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## Civil Society Empowerment Promoting Good Governance

Another focus of PASSIA's **Civil Society Empowerment** project is **Promoting Good Governance**. The project is based on the notion that the achievement of good governance (transparency, accountability, rule of law, minority rights and absence of corruption) is a learning process that could be most effectively assisted by capitalizing upon the experiences of other emerging democracies or states in transition. It aims to help develop a responsive, efficient and credible public sector, with a transparent legal system and independent judicial institutions. The latter is particularly important given the fact that in countries transitioning to democracy, and the Palestinian case is a good example, the system is often weak and torn between incompatible institutional mandates and traditions. Moreover there is often a tendency to revert to more familiar patterns of authoritarianism – as displayed in the neighboring Arab states - and abuse of power rather than fostering the rule of law.

The project is a combination of research and workshops to analyze both the Palestinian democratization experience as well as the lessons and pitfalls of other countries in their attempts to promote and introduce concepts of participation, decentralization, accountability, transparency and rule of law.

### The Program

PASSIA believes that by looking at what others have to say about success and strategic failures on the road to functioning democratic and legal systems new methods that would assist in the search for good governance practices could be developed for the Palestinian case.

As part of the project, a resource database is being developed, containing information about experts and expertise in the field of Governance, which is accessible via PASSIA's website ([www.passia.org](http://www.passia.org)).

The other project component - a series of intensive workshops - examined Palestine's experience to date as well as that of other countries with regard to the following four major topics: *The Rule of Law, Democracy and Democratization, Decentralization and Local Government, and State-Society Relations*.

## Meetings 2004

### ■ Subtopic: Decentralization & Local Government

6 January 2004, Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah

**Topic:** Decentralization and the Next Municipal and Legislative Elections

**Speakers:** Introduction by Dr. Mahdi Abdul-Hadi; HE Jamal Shoubaki, Local Government Minister; Dr. Ali Safarini, Lawyer; Rafiq An-Natsheh, PLC Speaker



Jamal Shoubaki



Ali Safarini



Rafiq An Natsheh



Mahdi Abdul-Hadi

**Participants:** Ekhlas Bader, Lawyer; Samih Shahib, Writer; Abdul Karim Nijem, Public Relation, Political & National Guidance; Said Zaid, Palestinian Legislative Council; Tayseer Arouri, Birzeit University; Jamal Shobaki, Minister of Local Government; Ahmed Ghneim, Ministry of Local Government; Dr. Said Zeedani, Director of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, Ramallah; Iyad Masrouji, Masrouji Company; Wafa' Abdul Rahman, MIFTAH; Ayman Yousef, Birzeit University; Lubna Hammad, UNICEF; Taleb Awad, Muwatin; Rafiq Natsheh, Speaker, Palestinian Legislative Council; Dr. Hassan Abu Libdeh, Bureau Chief, Prime Minister Office; Lily Habash, Cabinet Secretariat; Bassam Al-Salhi, Writer; Izzat Abdul Hadi, Director, Bisan Center; Mamdouh Nofal, Writer; Hijazi Natsheh, Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA.



11 February 2004, PASSIA, Ramallah

**Topic: e-Government: A Shortcut to Decentralization in Palestine.**

**Speaker:** Dr. Mashhour Abu Daka, Director of the Palestinian Information Technology Association (PITA), Ramallah.

**Participants:** Samer Salameh, Director, Information Technology; Fadi Salsa, Operation Manager, IT; Yazan Abdul Rahman, Manager, IT; Imad Abu Hijlah, Paltel; Hani Boullata, IT; Hazem Kawasmi, Project Manager, GTZ; Arij Abdeen, GTZ; Feras Nasr, Central Election Commission; Taleb El-Haj, Ministry of Education; Faisal Awartani, Birzeit University; Azmi Shu'aibi, PLC; Hani Al-Hroub, Ministry of Local Government; Muna Jasser, Care; Hijazi Natsheh, PASSIA; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA.



*'Azmi Shou'aibi*

18 February 2004, PASSIA, Ramallah

**Topic: Decentralization and Corruption**

**Speaker:** Dr. 'Azmi Shou'aibi, PLC Member, Ramallah

**Participant(s):** Ala'a Lahlouh, Researcher, PSR; Dr. Taleb Awad, Muwatin; Ahmed Juma'a, Researcher, UNSCO; Ahmed Ghneim, Ministry of Local Government; Hani Bullata, IT/IMG; Dr. Ishaq Al-Qutub, Al-Quds University; Hijazi Al-Natsheh, PASSIA; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA.

25 February 2004, PASSIA, Jerusalem.

**Topic: Decentralization: Donors' Perspectives**

**Speaker:** Dr. Khalil Nakhleh, General Director, Accreditations and Quality Assurance Commission, Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

**Participants:** Maha Abu Samra, Field Training Officer, UNRWA; Caroline Abu Sada, PhD Student; Benoît Challand, PhD Student; Safa' Abu Assab, Program Manager, Diakonia; Lois Nakhleh, Artist; Valker Bach, Assistant Director, Star Mountain; Michael Neuwirth, Miftah; Raya Al-Abbasi, Project Director, IRFAN Canada; Nick Kardahji, Hijazi An-Natsheh, Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA.



*Khalil Nakhleh*



## EXPERTS WORKSHOP

8 June 2004, Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah

### **Decentralization and Local Government Reform: Learning from the Lessons of Others**

#### Speaker(s):

- **Jamal Shobaki**, Minister of Local Government, Palestine
- **Dr Reinhard Bodemeyer**, GTZ, Morocco
- **Mohammad Zaidan**, Former Head of the Follow Up Committee, Arab Mayors and Heads of Local Councils Committee
- **Dr As'ad Ghanem**, Head of Ibn Khaldun - Arab Association for Research and Development, Haifa.



Participant(s): Imad Saed, General Director, Ministry of Local Government; Fouz Khalifah, Ministry of Local Government; Isam Aqel, Executive Director, Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA); Lawahez Abdul Hadi, President, General Union of Palestinian Women, Nablus; Da'ad Alami, Palestinian Women Club, Nablus; Fathi Bozeiah, Mayor, Kefel Haris Municipality; Atef Alawneh, Ministry of Finance, Ramallah; Khaled Abu Alia, Director, Civic Forum; Yaser 'Aleis, Investor; Ahmad Al-Qasem, Writer & Researcher; Jamil Hamami, Al-Quds University; Angele Khasho, Program Assistant, Danish Representative Office; Nazmi Harb, General Director, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics; Rasem Kamal, Lawyer; Jihad Abdul



Hadi, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Raed Abu Ghazaleh, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; As'ad Sunokrot, Sunokrot Company, Jerusalem; Ibrahim Julani, Businessman, Jerusalem; Hassan Fayyad, Negotiation Affairs Department, Ramallah; Ismail Talahmeh, Engineer; Khalid Naseef, Civic Forum; Ma'rouf Zahran, Mayor of Qalqilia; Saber Arif, Qalqilia Municipality; Walid Badawi, PLO Refugees Department; Nahed Awwad,

Goethe Institute, Ramallah; Abdullah Abu Shaweesh, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Khalil Nakhleh, Ministry of Education and Higher Education; Peter Schäfer, Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES); Adnan Ghosheh, Advisor, Municipal Development, GTZ; Hazem Qawasmi, GTZ; David Bother, GTZ; Abdul Jawad Saleh, PLC Member, Ramallah; Mustafa Habash, Dar Al-Fatwa and Islamic Research Studies, Ramallah ; Ahmad Amer, Birzeit University; Sameer Shihadeh, General Director, National Institution Office, Ramallah; 'Ouhoud Qanadeel, Arab Women's Union Society, Nablus; Ghada Abdul Hadi, Hawwa Center, Nablus; Iyad Masrouji, General Manager, Masrouji Company; Shifa' Jayousi, Institutional Strengthening Specialist, Ramallah; Mohammed Kamal Jaber, Palestinian National Commission for Education,



Culture and Science, Ramallah; Nawal Shaheen, Arab Women's Union Society, Ramallah; Hamdallah Hawamdeh, Ministry of Culture, Nablus; Faisal Awartani, General Manager of Alpha International for Polling, Research & Informatics, Ramallah; Sa'ed Abdul Hadi, An-Nasher, Ramallah; Taleb Awad, Muwatin, Ramallah; Azzam Abu So'ud, Chamber of Commerce, Jerusalem; Muna Matta, Belgian Technology Cooperation; Majed Souman, The Commission of NGO's Affairs, PA Commission; Sandy Jasser, The Commission of NGO's Affairs, PA Commission; Volker Buenning, Advisor, GTZ; Rima Ghandour, USAID, Tel Aviv; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Sana' Shannak, Nick Kardahji, Fadi Kiblawi, PASSIA.

*Jamal Shobaki*

*Mohammad Zaidan*



*Mahdi Abdul Hadi*

*Reinhard Bodemeyer*

*As'ad Ghanem*



Agenda:

- 10:00-10:45 **Opening Remarks**  
Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA, Jerusalem
- 10:45-11:30 **Decentralization & Local Government Reform in Palestine**  
Jamal Shobaki, Minister of Local Government, Palestine
- 11:30-13:00 **Devolving Political Power and Introducing Administrative Change in an Arab-Islamic Context**  
Dr. Reinhard Bodemeyer, GTZ, Morocco
- 13:00-13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30-14:45 **Elections and Prospects for Local Government Reform in Palestine**  
Jamal Shobaki, Minister of Local Government, Palestine
- 14:45-16:00 **Central-Local Authority Relations in an Ethnically Divided State**  
Mohammad Zaidan, Former Head of the Follow Up Committee, Arab Mayors and Heads of Local Councils Committee, and Dr. As'ad Ghanem, Head of Ibn Khaldun - Arab Association for Research and Development.

### ■ **Subtopic: State-Society Relations**

19 May 2004, PASSIA, Ramallah

**Topic: State-Civil Society Relations in Palestine: A Civil Society View.**

**Speaker:** Izzat Abdul Hadi, Director, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Ramallah.

**Participants:** Sam Bahour, Director, Plaza Shopping Center; Salim Tamari, Institute of Jerusalem Studies; Khalil Nakhleh, Ministry of Education and Higher Education; Majdi Daqiqi, Ministry of Woman Affairs; Luay Shabaneh, ACSP-Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS); Nahla Abdo, Ministry of Women Affairs; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Sana' Shannak, PASSIA.



Izzat Abdul Hadi



Ghassan Al-Khatib

17 June 2004, PASSIA, Ramallah

**Topic: State-Civil Society Relations – A State Perspective**

**Speaker:** Ghassan Al-Khatib, Minister of Labor, Ramallah.

**Participant(s):** Abdullah Abu Shawesh, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Sam Bahour, Consultant; Mahmoud Takturi, General Manager, Palestine Mortgage and Housing Corporation; Mahmoud Hammad, Lawyer; Ismail Talahma,



Engineer; Walid Badawi, Researcher; Saed Abu Farha, Reporter; Ziad Karablieh, Ministry of Economy; Jihad Abdul Hadi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Sa'ed Abdul Hadi, An-Nasher, Ramallah; Abdul Jawad Saleh, PLC Member, Ramallah; Taleb Awad, Muwatin, Ramallah; Ayman Yousef, Arab-American University, Jenin; Areej Al-Yousef, Delegate of German Industry and Trade, Ramallah; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA.

9 August 2004, PASSIA, Ramallah

## **Reforming the Palestinian Security Sector – Problems & Prospects**

**Speaker:** Georg Roland Friedrich, Middle East Politics (MSc), School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London

**Participants:** Arij Abdeen, Economic Policy Advice Project, GTZ; Franziska Schaft, GTZ; Jose F. da Fonseca, Portugal Representative Office; Abdul Jawad Saleh, PLC Member; Orayb Najjar, Associate Professor, NIV; Ruba Abu Roqtti, Program Manager, Austrian Representative Office; Daoud Barakat, Shaml; Khalil Nakhleh, Qattan Center; Sam Bahour, Consultant; Mahmoud Takturi, General Manager, Palestine Mortgage and Housing Corporation; Mamdouh Nofal, Writer; Lily Habash, Advisor; Daniel Gonzalez, Computer Programmer; Rami Mehdawi, Panorama; Nadia Hajal, Miftah; Ines Mazarrasa, UNDP; Rohini Kohli, UNDP; Sonia Gongalez, Economist; Radwan Abu Ayyash, PBC Chairman; Lea Valaulta, Peace Building, Advisor, Representative Office of Switzerland, Ramallah; Manuel Schubert, Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Ramallah; Henrich Schulz, Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Ramallah; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA.

*Roland Friedrich*

