based in the governorate capitals and headed by District Coordinators. As part of the DEO staff more than 300 '**supervisors**' have been appointed, firstly to train the polling and counting staff, and secondly to perform on polling day(s) as DEO field representatives, mandated to resolve possible obstacles and disputes.

5.5 Polling Station Staff (PSS)

Its members are nominated by the respective DEO's and appointed by the CEC. They are responsible for running the polling station and conducting voting and counting.

In order to facilitate the management at the Polling Centers, in each PC one **Polling Center Manager and one Assistant** are installed, employed by the CEO and mandated to resolve local disputes and obstacles.

6. Media and the Elections

6.1 Overview

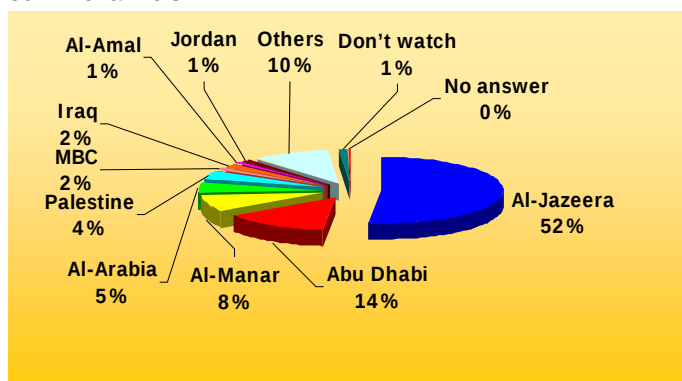
The media system in West Bank and Gaza is relatively pluralistic in terms of number of media outlets, with a fairly degree of diversity.

The official media are: Palestine TV, Palestine Satellite Channel, Radio Voice of Palestine and Wafa News Agency. All of them are managed by the Public Broadcasting Corporation, thus under the control of the Palestinian National Authority which appoints its managing board and financially supports it.

In addition to the state media, there are some 48 private radio and television stations operating in the territories. The International broadcasters (particularly Al Jazeera, Al Arabia, Abu Dhabi TV and Al Manar TV) are very popular in the main cities, while local broadcasters have a larger impact in the countryside.

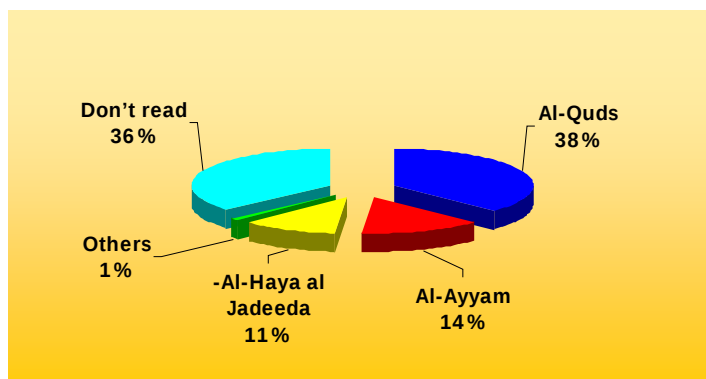
According to the JMCC Public Opinion Poll (2003)¹ the audience of the Palestinian media is quite limited (with the partial exception of Voice of Palestine), while Al-Jazeera is far the most watched television by Palestinians.

Figure 1 Most watched TV channels



There are three dailies of which Al-Quds is the one with largest readership. The newspaper is told to be close to Al Fatah. The other two dailies are Al-Ayyam, which is privately owned but very close to Abu Mazineen, and Al-Haya al-Jadeeda that is officially PNA newspaper. Other publications include a number of weekly or bimonthly magazines, some of them tied to political forces.

Figure 2 Most read dailies²



¹ Jerusalem Media & Communication Centre, Poll n. 48, April 2003.

² Ibidem.

A recent poll announced by the Development Studies Department of the Birzeit University³ shows that most of the people (76.5%) follow the news regarding the forthcoming legislative elections; while 43.6 of the survey sample declared that the Television is the most appropriate way to publicize election news.

The importance of the electronic media as primary source of information about the elections was confirmed by a previous poll (Feb 2004) of the same institution. The poll results are reported by the following charts.

Figure 3 Best media to bring election news

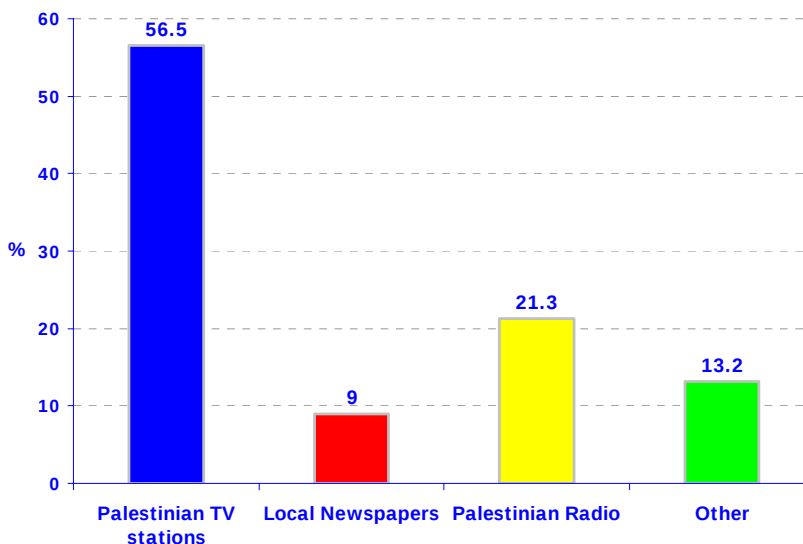
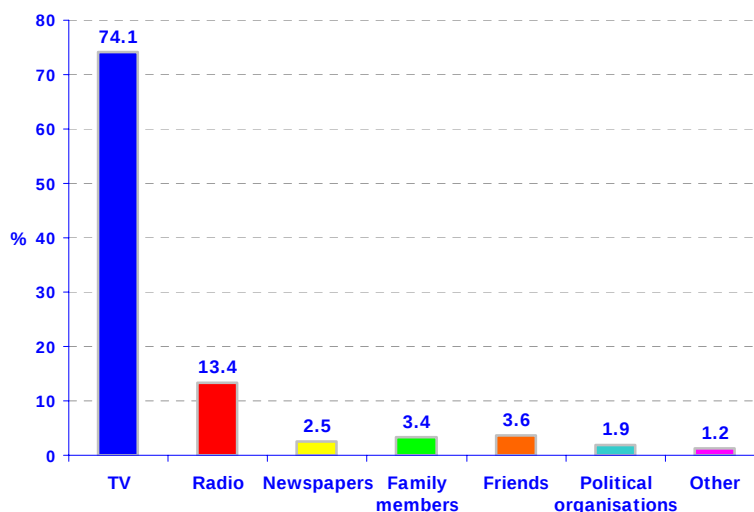


Figure 4 Main sources of information regarding current affairs



³ Development Studies Programme, Birzeit University, Poll n. 23, 12 December 2005.

As for the level of freedom for the media, the Reporters Without Borders 2005 Report noted:

“The Palestinian media are more independent than in other Arab countries but this is on a day-to-day basis. The most critical journalists are arrested or physically attacked by the security services and others are threatened and practice self-censorship. The privately-owned media are harassed by political parties and the Palestinian Authority, sometimes through the Gaza Palestinian journalists’ union. Newspaper editors, some of whom are party politicians, fear reprisals and prefer not to cover topics seen as anti-patriotic or relating to Arafat himself. The opposition media, mostly supporting the Hamas militants, is censored or has been shut down. Internet use is unrestricted however and people can freely watch foreign TV stations through satellite dishes.”⁴

Of particular note, as reported by various sources including the Final Report of the EU EOM for the Presidential Elections 2005, are the obstructions and the restrictions imposed by Israeli soldiers at the freedom of movements of the Palestinian journalists in the territories, as well as the ones imposed by the Palestinian Security Services.

Cases of self censorship have been also noted in the past, selective choice of articles in line with the specific political agenda of the outlet as well as pressures by Palestinian security services to “persuade” the journalist to change their stand on a certain issue. Journalists know that a “red line” must not be overstepped with regards to a number of issues, including any serious criticism of the PNA, the PLO and its members.

6.2 The legal framework for the media

The legal framework governing the media coverage during the election campaign is set by:

- the Basic Law
- the Press Law
- the Election Law
- the CEC Guidelines on the Election Campaign.

The Basic Law recognizes that freedom of expression is one of the fundamental rights and freedom of speech must be guaranteed without any censorship. No governmental or administrative action shall interfere with the freedom of the press.

The Press Law is considered to be inadequate with the uprising of a flourish media environment, which includes many electronic media; many experts noted that a new draft of a more comprehensive media law would be advisable.

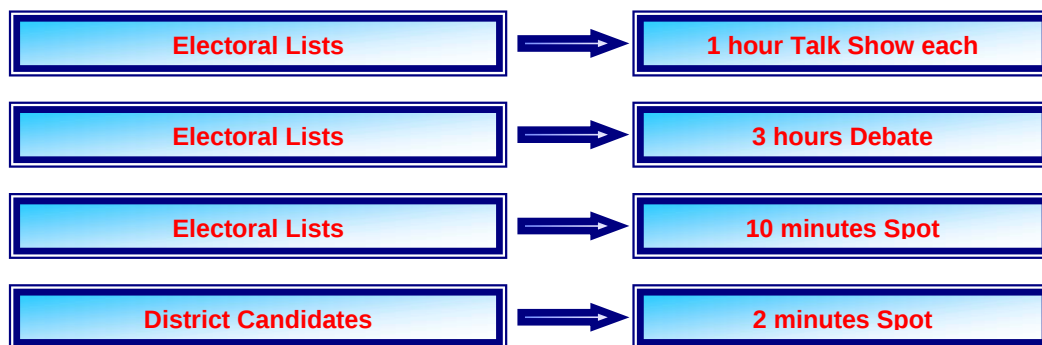
Article 59 of the Election Law requires special obligations for the official media in terms of pluralism, correctness and impartiality in the election coverage. Article 63 addresses the CEC for the organization, in cooperation with the official media, of special electoral programmes which shall give equal and suitable opportunities for all candidates and party lists running for the elections.

Restrictions to the electoral campaigns through the media refer to hate speeches or defamation of other candidate, the use of PNA symbols for campaign purposes, the provisions on the Election Silence.

The CEC signed an agreement with the Public Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) to provide Free Airtime for candidates and political parties in accordance with the Election Law. The 11 electoral lists join an-hour talk show each broadcasted by the order of registration; each list have the right to produce and air a 10-minutes spot; the candidates at district level are entitled to submit a 2-minutes address. Paid political advertisements are forbidden in the official media; on the contrary private media are free to sell space and airtime to parties and candidates.

⁴ Reporter Without Borders – Report 2005.

Figure 5 Free Airtime in the Official Media



The CEC lacks of direct enforcement mechanism of the regulations with no power to sanction violations. The complaints filed to the CEC will be conveyed to the Court; while the Ministry of Information is entitled to issue written cautions against media violating the relevant provisions.

The Advertising Agency Al-Nasher is in charge of the media monitoring of the election campaign on behalf of the CEC.

6.3 Media Monitoring on the EUEOM West Bank and Gaza

The EU EOM Media Unit is monitoring the election campaign on a sample of Palestinian media with relevant coverage in West Bank and Gaza:



Radios (every day from 7.00 – 13.00)
Voice of Palestine (official radio)
Amwaji Radio (private)

TV Channels (every day from 18.00 – 24.00)
Palestine TV (official television)
Al-Jazeera (private)
WWatan TV (private)



Newspapers (every day)
Al-Quds: Jerusalem based, largest circulation
Al-Ayam: Ramallah based
Al-Haya-Jadida: PNA daily

The media monitoring includes both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The team of media monitors were trained with the methodology normally used by the EU Election Observation Missions to measure the time, space and tone devoted to the political parties, candidates, members of PLO and PNA.

The media monitoring aims at providing reliable data on the

distribution of time and space given to each political contestant, thus verifying if the media system guaranteed a sufficient level of information on the various political alternatives in a balance and fair manner.

6.4 Brief Notes on media related issues during the campaign (AS OF 11 JANUARY):

- An outstanding effort of various institutions, including the CEC, Universities, NGOs, women's groups, in producing voter education and information programmes was noted during the election period. All the media outlets frequently broadcasted spots inviting people to vote, explaining when, where and how to vote. The voter education was performed in a proper and effective manner.
- A positive effect of the Free Airtime on the overall pluralistic access to the media was noted. Yet the planning of free airtime for each candidate at the district level faced some difficulties thus failing to provide an equal time to all the candidates.
- A massive use of Paid Political Advertisements by the most prominent electoral lists was carried out on the private media. The paid time is not clearly regulated thus jeopardizing the equal opportunities for all the contestants: the costs of advertising have not fixed rates and the paid space is not clearly marked as paid.
- A general bias in favor of the ruling party Fatah and the PNA members was noted in newscasts and current event programmes of the official media (PBC and Al-Haya-Jadida).
- Hamas launched a new TV station in Gaza: Al Aqsa TV is an extension of Al Aqsa radio. Ahmad Soboh, deputy minister of Information, stated that they did not receive a license.
- The satellite channel Al Arabiya received threats by the Al Aqsa Brigades after broadcasting a documentary on female suicide bombers.

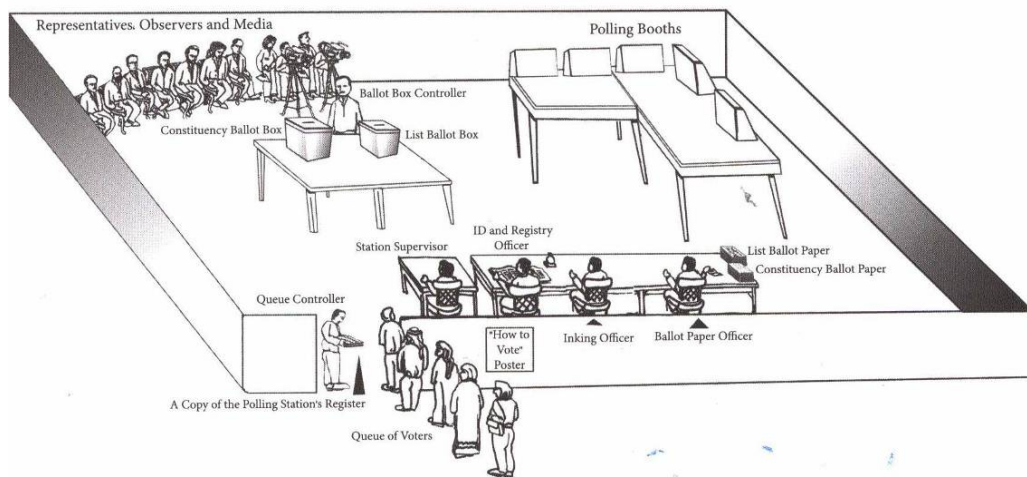
7. Election Day Procedures

Election Day is an official holiday and polling hours are from 07am to 07pm as stipulated by Article 09 of the Election Law- *however polling hours may be extended until 09pm.*

7.1 Opening Procedure

The Polling Station (PS) staff should be in the PS at 06.00; at 06.30am the PS chairperson starts filling in a special form for the employees and identifies those staff members who are (still) absent. In case some staff member does not arrive until 07.00 at her/his duty PS, the chairperson calls the respective district office, which will then send another employee instead. In the absence of any procedural termination EOM was informed by CEC officials that at least four PS staff members should be operational at any time.

The Polling Centre (PC) and its PS should be arranged in such way that polling can be conducted in an orderly manner. I.e. the PC manager starts hanging copies of the extract of the Voter Registry and the codes of conduct for polling officials, agents and representatives, observers and journalists in a clear display.



When the PS staff is ready and the arrangements are completed the polling officials start checking the party agents' and list/ candidate representatives' accreditation cards, like those of the domestic and international observers.

The chairperson brings the ballot boxes and opens them so all can see that they are empty and puts the boxes in a place to be seen by everybody.

Then s/he will close the ballot boxes in front of all and register the serial number of the seals; after that it is not allowed to open the boxes until the polling process is concluded. At the same time the observers and the agents can comment or file complains about the opening process by filling in a special Central Election Office form.

The chairperson fills in the official opening form and then all the staff members, agents, representatives and observers are to read and sign this form. At 07.00 exactly the PS door is to be opened to begin the polling process.

In cases a PS is opened late the DEO is to be informed immediately. Polling hours are not to be extended for the 'lost time' unless CEC decides to extend the polling hours.

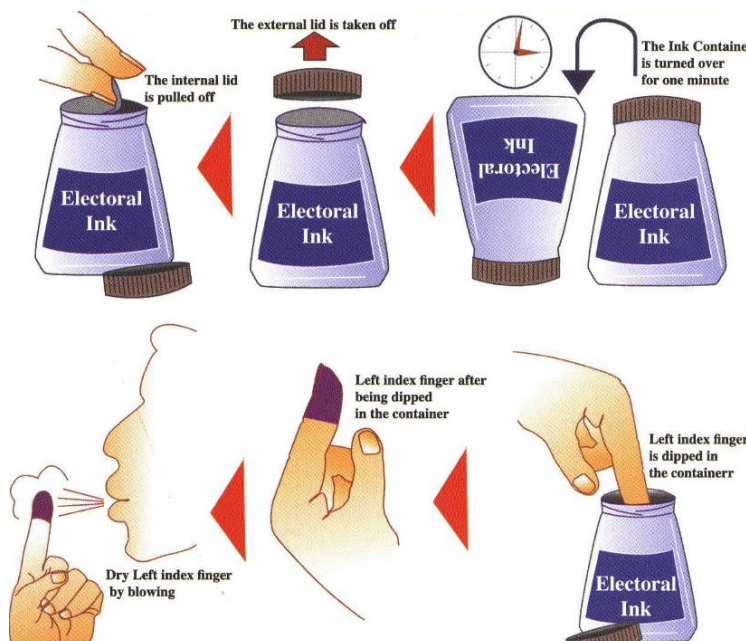
7.2 Voting Procedure

- 1 Voter is received in PC by PC manager and her/his assistant and relocated to the respective PS
- 2 Voter is then checked by PS Queue Controller for ink and ID. If it seems that he had ink on her/his finger he should not vote and should leave the PC.

The official documents accepted for identification are:

- Palestinian ID
(red PNA ID for Gaza, green PNA IF for WB or, orange – old PNA ID for WB).
- Palestinian Passport.
- Jerusalem ('blue') ID or
- Foreign Passports with visa to enter Palestine.

- 3 The PS staff member responsible for checking the VL should find the voter's serial number on the registration slip and verify her/his ID. (The FVL is to be in alphabetical order.) If the voter's name does not appear in the FVL, her/his name is to be checked on the separate 'list of eliminations'. Once found on the FVL the 'ID and Registry Officer' marks the name of the voter on the FVL .
- 4 The next step is to ink the voters left index finger, by paying **attention**
 - o that the voter signed on the FVL
 - o that there is no kind of material on his hand preventing the ink from remaining on the finger.
 - o that the voter waits approx. 8 seconds so that the ink will dry on the finger.
 - o That the voter's ID has been returned

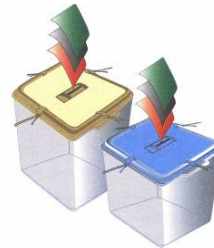


- 5 The 'ballot issuer' stamps the two different ballot papers and hands them over to the voter.
- 6 Voter enters booth to mark the two given ballots

In case the voter spoiled one or both ballots she/he can return the ballot(s) to the 'ballot issuer', who then marks it/them as spoiled and hands out one/two new stamped ballot paper(s).

The CEC will issue a particular order, specifying those acceptable ballot marks, which are not explicitly foreseen by the election law.

- 7 Voter folds the two ballots and inserts them in the two ballot boxes
 - a. the bigger one for the 'district race' and
 - b. the smaller one for the 'national race'
- 8 The 'Ballot Boxes' Controller' has to make sure that
 - a. the voter folded the paper when he put it in the boxes
 - b. the correct ballot is put properly into the correct ballot box
 - c. the voter leaves the PS.



Provisions for voters with special needs (i.e. who are illiterate, disabled or blind)

These voters can choose one of their relatives or someone else (who may be underage) to help them cast their ballots. For that the voter must inform the PS chairperson. The voter and her/his assistant then have to sign special forms to confirm the assistance and for the assistant to declare that s/he will not assist any other voter afterwards.

Provisions for female voters who are veiled

The same general regulations are to be applied as for all other voters, only that it should be a female polling officer who lifts the veil to verify the identity of the voter in accordance with the photo on the ID. The female voter should also give permission for a male polling officer to ink her finger.

Provisions for voters who are security officials and are entitled to cast their ballot within three days prior to the general polling day

In general the same general provisions are to be applied as for the 25 January 2006. These voters are also only allowed to vote in the district where they are registered as voters. If she/he is registered as a voter, but her/his name does not appear in the 'VL for advanced polling' she/he can vote on 25 January 2006 as a 'regular voter'.

In case security officials vote on 25 January it is forbidden for them to carry weapons in the PC.

Provisions for 'political prisoners' in Jericho jail

The same general regulations are to be applied as for all other voters, only that these voters can for national lists and 'Jericho district candidates', even if the imprisoned voters are registered as voters in other districts. (This CEC policy was adopted in reference to the absence of any legal provision for absentee voting.)

7.3 Closing Procedure

At 07pm the closing of polling is to be announced and only those voters already in line at the PS (NOT PC) are still entitled to vote. At the very end the polling officials, agents, representatives and observers can cast their ballots. Then

- the PS doors are to be closed
- the ballot boxes are to be closed
- the unused ballot papers are to be counted
- the official closing forms to be filled, signed and put in respective envelopes
- possible complaints to be recorded.

7.4 Counting Procedure

Basic principles for counting:

1. each PS starts the counting process when closing is finished
2. the counting process should not be interrupted for any reason
3. each PS staff counts its two sets of ballots separately
4. the counting procedure should be announced in a loud voice so all agents, representatives, observers and journalists can adequately see and hear what is going on
5. no weapons allowed during the counting process
6. no communication to the 'outside world' or leaving of the PS is allowed until the overall process is completed

Steps to be taken:

1. Bring all the tables together to make a big table all officials can sit around.
2. Start filling in the forms with regard to name and number of PC and PS.
3. State the numbers of voters allocated to the PS.
As described by law the counting of the 'national list – ballots' must be first
4. Count the used ballot papers
5. Count the unused ballot papers
6. Count the number of voters' signatures on the FVL
7. Check number of voters' signatures against number of used and spoiled ballots
Any difference is noted, but not necessarily considered an irregularity
8. All election materials are secured and polling report forms are signed
9. Ballot box is unsealed and ballots are poured onto table, unfolded and placed face-down; the PS staff members should organize the ballots in piles of 50 ballots
Ballots not bearing the stamp are to be separated
10. Total number of ballots is determined and any difference from the number of voters is noted
11. Ballots sorted to determine valid and invalid ballots. Invalid and unclear ballots are to be checked and decided on. Here the chairperson should allow all persons present to verify the decision.

Invalid Votes

- Unofficial ballot
- Ballot not containing the official stamp
- Ballot with more marks than allowed for that ballot in that district
- Ballot with no vote cast
- Ballot on which intent of voter cannot be identified
- Ballot on which a voter can be identified (e.g. mark, thumb print, signature)
- A ballot partially or completely torn
- Ballot on which other objects are attached (money, stickers, photos, etc.)

Agents and representatives can challenge the determination of invalid ballots.

However, agents, representatives, observers are not to touch the ballots

The chairperson's decision is final.

Complainants can record their objection in the official complaint-booklet and receive a carbon copy of it.

12. **NATIONAL RACE** - Ballots are to be placed in separate piles for list. Valid ballots are counted, with chairperson reading out each vote and two PS staff members taking records of the ballot figures.
13. When all ballots are sorted and counted, piles re-checked to determine final figures each list or candidate
14. **DISTRICT RACE** – details will be provided during the briefing in Jerusalem.
15. Two copies of vote tabulation lists are signed by the chairperson and all present party agents, list or candidate representative

16. Polling station results are publicly proclaimed by the chairperson
17. Five copies of vote count reports are signed (maybe a thumb-print) by chairperson and agents and representatives, who may receive a copy.
Refusal to sign by an agent or representative does not affect validity.
18. Results are publicly posted at polling station (**yellow carbon copy**)
19. Materials and reports are immediately dispatched to the PC manager using the official envelopes, bags and two ballot boxes.
20. After PS chairpersons submitted the 15 official envelopes (with all respective records, forms and protocols) and the election material to the PC manager and her/his assistant, the PS manager will submit all envelopes to the DEO, while her/his assistant will transport the election material (**incl. the ballots**) to the DEO's storage premises.

Finishing the counting process and announcing PS results

When the polling staff finished the counting process it shall:

1. Make sure that all invalid ballots are in the respective envelopes.
2. Make sure all blank ballots for the lists are put in a special envelope, and the blank ballots for the districts in its special envelope.
3. Make sure all invalid papers from both kinds (lists, districts) are put in their special two envelopes.
4. Put all valid ballots for the two kinds in their special two envelopes distinguishing each package, writing down the total number of ballots on the envelopes.
5. Put all unused ballots besides the stub of all used ballot papers in their special two envelopes, and write down separately the number of ballots and number of stub on the envelopes.
6. Put the electoral seal and electoral ink in a special envelope.
7. Put the used seals in a special envelope.
8. Put all envelopes, voting and counting materials in the voting boxes and close them
9. Put all the material and the voting and counting envelopes, except the counting records and the notebooks, inside the two ballot boxes .
10. The PS chairperson shall close the two ballot boxes with three seals for the list box and five seals for the district box in different colors than have been used in closing the boxes before voting process took place.

Displaying the PS results

After the PS chairperson read the two counting notebooks to the audience, she/he shall cut the yellow carbons from the two notebooks to hang on the door of the station, and keep the remaining copies (the white original, the green and red carbon copies) in the notebook.

Delivering all election material to the PC Manager and her/his Assistant

The PS chairperson and her/his staff members shall deliver the ballot boxes and the envelope to the PC Manager and her/his assistant upon written receipt.

Closing the Polling Centers and delivery of the election material

When the counting process is concluded in all PS's the PC Manager and her/his Assistant shall

1. Collect all envelopes
2. Collect all special attendance forms for the stations and attach them with absence cases in the center and put them all in the special envelope for the administrative forms, and put the envelope in a second pouch for the assistant of the center officer.
3. Collect all delivered material that he received (incl. the copies of VL, the center sign, communication device and its charger)
4. The PC Manager then delivers the envelopes to the DEO – WHILE her/his Assistant transports the election material (all, except the envelopes) to the DEO storage premises.
5. At the DEO the assigned DE officer shall receive the envelopes and that completes the PC Manager's responsibility

7.5 Tabulation on District Level

The district office will:

- Receive polling records and protocols from the Polling Center Managers and issue a written receipt
- District Coordinator will immediately transmit the protocol results and details to CEC
- DEO will, tabulate district results manually and electronically at the same time these data are processed in the CEC 'Data Entry Center' in Ramallah) but will **NOT** declare any official district-level results
- DEO sends all election materials to CEC
- DEO has to review complaints made in polling stations and take preliminary decisions latest the day after polling, on the basis of assessing to what extent the alleged irregularity might affect the local preliminary results.

The EUEOM is concerned with:

- Whether DEOs properly receive all PS results
- Did some PC managers face reported obstacles in the delivery of materials?
- The level of transparency of the process at the DEO
- As observers did you have access to all aspects of the process?
- Was there a heavy security presence inside the DEO or even involved in the processing?
- The effectiveness of their work
- Was the DEO transmitting results as they came in or did they wait until they had collected them all?
- Were the DEOs ready and able to receive all materials?
- *In conclusion are you generally satisfied with the credibility of the result from your DEO?*

7.6 Compilation of district results & establishing the general preliminary results by CEC

In accordance with the Election Law half of the 132 PLC seats (66) are assigned to be filled from the national lists running in one country-wide constituency. Having accumulated all valid votes given to the respective 11 national lists the first step to be taken is to identify those contesting lists which passed the 2% threshold of all valid votes as foreseen by law (EL §5). As a next step the 'Sainte Laguë method' is applied in order to assign the number of seats each national list won in the national race.

- The CEC receives the tabulation forms and protocols from all election districts after polling and counting has been conducted locally and the tabulation on district level.
- At its HQ the CEC establishes the general (preliminary) results
- in applying the SL-method as follows:
- *"the percentage of valid votes obtained by each list is calculated to determine which one qualifies; the number of valid voted of each party which has crossed the threshold is divided by successive odd numbers 1/3/5/7..., etc; the division results are then arranged in descending order; seats are then allocated according to that order starting from the highest number" (CEC publication) and ending when the 66th seat has been allocated*
- to allocate the 'district seats'
- The total number of seats allocated to the 16 electoral districts is 66 and the respective number of 'district seats' is determined in proportion to the percentage of the general population.
- The CEC "shall publish the general preliminary results of the elections in the media within 24 hours of preparation." (EL §89) - *this article should be interpreted in such way that late on 26 January 2006 such statement should be made by the CEC.*
- The ballots, stored in the meanwhile in the CEO/DEO warehouses, may only be re-opened in case of a complaint regarding specific polling station results

- Accredited party agents, list and candidate representatives, domestics and international election observers and journalist are allowed to observe the reception of all relevant forms and protocols, and the data processing at all levels.

7.7 Complaints and Appeals on Election Day

As described by the EL (#09, §102-108) there are various punishable electoral offences, also applicable on polling day, such as taking a weapon into a polling station, threatening or obstructing voters, assisting non-eligible voters, forcing a person to reveal who they voted for, bribery, multiple voting or the falsification, destruction or damage of electoral materials and protocols.

- Disputes raised in the polling station are to be dealt with by the chairperson, whose decision is final. Objections can be recorded in the polling station complaint form.
- During the review of the PS and PC reports the DEO election affairs officer takes preliminary decisions on the complaint made.
- All registered voters, contestants or citizens may file a complaint with a relevant DEO against the preliminary results or against results of any polling station of that district. This must be done not later than three days after the publication of the preliminary local results.
- Decisions of the DEO can be appealed to the CEC and their decisions to the EAC, which is the final instance.
- Any re-runs must be held within 14 days from the first day of respective elections

8. Observation Methodology and Election Day Reporting

8.1 Short-Term Observers (STOs)

STOs are a crucial part of the work of the EOM. Their observation reports from the field on Election Day and the days immediately surrounding the election enable the Mission to make a credible assessment of the standard of the election. There are proportionally a very large number of STOs on the EUEOM West Bank and Gaza, and although we will not be able to deploy many observers to Gaza, it will still be possible for us to cover around half the total number of polling stations.

STOs work in teams of two. Each team operates in an identified area in one of the sixteen electoral districts of the West Bank and Gaza. The LTO teams are responsible for managing and guiding STOs during the election period.

The STO deployment plan is devised with criteria of: previous election experience; previous country experience; gender balance; national balance; age balance; and, number of STOs available. The EUEOM regrets that the deployment cannot be changed. The EUEOM appreciates everyone's understanding that some STOs may be placed in more difficult living and traveling circumstances than others and some in areas that are more expensive.

8.2 Duties and Skills of an STO

A brief summary of the STO job description is:

- to attend the briefing for STOs on 21 January
- to observe, time permitting:
 - o the end of the campaign;
 - o the voting and counting in a number of polling stations; and
 - o if possible, the local tabulation process.
- to report regularly on their observations
- to take reasonable care of themselves and local assistants
- to attend de-briefings on the day following elections
- respect at all times the EU Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct attached to the Declaration of Principles

8.3 General Observation Issues

- EU observers are guests in the West Bank and Gaza. This should be respected.
- The methodology used by the EU observers is not that of comparison to elections in their home country, but against international standards relating to elections and the domestic legislation. Realistic, not comparative, assessments are required.
- As a matter of courtesy, observers should always introduce themselves to the chairperson of the polling station and the rest of the polling staff; accreditation documents should be displayed at all times. Explain that you will be observing the process and have some questions to ask. Choose an appropriate moment to ask the questions – do not interrupt the voting or counting processes.
- Any refusal to allow observers into a polling station must be reported immediately to your LTOs.
- Observers should never touch any item of sensitive election material, such as ballot papers.
- The EUEOM needs reports from polling stations that reflect the quality of observation not quantity. A minimum of 30 minutes in each polling station is recommended.
- Short Term Observers should stay in their teams of two and observe one polling station at a time.

8.4 Observing the Opening

- Observers should be present at the first polling station at 06:30 – about half an hour before opening time (which is at 07.00).

8.5 Observing the Voting

- Observers should be positioned to have a good view of the process and should move around the polling station to get different viewpoints.
- Observers should use the observation form to guide their observations and questions.
- Observers should try to meet with domestic observers and candidate/electoral list agents present; however, sensitivity should be given to the circumstances and atmosphere in the polling station. In certain instances, it may be useful to offer national observers a notebook to make their comments.
- Remember to complete an observation form for each polling station. And remember to return the forms as instructed.

8.6 Observing the Count

- Observers should arrive at the polling station in which they will observe the count at the latest at 18:30 – half an hour before the close of voting at 19:00. Voters present in the polling station are still allowed to vote.
- Observers should be prepared to remain at the polling station until the counts are complete; leaving and re-entering the polling station is only allowed by the permission of the polling station chairperson.
- If counting does not start immediately, observers should note whether the ballot boxes are secure and sealed.

8.7 Observing the Tabulation

- Observers should accompany the delivery of the results to the district election office and observe the process as instructed by the LTO teams. Some STO teams will be instructed to stay in the district office throughout the night as the results from different polling stations arrive and to observe tabulation. This team may be instructed by their respective LTO team to start later in the day but observe later into the night.

8.8 Reporting STO Observation

- STOs will be briefed on the report forms they must complete. It is recommended that they are read in advance so questions on unclear aspects not covered in the briefing can be answered.
- LTO teams will brief STO teams on the logistics of submitting completed observation forms, which will be by fax or personal drop-offs.

8.9 STO Forms

Statistical Information

- The EUEOM West Bank and Gaza will use an established and proven methodology to gain a statistical analysis of election day observations. In order for this to succeed, each STO team will need to complete specially-drafted observation forms. The forms can immediately identify areas of concern. Each form also allows for the team's narrative observation to describe specific issues.
- In order for the statistical analysis to succeed, it is vital that the form identification details at the top of each form are fully and accurately filled out. If this information is not filled out correctly it may not be possible to input the form into the computer. In such a case your observation will not form part of the overall Mission conclusions.

(PLEASE USE BLACK PEN TO COMPLETE FORM)

Team No.				District		Centre No.			PS No.		Time of Arrival (hh:mm)				Time of Depart (hh:mm)			

- Each STO has a unique team number, displayed on the STO deployment list. The first two digits indicate the LTO area of responsibility within which the STO operates.
- Each of the 16 districts have been given a specific number by the CEC. STOs should confirm with their LTO team the exact number of the district. Almost all STOs will be limited in their coverage to a single district.
- To ensure an overall evaluation can be made, each form should include the team's time of arrival and departure. The 24-hour clock should be used.

It is also vital that observers fill in correctly the polling station type – details will be provided on the different types of polling stations during your briefing in Jerusalem.

PS type: Regular ☐ Early voting ☐ Special ☐ Post Office ☐

The Forms

- Each team will fill out one “**Observation of Voting**” report form for each visit to a Polling Station.
- At the final polling station visited, each team will additionally fill out one “**Observation of Counting**” report form.
- If there is insufficient space in the comments section of an observation form, please use the additional **comments sheets** provided in your booklets.
- Observers may also complete an “Incident Report Form” in cases of observation of **serious violations** such as: violence; serious intimidation directed towards agents, observers or PEC members; directly observed instances of ballot box stuffing (i.e. actual stuffing seen or clearly observed stuffing visible inside ballot box); systematic open voting; and, serious misconduct by polling staff or unauthorised persons. STOs will be briefed thoroughly on the definition of such violations and criteria for observation.
- STOs may have a chance to observe tabulation of results at TEC level as instructed by LTO Team.

- All Report Forms will be used to produce a statistical analysis of election day voting and counting procedures which should be completed by about 0800 on Thursday 26 January. The data analysis produced will be examined in conjunction with feedback from the STO regional de-briefings and will be included in the EOM Preliminary Statement.

8.10 Possible Problems for STOs: Dealing with Situations

When approached by members of the media:

The EU Election Observation Mission West Bank and Gaza 2006 has a high public profile. We are the biggest mission, our vehicles and personnel are clearly marked and we do have the respect of the general public.

It is therefore highly likely that you will be approached by journalists.

You are not obliged to speak to them. It is your decision. You can always say: "I am sorry but I have to do my work and cannot speak to you now. Please call the Press Officer of the Mission, **Mathias Eick**. He can answer all your queries. Here is his phone number – **054 6979287**"

Always try and stay courteous, you are also ambassadors of this Mission so your behavior towards the media does reflect on the Mission as a whole. Remember that your behaviour and statements will be reported in the world's media, including those read/seen by senior EU officials in Brussels. Therefore, stay positive and friendly, even if you say "No".

If you do speak to the media, the following guidelines may be very helpful:

- Ask the journalist for his/her name and the name of the media they represent and note it down
- Introduce yourself who you are and where you are from
- Explain how you are doing your job as an STO
- Explain how the observation mission is structured throughout the country
- Explain that we have had a long-term observation, covering the campaign, media and election administration process
- Explain that all the long-term and short-term observations will be considered and a preliminary press statement will be issued on 26 January 2006, the day after the elections

A political party representative brings a complaint to you about the process

Accept a copy or take notes, and assure the representative that you will look into it and will bring it to the attention of the EOM HQ. It is important to remind them that they should give the actual complaint to the relevant election commission. We are not electoral policemen – we are here to observe the process. Do not act as a go-between between the complainant and the Election Commission.

You drive into a town and there is a violent incident happening

Do not get involved. You are here to observe an election, not local violence. You should not put yourself or your driver and interpreter in any danger at all. If possible, park at a safe distance from the incident in order to ascertain whether it is election-related or not. If it is, observe from a safe distance if possible and when the situation has calmed down attempt to get more information from the police or relevant local authority. You might also later approach the political parties in order to get their side of the story.

DO NOT PUT YOURSELF OR YOUR DRIVER AND INTERPRETER IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION. IT IS PARTICULARLY UNFAIR FOR YOUR DRIVER AND INTERPRETER, WHO MIGHT FEEL OBLIGED TO ACCOMPANY YOU EVEN IF THEY ARE SCARED.

A polling station official asks you to give instructions on an electoral procedure

DO NOT GIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE ELECTION PROCEDURES OR LAW.

Do not give an interpretation, because you are then taking responsibility for the outcome. We are not permitted to interfere in the process. If relevant, you may feel it appropriate to point to a page in the polling or counting procedures – but do not do more than this.

Your driver or interpreter is being too active and starts to get involved in the observation

The role of the driver is clear: they are to drive and perhaps offer local advice. The role of the interpreter is to facilitate your communications with officials and others, accurately, in an unbiased manner, and without subjective interpretation or characterization. They should not get involved in the observation or discussions with officials or the public. They certainly should not start arguing with officials or party representatives or other members of the public.

If the driver or interpreter start being too proactive, take them to one side and calmly explain the correct mode of behaviour. It is up to you to manage your driver and interpreter – but do it in a polite but assertive manner. (You do not want your driver to quit on election day, as in reality there will not be time to find a replacement.)

Your driver keeps driving too fast or in a dangerous manner

The same advice applies as above. You have to give calm but assertive and clear instructions. You have to manage your driver, but again do not alienate them, just clearly state how you expect them to behave.

9. Logistics

9.1 Accommodation

The mission will make reservations for suitable accommodation in each district, and for briefing/debriefing events.

The cost of the accommodation is to be born by the observers themselves.

9.2 Transport

Each team will be provided with one vehicle for the period of their deployment.

All vehicles will be supplied with first aid kits, fire extinguisher, triangle, tools, spare tire, adequate legal documentation and a third party passenger insurance. Observers should ensure that all these items are available in the car during all travel.

The LTOs will provide the STOs with information regarding traveling and with maps for each district.

The STOs must assure that no unauthorized person travels in the EUEOM vehicles and that drivers adhere to rules and regulations set up by the mission.

Mission vehicles can only be driven by drivers contracted by the IP. Observers are not allowed to drive themselves more than in emergency situations.

9.3 Communications

The STO bases/accommodation will be located in an area with mobile phone coverage. There are several mobile operators with coverage of the areas of responsibility and the mission will provide each team with the mobile system which allows for maximum coverage in the respective districts.

Teams located in high security phased areas will also receive a satellite phone.

STO team based in the Gaza Strip will be provided with a MIRS radio-telephone.

For transmission of elections data between districts and mission HQ fax machines will be used to a large extent.

9.4 Briefings

There will be an STO briefing in Jerusalem upon arrival in the country and a debriefing before departure. It is also foreseen to have a regional briefing and debriefing in each district arranged by the LTOs.

9.5 Observer Kits

All observers will be provided with an observer kit containing visibility material and communications equipment. Observer clothes and stickers will bear the EUEOMWBG logo.

9.6 Health

The teams will be provided with first aid kits which should be kept in the vehicles. Contacts to local hospitals and emergency services will be provided separately in the contact folder and in the LTO district briefings.

9.7 Accreditations and ID-cards

There will be three different types of accreditations and IDs

- a) An election observer accreditation provided by the Central Election Committee.
- b) An Israeli accreditation provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- c) An EU ID-card issued by the mission

Observer should carry these accreditations and IDs with them at all times together with their duly stamped passports. Upon entering in the country the Immigration authorities usually stamps the passport on a separate document. This document should always be carried together with the passport.

9.8 LTO Bases

The LTO bases and accommodation are listed below. Further contact details to the LTOs will be provided in separate contact folders.

Ltos teams	Hotel	Address	Tel/Fax	Email
Lto 1	Jenin	EMAD JABREN Building	Basaten Str. –Yahya Ayash Sq.	tel: 04 250 24 27
Lto 2		JENIN	fax: 04 243 06 70	
Lto 3				
Lto 4	Tulkarem	The Arab Women Society	P.O.Box 179	Tel. 09-267 12 71/Fax: 09-2678725
Lto 5	Nablus	Al Qasr Hotel	P.O.Box 1744	Tel. 09/238 54 44
Lto 6		Al Qasr st.	Fax: 09/238 59 44	alqasr@alqsrhotel.com
Lto 7				
Lto 8	Ramallah	Gemzo Suites	P.O.Box 4101, Al-Bireh	Tel. 02 2409729
Lto 9			Fax: 02 2409532	gemzo@palnet.com
Lto 10	Jerusalem	Hotel Saint George	P.O.Box 19548	Tel.972-2-6277232/3
Lto 11		Jerusalem 91194	Fax: 972-2-6282575	gm@hotelstgeorge-jer.com
Lto 12	Jericho	Keft Alwad, Ajlani Building		Tel: 0522 5792 62
Lto 13	Bethlehem	Bethlehem Hotel	P.O.Box 1069	Tel.970 2 2770702/Fax 2770706
Lto 14	Hebron	Regency Al Mezan Hotel	P.O.Box 307	Tel. 00970 2 225 73 89/98
Lto 15			Fax: 09-2678725	
Lto 16				
Lto17	Gaza	Beirut Tower	Beirut Str.	Tel.Fax. 082 865 865
Lto 18				

Annex A: EUEOM WBG 2005 Presidential Elections Final Report (Extract)

Executive Summary

1. The 9 January 2005 election for the president of the Palestinian Authority represented a genuine effort to conduct a regular electoral process. Despite the difficult and tense conditions, Palestinian electoral authorities made adequate and sufficient arrangements for voters and the public was enthusiastic to exercise its democratic rights. However, the occupation and continuing violence as well as restrictions on freedom of movement meant that a truly free election was always going to be difficult to achieve.
2. With the exception of some tense parts of the Gaza Strip, the process on election day in the regular polling stations was generally peaceful and voters had sufficient freedom of movement. Checkpoints were noticeably relaxed in some areas, but problems remained in Nablus, Hebron and parts of Gaza. Observers noted that the process in the regular polling stations was well conducted and polling station commissions worked extremely hard and diligently to administer the voting.
3. However there is concern at the decision by the PLC to amend the Law to provide for the use of the civil register for the voting process in addition to the normal Voters List. The Civil Register was not a reliable document and its use placed a great burden on the electoral authorities. Further, the decision in the late afternoon on the day of the election to allow people to vote at the special 'civil register' polling stations even if they were not on the list was outside of the law and impacted negatively on the proper administration of voting at these places.
4. It is clear that this decision by the Central Elections Commission (CEC) to change the procedures during the day of the election was only undertaken after serious and sustained pressure by political authorities. This pressure also subsequently resulted in senior election officials considering their resignation. Such action is unacceptable in a democratic election and the Palestinian leadership is strongly urged to ensure that this is not repeated in future elections as it is highly damaging for the quality and credibility of the process.
5. There is also concern at the lack of proper electoral procedures for voters and candidates in East Jerusalem, and it was noted that on election day people faced a lack of clear information and administrative obstacles in exercising their voting right. The Protocol on Elections does not provide proper or reasonable electoral conditions, such as by limiting the process to just five post offices, and the position taken by the Israeli Authorities with regard to refusing to allow Palestinian election officials to be involved in the post offices, refusing to allow adequate preparation by the DEC, together with their closing down of the registration of voters in September, had a profoundly negative impact on the electoral process in Jerusalem. It is clear that for the coming elections the present Israeli-Palestinian agreement concerning elections in East Jerusalem requires reconsideration in order to avoid further tension and problems.
6. The election campaign passed off without major incident directly linked to the campaign, but restrictions were placed on the freedom of movement of candidates. This caused considerable frustration among candidates as they faced obstacles in gaining access to voters, notably in East Jerusalem and Gaza. However, the campaign was vigorously contested, with candidates utilising media advertising and eventually conducting rallies in most areas. Freedom of movement would have been greatly facilitated by clearer and more timely procedures for the granting of permits for candidates and their staff.
7. Overall media coverage of the election campaign provided all candidates with access, though with considerable variances in levels of visibility. Whilst the allocation of a considerable amount of free airtime on public broadcasters (TV and radio) was a positive innovation, the excessive coverage afforded to Mahmoud Abbas in news broadcasts on public TV and radio, as well as in the publicly financed Al-Hayat daily newspaper, was a serious shortcoming.

8. With the exception of East Jerusalem the voter registration process conducted by the CEC between September and November 2004 was highly credible, capturing some 71% of the electorate.
9. There was wide misuse of public resources in favour of Mahmoud Abbas, with public officials seen campaigning in his favour. The law is clear that such abuse should not be allowed, but the electoral authorities took no action despite numerous complaints.
10. Despite the noted shortcomings, it is clear that given the context in which it was held this election represents an achievement and an opportunity. Whilst democracy cannot necessarily be consolidated in one or two elections, the practice for Palestinian leaders to seek legitimacy through the ballot box is being entrenched and the spirit in which the Palestinian people registered and participated are strong indicators of a will to follow the path of the rule of law and popular participation.
11. It remains clear that many of the problems facing the election stemmed from the wider political context and the impact of the existing occupation and conflict. For the electoral process the challenge now is to learn from this experience by further strengthening the independence of the CEC, ensuring more rigorous enforcement of the legal provisions and clarifying and developing the legislative framework in time for the proposed Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections later in the year.

Recommendations

Ensure electoral arrangements are finalised in good time

1. All electoral arrangements need to be considered and agreed in good time to avoid the late finalisation of the electoral arrangements and the consequent poor provision of information to voters and candidates.

Provide Reasonable Electoral Conditions for Candidates and Voters in East Jerusalem

2. This is particularly relevant to any arrangements which require a Palestinian-Israeli agreement, as this proved to be extremely time consuming and problematic.
3. It is imperative that the electoral process in East Jerusalem is conducted in an equal manner as far as possible in comparison to the other electoral constituencies. Whilst it is understood that Annex II of the Declaration of Principles may still be relevant, it is hoped that good will and common sense will prevail in this respect to prevent a recurrence of the problems which characterised the process in Jerusalem in both 1996 and 2005.
4. There must be a full and inclusive registration of Palestinian voters in Jerusalem, with clear information provided as to where they will vote on election day.
5. Voters must receive assurances that their participation in the electoral process will not in any way jeopardise their rights and status as Jerusalem ID card holders.
6. The arrangements for election campaigning, including the establishment of campaign offices for candidates and the free movement of candidates throughout the constituency must be articulated in good time before the start of the campaign.
7. Candidates eligible to stand for election in Jerusalem, but currently residing elsewhere, must be afforded proper access to the constituency.
8. Proper, reasonable and adequate provision must be made for voting by all registered voters in the vicinity in which they live, in accordance with basic international electoral standards of equal treatment, secrecy of the vote and convenient provision of adequate polling places.
9. If the postal services should remain the provider of infrastructural support to the voting process, then this should not necessarily in itself mean there is a limitation on the number of premises that can

be provided, as based on examples elsewhere in the world when there is an increased “seasonal” demand for postal services, temporary postal facilities can be utilised.

10. Regular electoral officials should be permitted to oversee the proper conduct of the election, possibly in a supervisory role so that problems can be properly addressed.

Ensure the Independence and Integrity of Electoral Administrative Bodies

11. The EUEOM strongly recommends that political authorities undertake to respect the independence of the CEC and its subordinate bodies in all districts, in the interests of the integrity and legitimacy of the electoral process. This is a question of political will, as the required provisions are already present in the law.
12. It is encouraging that the newly-elected President has apparently reiterated this, but it now must be seen to be the case as the CEC prepares for the crucial PLC elections. Any repetition of these pressures and interference would have serious consequences for the integrity of the electoral process in future elections.
13. Further, the suggested changes to CEC and DEC procedures (see below) would add extra safeguards in this respect.
14. In addition, agreement on or reiteration of clear and binding procedures for the registration and voting rights of security and police personnel would help to avoid any repetition of the highly detrimental pressure to which the CEC and other electoral management bodies were subjected to during this election, as well as serve to prevent such large numbers of public servants from potentially losing their rights. The CEC and Ministry of Interior should ensure that the procedures for this are agreed and implemented in good time before the next election.
15. The EUEOM also wants to stress that there is no requirement for the CEC to resign following an election. There is no legal imperative for this and it would bring into question the independence of the body.

Conduct Voter Registration and end the use of Civil Register for Electoral Purposes

16. The law should be amended to end the use of the civil register in the electoral process.
17. There should be a parallel end for a need for ‘special polling stations’.
18. A period of supplementary voter registration is organised to provide reasonable opportunity for persons not on the voter list to confirm their eligibility and be added to the list and informed of the location of their regular polling station.
19. Voters should be made aware that they have a responsibility to present themselves for registration and political parties and civil society organisations should be mobilised to publicise the registration process, ensuring as many eligible persons as possible are reached.

Provide Appropriate Freedom of Movement for Electoral Stakeholders

20. The law is amended again to end the possibility for the use of the civil register for voting purposes, meaning that for future voting there are just regular polling stations and regular polling lists.
21. The EUEOM strongly recommends that the electoral process must enjoy the basic freedoms of movement and assembly. Even in the worst case scenario whereby Israeli forces are still imposing strict measures, given sufficient time it should still be possible to expand upon the procedures employed for the 9 January election in order to put in place adequate arrangements for the proposed July elections, where the number of candidates will be significantly larger.

Enforce the Prohibition on Involvement of Public Authorities in the

22. It is important that the law on the prohibition of abuse of “state resources” is respected and enforced, ending the pervasive practice during the 9 January elections of support being provided to one

Electoral Campaign

- candidate by PA officials and institutions.
23. Internal guidelines for public bodies and public figures should be developed, explaining clearly what is permissible and what is not.
 24. Heads of public bodies could be asked to sign a declaration to indicate support for such prohibitions, and would therefore be held accountable in the face of evidence of abuse.
 25. The CEC and DEC's are urged to act, and be seen to act, upon complaints.
 26. The liable sanctions for violations should be widely publicised to ensure familiarity.

Increase the Transparency of the CEC and DEC's

27. The CEC should establish and publish clear internal procedures for decision making, to preclude ad hoc decisions.
28. There should be no changing the rules of the election on the day of the election.
29. There should be a requirement on behalf of the CEC for the publication and notification to relevant stakeholders of all formal CEC and DEC decisions.
30. The CEC should consider allowing a limited number of relevant stakeholders (such as political party representatives, observers) to attend formal meetings of the CEC and DEC's.
31. The CEC must ensure the publication of decisions on complaints and appeals, including information on and reasons for the refusal to consider any complaint.

Develop Clearer and More Comprehensive Guidelines on Media Coverage

32. Develop internal guidelines for media outlets, providing a barometer for assessing media output as well as serving to inform media of their responsibilities. Including guidelines on Journalists' rights (right to report, right to criticise, confidentiality of sources, access to information, etc.) and, Duties (produce information that is reliable, true, clear, timely, verifiable, substantiated and accurate)
33. Develop external guidelines, with a more detailed explanation in the election law of how media should cover the election campaign in order to provide balanced coverage for the public. This can help define: Right to reasonable access and fair treatment for all election contestants, particularly with regards to the official media; duty to provide fair and professional editorial coverage (news, debates, etc.) on behalf of all electronic and official media; any potential conflict of interest (i.e. candidates owning media outlets, journalists running as candidates, advantage of the incumbent government etc.).
34. If the CEC puts in place a proper framework for media conduct for the election it could consider establishing a media monitoring unit to measure compliance.
35. The legal framework for media should include provisions regulating the purchase of airtime both in terms of amount of paid advertisement candidates are entitled to buy during the campaign period and in terms of fees that media can impose on candidates, including the provision that the same rates should apply for all candidates and the rates should be the lowest for the time band requested.

Develop More Comprehensive Procedures for Verifying Campaign Financing and Expenditure

36. The political and electoral process would benefit from the development of more comprehensive, feasible and viable procedures for verifying campaign financing and expenditure.
37. There also needs to be a concurrent will to enforce such regulations, because if successful, such mechanisms can have a positive effect on the process, including increasing the accountability of political parties, ensuring more effective political competition, preserving the integrity of the electoral process by increasing transparency, enhancing accountability, eliminating corruption and

- strengthening the rule of law.
- Provide Increased Safeguards Against Manipulation of Assisted Voters**
38. The EUEOM recommends a re-consideration of this part of the law, leading to the development of a more rigorous, but feasible and enforceable, series of financial disclosures on behalf of all candidates.
39. The legal provisions on procedures for assisted voters should be amended to place a limit of just one voter to be assisted by any other person. This will help address the problem of individuals assisting multiple persons in a polling station.
- Ensure the Proper Management, Verification and Scrutiny of Sensitive Election Materials**
- Provide Full, Timely and Transparent Publication of Election Results**
40. The CEC should ensure that it improves its handling and scrutiny of the various stages for production and distribution of the sensitive election materials, such as the printing and delivery of ballots.
41. The EUEOM strongly recommends that the CEC fully utilises the resources it has to ensure for future elections a prompt publication of all details relating to results and voting turnout. It has been shown in elections elsewhere, that such a willingness and capacity to rapidly provide such information greatly adds to the transparency and confidence in an election.
42. Such transparency and confidence would be further enhanced if the results were also published down to polling station level. The Palestinian election is actually of a very modest size compared to many, with just over 3,000 polling stations in total and such a prompt breakdown should be feasible.
43. Further, as civil society organisations and party representatives are permitted to collect copies of polling station results and as such results are also to be posted at the polling station site for a period of days after the election, it is somewhat logical that this exercise is only valuable if such results can be compared

Annex B: Parties – Names and Symbols

No.	The List	Phonetic English for the Arabic Version	Arabic	
1	The Alternative	Albadeel	البديل	
2	Independent Palestine/ Mustafa Bargouthi	Falastine Almustaqellah Mustafa Albargouthi walmustaqellen	فلسطين المستقلة مصطفى البرغوثي والمستقلين	
3	Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa (PFLP)	Ashaheed Abu Ali Mustafa	الشهيد أبو علي مصطفى	
4	Martyr Abu Alabbas (PLF)	Ashaheed Abu Alabbas	الشهيد أبو العباس	
5	Freedom and Social Justice (PPSF – The Kaffal)	Alhoreyya Waladalah Alejtimaeyyah	الحرية والعدالة الاجتماعية	
6	Change and Reform (Hamas)	Attaghyeer Walesiah	التغيير والاصلاح	
7	PROMISE - National Coalition for Justice and Democracy	Ale'etela' Alwatany Laladalah Waddemoqrateyyah	الائتلاف الوطني للعدالة والديموقراطية وعد	
8	The Third Way	Attareq Athaleth	الطريق الثالث	
9	Freedom and Independence	Alhorreyah Walesteqial	الحرية والاستقلال	
10	Palestinian Justice	Aladalah Alfalastineyyah	العدالة الفلسطينية	
11	Fateh	Alharaka Alfalastineyyah Latahreer Falastine	الحركة الفلسطينية لتحرير فلسطين فتح	

Annex C: Basic figures and charts on PLC seats, contestants and voters

Districts		# Candidates	incl. Christian candidates	PLC Seats	PLC Christ. Seats	# registered Voters
1	Jerusalem	39	10	6	2	47845
2	Jenin	32		4	0	98017
3	Tulkarem	17		3	0	71142
4	Tubas	9		1	0	19907
5	Nablus	30		6	0	125646
6	Qalqilia	10		2	0	32374
7	Salfit	11		1	0	25484
8	Ramallah & Albireh	34	3	5	1	103179
9	Jerico	5		1	0	14909
10	Bethlehem	32	12	4	2	67714
11	Hebron	46		9	0	182520
12	North Gaza	27		5	0	91804
13	Gaza (City)	49	3	8	1	162626
14	Der Elbalah	18		3	0	72814
15	Khan Younis	43		5	0	96716
16	Rafah	12		3	0	61106
TOTAL		414	28	66	6	1273803

No.	The List	# candidates on the list			
			8	The Third Way	25
1	The Alternative	40	9	Freedom and Independence	10
2	Independent Palestine/ Mustafa Bargouthi	41	10	Palestinian Justice	8
3	Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa	50	11	Palestinian National Liberation Movement - Fatah	45
4	Martyr Abu Alabbas	11	Total # of candidates on national lists		
5	Freedom and Social Justice	13			314
6	Change and Reform PROMISE - National Coalition for Justice and Democracy	59			
7		12			

Summary on candidates' findings

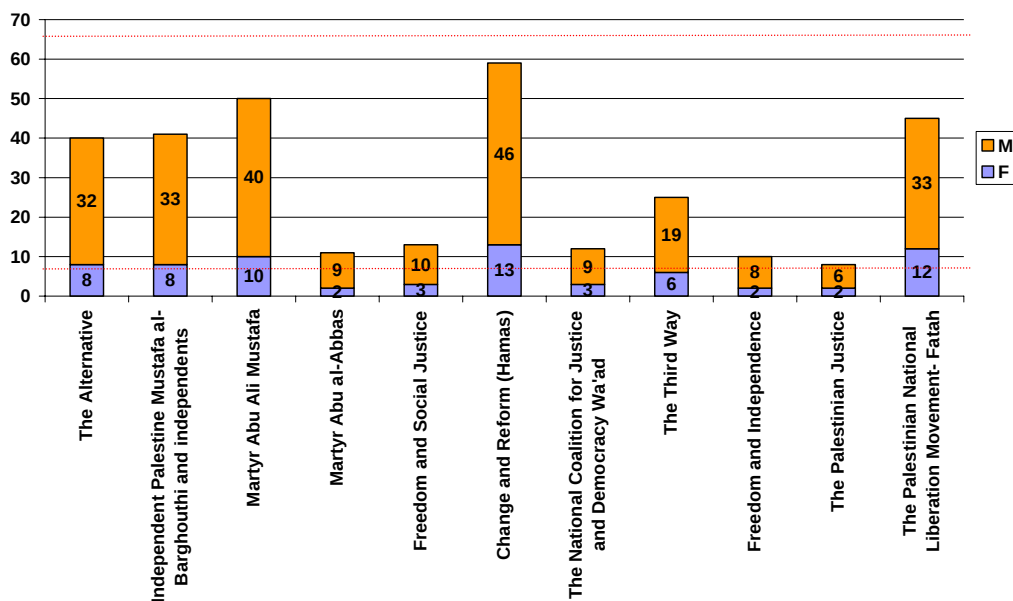
- ♣ Only 15 out of 414 district candidates are women <where there is no quota foreseen>
 - o 11 running as independent candidates; 2 under Fatah, 1 under Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa and 1 under PFLP
- ♣ 47 of the 728 candidates are still members of the outgoing PLC
- ♣ 27 candidates are Christians and run on district level in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah/ Al Bireh and Gaza City where in total 6 seats are allotted to Christian candidates <however, surely Christian candidates can also take other district seats>
 - o 18 run as independent candidates; 6 under Fatah, 2 under Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa and 1 under PFPL
- ♣ 114 out of 728 candidates submitted with their CEC application as candidates a statement of resignation from public or NGO office <avoiding the access to public or NGO resources for campaigning>; 34 of them run on national lists the, other 80 on district level
- ♣ 30 imprisoned candidates (27 in Israeli and 3 in Pal. Prisons; incl. one from 'The Alternative', four from Fatah, 12 from PFLP & 13 from Hamas)

Some findings on the Voter List

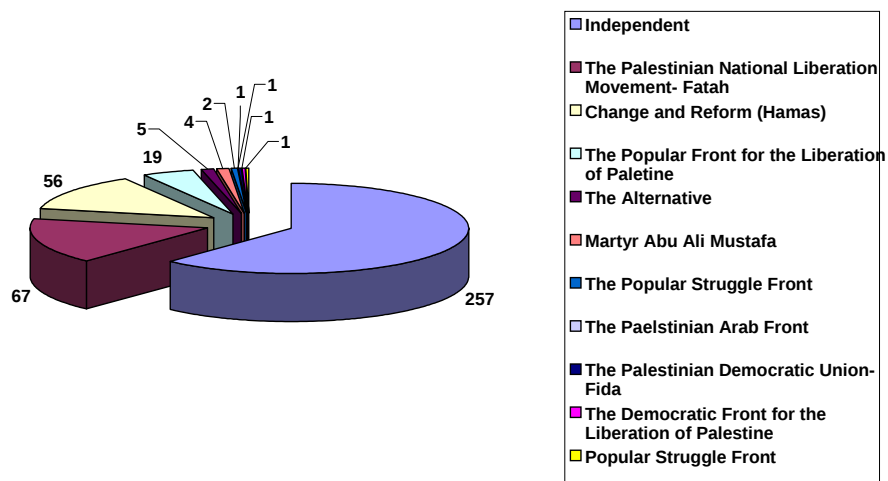
- This registered electorate represents some 70,36% of the estimated total number of Palestinians residing in West Bank and Gaza who are over 18 years of age. The estimated figure provided by the CEC ranges from 73% to 76%.
- Stated reasons for the failure to capture a larger number of voters include the impact of various security measures imposed by the GoI, such as closures, (flying) checkpoint,s, road blockages and the 'defence fence/segregation wall'. A question mark rises over the reliability of the original figure of over 3,825149 Palestinians in WB and G, since the Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics bases its annul prognosis on the 1997 census.

Various illustrative charts on candidates' findings

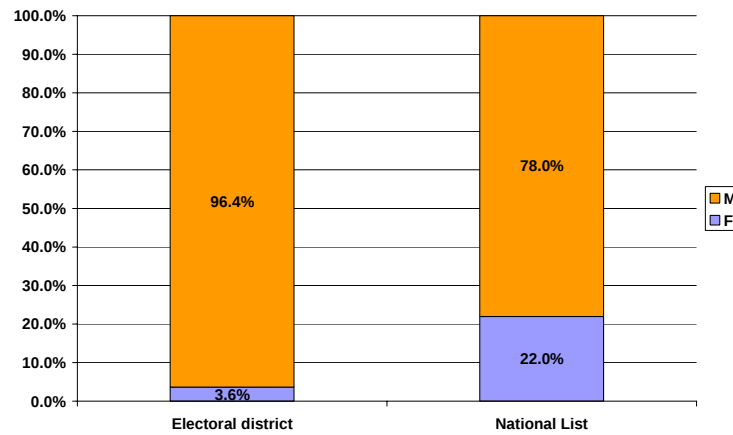
Candidates on National Lists (f/m)



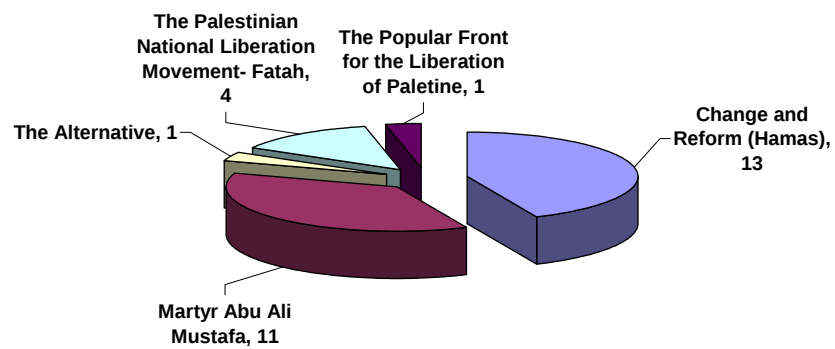
Political affiliation of individual district candidates



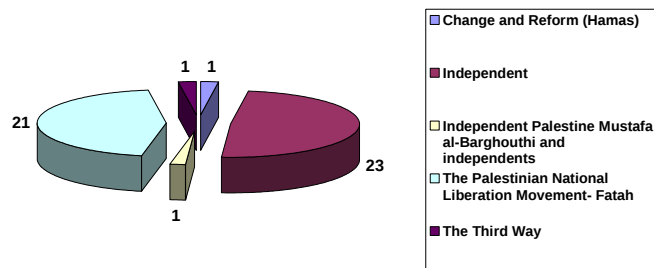
Gender Balance (15 F - 399 M, 69 F - 245 M)



Imprisoned candidates



current PLCm's running again
47 out of 83 deciding over new EL (#09)



Annex D: West Bank and Gaza Electoral Districts



Note that district specific maps with polling stations marked are available in electronic copy on the CEC website (<http://www.elections.ps/maps/maps.aspx>). Hard copies will be distributed by LTOs on your arrival in respective districts.

Annex E: District Election Offices

WEST BANK

Jerusalem

Dahiyat Al Barid – Main St.
Tel : 02 - 2345811 / 02 - 234 5812
Fax : 02 - 2345813

Bethlehem

Al Jabal St. - Al Suq Al Markazi Way
Across from the Legislative Council Office
Tel : 02 - 2752001 / 02 - 2752002
Fax : 02 - 2752003

Hebron

Abu Aisha Bldg. - Al Moqata'a St. (Abu Ghannam St.)
Tel : 02 - 2404202 / 02 - 2404203
Fax : 02 - 2293922

Jenin

Al Sheeb Bldg. – Sukayna Bint Al Hussain St.
Near Jenin Girls Sec. Shool.
Tel : 04 - 2437165 / 04 - 243 7166
Fax : 04 - 2437167

Jericho

Abu Jihad St. – Kift El Wad Suburb
Near Al Quds Open University
Tel : 02 - 2325557
Fax : 02 - 2325558

Tulkarem

Al Hafi Bldg.- Shwaika St.
Tel : 09 - 2684327 / 09 - 2684328
Fax : 09 - 2330117

Regional Office: (Gaza)

P. O Box 5209
Medhat Al Wahidi St.
Al Remal
Gaza City - Palestine
Tel: 08 - 2842973 / 4
Fax: 08 - 2842982

Deir Al Balah

Ibrahim Al Masri Bldg. - Abed Al Kareem Al 'Aklouk St.
Southern Al Hadaba.
Tel : 08 - 2537420 / 08 - 2537421
Fax : 08 - 2531001

Khan Younis

Salah Abu Nahia Bldg. Al Mahatta St. – Behind Sha'th Tower.
Tel : 08 - 2066563 / 08 - 2066564
Fax : 08 - 2066562

Rafah

Abu Ashraf Qeshta Bldg. - Uthman bin Affan St.
Accross from Martyrs Sq.
Tel : 08 - 2138670 / 08 - 2138720
Fax : 08 - 2138710

Nablus

Harwash Bldg. - Rafidia St.
Tel : 09 - 2330115 / 09 - 2330116
Fax : 09 - 2330117

Qalqilya Mala'b Al Baladi St.

Accross from the Court of Reconciliation
Tel : 09 - 2946539 / 09 - 2946546
Fax : 09 - 2946543

Ramallah / Al-Bireh

Al Nijmah Bldg. - Al Bireh /Al Balou'
Tel : 02 - 2404202 / 02 - 2404203
Fax : 02 - 2404204

Salfit

Al Shuhada' St.
Across from the Emergency Hospital
Tel : 09 - 2515921
Fax : 09 - 2515922

Tubas

Sameeh Al Rashid Trading Center - Al Ghoor St.
Tel : 09 - 2573004
Fax : 09 - 2573005

Gaza

Khartoum St. - Southern Al Remal
Near the Ministry of Housing.
Tel : 08 - 2834618 / 08 - 2833816
Fax : 08 - 2475966

North Gaza

Mahmoud Abu Dan Bldg. - High Buildings St.
Beit Lahia Project
Tel : 08 - 2475964 / 08 - 2475965
Fax : 08 - 2475966