



*Yasser  
Arafat*

*(1929-2004)*







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**Aug. 4, 1929:** Yasser Arafat is born in Cairo as Mohammed Abdel-Raouf Arafat Al-Qudwa Al-Husseini, and as fifth of seven children of a Palestinian merchant. ▶



Abdel-Raouf Arafat Al-Qudwa Al-Husseini

**1952:** As engineering student at Cairo University, Arafat takes over and reorganizes the Palestinian Students' Union. ▶



Mohammed Abdel-Raouf Arafat Al-Qudwa Al-Husseini

**1933:** Arafat's Mother Zahwa dies; he and infant brother Fathi are sent to Jerusalem to live with an uncle. ◀

**1948:** Arafat takes part in Arab-Jewish fighting as Britain withdraws from Palestine Mandate. ▼

**Aug. 1956:** Arafat secures membership for Palestine at an international student congress in Prague, Czechoslovakia. For first time, wears Palestinian headdress, or *kuffiyeh*, that becomes his trademark. ▼



**1949:** Arafat moves back to Cairo.

**1956:** Arafat graduates with a BA in Civil Engineering. Serves in the Egyptian army during the Suez Crisis.



**Sept. 1951:** Yasser Arafat begins studying Engineering at Cairo University. ▶



**1957:** In Kuwait, where he works, Arafat and five associates agree to form a clandestine Palestinian organization. ▶



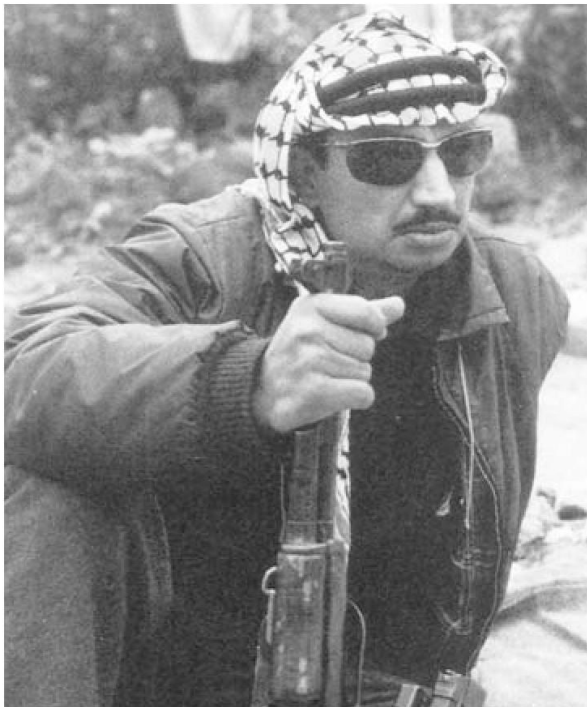


**Jan. 1958:** Yasser Arafat and nine other Palestinians set up the first cells of the Fateh movement in Kuwait, advocating armed struggle to liberate Palestinian lands. ►



**March 17, 1964:** First Palestinian delegation, comprising Yasser Arafat and Khalil Al-Wazir, to China, confers with Premier Chou-En-Lai.

**Jan. 1, 1965:** With paltry weapons and the name Al-Asifa ('The Storm') Fateh lead by Arafat begins guerrilla raids against Israel with an abortive bombing of the national water carrier in the Galilee. ▼



**March 21, 1968:** An Israeli army attack on PLO base at Karameh, Jordan, inflicts heavy losses, but is seen as victory for Arafat and his group; thousands join PLO. ▼



**Nov. 1969:** In Cairo, the first public meeting between Fateh leaders and Pres. Nasser takes place. ▼



**Feb. 1-4, 1969:** At the 5<sup>th</sup> PNC session, held in Cairo, a new PLO Exec. Committee is elected, with Fateh leader Yasser Arafat as elected chairman and dominated by resistance groups (*Al-Muqawama Al-Filistiniyya*). As Arafat takes over chairmanship, he transforms the PLO into a dynamic force that makes Palestinian cause known worldwide. ◀ ▼





**Sept. 16-22, 1970:** Jordanian army attacks Palestinian guerillas in various areas of Jordan after the PFLP's hijacking on 6 Sept. of three airliners, marking the beginning of the confrontation between Jordanian and Palestinian forces ('Black September'). The fighting leaves some 2,000 people, mainly Palestinians, dead. Arafat and the PLO are expelled from Jordan and sets up bases in Lebanon; Israeli air aids against South Lebanon begin. On 19-20 Sept. over 200 Syrian tanks and armored units bearing the symbol of the PLA enter Jordan to temporarily back the PLO. ▼



**Sept. 25, 1970:** King Hussein and Arafat agree to a 14-point cease-fire under Nasser's mediation, officially ending the war. The agreement is signed on 27 Sept. in Cairo. ▼



**Feb. 28-March 5, 1971:** The PNC holds its 8<sup>th</sup> session in Cairo; decides – in light of the fighting with the Jordanian army - to establish a Unified General Command of the forces of the Palestinian revolution and appoints Yasser Arafat as its Commander. Also votes to expand PNC to 150 members and its life span to three years.

**April 5, 1972:** In a speech at the inaugural session of the Palestinian Popular Congress in Cairo, Yasser Arafat says that the Palestinian revolution has passed through many conspiracies, most recently "American conspiracies implemented through the agency of the Hashemite regime."

**July 28–Aug. 5, 1973:** Yasser Arafat is the guest of honor at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Youth Rally held in the German Democratic Republic; this being his first visit to the socialist bloc at the official invitation of a ruling party.

**Nov. 13, 1974:** Arafat appears at United Nations "bearing an olive branch and a freedom fighter's gun," appealing to the audience "Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand." ▼



**April 17, 1978:** Arafat reaches an agreement with UN Sec.-Gen. Waldheim calling for a moratorium on raids into Israel from South Lebanon in exchange for the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

**Oct. 1978:** Arafat and King Hussein meet for the first time since the 1970 civil war at Mafraq, Jordan. Arafat is accompanied by Col. Qadhafi for reconciliation. ▼





**Feb. 7, 1979:** Arafat becomes the first foreign leader to visit the Iranian capital after the revolution. At a Tehran press conference a euphoric Arafat proclaims, "I told His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeini that I really saw the walls of Jerusalem when I heard about the Iranian revolution". ▼



**July 25, 1982:** Yasser Arafat meets in Beirut with a US congressional delegation and signs a statement acknowledging all UN resolutions pertaining to Palestine. US Congressman Paul McClosky says the move signals PLO recognition of Israel.

**Aug. 30, 1982:** Following the June 6 invasion of Israel into Lebanon Arafat leaves Beirut by boat for Tunis; before departure, holds press conference saying 5,000 were killed and 48,000 wounded during Israeli invasion. Further responding to Sharon's statement that the departure of the PLO from Lebanon will clear the way for Israel to a "settlement" with "moderate West Bank Palestinians", Arafat reiterates that the PLO is the embodiment of Palestinian aspirations and that the Israeli invasion has only strengthened the Palestinian people's will to struggle and resistance. ▼▲



**July 7, 1979:** In Vienna, Pres. Arafat holds talks with Socialist International Chairman Willy Brandt and Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

**July 2, 1982:** Israeli journalist and peace activist Uri Avneri meets 'illegally' with Arafat in Beirut. ►



**July 11, 1982:** The PLO demands the right to maintain military and political presence in Lebanon and the stationing of an international force in Beirut after the Israeli Army withdrawal. ▼



**Sept. 15, 1982:** Arafat meets the Pope at the Vatican following lunch with Italian Pres. Pertin and an address to the international Inter-Parliamentary Union; Israel expresses 'shock' at Pope receiving Arafat, condemns meeting. ▼





**Aug. 29, 1983:** The International Conference on the Question of Palestine convenes at the UN Office in Geneva (until 7 Sept.) presided over by the FM of Senegal and with the participation of 137 states and the PLO as full participant as well as 104 NGOs, boycotted by Israel and the US. [The two main objectives of the conference - as endorsed by the UNGA - are to increase international awareness of the Palestine Question and to attain governmental and NGO support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. In preparation of the conference five regional meetings have taken place to discuss specific themes: political/judicial aspects (in Tanzania, Africa, 29 March-12 April), international law (Managua, Latin America, 11-15 April), economic, civic, social and cultural aspects (UAE, Western Asia, 25-29 April), Palestine and world politics (Kuala Lumpur, Asia, 3-7 May), as well as the role of the UN (Geneva, Europe, 4-8 July)].



boycott the session, but the 257 delegates [251 are needed for a quorum] confirm the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians and reelect Arafat as Chairman of the new Exec. Committee, whose other members are: Farouq Qaddoumi (Fateh), Mahmoud Abbas (Fateh), Abdel Rahim Ahmed (ALF), Mohammed 'Abbas (PLF); and the independents Jamal Sourani, Bishop Elia Khouri, Fahd Qawasmeh, Abdel Razzaq Yahya, Mohammed Milham and Jawid Al-Ghosein. Three seats are reserved for the boycotting factions (PFLP, DFLP and The Communist party). Sheikh Abdul Hamid As-Sayeh is elected head of the PNC.

**May 1, 1984:** In an interview with the *Nouvel Observateur*, Chairman Arafat proposes mutual recognition and talks with Israel under UN auspices. ►



**Feb. 11, 1985:** Yasser Arafat and King Hussein agree on a common approach to achieve a Middle East peace accord calling for the exchange of land for peace within the context of an international conference attended by the five permanent UNSC members and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, whereby PLO delegates would

**Nov. 22-29, 1984:** The 17th PNC session, called for by Fateh, convenes in Amman. King Hussein opens the session with a call for a Palestinian-Jordanian initiative for peace talks based on the formula of 'territory for peace', and the principles of Palestinian self-determination and a process in line with international legitimacy as expressed in UN Res. 242. PLO rejects the latter notion as basis for peace talks. Most PLO factions

attend as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team. Israeli officials miss the Amman Agreement on 12 Feb.. ►



**Oct. 1, 1985:** Arafat narrowly escapes death in an Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia. ►



**March 24, 1986:** Yasser Arafat repeats the PLO offer to accept UN Res. 242 and 338, and with this Israel, if the five permanent UNSC members guarantee the Palestinians' right to self-determination.





**Sept. 13, 1988:** PLO Chairman Arafat addresses a meeting of the Socialist Group of the European Parliament at Strasbourg, saying that the PLO could only agree to the convening of a UN-sponsored International Middle East Conference in which all parties to the conflict as well as the permanent UNSC members would participate, on the basis of two options: all the resolutions dealing with the Palestine Question, incl. UNSC Res. 242 and 338, or these two resolutions along with the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, incl. that to self-determination.

**Nov. 12-15, 1988:** The 19<sup>th</sup> PNC convenes in Algiers, endorses UNSC Res. 242 and links it to the 'national right' of the Palestinian people. On 15 Nov., two landmark documents are adopted: 'The Political Communiqué of the Palestine National Council', affirming the PLO's determination to reach a comprehensive political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the principles of international law (incl. UN resolutions and the resolutions of Arab summits), and the 'The Declaration of Independence'. ▼



**Dec. 13, 1988:** PLO Chairman Arafat addresses the UNGA on the 'Question of Palestine' in Geneva (where it had reconvened after the US refused to grant Arafat a visa) reiterating the PLO's rejection of terrorism of all kinds, and inviting Israel to talk peace. Israel dismisses the offer. ▼



**March 25, 1989:** PLO Chairman Arafat, King Hussein and Pres. Mubarak hold a summit in

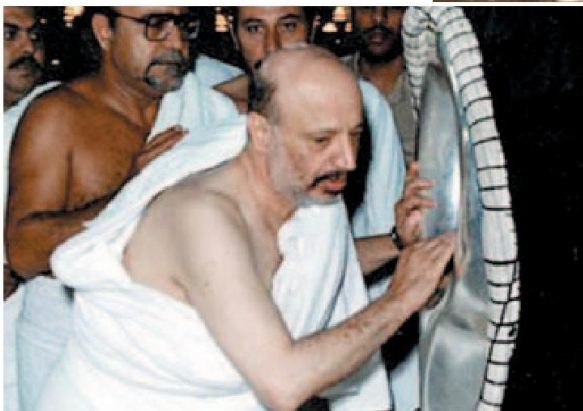
Ismailiyya to discuss the option of an international peace conference on the Palestine Question. ▼



**April 2, 1989:** Yasser Arafat is elected by the Central Council of the PLO in Tunis as the first Pres. of the State of Palestine. ►



**April, 1989:** Yasser Arafat attended "Omra" in Mecca and Medina. ▼



**May 2, 1989:** Pres. Arafat, after meeting Pres. Francois Mitterrand in France, tells French TV: "As for the Covenant, the 25 year-old Palestinian National Charter, I believe there is an expression in French, 'C'est caduque' [It is null and void]" and urges peaceful coexistence of the Jewish state and a Palestinian state. ▲



**Sept. 3, 1989:** At the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Belgrade, PLO Chairman Arafat warns of a "total explosion" in the Middle East if Palestinian peace initiatives are ignored. ◀



**April 6, 1990:** Arafat meets with Pope John Paul II in Vatican City. ▼



**Oct. 19, 1991:** Chairman Arafat meets Pres. Assad in Damascus, the first time these two bitter rivals have met since 1983.

**Nov. 1990:** Arafat secretly marries Suha Tawil in Tunis. ▼



**April 7, 1992:** Arafat is rescued after a plane crash in the Libyan desert during a sandstorm, killing two pilots and an engineer and leaving Arafat bruised and shaken. ▼



**Sept. 13, 1993:** Israel and PLO sign the Declaration of Principles, giving the Palestinians partial control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Arafat shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn. ▼



**Jan. 24, 1994:** In Riyadh, Chairman Arafat meets with Saudi King Fahd; marking their first encounter since the Gulf War. ▼



**May 4, 1994:** In Cairo, Chairman Arafat and PM Rabin sign the 186-page Gaza-Jericho self-rule accord (Cairo Agreement), witnessed by Pres. Mubarak, Sec. of State Christopher, Russian FM Andrei Kozyrev, Norwegian FM Godal, and hundreds of others. Arafat hesitates at signing the accompanying maps over wrong size of the Jericho area, but is reassured that the issue is subject to further negotiation. Arafat asks for a 3-week delay in withdrawal to allow the PLO to prepare for taking power. ▼





**July 1, 1994:** Returning from exile, a triumphant Arafat sets foot on Palestinian soil for the first time in 26 years. ▼



**July 5, 1994:** Arafat swears in PA ministers in Jericho.

**Dec. 10, 1994:** Arafat wins Nobel Peace Prize, along with Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. ▼



**Feb. 2, 1995:** Cairo summit: Arafat, King Hussein, Rabin and Mubarak meet to discuss the peace process and to restart the stalled negotiations. They issue a joint statement reaffirming their support for the peace process and condemning bloodshed and terror in the region. ▼



**June 7, 1995:** German Chancellor Kohl meets Arafat in Jericho, discusses peace process and financial support for projects in the autonomous areas. ▼



**July 24, 1995:** Arafat's daughter Zahwa is born in Paris. ►



**Sept. 28, 1995:** In Washington, the PLO and Israel sign the 'Oslo 2' Agreement on the 2nd stage of Palestinian autonomy. ▼



**Oct. 1995:** Pres. Arafat attends the Special Commemorative Meeting on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the UN and addresses the UNGA. ▼





**Nov. 9, 1995:** Arafat makes his first visit to Israel in a secret trip to offer condolences to Rabin's widow Leah, five days after Rabin is assassinated by an ultranationalist Jew. ▼



**Jan. 15, 1997:** Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sign the Hebron Agreement on Israeli pullout from 80% of the city of Hebron. ▼



**1996:** Pres. Arafat names Faisal Husseini the PLO official in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio.

**1996:** A collection of Palestinian stamps with president Arafat's picture is issued. ▼



**Jan. 22, 1997:** In Cairo, Arafat says that the PA could unilaterally declare a Palestinian state at the end of the interim period. ▶



**March 21-23, 1997:** The OIC emergency meeting in Islamabad, attended by President Arafat, issues a special declaration stressing that Jerusalem is an indispensable part of the OPT and condemning "Israel's persistence in its settlement expansion." ▼

**Jan. 20, 1996:** Arafat is elected President of Palestinian Authority in the first Palestinian elections.



**May 1, 1996:** Pres. Yasser Arafat officially visits the US and meets with Pres. Clinton at the White House. ◀

**Jan. 12, 1997:** King Hussein visits Gaza for the first time since 1967 and meets with Pres. Arafat in an effort to break the deadlock in Hebron negotiations. ▼



**March 27-28, 1997:** The Jerusalem Committee of the OIC – chaired by King Hassan and attended by President Arafat - convenes in Rabat. At the end of the meeting a denunciation of Israeli settlement policy is issued. ▼





**Oct. 6, 1997:** President Arafat welcomes Hamas's spiritual leader Sheikh Yassin, 62, who returns to Gaza from Jordan, greeted by 30,000 Palestinians at Yarmouk Stadium. ▼



**Dec. 9-11, 1997:** President Arafat attends the 8th OIC summit in Tehran, which adopts 142 resolutions and a united stand in support of the Palestinian Question. It denounces Israeli "state terrorism" and calls for a halt to normalization with Israel (incl. closing interest offices and halting military cooperation) because it is "reinstating an atmosphere of war." Turkey's Pres. Demirel leaves the summit a day early in protest at the call and the summit's failure to pass two pro-Turkish resolutions on Cyprus. ▼



**March 10, 1998:** Pres. Arafat and Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan hold official talks in Ramallah and call for a combined Arab and international effort to counteract the effects of Israel's hard-line position. ▼



**March 17, 1998:** British Foreign Sec. Robin Cook begins his visit to Israel and the Palestinian areas. After meeting Pres. Arafat in Gaza, Cook announces that the EU and PA will create a committee in order "to cooperate and exchange information to improve security," offering the Palestinians an \$8.3 million security package to improve 'the fight against terrorism' as part of a European initiative. ▼



**April 28, 1998:** Egyptian FM Amr Musa visits Palestine and emphasizes the Egyptian position and the need to rescue the peace process. He also signs 14 agreements with Palestine on behalf of Egypt. ▼



**May 26, 1998:** In Cairo, Arafat attends Arab League meeting to commemorate the 50th anniversary of An-Nakba and calls for an Arab summit on the stalled peace process, reiterating that Palestinians will keep striving to establish their state. He says this commemoration shows that "Palestinians from different generations have offered proof that the Palestinian dream is alive and that we shall continue



handing it down from one generation to another” and refers to the An-Nakba marches held in the Palestinian territories as “a march for the future, much more than a march to lament the massacres, the dispossession and the displacement.” Other speakers include Arab League Sec.-Gen. Abdel-Meguid, Al-Azhar’s Sheikh Tantawi, and Pope Shanuda of the Coptic Church. ▼



**June 13, 1998:** Pres. Arafat receives the ‘Golden Pegasus’ prize in Florence and calls for European economic pressure on Israel. ►



**July 5, 1998:** A communique issued after a meeting in Cairo between Pres. Mubarak, King Hussein, and Pres. Arafat states that both “leaders assert their absolute rejection of Judaizing Jerusalem.” ▼



**Aug. 31, 1998:** In a joint press conference in Amman, Pres. Arafat and Crown Prince Hassan reject PM Netanyahu’s draft plan for redeployment

and stress the need to carry out the US peace initiative without alterations. ▼



**Oct. 23, 1998:** Pres. Arafat and PM Netanyahu sign a deal negotiated over nine days at the Wye River summit, which at times was attended by US Pres. Clinton and Jordan’s King Hussein, agreeing that Palestinians will step up efforts against alleged terrorists, confiscate illegal weapons, and remove anti-Israel phrases from their national covenant, while Israel will re-deploy from a further 13% of the West Bank, release several hundred Palestinian prisoners, allow the Palestinian airport in Gaza to open, and provide the safe passage for Palestinians to move between the WBGS. ▼





**Oct. 28, 1998:** Chairman Arafat addresses the 53<sup>rd</sup> UNGA plenary under agenda item: General Debate, marking the first time in UN history that a non-member state entity participates under that item. Also for the first time, Palestine co-sponsors 21 resolutions and one decision.

**Nov. 24, 1998:** Palestinians, led by Pres. Arafat, inaugurate Gaza International Airport after Israel has held up its opening for two years over security concerns. However, under the Wye River Accord Israel will continue to control the airspace, pre-approve all flight schedules and passenger lists, and can shut down the airport at any time. ▼

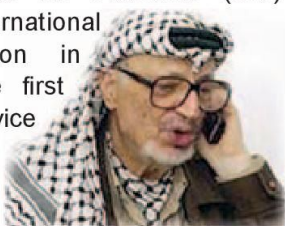


**Dec. 14, 1998:** In the presence of US Pres. Clinton and led by Pres. Arafat, hundreds of top Palestinian officials revoke parts of the Palestinian charter that calls for the destruction of Israel.

**Jan. 6, 1999:** Pres. Arafat and Faisal Hussein attend the Orthodox Christmas' Eve celebrations in Bethlehem, where they are greeted by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodorus I. ▼



**June 21, 1999:** Arafat officially launches the new international dialing code for Palestine (970) – agreed upon by the international telecommunications union in 1998 - and unveils the first cellular telephone service dedicated to the Palestinian territories (known as Al-Jawwal). ►



**Aug. 22-23, 1999:** In Cairo, Pres. Arafat opens talks with DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh on uniting Palestinian factions. Both decide to work for a united national position in the Israeli-PA final status talks. ◀



**Sept. 4, 1999:** PA Pres. Yasser Arafat and Israeli PM Ehud Barak sign the revised Wye Accord at Sharm Esh-Sheikh, paving the way for talks on a permanent peace settlement, witnessed by Pres. Mubarak, US Sec. of State Albright and King Abdullah II. ▼



**Sept. 29, 1999:** Dep. Sec. of the PFLP, Abu Ali Mustafa, returns to Palestine after over 32 years in exilen and is greeted by Pres. Arafat. ◀

**Oct. 19, 1999:** Former South African Pres. Nelson Mandela, on a private visit to Israel and the PA, is welcomed by Pres. Arafat, urges Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied since 1967. ▼





**Nov. 10, 1999:** Pres. Arafat addresses the 21st Socialist International in Paris, stressing that peace starts with recognizing the independent and sovereign Palestinian state and that all settlement activities must be halted: "The principle of a just peace contradicts the continued existence of settlements erected in order to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian State, and to undermine the geographical integrity of the Palestinian territory. Is there any country in the world in which there are settlements not under its sovereignty? (...) Nothing except the logic of injustice can legitimize the continued existence of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory." ▼



**July 2000:** Seeking a final peace deal, US President Bill Clinton convenes "Camp David II" with Israeli PM Ehud Barak and Pres. Arafat. Rejecting Israeli proposals on Jerusalem, Pres. Arafat tells Pres. Clinton and PM Barak "The Arab leader who would surrender Jerusalem is not born yet". After nine days of talks, the White House declares the summit a failure. ▼



**Dec. 3-4, 2001:** After three suicide bombings, Israel destroys Arafat's three helicopters in Gaza City as well as the airport, grounding him and effectively confining him to Ramallah.

**Jan. 18, 2002:** Israeli forces deploy outside Arafat's Ramallah headquarters, confining him to the Muqata'a after a suicide attack in Hadera. In three ensuing military sieges, the compound's walls are torn down, along with most buildings, except for Arafat's three-story office.

**March 29, 2002:** The Israeli Cabinet declares Arafat an "enemy" and to isolate him. Troops seize Ramallah, including most of the Muqata'a, further confining Arafat to a few rooms.



**April 2, 2002:** Arafat, in an interview with *Al-Jazeera* responding to Israeli PM Sharon's offer of permanent exile, says "Is it his homeland or ours? We were planted here before the Prophet Abraham came, but it looks like they [Israelis] don't understand history or geography," adding that he would rather be a martyr than go into exile. ▲

**June 24, 2002:** US President George W. Bush calls on Palestinians to replace Arafat as leader.

**April 29, 2003:** Palestinian parliament confirms Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, as first Palestinian prime minister. ▼



**June 4, 2003:** At first major Israeli-Palestinian summit without Arafat, Sharon and Bush launch the "road map" peace plan, which aims to end fighting and create Palestinian state by 2005.

**Oct. 18:** Egyptian doctors arrive at the Muqata'a in Ramallah to examine Pres. Arafat's health after his flu worsened.

**Oct. 23:** Six Tunisian doctors arrive in Ramallah to examine Pres. Arafat, who is said to suffer from a severe flu.

**Oct. 25:** At his Ramallah HQ, Pres. Arafat is reported to be in stable condition. Israel says it would allow him to leave his compound for the first time in 2 1/2 years to receive medical treatment in Ramallah.





**Oct. 27:** Pres. Arafat's condition deteriorates sharply, while it remains unclear what he is suffering from. The Israeli army begins preparing for the possibility of his death, incl. containing the situation in the WBGs and debating a burial place.

**Oct. 28:** Arafat's wife Suha arrives in Ramallah, adding to the rumors about the severity of his condition. Later pictures are released of a smiling Arafat posing with his doctors, who declare that Arafat needs to be flown to a French hospital for further treatment, while PM Sharon promises that he will be allowed to return afterwards. News reports suggest that he suffers from a potentially fatal blood disorder, possibly leukemia. ▼



**Oct. 29:** On board of a Jordanian helicopter, Pres. Arafat is flown to Amman, from where he proceeds to Paris; it is his first trip abroad since 2001. Prayers and rallies in his support take place at various locations in the WBGs. ▼



**Oct. 30:** The PLO Exec. Committee meets at the Muqata'a in Ramallah, for the first time in decades without Yasser Arafat.

- In Clamart, outside Paris, where Pres. Arafat is receiving treatment at the Percy Military Hospital, Palestinian envoy to France Leila Shahid, reports that doctors have "excluded for the time being any possibility of leukemia."

**Oct. 31:** Leila Shahid tells the media that Pres. Arafat's condition has stabilized and tests rule out a life-threatening illness.

**Nov. 1:** In Paris, Palestinian spokeswoman Leila Shahid announces Arafat is "improving by the hour, but he is very tired and exhausted," and denies stories he had been poisoned.

**Nov. 2:** A statement, drawn up with French doctors treating Pres. Arafat at the request of his wife Suha, indicates that his condition was improving with treatment and ruled out a diagnosis of leukaemia, while other test results are still pending.

**Nov. 3:** As the condition of Arafat deteriorates he is placed in intensive care; no visitors except his wife are allowed to see him.



**Nov. 4:** After Pres. Arafat is reported to have lapsed into a coma, the Fateh Central Committee holds an emergency meeting in Ramallah.

- Israeli Channel Two TV citing French sources says that Arafat was declared clinically dead; however, Percy Hospital spokesman Estripeau states that "Mr. Arafat is not dead."

**Nov. 5:** Palestinian faction leaders meet in Gaza City, aimed at maintaining a united front during Arafat's health crisis. In Clamart, meanwhile, spokeswoman Leila Shahid says Arafat was "between life and death" and in a reversible coma.

**Nov. 6:** PM Tayyeb Abdel Rahim, the Sec.-Gen. of Arafat's office, announces that Arafat's authorities have been divided between Abbas and Qre'i'a, while Arafat's condition remains unclear.

**Nov. 7:** French FM Barnier says Arafat is still alive, describing his condition as "very complex, very serious and stable."



**Nov. 8:** On *Al-Jazeera TV*, Yasser Arafat's wife Suha lashes out at Palestinian leaders (Abu Ala', Abu Mazen and Nabil Sha'ath), accusing them of traveling to Paris with plans "to bury Arafat 'alive' to inherit power from him, adding "Abu Amar is alive and is returning to the homeland. Revolution to victory. Allah akhbar." Her comments prompt them to cancel their visit, but later decide to nevertheless travel to Arafat's bedside. PLC head Rawhi Fattouh demands an apology from Suha.

**Nov. 9:** In Ramallah, Presidential Sec.-Gen. Tayyeb Abdul Rahim flanked by chief negotiator Saeb Erekat, struggles with tears as he tells a press



conference that "all the necessary arrangements" would be made at the Muqata'a, which the leadership had decided to turn into a mausoleum for Arafat, should he die, making it his final resting place until circumstances allow him to be buried in Jerusalem.

- Palestinian officials FM Nabil Sha'ath, PM Qrei'a , Mahmoud Abbas and PLC Speaker Rawhi Fattouh arrive in Paris and meet with Arafat's doctors who say that tests rule out cancer or poisoning as the reason for his decline. Sha'ath puts an end to speculation by declaring Pres. Arafat was still alive but "very poorly" and that his life was "now in the hands of God."

**Nov. 10:** The Palestinian leadership decides to split power between former PM Mahmoud Abbas and current PM Ahmed Qrei'a in the case of Arafat's death, with Abbas becoming head of the PLO's Executive Committee, while Qureia would be PM and head of the PA security services. PLC speaker Rawhi Fattouh will temporarily replace Arafat as PA chairman until new elections can be held - within 60 days.

- After visiting Pres. Arafat at his Paris hospital, Sheikh Taysir At-Tamimi, the PA's chief Islamic judge, stresses that it was illegal under Islamic law to remove life support "as long as there are any signs of life in the body."

- Israel agrees to Arafat being buried at the Muqata'a.
- Palestinian envoy to France Leila Shahid tells the media outside Percy Hospital that Arafat was "in the final phase of his life," while French PM Jean-Pierre Raffarin describes Arafat as being in his "final hours."

**Nov. 11:** Yasser Arafat's death at Percy Military Hospital in Clamart at 2.30 am GMT is announced at dawn in Ramallah by the PA and confirmed minutes later by hospital spokesman Estripeau. The PA declares a 40-day mourning period. Israel seals off the WBGS, fearing an explosion of Palestinian protest. Arafat's body is later carried by French Gardes Republicains during a ceremony at Villacoublay military airport before leaving France to Cairo.

**Nov. 12:** Pres. Arafat's coffin, draped in a Palestinian flag, is carried by horse-drawn gun carriage in a funeral ceremony in Cairo attended by world leaders. Later Egyptian helicopters fly the coffin to Ramallah, where Arafat is laid to rest at his battered Ramallah HQ where he spent his final years. Mock funerals are held all over the WBGS and in various Arab towns.





# The Last Journey



Arafat's coffin draped with the Palestinian flag is carried by French military honor guards at Villacoublay air base near Paris and loaded onto a French airplane flying to Cairo (11 Nov.) ▲



Egyptian honor guards carry Arafat's casket upon arrival in Cairo (11 Nov.) ▲



Coffin escorted by military personnel on its way to Almaza Airbase in Cairo (12 Nov.) ▲



Widow Suha and 9-year-old daughter Zahwa watch Arafat's funeral procession in Egypt (12 Nov.) ▲



Soil brought from Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by Muslim-Christian religious figures is added to Arafat's grave (12 Nov.)▲



Palestinian crowds watch the Egyptian helicopters landing at the Muqata'a, Ramallah, with the casket of their late President on his final trip home (12 Nov.) ▲





Crowds of Palestinian mourners attend the funeral in Ramallah where Arafat is laid to rest at the Muqata'a (12 Nov.) ▲



Four olive trees uprooted from the yard of Al-Aqsa Mosque together with a sprinkle of Jerusalem soil are placed at the burial site of late President Yasser Arafat (12 Nov.) ▲



Close-up photo of Arafat's grave (13 Nov.) ▲



Palestinian leaders praying at Arafat's grave (13 Nov.) ▲



**Arafat's mausoleum** [مزار عرفات] at the Muqata'a in Ramallah, (Nov. 2004) ▲