

**The
Palestinian
Council**

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**The
Palestinian
Council**

Updated 2nd Edition

Jerusalem, January 1998



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Introduction

The presence of an elected Palestinian Council is seen as an important development in the political life of the Palestinian people who regard it as one of the major achievements emanating from the current peace process.

The Council is the first elected Palestinian body in the history of the Palestinian people. It is looked upon as an indication of their right to self determination and an expression of their natural hopes.

The Palestinian people and the international community alike regard the existence of an elected Palestinian Council with profound importance as it provides legitimacy, respect, and legality for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their goal towards ending the saga of Israeli occupation and the beginning of a new idea era in the fulfillment of their national dreams of an independent Palestinian state.

Since its establishment, the Council has strived to sincerely reflect the aspiration and goals of the people who elected it. It has also become an instrument for holding the Palestinian Executive Authority to account. This function of accountability has been conducted in a very courageous and effective manner, something unique in the Palestinian political history.

Due to the importance of the Council and its responsibilities and as a result of the great local and international interest in this body, the Jerusalem Media & Communication Centre (JMCC) presents the 2nd edition of this book to enable the reader to get a better idea of the structure of the Council, the members elected to it, its jurisdiction, and other aspects relevant to it. This attempt, we believe, may contribute to strengthening the link between the Council and the people on one hand, and those interested in its work, on the other. We hope that such a modest effort will further strengthen the building of democracy in Palestinian society and its relations with the outside world.

Ghassan Al-Khatib
Director

The Palestinian Legislative Council

The first elected Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) was initially conceptualized with the Declaration of Principles (DOP) signed in Oslo on 19/8/1993, and signed officially in Washington on 13/9/1993. The idea was further developed in the Israel-Palestinian Interim Agreement on West Bank and Gaza Strip (Oslo II) signed officially in Washington on 28/9/1995, in which the structure, jurisdiction, functions, size, and responsibilities of the Council were determined. In fact the Oslo II Agreement was so detailed that constitutes the terms of reference for the council.

Oslo II stipulated that the PLC which form of 88 members and head of the Executive authority, upon its inauguration, is expected to act as the highest authority in the interim phase. The PLC is the body responsible for legislation and from it the majority 80% of the cabinet of the executive authority is appointed. The following pages provide a brief description of the Council based on the above mentioned agreements:

I. Structure:

- * The Palestinian Council, with the Ra'ees of the Executive Authority of the Council constitute the Palestinian Interim-Self Government Authority.
- * The Council is elected by the Palestinian people in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip for a transitional period not exceeding five years from the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement on May 4, 1994.
- * The Council possesses legislative and executive powers as stipulated in Articles VII and IX of the Declaration of Principles. Article IX of the DOP states that:

1. The Council shall be empowered to legislate, in accordance with the Interim Agreement, with all authorities transferred to it. Both parties will review laws and military orders presently in force in the remaining spheres (not transferred). Directly after its inauguration, the Council elected from among its members a speaker presides over the Council meetings, administers the Council and its committees, decides on the agenda of each meeting, and lays before the Council proposals for voting and declares their results. He is assisted by two deputees from the Council members. The speaker is to present for the Council the proposed Internal Standing Orders and the internal procedures regulations which regulate the decision-making processes of the Council and present it to discuss and ratify it, in addition to other duties.

2. The organization, structure and functions of the Council is based on the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Self-Government Agreement and the Basic Law for the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority.

II. Jurisdiction of the Council

* In accordance with the DOP, the jurisdiction of the Council covers the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a single territorial unit, except for issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations: Jerusalem, settlements, specified military locations, the refugees, borders, foreign relations and Israelis; and powers and responsibilities not transferred to the Council. Accordingly, the authority of the Council encompasses all matters that fall within its territorial, functional and personal jurisdiction, as follows:

a. The territorial jurisdiction of the Council encompasses Gaza Strip territory, except for the Settlements and the Military Installation Area, and West Bank territory, except for Area C, which will be gradually transferred to Palestinian jurisdiction in three phases. Each phase will take place after an interval of six months, to be completed 18 months after the inauguration of the Council. At this time, the jurisdiction of the Council will cover West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, except for the issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations. Territorial jurisdiction includes land, subsoil and territorial waters, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

b. The functional jurisdiction of the Council extends to all powers and responsibilities transferred to the Council, as specified in Oslo II or in any future agreements that may be reached between the Palestinians and Israelis during the interim period.

c. The territorial and functional jurisdiction of the Council will apply to all persons, except for Israelis. The Council has functional jurisdiction in Area C, as detailed in Article IV of Annex III of Oslo II.

* According to the interim agreement, the Council has within its authority, legislative powers as provided in article XVIII of Oslo II. In addition to executive powers but however:

a. Israel, through its military government, has the authority over areas that are not under the territorial jurisdiction of the Council, powers and responsibilities not transferred to the Council and Israelis.

b. For this purpose, the Israeli military government retains the necessary legislative judicial and executive powers and responsibilities, in accordance with international law. This does not detract from Israel's applicable legislation over Israelis.

* The Council's jurisdiction will extend gradually to cover the West Bank and Gaza Strip, except for the issues to be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations, through a series of redeployments of the Israeli military forces. The first phase of the redeployment of Israeli military forces will cover populated areas in the West Bank - cities, towns, refugee camps and villages as set out in Annex II - and will be completed prior to the eve of the Palestinian elections, i.e. 22 days before the day of the elections. Further redeployment of

Israeli military forces to specified military locations will commence immediately upon the inauguration of the Council and will be affected in three phases, each to take place after an interval of six months, to be concluded no later than 18 months from the date of the inauguration of the Council.

1. In Area C, in the first phase of redeployment, powers and responsibilities not related to territory will be transferred to and assumed by the Council in accordance with the Agreement.
2. During the subsequent redeployment phases, powers and responsibilities relating to territory will be transferred gradually to Palestinian jurisdiction that will cover West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, except for this issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations.
3. In accordance with the DOP, in Area C, the Council will have functional jurisdiction with regard to the powers and responsibilities transferred. This jurisdiction shall not apply to issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status, as it is mentioned in Article XVII, paragraph 1 of this agreement.
4. The transfer of powers and responsibilities in Area C shall not affect Israel's continued authority to exercise its powers and responsibilities with regard to internal security and public order, as well as with regard to other powers and responsibilities not transferred.

III. Legislative Powers of the Council

- * According to The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Oslo II), legislation means "any primary and secondary legislation, including basic laws, laws, regulations and other legislative acts".
- * The Council has the power, within its jurisdiction as defined in Article XVII of Oslo II to adopt legislation.
- * While the primary legislative power lies in the hands of the Council as a whole, the Ra'ees of the Executive Authority of the Council shall have specific legislative powers: a. the power to initiate legislation or to present proposed legislation to the Council; b. the power to promulgate legislation adopted by the Council; and c. the power to issue secondary legislation, including regulations, relating to any matters specified and within the scope established in any primary legislation adopted by the Council.
- * Legislation, including legislation which amends or abrogates existing laws or military orders, which exceeds the jurisdiction of the Council or which is otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of the DOP, of the provisions of Oslo II, or of any other agreement that may be reached between the two sides during the interim period, have no effect and are deemed void.
- * The Ra'ees of the Executive Authority must not issue legislation adopted by the Council if this legislation fall within the jurisdiction of this item.

IV. The Executive Authority of the Council

* The executive power of the Palestinian Council extends to all matters within its jurisdiction during the interim period. It also includes the power to formulate and conduct Palestinian policies and to supervise their implementation, to issue any rule or regulation under powers given in approved legislation and administrative decisions necessary for the realization of Palestinian government, the power to employ staff, sue and be sued and conclude contracts, and the power to keep and administer registers and records of the population, and issue certificates, licenses and documents.

* The Palestinian Council's executive decisions and acts must be consistent with the provisions of The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Oslo II).

* The Palestinian Council may adopt all necessary measures in order to enforce the law and any of its decisions, and bring proceedings before the Palestinian courts and tribunals.

a. In accordance with the DOP, the Council will not have powers and responsibilities in the sphere of foreign relations, which includes the establishment embassies, consulates or other types of foreign missions and posts or permitting their establishment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the appointment of or admission of diplomatic and consular staff, and the exercise of diplomatic functions.

b. However, the PLO may conduct negotiations and sign agreements with states or international organizations for the benefit of the Council in the following cases only:

1. economic agreements, as specifically provided in Annex V of Oslo II;
2. agreements with donor countries for the purpose of implementing arrangements for the provision of assistance to the Council;
3. agreements for the purpose of implementing the regional development plans detailed in Annex IV of the DOP or in agreements entered into the framework of the multilateral negotiations; and
4. cultural, scientific and educational agreements.

c. Dealings between the Council and representatives of foreign states and international organizations, as well as the establishment of representative offices, other than those described above, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for the purpose of implementing the agreements, are not to be considered foreign relations.

* The Council shall have, within its jurisdiction, and independent judicial system composed of independent Palestinian courts and tribunals.

V. The Executive Authority of the Council and the Ra'ees

* The Council has a committee to exercise the executive authority of the Council.

* The Executive Authority is bestowed with the executive responsibilities of the Council and exercises it on behalf of the Council. It determines its own internal procedures and decision making processes.

- * The Council will publish the names of the committee members/executive authority immediately after initial appointments and other coming changes.
- * The Ra'ees of the Executive Authority shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Authority.
- * All of the other members of the Executive Authority, shall be members of the Council, chosen and proposed to the Council by the Ra'ees of the Executive Authority and approved by the Council.
- * The Ra'ees of the Executive Authority shall have the right to appoint some persons, in number not exceeding twenty percent of the total membership of the Executive Authority, who are not members of the Council, to exercise executive authority and participate in government tasks. Such appointed members may not vote in meetings of the Council.
- * Non-elected members of the Executive Authority must have a valid address in an area under the jurisdiction of the Council.

VI. Committees of the Council

- * The Council may form small committees to simplify the proceedings of the Council and to assist in controlling the activity of its Executive Authority.
- * Each Committee may establish its own decision-making processes within the general framework of the organization and structure of the Council.

VII. Relations between Israel and the Council

- * Israel and the Council shall seek to foster mutual understanding and tolerance and shall accordingly abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda, against each other and, without derogating from the principle of freedom of expression, shall take legal measures to prevent such incitement by any organizations, groups or individuals within their jurisdiction.
- * Israel and the Council will ensure that their respective educational systems contribute to the peace between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and to peace in the entire region, and will refrain from the introduction of any action that could adversely affect the process of reconciliation.
- * Without derogation from the other provisions of this Agreement, Israel and the Council shall cooperate in combating criminal activity which may affect both sides, including offenses related to trafficking of illegal drugs and psychotropic substances, smuggling, and offenses against property, including offenses related to vehicles.

Chronology of Events

- Nov. 12 - Dec. 2, 1995 Voters registration. 7000 teachers going from door to door to register all persons over 17 years old.
- Nov. 20, 1995 Advertising by the Palestinian National Authority for applications for ID cards by Palestinians without cards e.g. those holding foreign passports.
- Dec. 3, 1995 Conclusion of computerizing the voters list in the Palestinian central Bureau of Statistics.
- Dec. 5, 1995 Final date for applications for ID cards.
- Dec. 7, 1995 Palestinian Election Law Number 13 for the year 1995 was promulgated.
- Dec. 10, 1995 Publication of the Draft Electoral Register.
- Dec. 10-14, 1995 Period for the submission of objections and appeals over the Electoral Register.
- Dec. 13, 1995 Presidential decree Number 1, calling for elections and determining January 20, 1996 as the election day, and setting the dates for nominations starting on December 14, 1995 for nine days.
- Dec. 14, 1995 Presidential Decree Number 2, setting the number of seats for each constituency as well as the seats allocated for Christians.
- Dec. 14-23, 1995 Nominations for the Palestinian Council to be presented to the District Elections Commissions (DECs); nominations for the President to be presented to the Central Elections Commission (CEC).

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- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Dec. 21, 1995 | Presidential Decree Number 3, announcing the establishment of the Central Elections Commission and the names of its members. |
| Dec. 23, 1995 | Presidential Decree Number 4, establishing a five member Elections Appeals Court. |
| Dec. 24, 1995 | Provisional Candidates List was published and objections in its regard began. |
| Dec. 26, 1995 | Final date for objections on the Provisional Candidates List. |
| Dec. 28, 1995 | Presidential Decree Number 5, calling for the addition of four more seats, one for each of the following constituencies: Jerusalem, Gaza City, Khan Younis, and Hebron, and opening the nomination drive from the 29th till the evening of 31 December 1995. |
| Dec. 29, 1995 | Law Number 16, amending the Palestinian Election Law, and stipulating that the number of seats of the Council will be increased to 88. It also states that "It is permissible for the President to extend the period specified for nomination". |
| Dec. 29, 1995 | Presidential Decree Number 6, allocating five seats to the following constituencies: Jerusalem (one seat), Gaza City (two seats), Khan Younis (one seat), Hebron (one seat), and also setting midnight of December 31, 1995 as the last period for nomination. |
| Dec. 30, 95-Jan. 18, 96 | Election campaign. |
| Jan. 5, 1996 | Announcement of the final Candidates List and publication of the final Electoral Register. |
| Jan. 5, 1996 | The campaign for the election of the first Palestinian Legislative Council sets in motion. |
| Jan. 20, 1996 | Polling Day. |

Presidential Decree Number (1) for the Year 1995 Concerning Calling for Elections

The Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestine Liberation Organization The President of the Palestinian National Authority
After reviewing Law Number 5 for the Year 1995 Concerning the Transfer of Powers and Authorities, and Law Number 13 for the Year 1995 Concerning Elections hereby decides:

Article 1:

The Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem, are called for general, free, and direct elections to elect the President of the Palestinian National Authority and the Members of the Palestinian Council on Saturday 20 January 1996.

Article 2:

The voting process for the candidates for the presidency of the Palestinian National Authority and for the members of the Palestinian Council shall be conducted pursuant to the final voters and candidates lists.

Article 3:

The nomination process shall begin on 14 December 1995 and for a period of nine days.

Article 4:

The Chairman of the Central Elections Commission shall implement this decree which shall take force on the date of its promulgation and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued in the City of Gaza on 13 December 1995.

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Authority
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority

**Presidential Decree Number (2) for the Year 1995
Concerning Calling for Elections**

The Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestine Liberation Organization
The President of the Palestinian National Authority
After reviewing Law Number (5) for the Year 1995 Concerning the Transfer of Powers and Authorities, and Law Number (13) for the Year 1995 Concerning Elections; and on the basis of the powers delegated to me we hereby promulgate the following decree:

First: The seats to the Palestinian Council shall be distributed as follows:

	<u>Constituency</u>	<u>No. Of Seats</u>		<u>Constituency</u>	<u>No. Of Seats</u>
1	Jerusalem	six seats	9	Gaza City	ten seats
2	Jericho	one seat	10	Rafah	five seats
3	Nablus	eight seats	11	Salfit	one seat
4	Tulkarem	four seats	12	Bethlehem	four seats
5	North Gaza	seven seats	13	Hebron	nine seats
6	Toubas	one seat	14	Ramallah	seven seats
7	Jenin	six seats	15	Dir Al-Balah	five seats
8	Qalqilia	two seats	16	Khan Younis	seven seats

Second: Based on Article (5) of the Palestinian Election Law for the Year 1995, the following seats shall be designated to our Palestinian Christian brothers:

a. Gaza Constituency One seat b. Ramallah Constituency One seat c. Bethlehem Constituency Two seats d. Jerusalem Constituency Two seats.

Third: Based on Article (5) of the Palestinian Election Law for the Year 1995, one seat shall be designated to our Palestinian brothers from the Samaritan sect.

Fourth: The Chairman of the Central Elections Commission shall implement this decree which shall take force on the date of its promulgation and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued in the City of Gaza on 14 December 1995.

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Authority
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority

**Presidential Decree Number (3) for the Year 1995
Concerning calling for Elections**

The Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestine Liberation Organization
The President of the Palestinian National Authority

After reviewing Law Number (5) for the year 1995 Concerning the Transfer of Powers and Authorities, and Law Number (13) for the Year 1995 Concerning Elections;
and on the basis of the powers delegated to me

We hereby promulgate the following decree:

The Palestinian Central Elections Commission shall be established as follows:
Mr. Mahmoud Abbas Chairman And the membership of:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Attorney Ali Safarini | 6. Mrs. Lamis Alami |
| 2. Dr. Gabi Baramki | 7. Dr. Munther Salah |
| 3. Attorney Tawfiq Abu Ghazaleh | 8. Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh |
| 4. Attorney Ibrahim Saqqa | 9. Dr. Riad al-Khodary |
| 5. Dr. Hassan Abu Libdeh | |

Issued in the City of Gaza on 21 December 1995

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Authority
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian national Authority

**Presidential Decree Number (4) for the Year 1995
Concerning Calling for Elections**

The Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestine Liberation Organization
The President of the Palestinian National Authority

After reviewing Law Number (5) for the Year 1995 Concerning the Transfer of Powers and Authorities, and Law Number (13) for the Year 1995 Concerning Elections;

and on the basis of the powers delegated to me

we hereby promulgate the following decree

The Elections Appeal Court shall be constituted as follows:

1. Justice Zuheir Al-Sourani, presiding
2. Justice Imad Salim
3. Justice Shukri Nashashibi
4. Justice Abdallah Guzman
5. Justice Sami Saba

Issued in the City of Gaza on 23 December 1995.

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Authority
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority

**Presidential Decree Number (5) for the Year 1995
Concerning Calling for Elections**

The Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestine Liberation Organization
The President of the Palestinian National Authority

After reviewing Law Number 5 for the Year 1995 Concerning the Transfer of Powers and Authorities, and Law Number 13 for the Year 1995 Concerning Elections;

And follow up to Presidential Decree Number 2, promulgated on 14 December 1995, according to which the seats for the Palestinian Council were distributed to the constituencies;

And based on the developments in the negotiations over the number of the Council Members, and on the basis of the powers delegated to me

we hereby promulgate the following decree

First: The four seats shall be distributed as follows:

1. Jerusalem Constituency One seat The number of seats in the Constituency becomes seven
2. Gaza City Constituency One seat The number of seats in the Constituency becomes seven
3. Khan Younis Constituency One seat The number of seats in the Constituency becomes seven
4. Hebron Constituency One seat The number of seats in the Constituency becomes seven

Second: Nomination in the above constituencies shall be re-opened starting Friday morning 29 December 1995, and closed on Sunday 31 December 1995.

Third: The Chairman of the Central Elections Commission shall implement this decree which shall take force on the date of its promulgation and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued in the City of Gaza on 28 December 1995.

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Authority
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority

**Presidential Decree Number (6) for the Year 1995
Concerning Calling for Elections**

The Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestine Liberation Organization
The President of the Palestinian National Authority
After reviewing Law Number 5 for the Year 1995 Concerning the Transfer of
Powers and Authorities, and Law Number 13 for the Year 1995 Concerning
Elections;
and on the basis of the powers delegated to me
we hereby promulgate the following decree:

First: The five seats shall be distributed as follows:

1. Jerusalem Constituency One seat The number of seats in the Constituency becomes seven
2. Gaza City Constituency Two seat The number of seats in the Constituency becomes twelve
3. Khan Younis Constituency One seat The number of seats in the Constituency becomes eight
4. Hebron Constituency One seat The number of seats in the Constituency becomes ten

Second: Nomination in the above constituencies shall be re-opened until 12 pm on Sunday 31 December 1995.

Third: The Chairman of the Central Elections Commission shall implement this decree which shall take force on the date of its promulgation and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued in the City of Gaza on 14 December 1995.

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Authority
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority

**Presidential Decree Number (1) for the Year 1996
Concerning the Members of the Executive Authority**

The Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization The President of the
Palestinian National Authority

After reviewing Law Number 5 for the Year 1995, concerning the transfer of
powers and authorities,
and Law Number 13 for the Year 1995 concerning the elections, amended by Law
Number 16 for the Year 1995, we hereby promulgate the following decree:

Article 1

The elected President of the National Authority shall make the following oath
before the head of the Palestinian National Council, the Supreme Judge, the head
of the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Religious Judge: "I swear by God, the
Almighty, to be faithful to the nation, protect the law and the constitution, preserve
the interests of the Palestinian people and the safety of their land, and to fulfill their
national hopes and aspirations. God shall be the witness on what I have said."

Article 2

The elected President of the National Authority shall present the members of the
Executive Authority to the Palestinian Legislative Council within five weeks after
the first session of the Council is held, for ratification and approval, either
individually or collectively. The authorization shall be by an absolute majority.

Article 3

The ministers of the Executive Authority shall pledge before the President of the
National Authority the following oath prior to the assumption of their
responsibilities: "I swear by God, the Almighty, to be faithful to the nation, protect
the constitution and the law, preserve the interests of the Palestinian people, and
carry out my responsibilities in the best form."

Article 4

All competent bodies, each according to its jurisdiction, shall implement this
decree. This decree shall come into force on the day of its issuance and shall be
published in the official Gazette.

Issued in Gaza City on 16 January 1996.

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Authority
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority

**Presidential Decree Number (2) for the Year 1996
Concerning the Procedures for the first meeting of the Legislative Council**

The Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestine Liberation Organization
The President of the Palestinian National Authority
After reviewing Law Number 5 for the Year 1995 concerning the Transfer of Powers and Authorities, and Law Number 13 for the Year 1995 concerning Elections, and its amendment Law Number 16 for the Year 1995; and Presidential Decrees Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 concerning the elections; and in preparation for the meeting of the Legislative Council after the elections; We hereby promulgate the following decree:

Article 1

The elected President of the Palestinian National Authority shall issue a decree stipulating the date and the place of the first meeting of the Palestinian Legislative Council, provided that this is carried out within 45 days from the date of the announcement of the winners of the Council elections.

Article 2

Quorum for the first meeting of the Council shall be established with an absolute majority of the Council members.

Article 3

At the inauguration of the Council, the oldest member of the Council shall assume the Presidency. If the eldest member, for whatever reason, failed from assuming the responsibilities of a chair, it is permissible to replace him with the second eldest, and the youngest present member shall assume the secretarial responsibilities. Both shall form the temporary office of the Council. Their responsibilities shall end once an office for the Council is elected.

Article 4

The acting President of the Council shall announce the opening of candidacy for the Presidency of the Council. This may be carried out either by individual members nominating themselves or others.

Article 5

In case only one candidate is nominated for the Presidency, then the acting President shall declare this member as the uncontested President and he shall immediately assume his/her post.

Article 6

In case there is more than one nominee for the Presidency, the temporary office shall supervise the election process. This shall be carried out by presenting every member a paper on which the chosen nominee will be written. The acting

President shall then call on the individual members to cast their paper in the ballot box, prepared for that purpose. After each casts his/her vote, the counting process shall begin and the member who gains the absolute majority of the present members shall be declared President of the Council. In case of no majority, voting will be carried to choose between the two members with the highest votes in the first round. In this case, proportional majority is sufficient. In the situation of a tie, a voting round among them shall be carried out.

Article 7

After the completion of the election process for the Council President, election for the two Deputies of the President and for the Secretary shall be carried out consecutively in the same manner as that for the President.

Article 8

The Council members shall pledge the following oath before the President of the Council: "I swear before God, the Almighty, to be faithful to the nation, protect the constitution and the laws, and serve the people and carry out the responsibilities entrusted in me in the best manner."

Article 9

The President of the Palestinian National Authority shall deliver a comprehensive speech outlining the policies of the Executive Authority in the next phase.

Article 10

After the speech is delivered, the President of the Council shall adjourn the meeting.

Article 11

The Diwan al-Fatwa Wa-al Tashre'e shall be delegated the responsibility of drafting the Council's by-laws.

Article 12

All competent bodies, each according to its jurisdiction, shall implement this decree. This decree shall come into force on the day of its issuance and shall be published in the official Gazette.

Issued in Gaza City on 16 January 1996.

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Authority
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority

**Presidential Decree Number (3) for the Year 1996
Concerning the Central Elections Commission**

The Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestine liberation Organization
The President of the Palestinian National Authority

After reviewing Law Number 5 for the Year 1995 Concerning the Transfer of
Powers and Authorities, and Law Number 13 for the Year 1995 Concerning
Elections;

and on the basis of the powers delegated to me

we hereby promulgate the following decree:

1. The Standing Palestinian Central Elections Commission shall be established as follows:

Mr. Mahmoud Abbas Chairman

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Attorney Tawfiq Abu Ghazaleh | 5. Dr. Gabi Baramki |
| 2. Attorney Ibrahim Saqqa | 6. Dr. Munther Saleh |
| 3. Attorney Ali Safarini | 7. Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh |
| 4. Mrs. Lamis Alami | 8. Dr. Riad Al-Khodari |

2. The Commission shall function pursuant to the provisions of the Election Law and/or any other legislation pertinent to elections in Palestine. 3. The Commission shall issue the necessary regulations and pamphlets for the fulfillment of its duties.

Issued in the City of Gaza on 5 March 1996.

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Authority
of the Palestine Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National Authority

International Observers

	Country	Numbers
1.	Algeria	1
2.	Australia	14
3.	Austria	9
4.	Belgium	19
5.	Canada	15
6.	Chile	2
7.	Denmark	14
8.	Egypt	30
9.	Finland	13
10.	France	22
11.	Germany	15
12.	Greece	10
13.	Guyana	1
14.	Hungary	1
15.	Ireland	14
16.	Italy	19
17.	Japan	84

	Country	Numbers
18.	Jordan	16
19.	Korea	6
20.	Latvia	1
21.	Luxembourg	11
22.	Morocco	2
23.	Netherlands	12
24.	Niger	1
25.	Norway	48
26.	Portugal	7
27.	South Africa	7
28.	Spain	23
29.	Sweden	18
30.	United Kingdom	26
31.	Uruguay	2
32.	USA	52
33.	Yemen	3

Total	519
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	International Organizations	Numbers
1.	The United Nations	10
2.	The Movement of Non-Aligned Nations	10
3.	The Organization of African Unity	10
4.	The International Organization for Election	11
5.	Non-Governmental Organization	46

Total	87
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**Number of Palestinian Legislative Voters Distributed
According to Constituencies**

Number	Constituency Code	Constituency	Registered voters	Voters	Turnout %
West Bank					
1	1	Jerusalem	80,051	34,001	42.47%
2	2	Jericho	12,906	10,685	82.79%
3	3	Bethlehem	55,134	41,465	75.21%
4	4	Jenin	82,314	60,919	74.01%
5	5	Hebron	133,084	88,366	66.4%
6	6	Ramallah	79,108	56,429	71.33%
7	7	Salfit	18,996	15,247	80.26%
8	8	Toubas	15,914	13,166	82.73%
9	9	Tulkarem	56,319	44,802	79.55%
10	10	Qalqilia	27,278	19,724	72.31%
11	11	Nablus	111,651	87,005	77.93%
Total West Bank			672,755	470,809	70.13%
Gaza Strip					
12	21	North Gaza	61,123	53,567	87.64%
13	22	Deir Al-Balah	56,015	45,156	80.62%
14	23	Gaza City	122,724	108,759	88.62%
15	24	Khan Younis	71,629	63,649	88.86%
16	25	Rafah	44,034	38,824	88.17%
Total Gaza Strip			355,525	309,955	87.18%
Total Palestine			1,028,280	780,079	75.86%

**Number of Candidates and Seats Distributed
According to Constituencies**

Number	Constituency Code	Constituency	No. of polling stations	No. of seats	No. of Candidates
West Bank					
1	1	Jerusalem	168	7	52
2	2	Jericho	22	1	6
3	3	Bethlehem	89	4	30
4	4	Jenin	145	6	36
5	5	Hebron	230	10	72
6	6	Ramallah	162	7	46
7	7	Salfit	34	1	11
8	8	Toubas	25	1	12
9	9	Tulkarem	99	4	38
10	10	Qalqilia	54	2	12
11	11	Nablus	176	8	55
Total West Bank			1,204	51	370
Gaza Strip					
12	22	North Gaza	82	7	67
13	23	Deir Al-Balah	72	5	50
14	24	Gaza City	183	12	92
15	25	Khan Younis	106	8	66
16	26	Rafah	55	5	27
Total Gaza Strip			498	37	302
Total Palestine			1,702	88	672

PLC Results of Elections

PLC Candidates Distributed According To Constituencies, Affiliation and Number of Votes

The shaded names of the candidates shows the winners on every constituency

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Jerusalem		
Number of seats: 7 Number of Christian seats: 2		
1. Ahmad Ali Mohammed Qrei (Abu 'Ala)	18839	Fateh
2. Hanan Dawoud Khalil Ashrawi (Christian Seat)	17944	Independent
3. Ahmad Husni Khalil Al-Batsh	9846	Independent
4. Ziad Ali Khalil Abu Zayyad	8434	Independent
5. Hatim Mohammed Abdel Qader 'Eid	8307	Fateh
6. Ahmad Hashim Ahmad Zghayer	7613	Fateh
7. Emile Musa Baseel Jarjou'i (Christian Seat)	5334	Fateh
8. Zahira Ahmad Badawi Abdallah Kamal	7363	Fida
9. Atta Dyab Suleiman Hilu	7003	Independent
10. Mohammed Anis Ahmad Al-Qaq	6000	Independent
11. Rana Ghaleb Said Al-Nashashibi	4481	Palestinian People's Party
12. Adnan Othman Ahmad 'Arafeh	4255	Independent
13. Jonathan George Musa Kuttab	4054	Independent
14. Mansour Yakin Dyab Dawoud	3621	Independent
15. Mahmoud Abed Aleyan Shkeir	3617	Palestinian People's Party
16. Hatim Abbas Mohammed Salah Al-Din	3426	Independent
17. Hanan Sama'an Hanna Siniora	3207	Independent
18. N'aim Abbas Owdeh Al-Ashhab	2981	Palestinian People's Party
19. Jamil Hussein Ibrahim Al-Salhout	2464	Independent
20. Salah Ali Amin Zahran	2326	Palestinian People's Party
21. Mohammed Khalil Dawoud Abu Hilal	2274	Independent
22. Samir Juma'a Issa Kireshe	2051	Independent
23. Ali Musa Ghaslan Al-Abbasi	2014	Future Bloc
24. Omar Dawoud Ahmad Al-Khatib	1985	Future Bloc
25. Fadel Ahmad Abdel Raouf Tahboub	1863	Independent
26. Al-Haj Abed Dawoud Abed Abu Dyab	1785	Independent
27. Rajeh Rajab Hamed Abu Assab	1548	Independent
28. Azam Azmi Rajab Al-Hashlamone	1479	Independent
29. Nur Al-Din Ali Johar Halabieh	1421	Independent
30. Mohammed Musa Mohammed 'Aweisat	1402	Independent
31. Mohammed Fathi Hassan Ali Kujeh	1386	Independent
32. Mahmoud Radi Ali Al-Salaymeh	1371	Future Bloc

33. Ahmad Omar Mohammed Jamel	1332	Independent
34. Fahmi Musbah Mohammed Shabaneh	1246	Independent
35. Muwafaq Ahmad Abdel Rahman Abu Subeh	1240	NDM
36. Salah Al-Din Ali Yousef Zuheikah	1239	Independent
37. Ibrahim Mohammed Mahmoud Sh'aban	1233	Independent
38. Ibrahim Suleiman Abdallah D'eibis	1214	Future Bloc
39. Kamal Saleh Jaber Al-Hinawi	1107	Independent
40. Yousef Faleh Mohammed Lafi Abu Sarhan	1079	Independent
41. Mahmoud Ahmad Ibrahim Far'aoun	923	Independent
42. Adnan Jamil Othman Ala' Eddine Al-Natsheh	902	Independent
43. Dawoud Mohammed Hussein Al-'Abeidi	720	NDM
44. Mazen Abbas Abdel Razaq Al-Faham	704	Independent
45. Majid Mohammed Mustafa 'Aloush	675	NDM
46. Mahmoud Abdel Aziz Abdel Hafez Shweiki	671	Independent
47. Abdul Majid Ahmad Mahmoud Ramadan	656	Independent
48. Nabil Younis Ata Abu Sarieh	615	Independent
49. Adel Yousef Abed Salame Abu Libdeh	595	Independent
50. Faris Ahmad Mohammed Abdel Razak	503	Independent
51. Issa Ali Eid Abu Ramouz	443	Independent
52. Owdeh Husni Ali Al-Abdallah Matir	358	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Jericho		
Number of seats: 1 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Sa'eb Mohammed Saleh Erekat	6291	Fateh
2. Ibrahim Musa Balo Jalayta	1819	Independent
3. Mahmoud Mohammed Hamad 'Atifat	1359	Independent
4. Nathif Riad Nathif Abdo	254	Independent
5. Dawoud Ali Mahmoud Erekat	249	Palestinian People's Party
6. Yousef Ali Yousef Murar	249	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Bethlehem		
Number of seats: 4 Number of Christian seats: 2		
1. Assad Suleiman Abdel-Qader (Salah Tameri)	17774	Independent
2. Dawoud Hassan Mohammed Al-Zeir	9531	Independent
3. Bishara Saliba Suleiman Dawoud (Christian Seat)	6161	Independent
4. Mitri Tanas Jiries Abu Aita (Christian Seat)	5617	Independent
5. Issa Mohammed Abbas Al-Azeh	9156	Fateh
6. Khader Hassan Hussein Al-Laham	9015	Independent
7. Khalil Abed Khalil Shoukeh	5857	Independent

8. Mahmoud Ali Mahmoud Thawabteh	5033	Independent
9. Fu'ad Bassil Hanna Rizik	4867	Palestinian People's Party
10. Zughbi Elias Anton Zu'ghbi	4107	Independent
11. Nabil Elias Saliba Kokali	3642	Fida
12. Anton George Anton Salman	3335	Independent
13. Samir Jamil Hanna Qumsieh	3168	Independent
14. Ibrahim Mohammed Abdallah Takatkah	2942	Independent
15. Hazim Nasri Owdeh Qumsieh	2917	Fateh
16. Hisham Hussein Abdel Muhsan Fararjeh	2620	Independent
17. George Yousef Saleem Hazboun	2282	Fateh
18. Mohammed Dawoud Abed Radayda	2082	Independent
19. Ahmad Abdel Hamid Owdeh Al-Aisseh	1757	Independent
20. Khader George Jadallah Zidan	1722	Independent
21. Jiries Elias Mitri Freij	1293	Independent
22. Freeman Issa Elias Al-Bandak	1144	Independent
23. Khalil Salim Yousef Abu S'ada	1102	Independent
24. Mahmoud Ahmad Mohammed S'adeh	796	Independent
25. Fu'ad Nasri Mikhael Qanawati	768	Independent
26. Farid Musa Yousef Azizeh	749	Independent
27. Ibrahim Mohammed Riziq Riziq	232	Independent
28. Dawoud Issa Dawoud Matar	201	Independent
29. Adel Ahmad Musa Ghyadeh	132	Independent
30. Taher Hassan Abdel Fattah Darwish	98	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Jenin		
Number of seats: 6 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Burhan Nihad Al-Haj Ibrahim Jarrar	18608	Fateh
2. Jamal Shafi Younis Al-Hindi	17474	Fateh
3. Hikmat Hashim Lutfi Zeid	14220	Independent
4. Azam Najeeb Mustafa Al-Ahmad	14166	Fateh
5. Ahmad Suleiman Ahmad Irshaid	13384	Fateh
6. Fakhri Fahed Musa Ahmad	11529	Independent
7. Mahmoud Fared Asad Abu Al-Rub	11465	Fateh
8. Saleh Ra'fat Said Saleh	9439	Fida
9. Issam Abdel Latif Ibrahim Al-Salih	8818	Independent
10. Rashid Khaled Rashid Mansour	8782	Independent
11. Abdul Razek Mir'i Hassan Abu Al-Haija	8510	Independent
12. Sami Mohammed Salim Zeid Al-Kilani	7244	Fida
13. Azmi Ratib Fares Abu Hassan	7080	Independent
14. Walid Mahmoud Abdul Fattah 'Ardah	6681	Independent

15. Yassin Abdallah Arsan Al-S'adi	6411	Independent
16. Imad Fahmi Mohammed Janajreh	5287	Independent
17. Abdallah Mohammed Hussein Kabaha	5069	Arab Liberation Front
18. Abdul Rahman Mohammed Abu Rub	5004	Independent
19. Saber Mohammed Khalil Saba'neh	4807	Independent
20. Sa'edeh Mustafa Theeb Irsheid	4503	Independent
21. Samir Adeeb Mahmoud Danuf	4146	Independent
22. Subhieh Kamel Assad Ghanim	3972	Independent
23. Abdul Rahim (Hilmi) Fuad Smoudi	3559	Independent
24. Ribhi Hassan Abdul Rahman Abu Al-Rub	3419	Independent
25. Muhsen Hassan Salim Abu Ghali	3330	Independent
26. Talib Mohammed Musa Al-Bazour	3304	Independent
27. Arab Tawfik Mohammed Zakarneh	3294	Independent
28. Osama Naji Mahmoud Nazal	3220	Independent
29. Yousef Zakki Ahmad 'Aridi	3168	Independent
30. Fathi Ahmad Mohammed Zakarneh	2844	Independent
31. Ismat Khaled Younis Fowakhrieh	2760	Independent
32. Fathi Abed Saleh Al-Rahal	2535	Independent
33. Mohammed Murjan Rashid Mustafa Jabarin	2016	Palestinian People's Party
34. Riyadh Mohammed Fayyad Tamish	1736	Independent
35. Ghassan Naeem Jamil Barham	1611	Popular Struggle Front
36. Khaled Ali Saad Abdul Aziz	905	Palestinian People's Party

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Hebron		
Number of seats: 10 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Sharif Ali Hussein Mash'al "Abbas Zaki"	39348	Fateh
2. Musa Yassin Issa Abu Sabha	25316	Fateh
3. Jamal Abdul Latif Saleh Al-Shoubaki	24346	Fateh
4. Nabil Mahmoud Yousef 'Amr	23269	Fateh
5. Mohammed Abdul Fattah Mohammed Al-Hourani	23034	Fateh
6. Rafiq Shaker Darwish Al-Natsheh	17242	Fateh
7. Zahran Khalil Saleh Abu Qubaita	15841	Independent
8. Ali Mohammed Hussein Abu Al-Reesh	12087	Independent
9. Suleiman Mahmoud Musa Abu Sneineh	12034	Fateh
10. Ali Ibrahim Ghazal Al-Qawasmi	10334	Fateh
11. Ibrahim Rashed Mohammed Maraqa	10206	Fateh
12. Mohammed Ayash Abdul Jawad Milhim	10072	Independent
13. Samir Ahamd Othman Abu Zneid	9290	Independent
14. Abdul Hafith Abdul Salam Al-Ashhab	8669	Independent
15. Abu Al-Fahid Mohammed Hassan Tneineh	8607	Independent

16. Anwar Akram Issa Doudin	7848	Palestinian People's Party
17. Mahmoud Hassan Naji Bheiss	7254	Fida
18. Ali Yassin Mansieh Al-Magharzeh	7091	Independent
19. Fahmi Sabri Abdul Rahman Al-Shalaldeh	6877	Independent
20. Mahmoud Mohammed Mahmoud 'Amr	6848	Independent
21. Ahmad Musa Khalil Harb	6582	Independent
22. Saker Abed Abdul Fattah Al-Hroub	6488	Independent
23. Younis Mohammed Abed Tayem	5967	Palestinian People's Party
24. Mohammed Musallem Musallem Al-Tmeizi	5823	Independent
25. Mohammed Mohammed Jaber Al-Rajoub	5582	Independent
26. Ahmad Shaker Salameh Doudin	5497	Independent
27. Mohammed Abdul Mhadi Muheisen Abu Rayan	5217	Independent
28. Musa Hassan Musa Ajoueh	5160	Independent
29. Ribhi Abdel Mahdi Ali Abu Sneineh	4959	Independent
30. Mohammed Mahmoud Abdul Fattah Nimer	4894	Independent
31. Khamis MKhalil Abu Al-Dab'at	4817	Fida
32. Maryam Mohammed Abdel Fattah Hdaib	4763	Independent
33. Musa Khalil Hussein Al-Sheikh	4540	Palestinian People's Party
34. Ahmad Musa Issa Atiyat	4528	Independent
35. Abdul Rahman Musbah Mohammed Al-Namoura	4314	Independent
36. Azmi Mohammed Ismael Al-Shyoukhi	4199	Independent
37. Fayez Dawoud Mohammed Al-Qawasmeh	4161	Independent
38. Raef Abdel Halim Ibeido Al-Tamimi	4104	Independent
39. Fakhri Mohammed Musa 'Amr	3599	Independent
40. Na'im Ibrahim Ali Yazeed Toubassi	3545	Independent
41. Amin Ahmad Abdul Qader Al-Ashi	3535	Independent
42. Khalil Ismael Mahmoud Al-Halaiga	3443	Independent
43. Khaled Hassan Rasheed Al-Tmeizi	3424	Independent
44. Dawoud Abed Hassan Al-Manasrah	3372	Independent
45. Basim Murshed Ishak Maswadeh	3360	Popular Struggle Front
46. Izz Mutlaq Salem Al-Ajlouni	3266	Independent
47. Hamed Issa Hussein Hallaika	3179	Independent
48. Ibrahim Abdul Qader Musa Al-Mahariq	3144	Independent
49. Mahmoud Mohammed Mahmoud S'adeh	3069	Independent
50. Mahmoud Mohammed Ahmad Al-Mahamreh	3040	Independent
51. Nawaf Sarhan Suleiman Al-Ramadin	2739	Independent
52. Maher Dawoud Shukri Zaloum	2735	Popular Struggle Front
53. Mahmoud Mohammed Ghanaam Al-Hamamdeh	2712	Independent
54. Mohammed Aref Darwish Al-Rajabi	2543	Independent
55. Mohammed Walid Jaber Al-Zir	2429	Independent
56. Mohammed Abdel Hamid Mwass Mwass	2394	Independent

57. Khader Ismael Abdul Rahman Smouh	2328	Independent
58. Nabiha Sayyed Yousef Abu Rmeileh	2135	Independent
59. Jamil Jaber Abdul Majeed Awlad Mohammed	2105	Arab Liberation Front
60. Amin Ali Mohammed Salem Sa'fan	1978	Independent
61. Ismael Musallem Khalil Abu Hmaid	1905	Independent
62. Abdul Rahman Mohammed Isamel Hijeh	1901	Independent
63. Kamal Mortada Suleiman Al-Dweik	1801	Independent
64. Tawfiq Musa Ahmad Abu Hleil	1779	Independent
65. Arif Ali Mohammed Al-Hasaneh	1602	Independent
66. Jamil Falah Abdel Fattah Al-Amleh	1489	Independent
67. Jum'a Ahmad Rabia Rab'ei	1390	Independent
68. Lafi Bader Hussein Gheith	1323	Independent
69. Khalil Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Masalmeh	1305	Independent
70. Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al-Hamamdeh	1152	Independent
71. Fayez Abdul Hafith Ahmad Al-Imleh	1043	Independent
72. Mohammed Musa Taha Abdel Wahed Sidr	948	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Ramallah		
Number of seats: 7 Number of Christian seats: 1		
1. Abdul Jawad Saleh Atta Al-Hamayyel	29445	Independent
2. Ibrahim Faris Hamed "Qaddoura Faris"	20980	Independent
3. Abdul Fatah Mohammed Ibrahim Hamayyel	15412	Independent
4. Jamil Yousef Musleh Al-Tarifi	13504	Independent
5. Azmi Saleh Mohammed Al-Shuai'bi	12962	Fida
6. Marwan Hassib Hussein Al-Barghouthi	12716	Fateh
7. Ghazi Hanna Khalil Hanania (Christian Seat)	10238	Fateh
8. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa Al-Barghouthi	11553	Palestinian People's Party
9. Butheina Mattar Abed Al-Duqmaq	8666	Independent
10. Rabiha Thiyab Hussein Hamdan	8575	Fateh
11. Bassam Ahmad Omar Al-Salhi	8453	Palestinian People's Party
12. Mohammed Al-Zubaidi	8180	Independent
13. Musa Mustafa Abdul Fatah Syam	8100	Independent
14. Ya'coub Assad Fares Hassounch	7723	Fateh
15. Tayseer Ragheb Ali Arouri	7460	Palestinian People's Party
16. Nadim Salim Jiries Al-Zaru	7399	Independent
17. Bashir Mahmoud Naf'e Hamad	5502	Fateh
18. Nabil Bajes Musa Zyadeh	5337	Independent
19. Basim Atta Saleem Al-Rimawi	5047	Independent
20. Nu'man Mustafa Abdel Qader Abu Nijim	4606	Independent
21. Fowz Mohammed Abdul Rahman Khalifeh	4256	Independent

22. Mufid Mohammed Ahmad Al-Shami	3781	Independent
23. Mohammed Awad Abu Zeid	3405	Independent
24. Ramadan Abdul Rahim Safi	3351	Independent
25. Mohammed Ahmad Saleh Al-Arouri	3195	Fida
26. Fathi Abdul Fattah Saleh Zidan	3150	Independent
27. Husni Sha'ban Safi Nafe'h	2815	Independent
28. Khalil Ibrahim Khalil Al-Far	2657	Independent
29. Hijazi Rashid Saed Al-Deen	2653	Independent
30. Yousef Mahmoud Dawoud Suleiman Al-Ouri	2647	Islamic Jihad Movement
31. Mursi Saoudi Mahmoud Hajir	2594	Independent
32. Jamal Ahmad Mohammed Al-'Asi	2441	Popular Struggle Front
33. Adib Fawzi Ismael Al-Khatib	2425	Independent
34. Nicola Ibrahim Nicola Akel	2368	Independent
35. Hussein Mohammed Ibrahim Shabaneh	2318	Independent
36. Ibrahim Khalil Ibrahim Al-Lada'	2298	Independent
37. Khaled Khamis Mahmoud Abu Laban	2280	Independent
38. Ahmad Mohammed Al-Abed Samara	2190	Independent
39. Alfred Michael Khalil Toubassi	2011	Independent
40. Walid Abdul Jabar Abdallah Asmar	1934	Independent
41. Munir Tawfiq Abdul Aziz Suhweil	1805	Independent
42. Jamal Hussein Mohammed Shaja'ieh	1689	Independent
43. Mahmoud Al-Sheikh Abdul Fattah Zibin	1653	Independent
44. Nabil Mahmoud Hamdi Hamdi	1407	Independent
45. Muharam Shabaan Hussein Barghouti	1095	Independent
46. Taha Mohammed Rasheed Al-Khawajah	986	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Salfit		
Number of seats: 1 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Ahmad Fawzi Khaled Al-Diek	6624	Fateh
2. Abdul Rahman Owdeh Abdel Muhsen Al-Turk	2772	Independent
3. Khamis Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Hamad	1220	Palestinian People's Party
4. Basil Yousef Ibrahim D'ass	846	Independent
5. Abdul Jawad Yousef Mahmoud Al-Bir	717	Independent
6. Fathi Mohammed Hussein Buzieh	671	Independent
7. Adnan Husni Abdallah Ayash	643	Independent
8. Othman Ahmad Othman Misleh Al-Sartawi	484	Independent
9. Faysal Abdallah Ibrahim Shkeir	127	Independent
10. Samir Farouk Jamil Al-Salkhi	17	Independent
11. Musa Hassan Ibrahim Ziadeh	13	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Toubas		
Number of seats: 1 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Hashim Suleiman Saleh Daraghmeh	2132	Independent
2. Bassam Majid Ahmad Daraghmeh	1808	Independent
3. Thyab Ahmad Mustafa Abu Kheizaran	1530	Independent
4. Misbah Tawfiq Muhsen Abu Kishiq	1307	Fateh
5. Ahmad Mohammed Falah Ghanam	1237	Independent
6. Ahmad Mustafa Rasheed Beni Owdeh	943	Independent
7. Najib Ahmad Salim Abdallah Khudeiry	834	Independent
8. Husni Mohammed Abdul Rahman Swaftah	786	Independent
9. Yousef Mahmoud Mohammed Bisharat	642	Independent
10. Samir Mahmoud Ibrahim Mubaslat	570	Independent
11. Khaled Hassan Mohammed Subuh	518	Independent
12. Fayeq Hassan Younis Mahasneh	285	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Tulkarem		
Number of seats: 4 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Tayeb Abdul Rahim Mahmoud Abdel Halim	10363	Fateh
2. Mufid Yousef Mohammed Abed Rabo	8422	Independent
3. Hakam Omar Assad Balawi	8421	Fateh
4. Hassan Abdul Fattah Abdul Halim Khreisheh	8154	Independent
5. Adnan Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Bleidi	7739	Independent
6. Farouq Hafith Ahmad Hamdallah	5727	Independent
7. Suleiman Mustafa Suleiman Zuhri	5710	Fateh
8. Zeid Ahmad Mohammed Barham	5648	Independent
9. Mohammed Mahmoud Shaker Awad Al-Aboushi	5186	Palestinian People's Party
10. Hamdan Ali Mahmoud Ghanem Sa'eifan	4913	Independent
11. Badi'e Mahmoud Hussein Ka'dan	4884	Independent
12. Abdul Mu'ti Mohammed Assad Makhoul	4033	Arab Liberation Front
13. Adnan Hussein Heikal Damiri	3933	Independent
14. Khalid Hassan Mohammed Al-Sheikh Hassan	3883	Independent
15. Abdul Nasser Mohammed Ali Salah Tayeh	3816	Fateh
16. Fakhri Salim Owdeh Al-Tanib	3602	Independent
17. Mazen Shaker Abdul Latif Al-Jayousi	3266	Independent
18. Rashed Mustafa Mohammed Bawaqneh Janem	3146	Independent
19. Farid Jamil Mahmoud Akel	2680	Independent
20. Nimer Jamil Hussein Hourani	2635	Independent
21. Shukri Ahmad Khalil Jalad	2235	Independent
22. Hakam Talib Khader Thyab	2124	Popular Struggle Front

23. Mohammed Abdul Rahim Rasheed Shadid	1871	Independent
24. Zuheir Yasser Abdul Rahman Khalil	1707	Independent
25. Raslan Arafat Abdallah Hamdan	1587	Independent
26. Amin Ahmad Mikbel Dahbour	1432	Independent
27. Adnan Abbas Mahmoud Hirsheh	1406	Independent
28. Abdul Rahman Hassan Abdul Rahim Abu Tarif	1390	Independent
29. Khalil Mahmoud Ahmad Abu Lifeh	1308	Independent
30. Mohammed Mohammed Mahmoud Bleidi	1242	Independent
31. Amjad Rasmi Mohammed Hirsheh	1125	Independent
32. Fayad Abdul Rahman Fayad Abed Al-Khader	978	Independent
33. Hintish Abdallah Said Abu Hintish	903	Independent
34. Awni Jamil Khader Sabah	726	Popular Struggle Front
35. Fathi Salim Yassin Abu Zeid	725	Popular Struggle Front
36. Basim Rasem Kamal Ismael	661	Independent
37. Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al-Jrmie	389	Independent
38. Burhan Hussein Jamil Abdul Rahim Al-Saadi	122	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Qalqilia		
Number of seats: 2 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Mahmoud Ahmad Mahmoud Da'as	5934	Fateh
2. Othman Hussein Ghashash	5420	Independent
3. Saleh Ali Shehadeh Abdallah Maraba'a	4945	Independent
4. Basam Abdul Rahim Hamed Ilwel	4182	Fateh
5. Yahia Abdul Raouf Othman Jaber	2644	Independent
6. Mohammed Samih Amin Ibrahim Al-Nasser	1664	Ind
7. Salman Mohammed Yousef Salman	1660	Independent
8. Ahmad Nasser Salim Abu Adwan	1321	Popular Struggle Front
9. Zahran Rushdi Shbeita	1116	Independent
10. Mohammed Jamil Jasir Ali Dharah	967	Independent
11. Nader Abdel Rahim Abed Abdul Fattah Shakra	824	Independent
12. Salah Ibrahim Hussein Abu Hamid	293	Popular Struggle Front

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Nablus		
Number of seats: 8 Number of Samaritan seats: 1		
1. Fayez Aref Ahmad Zidan	36455	Fateh
2. Mu'awya Ali Amin Al-Masri	28016	Independent
3. Ghassan Walid Ahmad Al-Shaq'a	27365	Fateh
4. Maher Nasha'at Taher Al-Masri	23125	Fateh
5. Hussam Mahmoud Abdel Rahman Khader	21328	Liberty & Independence

6. Dalal Abdul Hafiz Mhamoud Salameh	20749	Fateh
7. Kamel Mohammed Saleh Al-Afghari	17425	Independent
8. Saloun Imran Ishaq Al-Kahin (Samaritan seat)	2451	Independent
9. Mua'th Majid Mohammed Al-Nabulsi	17005	Independent
10. Sarhan Othman Jaber Dweikat	14585	Fateh
11. Imad Nashat Kamal Ya'eish	13871	Fateh
12. Imad Shawkat Faris Libadeh	13673	Independent
13. Kheir Al-Din Burham Burham	13446	Liberty & Independence Bloc
14. Mahmoud Awad Khalil Awad	13151	Liberty & Independence Bloc
15. Ahmad Turki Khalil Adili	13033	Independent
16. Tahsin Abdul Raouf Al-Faris	12233	Independent
17. Hussam Nader Abdul Karim Abdul Hadi	12102	Independent
18. Amin Ramzi Darwish Maqboul	11192	Fateh
19. Wael Mamdouh Mahmoud Al-Habash	10903	Independent
20. N'uman Theeb Abdul Fattah Mashayekh	10688	Independent
21. Mahmoud Marouf Mustafa Assous	8515	Independent
22. Kamal Mahmoud Husni Abu 'Eisheh	7269	Liberty & Independence
23. M'arouf Aref Issa Dweikat	6728	Independent
24. Asim Ghaleb Hafith Salim	6392	Independent
25. Samir Abdallah Mohammed Dawabsheh	6180	Independent
26. Salam Abdul Qader Saleh Al-Saleh	6038	Independent
27. Nihaya Salim Ali Al-Saqa	5920	Independent
28. Samar Mohammed Musbah Dawoud Hawash	5320	Palestinian People's Party
29. Sahab Husni Theeb Shahin	4888	Independent
30. Mahmoud Awad Musa Abbas	4412	Independent
31. Basim Massaoud Abdallah Shkeir	4393	Independent National Bloc
32. Jamal Yousef Idris Al-Salkan	4290	Independent
33. Faris Mas'oud Mustafa Nasasra	4205	Palestinian People's Party
34. Mahmoud Rasheed Mahmoud Halabi	3854	Independent
35. Yasin Mohammed Said Nimer Dweikat	3655	Independent
36. Khaled Hassan Hussein Al-Juneidi	3585	Independent
37. Suleiman Abdul Jabar Sawalha	3469	Independent
38. Musa Mohammed Ibrahim Fatayer	2903	Independent
39. Mufid Mohammed Mahmoud Hanoun	2893	Independent
40. Hasoun Hamdan Mohammed Al-Dabik	2776	Independent
41. Issam Mahmoud Ali Jamous	2645	Independent
42. Nafith Khalil Hassan 'Alawneh	2574	Independent
43. Walid Taha Khalil Al-Aghbar	2340	Palestinian People's Party
44. Iyad Nathim Assad Bakir	2322	Liberty & Independence

45. Hakam Mustafa Said Ershaid	2245	Independent
46. Jamal Rawhi Darweesh Bustami	2230	Ba'ath Party
47. Adel Kamel Ahmad Zahran	2054	Palestinian People's Party
48. Tarek Said Amin Al-Masri	1837	Independent
49. Abdallah Wasif Tawfiq Al-Kahin	1646	Independent
50. Radwan Affif Fayad Al-Tayf	1585	Fateh
51. Abdul Qader Suleiman Musa Ali	1381	Independent
52. Fawzi Ahmad Abdel Rahman A'raj	1360	Independent
53. Ismael Haris Ismael Al-Khatib	1316	Independent National Bloc
54. Khamis Ahmad Abdul Rahman Ali Abdallah	1270	Independent
55. Issam Abdul Qader Al-Nabulsi	1122	Independent National Bloc

Name	Votes	Affiliation
North Gaza (Jabalia)		
Number of seats: 7 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Yousef Attalah Ibrahim Abu Safieh	12342	Fateh
2. Fu'ad Mahmoud Ibrahim 'Eid	12057	Fateh
3. Hisham Ali Hassan Abdul Razaq	10682	Fateh
4. Abdul Rahman Tawfiq Abdul Hadi Hamad	10510	Fateh
5. Karam Mohammed Dawoud Zarandah	9265	Independent
6. Kamal Al-Abed Mohammed Al-Shrafie	8757	Independent
7. Imad Abdul Hameed Abdul Hadi Al-Falouji	8529	Fateh
8. Mohammed Mohammed Abdul Jawad Akasheh	8023	Independent
9. Sufyan Mohammed Othman Abu Zaydeh	7957	Fateh
10. Khader Hussein Hashim Abu Nada	7848	Independent
11. Mohammed Ramadan Theeb Salim Al-Maslami	7717	Independent
12. Ni'meh Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Helu	7076	Fida
13. Jamal Ahmad Tawfiq Al-Fara'	6643	Independent
14. Zuhdi Mahmoud Said Amer	5030	Independent
15. Jamal Mohammed Theeb Safi	5020	Independent
16. Hassan Ali Mohammed Abu Jarad	4861	Independent
17. Mohammed Mustafa Abdul Fatah Hamoudeh	4360	Independent
18. Mohammed Shaban Ayoub Al-Razanie	4265	Independent
19. Tayseer Yousef Abdul Nabbi Abu 'Ideh	4252	Independent
20. Yousef Mohammed Hassan Othman	4186	Independent
21. Subhi Yousef Mohammed Al-Ostaz	3671	Independent
22. Mohammed Ahmad Ismael Ali	3475	Independent
23. Ahmad Khalil Ismael Al-Za'nin	3345	Independent
24. Riyadh Ali Yousef Al-Eileh	3244	Independent
25. Al-Abed Ahmad Mohammed Abed Rabo	3234	Independent
26. Mohammed Khaled Abdul Atheem Hamoudeh	3233	Independent

27. Al-Abed Ahmad Mohammed Al-Sultan	3217	Independent
28. Ahmad Abdul Latif Mohammed Al-Ashkar	3160	Independent
29. Mohammed Said Saleh Mahmoud Al-Shanat	3160	Independent
30. Mohammed Kheiri Ahmad Nasser	3114	Independent
31. Mohammed Mohammed Hassan Dardoni	3079	Independent
32. Ghazi Hameed Dawoud Abu Wardeh	2945	Independent
33. Jum'ah Mohammed Ibrahim Haboub	2619	Independent
34. Abdallah Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Ghazal	2563	Independent
35. Khaled Ashour Ali Al-Batsh	2444	Independent
36. Mu'ain Rajab Said Al-Kanoua	2374	Independent
37. Ayoub Abed Rabo Taha Qasem	2368	Independent
38. Khader Yousef Ahmad Hamoudeh	2091	Independent
39. Mohammed Saleh Mohammed Abu Wardeh	1956	Independent
40. Izat Salman Mohammed Al-Masri	1931	Independent
41. Mohammed Mohammed Hamadeh Zamel	1923	Independent
42. Talal Abdallah Mohammed Abu Al-Kheir	1814	Independent
43. Said Ismael Yousef Abu Al-Aish	1718	Independent
44. Adnan Misleh Ahmad Abu Wardeh	1673	Independent
45. Abdul Hay Mohammed Abdul Hadi Shebat	1632	Islamic Jihad Movement
46. Zuhdi Khamis Mahmoud Abu Imsheh	1519	Independent
47. Hassan Mahmoud Hassan Libad	1509	Independent
48. Abdul Hakim Mohammed Abu Dgheim	1433	Independent
49. Yousef Mahmoud Salem Al-Talouli	1348	Independent
50. Mohammed Hussein Mohammed Al-Sharfi	1345	Independent
51. Tawfiq Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al-Mabhrouh	1291	Palestinian People's Party
52. Ahmad Mahmoud Hussein Igharib	1246	National Movement for Change
53. Saleh Mohammed Abdallah Abu Raya	1183	Independent
54. Fawzieh Talab Mohammed Hawihi	1150	Arab Liberation Front
55. Jihad Ahmad Hassan Abu Nasser	1115	Independent
56. Ayesha Mohammed Ibrahim Obeid	1144	Independent
57. Azam Salame Suleiman Abu Halimeh	1125	Independent
58. Adnan Said Mohammed Tanboursa	973	Independent
59. Mohammed Saber Masoud Mohammed Hussein	864	Independent
60. Mustafa Abdallah Mustafa Al-Hamdani	814	Palestinian People's Party
61. Hamzeh Abdul Fattah Mohammed Al-Masri	769	Independent
62. Ra'fat Rushdi Mohammed Tanboursa	721	Independent
63. Kifaya Eid Musa Hamad Abu 'Amsheh	707	Independent
64. Ibrahim Atieh Hamad Hamad	577	Independent
65. Masoud Ahmad Abdallah Al-Jamal	573	Independent
66. Mohammed Suleiman Saleem Abu Namous	513	Progressive National Bloc
67. Hassan Ahmad Mahmoud Younis	498	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Deir Al-Balah (Central Gaza)		
Number of seats: 5 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Freih Mustafa Abu Midein	12168	Fateh
2. S'adi Mahmoud Al-Karniz	11713	Fateh
3. Jamileh Ahmad Saydam	8511	Fateh
4. Jalal Freih Al-Masdar	7891	Independent
5. Ibrahim Ismael Al-Habash	7853	Independent
6. Sami Ismael Misleh	6017	Fateh
7. Jamal Abdul Qader Abu Salim	5745	Fateh
8. Abdul Fattah Ahmad Al-Nuri	5331	Independent
9. Jamal Hussein Hamad	5084	Independent
10. Khaled Ahmad Al-Susu	4608	Independent
11. Zahir Mohammed Al-Afghani	4155	Arab Liberation Front
12. Ali Salem Al-Na'ouq	4032	Independent
13. Frizeh Qassem Al-Aklouk	3421	Independent
14. Jaber Yousef Al-Nabahin	3388	Independent
15. Khalil Rushdi Washah	3176	Independent
16. Suleiman Mohammed Bashir	3065	Independent
17. Abdallah Riziq Al-Arbid	3000	Independent
18. Omar Sh'aban Ismael	2928	Independent
19. Mohammed Abdul Rahman Ghrab	2843	Independent
20. Nasser Al-Din Jamil Jaber	2840	Independent
21. Musa Mohammed Eslim	2795	Independent
22. Hassan Jaber Abu Hajir	2764	Independent
23. Mohammed Allayan Al-Talbani	2580	Independent
24. Faris Salim Abu Kweik	2350	Independent
25. Marwan Mohammed Abu Sweireh	2332	Independent
26. Younis Hassan Abu Zayed	2275	Independent
27. Abdallah Abdallah Al-'Adeini	2274	Independent
28. Ibrahim Yahia Abu Salim	2272	Independent
29. Lutfi Rasheed Shahin	2212	Independent
30. Jawdat Said Judeh	2035	Independent
31. Mohammed Hussein Issa Judeh	1954	Independent
32. Jalal Abdel Qader Abu Samak	1915	Independent
33. Nur Al-Din Fathi Bashir	1915	Ind
34. Jaber Hussein Abu Musbah	1873	Independent
35. Suleiman Mohammed Abu Shamas	1810	Independent
36. Hassan Saleh Nasrallah	1713	Independent
37. Shaker Ahmad Al-Bhisi	1635	Independent
38. Salman Saleem Jadallah	1541	Popular Struggle Front

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39. Ghanim Yousef Abu M'alyk	1513	Independent
40. Abdul Hafiz Abdul Hadi Fayad	1412	National Movement for Change
41. Mahmoud Rabbiya Al-Mzayan	1049	Independent
42. Shafiq Said Al-Hanouti	1032	Independent
43. Suleiman Joud Abu Dahroj	939	Independent
44. Hussein Hassan Abu Jaber	907	Independent
45. Mohammed Amr Abu Zayed	857	Independent
46. Salah Ibrahim Al-Ghoul	757	Independent
47. Younis Mahmoud Sydim	660	Independent
48. Jum'ah Attieh Al-Tala'	638	Independent
49. Amer Ahmad Abu Shawish	637	Palestinian Liberation Front
50. Mohammed Abdul Hadi Al-Hanafi	556	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Gaza City		
Number of seats: 12 Number of Christian seats: 1		
1. Haydar Muhiyyedeen Darwish Abdul Shafi	58229	NDC
2. Fakhri Amran Taha Shaqurah	55547	Fateh
3. Nahid Munir Mohammed Al-Rayiss	40959	Fateh
4. Intisar Mustafa Mahmoud Al-Wazir (Um Jihad)	40875	Fateh
5. Riyad Theeb Saleem Al-Za'noun	39296	Fateh
6. Ziyad Mahmoud Hussein Abu Amr	31740	Independent
7. Wajih Khalil Mustafa Yaghi	31648	Independent
8. Musa Mahmoud Hamed Al-Z'about	23563	Independent
9. Marwan Mohammed Fayez Kanafani	23082	Independent
10. Yousef Mohammed Ahmad Al-Shanti	21365	Independent
11. Rawya Rashad Said Al-Shawa	18295	Independent
12. Faraj Bishara Saleem Al-Saraf (Christian Seat)	7960	Fateh
13. Nasser Al-Deen Sadiq Salman Al-Muzyni	17114	Independent
14. Abdul Fattah Abdul Hafiz Hameed	16578	Fateh
15. Said Khalil Ismael Al-Mishal	16117	Independent
16. Dyab Nimer Mohammed Al-Louh	15971	Independent
17. Mohammed Salem Mohammed Al-Qudweh	13395	Fateh
18. Ahmad Mohammed Suleiman Hiless	13149	Fateh
19. Samir Mohammed Abed Al-Nuri	12885	Independent
20. Rasem Mahmoud Idris Owdeh	12497	Independent
21. Ghazi Mahmoud Ibrahim Abu Jiyab	11317	NDC
22. Saqer Mahmoud Suleiman Jindieh	10191	Independent
23. Fu'ad Rashad Mahmoud Shanyura	10180	Islamic Struggle Movement

24. Salman Hussein Omar Al-Helo	9903	Independent
25. Hatim Atta Hashim Abu Sha'ban	8856	Fateh
26. Ali Abdul Khalek Ali Abu Sha'ban	8300	Independent
27. Nahid Hassan Ahmad Al-Naghal	8062	Independent
28. Kamel Owdeh Saad Al-Gha'fari	7836	Independent
29. Ahmad Hassan Mahmoud Al-Shawwa	7738	Fateh
30. Issa Nicola Nakhleh Tarazi	6891	Independent
31. Iskandar Saleem Iskandar Tararzi	6840	Independent
32. Walid Awad Abdul Jawad Zakout	6299	Fida
33. Hussein Mahmoud Hussein Hilless	6168	Independent
34. Ahmad Salman Hussein Al-Maghrani	6157	Independent
35. Talal Fares Shaban Al-Sharif	5931	Independent
36. Bashir Abed Younis Daloul	5851	Independent
37. Mohammed Tawfiq Husni Al-Yaziji	5484	Independent
38. Ghazi Midhat Abed Mushtaha	5404	Independent
39. Rashad Mohammed Ibrahim Hamadeh	5376	Independent
40. Zakaria Tawfiq Mohammed Maki	5223	Independent
41. Fayez Shaban Abdul Majeed Abu Rahmeh	4967	Independent
42. Ali Jamil Ali Muhanah	4672	Independent
43. Sayed Abdul Latif Baker Baker	4515	Independent
44. Omar Fawzi Ahmad Al-Rayiss	4484	Independent
45. Abdul Hadi Abdallah Hmaidan Abu Khousa	4479	NDC
46. Omar Hassan Abdul Aziz Mhana	4466	Independent
47. Nabil Abdul Fattah Mohammed Al-Shurafa	4306	Arab Liberation Front
48. Amal Hassan Kheir Al-Din Al-Ifranji	4244	Independent
49. Zaki Hassan Mohammed Al-Kilani	4236	Independent
50. Owdeh Mohammed Awad Shahwan	4231	Independent
51. Mu'ain Amin Fares Mushtaha	4217	Independent
52. Abdallah Hamid Ahmad Abu Al-Atta	4148	Palestinian People's Party
53. Sami Mohammed Salem Al-Sarsawi	4080	Independent
54. Mohammed Hamed Mahmoud Al-Jedi	3937	Independent
55. Mohammed Bakir Mohammed 'Enan	3850	Independent
56. Musa Mahmoud Jaber Al-Ghoul	3527	Independent
57. Abdul Bary Mohammed Abdallah Abu Hasireh	3493	Independent
58. Harbi Mahmoud Issa Budair	3453	Independent
59. Tal'at Al-Safadi Al-Safadi	3244	Palestinian People's Party
60. Hassan Yousef Ahmad Sharab	3090	Independent
61. Amer Yousef Mohammed Al-Khatib	3063	Independent
62. Mohammed Ali Abdul Qader Salha	3030	Independent
63. Abdallah Mohammed Deeb Nassar	2962	Independent
64. Mohammed Ali Hassan Zein Al-Deen	2881	NDC

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65. Maher Ibrahim Badr Madoukh	2840	Independent
66. Nu'man Yousef Ahmad Theeb	2787	Independent
67. Ahmad Fu'ad Nimer Ahmad Al-Mazinie	2702	Independent
68. Nayef Ahmad Farhan Atallah	2684	Independent
69. Hamzeh Subhi Saleh Al-Yaziji	2676	Independent
70. Hani Mohammed Hussein Al-Kalhout	2665	Independent
71. Yousef Mahmoud Yousef Nijim	2645	Independent
72. Jawad Muhhieh Al-Deen Mohammed Al-Qita'	2627	Independent
73. Adnan Mahmoud Hassan Abu Watfeh	2626	Independent
74. Rida Theeb Abdul Rahman Awadallah	2241	Palestinian People's Party
75. Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al-Abed Hilless	2241	Independent
76. Adel Mohammed Hassan Al-Shourafa	2184	Independent
77. Nafith Saleh Ahmad Skeik	2175	Independent
78. Mohammed Ismael Khalil Al-Madhoun	2152	NDC
79. Ahmad Ali Mohammed Daloul	1987	Independent
80. Rafiq Saleem Suleiman Abu Dalfah	1984	Popular Struggle Front
81. Fayek Ahmad Hussein Khayal	1913	Independent
82. Nabil Badr Joseph Tarazi	1875	Independent
83. Khaled Abdul Aziz Yousef Dawoud	1841	Independent
84. Adel Ahmad Mohammed Tabaza	1599	Independent
85. Yacoub Saleem Khalil Mahdi	1457	Palestinian Liberation Front
86. Rafiq Atef Ali Bsaiso	1316	Independent
87. Hassan Said Hussein Abu Sakran	1194	Progressive National Bloc
88. Hassan Abdul Rahman Hassan Shahin	1085	Independent
89. Ibrahim Mohammed Shehadeh Al-Nimer	1076	Independent
90. Yousef Abdul Aziz Ali Hijazi	886	Independent
91. Riyadh Sadiq Ismael Frawaneh	854	Independent
92. Kamel Abdul Moati Hassan Abu Daff	801	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
<u>Khan Younis</u>		
Number of seats: 8 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Nabil Ali Rasheed Sha'ath	22371	Fateh
2. Jawad Khalil Hassan Al-Tibi	20034	Fateh
3. Ra'fat Othman Ali Al-Najjar	14342	Independent
4. Ahmad Al-Abed Mohammed Al-Sheibi	13784	Fateh
5. Ibrahim Musa Ibrahim Abu Al-Naja	13625	Fateh
6. Hassan Mohammed Ahmad Asfour	12761	Fateh
7. Ahmad Abdul Fattah Ahmad Nasser	12054	Fateh
8. Abdul Karim Mahmoud Musallem Abu Salah	9456	Independent

9. Zakaria Ibrahim Saleem Al-'Agha	8887	Fateh
10. Abdul Azizi Al-Abed Hamad Qdeih	7963	Popular Struggle Front
11. Farouq Hamdi Hafiz Al-Fara	7623	Fateh
12. Fayez Salah Hussein Abu Shamaleh	6851	Independent
13. Osama Abdul Sattar Musa Al-Fara	6631	Independent
14. Ossama Iyadeh Mansour Barbagh	6623	Independent
15. Kamel Suleiman Mohammed Barake	6435	Independent
16. Shaker Shukri Shaker Shbir	6144	Independent
17. Ahmad Said Mohammed Dahlan	5964	Independent
18. Husni Salem Doghran Z'arb	5690	Independent
19. Abdul Hameed Ali Mohammed Sha'ath	5388	Independent
20. Mohammed Ibrahim Ahmad Abu Dharifeh	4949	Independent
21. Marwan Ahmad Ali Al-Astal	4696	Independent
22. Dalal Eid Tawfiq Faris	4308	Independent
23. Tahani Salman Mohammed Abu Daqah	3769	Independent
24. Na'ilah Abdallah Yousef Al-Agha	3643	Independent
25. Hijazi Nasser Mahmoud Abu Shanab	3444	Palestinian People's Party
26. Ahmad Mustafa Hamad Al-Majaydeh	3398	Independent
27. Ghalieh Mohammed Mustafa Abu Sitta	3386	Independent
28. Abdul Salam Abdul Hameed Zaqout	3053	Independent
29. Assad Hassan Ali Al-Hjouj	2966	Independent
30. Mohammed Yahia Abdul Rahman Al-Fara	2825	Independent
31. Hassan Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Sha'er	2725	Independent
32. Fathi Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Haj	2635	Independent
33. Khaled Abdul Aziz Musalam Al-Najar	2607	Independent
34. Nasrallah Suleiman Salim Al-Brim	2495	Independent
35. S'adi Ahmad Nafa'a Abu Abed	2381	Fida
36. Bah'ei Raghieb Mustafa Sharab	2324	Independent
37. Hassan Khalil Abdul Ati Al-Zaqzouq	2285	Islamic Jihad Movement
38. Ramadan Ahmad Hassan Al-Ghalban	2258	Independent
39. Omar Ibrahim Mahmoud Al-Halaq	2116	Independent
40. Suleiman Ahmad Eid Abu Dhaher	2105	Islamic Struggle Movement
41. Mansour Hussein Mansour Al-Byouq	1881	Independent
42. Tamim Jarir Mohammed Saker	1822	Independent
43. Mohammed Saleh Hussein Al-Natour	1771	Independent
44. Subhi Melahi Mohammed Al-Qurdeh	1750	Independent
45. Yahia Ali Mohammed Al-Astal	1699	Independent
46. Hussein Mohammed Ismael Kulab	1685	Independent
47. Fayez Owdeh Abu Aker	1591	Independent
48. Mohammed Shehadeh Salman Abu Lihieh	1528	Independent

49. Samir Zayed Radwan Al-Masri	1283	Arab Liberation Front
50. Mohammed Aouf Abdallah Al-Aqad	1269	Independent
51. Awad Taher Hassan Al-Astal	1236	Independent
52. Jawad Abdel Rahman Othman Sha'ath	1235	Independent
53. Abdul Qader Khalil Ibrahim Al-Awadi	1107	Palestinian Liberation Front
54. Ali Hassan Hamdan Al-'Amour	1099	Independent
55. Jum'ah SuleAwad Kawarah	1052	Independent
56. Tayseer Raghieb Hussein Safi	1047	Independent
57. Hussein Thyab Hussein Abu Ishaq	1023	Independent
58. Jihad Hamdan Malahi Al-Agha	816	Independent
59. Adnan Abdul Moati Ellayyan Al-Assar	708	Arab Liberation Front
60. Bassam Mohammed Abdallah Joudeh	656	Independent
61. Ali Mohammed Yousef Al-Khatib	648	Independent
62. Abdul Rahman Ali Hamed Al-Fara	558	Independent
63. Fadel Abdul Rahman Ahmad Abdallah	537	Independent
64. Suleiman Hassan Hussein Abu Siteh	382	Independent
65. Halimeh Salem Mohammed Touman	348	Independent
66. Farid Mansour Eid Abu Shebab	296	Independent

Name	Votes	Affiliation
Rafah		
Number of seats: 5 Number of Christian seats: None		
1. Abed Rabo Hussein Said Al-Deen Abu 'Own	18219	Fateh
2. Mohammed Suleiman Musa Hijazi	11584	Fateh
3. Rawhi Ahmad Fatouh	11524	Fateh
4. Abdul Aziz Ali Abdul Aziz Shahin	11459	Fateh
5. Suleiman Salam Khalil Al-Roumi	10659	Independent
6. Abdallah Iyyadeh Abu Samhadaneh	10081	Fateh
7. Abdul Aziz Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al-Shaqaqi	7536	Independent
8. Fu'ad Abed Mohammed Al-Nahal	7212	Independent
9. Ismael Mohammed Abdallah Abu Madhkour	5084	Independent
10. Mohammed Atweh Mohammed Zu'erb	4963	Independent
11. Mamdouh Jaber Yousef Darwish	4494	Independent
12. Suhaila Ahmad Abdul Aziz Shahin	4468	Independent
13. Mithkal Hamed Ayyad Abu Taha	4447	Independent
14. Mahmoud Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Shaer	3284	Independent
15. Owdeh Salman Salman Abu 'Adhreh	3283	Independent
16. Yousef Ahmad Yousef Al-'Abasi	2915	Independent
17. Hussein Zayyed Nasrallah Kishta	2822	Independent
18. Sami Mohammed Said Abu 'Ebid	2710	Independent

19. Abdul Fatah Ibrahim Rasras	1827	Islamic Jihad Movement
20. Hamed Ashour Abdul Qader Dahir	1732	Independent
21. Jaza' Jadouw Owdeh Al-Soufi	1288	Independent
22. Mohammed Salman Mohammed Sheikh Al-'Eid	1062	Independent
23. Fathi Fawaz Mahmoud Nassar	895	Independent
24. Issa Mohammed Abdul Qader Abu 'Abdou	711	Palestinian Liberation Front
25. Salah Abdul Jawad Mahmoud Abu Taha	654	Independent
26. Issam Mohammed Abdul Hameed Abu Ghali	445	Independent
27. Nu'man Ahmad Mohammed Kishtah	169	Independent

Presidential Election Results (A)

Constituency	Samiha Khalil		Yasser Arafat	
	No. of votes	Percentage (1)	No. of votes	Percentage (1)
West Bank				
Jerusalem	3,800	11.18%	30,201	88.82%
Jericho	676	6.33%	9,440	88.37%
Bethlehem	4,279	10.67%	35,836	89.33%
Jenin	6,195	10.17%	50,379	82.69%
Hebron	8,732	10.92%	67,945	85%
Ramallah	6,153	11.78%	46,076	88.22%
Salfit	1,718	11.33%	12,346	81.45%
Toubas	1,330	10.62%	10,613	84.71%
Tulkarem	4,999	11.11%	35,018	77.84%
Qalqilia	2,534	13.36%	14,939	78.78%
Nablus	10,384	12.35%	69,135	82.25%
Total West Bank	50,800	11.20%	381,928	84.20%
Gaza Strip				
North Gaza	5,213	10.98%	42,271	89.02%
Deir Al-Balah	2,798	6.79%	38,420	93.21%
Gaza City	10,198	10.13%	90,521	89.87%
Khan Younis	1,275	2.19%	56,946	97.81%
Rafah	2,603	7.31%	32,993	92.69%
Total Gaza Strip	22,087	7.80%	261,151	92.2%
Total Palestine	72,887	9.89%	643,079	87.28%

(1) Number of votes divided by the number of voters

Presidential Election Results (B)

Constituency	No. of polling stations	No. of registered voters	No. of voters (1)	Valid votes (2)	Blank ballots	Void ballots	(3)	(4)
West Bank								
Jerusalem	168	80,051	34,001	34,001	-	-	42.47%	42.47%
Jericho	22	12,906	10,682	10,116	312	254	82.77%	78.38%
Bethlehem	89	55,134	40,115	40,115	-	-	72.76%	72.76%
Jenin	145	82,314	60,926	56,574	2,710	1,642	74.02%	68.73%
Hebron	230	133,084	79,939	76,677	3,262	-	60.07%	57.62%
Ramallah	162	79,108	52,229	52,229	-	-	66.02%	66.02%
Salfit	34	18,996	15,158	14,064	542	552	79.80%	74.04%
Toubas	25	15,914	12,529	11,943	313	273	78.73%	75.05%
Tulkarem	99	56,319	44,989	40,017	2,969	2,003	79.88%	71.05%
Qalqilia	54	27,278	18,963	17,473	750	740	69.52%	64.06%
Nablus	176	111,651	84,056	79,519	2,385	2,152	75.28%	71.22%
Total West Bank	1,204	672,755	453,587	432,728	13,243	7,616	67.42%	64.32%
Gaza Strip								
North Gaza	82	61,123	47,484	47,484	-	-	77.69%	77.69%
Deir Al-Balah	72	56,015	41,218	41,218	-	-	73.58%	73.58%
Gaza City	183	122,724	100,719	100,719	-	-	82.07%	82.07%
Khan Younis	106	71,629	58,221	58,221	-	-	81.28%	81.28%
Rafah	55	44,034	35,596	35,596	-	-	80.84%	80.84%
Total Gaza Strip	498	355,525	283,238	283,238	-	-	79.67%	79.67%
Total Palestine	1,702	1,028,280	736,825	715,966	13,243	7,616	71.67%	69.63%

(1) The total of valid, void and blank votes

(2) Number of valid ballots only

(3) Voting percentage = proportion of number of valid, void and blank votes to the registered voters

(4) Proportion of numbers of valid votes to the number of registered voters

Results of the Council Elections according to Affiliation

Total number of Votes according to Affiliation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Affiliation	#of Candidates	# of Winners	# of Votes	% of vote
Independent	503	35	2,020,213	57.51%
Fateh	77	50	1,085,593	30.90%
Palestinian People's Party	26	0	102,830	2.93%
Popular Struggle Front	12	0	26,034	.74%
FIDA	11	1	71,672	2.04%
NDC	5	1	79,058	2.25%
Arab Liberation Front	8	0	22,810	.65%
Liberty & Independence Bloc	5	1	57,516	1.64%
Palestinian Liberation Front	4	0	3,919	.11%
Islamic Jihad Movement	4	0	8,391	.24%
Future bloc	4	0	6,584	.19%
National Democratic Movement	3	0	6,831	.19%
Islamic Struggle Movement	2	0	12,285	.35%
Progressive National Bloc	2	0	1,707	.05%
National Movement for Change	2	0	2,658	.08%
Ba'th Party	1	0	2,230	.06%
Palestinian National Coalition	3	0	2,635	.08%
Total	672	88	3,512,959	100%

Total number of Votes according to Affiliation in the West Bank.

Affiliation	#of Candidates	# of Winners	# of Votes	% of vote
Independent	270	22	1,087,200	57.32%
Fateh	43	27	561,003	29.58%
Palestinian People's Party	20	0	87,648	4.62%
Popular Struggle Front	9	0	15,336	.81%
FIDA	8	1	55,916	2.95%
Liberty & Independence Bloc	5	1	57,516	3.03%
Future Bloc	4	0	6,584	.35%
Palestinian National Coalition	3	0	2,635	.14%
Arab Liberation front	3	0	11,208	.59%
National Democratic Movement	3	0	6,831	.36%
Islamic Jihad Movement	1	0	2,647	.14%
Ba'th party	1	0	2,230	.12%
Total	370	51	1,896,754	54%

Total number of Votes according to Affiliation in the Gaza Strip.

Affiliation	#of Candidates	# of Winners	# of Votes	% of vote
Independent	233	13	933,013	57.73%
Fateh	34	23	524,590	32.46%
Palestinian People's Party	6	0	15,182	.94%
NDC	5	1	79,058	4.89%
Arab Liberation Front	5	0	11,602	.72%
Palestinian Liberation Front	4	0	3,912	.24%
Popular Struggle Front	3	0	10,698	.66%
FIDA	3	0	15,756	.97%
Islamic Jihad Movement	3	0	5,744	.36%
Islamic Struggle Movement	2	0	12,285	.76%
Progressive National Bloc	2	0	1,707	.11%
National Movement for Change	2	0	2,658	.16%
Total	302	37	1,616,205	46%

Palestinian Woman Participation in the Election of the PLC

	Constituency	No. of seats	No. of Candidates	No. of Voters	No. of Participants	No. of Women Candidates	No. of Winners
<i>West Bank</i>							
1.	Jerusalem	7	52	80,051	632,316	3	1
2.	Jericho	1	6	13,723	10,685	0	0
3.	Bethlehem	4	30	55,134	41,465	0	0
4.	Jenin	6	36	80,876	60,919	1	0
5.	Hebron	10	72	133,097	88,366	2	0
6.	Ramallah	7	46	79,108	56,429	1	0
7.	Salfit	1	11	19,191	10,247	0	0
8.	Toubas	1	12	16,170	13,166	0	0
9.	Tulkarem	4	38	57,272	44,802	0	0
10.	Qalqilia	2	12	27,804	19,724	0	0
11.	Nablus	8	55	113,340	87,005	3	1
<i>Total of West Bank</i>		51	370	675,768	470,124	11	2
<i>Gaza Strip</i>							
21.	North Gaza	7	66	62,614	53,567	3	0
22.	Deir al-Balah	5	50	51,447	45,156	2	1
23.	Gaza City	12	92	125,964	108,759	3	2
24.	Khan Younis	8	66	74,502	63,649	5	0
25.	Rafah	5	27	44,951	38,824	1	0
<i>Total of Gaza Strip</i>		37	302	359,487	309,955	14	3
<i>Total of West Bank & Gaza Strip</i>		88	672	1035226	780079	20	5

Standing Orders

Preamble

The Palestinian people in Palestine have expressed, through general, free and direct elections, their determination to follow the democratic rules in building their institutions and in exercising their national sovereignty. Those elections have led to the birth of the first Palestinian Legislative Council of the Palestinian National Authority.

On that basis, it is necessary to establish the principles for the elected Legislative Council to develop its work, based on the principle of separation of powers, which confirms the independence of the legislative authority and its right to legislate and to control and inspect the works of the Palestinian Authority.

These Standing Orders have been established in order to organize the functioning of the Council, and regulate its acts, including the election of its organs, its decision making process, and its legislative procedures, as a first step necessary to reach national independence, the construction of an advanced democratic society, and the exercise of the sovereignty on the home land.

The provisions of these Standing Orders guarantee the freedom of opinion and expression, the freedom of opposition and criticism, and the achievement of comprehensive co-operation between the Council and other constitutional institutions.

Article 1 **Definitions**

In these Standing Orders, the following expressions shall have the meanings stated:

1. The Council: the Palestinian Legislative Council.
2. The President of the Authority: the President of PNA.
3. The Speaker: the Speaker (Raees) for the Council.
4. The Council of Ministers: the Council of Ministers of the PNA.
5. The Office of the Council: the Office of Presidency for the Palestinian Legislative Council.

6. The Member: the elected Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council.
7. The Constitution: the Basic Law of the Authority for the interim period.
8. The Secretariat: the Secretary General and his or her staff in the secretariat.

Title I

Chapter 1
The Initial Meeting

Article 2

a. The President of the PNA shall call the first meeting of the Council to take place at the beginning of the second week following the publication of the official results of the elections. He shall open the meeting and address a general speech to the Council.

a. At its first meeting the Council shall elect the Office of the Council. The oldest member of the Council shall preside over the meeting, and the youngest member shall act as secretary -general. If either fails to carry out his duties for any reason, he shall, according to the situation, be succeeded by whomever follows him in age. His duties shall be terminated by the election of the office board.

b. No discussions shall be conducted in the Council prior to the election of the office of the council.

Article 3

Each member individually shall swear the oath of office before the Council at the first meeting, as follows: "I swear before Almighty Allah to be faithful to the nation of Palestine, to keep the rights and interests of the people and the nation, to respect the Constitution and to fulfill my duties to the best of my ability, as Allah is my witness."

Chapter 2
The Office of the Council

Article 4

The Office of the Council shall be formed by the Speaker, two Deputy Speakers, and the Secretary General, who shall be elected by the Council by secret ballot. The Office shall serve until the beginning of the next period of sessions of the Council. Vacancies shall be filled by election, to be held according to articles (5, 6, 7) of these Standing Orders.

Chapter 3 Election of the Office Council

Article 5

Three elected members of the Council shall be responsible for the conduct of the election of the Speaker. Each member of the Council shall be given a paper on which to write the name of the candidate of his or her choice. Any candidate who receives the votes of half of the members present plus one shall be declared elected. Otherwise, the Council shall proceed to a second round of voting, between the two candidates who received the most votes in the first round. The candidate who receives more votes shall be declared elected. A tie shall be resolved by lot.

Article 6

The two Deputy Speakers and the Secretary General of the Council shall then be elected, following the same procedure as for the election of the Speaker. The member acting as Speaker shall then invite the elected Office to assume its responsibilities.

Article 7

Resignation of the Office of the Council

1. It is permitted for the Speaker or any of his Deputies or the Secretary to submit their resignation from membership of the Office of the Council.
2. The resignation shall be submitted written to the Office of the Council.
3. The Office of the Council shall present the resignation to the Council within two weeks of its receipt during the first meeting following its submission.
4. The resignation may be withdrawn before submitting it to the Council.
5. If for any case there are vacancies in the Office of the Council, the alternatives shall be elected in accordance to these Standing Orders.

Article 8

The Office of the Council shall appoint a secretariat, which shall be responsible for all administrative, financial, legal and media questions, for public relations, protocol, execution and publication of the decisions of the Council, and for the filing of documentation. The secretariat shall be responsible to the Secretary General of the Council.

Article 9

The Speaker shall represent the Council and speak on its behalf and to sponsor implementation of the Constitution and the Standing Orders and to preserve the Council's security and order. The speaker shall open, preside over, direct, control

and announce the close of its meetings. He shall give the right to speak, shall decide the agenda of the Council, and shall authorize the Secretariat to publish the decisions of the Council. The Speaker may participate in the discussions. He shall vacate the chair while so doing.

Article 10

If the Speaker is absent, or is participating in the discussion, the chair shall be taken by the first Deputy Speaker. If the first Deputy Speaker is also absent, the chair shall be taken by the second Deputy speaker, or in his absence by the oldest member of the Council.

Article 11

No member of the Office of the Council shall be eligible to be a Minister or occupying any other governmental post.

Article 12

- a. The names of the members of the Council of Ministers shall be selected by the President of the PNA. Such names shall be submitted to the Council for approval after it has heard the report of the Council of Ministers on its policy and program.
- b. If a majority of the members of the Council withdraws its confidence in one or more such persons nominated, the President of the PNA shall submit a replacement nomination at the following meeting not more than two weeks later.
- c. In the event of any modification to the membership of the Council of Ministers for any reason, the name of any new Minister shall be submitted to the Council for approval at the first meeting following that event.
- d. None of the ministers shall assume position before gaining the Council confidence.

Title II

Chapter 1

Article 13

The President of the PNA shall call a period of sessions of the Council twice yearly. Each such period of sessions shall last for four months. The first period shall start in the first week of February, and the second period shall start in the first week of September. The Speaker may call the Council to convene in extraordinary session plan the request of the Council of Ministers, or of a quarter of its members. If the Speaker fails to call a duly requisitioned extraordinary session, the Council shall be considered as convened in the time and place made in the requisition of the members or the Council of Ministers.

Article 14

The Council shall meet in public, and shall meet on Wednesday and Thursday of each week unless it decides otherwise.

Article 15

The quorum required to open a meeting of the Council shall be a majority of its members. Decisions shall be made by the majority of votes of the members present, except as provided otherwise in these Standing Orders. If a meeting is not quorate at the time specified for its start, the Speaker shall delay the start for 30 minutes. If the meeting remains not quorate, the Speaker shall adjourn it and shall announce the date and time for the next meeting, which shall be not more than one week later.

Article 16

The Secretary General shall distribute the decisions and minutes of the Council to the members 24 hours prior to the following meeting. Decisions and minutes shall be considered as approved unless a member raises an objection to them.

Article 17

- a. Upon opening each meeting of the Council, the Speaker shall announce its agenda. The agenda shall be communicated to the members of the Council at least two days before the meeting.
- b. The Council shall not discuss any subject not on the agenda of the meeting, except upon the request of the President of the PNA or the Speaker, or the written request of a minimum of 10 minutes. Except as provided otherwise in these Standing Orders, the Council shall decide to include any new subject so requested onto the agenda by a simple majority after having heard one speech in favor of such inclusion and one speech against, such speeches not to exceed five minutes in length.

Article 18

The Speaker, following the approval of the Council, shall announce the interruption or adjournment of the meeting, and the date and time of the next meeting. The Speaker may however call the Council to meet before the agreed date and time in the case of urgency or following a request by the Council of Ministers.

Article 19

The Council shall meet in an urgent session following a request by the President of PNA or a written request of a quarter of its members. If the Speaker fails to call for such meeting, the meeting shall be considered as convened in the time and place made in the requisition.

Chapter 2
Minutes of the Meetings

Article 20

Minutes shall be recorded for each meeting of the Council, including all discussions held, issues debated, and decisions made by the Council.

Article 21

Following approval of the minutes of a meeting, the Speaker and the Secretary General shall sign them. The minutes shall be kept in the files of the Council and published in a special publication of the Council.

Chapter 3
Secret Meetings

Article 22

The Council may in exceptional cases be called to meet in secret, following a request from the President of the PNA, the Speaker, or one fourth of the members. The Council shall decide whether or not to meet in secret following a debate in which only 2 speakers in favor and 2 speakers against shall be heard.

Article 23

- a. No person except the members of the Council shall be present when the Council meets in secret, except with the permission of the Council.
- b. No civil servant of the Council shall attend the Council when it meets in secret, except by permission of the Speaker.
- c. When the justification for the Council to meet in secret ends, the Speaker shall propose to the Council that the secret session of the meeting shall end; upon agreement of the Council, the Speaker shall reopen the meeting to the public.

Article 24

The Secretary General shall take the minutes when the Council is meeting in secret. Such minutes shall be kept by the secretariat of the Council. Access to such minutes shall be restricted to the members of the Council, unless the Council upon a majority vote decides to publish such minutes or any part thereof.

Article 25

The Council may call a special meeting for the purpose of inviting any personality or guest to address the Council. There shall be no other item on the agenda of any such meeting.

Chapter 4
Speaking Order in Meetings

Article 26

No member shall speak until called to do so by the Speaker. The Speaker may deny a request to speak only in accordance with these Standing Orders. In case of conflict, the Speaker shall put the question to the Council, which shall take a vote without discussion.

Article 27

The Secretary General shall record the names of members in the order of their request to speak. A request to speak upon a subject delegated for consideration by a commission shall not be accepted until the report of the commission is submitted.

Article 28

No member may speak on any issue more than once during the general discussion, and once during the debate on proposals and draft decisions.

Article 29

The right to speak shall be given by the Speaker, in the order in which members request it. In the event of disagreement, the right to speak shall be given in turn first to a member seeking an amendment to the proposal, to an opponent of the proposal, and then to a supporter of the amendment. Any member who has been called to speak may waive his right in favor of another member.

Article 30

The Speaker may give any Minister the right to speak upon a request upon a subject within the competence of his or her ministry.

Article 31

The right to speak shall always be given in the following cases :

- a. To request that the provisions of the Constitution or these Standing Orders be respected;
- b. To propose that discussion on the subject under debate shall be postponed;
- c. To correct any facts;
- d. To make a point of personal explanation;
- e. To propose that the Council end discussion on the subject under debate and move to next business; and
- f. To propose that discussion on the subject under debate be postponed until the Council has dealt with another related item of business; any such request shall take priority over the main subject under discussion; discussion on the main subject shall

cease until such question is resolved. The right to speak shall not be given until the member speaking has finished his intervention, except in cases (a) and (c) above.

Article 32

No member may use impolite language or incite against public order.

Article 33

If a member does not comply with the provisions of Article (32) above, the speaker may call him by his name and request him so to comply, or may rule that he may no longer speak. If the member challenges any such request or ruling, the Speaker shall refer the matter to the Council which shall decide without discussion.

Article 34

No member may interrupt the speech of another or make any comments, save that, notwithstanding the provisions of Article (31); the Speaker only may request a member speaking to comply with these Standing Orders at any time during his or her speech.

Article 35

No speaker may repeat any point that he or she has made, or that has already been made by another member, or to digress from the main subject. Only the Speaker may call the member speaking to order under this provision, and inform the member that his or her point is sufficiently clear and requires no further explanation.

Article 36

The Council may discipline a member who fails to comply with these Standing Orders, or who does not comply with a decision of the Council forbidding him or her to speak, by imposing one of the following penalties :

- a. To prevent the member from speaking for the remainder of the meeting;
- b. To instruct the member to withdraw from the remainder of the meeting; or
- c. To exclude the member from participating in meetings of the Council for a period not exceeding two weeks; the council shall make any such decision in the course of the meeting only after hearing the member concerned or any other member on his behalf.

Article 37

If any member refuses to comply with a decision of the Council under the article (36) above, the Speaker may adopt all measures necessary, including the adjournment or postponement of the meeting, to enforce the decision. In such case, any penalty imposed on the member shall be doubled.

Article 38

The Speaker may announce his intention to interrupt the meeting, and may so interrupt it for up to 30 minutes in case of disorder. If order is not restored when the meeting is reconvened, the Speaker may adjourn the meeting and announce the date and time for the next meeting.

Chapter Five

Removal of Membership

Article 39

A member of the Council may be deprived of membership in the following cases :

- a. Decease; and
- b. Firm civil sentence of a competent Palestinian court for a common law crime.

Article 40

Any proposal under Article (39) item (b) above to deprive a person of membership shall be signed by 10 members of the Council and submitted to the Speaker, who shall notify the member concerned and shall bring the question before the Council at its first subsequent meeting.

Article 41

The Council shall refer any proposal under Article (40) above to the Legal Affairs Committee, which shall discuss it at its next following meeting. The Council shall, unless it decides otherwise, take its decision on the proposal at the meeting at which the Committee submits its report. The member concerned shall have the right to defend himself or herself before the Committee and before the Council.

Article 42

If the report of the Committee recommends deprivation of membership, the Council shall upon the request of the member concerned or upon a vote of the council postpone the decision to a further meeting.

Article 43

The member subject to a proposal for the deprivation of membership may attend the meeting and participate in the debate on such proposal, but shall leave the meeting while the Council makes its decision.

Article 44

The Council shall decide a proposal for the deprivation of membership by a majority of two thirds of the members. The vote on any such proposal shall be secret.

Title III

Chapter One
Committees of the Council

Article 45

The Council shall establish the following permanent Committees, which shall discuss and report on any proposals referred by the Council or by the Speaker :

1. Al-Quds Committee;
2. Lands and Settlements Committee;
3. Committee for Refugee and Palestinians Abroad (including exiles and overseas residents);
4. Political Committee (negotiations, Arabic and international relations);
5. Legal Committee (including constitutional, judicial and Standing Orders questions);
6. Budget and Financial Affairs Committee;
7. Economic Committee (including industry, commerce, investment, housing, supplies, tourism and planning);
8. Interior Committee (including security and local government);
9. Education and Social Affairs Committee (including education, culture, media, religious affairs, historic sites, social affairs, health, employment, prisoners, martyrs, war veterans, childhood, youth and women);
10. Natural Resources and Energy Committee (including water, agriculture, regions, environment, energy, animal resources and fishing); and
11. Human Rights, Public Freedoms and General Purposes. The number of members of any permanent committee shall be decided upon by the Council at the opening of each period. The Council may form any other ad hoc committees for a specified period.
12. Council Affairs Committee.

Article 46

1. Committees shall be appointed during the first period of sessions of the Council. Each member may submit to the office of the Council a request to be appointed to any Committee or Committees. The Office of the Council shall coordinate and consult with all members, following which the Speaker shall submit the recommended list of appointments to Committees to the Council for approval.
2. On the proposal of the office Council, the Council may change the composition of any Committee at the beginning of the period of sessions of each year.

Article 47

No member of the Council may sit on more than two Committees.

Article 48

No minister may sit on any Committee or be a member of the Office of the Council.

Article 49

Each Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary from among its members. In the absence of either, the Committee shall elect a temporary substitute.

Chapter 2 Procedures of Committees

Article 50

A meeting of a Committee shall be called by its Chairman, or upon the request of the Speaker in consultation with its Chairman, or on the request of a majority of the members of the Committee. The meeting shall be called on at least 24 hours' notice. The calling notice shall be accompanied by the agenda of the meeting.

Article 51

- a. Committees shall meet in secret. The quorum for a Committee shall be the majority of members. Decisions of Committees shall be made by simple majority. In the case of a tie, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- b. Committees may decide to hold public meetings.

Article 52

Minutes shall be taken of each meeting of each Committee, which shall include the names of those members present and those members absent and a summary of discussions held and the contents of decisions or recommendations. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Committee shall sign such minutes.

Article 53

The Speaker shall refer to the relevant Committee all documents relating to any matter within its remit.

Article 54

Any Committee may request, through the Speaker, any relevant minister or responsible person within the PNA to give information on or clarity about any point under discussion within the remit of the Committee.

Article 55

Ministers may attend meetings of any Committee. And any Committee, through its Speaker, may request of the minister or the concerned responsible party to attend any of its meetings.

Article 56

- a. Members of the Office of the Council may attend any meeting of any Committee and participate in its debate.
- b. Any member of the Council may attend any meeting of any Committee which he is not a member of and may participate in its debates but may not have the right to vote.

Article 57

Each Committee shall submit any report within the time determined by the Council. If it fails to do so, the Speaker may ask the Chairman of the Committee to explain the reasons for the delay, may request the Chairman of the Committee to determine the time that the Committee deems necessary to complete its report, and may bring the question before the Council for decision. The Council may decide to deal with the question directly. The Council shall include this issue in its agenda.

Article 58

Any report of a Committee shall be submitted to the Speaker for inclusion in the agenda of the Council. The report shall be printed and distributed to the members of the Council at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Article 59

Any report of a Committee shall include the opinion of the Committee with reasons and minority opinions. The report shall be accompanied by the recommendations of the Committee and draft decisions, with full explanation.

Article 60

The report of any Committee shall be presented to the Council by its Chairman. In his or her absence, the Speaker shall ask the Secretary of the Committee to present the report, or shall ask the members of the Committee to elect one from their number to do so.

Article 61

Any Committee may, through its Secretary, request of the Chairman to refer back to its report for further review, even if the Council has started to discuss it. Any such request shall be subject to the agreement of the Council.

Title IV

Chapter 1
Draft Laws and Proposals

Article 62

- a. The Council of Ministers shall submit the text of any draft law to the Speaker accompanied by a preamble which shall explain its purpose. The Speaker shall refer any such law to the relevant Committee for its opinion. The Committee shall present its report no later than two weeks.
- b. A copy of the draft law or suggestion shall be sent to each member at least three days prior to the session of its presentation before the Council.
- c. After listening to the Committee's report, the Council shall start a general discussion of the draft law to discuss the broad principles prior to the voting on the draft law for its acceptance in order to complete the relevant measures. The Council may decide when to start the general discussion without waiting for the concerned Committee's report.
- d. The draft law shall be presented to the Council after the general discussion so as to vote for its acceptance. If the Council rejects it, the draft law is considered rejected. If it consents to its acceptance, it is sent to the concerned Committee for the appropriate amendments in light of the general discussion.
- e. The Speaker should be referred to the draft law (after amendments have been made by the concerned party, if present) to the Legal Affairs Committee in order to give the necessary legal points.

Article 63

The Council of Ministers may request the reference back of any draft law submitted to the Council, provided that the Council has not voted on the law, in order to complete the relevant measures.

Article 64

Any member of members of the Council may submit a proposal for a new law or to amend or repeal an existing law. Any such proposal shall be referred to the relevant Committee, accompanied by a description of the general principles and by a preamble. The Council shall hear the report of the Committee. If the Council accepts the proposal, it shall be referred to the Legal Affairs Committee which shall put it into the form of a draft law and resubmit it to the Council during the same or the following period of sessions.

Article 65

Mechanism for ratifying draft resolutions 1- Each draft law submitted to the Council shall be discussed in two separate meetings as follows: a. In the first reading each article in turn shall be discussed and the suggestions put forth concerning the draft after reading through it. Each article shall be voted on. Afterwards, the entire draft law shall be voted on. b. The second reading shall take place no later than one month from the date of its ratification in its first reading. The second reading shall take place for the sole purpose of discussing proposed amendments. Voting on it shall take place. Afterwards final voting on the amended articles shall take place. 1. The third reading (limited to the discussion of the proposed amendments) shall take place at the written request of the Council of Ministers or from a fourth of the number of Council members on the condition that the request is presented before the draft law is referred to the president of the PNA for publication.

Article 66

Draft laws shall be approved by the absolute majority of Council members (unless otherwise mentioned).

Article 67

Immediately following the approval of the draft law in its third reading or lapsing of two weeks from the date of its approval in its second reading the Speaker shall forward the draft law to the president of the PNA for issuance. It shall immediately be published after its issuance in an official newspaper.

Article 68

- a. The president of the PNA shall issue the laws after their approval by the Council within a period of 30 days from the date of which it was forwarded to him. He must return it to the Council during that time accompanied with his notes or reasons for his rejection. If he fails to do so, the draft law will be considered issued and will immediately be published in the official newspaper.
- b. If the president of the PNA does return the draft law to the Council according to the provisions of the previous article, it shall be debated again in the Council. If it approved by a majority of two-thirds of its members it is considered effective and shall be immediately published in the official newspaper.

Article 69

At the beginning of each legislative session the Speaker shall notify the Council of Ministers of the proposed draft laws and which have not been accepted by the Council according to article 62 of these outstanding orders. If the Council of

Ministers does not ask to review it, it is then considered non-existent. If, however, the Council of Ministers does ask to review it, the laws of article 62 of these outstanding orders shall be applied to it.

Article 70

a. Any proposal to amend the Basic Law shall be submitted in articles in a written form, accompanied by a preamble and shall be signed by at least one-third of the members of the Council. b. Upon receipt of any such proposal, the Speaker shall inform the Council and refer it to the Legal Affairs Committee. c. When the Committee submits its report on the proposal, the Council shall decide by a simple majority to discuss it or reject it. If the Council rejects it, it is considered rejected. If it accepts it, the laws of article 65 of these orders shall be applied. d. Any amendment or correction to the Basic Law shall require the approval of two-thirds of the members of the Council.

Article 71

a. The Council of Ministers shall submit the draft annual budget to the Council at least four months before the beginning of the fiscal year. b. The Council shall refer this draft budget to the Budget and Finance Committee which shall submit its detailed report within one month. c. The Council shall hold a special meeting to discuss the draft budget. The Council may approve the budget or may refer it back to the Council of Ministers within two months of its submission to the Council, accompanied by the comments of the Council. The Council of Ministers shall introduce the required amendments and submit the budget again to the Council for approval.

Chapter 2

Questions and Interpolations

Article 72

a. Any member of the Council shall have the right to address a question to the Ministers, to ask about a fact or to clarify measures that have been taken or could be taken to deal with any subject. b. Any such question shall be clear and concise, shall specify the subject about which it is asking and shall not include any extraneous comments.

Article 73

Each question shall be submitted to the Speaker in written form. The Speaker shall submit it to the relevant Minister and shall include it in the agenda of a meeting of the Council at least one week after such submission. The Council shall reserve 30 minutes at the beginning of each meeting for questions unless it decides otherwise.

Article 74

Each Minister shall answer the questions addressed to him or her and include them in the agenda. The Minister may ask to postpone the answer to be given at a later meeting to be determined by the Council. In case of urgency, the Minister may ask to answer the question at the first meeting following its receipt, even if the question is not on the agenda, and shall inform the Speaker of his intention to do so. It shall also be indicated in the minutes of the meeting.

Article 75

The member who has asked a question shall have the right to ask the Minister for clarification and to comment on the answer given once only.

Article 76

The provisions relating to questions do not apply to questions made orally by members to Ministers in the course of debate by the Council.

Article 77

- a. Any interpolation shall be submitted to the Speaker in writing; the Speaker shall set the date for it to be presented. After hearing the answer of the Minister, the Speaker shall ensure that the interpolation is discussed within ten days.
- b. Interpolations shall have priority over all other items on the agenda except for questions.
- c. A member may, through the Speaker and in writing, request the relevant Minister to inform him of any documents relating to his or her interpolation.
- d. The member submitting the interpolation shall explain it to the Council. After the Minister has replied, other members may participate in discussion. If the member submitting the interpolation is not satisfied, he or she may explain his or her reasons; he or she or any other member may propose a motion of no confidence in the Council of Ministers or in any individual Minister notwithstanding any provision of the Palestinian Constitution in this regard.
- e. The member submitting the interpolation may withdraw it, in which case it shall not be discussed except on the request of five or more members of the Council.

Chapter 3
Urgency Procedure

Article 78

The Council may decide to adopt urgency procedure to deal with any question, including any motion of confidence or motion of reprimand to any Minister or to the Executive Authority as a whole. Any proposal to adopt urgency procedure shall

be made by: a. any five members, submitted in writing; b. the Council of Ministers; or c. the relevant Committee; and shall be decided without discussion.

Article 79

The Council and its Committees shall deal with questions taken under urgency procedure first. Any such question shall not be subject to time limits as laid down in these Standing Orders. The Council may decide to discuss a question to be taken under urgency procedure at the meeting to which it is submitted, in which case the relevant Committee shall report to the Council immediately, orally or in writing.

Article 80

Any question discussed by the Council under urgency procedure may be discussed again in the cases provided under these Standing Orders, and shall not then be subject to the relevant time limits.

Article 81

a. If a draft law is to be discussed under urgency procedure, it shall first be referred to the relevant Committee. Such Committee shall determine whether it believes the draft law can be discussed and examine the content of the draft law, and shall report to the Council on both matters. The Council shall then decide whether to adopt urgency procedure. If it so decides, it shall proceed to debate the draft law. b. In cases of necessity, the Council may decide by a vote of two thirds of its members to discuss a draft law directly without prior reference to the relevant Committee.

Article 82

Any question discussed under urgency procedure shall not be submitted again to the Council within a period of one month, except with the consent of two thirds of the members.

Chapter 4
Close of Discussion

Article 83

The discussion on any matter before the Council shall be closed upon the decision of the Council, provided that at least two supporters and at least two opponents of the proposal have spoken.

- a. 1. Upon the proposal of the Speaker if he or she believes there is no need for further discussion; or
2. Upon the proposal of at least five members.

- b. The relevant Minister shall be given the right to reply to the discussion.
- c. Only one supporter and one opponent of any proposal to close the discussion shall be called to speak, following which the Council shall vote on such proposal. If such proposal is agreed, the Council shall proceed to vote on the substantive question.

Article 84

No member may be called to speak after the discussion has been closed except to determine the form of the proposal to be voted upon.

Chapter 5
Votes of the Council

Article 85

Only the Speaker may call a vote of the Council.

Article 86

- a. The decisions of the Council shall be made by simple majority. In the case of a tie, the Speaker shall take a second vote. If the tie is not resolved, the Speaker shall have a casting vote.
- b. The provisions of paragraph (a) above shall not apply where these Standing Orders specifically provide otherwise.

Article 87

If the proposal to be decided contains several questions, any member may request, with the agreement of the Speaker, for it to be voted on in parts.

Article 88

A member may abstain. Any such member may explain his reasons for doing so before the announcement of the result of the vote.

Article 89

Abstentions shall not be counted either with votes in favour or with votes against. If the total of votes in favour and votes against is less than the quorum, the vote shall be postponed to a further meeting. At such further meeting, the question shall be determined by a simple majority of members present and voting.

Article 90

- a. The quorum shall be verified immediately before any vote is taken.
- b. A vote on any proposal related to the Basic Law shall be taken by calling the members by name.

c. Except as provided in paragraph (b) above, any vote shall be taken by a show of hands, or by calling members to stand or sit, or by secret vote if a majority of members decides so to do.

Article 91

The Speaker shall announce the result of each vote. No discussion may take place on a question once decided except as provided under these Standing Orders.

Title V

Chapter 1

Immunity of Members

Article 92

- a. A member shall not be questioned, through either a civil or criminal procedure, because of his or her actions, opinions or votes in the meetings of the Council and its Committees, whether open or secret, or because of any action taken outside the Council in the course of his or her function as a member of the Council.
- b. No member shall be distributed in any manner, nor shall any search be made of his or her possessions, house, car or office, during the period of his or her immunity.
- c. No member shall be asked, during the period of membership or subsequently, to testify on any subject related to his or her opinions or actions or to information received in the course of his or her membership.
- d. Members shall possess such immunity during their term of office. No criminal charges shall be brought against any member unless apprehended in flagrante delicto. The Council should be informed immediately with the procedures taken against the member in order for the Council to do what it sees suitable. The Council Secretariat takes charge of this mission if the Council was not in session.
- e. No member may relinquish his immunity unless so permitted by the Council. Each member shall retain his or her immunity after ceasing to be a member of the Council in all issues relating to his or her actions or opinions in the course of membership.

Article 93

- a. Any request to deprive a member of immunity shall be submitted in writing to the Speaker by the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, accompanied by a document including the detail of the alleged crime, its place and date, and the requisite proof for criminal proceedings to be entered.
- b. The Speaker shall inform the Council of any such request and shall refer it to the Legal Affairs Committee.

- c. The Committee shall study the request and shall submit a report to the Council. The Council shall decide to deprive a member of immunity only on the vote of two thirds of its members.
- d. A member deprived of immunity but not detained may attend meetings of the Council and of its Committees and may participate in debates and c

Article 94

No member may be brought before the Civil Courts on the day of any meeting of the Council.

Article 95

Except for the position of a Minister, the member cannot hold any position in the executive authority in addition to his or her Council membership.

Article 96

Members responsibilities, rights and privileges. The Council will issue an annex to this Standing Orders describing in it the members' responsibilities, rights and privileges.

Chapter 2
Petitions and Complaints

Article 97

Every Palestinian citizen has the right to submit a petition or complaint concerning public affairs to the Council. Any such complaint shall be signed by the petitioner, and shall include his or her name, profession and complete address. Any complaint submitted on behalf of an organisation or group shall be signed by a legal entity or a juridical person. No complaint may include impolite language.

Article 98

Every complaint shall be registered in the order of its submission; the name, address and profession of the petitioner shall be recorded. The Speaker may rule out of order any complaint that does not meet the requirements established, and shall so inform the petitioner.

Article 99

- a. The Speaker shall refer any complaint to the Legal Affairs Committee, or to such other Committee within whose remit the complaint falls.
- b. Such Committee shall discuss the complaint, and shall decide to refer it to the Council of Ministers or to a relevant Committee, or to reject it.

Article 100

The Council may ask the relevant Minister or Ministers to give a response to any complaint referred to them.

Article 101

The Speaker shall communicate the response to the complaint to the petitioner.

Chapter 3

Absence of Members and Permissions

Article 102

No member of the Council may be absent without informing the Speaker and giving reasons. No member may be absent for more than three consecutive meetings without the consent of the Speaker. In the event of necessity, the Speaker may give any member permission to be absent for one month, and shall so inform the Council.

Article 103

- a. Any member who is absent from the meetings of the Council or of its Committees, or is absent for a period longer than the permission he or she has been given shall be considered as having renounced his allowances for the period of his or her absence without consent. The Speaker may call his or her attention and the Council may, upon the proposal of the Speaker, reprimand such member.
- b. If a member of any Committee is absent without a permission or a justified reason for three consecutive or seven non-consecutive meetings of such Committee during the same period of sessions, he or she shall be considered to have resigned from such Committee. The Secretary of any Committee shall inform the Speaker of any such occurrence.

Chapter 4

Keeping of Order in the Council

Article 104

- a. The Council shall be responsible for the keeping of its own order and security. For these purposes, a special police force for the Council shall be established, according to rules drawn up by the Council. The Speaker shall control the exercise of this function on behalf of the Council.
- b. No security force or police force shall enter the precinct of the Council, unless the Speaker decides otherwise.

Article 105

No person may enter the chamber of the Council while it is meeting, with the exception of its servants

Article 106

Any person permitted to observe any meeting of the Council who causes disturbances or refuses to obey the rules shall be asked to leave the meeting. If he or she refuses to do so, the Speaker may order that the person be removed from the meeting and that appropriate measures be taken against him or her.

Chapter 5
Resignation

Article 107

Any member wishing to resign shall submit his unconditional resignation to the Speaker. The Speaker shall submit such resignation to the Council within two weeks of its receipt or at the first meeting following its submission. No resignation shall be considered as final until confirmed by the Council

Article 108

Any member who has resigned in accordance with Article 102 above may withdraw such resignation in writing to the Speaker before it has been dealt with.

Article 109

The Speaker shall inform the Council of Ministers of any vacancy affecting any electoral constituency, which shall be filled in accordance with the Palestinian Election Law.

Chapter 6
General Provisions

Article 110

If the Council requires to elect a representative delegation, the proposed number of members and the names of the delegation shall be determined by the office of the Council, which shall submit them to the Council for approval. If the Council does not agree such proposal, the members of the delegation shall be elected by and from the Council. If the Speaker or either of the Deputy Speakers is a member of any delegation, he or she shall lead it. Otherwise, the Council shall appoint the leader of the delegation.

Article 111

These Standing Orders may only be amended on a proposal submitted by the Speaker or by any five members. Any such proposal shall be submitted to the Council, which shall refer it to the Legal Affairs Committee. Such Committee shall submit its report in a period not exceeding one month: failing such report, the Council may consider the proposal directly. Any amendment shall require the vote of a majority of the members.

Article 112

These Standing Orders shall enter into force upon approval and shall be published in the Official Gazette. Any other related legislation or rules previously in force in Palestine shall be repealed.

The Palestinian Council Committees

The Palestinian Legislative Council Committees

The PLC initiated forming specialized committees, which were created in its first session, with full consideration to the importance of activating the PLC performance and the need to have serious participation of all members to enrich the Palestinian democratic experience and promote it in the best possible way. Working mechanism of committees can be divided into two parts:

First Part:

It deals with the committees' headquarters, dates and procedures of meetings, budgets of committees and their seeking expertise in the various fields.

Committees' Headquarters:

- a. The permanent headquarters of all committees will be at the permanent headquarters of the PLC in Jerusalem.
- b. Each committee will have a temporary headquarters in Gaza, Ramallah and Al-Bireh districts within the context of the PLC.

Meeting dates of Committees:

- a. The committees will hold regular weekly meetings during the annual round of the PLC in coordination with the PLC Office.
- b. The committees convene upon a call by their Chair or upon a call by the PLC Speaker in coordination with the Chair of the Committee or upon a request by the majority of members; the call has to be made at least 24 hours prior to its convening; members of the committee have to be notified of the meeting agenda.

Committees' Procedures:

Articles found in the PLC bylaws are applied to the Committees' procedures in terms of heading the session, the order adopted in giving the floor to any speaker, ways of presenting topics for discussion and voting, taking decisions and recommendations and all other necessary procedures in a way to meet the nature of work of each committee.

Committees' Budget:

- a. The Committees' budget is an indispensable part of the PLC budget.
- b. The PLC presidency takes the responsibility of providing all financial and administrative requirements needed for the committees' work so that they can perform in the most efficient way.

Seeking Expertise:

The Committees have the right to seek the assistance of expertise such as experts and consultants in various fields, local or from abroad, according to their needs, in coordination with the PLC Office.

Part Two:

Working Mechanism of Committees

The Committees perform in the following areas:

- 1- Legislature.
- 2- Monitoring.
- 3- Study and review of plans, agreements and treaties.

Titles of Committees:

First: Legal Committee (Constitution, Law, Council Affairs).

Second: Jerusalem Committee.

Third: Budget Committee.

Fourth: Economic Committee (Trade, Industry, Investment, Housing, Financing, Tourism, Planning)

Fifth: Natural Resources Committee (Water, Agriculture, Rural areas, Environment, Energy, Livestock, Fishing)

Sixth: Lands and Settlements Committee.

Seventh: Refugees Affairs and Palestinians in the Diaspora Committee.

Eighth: Interior Committee (Interior, Security and Local Governance)

Ninth: Political Committee (Negotiations, Arab and International Relations)

Tenth: General Monitoring Committee (Human Rights, Public Freedoms)

Eleventh: Education and Social Issues Committee (Education, Culture, Information and Media, Religious and Archeology Affairs, Social Affairs, Health, Labor and Employment, Prisoners, Martyrs and Wounded, Veterans, Children, Women and Youth)

Palestinian Council Resolutions

Palestinian Legislative Council Resolutions - First Term Session I Gaza, 21-22 March 1996

Resolution No. (1/1/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its first session of the first term held in Gaza City during the period of 21-22 March 1996
Resolved: To consider the draft of the by-laws to have completed its first reading and to send it to our brother, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee and President of the Palestinian National Authority, to be approved or amended. During the next session the amendments will only be discussed in order to be voted on. If they are approved, they will be considered as they stood after the first reading, and consequently, the by-laws will be ratified after the second reading.

Resolution No. (2/1/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its first session of the first term held in Gaza City during the period of 21-22 March 1996
Resolved: To form a committee to draft the political statements to be issued by the Legislative Council.

Resolution No. (3/1/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its first session of the first term held in Gaza City during the period of 21-22 March 1996
Resolved: To send letters to all the world's legislatures and parliaments, to the United Nations and to the European states, to inform them of the suffering of the Palestinian people under the collective punishment policies and siege imposed by the Israeli authorities.

Session II Ramallah, 3-4 April 1996

Resolution No. (4/2/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996
Resolved: To form eleven (11) permanent committees of the Council, which are: First: Legal Committee (constitution, law,

judiciary, Council affairs) Second: Jerusalem Committee Third: Budget Committee Fourth: Economic Committee (commerce, industry, investment, housing, funding, tourism and planning) Fifth: Natural Resources Committee (water, agriculture, rural areas, environment, energy, wildlife and fisheries) Sixth: Land and Settlements Committee Seventh: Refugee and Palestinians in the Diaspora Affairs Committee Eighth: Interior Committee (internal affairs, security and local governance) Ninth: Political Committee (negotiations and Arab and international relations) Tenth: Education and Social Affairs Committee (education, culture, information, religious and archeological affairs, health, labor, prisoners, martyrs, veterans, the disabled, youth, women and children) Eleventh: Public Monitoring (human rights and public freedoms)

Resolution No. (5/2/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996 Resolved:

First: to encourage and deepen democratic dialogue between all Palestinian forces of all political and ideological positions, in order to strengthen Palestinian national unity and to support the Palestinian National Authority, the existence of which is a national achievement on the road to establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. We also affirm our intention to protect the interests of the Palestinian people and their security and stability, and the safety of their land.

Second: to call upon the Palestinian National Authority to request from the Israeli government that it respect the letter and the spirit of the agreements signed with the PLO.

Third: to ask the Palestinian National Authority to call upon the Israeli government to immediately cease the confiscation of land on the pretext of security or for any other reasons in all territories, and to stop settlement expansion, and the construction of by-pass roads. Israel should completely abide by the agreement as it stands and work to complete the implementation of the outstanding articles, particularly those regarding the release of all prisoners. Israel should immediately end the arrest campaigns and house raids targeted at our people and the deportation of Gazan students from the West Bank, given that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are one geopolitical unit. Also, the PNA must demand a commitment from Israel to establish the safe passageway between the two areas and end the siege and closure imposed on the Palestinian National Authority territories, which separates families. The Palestinian Legislative Council also calls for the immediate completion of implementation of the agreements signed by the Israeli government and the PLO, particularly regarding withdrawal from Hebron and completion of the further redeployment process in the West Bank, and implementation of the special agreement on the border crossings, in preparation for moving on to the final-status

negotiations. The Council asks the Palestinian National Authority to follow up on these matters and report back on all developments.

Fourth: to send Palestinian parliamentary delegations to the Arab states and friendly nations to explain Israeli practices in the Palestinian National Authority areas, and Israel's insincere commitment to the peace process.

Resolution No. (6/2/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996 Resolved:

First: to support the emergency measures taken by the Palestinian National Authority at all levels - local, Arab and international - to deal with the suffocating economic crisis facing our Palestinian people.

Second: to call upon the Palestinian National Authority to develop a crisis management process for the unemployment resulting from the Israeli siege and closure of the National Authority territory, and to provide the largest possible number of employment opportunities for those out of work, with a fair system of accessibility to those opportunities.

Third: to call upon the Israeli government to abide by the letter and spirit of the economic agreements it has signed with the PLO.

Fourth: to call upon Palestinian businesspeople inside the PNA territory and abroad to contribute to solving the economic crisis afflicting our people by investment and by establishing projects that will contribute to the reconstruction and development of the Palestinian national economy.

Fifth: to call upon the Palestinian National Authority to put into force the economic agreements signed with our brotherly Arab states, in order to lessen Palestinian economic dependence on Israel, and to encourage these Arab states to increase their support for the Palestinian National Authority.

Sixth: to call upon the Palestinian National Authority to revise the laws and measures still in place from the Israeli occupation, particularly pertaining to tax collection, and to take measures to encourage citizens to participate in the process of reconstruction and building, to lessen the heavy weight upon them.

Resolution No. (7/2/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996 Resolved:

First: to ask the ministerial cabinet to strive to, as soon as possible, limit Israeli practices and violations; to end the closure, siege and starvation process that the Israeli occupation authorities conduct; and to impress upon Israel the need to abide by the agreements it has signed with the PLO.

Second: the Legislative Council affirms that there is no duplication within the

Authority, in any form. It asks all individuals and groups to respect the regulations and laws now in place and to respect the Authority's institutions by giving them the opportunity to conduct their duties within the rule of law and respect of citizens' rights.

Third: to call upon the Executive Authority to speed up the release of all detainees; and to intensify the guidance of, and education programs for, the staff of security services, in order that they may conduct their duties within the framework of the law, protecting citizens' rights, avoiding mistakes and performing in a civilized manner.

Fourth: to call upon the Executive Authority to hasten the release of all detainees who have not been proven to have been involved in the undermining of security or of the Palestinian National Authority's respect for its commitments and agreements.

Fifth: the Council condemns the [PA police] raid on an-Najah University campus and such a raid on any other university. The Council requests that the relevant bodies of the Palestinian National Authority continue their investigation and hold accountable all those responsible for the violations which took place. Also, the Legislative Council highly praises the decision of President Yasser Arafat, of which he has informed the Council Speaker in writing, to solve the issues resulting from the An-Najah University incident.

Sixth: the Legislative Council praises the role of the security services in protecting the homeland and the citizens, and in maintaining security and order. We affirm that the violations that accompany the carrying out of those duties do not befit the image of these services and its members.

Seventh: to call on the Palestinian National Authority to coordinate between the security services and to make clear the precise responsibilities of these services, to control their work and prevent any duplications and contradictions in their work which might influence their performance and harm their public image.

Eighth: to call on the Palestinian National Authority to conduct a comprehensive national campaign among the public in order to protect the nascent Palestinian entity, which is represented by the Palestinian National Authority, and to prevent any attempt to create disputes or to magnify errors resulting from the individual practices of some of the security services.

Ninth: to ask the ministerial cabinet to call upon the Executive Authority to present the Palestinian security policy to the Palestinian Legislative Council as soon as possible in order that it may be discussed, given that it is one of the major elements in building the National Authority and democratic life.

Resolution No. (8/2/1):

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in

Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996 Resolved: To demand that the ministerial cabinet present the Legislative Council with the Basic Law (the temporary constitution) in its final draft form, in no more than three weeks time, so that the Council can study, discuss, and ratify it. And the Council also demands the presentation of the other various draft laws and regulations in its subsequent sessions, particularly the Local Governance Law and the Press Law.

Resolution No. (9/2/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996 Resolved: First: to consider all recommendations proposed by the Legislative Council members during previous sessions on all issues and by the Council's specialized committees, in order to study them and provide the necessary reports to the Council. Second: to request that the Council Speaker send all objections and complaints submitted by citizens and national institutes to the relevant committees for follow-up.

Resolution No. (10/2/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996 Resolved: That every member of the Legislative Council has the right to obtain a diplomatic passport, and His Excellency the President approves this. The Council Secretariat will work on resolving this issue through the relevant bodies.

Resolution No. (11/2/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996 Resolved: That each member has the right to hold a VIP card. The Council Secretariat will work on resolving this issue through the relevant bodies.

Resolution No. (12/2/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996 Resolved: That each member has the right to obtain special vehicle license plates; this issue will be discussed with the Ministry of Transport.

Resolution No. (13/2/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 3-4 April 1996 Resolved: Members award \$1,750 Expenses \$250 The issue of retrieving the \$1,000 elections candidacy fee deposited at the Central Elections Commission should be addressed to the Ministry of Finance.

Session III Ramallah, 9-10 April 1996

Resolution No. (14/3/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its third session of the first term held in Ramallah on 10 April 1996 Resolved: To grant Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian National Authority, a grace period of two additional weeks to form a government.

Resolution No. (15/3/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its third session of the first term held in Ramallah on 10 April 1996 Resolved: That the Council be divided into committees, which will elect their chairpersons and rapporteurs according to a schedule proposed by the Speaker. In the meantime, the members will continue to discuss the remaining articles on the agenda.

Resolution No. (16/3/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its third session of the first term held in Ramallah on 10 April 1996, taking into consideration the letter sent by the Attorney-General regarding the press conference held by four Council members, Resolved: To return the letter to the Attorney-General.

Resolution No. (17/3/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its third session of the first term held in Ramallah on 10 April 1996 Resolved: To mandate a Culture and Information Subcommittee to study the subject of Council relations with the media, and the idea of a monthly magazine about Council activities, and to present specific suggestions regarding the issue to the Council in its next session.

Resolution No. (18/3/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its third session of the first term held in Ramallah on 10 April 1996 Resolved:

First: the next Council session will be held in two weeks in Rafah.

Second: next week will be set aside for the work of the Council's permanent committees, in order to determine their work method and location of their sessions, their needs and financial concerns. This should be done through coordination by the committees' chairs and the Council secretariat, in order to determine the location of the sessions and procedural issues.

Session IV Rafah, 8-9 May 1996

Resolution No. (19/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996, taking into consideration the following:

1. The expulsion by the Israeli authorities of Palestinian students from the Gaza Strip who are studying in West Bank universities, and deportation of those students to the Strip, depriving them of the right to continue their studies
2. The Education and Social Affairs Committee's recommendations regarding Gaza Strip students Resolved:

First: to ask the Executive Authority and liaison committee to solve this problem as soon as possible so that the students can continue their studies, and to put this issue on the negotiations agenda.

Second: to send a letter from the Legislative Council to Arab and international parliaments detailing this Israeli measure, which is a violation of Palestinian human rights.

Third: to ask the Executive Authority in conjunction with the Ministry of Education to send a letter to UNESCO to pressure Israel to end these offensive practices.

Fourth: to absorb, temporarily, those students within Gaza universities and waive their fees until an agreement regarding the fees is reached between the universities concerned.

Fifth: to condemn the UNRWA decision to close its teacher training colleges in Palestinian National Authority territories in the West Bank and to send the students back to the Gaza Strip, in compliance with an Israeli demand. The Ministry of Education is requested to hold the Agency fully responsible for this decision and its damaging impact on our students.

Resolution No. (20/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996, taking into consideration the Education and Social Affairs Committee recommendations concerning the students jailed by the Palestinian security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Resolved: To ask the Executive Authority to release any jailed student not found guilty of harming national interests in order that s/he may continue his or her educational pursuits.

Resolution No. (21/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996, taking into consideration the following:

1. The norms and traditions followed by the majority of parliaments in the world

with respect to live broadcast of sessions on radio and television, and the importance of a positive relationship between the people and their elected representatives based on principles of credibility, loyalty and service, in order to achieve public participation and serve public interest

2. The importance of the media in broadcasting the Palestinian Legislative Council sessions live to the people, in order to follow up on its issues and intents

3. The commitment to respect the will of the people in order to reinforce the principles of democracy and serious dialogue, in a civilized manner, so that all opinions can be expressed in a forum of freedom and national independence

Resolved:

First: that all public sessions of the Council are open to the media and the Council directorate takes responsibility for coordinating this in the service of the national interest.

Second: all sessions shall be broadcast live by the Palestinian radio and television stations.

Third: all voting during the sessions shall be broadcast on the radio and television stations; all sessions of debate, ratification of the budget, non-confidence in government motions, and ratification of laws shall be broadcast live.

Fourth: statements and decisions by the Council will be publicized to the media, particularly the radio and television.

Fifth: the Council directorate will issue a newspaper or special publication on the Council's work. It shall also include the session minutes and resolutions.

Sixth: a committee of Council members will be formed to discuss the implementation of those decisions relating to the live broadcast over radio and television, in coordination with the Ministry of Information.

Resolution No. (22/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996, taking into consideration the comprehensive discussion of the Economic Committee report and the recommendations of the committee concerning the strengthening of the Palestinian national economy, Resolved:

First: to request that the ministerial cabinet work on the freedom of internal and external trade, export, import and distribution, in the context of the agreements signed with the Israeli government, in order to lessen dependence on Israel.

Second: to encourage investment in the private sector, and to limit the obstacles and interference that prevent this, including provision of necessary permits by merchants from the relevant government bodies.

Third: the Council requests that the ministerial cabinet end the policy of monopoly on all materials, and particularly the basic materials crucial for the national

economy, such as the trade of gravel in the Gaza Strip. The Council requests that the Economic Committee follow up on the issues related to this policy and provide its recommendations in a report to the Council in its coming session.

Fourth: the Council requests that the ministerial cabinet find the best way to ensure that a loaf of bread reaches the citizen at a suitable price, while taking into consideration the agreements signed [with Israel], by opening up imports and the distribution of flour.

Fifth: the Council requests that the ministerial cabinet support the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and allow only this institution to conduct field surveys, desisting from any measures that contradict with this.

Sixth: the Council condemns the closure and siege policy imposed by Israel on our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and their Palestinian National Authority. The Council demands that the Executive Authority continue its efforts to have the Israeli authorities respect the signed agreements.

Seventh: the Council requests that the ministerial cabinet provide it with its policy on unemployment, as the issue is one of the most severe facing our people, National Authority, national building effort and economic development; the Council demands an evaluation of previous experiments in this regard.

Eighth: the Council requests that the Economic Committee continue to investigate the issue of Beit al-Mal with the Minister of Justice and present its recommendations to the Council in the next session in order to conclude this issue.

Ninth: the Council requests that the ministerial cabinet and Ministry of Justice refer all laws and regulations on economic and financial work to the Legislative Council for study.

Resolution No. (23/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996, taking into consideration the complaint submitted by the people and institutions of the eastern rural area of Bethlehem regarding the health, humanitarian and environmental problems caused by the flooding of Bethlehem, Beit Jalla and Beit Sahour sewage, which has not been remedied due to the lack of completion of the sewage system in that region, and accordingly, Resolved:

First: to form an inspection committee of the following colleagues:

1. Brother Ahmad Irshaid, coordinator of the Environment and Energy Subcommittee; coordinator.
2. Brother Jamal Shobaki, Natural Resources Committee member; member.
3. Brother Hikmat Zeid, Natural Resources Committee member; member.
4. Brother Sulleiman Abu Sneineh, Public Monitoring Committee member; member.

Second: to request that our colleague the Speaker of the Council contact our brother, the President of the Palestinian National Authority, to ask that all relevant bodies cooperate with the inspection committee, so that it may perform its duties in the required time period and work to prevent additional environmental and health deterioration in this region.

Third: the committee shall, after completing its duties, return to the Council to discuss its report and recommendations; the Council will make the necessary resolutions in light of the facts presented by the committee.

Resolution No. (24/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996, taking into consideration the following:

1. The importance of forming a special police squad for the Legislative Council
2. The special study regarding this issue which was distributed to the Council members Resolved:

First: to approve the formation of a special police squad for the Council, to be under the direction of the Council Directorate or whomever it mandates according to the proposed by-laws.

Second: that the Speaker of the Council will take the final decision, announcing formation of the squad with the Palestinian police commanders.

Resolution No. (25/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996 Resolved: To form a temporary committee for coordinating the work mechanism of the committees, to consist of:

- a. The Council Executive
- b. The chairs and rapporteurs of the committees The Council Executive shall decide the date and place of the sessions.

Resolution No. (26/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996 Resolved:

First: to ratify the estimated budget of the Palestinian Legislative Council from the period of 1\2-31\12\1996 and to approve the amendments of the salaries of the members; forthwith, this will be a standard monthly salary of \$2,500.

Second: to request that the Council Executive present the budget to the Ministry of Finance (Budget Department) in order that it enter into force, according to the financial regulations of the Minister of Finance.

Resolution No. (27/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996, taking into consideration the following:

1. The complaint submitted by the gravel merchants in the Gaza Strip.
2. Al-Bahar Company and Union of Gravel Marketers' monopoly of this material.

Resolved: First: to end monopolies on any commercial material. Second: to have as a guiding principle the idea of free trade and competition, in all matters pertaining to export, import and distribution. Third: to request that the Economic Committee follow up the issues raised in relation to other materials and submit a report to the Council.

Resolution No. (28/4/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996, having read the letter sent to Council members by the American National Democratic Institute about the workshop on issues related to developing the Palestinian constitution, approves the participation of those Council members who wish to do so in the aforementioned workshop.

Resolution No. (29/4/1) The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held in Rafah during the period of 8-9 May 1996 Resolved: First: to send a note of thanks to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics for the role it is performing, particularly in regard to the periodic reports which it regularly distributes to the Council members and in all its meeting locations. Second: to limit field surveys to those done by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and to stop any initiatives that contradict with this.

Resolution No. (30/4/1) The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the first term held during the period of 8-9 May 1996 Resolves: To raise the following issues with the relevant committees in order that they may study them and make recommendations: 1. To send the draft Basic Law (number zero) to the Legal Committee in order that it may study the draft, make the necessary amendments and then distribute the amended draft among the members. 2. To send the draft Civil Service Law to the Legal Committee in order that it may study the draft and present it to the Council. 3. To send the Palestinian Monetary Authority Law to the Legal Committee in order that it may study the draft and present it to the Council. 4. Notes the letter of complaint from residents of the Tal al-Sultan and western Rafah areas, asking to prevent the construction of sewage basins in that area, because of the environmental and health hazards such basins will cause for residents of the city. 5. Notes the letter from students of the Science and Technology College in Khan Younis regarding the request to pave the road leading to the college. 6. To send the letter presented on the problems experienced by pilgrims to the relevant committee.

Session V Bethlehem, 15-16 May 1996

Resolution No. (31/5/1) The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fifth session of the first term held in Bethlehem during the period of 15-16 May 1996 Resolved: To ask the Council Executive to review the following with the Executive Authority:

1. Follow-up of the implementation of the decision regarding the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and al-Bahar Company; limiting all matters regarding field survey work including population census to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics; and terminating this matter.
2. The legal status of al-Bahar Company, which uses official logos of the Executive Authority in its correspondence and is in contact with the Executive Authority and ministries.
3. To report to the Council on this issue during the next session.

Resolution No. (32/5/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fifth session of the first term held in Bethlehem during the period of 15-16 May 1996 discussed the policy of house demolition by the Israeli authorities, targeted against citizens, particularly those who live in Area C and Arab Jerusalem. The Council listened with great attention to the reports and surveys that were presented to it, and concluded that the Israeli authorities have recently been very active in demolishing Palestinian houses; Israel has demolished dozens of houses and sent demolition warning notices to dozens of other homeowners all over the West Bank. The Palestinian Legislative Council views this oppressive policy as grave and dangerous and believes it will have destructive consequences for the peace process in general and the final-status negotiations in particular.

Accordingly, it is Resolved: To request that the Executive Authority immediately intervene to end the house demolitions that the Israeli military authorities are conducting all over the West Bank. They should do this by calling on the Israeli government to immediately issue an order to its forces and military commanders to immediately desist from demolishing any Palestinian house. To request that the Executive Authority speed up the preparation and reconsideration of the structural organization plans for Palestinian villages and cities, and expand it in order to ensure the creation of a suitable atmosphere for economic and social development. The Council affirms that the existing peace process will be imperiled if the Israeli government does not immediately stop the series of violations it practices against our people, including the house demolition policy.

Resolution No. (33/5/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fifth session of the first term held in Bethlehem during the period of 15-16 May 1996 discussed a number of

outstanding issues concerning its affairs, and accordingly, Resolved:

First: to stop holding the Council sessions in locations revolving among the governorates and to restrict meetings to the two temporary Council headquarters, in Gaza Governorate, and Ramallah and al-Bireh Governorate.

Second: to review the committees' membership and chairs due to the vacancies that occurred in some committees after the formation of the ministerial cabinet.

Further, to review the complaints of some members who have not been able to participate in three separate committees.

Third: the Council reaffirms all its previous resolutions and requests that the Council Executive follow up on their implementation with the Executive Authority and present a report to the Council on this issue.

Fourth: concerning the Basic Law, the Council considers this law to be the first priority among the laws presented before it; the draft (number zero) of this law which the Minister of Justice presented does not meet the requirements for a draft, and, It is further resolved: To begin discussing the draft Basic Law on an initiative from the Council on the basis of the amended draft law (number four) distributed to the Council members; and to mandate the Legal Committee to begin study and discussion of it in order to make recommendations to the Council. And to issue the draft to the local media and to some Arab press, in order to put it before our people for discussion, for a period of two weeks.

Fifth: concerning the freedom of movement of the Council members, the Council reaffirms its previous decision regarding the guarantee of freedom of movement of the Legislative Council members between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It requests that the Executive Authority speed up special arrangements so that the Council members' identification card is considered by Israel as a VIP card, or else obtain a VIP1 card for all members, similar to that held by our minister colleagues.

Resolution No. (43/5/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fifth session of the first term held in Bethlehem during the period of 15-16 May 1996 Resolved: To request that the Council Executive send to the Political Committee all issues and information regarding the Israeli violations of the agreements signed with the Palestinians, including settlement expansion, by-pass road construction, release of detainees, house demolition, siege, and isolation of Jerusalem, in order that these may be studied comprehensively, and necessary suggestions can be made to the Council for ratification and follow-up.

Resolution No. (35/5/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fifth session of the first term held in Bethlehem during the period of 15-16 May 1996 discussed the cut-off of electrical service in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli electric company and the negative

consequences of this measure on all economic, social and humanitarian fields, and accordingly, Resolved: To request that the Executive Authority solve this problem as soon as possible through:

1. Payment of the consumption bill that caused the cut-off, with the VAT money that the Executive Authority collects in return on the electric bill.
2. Permitting and facilitating all municipal and village Councils to take loans from local national banks on conditions determined by the Executive Authority and with an acceptable interest percentage.
3. Review of the power supply situation in Dheisheh Refugee Camp, which suffers from electric shortage in some areas and total lack of electric service in others.

Session VI Gaza City, 22-23 May 1996

Resolution No. (36/6/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixth session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 22-23 May 1996, heard the ministerial statement presented by President Yasser Arafat for vote of confidence for his government, and accordingly, Resolved: First: to distribute the statement to all members for study. Second: to begin discussing the ministerial statement in the Council's next session starting from 5 June 1996.

Resolution No. (37/6/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixth session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 22-23 May 1996 discussed the letter presented by the Palestinian Journalists Union, and accordingly, Resolved:

First: the Legislative Council requests that the Executive Authority give priority to Palestinian journalists in the dissemination of news; and support journalists through all of the Palestinian institutions; and work on guaranteeing freedom of movement [of Palestinian journalists] between the West Bank and Gaza Strip governorates.

Second: the Legislative Council requests that the Executive Authority open offices [to serve] the foreign press agencies and television networks working in Palestine, as is the case in neighboring countries, and affirm the rights of Palestinian journalists to be treated as visiting journalists in neighboring countries.

Third: the Council requests that the Executive Authority work with the national press and news agencies in order to coordinate the relationship between them and Palestinian journalists, through contracts preserving their rights

Fourth: the Executive Authority is requested to create seminars to develop the skills of Palestinian journalists.

Resolution No. (38/6/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixth session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 22-23 May 1996 discussed the issue of the Turkish government handover of four Palestinian students to the Israeli authorities, and accordingly, Resolved: To request that the Executive Authority send letters of condemnation and inquiry to the Turkish government. And to request that the Council Executive send a letter to the Turkish parliament on the issue of the four Palestinians whom the Turkish government handed over to Israel, noting that this is a dangerous precedent taken by an Islamic state.

Resolution No. (39/6/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixth session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 22-23 May 1996, discussed the Land and Settlements Committee report, and the recommendations of the committee, and accordingly, Resolved: To request that the Executive Authority study the possibility of forming a commission or an authority specifically for [affairs related to] land.

Resolution No. (40/6/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixth session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 22-23 May 1996, discussed the Legal Committee report, and accordingly,

1. Regarding the case of sister In'am Anshasi Resolved: To follow up with the Minister of Justice to return her to her work.
2. Regarding the presentation of the list of the names and ages of those detained, their place of detention and the charges of which they are accused Resolved: To follow up on the Minister of Justice's promise to provide the required list while taking into consideration some cases which involve issues that hurt the public interest.
3. Regarding the draft Basic Law Resolved: To give a two-week grace period for the presentation of the draft law to the Legislative Council while mandating the Legal Committee to utilize Palestinian, Arab and international legal experts if necessary.

Resolution No. (41/6/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixth session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 22-23 May 1996, discussed some outstanding issues regarding Council affairs, and accordingly,

1. Regarding the outstanding issue of the electricity cut-off in the Gaza Strip Resolved: the Council affirms its previous decision, to request that the Executive Authority solve the issue of the electricity cut-off in the Gaza Strip And the

Council requests that the Council Executive ask the Gaza Municipality to guarantee three power lines for the Legislative Council in order to ensure continued electrical supply to the Council. And the Council requests that the Council Executive guarantee a reserve electric generator for the Council.

2. Regarding the movement of Council members between the West Bank and Gaza Strip Resolved:

First: to condemn the Israeli policy of obstructing the free movement of Council members between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Second: to request that the Executive Authority continue to pressure the Israeli government to facilitate the movement of members and not obstruct the democratic process, and to consider the members' card issued by the Legislative Council to its members as a document which guarantees free passage and movement.

Third: to request that the foreign states' consuls and representatives to the Palestinian Authority pressure the Israeli government to fulfill its commitments and adhere to the signed agreements, respecting the freedom of movement of the representatives of the Palestinian people.

3. Regarding the aims and duties of the committees' work Resolved:

a. Land and Settlements Committee The Council amends the aims and responsibilities of the Land and Settlements Committee, so that they stand as enclosed.

b. Education and Social Affairs Committee The Council amends the aims and responsibilities of the Education and Social Affairs Committee, so that they stand as enclosed.

c. Interior Committee The Council amends the aims and responsibilities of the Interior Committee, so that they stand as enclosed.

d. Regarding the membership of the committees, and upon the suggestions of a number of members, the Council approved the Executive's request to reconsider the membership of the committees and to reorganize them in accordance with the by-laws and the activities of the committees. The results will be presented to the Council in its next session.

Resolution No. (42/6/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixth session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 22-23 May 1996, discussed the Public Monitoring Committee report, and accordingly,

1. Regarding the Palestinian detainees in Egyptian prisons Resolved: To request that the Executive Authority work on facilitating their entrance to the Palestinian National Authority areas so that the Egyptian government may release and deport them.

2. Regarding the case of Iyad Sarraj Resolved: The Council requests a follow-up on the idea of releasing him with the approval of President Abu Ammar, and termination of this case.

Session VII Gaza, 5-6 June 1996

Resolution No. (43/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration:

1. The recommendations of the Political Committee to the Council and the discussion held on the negotiations process
2. Shimon Peres' letter to Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Holst on Jerusalem institutions
3. The American Letter of Assurances presented to the Palestinian side in Madrid , which specifies that neither side may preempt the final status situation or take unilateral steps that predetermine the postponed issues
4. The fifth article of the Declaration of Principles, which states that neither side can preempt the final-status negotiations issues Resolved: First: regarding the negotiations process:

1. To send a letter to the Executive Authority (to the Higher Negotiations Committee) asking for follow-up on the negotiations process at the highest levels which will include the Council's vision of the requirements for successful final-status negotiations including:

- * Performance and the negotiating system To complete the negotiations process and to form a negotiating body that is comprehensive and harmonious in its contents and committees, and possessed of a sole agenda. An effective coordination, work and follow-up mechanism should guarantee the unification of the process with the greatest amount of negotiating skill, experience, and internal order. To form a special negotiating delegation to the final-status negotiations whose delegates are chosen in accordance with precise qualifications and characteristics of technical skill, negotiating ability and experience, and who will conduct the required tasks with enthusiasm, seriousness and supreme professionalism.

- *Coordination and follow-up mechanism To find a mechanism for communication and continuous follow-up, in order to organize periodic sessions to provide the Council with information, documents and conclusions related to the negotiations process; the Council requests in this regard:

- a. A comprehensive report on the current negotiations in the various fields
- b. A report on the final-status negotiations opening in Taba
- c. To send an invitation to brother Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), head of the

Higher Negotiations Committee, in order to meet, consult, coordinate and follow up with him

*The negotiations strategic vision To continue consultation and coordination between the Legislative Council and the Higher Negotiations Committee on the issues and subjects that constitute the final-status negotiations work agenda. To affirm the need to deal with these issues in a careful and cautious manner; and to recruit [negotiators with] the capabilities and necessary specialties, in order to develop a strategy, vision, and proposals that will guarantee Palestinian rights in the issues of Jerusalem, refugees, settlement and borders, water and sovereignty; The Council requests therefore that the Higher Negotiations Committee provide its draft of the concept that will form the Palestinian opening position in the final-status negotiations.

Second: on relations with Arab and international parliaments: Taking into consideration the importance of the Legislative Council's participation in Arab and international conferences and activities in order to present its role, Resolved:

1. To coordinate with the Palestinian National Council executive in order to participate in joint delegations to the Arab and international parliamentarian unions.
2. To form delegations of parliamentarians and develop plans to activate relations with Arab and international parliaments.
3. To prepare a complete archive of information on the various parliaments, their speakers, composition, addresses, by-laws and publications.

Third: regarding the American Congress position on withholding designated funds: Resolved: To send a letter to the Congress in the name of the Council as soon as possible in order to respond to the accusations of [US Senators] Helms and Gilman. To urge the American Congress to release the American aid and to support the peace process with a balanced and just position. To form a delegation to visit the Congress and to discuss this issue with the leaders of the two parties in the House of Representatives and Senate.

Fourth: regarding the Turkish-Israeli agreement: Resolved: To request that the Executive Authority provide the Council with the text of the Turkish-Israeli agreement and information on the measures [Turkey] took in handing over four Palestinian students to Israel, and the responses and clarifications that the Executive received from Turkey regarding this issue.

Resolution No. (44/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period 5-6 June 1996 Regarding:

1. a. the Refugees and Palestinians in the Diaspora Affairs Committee recommendations regarding electrical service in Dheisheh Refugee Camp b. the instructions issued to residents of the Camp during the Intifada not to pay electric

bills Resolved: To request that the Executive Authority study the condition of electrical supply and the financial dues in the refugee camps and particularly Dheisheh Refugee Camp, with the goal of restoring the electrical supply.

2. The Refugee and Palestinians in the Diaspora Affairs Committee recommendations on the decrease in UNRWA services Resolved: To request that the Executive Authority demand that the United Nations reinforce the role of UNRWA in order to continue its provision of services to Palestinian refugees until the refugee issue is completely resolved. To request that the Executive Authority include programs to provide necessary services to the camps in accordance with priorities, in the Palestinian development programs and plans.

Resolution No. (45/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration the Budget Committee recommendations regarding:

1. The budget

2. The complaint submitted by the Monetary Authority

3. The complaint regarding the Authority's employee salaries Resolved:

First: to reaffirm the previous decision and to request that the Minister of Finance provide a budget for the previous fiscal year 1995 and to present the budget for the fiscal year 1996.

Second: to request a meeting with the governor of the Monetary Authority so that [he can] answer the inquiries on the issue of the complaint submitted to the Council.

Third: to discuss the issue of the Authority's employee salaries with the Minister of Finance and hear a report on this matter.

Resolution No. (46/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration:

1. a. The recommendations presented by the Natural Resources Committee b. The Inspection Committee report on environmental pollution in eastern Bethlehem Resolved:

First: to request that the Executive Authority allow resumption of work on the project and promise not to intervene with the workers on the project.

Second: to request that the Ministry of Local Governance exercise its powers to directly supervise and follow up daily on the project work.

Third: to appoint a director general to administer and supervise the project.

Fourth: to request that the National Authority's Public Monitoring Office audit all of the calculations made by the water and sewage authorities.

Fifth: to request that the Ministry of Justice open an investigation into all phases of implementing the project and obtain the assistance of engineers, administrators, accountants and bid specialists.

Sixth: to request the suspension of the Authority's director general, Bisharah Kharoufeh, from work until the end of review of the violations concerning the project.

2. The complaint submitted by the residents of Rafah on the sewage project

Resolved:

First: to form a committee to investigate the project, which will submit its report in two weeks time.

Second: to request that the Executive Authority stop work on the project until the committee presents its report.

3. The complaint presented by Qalqilya Municipality on sewage and violations in the city: Resolved:

First: to request that the Executive Authority (Ministry of Civil Affairs) prepare for a session with the Israeli side to discuss the issue and work on solving it.

Resolution No. (47/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration the Jerusalem Committee recommendations concerning:

1. Arab house demolitions
 2. Changing the names of streets in Jerusalem to Hebrew names
 3. The issue of detainees in Jerusalem
 4. The expansion of Jerusalem Municipality borders towards Beit Jalla land and demolition of Arab houses there
 5. The confiscation of Jerusalemite identification cards from Jerusalemites who live outside the city
- Resolved:

First: to request that the Executive Authority take into consideration the participation of the Legislative Council in any session concerning Jerusalem, be it held inside the country or abroad.

Second: to request that the Executive Authority activate the ministerial committee for Jerusalem affairs.

Third: to request the Executive Authority speed up the completion of the structural and organizational plans for all villages and surrounding areas of Jerusalem, and demarcate the residential areas threatened with demolition.

Fourth: to request that the Executive Authority cover the expenses incurred by legal efforts to protect houses threatened with demolition and discuss this dangerous issue with the Israeli side.

Fifth: to survey all areas that had their names changed to Hebrew names and to ask

the Executive Authority to send protest letters on this issue to the UN Security Council, UNESCO, the sponsors of the peace process, the Islamic Conference Organization's Jerusalem Committee, and the Vatican; as this represents an offensive measure in the holy city and sabotage of its history, civilization and identity. Also, to request that the Executive Authority: send letters of protest to the aforementioned bodies on Israel's sabotage of Islamic cemeteries, particularly al-Yousifiyeh; raise this important issue with the Israeli side in the negotiations; and cover the expense of hiring a defense lawyer.

Sixth: to request that the Ministry of Local Governance verify the structural and organizational plans for the areas of Beit Jalla and Bethlehem, and visit the site in order to study the current situation, providing the Council with a report.

Seventh: to request that the Executive Authority form a legal and consultative committee in Jerusalem, to which citizens may go to discuss their cases with the Israelis, including the issues of residency, Jerusalemite citizens' identification cards, municipal taxes, and isolation of the city.

Eighth: to invite the Jerusalem portfolio official to attend the sessions of the Jerusalem Committee in order to discuss a plan for Jerusalem on the various levels, particularly concerning issues of residency, social ills, detainees, house demolition, the Arab al-Jahaleen who are threatened with deportation, and the case of Augusta Victoria Hospital (al-Mutala').

Resolution No. (48/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration the report and recommendations submitted by the Interior Committee, Resolves:

First: to stress the need for implementation of previous decisions:

1. To request that the Executive Authority immediately release [detained] students of universities, colleges, institutes and secondary schools so that they can sit exams which will start on Saturday, June 8, 1996, and similarly release all teachers and professors.
2. To request that the Executive Authority release all those detainees who have not been proven guilty.
3. To request that the Executive Authority bring to court those who have been found to be guilty.
4. To request that the Executive Authority adhere to the procedures detailed in the Trials Law (for arrest, investigation, and search) No. 4 of 1924.

Second: to request that the Executive Authority brief the Council on its security policy and the Palestinian security plan.

Third: to request a session with the Justice Minister to discuss the existing legal violations.

Resolution No. (49/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations by the Education and Social Affairs Committee concerning:

1. The request to pay pension payments retroactively
2. The decision to allow detainees at Asqalan Prison to sit for matriculation exams (Tawjihi)
3. The issue of Palestinian students at Istanbul University
4. The demands by the Palestinian Teachers' General Union locals in Hebron and Bethlehem
5. Events at Hebron University: the raids by occupation troops on the campus, the destruction of its property and the closure order issued for the university
6. The issue of employees' dues for the year 1993 at the Science and Technology College in Khan Younis

7. Dheisheh Hospital and the need for a medical center. Resolves:

First: to request that the Minister of Education implement the resolution issued by President Yasser Arafat concerning paying the retired teachers' pension payments, the first for the period of July 1, 1982, to December 31, 1994; the second for the period of August 1, 1993, to December 31, 1994; and to form a committee to meet with the Education Minister to discuss the matter.

Second: to request that the Education Ministry submit to the Turkish Embassy a copy of the official certificates and transcripts of the students concerned.

Third: to request that the Education Ministry inform the Council of its position on the request to:

- a. re-employ returnee teachers who were dismissed by the occupation authorities
- b. resolve the issue of teachers who were forced to retire by occupation authorities and give them rights similar to those of all other retired teachers
- c. demand [from Israel] the salaries deducted from teachers by occupation authorities during the [first] 11 months of the Intifada
- d. ratify the Social Security Law and introduce amendments on the teachers' salaries
- e. send a letter to President Yasser Arafat on the matter of financial assistance to the Higher Education Council and the delay in arrival of those funds
- f. send a letter to President Yasser Arafat to ask for his intervention to solve the problem of financial compensation for employees of the Science and Technology in Khan Younis for 1993
- g. request that the Health Ministry establish an appropriate medical center at Dheisheh Refugee Camp in coordination with UNRWA medical services

Resolution No. (50/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration the health committee recommendations concerning:

1. The case of Dr. Yousef Hamshari and his return to his position at Tulkarem Hospital; and the return of Dr. Fawzi Salameh to his position
2. The application submitted by the Wounded Palestinians Institute to adopt the institute's cadre
3. The salaries of prisoners
4. The issue of the disabled and their demands
5. The liberated prisoners
6. The Liberated Prisoners' Charitable Society, which seeks assistance as an independent society

7. The case of Adnan Kamel Mas'ad Resolves:

First: to request that the Health Minister look into the issue of Dr. Yousef Hamshari's return to his position as hospital director and the return of Dr. Fawzi Salameh to his work.

Second: to request that the Social Affairs Ministry study the cadre of the Wounded Palestinians Institute and the possibility of adopting it according to regulations.

Third: to request that the Executive Authority study the possibility of paying salaries to prisoners similar to the salaries paid to soldiers and to find them jobs suitable to their abilities when they are released.

Fourth: to request that the Executive Authority unify and merge all institutions and societies caring for the disabled under one union.

Fifth: to request that the Social Affairs Ministry propose a draft resolution on the subject of care for the disabled, to be studied and ratified.

Sixth: to request that the concerned parties study the possibility of absorbing liberated prisoners who spent five years or more in prison in the Authority's services.

Seventh: to request that the Interior Ministry unify and merge all institutions and societies caring for liberated prisoners into one institution.

Eighth: to request that the Social Affairs Ministry study and solve the case of Adnan Kamel Mas'ad, as the issue is one of a struggling family which deserves to be treated fairly.

Resolution No. (51/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration the Economic Committee recommendations concerning:

1. The issue of gravel

2. The information office at the Ministry of Tourism in Bethlehem
3. The complaint presented on building the port at Sheikh Ijlein region
4. The owners of the land where the airport is being built
5. The closure of the gas station at Beit Fajjar
6. The request to transform Jericho area into a free trade zone Resolves:
First: a. To stress its previous resolution [on these matters] and the need to follow up on them to ensure implementation.
b. To invite the Finance Minister and the Trade and Economy Minister to brief the Council about the economic issues of private companies and their legal status.
Second: to invite the Tourism Minister for a meeting with the Committee to discuss the information office of the ministry.
Third: to query the Executive Authority on the damages mentioned in the petition on the port in Sheikh Ijlein region.
Fourth: to request that the Housing Ministry and Justice Ministry deal with the developments in the case of owners of the land where the airport is being constructed, and find solutions for the land owners, and work on resolving the issue by compensating them with a suitable piece of land or financial compensation equivalent to the value of the land.
Fifth: to query the head of the Energy Authority and the general director of the Petroleum Commission about the closure of the gas station at Beit Fajjar.
Sixth: to submit the request to transform the Jericho region into a free trade zone to the Cabinet for review.

Resolution No. (52/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration the Public Monitoring Committee recommendations concerning:

1. the issue of Palestinians in Libya Resolves:
First: to request that the Executive Authority send a letter to the Libyan leadership concerning the measures taken against Palestinians in Libya.
Second: to send parliamentary delegations to Arab parliaments to assist in alleviating the measures against Palestinians in Libya.
Third: to form a Council delegation to visit Libya and meet with the Libyan Leadership and the Palestinians there.
2. a. the complaint submitted from Babel Company for Trade and Contracts b. the issue of the car belonging to Munir Ali Okal Resolves:
First: to request that the Executive Authority start an immediate investigation into this issue and bring violators to court, taking necessary measures based on the results of the investigation; and to request a meeting with the Attorney-General to

inquire about several important issues.

Second: to request that the Executive Authority return the car of citizen Munir Ali Okal from the Criminal Investigations Department where it has been impounded.

Resolution No. (53/7/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its seventh session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 5-6 June 1996, taking into consideration the Land and Settlements Committee recommendations concerning land confiscation in Bethlehem district, Resolves:

First: to treat the issue of Israeli violations as a political matter which should be addressed in light of Israeli efforts to impose the final-settlement borders through facts on the ground [before the conclusion of final status negotiations.]

Second: that there is a need to unify efforts of the land defense committees and include representatives from the Islamic and Christian Waqf [trusts] and from al-Nu'man village.

Third: that the Council should stress in the national mass media and to the parliaments of other countries, as well to the UN, the special status of the city of Bethlehem as a city sacred to the international Christian community, and the real danger presented by settlements there.

Session VIII Nablus, June 13 1996

Resolution No. (54/8/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eighth session of the first term held in Nablus on 13 June 1996, taking into consideration the proposal submitted by several members concerning a statement on behalf of the Council on the occasion of the Arab Summit convening in Cairo and the participation of the state of Palestine, Resolves: That the Council Speaker issue a statement on behalf of the Council including the following points:

1. The Council welcomes this Summit.
2. The Council stands firmly behind President Yasser Arafat in his efforts to present the Palestinian point of view and the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people and their National Authority.
3. The dangers of the current phase, especially after the Likud Party assumed power in Israel.

Session IX Ramallah, June 20 1996

Resolution No. (55/9/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its ninth session of the first term held in

Ramallah on 20 June 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Natural Resources Committee pertaining to requesting regulations, laws, legislation and programs from the Executive Authority: Resolves: To request that ministries, authorities and executive commissions which work in areas related to the tasks of the Natural Resources Committee provide the committee with all regulations, laws, legislation, plans and projects that constitute their working guidelines so that these can be studied and reviewed, and if necessary be presented to the Council for approval.

Resolution No. (56/9/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its ninth session of the first term held in Ramallah on 20 June 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Refugees and Palestinians in the Diaspora Affairs Committee concerning:

1. the return of refugees and displaced persons
2. the problem of the land upon which refugee camps are built
3. the implications of refugee participation in municipal elections

Resolves: First: to highlight the Palestinian refugees' right of return and stress this issue in all Palestinian political presentations in meetings and conferences.

Second: to follow up on the work of the special committee dealing with negotiations on the refugee and displaced persons issue, and request information on where the issue now stands in the negotiations.

Third: to request that the Executive Authority immediately halt all attempts to infringe upon the land on which camps are built, and to prevent anyone who claims ownership of the land from demanding the evacuation of refugees or seizing the land, and to keep the land as is until a just solution to the refugee issue is reached.

Fourth: to commission the committee to obtain the assistance of experts on refugee issues in order to discuss the aspects of refugee participation in local council elections.

Resolution No. (57/9/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its ninth session of the first term held in Ramallah on 20 June 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Economic Committee

1. Private and public monopolies Resolves:

First: to form a small committee consisting of members Hikmat Zeid, Azmi Shueibi, Daoud Zeir, Jamileh Saydam, and Yousef Shanti; to follow up and investigate to obtain the required information on the legal and financial status of these monopolies, and to prepare complete files, submitting their recommendations to the Council after finalizing and discussing all information on the issue with the Executive Authority.

2. The Economic Conference held at Birzeit University Resolves: To send a letter

to the head of the Arab Economists' Association, Dr. Samir Abdallah, thanking him for holding the conference and congratulating him on its success, and to request that he provide the Economic Committee with all studies and recommendations issued during the conference.

Resolution No. (58/9/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its ninth session of the first term held in Ramallah on 20 June 1996, taking into consideration:

1. The Land and Settlements Committee recommendations concerning:

a. the issue of the Arab al-Jahaleen and the Israeli Higher Court order for their evacuation by August 28, 1996 Resolves:

First: to form a special committee from the committee members or other Council members to follow-up on the Arab al-Jahaleen case and to work towards freezing the evacuation order until an alternative solution is found.

Second: to request that the Executive Authority place the Arab al-Jahaleen case at the top of their list of priorities and work to bring the Jahaleen back to the Arad region from which they were expelled in 1950, asserting its decisions on the land administration issue.

b. the report submitted by Zahran Abu Qbeita on land confiscation and bypass roads Resolves:

First: to call for the formation of a special fund to protect lands and confront settlements and bypass roads.

Second: to request that the Executive Authority study a proposal calling for freezing multilateral negotiations and linking them with the extent of the Israeli government's commitment to halting land confiscation and expansion of settlements and bypass roads.

Third: to request a meeting with Brig.-Gen. Abdul Razeq al-Yahyia to discuss the issue of bypass roads in the Bethlehem region and in other areas in the Palestinian territories.

Fourth: to hold summer camps in areas threatened with confiscation.

Resolution No. (59/9/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its ninth session of the first term held in Ramallah on 20 June 1996, taking into consideration the Budget Committee recommendations concerning:

1. The US dollar rate of exchange for PNA employees

2. The issue of deducting five percent from salaries of PNA employees Resolves:

First: the Council was informed of the meeting of the Executive Authority and the President with the Finance Minister where it was decided to calculate PNA employees' salaries on the basis of 3.14 New Israeli Shekels for each US dollar as of May 1, 1996, and to reevaluate this rate of exchange every three months.

Second: to request that the Executive Authority desist from deducting five percent from PNA employees salaries for the unemployment fund, and submit a draft law for the regulation of this issue to be ratified in accordance with existing laws and used when the need arises.

Third: to reiterate the request to the Finance Minister to submit all financial statements needed by the committee, especially the budget for 1996.

Resolution No. (60/9/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its ninth session of the first term held in Ramallah on 20 June 1996, taking into consideration the Political Committee recommendations concerning the general guidelines of the new Israeli government policy: Resolves: To request that the Political Committee redraft its report to include a complete analysis of the statements issued by the new Israeli government and its broad policy guidelines, including recommendations on this policy.

Resolution No. (61/9/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its ninth session of the first term held in Ramallah on 20 June 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Public Monitoring Committee, the Interior Committee and the Local Governance Committee, as well as the Council Speaker's proposal concerning implementation of the Council's resolutions, Resolves: To form a committee from the Council Executive and the heads of committees to meet with President Yasser Arafat to discuss the issue of releasing detainees, and of Council resolutions and means of implementing them.

Session X Gaza, June 26-27 1996

Resolution No. (62/10/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its tenth session of the first term held in Gaza during the period of 26-27 June 1996, taking into consideration the four-week discussion on the ministerial statement and the Executive Authority's composition, as well as the deliberations of members on this issue, Resolves: To give the National Authority government and its ministerial statement a vote of confidence, taking into consideration the various amendments proposed by Council members, which were stressed by Brother Abu Ammar on behalf of the Executive Authority. Vote results, with 83 members present, were: Vote of Confidence: 50 Vote of Non-Confidence: 24 Abstentions: 6 Absent: 5

Resolution No. (63/10/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its tenth session of the first term held in Gaza

during the period of 26-27 June 1996, taking into consideration the letter from residents of Wadi Rahal, Bethlehem district, concerning the closure of the road leading to the village, land confiscation and Israeli violations, Resolves:

First: to form a delegation from the Council including members from Bethlehem, Hebron and Jerusalem districts, to visit the site and submit a detailed report on this case. Second: to request that the Executive Authority designate Abdul Razeq al-Yahya to follow up the complaint through negotiations with the Israeli side.

Session XI Ramallah, 4 July 1996

Resolution No. (64/11/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eleventh session of the first term held in Ramallah on 4 July 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations by the Land and Settlements Committee, after amendments, concerning:

1. a. the urgent letter from residents of al-Sammou' town b. the recent Israeli violations and a confrontation plan Resolves: First: to hold a special session of the Council to discuss the latest Israeli violations, as well as to draft a plan to confront them, as they constitute the most dangerous issue facing the peace process and the whole Palestinian cause.

Second: to call upon the Palestinian masses and their representatives to stand firm behind our people under siege in al-Sammou' town and to provide them with all kinds of financial and moral support; all members from the southern region and other members are directed to participate in the activities.

Third: to request that the Executive Authority encourage the building of new roads and the broadening of old ones between cities and villages to reinforce the Palestinian presence on our lands, especially near settlements; and expedite land registration with the Land Registration Department, including the lands which have never been registered since the British Mandate.

2. Coordination between the committee and the negotiating team Resolves:

First: to stress the need for resumed coordination between the Land and Settlements Committee and the negotiating team.

Second: to invite the head of the negotiating team to attend the committee's next meeting, to answer inquiries about certain issues pertaining to land, settlements, and bypass roads, and to explain Article 16 from the third annex of the protocol on civilian issues of the Washington agreement.

Resolution No. (65/11/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eleventh session of the first term held in Ramallah on 4 July 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Budget Committee concerning:

1. The Palestinian Monetary Authority Resolves: To transfer the whole file on the Palestinian Monetary Authority to the Justice Ministry for investigation.
2. On the complaints submitted to the committee from residents of refugee camps in the Bethlehem district (about taxes on shops in the camps), and from the owners of a group of stores in Bethlehem (about canceling the fees for unions due from the pervious period), and [a letter regarding] the law on administration of child care centers (about strict tax procedures against kindergartens), and the letter from the principal and teaching staff at Beit Sahour Boys' Secondary School (about the request for assistance in receiving their grades and rights) Resolves: To transfer the complaints to concerned ministries and parties responsible, who will examine the issues closely and report to the Council about their findings.
3. On the complaint submitted by Burhan al-Kaser (concerning the taxation system in the National Authority territories) Resolves: To request that the Executive Authority present the tax system currently in use and the relevant presidential decrees to the Council to be studied and ratified.

Resolution No. (66/11/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eleventh session of the first term held in Ramallah on 4 July 1996, taking into consideration:

1. The recommendations by the Education and Social Affairs Committee concerning the Culture and Media Subcommittee report on issuing a newspaper for the Council Resolves: To issue a weekly newspaper for the Council to cover news and topics discussed, with the aim of maintaining contact between the Council and the masses.
2. The complaint submitted by the family of martyr Mohammed Ahmad Abu al-Nasr, of Jabalia Refugee Camp Resolves: To send a letter to the Housing Ministry to solve the question of housing for the family and a letter to the Social Affairs Ministry to settle the status and salary of the martyr.
3. The complaint submitted by Izzat Yousef Hussein Sheikh Ali, Mukhtar of Baqat al-Hatab, Tulkarem Resolves:
First: to request that the Executive Authority pay the past dues to prisoners who have not received them, gradually and according to capabilities.
Second: to request that the Executive Authority compensate the above-mentioned for his home which was destroyed by occupation troops.

Resolution No. (67/11/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eleventh session of the first term held in Ramallah on 4 July 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Interior Committee concerning:

1. Formation of a committee consisting of three members to coordinate with the

heads of the security services to define and specify which detainees meet the conditions to be released

2. The growing number of complaints coming to the committee, some of which are not under its jurisdiction Resolves:

First: to form a committee of members Fakhri Shaqurra, Ibrahim Abu Naja, and Kamal Sharafi; to coordinate with the heads of the security services on the matter of the detainees who are candidates for release, and to prepare a report to be submitted to President Abu Ammar.

Second: to form a department for complaints, consisting of legal experts and executives from outside the Council, to be responsible for studying the complaints submitted to the Council and transferring those worthy of examination to the relevant committee.

Resolution No. (68/11/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eleventh session of the first term held in Ramallah on 4 July 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Natural Resources Committee concerning:

1. The complaint submitted by owners of hotels and tourist restaurants in the city of Bethlehem Resolves: To invite the head of the Water Authority to attend a dialogue meeting with the committee members regarding the repeated complaints by citizens about shortage of water.

2. The complaint submitted by residents of Deir al-Balah Refugee Camp on the gas station located near their residential area Resolves: To form a committee to include Ibrahim al-Habbash and Jalal al-Masdar to follow up the issue with the concerned parties, which are the following:

- a. Deir al-Balah Municipality
- b. central organization committee
- c. Local Governance Ministry
- d. Petroleum Commission

Session XII Ramallah, July 10-11 1996

Resolution No. (69/12/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twelfth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 10-11 July 1996, taking into consideration the report of the Inquiry Commission formed by Council Resolution No. (46/7/1) concerning the Rafah City sewage system project, Resolves:

First: to arrange for a meeting of the parties funding the sewage system in Rafah, the Local Governance Ministry and the Natural Resources and Energy Committee to discuss the report of the Inquiry Commission.

Second: to arrange for a meeting of the Local Governance Ministry with Rafah residents to discuss with them what has been agreed upon between the ministry and the funding parties.

Resolution No. (70/12/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twelfth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 10-11 July 1996, taking into consideration the deliberations of Council members on the title of the draft Constitution, Resolves:

First: to call the project the Basic Law instead of the Constitution.

Second: to form a committee consisting of the cabinet secretary, the cabinet, and the Political and Legal Committees, to draft an introduction to the Basic Law resolution; the committee will include the following members:

1. Nahed al-Rayyes
2. Hanan Ashrawi
3. Freih Abu Mdein
4. Hasan Asfour
5. Azmi Shueibi
6. Sa'di Krunz
7. Mohammed Hourani
8. Suleiman Abu Sneineh

Resolution No. (71/12/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twelfth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 10-11 July 1996, taking into consideration the Israeli measures and violations, Resolves: To request that the Executive Authority raise the issue of Israeli measures and violations with the Israeli side and present a plan for confrontation of those violations to the Council.

Session XIII Nablus, July 17, 1996

Resolution No. (72/13/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its thirteenth session of the first term held in Nablus on 17 July 1996, discussed the letter from President Abu Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and head of the Executive Authority, concerning the Basic Law, and accordingly, Resolves:

First: the Council will continue discussion of the draft Basic Law.

Second: the draft Basic Law presented by the Executive Authority will be discussed when it has passed through official channels.

Third: discussions will continue in the Council until a final version of the Basic Law is ratified.

Fourth: the final Basic Law must be ratified before the end of the first term; the Council can extend the term should the need arise.

Session XIV Ramallah, July 23-25 1996

Resolution No. (73/14/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 23-25 July 1996, having discussed the letter from President Abu Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian National Authority, and accordingly, Resolves:

First: to resume discussion of the Basic Law, and requests that the Executive Authority expedite presentation of the draft resolution, or of the comments of the Executive Authority on the law, to the Council.

Second: to start debate on the second chapter and to discuss the first chapter after finalizing the introduction.

Resolution No. (74/14/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 23-25 July 1996, taking into consideration the discussion by Council members of the siege imposed on Qaryout village, Resolves:

First: to condemn the siege imposed on the village.

Second: the Council salutes the residents of Qaryout village, and praises their bravery and spirit of resistance.

Third: the Council members from the northern region will make a solidarity visit to Qaryout village and inform residents there of the Council's support; the Council calls upon the International Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to offer support and assistance to the brave village.

Resolution No. (75/14/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 23-25 July 1996, taking into consideration the discussion by Council members of the issue of settlements and their effects,

Resolves:

First: to devote the morning of the July 30, 1996 session to discussing the issue of settlements and their impact,

Second: to stress that ministers and members of the negotiating team should attend that session.

Resolution No. (76/14/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 23-25 July 1996, taking into consideration the desecration of al-Aqsa Mosque by the so-called "Temple Mount Faithful" group, and the resumption of Israeli violations in the city of Jerusalem and its suburbs in

an attempt to create facts on the ground, in contravention of the signed agreements, Resolves:

First: to request that the Council Speaker hold a press conference to explain the position of the Council on the Israeli violation in desecration of al-Aqsa Mosque.

Second: to condemn the [Israeli] High Court order allowing the “Temple Mount Faithful” to pray in al-Aqsa Mosque; such an order has serious ramifications.

Third: to send letters to Arab and world parliaments explaining the Israeli violations against the Islamic holy sites.

Fourth: to request that the Executive Authority send letters to Arab, Islamic and world governments explaining the Israeli violations against Islamic sites at al-Aqsa Mosque, and to call upon the UN Security Council to convene if necessary.

Fifth: to commission a delegation of ministers and Council members to head immediately to al-Aqsa Mosque and the Religious Affairs Ministry to have a closer look at the Israeli violations, and to then present the Council position on the violations.

Sixth: to request that all preachers in Palestinian mosques devote next Friday’s sermons to explaining the dangers of the situation in Jerusalem, and to call upon all who can reach Jerusalem to pray tomorrow at the Dome of the Rock (in what will be called the ‘Jerusalem Prayer’).

Seventh: the Council should hold a special session to discuss the situation in Jerusalem.

Eighth: to invite Arab members from the Israeli Knesset for a meeting with the Political Committee to discuss the dangers of such violations.

Ninth: to request that the Executive Authority increase the number of guards at al-Aqsa Mosque and work on solving their financial crisis.

Session XV Bethlehem, 30 July-1 August 1996

Resolution No. (77/15/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fifteenth session of the first term held in Bethlehem during the period of 30 July to 1 August 1996, in a special session on settlements and their dangers, discussed the Israeli violations at the Islamic sites at al-Aqsa Mosque, and in Jerusalem and its suburbs. The Council notes that it is fully aware of the plans of the Israeli government to intensify settlements activities (by building bypass roads, by confiscating land, planning for new settlements, expanding the existing ones, and increasing the population density in the settlements according to a public plan referred to on more than one occasion by the [Israeli] prime minister.) Moreover, Israel is stalling on implementation of the agreements it has signed with the Palestinians, on such items as the withdrawal from Hebron, opening the safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza, releasing

detainees, recognizing the rights of the displaced to return, and granting Palestinian control over our water resources. In addition, there are continued violations in Jerusalem and its suburbs; attempts to unilaterally create a status quo; and continued closure, siege and collective punishment; all of which constitute a serious threat, not only on the Palestinian-Israeli level, but also to the whole peace process, especially given that Israel has actually started to freeze the agreements signed between both parties. The Council notes the prohibition against making any changes on the ground which might affect the final-status negotiations. The continuation of this Israeli policy constitutes a threat we will not accept and totally reject; therefore, the Council Resolves: to request that the Executive Authority:

First: consider the possibility of suspending the negotiations until Israel announces its intention to honor the agreements signed with the Palestinian side according to the timetable set, and to halt all settlement activities and violations in Jerusalem.

Second: considering the possibility of calling for the UN Security Council to convene to discuss the Israeli violations against Palestinian institutions and holy sites in Jerusalem and the continuation of the settlement policy, exposing such violations and the danger they pose for the whole situation in the region.

Third: to form a higher national committee to take charge of preparing for a broad national conference to be attended by Palestinian intellectual and economic figures and institutions, to develop a plan for the reconstruction of Arab Jerusalem and its suburbs, and to provide all financial resources needed to support resistance by our people.

Fourth: to work with the relevant Arab countries to freeze normalization with Israel until Israel ceases its violations of the agreements signed with the Palestinian side and its rejection of the other tracks of the peace process (involving Syria and Lebanon).

Fifth: to intensify work on the Arab, Islamic and international levels, to explain the Israeli violations; the Council requests that the Executive Authority push the international community, especially the peace process sponsors, to assume their responsibilities, in order to save the peace process.

Sixth: to activate the embassies, offices and diplomatic missions of the PLO to carry out their duties during this critical phase.

Seventh: to reiterate the previous resolutions stipulating that areas most threatened by settlements should be the priorities in PNA development projects.

Eighth: to form a commission (to be called the Land Commission) involving all relevant ministries, charged with the task of effective and immediate implementation of projects in areas targeted with the settlement campaign.

Ninth: to work on unifying the committees, institutions and commissions working in the area of land defense.

Tenth: to support the national studies, planning and research centers and cooperate

with them in following up and monitoring settlement activities. Meanwhile, and in preparation for a comprehensive popular confrontation to stop settlement activities and the policy of collective punishment that is being adopted by consecutive Israeli governments and their followers against our people, The Council further resolves to request that the Executive Authority:

First: make a comprehensive and clear political address to our people on the illegitimate status of settlement activities, especially the bypass roads, and stress that settlements and peace cannot coexist.

Second: to employ more time and effort in the official and national mass media on the issue of settlements and their danger to the future of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause.

Third: to exert efforts to reinforce Palestinian national unity and work to have all political factions participate in confronting the dangers of settlements and violations in Jerusalem.

Fourth: to stress that Jerusalem will remain the eternal capital of Palestine with no other alternative possible if peace is to be achieved.

Resolution No. (78/15/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fifteenth session of the first term held in Bethlehem during the period between 30 July and 1 August 1 1996, taking into consideration the discussion by Council members in this special session of the martyrdom of Palestinian citizen Mahmoud Jumayyel, Resolves:

First: to form an inquiry commission of Council members (including Nahed Rayyes, Fakhri Shaqqoura, Marwan Kanafani, Kamal Sharafi, Hasan Asfour, Burhan Jarrar, and Salah Ta'mari) to investigate the case.

Second: to support and follow up the implementation of the Executive Authority's decision to bring to court those involved and punish them severely; and to immediately cease the use of torture and all other illegal methods of interrogation.

Third: to request that the Executive Authority announce the results of the investigation to the masses.

Fourth: to stress previous Council resolutions which request the release of all detainees who were not proven guilty.

Fifth: to commission a delegation from the Council to go to Nablus to participate in the funeral of Mahmoud Jumayyel, and to work on calming the situation there.

Sixth: the Council will issue a public statement to the people on the situation.

Session XVI Ramallah, 6-8 August 1996

Resolution No. (79/16/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixteenth session of the first term held in

Ramallah during the period of 6-8 August 1996, taking into consideration the discussion of Council members and the monthly report presented by President Abu Ammar on the issue of settlements, Resolves:

First: to issue a statement of the Council concerning settlements.

Second: to follow up the previous Council resolutions concerning settlements.

Third: to support the central plan that is being prepared by the Executive Authority to confront all aspects of Israeli settlement policy.

Resolution No. (80/16/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 6-8 August 1996, taking into consideration the discussion by Council members of the extension of the first term in order to finalize the Basic Law resolution, Resolves: To extend the work of the Council until it finalizes the first reading of the draft Basic Law.

Resolution No. (81/16/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 6-8 August 1996, taking into consideration the letter of protest submitted by some of the Council members on the US Consulate's request that Council member Hasan Khreisheh obtain a 'certificate of good conduct' from the Israeli security services, Resolves: To request that the US Consulate reconsider its demand, to that the Council delegation can travel to the US, which they were slated to do at the request of the US Congress; otherwise, the members will decline the invitation.

Resolution No. (82/16/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its sixteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 6-8 August 1996, taking into consideration the letter from several PNA services and institutions and their employees, and the response to it, Resolves:

First: to request that the Executive Authority place an advertisement in newspapers, asking citizens to stop placing advertisements of congratulations to PNA services and institutions and employees [in local newspapers] so that the PNA can desist from responding to those letters.

Second: to request that the Authority send a letter to all Palestinian National Authority institutions directing them to stop placing advertisements of congratulations in newspapers.

(Note: No resolutions were passed during Session XVII)

Session XVIII Ramallah, 12-22 August 1996

Resolution No. (84/18/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eighteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 12-22 August 1996, taking into consideration the decisions by the ministerial cabinet on the recent events in Nablus and Tulkarem, Resolves:

First: to carefully evaluate the resolutions issued by the Cabinet on the events in Nablus and Tulkarem, requesting their implementation.

Second: to commission the Interior Committee to follow up with the Executive Authority on the implementation of these resolutions and the Council resolutions.

Resolution No. (85/18/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eighteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 12-22 August 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations by the Inquiry Commission formed by the Council to investigate the events in Nablus and Tulkarem, Resolves: To request that the Cabinet:

1. Form a joint committee from the Executive Authority and the Council Interior Committee to study the files of some of those officers working in the security services, especially those officers previously involved in cases which harmed relations with the masses and harmed Palestinian national security.
2. Specify which detention and interrogation centers belong to the security services and place them under the supervision of the Attorney-General, noting that there should be no detention without a clear order from the Attorney-General.
3. Draft and ratify the regulations and procedures used at detention centers so that they protect human rights and prohibit torture and oppression. All such actions should be monitored by the above-mentioned committee.
4. End the overlap in the work of the security services on issues pertaining to detention and interrogation, defining the jurisdiction of each service.
5. Prepare comprehensive education and public awareness programs for all staff working in all the various sections of all of the security services.
6. Promote the legislative monitoring service and find a special mechanism in cooperation with the Executive Authority through which all kinds of complaints pertaining to torture, treatment inside detention centers, and abuse of authority can be addressed, and to work on finding ways to resolve such issues.
7. Develop an organizational arrangement to define the jurisdiction of each district and governorate, and relations between each department within the governorates, in order preserve political unity.
8. Implement the Council resolutions related to issues of security and human rights.
9. Stress the fact that Ghassan Shaka'a has nothing to do with the incident and to reject all attempts to try to implicate him.

Resolution No. (86/18/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eighteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 12-22 August 1996, taking into consideration the discussion by Council members of the fact that several Council members were barred from holding a seminar in Nablus, Resolves:

First: to stress the Council's right to hold seminars in order to maintain continuous contact with the masses.

Second: to request that the Council Speaker query the Nablus Governor on the reasons for the preventing the seminar.

Resolution No. (87/18/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eighteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 12-22 August 1996, taking into consideration:

1. The visit of the EU delegation to Palestine
2. Exchange visits with world parliaments, and rules regulating formation of delegations Resolves:

First: to praise the support offered by the EU to the Palestinian people and to welcome the EU interest in expediting the transition to democracy in Palestinian society, especially in the field of electing local councils and municipalities, and the transfer of experience in parliament systems. Second: to work on exchange of visits with EU members.

Third: to take the following into consideration when forming Palestinian parliamentary delegations to travel abroad:

- a. the delegations to Arab and international parliamentary conferences should involve the two Councils, the PNC and the Legislative Council, working in complete consultation and coordination
- b. the Council delegations going abroad should be formed taking into consideration the nature of the assignment and the importance of good preparation for such conferences; thus they should be formed of members who are specialized in the relevant field and capable of explaining the Palestinian position in all aspects

Resolution No. (88/18/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eighteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 12-22 August 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Economic Committee concerning:

1. The complaint submitted by the Charitable Societies' Union and some citizens concerning the Palestinian Lottery Company
2. The complaint submitted concerning the lease by the mayor of Bethlehem Mayor of municipal real estate without coordination with the Local Governance Ministry Resolves: First: to consider the complaint submitted by the charitable societies

solved since the Lottery Company has dissolved itself.

Second: to transfer the issue of the real estate belonging to Bethlehem Municipality to the cabinet for investigation.

Resolution No. (89/18/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eighteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 12-22 August 1996, taking into consideration the discussion by Council members of the Israeli authorities' refusal to allow President Abu Ammar to use his private airplane to come to the West Bank, Resolves:

First: to request that Council Speaker Ahmed Qrei' hold a press conference to explain the Council position on Israeli violations of the signed agreements and Israeli measures limiting the movement of President Abu Ammar between Gaza and the West Bank.

Second: to commission a delegation of the Council Executive and the heads and secretaries of committees to go to Gaza City to meet with President Abu Ammar and consult with him on this incident and other issues.

Third: to consult with President Abu Ammar on the idea of holding a special session of the Council in the presence of the PLO Executive Committee, the Cabinet, and the PNC Executive to discuss the continued and systematic Israeli violations of the agreements.

Resolution No. (90/18/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its eighteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 12-22 August 1996, taking into consideration the members' discussion of the implementation of previous resolutions, Resolves:

First: to request that the Council Executive classify resolutions issued by the Council into groups and present them to the executive of the ministerial cabinet for implementation.

Second: the Council Executive should follow up implementation of these decisions with the Executive Authority and concerned parties and report to the Council on the matter.

Session XIX Ramallah, 28-29 August

Resolution No. (91/19/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its nineteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 28-29 August 1996, concluded debate on the first five chapters of the Basic Law, which concern:

1. Public rights and freedoms
2. Legislative Authority

3. Executive Authority

4. Judicial Authority

5. General and transitional rules And accordingly, Resolves: To present the five chapters to the executive of the ministerial cabinet for their comments, in recognition of the importance of consensus between the executive and legislative authorities in forming the Basic Law for the transitional phase.

Resolution No. (92/19/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its nineteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 28-29 August 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Education and Social Affairs Committee on:

1. The sale of the Mt. David Hospital in Bethlehem Resolves: That one member of the Education and Social Affairs Committee should participate in the committee formed by the ministerial cabinet to follow up on the matter and should provide the Council with a comprehensive report on the subject.

2. The issue of teachers who worked to help prepare for the legislative elections [in 1996] and who have not received their wages Resolves: To present a list of teachers who participated in preparation for the elections in coordination with the Central Election Committee to Minister of Finance Mohammed Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, so that he may disburse their salaries.

3. The issue of reimbursing the nomination fees for the legislative elections to those members who won the elections Resolves: The Council Executive will present a list of the members to our colleague the Minister of Finance, for reimbursement of the nomination fees.

Resolution No. (93/19/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its nineteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 28-29 August 1996, taking into consideration:

1. The difficult conditions in which Palestinian teachers live due to their low salaries

2. The marginalization of the teachers, in comparison with their colleagues in the national institutions and ministries, who have equal qualifications and skills

3. The pioneering role the teachers play in forming future generations and raising the level of education and culture in society Resolves: To request that the Executive Authority work to

1. Resolve the problem of the teachers' salaries

2. Raise the potential annual salary increase of teachers to 10 percent

3. Review this issue and report back to the Council with its comments on implementing the above points within two weeks.

Resolution No. (94/19/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its nineteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 28-29 August 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Economic Committee on the complaint presented by brother Jalal al-Masdar, member of the committee, regarding the housing project in Beit Hanoun, Resolves: To invite brother Abdel Rahman Hamad, Minister of Housing, to answer queries from the Economic Committee investigation into this issue.

Resolution No. (95/19/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its nineteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 28-29 August 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Natural Resources Committee on environmental problems afflicting most of the Palestinian territories, Resolves: To request that the Executive Authority study the possibility of establishing an authority or ministry for environmental affairs.

Resolution No. (96/19/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its nineteenth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 28-29 August 1996, taking into consideration:

1. Discussion with brother Abu Ammar and member colleagues during the special session on Israeli violations

2. Recommendations of the Political Committee Resolves:

First: to reiterate the resolutions passed by the Council during the special session on Israeli violations, which reinforce the recommendations of the Political Committee.

Second: to invite brother Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), head of the Higher Negotiations Committee, to meet with the Political Committee in order to brief the Council on the Higher Negotiations Committee agenda for direct negotiations with Israel and the outcome of those negotiations.

Third: to also invite brother Faisal Hussein, who is in charge of Jerusalem affairs [for the PLO].

Session XX Ramallah, 4-5 September 1996

Resolution No. (97/20/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twentieth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 4-5 September 1996, taking into consideration discussions by members of the recent US attack on Iraq, Resolves:

First: to issue a press release condemning and denouncing this assault.

Second: to send a message of solidarity to the Iraqi government and parliament.

Third: to coordinate with the Executive Authority to provide financial and moral support for the Iraqi people.

Resolution (98/20/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twentieth session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 4-5 September, taking into consideration the increasing threat posed by the fierce and continuous pace of Zionist settlement expansion which aims to impose new facts on the ground, threatening Palestinian land and the entire peace process, Resolves:

First: that Council members should, each in his or her own area, conduct field studies and surveys of all the areas threatened by settlements and classify the provision of basic services for these regions as a top priority.

Second: to activate the role of the Land and Settlements Committee.

Third: To add brothers Dr. Mu'awyah al-Masri, Dr. Hassan Khreisheh, Burhan Jarrar, Ahmad al-Batsh and Suleiman Abu Sneineh as members of the Land and Settlements Committee. Fourth: to encourage leading Palestinian figures to play a key role in confronting settlements.

Session XXI Ramallah, 11-12 September 1996

Resolution No. (99/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Budget Committee, Resolves:

First: to request that Minister of Justice Freih Abu Mdein provide the Council with the conclusions of the Monetary Authority case within two weeks.

Second: to request that Minister of Finance Mohammed Zuhdi al-Nashashibi cooperate with the committee in its efforts to present detailed information about the budget, and to mandate the budget department of the Ministry of Finance to meet with members of the Budget Committee to complete the compilation of the needed information.

Third: to transfer the complaint of the Public Taxis Society and the Land Transportation Group in Gaza pertaining to the issue of taxes to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transportation for follow up.

Resolution No. (100/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Jerusalem Committee, Resolves:

1. To request that the Executive Authority work on all levels to achieve:

- a. Lifting of the siege on Jerusalem and easing the suffering of citizens in Jerusalem and its surroundings
- b. Conducting a complete survey of the houses in Jerusalem's Old City which need repairs
- c. Repairing historical and archeological buildings and develop a construction department in Jerusalem
- d. Unifying all funds collecting financial resources for repairs in Jerusalem's Old City
- e. Establishing an architectural department charged with developing a general plan for construction and repairs in the city of Jerusalem
- f. Unifying the special committees on Jerusalem
- g. Preparing and implementing housing projects in Jerusalem

Second: to stress the need to ask brother Faisal al-Husseini, who is in charge of Jerusalem Affairs for the Palestinian National Authority, to meet with members of the Council's Jerusalem Committee.

Third: to praise the efforts of the Islamic Waqf in Jerusalem in defending Bayyara area, adjacent to al-Aqsa Mosque.

Fourth: to call for an urgent meeting of the Jerusalem Committee and the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs with the participation of the Council Speaker.

Fifth: to transfer the issue of Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Nafha Prison to the Higher Negotiations Committee for follow up, with the participation of some of the Jerusalem Council members.

Sixth: to ask the Arab and Islamic world to work to halt settlements and house demolitions , and to provide the appropriate support to protect the Arab character of Jerusalem and its holy places.

Seventh: to transfer the subject of Palestinian public transportation between West Bank cities and Jerusalem to the relevant department of the PNA for follow up.

Eighth: to reiterate the previous decisions of the Council which have not been implemented.

Resolution No. (101/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Land and Settlements Committee, Resolves:

First: to issue a press release articulating the Israeli settlement scheme, which is an escalating threat to Palestinian land and the entire peace process.

Second: to reiterate the Council's decision to establish a special department for issues related to land and to work on preparing the draft of the Palestinian Land Law.

Third: to coordinate with all national associations and with the brotherly Arab countries, particularly Egypt and Jordan, to obtain all the existing documents and maps of Palestinian lands.

Fourth: to invite Maj.-Gen. Abdel Razaq al-Yihyah, who is in charge of the security subcommittee of the Higher Negotiations Committee, to meet with members of the Land and Settlements Committee to provide clarifications pertaining to the issues of Rachel's Tomb and the al-Jahaleen bedouin. Fifth: to request that the Ministry of Local Governance, the Ministry of Public Works and PECDAR present the Council with a report on projects being carried out in the areas most targeted by settlements.

Sixth: to continue the national awareness campaign on confronting settlements and their threats.

Resolution No. (102/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Political Committee, Resolves: To request that the Executive Authority:

1. Note that we reiterate the resolutions of the Palestinian Legislative Council.
2. Present an updated file on developments in the negotiating process and meetings taking place with Israel.
3. Have the military and civil liaison committees make direct and quick interventions to confront Israeli violations at Rachel's Tomb and the blatant violations of the signed agreements.
4. Invite the Egyptian Ambassador in Israel, Mr. Mohammed Basioni, as a guest of the Political Committee.
5. Assert the importance of political pressure on the internal, Arab and international levels on Netanyahu's government, obliging it to respond to the peace process and its conditions.
6. Praise the supportive Egyptian position in light of Israeli policy.

Resolution No. (103/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Education and Social Affairs committee, Resolves: First: to transfer all issues related to Jerusalem to the Jerusalem Committee for follow up.

Second: to request that the Minister of Civil Affairs work to improve the access of Gaza employees and university students to the West Bank.

Resolution No. (104/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, taking into consideration the report by the Economic Committee Resolves:

First: to transfer the complaint addressed by the Committee in its report to relevant parties, who should report back to the Council on the issue.

Second: to request that the Executive Authority work quickly to present the Council with a draft of the special law on the general petroleum commission.

Third: to direct the Economic Committee to prepare for a conference to be attended by Palestinian businesspeople and investors.

Fourth: to request that Minister of Housing Abdel Rahman Hamad provide the Economic Committee with all copies of all the contracts signed between the Ministry of Housing and various companies.

Fifth: to reiterate the previous resolutions of the Council on economic issues which have yet to be implemented.

Resolution No. (105/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Natural Resources committee, Resolves:

First: to request that the Executive Authority stop granting licenses for constructing new quarries pending the promulgation of a law to regulate quarries, in light of the need to protect the natural environment. Second: to reiterate the previous recommendations of the Council concerning the need to establish a ministry or authority for environmental affairs.

Resolution No. (106/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Refugees and Palestinians in the Diaspora Affairs Committee, Resolves: To bring the Palestinian community in the USA and its concerns to greater prominence, using the media and the PLO office in Washington; to reinforce relations with the Palestinian congresses in North and South America; and to call on Palestinian youths in the USA to visit the homeland.

Resolution No. (107/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Public Monitoring Committee, Resolves: To request that the Palestinian National Authority:

1. Implement the decision of the Palestinian high court ordering the release of the 10 detained students.
2. Implement the decisions of the Council pertaining to the release of all detainees who have not been convicted.
3. Arrange a special visit for the Public Monitoring Committee to detainee Nasser Juma'a.
4. Answer the queries of the head of the committee concerning the case of Mr. Mufid Khaled Ali.
5. Clarify the reasons for the arrest of Mohammed Dahman, director of ad-Dameer Association in Gaza, and provide information on the fate of Jihad Mahmoud Dabbash's son.
6. Implement the Council decisions pertaining to university guards.

Resolution No. (108/21/1)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its twenty-first session of the first term held in Ramallah during the period of 11-12 September 1996, Resolves: To suspend meetings of the Council until the end of September, with the first session of the second term of the Council to open in the first week of October. The Council Executive will be responsible for calling the Council to convene and for determining the location and date of the meeting.

Extraordinary Session Ramallah, 28 August 1996

The Legislative Council, met in an extraordinary session in Ramallah on August 28 1996, to discuss Israeli violations of the agreements, and the issues of Jerusalem and settlement, in the presence of President Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the Palestinian National Authority, and with the participation of PLO Executive Committee members and a number of ministers and members in the Palestinian National Council. Taking into consideration Israeli policies and practices, which are a threat to the peace process and signed agreements with PLO, and which have degenerated into a total war against the Palestinian people, particularly in Jerusalem and Hebron (in light of settlement expansion, land confiscation, house demolition, bypass road construction, attempts to expel Bedouin from their land, refusal to implement the agreements according to schedule and avoidance of the final-status negotiations), the Council Resolves:

First: on the Palestinian level

1. The Council requests that the Executive Authority coordinate with the Executive Committee to design a political plan to respond to the policy of war announced by the Israeli government, in order to empower the Palestinian people and the Arab and international communities.

2. The Council calls for a general strike in all parts of Palestine on Thursday, August 29 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in order to express Palestinian condemnation of and outrage at Israeli policies and practices.
3. The Council calls on all Palestinian forces and national figures and the Palestinian people to pray on Friday, August 30 at al-Aqsa and other mosques in the homeland in solidarity with Jerusalem.
4. The Council calls on Israeli supporters of peace to show solidarity and to act to protect the peace process from the real dangers threatening it, due to the Netanyahu government's refusal to implement the agreements.
5. The Council calls on Palestinians to conduct popular marches after Friday noon prayers.
6. Friday sermons in all mosques should address the issue of defending Jerusalem and confronting settlements and Israeli abuses.
7. All Palestinian leaders and institutions should join a sit-in on Sunday, September 1 1996, in the Holy Sepulcher Church and other churches throughout Jerusalem and the rest of Palestine.
8. All contacts with Israel should be suspended, with the decision on their resumption left up to President Arafat.
9. The Council calls for frank national dialogue involving all Palestinian political forces to confront Israeli challenges. To provide the appropriate atmosphere for this dialogue, the Council requests that the Executive Authority implement its special resolutions pertaining to the release of Palestinian political prisoners who have not been convicted and were not involved in security issues.
10. The Council calls for the Palestine National Council to convene to discuss the current political developments.
11. A public rally should be held in Hebron.
12. A Palestinian economic plan, in which popular work and the Palestinian private sector have major roles, should be developed.
13. New media campaigns should be undertaken, and existing campaigns should be expanded, to include field tours and symposiums all over the Palestinian territories, with the aim of explaining the [Palestinian] position.
14. A plan should be developed for the reconstruction of any house or institution demolished by Israel.
15. Unplanted or unregistered land in the Palestinian areas should be planted and registered as belonging to the people and national institutions.
16. The Executive Authority must implement the Council resolutions; this will bolster the role of the Council and improve the relationship between the executive and legislative authorities, and improve the role of the public in protecting the nascent National Authority. This will also serve to create an atmosphere of mutual trust between the authorities and will help to lessen the extent of the suffering and worry among the Palestinian masses.

17. A special in camera session of the Council should be convened in the presence of President Yasser Arafat to discuss the reports, plans and achievements of the ministerial and parliamentary committees (the Jerusalem Committee, the Higher Committee to Confront Settlements and the Committee to Counter Israeli Attempts to Evict Bedouin). In addition, Council members will work to activate these committees in their areas.

Second: on the Arab level

1. The Council praises the Egyptian position on the economic conference scheduled to take place in November in Cairo, linking participation with real progress in the peace process, an end of Israeli abuses and implementation of agreements with the PLO.
2. The Council calls for the Jerusalem Committee and the executive of the Islamic Conference to meet.
3. The Council requests that the Organization of the Islamic Conference declare a day for Jerusalem, in light of the need to protect its holy sites and lands.
4. The Arab Parliamentarians' Union should convene an urgent session to discuss Israeli practices in Palestine, particularly the issues of Jerusalem and settlements.
5. Arab foreign ministers should convene an urgent meeting for the same reason.
6. Arab popular organizations should reject and condemn Israeli aggression and policies.

Third: regarding preparation to make use of the coming session of the UN General Assembly in October for the purpose of exposing the Israeli position before all the participating countries, Quick action by the Executive Committee, ministerial cabinet, Legislative Council and National Council is required, to send delegations to all countries of the world, and to international, regional and continental organizations, to brief them on the brutal Israeli practices and illustrate the real danger to the peace process in the entire Middle East. The US Congress and the parliaments of Russia, China, the European Union, Canada, Japan and the non-aligned and African Union countries should be addressed, asking them to adopt clear positions on Israeli actions and the consequent threat to the peace process. The Council thanks the People's Republic of China for its honorable position on the representation of Jerusalem in the International Conference of Historical Cities and its rejection of the idea of inviting [West Jerusalem Mayor Ehud] Olmert as a representative for Jerusalem. Fourth: on the Israeli level

1. The Israeli government should immediately act to honor the peace process and the spirit and the letter of its commitments; and implement them according to the schedule agreed without delay; and halt settlement activities and the policy of Judaizing Jerusalem, all of which harm the chances for success in the final status negotiations; and head to final status negotiations without delay.
2. Supporters of peace in Israel should act to protect the peace process and to

pressure the Israeli government to meet the requirements of genuine and lasting peace.

3. No issue which has been agreed upon with Israel should be reopened for negotiation; Israel must adhere to the agreements as they have been signed.

**Palestinian Legislative Council Resolutions - Second Term
Session II Ramallah, 26-27 March 1997**

Resolution No. (155/2/2)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its second session of the second term held in Ramallah during the period of 26-27 March 1997, taking into consideration the discussions by members of the political status-quo, Resolves: To call for a special session of the Council in the presence of President Yasser Arafat and the negotiating team in order to hear from them the leadership's plan to confront the deteriorating political situation and ways to confront it.

Session III Ramallah, 2-3 April 1997

Resolution No. (156/3/2)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its third session of the second term held in Ramallah during the period of 2-3 April 1997, taking into consideration:

1. The report of the Public Monitoring Committee concerning the issue of flour
2. The answers of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Supplies to questions from Council members regarding spoiled flour, in regard to quantities, poor storage and interference in selling and buying
3. The report of the Ministry of Health regarding expired flour

Resolves:
First: to request that the Palestinian National Authority place absolute priority on the health and safety of citizens and commit to abstaining from intervention in the market, taking the principle of the free market as a guiding principle.

Second: to request that the Palestinian National Authority commit to adhering to the policy of accepting tenders for public purchases of basic food supplies.

Third: the Ministry of Supplies should not intervene in the private sector in matters of import and sale, and limit its role to monitoring the supply of strategic provisions in the homeland. The Executive Authority should study the relative value of the Ministry of Supplies, in keeping with free market policy, which was initially suggested by the Executive Authority in a plan presented to the Legislative Council.

Fourth: the Executive Authority should expedite the provision to the Council of laws governing Palestinian economic conduct, in order that these laws can be discussed and approved by the Council.

Fifth: to transfer the file on the issue of spoiled flour, including the Council report and laboratory reports, to the ministerial cabinet, to take appropriate measures to calm the Palestinian public, assuring citizens that essential measures are being taken to protect their health.

Session IV Ramallah, 14-15 April 1997

Resolution No. (157/4/2)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the second term held in Ramallah during the period of 14-15 April 1997, taking into consideration:

1. Public debate on the Monetary Authority Law 2. First reading of the draft law, item by item, with additions and amendments Resolves: To approve the Palestinian Monetary Law in the first reading, in all of its chapters and sections. Members and ministers will be allotted time to make comments before the second reading, in accordance with the by-laws.

Resolution No. (158/4/2)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the second term held in Ramallah during the period of 14-15 April 1997, taking into consideration:

1. The issue of Palestinian teachers and the recommendations of the Education and Social Affairs Committee

2. Discussion of the members on this issue

3. The comments of the Deputy Minister of Education Resolves:

First: the teachers' issue is, essentially, one of just compensation and standard of living, which has been affected by the decrease in their salaries and the change in their retirement rights. While the Council approves the teachers' right to express their opinions and positions in a peaceful, democratic and responsible way, it also recognizes the importance of maintaining law and order, to protect stability, the educational process and the future of our children.

Second: we commend the role of the Ministry of Education in developing the educational process and for its responsibility for this crucial sector. We also praise the response of the ministerial cabinet, which annulled the decision of the Minister of Education to fire a number of Palestinian teachers. The Council demands that the Minister implement this decision by sending official notification of the decision to every teacher who was fired. The Council also demands that the minister abstain from taking any measures against the teachers in light of the problems which resulted from this case.

Third: the Council reminds the ministerial cabinet of its decisions requiring that the PNA act in a just way with teachers, and the Council requests that the Executive Authority honor and implement its decisions.

Fourth: the Council requests that the Executive Authority expedite the provision to the Council of its comments on the Civil Service Law, particularly relating to the salaries scale, in order to assist the Council in its second reading of the law, which is expected to begin in the second half of this month.

Fifth: the Council recommends that the Minister of Finance make provision in the 1997 budget to cover special wage increases for teachers.

Sixth: the Council recommends a wage increase of 10 percent for teachers beginning next year.

Seventh: the Council calls on all the teachers, in the spirit of responsibility, to return to work on the morning of Saturday, 12 April 1997, for the sake of protecting our youngest generation and their future, and for the teachers to make public their continued support in the national struggle. The Council calls for ongoing dialogue among all the concerned parties, to be conducted in a democratic and responsible manner, in order to meet the teachers' demands and to protect public order in the homeland.

Eighth: the Council asserts that this is a critical juncture on the political, economic, and financial levels, and calls on all Palestinians to act responsibly to enhance national unity among all people.

Resolution No. (159/4/2)

The Palestinian Legislative Council in its fourth session of the second term held in Ramallah during the period of 14-15 April 1997, taking into consideration:

1. The issue of case of martyrs' children and university fees, and the recommendations of the Education and Social Affairs Committee
2. Discussion by members of the issue
3. Recognition of the sacrifices of martyrs Resolves:

First: to uphold the previous decisions of the Council in regard to martyrs' children; that is, that they are entitled to study in universities in the homeland exempt of tuition fees as long as they are successful in their studies.

Second: immediate relatives of martyrs (brothers and sisters) are exempt from 50 percent of university fees, due to their special needs.

PLC Special Committee Report

Respectful Mr. Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Respectful members of the Council

According to PLC resolution no. (2-11-169) issued on May 27, 1997, the PLC formed a special committee, from both the Budget and Financial Affairs Committee and the Public Monitoring Committee, to study the first annual report issued by Head of the General Control Office (GCO) for the year 1996. The special committee was given the task of reviewing the GCO report and submitting its findings and recommendations to the PLC. The PLC Special Committee consists of the following members:

From Budget and Financial Affairs Committee

- 1- Sa'di Al-Krunz
- 2- Yousef Abu Safiyye
- 3- Azmi Shu'eibi
- 4- Fakhri Shaqqoura
- 5- Hikmat Zeid

From Public Monitoring Committee

- 1- Kamal Sharafi
- 2- Hasan Khreishah
- 3- Hatem Abdul Qader
- 4- Jamal Al-Shati

The Committee was given three weeks time starting May 25, 1997, to submit its full report to the PLC; the Committee started its work on May 31, 1997, defining the framework, basis, and mechanism of its assignment.

First : The Committee's framework

- 1- The Committee will perform its assignment based on the principle of revealing facts on legal, administrative, and financial violations connected with official institutions in order to give responsible parties access to all information to define responsibilities and charge those involved in the violations according to the law in a very transparent way.
- 2- The Committee stresses the role of the General Control Office in monitoring and follow-up on the public institutions performance in all legal, administrative and financial aspects.

Second : The Committee's working mechanism

- 1- Reading the full report in its minute details.
- 2- Defining the items that include legal, administrative, and

financial violations or abuse of authority, discussing and reviewing them with the concerned parties.

3- Sending letters to all parties mentioned in the report with a copy of the chapters that include them as written in the report and asking them to respond and provide explanation on the violations.

4- Asking for explanation from the General Control Office on some of the items mentioned in the report; requesting from the GCO access to detailed reports about some of the violations mentioned.

5- Forming sub-committees from the Special Committee for field follow-up; auditing with some of the parties mentioned in the report for more details on the violations.

6- Reading all feedback and answers sent by the ministries; assessing all reports written by the sub-committees concerning the tasks they were assigned to.

7- Sorting and analyzing violations to reach conclusions and recommendations in preparation for the final draft report.

8- Holding discussions on the draft report towards preparing the final version to be submitted to the PLC; keeping all related documents to be presented upon request.

Third : The Committee's working principles

1- The Committee based its work in reaching conclusions and recommendations on information received by the concerned parties or through testimonies given by officials in front of the Committee or the sub-committees; in addition to analyzing the documents.

2- The Committee maintained total confidentiality in dealing with information and made sure not to talk about or discuss their work before concluding the report.

3- The Committee was very careful in distinguishing between three kinds of violations :

a) Indirect violations, described as general phenomena, due to the lack of laws and regulations organizing the work of executive institutions; such violations cannot be related to specific figures.

b) Violations with direct responsibilities committed by specific parties which abused their positions and authorities taking advantage of the absence of the law.

c) Violations with direct responsibilities committed by certain parties that violated laws and regulations deliberately.

Restrictions confronted by the Committee :

1- Some parties did not show any cooperation with the Committee or delayed sending responses on inquiries sent by the Committee; Other parties did not give any answers or explanations to the Committee while others made it impossible for the Committee members to meet with them and have access to information and necessary documents.

2- The General Control Office did not respond to the requests made by the Committee on many of the issues that were ambiguous.

Special Notes

First : General Control Office

1- To start with, the Committee stresses the important role of the General Control Office in monitoring the performance of the Executive Authority and auditing all accounts of all ministries, services, and public institutions in the PA, in addition to making sure that PA institutions are abiding by the laws and regulations. The Committee also stresses the necessity to create the proper atmosphere in which the General Control Office can perform its work.

2- The Committee noted the absence of the PA Cabinet role in cooperation, coordination, and follow-up on the work of the General Control Office and in reviewing the reports prepared and submitted to the President of the Palestinian National Authority.

3- The Committee noticed that there was no cooperation or coordination between the General Control Office and the Public Employment Office and the Finance Ministry, especially the Control and Auditing Department; it seems clear through the unrealistic financial statements mentioned in the General Control Office report, in particular in its comment on the General Budget for fiscal years 1995 and 1996.

4- According to the Public Control Office Law, a lot of parties are supposed to answer to the GCO; yet, the Office did not conduct any monitoring on them, nor did it check their financial statements. The parties include many public institutions, companies owned or partially owned by the PA, or receiving aid from the PA, such as Petroleum General Commission, Al-Bahar Company, Tobacco Company, the Palestinian Company for Commercial Services, the Palestinian National Company for Economic Development, and the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.

5- The General Control Office gave itself the right to prepare laws and legislation and to develop policies effective in the PA, in addition to the right to dismiss any employee, which is considered a violation to the jurisdiction of the Executive, Legislative, and judicial authorities.

6- The GCO classified its employees into two categories; the first category is subjected to a special scale in the GCO while the second category follows the Civil Service Law.

7- The GCO did not work as one body in the West Bank and Gaza, which is clear in the information mentioned in its report.

8- It was mentioned in the GCO report that the Head of GCO enjoys authorities of the minister in the Finance Ministry, which gives him jurisdictions and authorities of Finance Ministry according to resolution no. (301/1995).

9- The GCO lacks structural hierarchy in its offices.

10- It was mentioned in the GCO report that the Office conducted some contacts with the Donor Countries and other concerned parties in our embassies abroad asking for a complete report about the financial assistance received by NGOs.

11- The GCO report did not mention any role of the Office in monitoring the work of military and security services, and checking their accounts and financial statements.

Recommendation:

Accordingly, the Committee recommends to your respectful Council to request from the Executive Authority to present the GCO Law to the Palestinian Legislative Council as soon as possible for revision and amendments to be approved according to conventional procedures.

Second : The report submitted by Head of GCO

1- The report submitted by Head of the GCO did not mention the first Director of the Office or the role he played while being in office; everything was related to the current Head of the GCO, who considered himself the first director of the Office.

2- The report did not give credit to the employees who worked in preparing this report.

3- The report did not cover all Palestinian districts; it mainly dealt with public institutions and ministries in Gaza district only. The report covered only 8% of the ministries, public institutions, municipalities, and NGOs, totaling 62 out of 773 according to the GCO Head report. This number does not include all PA security and military services, nor the companies owned by the state or those assisted by the PA, including the PA Cabinet, the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, which should be subjected to legal, financial, and administrative control by the GCO and other monitoring bodies.

4- Although this report covers the period between the coming of the PA until December 31, 1996, many of the reports given cover different time periods (some till the end of 1995 and others until mid 1996), the fact which makes comparing reports meaningless and refutes all subsequent conclusions, especially on total amount of money that was considered wasting public funds.

5- The Committee concluded after reviewing the report that several of the figures are not accurate, especially in relation to the general budgets adopted for fiscal years 1995 and 1996. The report also lacked scientific basis and criteria in calculating the sums that were categorized as revenues in the report or public funds wasting, which caused confusion in the exact figure of funds wasted.

6- The Committee noted after reviewing detailed reports, prepared by the Office inspectors, and sent to the concerned parties that were mentioned in the report

saying that many of the important notes were ignored during preparing summaries of those reports. The Committee found out that several serious violations were committed, but never mentioned in the report, which raises doubts and require legal follow-up. The violations will be stated later in our report on the ministries and public institutions. It was found out that several of the conclusions reached are not very accurate.

7- There were several places in the report that recommended certain charges but without specifying persons involved, the matter which violates legal procedures and harms the PA in general. Instead, it was better to point charges to certain figures without any evasion.

8- The Committee noticed also that the report did not deal with some of the basic issues as one subject, which made them lose importance. The issues were mentioned separately and randomly on each ministry or institution. For example, on the violations related to fees, the report mentions the repeated violations in most ministries and institutions.

9- The Committee noted that many of the ministries and institutions in the PA did not show cooperation with the inspectors in the GCO and prevented them from performing their duties.

Despite of our comments on the existence of major calculations problems in the financial reports of the GCO report, we highly commend the report of Head of the GCO, and stress the importance of preparing an annual report on the performance of PA national, legal and administrative institutions and services in order to achieve transparency and accountability. The Committee also stresses the need for cooperation between PA institutions and services with the GCO so that the latter can perform its duties in the best possible way; it is necessary for all parties to respond and answer to the GCO.

Recommendations:

The Committee recommends to your respectful Council to request from the Executive Authority to recruit more technical and specialized cadres to the GCO and to activate its monitoring role to include all ministries, PA security and military services, and companies owned or partially owned by the PA so that it can perform its duties in a more efficient way. The Committee also requests that the GCO Head assign a committee of experts and advisors, both from the GCO and from outside, to conduct a general review on all information and financial statements mentioned in its annual reports to be edited before being presented to the general public.

Third : Ministries and Public Institutions: (A study and evaluation report on the General Control Office report including the Committee's findings on the performance of ministries and public institutions)

1- Finance Ministry:

- a- The Committee agrees with most of what was mentioned in the GCO report as general comments and recommendations on the work of the Finance Ministry taking into consideration that the Budget and Financial Committee report on the General Budget of fiscal year 1997, approved by the PLC in May 1997, included most of these comments and recommendations. The Finance Minister did stress in his response to the report that the ministry is committed and actually working on implementing the recommendations mentioned in the reports of GCO and PLC Budget Committee. The ministry, he added, is currently preparing and finalizing major legislature, such as the Law to organize the general budget, the financial system, the public supplies system, the public works system, the jobs hierarchy system, internal inspection instructions, auditing, income tax law and customs law.
- b- The GCO report had reported about the dangers of having two centers for ministries and public institutions, one in the West Bank and one in Gaza; however, it overlooked the dangers of sustaining such a situation, which might mean there is a division and lack of coordination between the two centers, negatively affecting the unity and centralization of decisions and their effects on financial and administrative performance of all PNA ministries and institutions, thus reinforcing the current gap.
- c- The Committee highly commends the request made by GCO Head in his report demanding that employees in the field of receiving payments and public funds or those with financial responsibilities to present a financial affidavit that guarantees the PA's rights and the safety of public funds; however, the report did not talk about several high officials in the finance ministry and other ministries, who work in trade or those participated in establishing private companies, and how they abused their authorities and took advantage of their positions, thus violating the law.
- d- The Committee takes into consideration the comment mentioned in the GCO report on spending money and recording expenses in the ministries' budgets by the finance ministry without prior notice or coordination with the concerned ministries, a matter that negatively affects the ministries' work and means to control their budgets. After reviewing the finance ministry's response, the Committee sees it necessary that the ministry commits itself to specify parties (persons) authorized to transfer money to ministries and public institutions mentioned in the 1997 general budget. it should not be allowed to pay or transfer any amount of money and to record it on the concerned parties' budget unless enclosed with a financial credit outlined in the approved budget; it should also be signed by the person in charge of transferring money; names of those authorized to transfer money in every ministry and institution should be circulated on all departments and units in the finance ministry.
- e- The GCO report did mention in its general chapters the need to calculate all

revenues and transfer them directly to the treasury. Yet, it did not point out in its report on the finance ministry that the ministry is responsible, according to the law, for running the treasury accounts; the report did not point to the non-tax revenues collected by public companies owned or partially owned by the PA, in particular the Petroleum General Commission, Tobacco Commission, the Palestinian Company for Trade Services (Cement Company), in addition to the need to subject all revenues and expenses to monitoring and auditing by the monitoring and auditing department in the finance ministry and the GCO. This was the item emphasized in the Budget and Financial Affairs Committee in its report on the 1997 general budget.

f- The GCO report mentions blatant interference by several security and military government services in the affairs of Customs office, which made the Finance Ministry lose its ability to control and guarantee the transfer of all money into the treasury, causing waste and manipulation of public funds. The report also talks about the civil ministry's interference in the affairs and jurisdictions of the finance ministry in the area of customs exemption, causing the PNA treasury losing a major source of income; the Committee warns of the dangers of resuming in such an abnormal and illegal situation.

Thus, the Committee recommends to your Council to request from the Executive Authority the following :

- 1- To abide all unconcerned parties, in particular military and security government services and the civil affairs ministry not to interfere in the affairs of the Customs Office.
- 2- To define the responsibilities of speculating value of customs, collecting, and exempting customs in the finance ministry, as the sole party in charge of this issue.
- 3- To abide all parties that collected customs fees to transfer them to the finance ministry treasury.
- 4- To form an official inquiry commission to look into the illegal interference of military and security government services and the civil affairs ministry in the affairs of customs office and customs exemption and to bring those involved before court.
- 5- To have the Customs Office jurisdictions under the finance ministry and to rectify the current situation according to the law.
- 6- The Committee confirms what was mentioned in the report on the need to set up a special system to supervise grants, money and other donations received by ministries and public institutions from local and foreign sources and how to use them in a way to secure the cash transfers to a private fund according to the general budget law. All donations should be registered in the trust records in each ministry and institution and to inform the Supplies Department in the finance ministry so that it can follow-up on them.

7- To work on unifying the finance ministry departments in the West Bank and Gaza.

8- To prevent PA officials from working in the trade sector through abusing their powers in violation of the law.

9- To abide the finance ministry to specify the parties (persons) authorized to transfer money to all ministries and public institutions mentioned in the 1997 general budget. No money should be transferred or paid and registered in the parties' budgets without having funds shown in the approved budget. Money transferred should be approved and signed by the person responsible; all names of persons authorized to transfer money in each ministry and public institution should be circulated in all departments and units in the finance ministry.

10- The need to have all revenues and expenses of PA institutions and companies along with their financial performance under the monitoring and auditing of concerned official parties.

2- Health Ministry:

The Committee paid close attention to the issue of medical expenses abroad between the period from January 1, 1995 to July 31, 1997, which came up to \$24 million; the Committee believes that this amount constitutes a relatively big percentage (around 20%) of the health ministry's total budget, which led the Committee to hold a meeting with the Deputy Health Ministry who attended upon authorization by the minister himself to discuss the methodology and working mechanism of abroad medical treatment department. The Committee came up with the following findings after the meeting and after having access to what was provided in terms of information and documents:

1- The Health Ministry has two offices in charge of transferring cases to outside Israeli hospitals.

2- Certain transfers, which were made without notifying the Health Ministry, came straight from the President to the Finance Ministry and money was deducted from the Health Ministry budget.

3- Some hospitals in Jordan filed complaint letters against Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hmeid, who was appointed general director in the Health Ministry and was assigned to coordinate distributing transferred patients to hospitals in Jordan; the complaint letter included accusing him of receiving bribes and of embezzlement, at which point an inquiry commission was formed from the General Control Office, the Public Employment Department, and the Health Ministry. The inquiry commission found out that pressure was exerted to acquit him from the charge of embezzling 17,000 Jordanian Dinars. The file was kept then at the Public Employment Office. Later, a new committee was formed including Mohammad Abu Shari'a, Dr. Imad Tarawiyye, and Dr. Riyad Al-Za'noun to take a decision concerning Dr. Abu

Hmeid. The decision did not agree with the recommendations of the Inquiry Commission and with the size of the violation.

Based on the above mentioned information, the Committee recommends the following:

- 1- To request from the Executive Authority to open an investigation file in the case of Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hmeid and to look into the investigation findings and attached documents which prove that there were accomplices involved in the case, and to transfer the whole file to the judiciary.
- 2- To confirm what has been mentioned in the Health Ministry response that it formed central committees for medical treatment abroad that are supposed to work according to unified and public criteria.

B- Medicine:

- 1- The GCO report agrees with the findings arrived at by the PLC Special Committee concerning some cases where bad or expired drugs were used to treat cancer patients in medical services centers of the Health Ministry, which shows negligence in terms of inspection and monitoring on pharmacies and drug stores of the ministry and that officials in the ministry are involved in this issue.
- 2- The Committee concluded, through field investigation tours and from the hearing session with Health Ministry Deputy, that certain drugs were accepted and used by the ministry in Gaza while refused in the West Bank because they did not meet the specifications chart and were not registered at the ministry. This matter raises suspicions and doubts that executive officials in the ministry were involved with the parties importing the drugs.
- 3- Tenders purchasing drugs to the ministry and the case of Al-Shifa' Company drugs in Gaza:

The GCO report made a general comment saying that purchase of drugs was done in violation to the regulations in effect without specifying the violations or those responsible; the Committee found out, through the documents received by the ministry and the sub-committee formed to investigate the issue and the testimony of Health Ministry Deputy, that Dr. Ziad Sha'th, general director of the pharmacy, allowed Al-Shifa' Company into the tender to purchase the drugs to the ministry with unregistered drugs and under the claim that the drugs are in the process of being registered, thus deciding upon certain kinds of drugs; the Committee reached the following conclusions:

- a- Al-Shifa' Company sent the Health Ministry unregistered drugs that were accepted and used by the Health Ministry in Gaza while the same drugs were

rejected by the Health Ministry in the West Bank, which raised suspicions that executive officials in the ministry were involved with the mentioned company, taking advantage of their positions.

b- The Health Ministry received certain kinds of drugs that did not match the specifications chart in terms of packaging, expiry dates and issuance document; all this was made possible with the help of certain executive officials in the health ministry, in addition to the pressure exerted by the concerned company and the threats against the ministry employees, namely Mohammad Al-Zamili, a manager in the pharmacy department in Gaza. Pressure was also exerted on the West Bank Health Ministry to pay bills of these items which were rejected in the West Bank because they did not match the specifications.

c- The Company used twisted ways in collaboration with Khamis Najjar, a General Director at the ministry in Gaza, and the Civil Affairs Ministry to bring in several kinds of drugs, considered to be donations from Egypt, to the ministry through Al-Shifa' Company through Rafah Crossing. All documents and testimonies available point out to the fact that certain fraud ways were used in getting Customs exemption and Value Added Tax (VAT) exemption. The items were then sold to the Health Ministry including Customs and VAT taxes, which were never paid in the first place.

Based on the above information, the Committee recommends to request from the Executive Authority the following:

1- To open an official investigation and to transfer Al-Shifa' Company drug case to the PA Attorney General to prosecute those involved, taking into consideration that the Committee found out evidence which raises suspicion that there is financial and administrative corruption and abuse of authorities and public funds, in addition to misinformation tactics used by executive officials in the Health Ministry, namely Ziad Sha'th, general director at the pharmacy and Khamis Najjar, a general director in the Health Ministry and Civil Affairs Minister Jamil Tarifi.

2- To inquire from Health Minister Riyad Za'noun about poor performance, negligence and lack of legal action taken against those involved.

3- Education Ministry: The Committee was contented with the response which appeared in report prepared by head of the General Control Committee. The committee has founded that the absence of suspected offenses need mentioning. The Ministry implemented recommendations and notes which appeared in report of the Committee's Head.

4. Ministry of Agriculture:

It is clear from report of Head of General Control Committee that the Committee did not conduct an eager search in Ministry of Agriculture. The only case which

appears in the report, the case of the delay by Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Atta Abu karsh, in paying the due fees of one of the mandated Citrus Exporters, Ibrahim Abu Hamsheh estimated at \$ 30,000. Head of the General Control Committee considered that lenience in gathering public money.

The Committee sees that there are a lot of essential issues which the Committee should review particularly the presence in Ministry of Agricultural to three competing centers semi-independence, the first group in Ramallah and run by Minister of Agriculture and the second in Nablus and run by Deputy Minister of Agriculture. The last in Gaza Strip an run by Assistant Deputy Minister. That was due to the hearing session presented by Minister f Economic and testimonies he gave before the Committee which appeared in report of the Council's Economic Committee.

2. It appeared in the Council's Economic Report and through hearing sessions with Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Assistant of the Ministry that there are many violations which give the impression of the presence of administrative corruption in the Ministry. ***The Committee is therefor recommended your respected Council*** to demand the Executive Committee that the report of the General Control Committee to conduct a comprehensive and eager inspection in this Ministry in order to achieve reality and bringing the offenders before the Attorney General for inspection.

5. Ministry of Public Works

Reviewing the report of Head of General Control Committee pertaining Ministry of Public Works, the Committee discovered the presence of many offenses. The report finds that most of purchases were conducted with direct orders and instead of conducting tenders and dealing with restricted numbers of importers and repeating purchases from them. Minister of Public Works did not denied in his response and signed that all the notices which appeared in report of Head of the General Control Committee have been made during the time when there was no minister for the Public Works. It is not clear from Head of the General Control Committee whether the Committee has followed up and adopted the measures needed to be pursued in such cases and identifying the responsible part for the offenses. ***The Committee recommended your respected Council*** to demand PNA to form an investigating committee to detect the Ministry's purchase file and identifying the part or the responsible people for the offense against the enacting Financial standards and accountants in the PNA.

6. Ministry of Social Affairs

While reviewing the report of Head of the General Control Committee and responses of Ministry of Social Affairs, the Committee discovered that the General

Control Committee did not act as it is supposed in regards to administrative, financial, and legal inspection particularly in what is related to destiny of great donations and contributions which were received to Ministry of Social Affairs or bared the name of the ministry and why they were treated. Concerning supply storage which belong to the Ministry in Khan Younis, the Committee confirmed what appeared in the report of recommendations. The Committee also sees that it should not find excuses that there is no fund for improving conditions of the storage so that they will be liable for storing food. The ministry should also implement what it is needed for protecting food which is received as donations for distributing among beneficiaries. Also, it should not distribute food among beneficiaries only after being sure of their liability. Ministry of Social Affairs should examine all food in storage every now and then in order to be sure of its liability before distributing it among citizens and to work corresponding to the rule (which is received first will be distributed first).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee recommended that Monitoring Committee in Ministry of Finance and the General Control Committee to conduct a consecutive inspection in Ministry of Social Affairs throughout all of its apparatuses and to inspect its files and to identify all donations and other aids received in the Ministry and to present a consecutive report and to punish all officials responsible for the offenses and bringing them before court corresponding to law.

7. Ministry of Post and Communication

First: The Committee reviewed the report of Head of the General Control Committee and directed a message to brother Minister of Post and Communication demanding in it to respond to what is appeared in this report of information confirming and signing to the presence of several legal, financial and legal offenses in this Ministry. The Committee also confirms the necessity that the Minister will bare responsibilities because he is the first official in the Ministry. The Committee looks with surprise for not making any response by any official in the ministry regarding the report of the General Control Committee regarding their ministries which was confirmed by Head of the General Control Committee in his report particularly the critical offenses related to suspicions of misconduct of an official position for the sake of companies which work with the Ministry. When reviewing the Minister himself by the committee, he answered that he was not Minister for Post and Communication during the time when offenses took place and that he demanded from Deputy Assistant of the Ministry Zuhair Allaham and Director General of the Ministry Muhammad Skaik to respond to what is appeared in the report since they were the two main responsible officials in the ministry by then.

However, up to that date the Ministry did not receive any response from the Ministry.

The Committee recommended your respected Council to demand the Executive Authority to start an official investigation with Mr. Muhammad Skaik, Director General in Ministry of Post and Communications regarding what is appearing in report of the Head of the General Control Committee concerning the presence of suspicions pertaining his misconduct in the Ministry by making deals with local and Foreign Companies on the expenses of public money. The Committee also recommended handing over the full file of the General Control Committee on his misconduct to the Attorney General particularly on the issue of expanding Gaza Operator and circumstances of establishing a new building for Ministry of Post and Communications in Gaza. The Committee recommended also seizing both architects Bassam Hamdouneh and Ayman Matar and to form an official investigating committee to identify their responsibilities for the offense mentioned in the report relating to the building of the ministry's headquarters in Gaza.

Second: The Committee has found through the branched investigating committees that there are a lot of governmental phones supposed to be use in governmental, civil, security and military headquarters and centers, are used in homes of some officials, employees, workers in associations and apparatuses belonging to the authority. The phone bills are paid for from public money through those parties. Therefore, the Committee recommended your respected Council to demand Ministry of Post and Communications to limit those offenses, correcting the status quo and presenting a list of offenders to concerned parties in order to return all amounts of money paid from public money and to account for officials responsible for that.

Third: The Committee looks with seriousness and astonishment for the refrain by Minister of Post and Communication from presenting the signed agreement between Ministry of Post and Communications and Palestinian Communication Company to the PLC corresponding to orders. Consequently, the Committee recommended your respected Council to direct blames to Minister of Post and Communications and confirms PLC right to study and review that agreement.

8. Ministry of Justice:

The committee revealed that there has not been any administrative or technical development in the ministry in the previous period which is proportional to the amount of work in this ministry, especially the Palestinian judicial system, the Department of Trade Records and Patents , registering companies, licensing of accountants, Department of Justice Records, and the Department of Land Registering; according to the report presented by the Public Monitoring Board.

The committee recommends: The necessity of unifying company records and isolating them in one ministry and putting an end to the power struggle over this between the Ministry of Economics and Trade and the Ministry of Justice.

The committee also recommends: the necessity of unifying the special laws of registering and classifying lands and settling the rights between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank; also to determine a unified law as soon as possible. The committee reiterates the necessity of having specialized committees in land speculation in all districts of the country and to put a certain system for this purpose.

9. Ministry of Labor :

1. The committee is satisfied with the findings of the Public Monitoring Board and the responses of the other ministries concerning this matter. The committee stresses that the ministry must abide by the recommendations in the report and the commitment to the financial and accounting regulations in all its financial and administrative matters, and in particular, abiding by the General Budget Law for the fiscal year 1997; including all foreign aid given to the Ministry of Labor.
2. The committee affirms the necessity for the ministry to take responsibility for granting work permits for the influx of workers according to the approved policy.
3. The Public Monitoring Board report points, in more than one place, to the loss of rights for Palestinian workers who work for the Israeli side. The committee sees the immediate necessity to request of the executive authority to form a committee to study this matter from all aspects. The Minister of Labor must present a report to the Legislative Council regarding the results and conclusions of the study and the measures taken to ensure the rights of the Palestinian worker.

10. Ministry of Economy and Trade:

The Minister of Economy and Trade reiterated that the separation between the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the Ministry of Industry and Transportation; i.e. transferring all the financial officials in the ministry to other PA institution before assuming their positions, has largely affected the follow-up process of documenting financial records during the period which this report covered. The current financial records depend on disbursement items according to the approved general budget or the fiscal year 1997. The minister reiterated in his answer to the committee that there is one party in the ministry which currently handles the management of tenders and expenses of the ministry through a unified bank account according to law.

11. Ministry of Islamic Waqf:

First: The committee stresses in the special recommendations for the Ministry of Islamic Waqf which were found in the report of the Budget Committee and

Financial Affairs concerning the general budget for the fiscal year 1997, that all tenders and expenses of the ministry must heed to the supervision, checking and reviewing by the Department of Supervision and examining in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Monitoring Board.

Second: The committee discussed the complaints and accusations revolving around the Islamic Waqf lands and properties and how they were invested and used and the financial and administrative condition of their employees. Consequently, the committee recommends of the council to request of the executive authority to form a special committee for Ministry of Islamic Waqf, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance. The Public Monitoring Board, the Department of Employees and a few experts will have the responsibility of examining and checking all the matters and cases mentioned above and presenting their recommendations to the Ministerial Council to determine a clear policy for this ministry in this concern.

12. Ministry of Housing:

The committee considers that the response it received from the Ministry of Housing concerning the report of the Public Monitoring Board which contained grave administrative, legal and financial violations committed by the ministry, is insufficient. The ministry did not present the documents requested by the committee and did not answer to the inquiries and inquisitions concerning the matters in questions such as: the construction on the “Awda City” project and the lands which were granted or allotted for some investment projects, individuals, and governmental apparatuses; the ministry’s earnings from the Israeli side and the tenders received by the ministry. Most of the violations which the Public Monitoring report indicates to were committed during the term of the former Minister of Housing, Dr. Zakarieh al-Agha. The committee affirms what was found in the Public Monitoring Board report in terms of recommendations from all administrative, financial and organizational aspects. However, the committee discussed some serious violations which call for investigation and examining.

a. The “Awda City” Project:

The Public Monitoring report affirms that this project was carried out in violation of the general rules and regulations without any supervision or follow-up from the Ministry of Housing or any approved plan. Also the construction materials were not identical to the descriptions. Therefore, the committee recommends the necessity of forming an official investigative committee to determine the persons responsible and punishing them by legal methods according to law.

b. State lands:

The committee found that what was revealed in the Public Monitoring Board report concerning the misuse of public money in order to decrease the estimated price of government lands allotted for investment projects, is inaccurate and the

amounts which were estimated in this field as a result of comparison between the estimates of the price of lands allotted for investment and development projects and the amount actually estimated is vague. That is, since the Public Monitoring Board did not take into consideration all the factors, changes and other economic, social and developmental considerations and their ramifications on the economic and investment policies. However, the committee agrees with most of the reports other points and recommendations concerning this issue. It affirms the necessity of creating and depending on a fixed policy relating to granting and allotting state lands either for individuals, institutions, projects or governmental systems according to a general plan for usage and services of government lands.

The committee recommends: The Legislative Council to request of the executive authority to form an investigation committee about the methods and principles which were applied and will be applied in granting and allotting government lands. It reaffirms that the measures taken in this concern are according to the existing laws. The violations and their perpetrators will be determined and the necessary measures will be taken against them according to law.

In this concern, the committee affirms the Legislative Council decision number 1\26\129 which calls for the necessity of presenting all agreements and contracts signed by the executive authority with international or local parties for the Legislative Council to approve, especially those which have ramifications on the land, economics, security and social situation in Palestine.

c. Sand Dunes:

The committee affirms the recommendations of the Committee for Energy and Natural Resources in this concern and requests of the executive authority to form an investigation committee for the sales deals of sand in order to prevent the wasting of this nonrenewable national treasure. This waste has disastrous environmental effects on the future of the Gaza Strip, especially where relating to the destruction of the water sources in the Strip. The persons responsible shall be made accountable in court. The committee holds the Ministry of Housing fully responsible because it did not undertake its duties in this concern and did not prevent the security apparatus from intervening.

13. Interior Ministry:

To start, the committee values the positive and reliable response it received from the Interior Ministry and would like to affirm the following:

- a. The necessity of issuing the special law for charitable societies due to the competition and overlapping of jurisdiction between the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- b. To request of the Department of (supervision and checking) in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Monitoring Board to review and examine the accounts of

the Civil Defense Governerate in Gaza and to ensure that all tenders have been sent to an account in the treasury in the Ministry of Finance according to law, until they are financially and administratively processed in the Interior Ministry according to the recommendations included in the General Budget Law for the fiscal year 1997 which is similar to that of the Civil Defense Governerate in the West Bank. The committee also affirms what was found in the Public Monitoring report and the response of the Interior Ministry concerning this matter and calls for the persons responsible to be made accountable for the administrative and financial violations, and in particular, the Brigadier General Mohammed Mahmoud Abu Marzouq “General Director of Civil Defense” in the Gaza Strip, and to bring these persons before a court because of suspicions concerning the manipulation of state money.

c. The committee affirms what was found in the Budget and Financial Affairs Committee report which is included in the General Budget Law for the fiscal year 1997 concerning the financial and administrative subordinancy(?) of the Borders and Crossings Administration to the Interior Ministry. The committee recommends: a request to the Department of Supervision in the Ministry of Finance and to the Public Monitoring Board to review and examine the files and accounts of the Borders and Crossings Administration and to ensure that all tenders are processed in an account in the treasury of the Ministry of Finance, according to law.

14. Ministry of Culture:

The committee reviewed the report prepared by the Public Monitoring Board and the statements by Deputy Culture Minister Yahya Yakhluf and the Minister of Culture Yasser Abed Rabbo about the measures which have been taken to amend the administrative and financial situation in the Ministry. The committee reported that it had paid the sum of NIS 26,851,5 on January 26, 1996 for the procurement and installation of a central heating system for the house being rented by the Minister of Culture. The committee found this a major violation of the financial regulations and accounts procedures of the PNA, and the committee recommends: to request the Executive Committee to retrieve the amount in question from the ministry and to deposit it in the treasury of the Ministry of Finance; a committee would also be formed to investigate the financial violations found in the report. The committee views seriously and denounces the Ministry of Culture’s organizational structure, which contradicts all administrative and organizational principals. It considers the ministry’s response, that it appointed the higher positions at the start is unacceptable. There cannot be, under any circumstances, 87.5 percent (63 of 72) of ministry employees in administrative positions, especially when many of them lack the educational qualifications for the administrative positions they hold.

15. Ministry of Information:

After reviewing the report of the Public Monitoring Board and the detailed responses received by the committee from the Deputy-Minister of Information Mutawakal Taha and the head of Administration and Finance, Ibrahim Sajdiyeh, the committee found that there is a large sum included in the budget of the Ministry of Information during the period covered by the report which violates approved budget lines. For example, the \$10,000 personal allowance of Yasser Abed Rabbo, which is no way part of the Ministry of Information; the \$10,000 allotted for public relations; the NIS 79,600 for printing a book which was transferred from the presidential office; and the NIS 31,800 allowance for the Aqsa newspaper issued by the National Security Forces.

Therefore, *the committee recommends that* the Ministry work on abiding by approved budget items and not to spend any sum in violation of the financial and accounting regulations of the PA. It also recommends the finalizing and closing of all personal accounts in the Ministry of Information.

16. Ministry of Higher Education:

a. College of Science and Technology-Khan Younis:

The committee noticed that the report of the head of the Monitoring Board did not mention the comprehensive administrative and financial report which the Board prepared in October of 1995 which showed the existence of administrative and financial corruption by the president of the college then, Dr. Riyad al-Agha. The Board had asked in its report for him to be brought before court. The minister of Higher Education also presented a report which was sent to the president about the violations of the former administration of the college and requested that the former Dean, Dr. Riyad al-Agha be brought before court. Consequently, the committee recommends the council to request the executive authority to turn in Dr. Riyad al-Agha (former president of college) to the Vice-General in preparation for his submission to a court of law for conviction of being accused of misusing state money

b. al-Azhar University-Gaza:

The committee studied and reviewed the report presented by the Public Monitoring Board in regards to al-Azhar University in Gaza and also the response of the Ministry of Higher Education and the ministry's correspondence with the university. This is in addition to the many complaints which were presented to the Legislative Council in which the administration, and in particular the president of al-Azhar University, Dr. Riyad al-Khudari, is accused of not abiding by the rules and regulations of the university or the instructions and regulations of the Ministry of Higher Education. The president was also accused of some administrative, financial and legal violations. Consequently, the committee recommends the council

to request of the executive authority to form an investigative committee for the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Finance. The Public Monitoring Board will take the responsibility of making a comprehensive administrative and financial checking for al-Azhar University which also includes the projects proposed by donor countries and other Arab and Islamic sources. It also includes the money allotted to the university by the Ministry of Higher Education and by the PA president Yasser Arafat and the university's other earnings from projects, in particular the Luxembourg project, the Beit Hanoun farm, the water and soil laboratory and the nutrition laboratory. There are also the tenders in Al-Azhar University which mostly do not follow the rules and regulations of the university or of the Ministry of Higher Education. The Board calls for all those guilty of manipulation of state money to be presented to the District Attorney in preparation for trial.

17. Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation:

The committee found that the ministry has committed many legal offenses, including:

1. The refusal to abide by the instructions of the Ministry of Finance and the Budget Law, which commits the ministry to opening a separate account for each project with the Ministry of Finance, which holds the money given by funders allocated for the project. Instead, private accounts were opened which were not under administrative and financial supervision. The last of these, in July of 1997, was a signed agreement with the Spanish government when a bank account was opened for this project, without the knowledge of the Ministry of Finance, in the names of Assistant Deputy, Anis al-Qaq, Mr. Ahmad Suboh, Director-General of the ministry, and an employee of the Spanish Consulate in Jerusalem. This followed the issuance of the General Budget Law for the fiscal year 1997 and the pledge of the Minister of Planning before the Council to abide by the law. With such incidents, (those monitoring) lose their ability to follow-up and supervise, and this provides opportunities and leeway for manipulation of state funds (to occur). It also allows for double positions, since those who work in these projects are official employees receiving a salary from the government payroll and also receive huge financial rewards from their job description in these projects, which is against the law. Also some contracts are signed with employees for these projects for a certain amount of money; they are paid less than what is written down and the difference is put in a safe called the "Black Box". This (practice) led to resignations of some former employees of the ministry. This practice caused problems which damaged the PA's reputation and credibility with funders; one example being the UNDP's evaluation report presented to the Ministry of Finance concerning the government computers project implemented by the Ministry of Planning.

2. After reviewing the report of the Public Monitoring Board, the committee found that there are numerous suspicions surrounding chief officials in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and in the Team Company and Balco Company (which is related to Team), due to many tenders being granted to these companies under circumstances which call for investigation.

Therefore, the committee recommends that the Legislative Council request the Executive Authority to form a legal and technical committee to investigate these cases, taking into consideration some of the owners of these companies are either employees in the Ministry of Planning or close relatives of Ministry employees.

3. The committee found by reviewing a number of projects executed by the Ministry of Planning, that expenditures were made without adhering to fixed budgets and that specifications of needs and tenders were based on poor technical assessments and costly purchase prices, an absence of competition and a lack of transparency which resulted in mistrust, suspicion and criticism from the donor countries and a number of other related ministries, particularly the Ministry of Finance.

4. The committee affirms the existence of a “Black Box” into which money is channeled illegally from projects, especially from special projects in public administration. in the Ministry of Planning. This “Black Box” is directly under the control of the Minister and Director-General of the Ministry and it was hidden from the Public Monitoring Board.

5. The committee found that there has been a diversion of public funds for personal use, funds exclusively for projects which were used by the ministry in order to cash personal checks for the Minister.

Therefore ***the committee recommends*** that a special committee be formed of technical experts to review , supervise and check the opening of tenders in all ministries and organizations of the PA. ***The committee also recommends*** that the council request the Executive Authority to form an investigative committee for the Ministry of Finance, the Public Monitoring Board and the Employment Department to review, check and revise all financial records and to bring the offenders before court.

6. The committee affirms what was stated in other recommendations in the report of the Public Monitoring Board regarding the financial, administrative and legal violations of the Ministry of Planning. Consequently, ***the committee recommends the council*** request the executive authority:

- a. to review all implemented joint agreements between the Ministry of Planning and donors.
- b. to open an investigation into the expenditures of project funds and other expenditures and to bring before the Attorney-General all those proved to be involved in financial, administrative and legal violations, in order for them to be

tried, and in particular to investigate the Minister, Nabil Sha'ath and the Assistant Deputy Ministers Anis al-Qaq and Ali Sha'ath and the Director General of Environmental Planning, Mohammed Ajour.

7. Ministry of Civil Affairs:

After close review of the Public Monitoring Board report, the committee found that the Board did not closely examine the records of the Ministry of Civil Affairs despite the many indications which were found in the report concerning the violations committed by this ministry in particular when discussing the special reports of the Ministry of Finance or of other ministries. The coordination manager of the Customs Exemption Department in the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the General Director of the ministry stated that the Public Monitoring Board did not examine their ministry nor were the ministry's files examined directly by the Public Monitoring Board or from any other official party. Regardless of this, there were serious parts in the Board's report related to the misuse of state money in the Customs Exemption Department which led to the PA's loss of large amounts of money. A significant number of these exemptions were granted by way of the Ministry of Civil Affairs without the knowledge of the Ministry of Finance or the Customs Department in the Ministry of Finance. The committee reviewed and examined this file in detail with all the official parties related to this issue, including the Ministry of Civil Affairs, it being the party responsible for coordinating these exceptions with the Israeli side in order to be allowed to cross the international borders without customs.

The Committee has founded:

First: Exemptions concerning cars and furniture:

What appears in the General Control Committee's report concerning impinging upon authorities of Ministry of Finance by Ministry of Civil Affairs through granting customs exemptions in violation to law which gave this right to Ministry of Finance. The Committee go through several files and document sin Ministry of Civil Affairs and Customs Department Ministries of Finance, Transport and Health and concluded after reviewing them to:

- a. Finding several letters sent by Minister of Finance, Deputy Finance Ministry and Head of Customs Department in Finance Ministry directed to brother Minister of Civil Affairs asserting dangers of what the Ministry of Civil Administration conduct of customs fees without the permission of Ministry of Finance or even reporting to it. The Committee also asserted that this is an infringe against authorities of Ministry of Finance which is mandated for and have the right according to law and the enacted regulations.
- b. Minister of Civil Affairs has not responded to repeated demands from Ministry

of Finance for the need to comply to law and he continued his offenses in this regard.

c. Minister of Civil Affairs is personally sponsoring taking decisions pertaining customs exemptions which include cars, furniture, material contributions and donations for the Palestinian territories, according to Director General of the Ministry and Director of the department for Coordinating Customs Exemptions in Ministry of Civil Affairs.

d. There are violations pertaining customs exemptions which took place in the mentioned ministry raising suspicions and aiming at reinforcing the personal authority of the minister on the expenses of public money a thing which urge for an official investigation in it.

e. The total number of governmental cars exempted of customs for the benefit of ministries, public institutions, governmental security and military apparatuses and the returnee brothers exceed 4300 cars. Many files of these imported cars which was exempted from customs have no complete appropriate documents corresponding to conditions of exemptions from the government.

The Committee would like to cite the following cases as examples:

1. Many of the exempted cars and materials belong to official parts or individuals whose files in the ministry do not sign that that took place with their knowledge or corresponding to their demands or the concerned parts. After questioning many of these parts, it was confirmed that they do not know anything about that and they considered what have taken place illegal and rejected by them.

2. Issuing customs exemptions for cars under names of security apparatuses and used by ordinary people. In one example, a BMW was exempted and registered for Ministry of Finance.

3. Issuing exemptions for employees in the state whom conditions of exemptions do not apply and being registered under the name of a governmental part. The cars, after being imported exempted of customs were later converted to private properties. An example is the Mercedes car which belong to Coordinator Director of Customs Exemptions in Ministry of Civil Affairs.

4. Ministry of Civil Affairs did not comply to the Cabinet decision for the need to buy cars from a Palestinian mandated Agent. Rather, the Ministry offered customs exemptions for a number of cars bought from an Israeli car agents. There are many examples on this regard.

5. Some cars were imported and exempted from customs while it did not meet resolution of the cabinet that their motors' capacity should no exceed 2000cc for petrol and 2500cc for diesel.

6. Coordination took place for sending some governmental cars abroad (to Jordan) for the personal usage of some officials or their families such as Mr. Abdel Aziz Haj Ahmad, Ex Minister of Communication, Mr. Dr. As'ad Abdel Rahman, Head

of Returnees Department and Mr. Jamil Al-Tarifi, Minister of Civil Affairs and others.

7. In violations to law and regulations on this regard, Ministry of Civil Affairs conducted customs exemptions for cars under the names of security apparatus members and were registered under names of other ministries in order to receive customs exemptions without the knowledge of the concerned ministries. The cars were later used by those members of others with their knowledge. The Committee has a list for those cars used by officials or members of security apparatuses and names of ministries, the cars registered under their names. The committee also has a list of the cars types.

8. There are a lot of luxuries cars such as Mercedes, Shirouki and BMW exempted of customs by Ministry of Civil Affairs for the sake of security apparatuses or their members without clarifying who is the or are the persons of the security apparatuses mandated to sign the demand. The committee noted that their were used by members of security apparatus as their special cars.

9. Mr. Minister demanded Ministry of Communication to convert possession of some cars, registered as governmental cars, for the sake of individuals in contradiction to law. An example is the car which belong to Rasem Abdel Jawad and the other belong personally to the Minister and others.

10. The Committee would like to not that Returnees' car had been exempted through the Technical Committee which was formed by the cabinet through its previous decision issued on 19 August 1996 which conditioned the exemption decision with signatures of Ministers of Finance and Transport. Despite that, those conditions have not been respected up to this date. The conditions have not been abide by neither corresponding to qualifications or conditions of granting or using them because of interference from irregular security apparatuses, according to Minister of Transport. On the other hand, due to the apparent depression of Ministry of Civil Affairs regarding approved regulations, rules, decisions and instructions, deceiving law and the misuse of power or showing lenience regarding measures of implementing exemptions. As example, customs exemption of a Jaguar 96 luxury car under the name of the Returnee Ibrahim Awad Abdel Qader Salameh, Al-Tireh Village's Chief, who resides in Jerusalem and aged 75. The car is used by first class relatives for the Minister in contradictions to the cabinet decision. Also, there are many cars registered for the President Office which were demanded by persons working in the office. However, there are no official documents signed by a mandated part noting that the President is knowing about it.

11. Not all the exempted of customs cars were registered in files of Finance Ministry's Customs Department corresponding to regulations.

Second: Customs exemptions relating to Job Donations and Contributions:

1. Ministry of Civil Affairs granted customs exemptions in some cases without the knowledge or approval of Ministry of Finance.
2. This subject is no dealt with corresponding to clear standards, bases and instructions and special samples, a thing which open the way for importing things illegally exempted of customs. In one example, the minister exempted of custom a shipment of medicine belonging to Al-Shifa Company as a donation to Ministry of Health. The shipment was exempted of customs and additional value tax, knowing that the signed agreements by Minister of Health and testimony of Deputy Health Ministry, before the Committee, clarified that the shipment was commercial for the sake of Al-Shifa Company, That arouses suspicions regarding presence of collusion with the company on the expenses of pubic money.
3. Files of Ministry of Civil Affairs do not sign that these demanded exempted materials by the official party and couldn't be proofed to reach the official party and the way their were handled. Due to what this subject had brought about in the past of problems regarding the presence of these materials in commercial market, the Committee recommended the Council to demand the Ministry of Finance to form an investigating committee. This is for the sake of classifying all contributions and other donations which Ministry of Civil Affairs exempted of customs and identifying the part which received it and the way they were treated and to made the officials accountable for any offenses they had commit in violation to law and order.

Third: Residency and Work Permission:

1. Ministry of Civil Affairs has interfered into authorities of Ministries of Work, Interior which are mandated corresponding to law, by issuing work permission and residencies for the influx of workers. Ministry of Civil Affairs has contented with granting working and residency permissions issued by the Israeli Civil Administration without informing the two concerned ministries about that.
2. Its is clear for the Committee after reviewing the list of the incoming workers who received working permissions through the Civil Affairs that it does agree with PA general policy regarding the use of the influx workers. Consequently, the file should be returned to the concerned parties represented by Ministry of Work to issue working permissions and Ministry of Interior for issuing residency permissions.

Fourth: Files of Returnees Names:

It is not clear for the committee while reviewing this file which is the governmental part mandated to prepare a list of names demanding national number and identifying priorities in obtaining this number. The committee see that the file

should remain in the possession of PLO and restricting the role of Ministry of Civil Affairs in coordinating this file with the Israeli part.

FIFTH: THE ROLE OF MINISTRY OF CIVIL AFFAIRS REGARDING TRADE CROSSINGS:

It is clear for the committee that Ministry of Civil Affairs had put fees on loading trucks which transferring goods from and to Jordan without the presence of law and without coordination with Ministry of Finance. This measure was not implemented on Rafah Crossing. The Minister has taken advantage of his personal authority when he issued a decision signed by his private secretary addressing in it the Israeli part. The Minister's secretary demanded to reserve the border crossing for two weeks for importing cements belonging to Al-Karmel Company (Yousef Jamil Al-Tarifi) without a prior warning for importers which cause the damage of goods belonging to other importers on the borders with Jordan. This was the first step towards ending the circle of cement monopoly which was restricted later to Palestinian Company of Services run by Mr. Khaled Islam who pay an amount of two and a half millions of dollars to Mr. Yousef Jamil Al-Tarifi for every ton of imported cement. Consequently, suspicions were raised regarding the presence of a deal which restricting importing cement through Al-Karameh Bridge in the Palestinian Company of Trading Services in exchange for the above mentioned commission for every ton. With the knowledge that 500,000 tons of cement is expected to be imported during this year. Consequently, the Committee recommends limit import and export permits in the Ministry of Trade and Economics and restricting collecting customs in the Ministry of Finance and the Crossings Administration by the Interior Ministry with the presence of coordinators for ministries including a coordinator for the ministry of Civil Affairs.

SIXTH: FILE OF CIVIL REGISTRAR

The Committee has noticed that the file of Civil Registrar which included several cases concerning the citizen directly, particularly concerning issuing personal documents such as ID cards, Birth Certificates and others are still suspended with the Israeli part in contradiction to signed agreements with the Israeli part. As a result, work has been confused between Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Civil Affairs and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. Also, the taller hand in many cases was kept with the Israeli part such as changing the place of residence, typing the personal ID, changing the social situation, adding new borns, finishing application of family reunification and others which affected negatively the residents and completing their applications due to disputes between PNA and Israel over the imposed fees and stamps. Henceforth, the Committee recommended with the necessity to transfer this file to PNA as soon as possible and not keeping it in the hands of the Israelis and ending the situation of authorities conflicts between the various ministries of the PNA.

Seventh: Extravagance and Wasting Public Money:

Through its visits to Ramallah headquarters of the ministry, the Committee noticed that there is a unjustified waste of money while furnishing the ministry which does not concede with the humble PNA financial abilities. That cannot be justified by maintaining that the imported furniture was exempted of customs fees due a decision issued by Minister of Civil Affairs. As a result of all what have been mentioned of blatant offenses committed by Ministry of Civil Affairs in violation to law, regulations and instructions, the committee recommends with the following: * Holding full responsibilities on Minister of Civil Affairs for all of the above mentioned offenses which form a blatant attack on public money, which urge for official investigation with the Minister and presenting all the cases which raise suspicions to General Attorney and punishing who is convicted corresponding to law. The Committee has concluded to the presence of some suspicions related to tricking law, misuse of power and disrespecting approved laws, regulations and instructions.

19. Ministry of Supplies:

A. The Case of confiscating supplies distributed by UNRWA:

After reviewing the report of Head of the General Control Committee and the response of Ministry of Supplies regarding confiscating supplies distributed by UNRWA among Palestinian Refugees on allegation that it have been sold in markets by some merchants, the Committee sees that the way in which the case was treated to be full of disrespect and misconduct particularly that the supplied food has an expiring date, a thing which urge for the rush in making decisions in this regard. The Committee also sees that the both the former Attorney General and Director of Financial Department of the Security Forces and Police bear full responsibility and the delay in implementing the court decision which was issued on 13 April 1997 up to 29 May 1997 knowing that the supplies have been confiscated on 21 July 1997. Consequently, food was expired causing big loses to its owners who have not been compensated. In this regard, the Committee recommended your council to demand the Executive Authority to compensate owners of these goods for the loses they suffer of and to hold both the ex-Attorney General and Director of Financial Department in Security Force and Police full responsibilities.

B. Department of Weighning, Standards and Measurement:

The Committee has noticed that Ministry of Trade bares full responsibility for the non implementation of the President decision to transfer this department with all of its employees to Ministry of Supplies (formerly Supplies Department) and delaying that from 12 December 1995 to 10 March 1997. The delay has consequently interrupted work in monitoring weighs, measures and petrol stations and gold

wares through out that period.

C. The case of expired flour

After reviewing the file of this case, the Committee has concluded that Ministry of Supplies continue to interfere in distributing flour and selling it in violations to the PLC decision on this issue. The Ministry sold it in cooperation with persons of high official rank in Ministry of Finance namely Deputy Assistant of Ministry of Finance, Muhammad Jaradah (Abu Usamah) using by t that public money in importing flour through the Palestinian National Company for Economic Development which Mr. Muhammad Jaradah heads its Boar of Directors and Al-Dirawi Company. The Ministry also interfered in blocking the crossings in front of importing this substance, monopolizing by that the local market for the sake of the mentioned company. Therefore, the Committee recommended your respected Council to stress resolution of the Palestinian Legislative Council No. 156/3/2 on 3 April 1997 which stipulates that the role of the Ministry of Supplies in monitoring liability of supplied substances and monitoring the presence of strategic reserves in homeland and the commitment of the Executive to refrain from interfering in the policy of the market working with principles of free market and the commitment to implement standards of regular financial bases pertaining general purchases for the PNA. The Council finds the Ministerial Council responsible for refraining from adopting any measures in this case, and it demands the Executive to adopt essential measures to halt such overtaking. The Committee recommended your respected council to demand the Executive Authority to establish an investigating committee for investigating Deputy Assistant of Finance Ministry, Muhammad Jaradah (Abu Usamah) and Mr. Director General of Trade and Commerce Ministry, Nasser As-Sarraaj for the presence of suspicions of misuse of power and public money and blocking the crossings in front the merchants to import flour in mysterious circumstances while permitting Al-Dirawi Company to import without restrictions.

19 . Ministry of Transport

The Committee have noticed due to its finding that :

1. The Ministry lacks for a clear policy and a fixed system clarifying the way of treating governmental cars in respect of repairing and the way they should be handled, Also, there is big chaos and critical financial and administrative misconduct which urge for investigating the issue.
2. While studying files of the Ministry in Ramallah, the Committee has noted that the Ministry lacked for unified file for registering all governmental cars, particularly those used by military and security apparatuses which make the authority to loose total control in the follow up and identifying these cars, knowing that the National Authority covers costs of insurance, repairs, petrol and exempted them of licensing

fees despite the fact that most of these cars are used for personal affairs only, a thing which considered as a blatant aggression against public money.

3. The Committee has noticed that some of the governmental cars was transferred to Jordan without any convincing justification and with the knowledge of the Ministry of Communication, a thing that forms a blatant violation.

4. Ministry of Communication and in violation to law, converted ownership of some governmental cars to people of authority without the prior knowledge of Ministry of Finance the concerned body for sponsoring public properties.

Consequently, the Committee recommends identifying all cars bought under the name of the PNA or donated to the Authority or to any of its ministries, public associations, or its security and military apparatuses and registering them under the name of PNA, represented by Ministry of Finance and redistribute them in accordance to true needs of PNA Ministries and associations, security and military apparatuses since they are in their guardianship.

The Committee also recommended Ministry of Communication to return the cars which their ownership have been converted and those have been transferred to Jordan.

5. The ministry did not commit to the decision of the of the Ministerial Council in not specifying more than one car for the use of any official of the PNA. Therefore, the committee recommends the Ministry of Transportation to relinquish any additional cars which were granted to officials in the PNA, which violates this decision.

6. The Ministry of Transportation did not establish a department for governmental transportation in the northern districts which led to chaos in the field of public maintenance in governmental transportation.

7. Technical inspection for licensing of vehicles is limited to one private inspection office: the Samer office for all the districts in the Gaza Strip. There is no set system for technical inspection fees in licensing offices which bred pressure on the work and exhausting of citizens in remote areas.

8. The committee did not find any justification for the ministry's delay in changing the license plates in the northern districts to Palestinian plates such as that which was implemented in the Gaza Strip districts.

9. The committee affirms the necessity of activating the special insurance fund for victims of road accidents which insurance companies do not cover, with the knowledge that there is a special charge for this which is deducted from the insurance policy issued by the insurance companies working in the PA areas.

10. The Ministry of Transportation did not take the measures to guarantee the follow-up of licensing and collecting licensing fees for cars which have been issued licenses by the Police Headquarters and other government, security and military apparatuses.

11. The committee denounces the Minister of Transportation's approval to issue licenses to some cars which do not meet the descriptions and conditions of licensing i.e. tourist cars with temporary entry which entered the PA areas under mysterious circumstances raised suspicions; regardless of his (the minister's) knowledge of this violation's seriousness, he requested of the General Director of Customs to collect the custom's fees for them as an exception to the law, in or to license them as private cars. Therefore, the committee recommends of the council to request from the executive authority to form an official investigation committee concerning this matter with the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ali Qawasmeh.

21. Ministry of Industry:

The committee revealed that the Monitoring Board did not conduct an active examination of this ministry and the violations which the report indicated to can be summarized in the absence of regulations and organized instructions for its financial and administrative work. Also the ministry did not commit to the special financial regulations and those regarding travel expenses and to holding account records according to financial and other accounting regulations. The ministry reiterated in its response to the findings of the Public Monitoring report that it has dealt with the violations against it.

22. Ministry of Youth and Sports:

After reviewing the Public Monitoring Board's report which points to violations in the budget approved by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the spending of additional amounts as a result of financial and accounting mistakes, the lack of using payment vouchers with serial numbers despite the existence of banking accounts specially for the ministry and lack of deducting the due income tax in some cases. They also found sums of money allotted for helping sports clubs were used for covering the ministry's expenses and a misuse of money which go against the ministry's spending laws for travel expenses for some of its employees. They also withdrew money from their bank accounts and used it as if it were money from the donations and aid for renovating playgrounds safe, in order to fund the private expenses of the ministry. Consequently, the committee requested the Deputy of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Dr. Ahmad al-Yaziji, to respond to the findings of the Public Monitoring report concerning the financial and administrative violations. However, the committee did not receive any response to this. Therefore, *the committee recommends* : the council to direct the blame towards the Deputy of the Ministry of Youth and Sports for his failure to respond to the committee and it stresses the necessity of both the Ministry of Finance and the Public Monitoring Board to ensure the ministry's commitment to abide by the financial and accounting laws and other regulations and instructions.

23. Ministry of Tourism and Archeology:

a. The committee revealed that the violations which the Public Monitoring report pointed to in this ministry resulted from the absence of regulations, charters and organized instructions for its administrative and financial work in many cases. The ministry also did not commit to the regulations, instructions and charters in other cases. In its response to the committee the ministry showed its complete cooperation with the recommendations of the Public Monitoring report and it dealt with what was found in the recommendations.

b. Some of the information indicates the smuggling of Palestinian antiquities outside the country or were given as presents to some foreign parties. Therefore the committee recommends : that the Public Monitoring Board should investigate and examine this information.

24. The Public Department of Employees:

The committee sees that the Public Department of Employees bears certain authority and power in light of its present legal situation and the delay of the application of the Law of Civil Service which was approved by the Legislative Council. This gives them control in all ministries and PA institutions, especially in relation to the organizational and functional structures and those pertaining to appointing, promotion and salaries, without there being a superior supervising party to review and examine what the department is doing in these sensitive matters. The Public Monitoring report also mentions that the head of the Department stalled in permitting the Board to carry out a comprehensive inspection of the Department. The Board was not able to begin the inspection until the end of Dec. 1996 and did not find cooperation with the Board's inspector during the inspection. The committee requested the head of the Public Monitoring Board to present the committee with a copy of the detailed report which the Board prepared about the Department of Employees; a copy of which was sent to the President as indicated by the Board's report. The committee also requested from the head of the Department of Employees a written response concerning the findings of the head of the Public Monitoring Board, although there was no response to the repeated requests of the committee in this concern. First: the committee recommends of the council to request the executive authority the following:

1. To speed up activity in the Civil Service Law which was ratified by the Legislative Council in the second reading.
2. The commitment of the Department of Employees administration to fully cooperate and answer to the requests of the Public Monitoring Board, the Ministry of Finance, the Legislative Council and its specialized committees. Second : To form a fact finding committee from the Legislative Council to review the work of the Department of Employees and its role in employment which does not take place according to the approved standards and principles.

25. The Central Bureau of Statistics:

The committee values the special role of the Department of Statistics and its total cooperation with the committee. In reviewing what was found in the Public Monitoring Report and the response of the Bureau of Statistics concerning the violations found in the report, it was revealed to the committee that the violations were limited to the former head of the Bureau of Statistics in Gaza, Mr. Mazen Anan who was relieved of his services and who later began working in the statistics department of the Sea Company.

26. Energy Authority:

1. The committee affirms the necessity of the Energy Authority to abide by the General Budget Law for the fiscal year 1997 and the instructions of the Ministry of Finance in terms of the importation of all money which goes back to the Energy Authority through the projects carried out from grants and foreign aid into a private account for these projects, as part of the Treasury account in the Ministry of Finance. This is so it may undergo supervision and reviewing by the Department of Supervision in the Ministry of Finance. The committee also affirms the necessity for the Public Monitoring Board and the Department of Supervision to review and check the project accounts which were carried out by the Energy Authority and how they should be handled; to ensure that it was done according to fixed budgets and precise rules and that the determination of needs and the specialization of tenders are carried out according to sound technical decisions from the special committees of technical experts who rely on the principles of clarity, transparency and competition. This applies to all other public institutions which receive loans, grants or foreign aid to carry out projects, such as: PECDAR, the Water Authority, and the Environmental Authority, the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Palestinian Geography Center in the Ministry of Transportation, the Palestinian Council for Housing, the Palestinian Council of Health, universities, municipalities and other public institutions either governmental or non-governmental.

b. In regards to the findings of the Public Monitoring report concerning the private memberships which the Energy Authority offers directly without coordination with the municipalities and presiding village councils, the committee sees the necessity of quickly establishing the Palestinian Electric Company by a law which makes it a public cooperate company in which the municipalities, village councils, the Energy Authority share and which the private sector would take the responsibility of generating transporting and distributing electricity without impinging upon the rights of the Jerusalem Electric Company.

27. Ministry of Local Governance:

- a. The committee requested of the Ministry of Local Governance a written response to the findings of the Public Monitoring report which contained administrative, financial and legal violations committed by municipalities and village councils, since the ministry is considered the official party which supervises and follows up on the work and situations of these councils. The committee did not receive any response or answers to its inquiries from the ministry nor did the ministry show any cooperation with the committee concerning this matter.
- b. The committee noticed that the Public Monitoring report did not carefully examine the conditions of the Ministry of Local Governance, such that the report indicated to the notes of the Board concerning a limited number of municipalities and village councils (only 30 municipalities). It overlooked important issues which the report could have treated related to the performance of the ministry in the fields of organization and construction and to the fields of financial rights and commitments - in relation to tenders and expenses of the municipalities and village councils.
- c. The Public Monitoring report does not point to general conclusions concerning the performance of the municipalities and village councils from their administrative, financial and legal aspects. Nor does it deal with their relationship with the Ministry of Local Governance or the ministry's responsibility for the violations and how to follow up on them according to the law, charters and other regulations.
- d. The Board's report points to a number of financial violations which call for an official investigation and court hearing. The head of the Monitoring Board questions in his report about the fate of these matters which the Ministry of Local Governance was supposed to follow up and bring forth some of these matters in light of the given information to the Deputy General in order for him to complete the necessary measures according to law. This is especially necessary because some of the violations concern embezzlement of money and administrative corruption.
- e. The committee points out that some of the municipalities did not abide by the instructions of the Ministry of Local Governance which is against the law. For example, the Gaza Municipality. Some committed serious violations in denying permission for the Public Monitoring inspector to conduct an inspection such as the Nablus Municipality against which a complaint against them arrived to the Legislative Council from the General Director of the Public Monitoring Board in the West Bank concerning this matter.
- f. The Public Monitoring report points to the existence of a power struggle between some village councils and the Energy Authority concerning electricity generators. It was not clear from the report if the ministry is responsible for dealing with this matter since it is the official ministerial party in charge of supervising the municipality and village councils.

g. The Ministry of Local Governance did not receive their share of tenders for fuel allotted for municipalities and village councils according to the law.

Therefore, *the committee recommends of the council* to request from the executive authority:

1. To direct the blame to the Minister of Local Governance for not cooperating with the committee and the ministry's obvious shortcomings in performing their duties according to law.
2. The request to the Public Monitoring Board and to the Department of Supervision in the Ministry of Finance to review and check the tenders and expenses of the Ministry of Local Governance and all municipal and village councils, to ensure that they abide by the financial and accounting regulations. Also to determine the financial, administrative and legal violations and their perpetrators.
3. To form an official investigation committee concerning the violations found and to bring those convicted before court.

28. Monetary Authority

Report of Head of the General Control Committee signed concerning the Palestinian Monetary Authority and after the two phase inspection conducted by Monitoring Committee on the Monetary Authority (the first phase covers till the end of 30 June 1996), the Committee has reached to the following conclusions:

* The presence of unnecessary excess of expenses such as rent, salaries and cost of travel.

* Monetary Authority do not commit to the enacted financial charters.

* A presence of defect in financial files which are not identical to what is registered in daily books.

For the second phase on 16 October 1996 which aimed at finishing the consecutive report on Monetary Authority and identifying its financial position. The report confirms the continuation of the previous offenses.

Report of Head of the General Control Committee did not stop before many offenses and range of personal responsibilities despite that the report of the sponsoring committee on the Monetary Authority signs directly to a number of offenses related to misuse of public money and administration by Head of the Monetary Authority Dr. Fuad Bseiso and demanded him to return the money spent without a need. Also, it is not clear for the committee the which the General Control Committee has pursued such offenses and implementing recommendation of the sponsoring committee knowing that Head of the General Control Committee is himself Secretary of the Sponsoring Committee on Monetary Authority.

Consequently, the committee the creation of an official investigating committee in the mentioned administrative, financial and legal offenses in reports of the General

Control Committee and the Sponsoring Committee and bringing before trial whom are proved to be convicted.

29. TV and Radio Broadcasting Agency

The Committee finds through report of Head of the General Control Committee that any of the concerned monitoring parties have not conduct any monitoring measures or financial and administrative inspections on the General Control Committee. The Committee has noted the following:

- a. There is a dispersion of efforts exerted by TV and Radio Broadcasting Agency due to the many centers of responsibilities inside the Agency and competition over specialization and authorities and the contest over influence. Consequently, a way was open in front of internal disputes and random administration and the misuse of influence for personal benefits and the absence of the principal of observation, inquiry and accountability.
- b. Measure of purchases and tenders in the Agency are not a subject of financial and administrative observation and do not conducted corresponding to correct accounting standards which open the way for misusing public money.
- c. Other contributions which received to TV and Radio Agency, listed in files of customs exemptions in Ministry of Civil Administration have not been proved to the Committee that it have been dealt with corresponding to standards.
- d. The Committee was assured that the Agency did not transferred the money it received whether local income or foreign donations to the general treasury violating by that financial standards, the general regulations for budget and instructions of Ministry of Finance.

Therefore, *the Committee recommends* the Control and Auditing Department in Ministry of Finance and the General Control Committee to conduct a general inspection in TV and Radio Broadcasting Agency, inspecting all of its files and statistics, and identifying all of its donations and financial, other interior and foreign donations which have been received by the Agency and to present a consecutive report on those responsible for those offenses and bringing them before court corresponding to law.

GENERAL NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS :

First: The absence of Cabinet's role in preparing rules; ratifying regulations organizing performance of ministries, public associations; clear identifying of authorities, responsibilities and missions for each; the absence of a framework for the cabinet, have all directly guided to the continuous conflicts, interference and the frequent authorities between ministries and the various public associations without justifications. They also augment employing apparatus and maintain the situation of haphazard in organic apparatuses for all ministries and public associations of the

PNA. In addition, they lead to ambiguous performance and absencing the principal of inquiry in bases of specializing expenses. All of that lead to administrative and financial corruption and abuse of authority and public money by some officials. Therefore, The Committee stresses on the need for the PA Cabinet to overcome this stage in order to perform the assigned duties and to provide the qualified cadres to run this comprehensive process immediately; in addition to reviewing all jobs and recruitment in higher leadership positions in all PNA ministries and institutions.

The Committee recommends to your respectful Council to request from the Executive Authority the following :

- 1- To develop the General Budget Department and the Monitoring and Auditing Department in the Finance Ministry; to provide the qualified cadres and technical expertise to enable a proper follow-up on the particular budgets of each ministry and public institution in a way that secures internal monitoring and prompt intervention to stop any violations or practices that contradict with the General Budget Law.
- 2- To form a new department to be responsible for preparing executive regulations and laws pertaining to united criteria and principles in preparing budgets and spending mechanisms, in addition to defining responsibilities, jurisdictions and the authorized parties to implement such regulations in each ministry and public institution.
- 3- The need to conclude the financial legislature that can contribute to the unity and general administration of the PA's financial fields. The Committee requests from the Executive Authority to conclude the following financial legislature :
 - The Law to organize the general budget and finance. - The General Supplies Law.
 - The Increments Law. - The Salaries and Insurance Law. - The Customs Law. - The Internal Monitoring Law. - The Job hierarchy system. - The Lands and Landscaping Law. - The Law of Civil Service - The Financial Law - The Law of Transportation and Travel - The Law of Government Works - The Income Tax Law - The Law of Free Areas - The Law of Investment Encouragement - Instructions of Internal Supervision and Examination - The Law of Personal Accounts
4. The necessity of concentrating on administrative reform by putting administrative regulations and building modern technological equipment in this field and by providing opportunities for training and rehabilitation. Also to put a limit to unnecessary and unstandard appointments.
5. To work towards achieving the Palestinian rights from the Israeli side, especially those related to workers compensations, social security and the tenders which particularly come directly from the Israeli side.

6. To work towards unifying the PNA accounts in the Treasury account so that all tenders of any type (including the money received from grants, aids and loans which are exclusively for the PA expenses no matter what the nature, according to law), may be placed in it.
7. The request to the Ministry of Health to conduct official and technical investigations in many of the job-related violations which are committed by a number of doctors and employees in the Ministry of Health against the patients as a result of negligence or money-earning. Also regarding using the Health Services institutions for personal reasons and sending the patients to private clinics, which is against the morals of the profession. This is to the knowledge that many of the complaints from the people which were sent to the Legislative Council and of which a copy was sent to the Ministry of Health indicate that there are a number of violations which led to permanent handicaps, paralysis or death. The Ministry of Health did not take the appropriate punitive measures against the perpetrators of these violations.
8. To abide by the presidential decision concerning the misuse of government cars which dictates that these cars should be registered by the Ministry of Transportation and their use supervised. Also to abide by the recommendations of the committee (the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Transportation and the Public Monitoring Board) found in the Public Monitoring Board report on pages 23-24.
9. The prohibition of any PNA employee to participate in the establishment of or becoming a member in the council of any current company administration or to undertake any suspicious business or other deals of any kind which would lead to or give the impression of the existence of conflict of interest or misuse of power.
10. To commit all leaders in higher positions in the executive and legal authority and heads of the security apparatus to submit a financial report to be presented to the high court, in accordance with the principle of transparency and clarity and financial dignity.
11. To issue the necessary instructions to the responsible positions in the PNA so as to submit a financial warranty from all employees in the field of state money to ensure the correct financial administration and its maintenance.

Second: Despite the fact that the Public Monitoring report pointed to more than one place and institution where there is an overlapping and struggle over authority resulting from the exaggeration in job descriptions, random appointment in the high and decision-making positions, an increase in power holding positions (a number of recommendations were presented concerning this phenomena), unfortunately these phenomenon and the problems they entail were not dealt with or targeted. So, the committee affirms the seriousness of the continuation of this

situation and its negative ramifications on the general performance of the ministries and the PA institutions from all their administrative, financial and legal aspects. The committee recommends of the council to request the executive authority to halt all appointments in high places until the approval of the organizational structure by the Ministerial Council and the application of the Civil Services Law which was approved by the Legislative Council in the second reading. This is in order to put an end to the chaos in the organizational structure and the random appointments and also to the phenomenon of appointing relatives of people in high positions to decision-making positions and to the obvious bias of many of the ministers and officials in the ministries and PA institutions in appointing their relatives and friends in these institutions. They, in turn, carry out the supervision and administration of these institutions which led to the cancellation of the principle of equal opportunities.

Third: The committee was not clear from studying the Public Monitoring report, if the Deputy General had any part in the investigation concerning any violations which were found in the report. This led to the absence of the principle of inquiry which resulted in the indifference of the people responsible to what the actions and report of the Public Monitoring Board. This nonchalance of the intended people was interpreted by taking reforming and deterrent measures. As a result of this, many recommendations were made to the committee in more than one place in the report to form an official investigation committee to be brought before the Deputy General, ensuring the insistence that the Deputy General does his part in inquiring and presenting the convicted persons before a court of law. Fourth: The Public Monitoring report points to the general principles which controls the Board's work, to the principle of non-intervention from the Public Monitoring Board in the affairs of the government, security and military apparatuses and its supervision and inspection. The committee affirms in this regard the necessity of the Board to carry out its duty in supervision and inspection of the government, security and military apparatuses and to ensure the soundness of their financial, legal and administrative performance, since their budget is part of the General Budget of the PNA. The Committee sees that there is a big defect in performance of the military and security apparatuses. That was clear through documents and financial reports which was provided for the committee regarding many applications between those apparatuses and many ministries, public associations as it appeared in report of Head of the General Control Committee. It recommended brother President Yasser Arafat to put an end for meddling by the security apparatuses in affairs unauthorized to in addition to illegal practices of some of their officials and individuals and to halt the situation of competition to enhance individual influence for their officials and the contest of authorities between them to bring offenders before trial.

In conclusion and as a result of what have mentioned, the Committee recommended your respected council to demand Head of PNA to dissolve the ministerial council and to form another new council of Technocrat and experts. Also, to assert the non return of any of the convicted ministers or those who did not perform well or might had shortcomings relating to their duties. Moreover, to fully authorize the new cabinet to conduct consecutive administrative and structural reformations and to follow up the implementation of what is appeared in this report of special and general recommendations. Also, to separate between meetings of the cabinet and the Palestinian leadership so that the cabinet will conduct its responsibilities and duties fallen on their shoulders in building the state of institutions, the rule of law and establishing the civil society. The Committee also confirmed that brother President Abu Amar should issue his instructions to immediately bring before court those who are convicted in order to restore bridges of confidence between the leadership and the people and to reinforce the internal front corresponding to national higher interest.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Budget and Financial Affairs Committee

1. *Sa'di Al-Karnaz*
2. *Yousef Abu Safieh*
3. *Azmi Al-Shuaybi*
4. *Fakhri Shaqoura*
5. *Hikmat Zeid*

General Control Committee

1. *Kamal Al-Shrafi*
2. *Hassan Khreisheh*
3. *Hatem Abdel Qader*
4. *Jamal Shati*

Report of the Economic Committee

Council Committee Examines Monopoly Problem Economic Committee meeting - June 20, 1997

Report of the Economic Committee of the Legislative Council, concerning the overall economic situation, the economic performance of the government and the issue of monopolies or monopolistic companies or companies enjoying special privileges. This report is the result of Council resolution no. 1/9/57.

The Economic Committee of the Legislative Council has received a number of complaints from the private sector regarding these companies and their monopolizing role.

The committee studied this issue, and contacts were made with the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the Ministry of Justice, since they are considered as providing the legal framework for the registration of any company. Upon the conclusion of the committee's investigation, it had become clear that there are a number of new companies which have been registered in Gaza and Ramallah. This type of company is constantly increasing in number. The Economic Committee examined the files of the following companies: the Palestinian National Company for Economic Development (limited corporation.); the Palestinian Company for Trade Services (an entity owned by the Palestinian National Authority); and the Petrol Board.

It is clear that there are a number of subsidiary companies belonging to the Palestinian Company for Trade Services; some of which exist only on paper, and some of which are actual companies. One example is the Burhan Company for construction materials and limited private corporate contractors, which works in the gravel trade. It should be noted that the Palestinian Company for Trade Services is the only company belonging to the PA. The other companies are registered under the names of specific individuals. After a close study of the files of these companies, the Economic Committee found that, according to their registration papers and license from the Ministry of Justice, the purposes for establishing these companies are many and varied. These companies take advantage of their power to

monopolize the import and trade of a number of important and essential products. They also exploit the power of certain individuals with decision-making power who are involved in the companies. The committee felt it necessary to meet with ministers responsible for devising the economic strategy for the Palestinian Authority. The committee met with the ministers of justice, finance, trade and economy, planning and international cooperation, agriculture, supply and industry. The committee also held interviews with a number of individuals concerned in this issue, including: Harbi Sarsour, Khalid Salaam, 'Ata Abu Kirsh, deputy minister of finance, Abu Osama Mohammed, deputy minister of finance. Hashim Abu al-Nada, who works in the president's office and who was also a director-general in the Ministry of Finance and head of the administrative council of al-Baher Company, refused to meet with the Economic Committee.

The committee found the following:

* **Petrol and fuel** The Petrol Board was formed by a decision from PA president Yasser Arafat. However, there is no law governing this board which specifies its structure, frame of reference and purpose or its administrative procedures and financial accountability. Harbi Sarsour, the head of the Petrol Board, stated that all of the Petrol Board's income goes to the Ministry of Finance. The Minister of Finance and his deputy both refuted this statement.

The Paris Economic Agreement between the PA and Israel gave the PA the right to lower the price of gasoline to 15 percent of its price in Israel, in acknowledgment of the wide gap between per capita income in Israel and per capita income in Palestine.

However, the current situation is the opposite: the price of gasoline in Palestine is higher than in Israel; this is true for other types of fuel as well which are important inputs for [certain] agricultural and industrial products. This has led to a weakening in local producers' ability to compete with neighboring countries. The committee also found that the Petrol Board is a partner in several new gas stations, with a percentage of ownership which may be 50 percent.

* **Cement** The Palestinian-Israeli economic agreement also gave the PA the right to import cement from anywhere it chooses. In addition, the taxes on cement, according to the same agreement, are supposed to be returned in full to the PA, providing that cement prices in the Palestinian market are approximate to their counterparts in the Israeli market, to avoid the possibility of re-export into Israel.

However, Khalid Salaam told the committee that he had been able to convince the Israeli side to import the cement at international prices, while the PA would collect

the taxes, so that the local price of cement would be comparable to the local Israeli price. Khalid Salaam clarified that the profits returned from cement imports are transferred to the PA's bank account, although the minister of finance and his deputy strongly refuted that there could be any revenue from importing cement. Khalid Salaam confirmed that the Palestinian Company for Trade Services had signed a contract with the Israeli Cement Company (Nesher) and that the profits from this contract go to the PA, but are distributed into three unequal shares: some goes to cover the administrative expenses of the company; some is invested in trade; and some is transferred to the PA treasury. When questioned, all the ministers, particularly the finance minister, denied having any connection to the Palestinian Company for Trade Services, whether through knowledge [of the company], monitoring [its activities], or [sharing in the] profits. The committee also found that the Palestinian Company for Trade Services had signed a new contract with Jordan for importing cement. It was apparent that the company reached the agreement after all other local companies had failed in their attempts to import cement from Jordan, due to the obstacles they encountered at the Palestinian-Jordanian crossing.

The economic performance of PA ministries and institutions Due to the failure to develop and ratify laws governing the financial and economic role of ministries and concerned parties, certain people with influence were provided the opportunity to monopolize [certain sectors] and obtain special privileges. Also, the economic strategy as presented by the PA in its ministerial leaflet has not been translated into reality, but has remained a creation for the media. Despite the formulation of a governmental framework which includes an economic policy plan, PA economy strategy remained marginal and passive.

Also, the absence of any overall supervision of the economy gave certain ministers the opportunity to call their own personal shots, according to his own understanding, and only sometimes according to the requirements of the situation. The result is that each minister neglected the plan he was supposed to be working with from 1996 to the present. In addition, no evaluation of the economic situation was conducted, either within the framework of the ministerial council or independently within each ministry. All ministries suffered from administrative and financial confusion which stemmed from irregular financing methods, and budgets from the ministry of finance which were mostly spent on running costs. Most ministries suffered from duplicate internal leadership, due to the absence of a compulsory central plan, for all its employees. The most dangerous aspect of this phenomenon was the geographical division between the West Bank and Gaza, which provided the opportunity for the formation of [competing] positions of

power in each ministry. Also, the lack of a general budget for the state and a specific economic plan and program [were problematic].

Companies which are monopolistic and enjoy special privileges The committee found that there exist two types of monopoly. The first is open and official, but is not based on any legal framework. The second is unofficial and discreet and is not under any supervision. The committee also found that many PA employees have private businesses and that they take advantage of their position in order to achieve certain [personal business] objectives. The security apparatus intervenes in economic and trade matters without any legal framework to justify such intervention. In addition, the PA is represented by presidential advisors who were involved in the establishment of these companies in the absence of any governing legal framework. These companies, in the hands of the influential people supporting them, manipulate the Palestinian economic agreements for their own personal benefit, thus depriving the private sector of the economic and trade opportunities which these agreements are supposed to provide. The committee also found that certain officials responsible for registering and licensing companies and agencies were granting import/export licenses and monopolizing privileges and funding favors, which [allows] some businesses to be conducted in an illegal fashion. This creates discrimination between companies, which contradicts work ethics and the principles of fairness and equal opportunity. The Economic Committee recommends to the Legislative Council the necessity of correcting the legal framework of companies which were established with public funds, and with which PA officials and employees have been involved, by one of the following methods:

- * by turning them into public corporations in which both the private and public sector can be involved, and which are licensed according to a law which governs the establishment, operation and monitoring;
- * or by transforming them legally from private corporations to legally established public institutions. The committee also recommends the necessity to expedite the cancellation of illegal privileges granted to those private companies which were given monopolizing privileges without a legal framework governing their activities. There is also a need to:
 - * issue laws and legislation which will regulate the formation, operations and monitoring of companies which are granted special authority in the production of certain products, trade or other services, and to closely monitor the PA's purchases from abroad;
 - * to regulate the purchasing process according to law;
 - * to commit to the conditions of tendering bids for all foreign products imported by

the PA for the benefit of the different ministries;

* to specify that the responsibilities at border crossings are under the ministry of trade and economy and customs tax specialists;

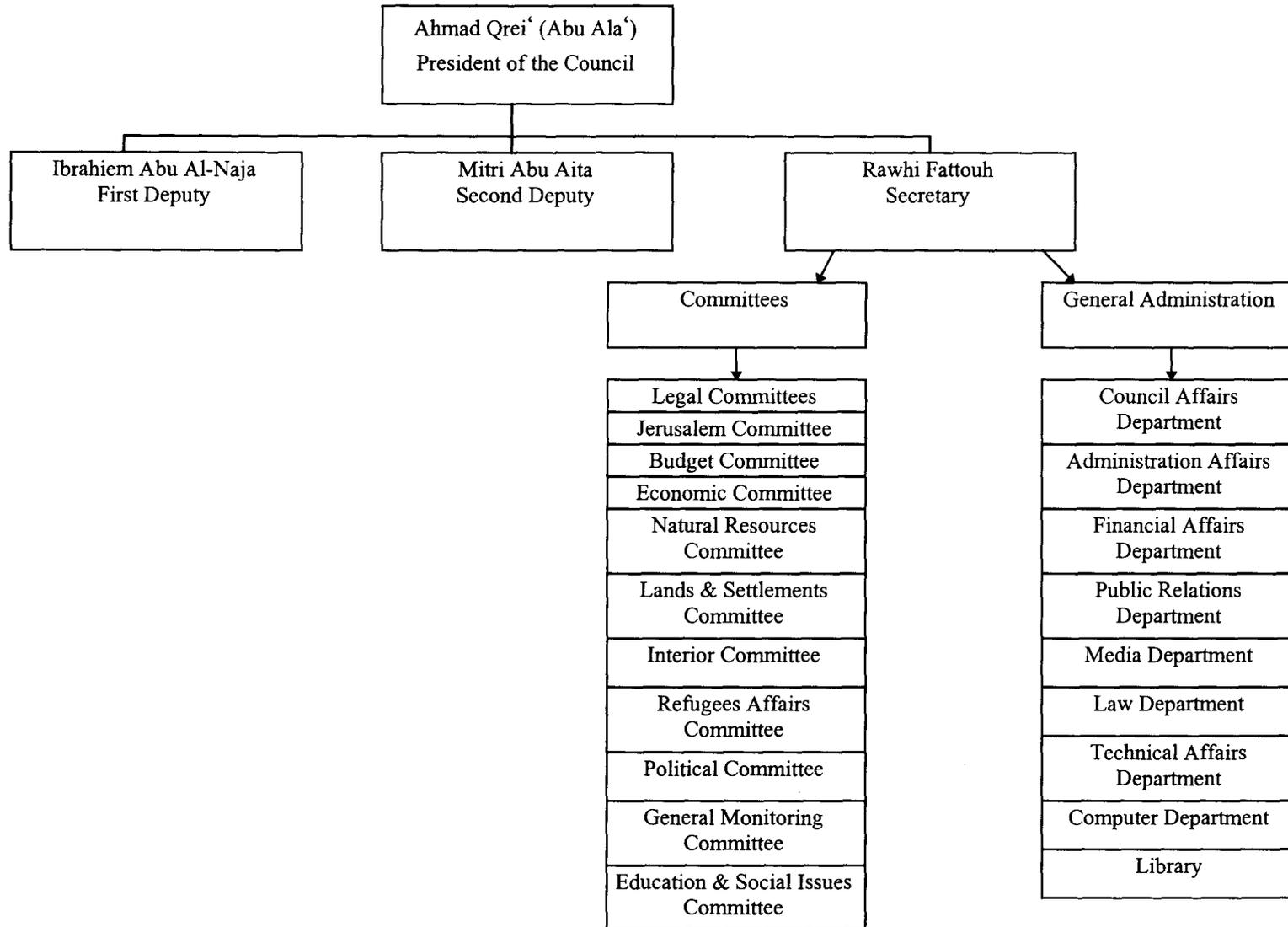
* to define the duties of the security apparatus at border crossings which prevents them from intervening in the import/export process;

* to work toward ending the practice of government employees holding two positions at the same time in both public institutions and private companies, and to formulate a regulatory framework which will preserve the dignity and respect of public sector employees;

* to eliminate instances of violation and illegal profit and exploitation of power;

* to form a fact-finding committee regarding every official in the PA and those who hold shares in trading companies, both in the country and abroad.

Organizational Structure of the Council's Presidency



Abdul Qader, As'ad

Name: *As'ad Abdul Qader "Salah Ta'mari"*
Constituency: *Bethlehem*
Age: *54*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in English Literature*
Residence: *Z'atra*
Address: *POB 611 - Shahin Wadd - Bethlehem*

Telephone: *(050) 401767 – 202947 - 647036/7/8/9*
Fax: *747019 - 743503/2*
Profession: *Political Activist*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *17774*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

Other Positions:

LC Land & Settlements Committee Chair; Education & Social affairs Committee member; One of PLO founders

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Abdul Rahim, Tayeb

Name: *Tayeb Abdul Rahim*
Constituency: *Tulkarem*
Age: *54*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA Commerce and Military College*
Residence: *Anabta - Tulkarem*
Telephone: *(07) 824171 - (07) 824671/2*
Fax: *(07) 824604*
Profession: *Previous Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *10363*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fatah*
Other Positions: *General Secretary of the President and a Member in the Central Committee of Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Abdul Raziq, Hisham

Name: Hisham Ali Hassan Abdul Raziq
Constituency: North Gaza
Age: 44
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Tawjihi (Secondary Matriculation Exam)
 Two Years University/Geography
Residence: Jabalya - Tal Z'ater- Murtaja Project
Address: Jabalya- North constituency LC office
Telephone: 07-823055 - 07-857911 (050) 369732
Fax: 07-821083 - 07-857337
Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee
Number of Votes: 10682
Rank in Constituency: Third
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: Member of the Higher Committee
 in Fateh-Gaza

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Conciliation between political forces and authority (achievement of ONE goal and ONE manner, to develop and improve political, economic and social situation).
2. Establishing laws and conventions for domestic situation (social justice, rule of law, good administration).
3. Establish ministry of Prisoners, Martyrs, and Wounded (full rights through official body to fulfill this task)
4. Improve economy and investment law (to gradually ease unemployment and improve living conditions).
5. Final status negotiations (achieve at an independent Palestinian state).

Abdul Shafi, Haidar

Name: Haidar Abdul Shafi
Constituency: Gaza
Age: 77
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Ph.D. in Medicine

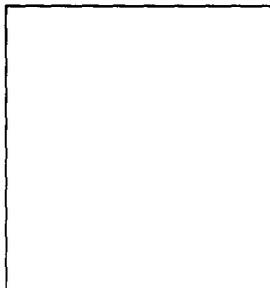
Residence: Gaza - Rimal
Address: POB 32, Al-Shuhada' Street - Gaza
Telephone: (07)823700 - (07)824429
Fax: (07)860019
Profession: Physician
Refugee/Non refugee: Non refugee
Number of Votes: 58229
Rank in Constituency: First
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Independent

Other Positions: Head of Red Crescent Society;
 Chairman of Maqased Islamic Charitable Society;
 Head of Palestinian delegation to the peace
 conference in Madrid and negotiations in
 Washington.

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. National issue (work towards achieving the rights of Palestinians to self-determination, an independent Palestinian state, rights of refugees).
2. Democracy (affirm and activate democratic principles and democratic values; rule of law, human rights, freedom of expression and of press to direct the authorities' performance in order to be benefit from the available resources).
3. Encourage cooperative and non-governmental activities in general (to establish civil society and develop social conscience).
4. Care for the needs of childhood (provide all needs for child education and preparation, strengthen social sense and affiliation to society).
5. Women (care for women's health, socially and educationally, their right to be equal to men, acknowledging their right as mothers to determine their priorities and obligations).

Resigned from the PLC on September 1997

Abed Raboo, Mufid

Name: *Mufid Yousef Abed Rabbo*
Constituency: *Tulkarem*
Age: *41*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *MA in General Administration*
Residence: *Tulkarem*
Telephone: *(050)318289 - 09-673857*

Profession: *General Director of the Ministry of Youth*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*

Number of Votes: *8422*

Rank in Constituency: *Second*

Returnee / Resident: *Resident until 1983*

Political Affiliation: *Fatah*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Develop tax systems (to end the taxation system which was exercised by the occupation, to create incentives towards the activation of commerce.)*
2. *Control and monitoring of authority FIRST (institutionalization of authority and control security apparatus, unite it in central authority under rule of law and preservation of national guarantees).*
3. *Reaching justice between ourselves foremost to control the developmental plan in the borders of public monitoring (halt corruption, favoritism, and opportunism)*
4. *Emphasis on areas of tension at borders and agricultural (remote) areas (for political and social safety and opportunities).*
5. *Guarantee women's rights (through central legislation, based on religion and tradition, release prisoners).*

Abu 'Aita, Mitri

Name: *Mitri Tanas Jirius Abu 'Aita*
Constituency: *Bethlehem*
Age: *56*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Christian*
Education: *BA in Law*
Residence: *Beit Jala - Al-Sahil Street*
Address: *POB 96 Bethlehem*

Telephone: *741641 - (050) 510047 - 744542/3*

Fax: *744544 - 743503/2*

Profession: *Lawyer, Head of Lawyers Union*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*

Number of Votes: *5617*

Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*

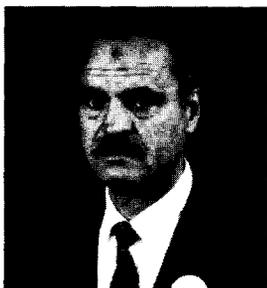
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*

Political Affiliation: *Independent*

Other Positions: *Second Deputy for the Council's President*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

(The agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Abu 'Oun, Abed Rabbo

Name: *Abed Rabbo Hussein Abu 'Oun*
Constituency: *Rafah*
Age: *51*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Geography*
Residence: *Rafah - Yabna Refugee Camp*
Address: *Gaza-Rafah- Military Block No. 55*
Telephone: *07-836910 / 836911 / 837150*
Fax: *07-836912*
Profession: *UNRWA School teacher between 1966-1996*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *18219*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *To achieve a better living conditions through establishing factories and job opportunities.*
2. *Improve the educational condition in all its stages and provide educational and learning methods.*
3. *To work at finding a law which will regulate behavior, living affairs and PA apparatuses and fight negative factors in the society .*
4. *To provide an appropriate health environment for all and to provide health facilities such as buildings, medicine, specialized physicians and sewage systems.*
5. *To provide sufficient food and to fight poverty in order to ensure the stability of safety and security for all and to ensure the principles of democracy in work in the society*

Abu al-Naja, Ibrahiem

Name: *Ibrahiem Musa Abu Al-Naja*
Constituency: *Khan Younis*
Age: *65*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Arabic Language*
Residence: *Khan Younis*
Address: *Legislative Council - Gaza*
Telephone: *07-824154 - 07-825999 - (050) 546382*
Fax: *07-824154*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*

Number of Votes: *13625*
Rank in Constituency: *Fifth*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *Brigadier General in the National Security.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Spread democracy and insure security of all the individuals in society and the separation between the authorities.*
2. *Provide personal security for all.*
3. *Women (give women their rights in education consistent with our religion anethics. Right to participate in all spheres provided.*
4. *Freedom (the special status and protection of press and freedom of expression.)*
5. *Health insurance is a right for every individual in this society and everybody shall have equal employment opportunity.*

Abu al-Reish, Ali

Name: *Ali Mohammed Hussein Ehmeidat Abu Al-Reish*

Constituency: *Hebron*

Age: *37*

Marital Status: *Married*

Religion: *Muslim*

Education: *BA in Medicine*

Residence: *Hebron - Soureif*

Telephone: *9920694 - (050) 233926*

Fax:

Profession: *Physician*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*

Number of Votes: *12087*

Rank in Constituency: *Eighth*

Returnee / Resident: *Resident*

Political Affiliation: *Fateh Independent*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Health program for primary health care, upgrade health institutions, hospitals, fight administrative corruption, attract qualified professionals, establish comprehensive health insurance).*
2. *Public freedoms (guarantee freedom of expression in an atmosphere of pluralism)*
3. *Economy (work towards building national economy, decrease dependence on Israeli economy and fight real and hidden unemployment, encourage investment).*
4. *Institutions (build institutions on solid basis, fight favoritism and use qualification as requirements for employment)*
5. *National unity (strengthen national unity, resist Israeli declared and undeclared goals that lead Palestinians to civil war).*

Abu Amr, Ziyad

Name: *Ziyad Mahmoud Abu Amr*

Constituency: *Gaza City*

Age: *46*

Marital Status: *Divorced*

Religion: *Muslim*

Education: *Ph.D. in Political Science*

Residence: *Gaza - Al-Shaja'ieh - Minttar Street*

Telephone: *07-824356 (050) 308457*

Fax: *9951802*

Profession: *University Professor*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*

Number of Votes: *31740*

Rank in Constituency: *Sixth*

Returnee / Resident: *Resident*

Political Affiliation: *Independent*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Identify the jurisdiction of the elected council; separation of authorities (achieve the transfer to a democratic political system in Palestine).*
2. *Negotiations (correct the negotiation strategies - what's left of transitional period and with regard to final status talks - not to compromise Palestinian national rights, complete sovereignty, Jerusalem as the capital, dismantling of all settlements, the right of return).*
3. *National integration (achieve unity between the inside and the outside and different Palestinian areas in political, economic, social, cultural and psychological spheres).*
4. *Human rights (respect principles of human rights).*
5. *Women (achieve equality between men and women in political, economic, legal, social and cultural spheres).*

Abu Medein, Frieh

Name: *Frieh Abu Medein*
Constituency: *Deir Al-Balah*
Age: *52*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in law*
Residence: *Gaza - Rimal*
Telephone: *07-822231/823460/866234 (050)314142*
Fax: *07-820265*
Profession: *Lawyer*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *12168*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *Minister of Justice (resigned)*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Abu Qebeta, Zahran

Name: *Zahran Khalil Abu Qebeta*
Constituency: *Hebron*
Age: *50*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Tawjihi*
Residence: *Yatta - Sha 'abeen neighbourhood*
Address: *Hebron - Yatta*

Telephone: *9926767 - (050) 533979*
Fax: *9926421 - 9926766*
Profession: *Journalist*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *15841*
Rank in Constituency: *Seventh*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh Independent*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Democracy (strengthen democracy in our society, respect for opinion will prevail, allow political pluralism).*
2. *Equality between men and women (women's economic rights, participation in all spheres of life, no marginalization of women).*
3. *Detainees (liberate prisoners to enable peaceful life).*
4. *Job opportunities (provide work guarantees for all, particularly disabled, prisoners, integrate them in government posts).*
5. *Institutionalization (enable government, solve its problems, learn from private institutions and NGOs).*

Abu Sabha, Musa

Name: *Musa Yassin Abu Sabha*
Constituency: *Hebron*
Age: *44*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Mathematics*
Residence: *Hebron - Yatta*
Address: *Graduates Union - Hebron*

Telephone: *992-8550 /6767/ 0597 (050)356815*
Fax: *9926766 - 9920261*
Profession: *School teacher*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *25316*
Rank in Constituency: *Second*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *Member of Fateh Higher Committee, Leader in Preventive Security.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

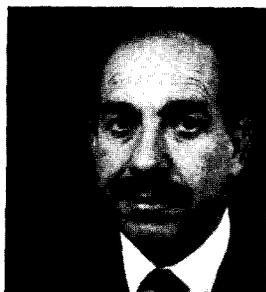
1. *Hebron - liberate city from settlers and presence of soldiers.*
2. *Liberate all prisoners without exception.*
3. *Liberate public freedom from restrictions.*
4. *To work for the establishment of various economic institutions according to rules and regulations which ensure this establishment.*
5. *To work towards building various institutions in the state.*

Abu Safieh, Yousef

Name: *Yousef Atallah Ibrahim Abu Safieh*
Constituency: *North Gaza*
Age: *47*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Ph.D. in Environmental Science*
Residence: *Beit Lahia Project*
Telephone: *07-857337 - 07-857744 - (050) 467544*
Fax: *07-857337*
Profession: *Assistant professor in environmental science*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *12346*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Environment (enact laws and regulations to protect future resources).*
2. *Water (preserve and develop water sector as a major component for economy public and improve the health conditions of the populace).*
3. *Financial and administrative issue (improve administrative and financial performance to insure maximum level of productivity).*
4. *Education (direct education in a manner consistent with development strategies in Palestine).*
5. *Economy (import and export: insure freedom of import and export, encourage investors and producers especially in the field of industry and agriculture).*

Abu Snieneh, Sulieman

Name: *Sulieman Abu Snieneh*
Constituency: *Hebron*
Age: *52*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Law*
Residence: *Hebron*
Address: *Abu Snieneh neighborhood*

Telephone: *992-6398 /8550 /0597(050) 537729*
Fax: *9926766 - 9928550*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *12034*
Rank in Constituency: *Ninth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Legislation (guarantee rights and freedoms).*
2. *Settlers inside Hebron (Security for Palestinians and prevent conflicts, protect peace process).*
3. *Independent economy.*
4. *Regional relations (strengthen in order to improve peace process, improve the environment for next generations).*
5. *International relations (equality and justice, preservation of a balance in the international community).*

Abu Zayad, Ziyad

Name: *Ziyad Abu Zayad*
Constituency: *Jerusalem*
Age: *57*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Law from Damascus University*
Residence: *Jerusalem - 'Ezariéh*
Telephone: *6282159-(050)248089-6282115- 749748*
Fax: *6273388*
Profession: *Lawyer / Journalist*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *8434*
Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Guidance of governmental institutions (end wasda corruption, right person in right place).*
2. *Zoning schemes of villages (expansion prevention of destruction of houses outside zones).*
3. *Village infrastructure development.*
4. *Rule of law.*
5. *Subsidies for farmers.*

Afaghani, Kamal

Name: *Kamel Afaghani*
Constituency: *Nablus*
Age: *51*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Tawjihi*
Residence: *Nablus - Balata Refugee Camp*
Telephone: *09-380756 - 09-380051 - (050) 815067*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*

Number of Votes: *17425*
Rank in Constituency: *Seventh*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Ahmad, Azzam

Name: *Azzam Najeeb Al-Ahmad*
Constituency: *Jenin*
Age: *48*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Administration and Economics*
Residence: *Jenin*
Address: *Zahra'a neighborhood*
Telephone: *9987888 - 06-503610 - (050) 356422*
Fax: *9987890*

Profession: *Former PA Ambassador in Iraq*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *14166*
Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

Other Positions: *PA Minister of Public Works*
The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Settlements (Removal of settlements and bypass roads since they constitute a major obstacle to the peace process and to the establishment of a Palestinian state).*
2. *Prepare and ratify a constitution for the Authority (write and ratify a constitution for the interim period, build the Authority's institutions on correct legal bases in order to establish a modern democratic society).*
3. *Basic Human Rights (ratify the special laws and regulations pertaining to personal & political rights on the bases of pluralism, respect human rights, freedom of the press & freedom for expression).*
4. *Development and construction (for the purpose of bypassing the destruction carried out during the occupation, to reconstruct what has been demolished and to implement development plans which develop job opportunities, raise the standard of living and provide a minimum level of basic needs).*
5. *To strengthen our national culture on the bases of our history and traditions, unify the educational curriculum of both the WB & the Gaza Strip, and develop modern national educational curriculum.*

Amr. Nabil

Name: *Nabil Amr*
Constituency: *Hebron*
Age: *50*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Media and Radio Broadcast*
Residence: *Hebron - Doura*
Telephone: *9986480-07-824471 (050) 521210 / 306564*
Fax: *9986220 - 9926766*
Profession: *Chief Editor, Al Hayat Al-Jadidah*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *23269*
Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *Fateh Revolutionary Council Member*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

'Asfour, Hasan

Name: *Hasan Mohammed 'Asfour*
Constituency: *Khan Younis*
Age: *48*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Agricultural Engineering*
Residence: *Gaza - Rimal*
Address: *Tal Hawa-Gaza, Burj El-Thafer, Apart. 58*

Telephone: *07-821578/823657/825552 (050)347226*
Fax: *07-851134 - 07-823487*
Profession: *Coordinator of Negotiation Affairs*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *12761*
Rank in Constituency: *Sixth*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Independent*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

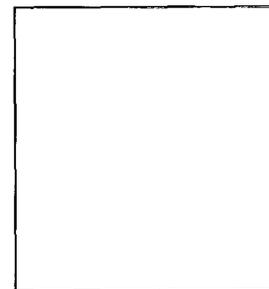
1. *Continue with the process of national independence and implementation of the agreement with Israel.*
2. *Human rights, democracy and women's rights.*
3. *Social and economic development.*
4. *Development of the cultural dimensions of the Palestinian people and society.*
5. *Youth development.*

Ashrawi, Hanan

Name: Hanan Mikhail Ashrawi
Constituency: Jerusalem
Age: 50
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Christian
Education: Ph.D. in English Literature
Residence: Ramallah - Jerusalem
Address: Radio Street, No. 62 - Ramallah - Jerusalem, Old City - 5 Ararat Street
Telephone: 9954490/ 7928 -050-539559 - 9982603
Fax: 6260228 - 9954518
Profession: University Professor
Refugee/Non refugee: Non refugee
Number of Votes: 17944
Rank in Constituency: Second
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Independent
Other Positions: PA Higher Education Minister

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Rule of law (amend legal conditions to insure the justice of these laws and protect civil society, legislate a basic law, review the bills that were "enacted" up to now, judicial system, protection of rights and basic freedom of citizen and activate the role of women and their rights).
2. Activate negotiations (continue with transitional phase, finalize it, form a committee from the council to follow up negotiations, high committee to utilize experts to work within a specified political agenda - settlements, lift siege of Jerusalem, support institutions in Jerusalem, prisoners, border crossings).
3. Ombudsman (supervisory control, citizens rights/women commission - accountability, individuals' rights, against misuse of authority and public funds).
4. Public institutions (review & monitor, prevent misuse of security apparatus, budget & set priorities expenditures - institution building & establishment of systems based on professionalism & transparency).
5. Economic & international planning committee (plan well structured economy, find job opportunities and employment, activate private sector, program of social justice - Arab, regional and international levels).

Bal'awi, Hakam

Name: Hakam Bal'awi
Constituency: Tulkarem
Age: 61
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Tawjihi
Residence: Tulkarem - Bal'a
Telephone: (050) 317132
Fax: 07-824276
Profession: Former PLO Ambassador to Tunis

Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee
Number of Votes: 8421
Rank in Constituency: Third
Returnee / Resident: Returnee
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: Fateh Central Committee Member

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

(The agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Bargouthi, Marwan

Name: Marwan Haseeb Bargouthi
Constituency: Ramallah
Age: 37
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: MA
Residence: Ramallah - Industrial Zone
Address: Ramallah - Industrial Zone
Telephone: 9985888 – 9954949 /4950 (050)342998
Fax: 9985729
Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee
Number of Votes: 12716
Rank in Constituency: Sixth
Returnee / Resident: Returnee (deported in 1987, returned in 1994, prisoner for six years)
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: Member of revolutionary council in Fateh, secretary of higher committee of Fateh in the West Bank

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Releasing prisoners and detainees.
2. Constitution or basic law for the Palestinian authority (establish state of institutions, law and order, guarantee freedom of press, political pluralism, human rights and democracy).
3. Unemployment (open labor market in Israel on large scale, find alternative job opportunities, concentrate on light industry, local products and agricultural sector).
4. Rural development (establish infrastructure for Palestinian rural areas).
5. Women's education (upgrade it, especially in rural areas, priorities of school buildings to girls' schools, enable women to participate in production process).

Batsh, Ahmad

Name: Ahmad Husnie Khalil Al-Batsh
Constituency: Jerusalem
Age: 50
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Tawjihi
Residence: Jerusalem - Old City
Address: House No. 4 - Jerusalem Old City
Telephone: (050) 452242 - 6284647 - 5749561
Fax: 5747452/1
Profession: Orient House Staff member
Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee
Number of Votes: 9846
Rank in Constituency: Third
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Democracy and human rights.
2. Activate Legislative council (make Council active and responsible and not marginal).
3. Popular residential projects (solve high prices of renting and housing).
4. Palestinian delegation (have teams and consultants for Palestinian negotiators so that negotiations will agree with the aspirations and hopes of the people).
5. Economy (improve the economic situation, encourage investment in agriculture and politics, create good environment for investors, reinstate relations with Arab Countries - Markets for workers and products).

D'ass, Mahmoud

Name: *Mahmoud Ahmad Mahmoud D'ass*
Constituency: *Qalqilya*
Age: *64*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA*
Residence: *Qalqilya - Hajjeh*
Telephone: *(050) 556989 / 228275 - 09-943044*
Fax: *09-943044*
Profession: *Major-General in the National Liberation Army; Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *5934*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *Fateh Revolutionary Council Member*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Daraghmeh, Hashim

Name: *Hashim Sulieman Al-Saleh Daraghmeh*
Constituency: *Toubas*
Age: *57*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Law*
Residence: *Nablus*
Address: *P.O.Box 460 - Ramallah*
Telephone: *09-376887 - (050) 370401*

Profession: *Lawyer*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *2132*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Independent*

Other Positions: *Mayor of Toubas (1972 - 1996)*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Converting Toubas area to a developing zone (A).*
2. *Liberating all the Palestinian National soil.*
3. *Opening the agricultural closed territories in the Jordan valley and other places.*
4. *The establishment of Palestinian State after the end of interim and final status negotiations in 1999 (state which enjoys peace, generosity, development and national unity.)*
5. *The rule of law, balance relationship and mutual respect between the members of the Legislative Council and the Ministerial Council.*

Dawood. Bishara

Name: *Bishara Saliba Dawood*
Constituency: *Bethlehem*
Age: *62*
Marital Status: *Single*
Religion: *Christian*
Education: *Diploma & Workshops*
Residence: *Beith Jala*
Address: *POB 571 - Bethlehem*
Telephone: *742966 - 742242 - (050) 381090*
Fax: *744546 - 743503/2*
Profession: *Businessman*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *6161*
Rank in Constituency: *Third*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Independent*

Other Positions: *LC Jerusalem Committee; Economic Committee; Refugee Affairs & Palestinians Abroad Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Al-Deik. Ahmad

Name: *Ahmad Fawzi Al-Deik*
Constituency: *Salfit*
Age: *36*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Ph.D. in Sociology*
Residence: *Kfur Al-Deik*
Address: *POB 460 - Ramallah*
Telephone: *09-395668/9 - 9954080 - (050) 516135*
Fax: *09-395668*
Profession: *Palestinian Diplomat*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *6624*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh, Member of Fateh Higher Committee*
Other Positions: *LC Political Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Eid. Fu'ad

Name: Fu'ad 'Eid
Constituency: North Gaza
Age: 57
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: B.A in Arabic LANGUAGE
Residence: Jabalia Al-Balad
Telephone: 07-857337 - 07-856624
Fax: 07-857337
Profession: College Lecturer / Mosque Imam (preacher)
Refugee/Non refugee: Non refugee
Number of Votes: 12057
Rank in Constituency: Second
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh Independent
Other Positions: LC Jerusalem Committee Member

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Fulfill honestly all my duties as a member of the elected Legislative Council in representing our Palestinian people in all political or developmental issues recommended by the Council.
2. Infrastructure of Salfit (Electricity, water, hospital, medicine and educational institutions etc...).
3. Participate in building civil society on the bases of law, democracy, and human rights.
4. End the unemployment problem, promote equal opportunities for women's development.
5. Give priority in development programs to the poor, prisoners, wounded, and to families of martyrs.

Eid. Hatem

Name: Hatem Abdul Qader Eid
Constituency: Jerusalem
Age: 40
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA in Journalism
Residence: Jerusalem - Shu'fat Refugee Camp
Telephone: 58676295 - 5747450
Fax: 5747452/1
Profession: Journalist - Orient House Spokesperson

Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee
Number of Votes: 8307
Rank in Constituency: Fifth
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: LC Jerusalem Committee, Land and Settlements Committee and Political Committee.

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Human rights (guarantee the recognition of human rights, freedom of opinion, expression and thought).
2. Preventing corruption and favoritism (guarantee equal opportunities and put end to administrative corruption).
3. Separate judiciary and executive branches (promulgate laws which determine functions of security apparatus and also set control mechanisms on the relationship of security apparatus and the judicial system as well as with the public).
4. Jerusalem (strengthen Palestinian presence in Jerusalem and translate slogan of Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital to reality).
5. Workers rights (promulgate laws to upgrade working conditions and guarantee minimum wage appropriate with cost of living).

Erekat, Sa'eb

Name: Sa'eb Mohammed Saleh Erekat
Constituency: Jericho
Age: 43
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Ph.D. in International Relations
Residence: Jericho - El-Khedawi Street
Address: P.O.Box 98 - Jericho

Telephone: 9922304 /2619 /1261 (050)386491
Fax: 9921240
Profession: College Lecturer
Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee
Number of Votes: 6291
Rank in Constituency: First
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: PA Local Governance Minister

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Ershied, Ahmad

Name: Ahmad Sulieman Irsmea
Constituency: Jenin
Age: 60
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA
Residence: Jenin - East neighbourhood
Address: Jenin - East neighbourhood - Maddariss Street
Telephone: 06- 502060 - 06-505606 - 06-437161/2
Fax: 06-437163
Profession: Head of Social Society
Refugee/Non refugee: Non refugee
Number of Votes: 13384
Rank in Constituency: Fifth
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Separation of the 3 powers: Execution, Legislation and the law in order that every side work independently without interfering from any side to achieve impartiality and reinforce the responsibilities.
2. Guarantee the Human freedom and dignity where the social development develop under atmosphere of law and dignity.
3. Economic development: light manufacturing, rural manufacturing as an important field of our national economic.
4. Towards the Arab world, political and economic where one of our main goals to integrate with the Arab Economic.
5. Improve the Educational Sector, develop and educational curriculum, provide qualified school teachers and to develop a High Education Studies at the Universities.

Falouji, Imad

Name: *Imad Falouji*
Constituency: *North Gaza*
Age: *33*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Civil Engineering*
Residence: *Jabalia Refugee Camp*
Telephone: *07-825612/856235/829027 (050)433943*
Fax: *07-824553 - 07-822222*
Profession: *Editor-in-Chief, Al-Watan*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *8431*
Rank in Constituency: *Seventh*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Close to Hamas*
Other Positions: *PA Minister of Telecommunications and Post*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

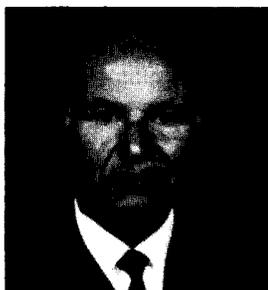
1. *Democracy (freedom of opinion).*
2. *Making laws (for stability).*
3. *Internal Palestinian dialogue (national unity and dialogue).*
4. *Institution-building.*
5. *Accountability and control of PA*

Fatouh, Rawhi

Name: *Rawhi Fatouh*
Constituency: *Rafah*
Age: *45*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA*
Residence: *Rafah - Al-Shaboura*
Telephone: *07-823953/822576/836828 (050)566319*
Fax: *07-822576 - 07-824184*
Profession: *Head of Popular Organizations*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *11524*
Rank in Constituency: *Third*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Democracy and individual rights (work for the sovereignty of democratic life, individual rights and opinions, all within the framework of the law).*
2. *Women's rights (guarantee women's rights, freedom and active participation in society).*
3. *Corruption (fight administrative corruption and provide equal opportunities).*
4. *Youth and childhood (strengthen the role and importance of youth and children and allocate centers to prepare them for the difficult responsibilities before them).*
5. *Culture (care for culture and arts).*

Ghashash, Outhman

Name: *Outhman Husien Ali Ghashash*
Constituency: *Qalqilya*
Age: *57*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in History*
Residence: *Qalqilya*
Address: *POB 25 - Qalqilya*
Telephone: *09-943044 - 09-942423 -(050) 452685*
Fax: *09-943045*
Profession: *Physician / College Lecturer*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *5420*
Rank in Constituency: *Second*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Independent*
Other Positions: *LC Land & Settlements Committee; Education & Social Affairs Committee.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Habbash, Ibrahiem

Name: *Ibrahiem Isma'iel Al-Habbash*
Constituency: *Deir Al-Balah*
Age: *45*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Pharmacology and chemistry*
Residence: *Deir Al-Balah Refugee Camp*
Address: *Deir Al-Balah Refugee Camp - Gaza*
Telephone: *07-830319 - 07-831321*
Fax: *07-830775 - 07-832166*
Profession: *Pharmacist*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *8026*
Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Independent*
Other Positions: *LC Environment and Energy Committee, Health and Social Affairs Committee.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

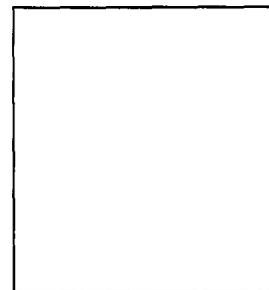
1. *Consolidate parliamentary life through the Legislative Council.*
2. *To form national programs to link the West Bank and the Gaza Strip politically, socially and economically.*
3. *Encourage high-rise housing construction to conserve Palestinian land.*
4. *Support agricultural projects and the Palestinian farmer; prevent any destruction of land.*
5. *To form a national program to protect the environment, particularly modern sewage projects where waste water is used for irrigations.*

Hamad, Abdul Rahman

Name: *Abdul Rahman Hamad*
Constituency: *North Gaza*
Age: *53*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Ph.D. in Engineering Science*
Residence: *Beith Hanoun*
Telephone: *(07) 824849 /824086 (050) 571051*
Fax: *(07) 824849*
Profession: *Professor*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *10510*
Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *Ex-Head of the Khan Younis Science & Technology Faculty board of trustees, Housing Minister, Head of the Energy Authority.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Improvement the standard of living and it should be an independent economy.*
2. *Independent Energy to establish a national economy.*
3. *Law making to organize the inter-institutional relations, council - PA-NGO and the Ministries).*
4. *International relations.*
5. *Establish Palestinian Society without corruption.*

Hamayel, Abdul Fatah

Name: *Abdul Fatah Hamayel*
Constituency: *Ramallah*
Age: *47*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Tawjihi*
Residence: *Ramallah - Kufur Malik*
Telephone: *9956492*
Fax: *9987628*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *15412*
Rank in Constituency: *Third*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Hamayel, Abdul Jawad

Name: Abdul Jawad Saleh Atta Hamayel
Constituency: Ramallah
Age: 66
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA in Political Economic
Residence: El-Bireh
Telephone: 9986502 - 9952898
Fax: 9987422 - 9955450
Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee

Number of Votes: 29445
Rank in Constituency: First
Returnee / Resident: Returnee
Political Affiliation: Independent
Other Positions: Minister of Agriculture, ex-elected Mayor of Al-Bireh Municipality, Member of Birzeit University board of trustees, Member of Sponsoring Committee at Al-Quds Opening University, Member of Arab Orphan Committee.

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. To establish a homeland within the framework of a democratic state, to preserve human rights and dignity approval, and rule of law.
2. At the same time struggling in order to get rid of the occupation and consequences.
3. Work to fulfill the National Unity and Palestinian Society Unity.
4. Establishing institutions.
5. Resist the corruption and create atmosphere to turn the Palestinian homeland into attraction area for all the Palestinian People including to achieve the right of return.

Hanania, Ghazi

Name: Ghazi Hanania
Constituency: Ramallah
Age: 52
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Christian
Education: M.A. in Dental Surgery
Residence: Ramallah - Tireh Street
Address: POB 1377 - Ramallah

Telephone: 9957222-9957060-9954110 (050)394280
Fax: 9957062
Profession: Dentist
Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee
Number of Votes: 10238
Rank in Constituency: Seventh
Returnee / Resident: Resident

Political Affiliation: Fateh**The Five Priorities of the Council Member:**

1. Citizen's Rights (guarantee rights and safety of the individual, freedom of press, end favoritism, fight corruption and wasda).
2. Independent judiciary (rule of law, institutionalization, effective judicial control over authority, guarantee immunity of judges, appointment of higher judicial council).
3. Uniform law (cancel Ottoman and Mandate laws, guarantee implementation of one adopted code of law).
4. Investment encouragement (modernize, encourage investment law to increase GDP, reduce unemployment, reliance of labor force on Israel).
5. Health system (raise standards, health insurance for all for minimum fees).

Hijazi, Mohammad

Name: *Mohammed Hijazi*
Constituency: *Rafah*
Age: *49*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Diploma in German Language, Psychology Studies, 4 years studying Medicine.*
Residence: *Rafah*
Telephone: *07-836910/836911/836836 (050)566319*
Fax: *07-836912*
Profession: *PA Official*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *11584*
Rank in Constituency: *Second*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Legislate and support the law, continuous observation to impose the justice and equality between all the citizens, and protect the citizens by law.*
2. *Encourage investment and create new job opportunities for workers & craftsmen, try to find new markets to export agricultural produce.*
3. *Health and environment and solve the problem of health insurance in general.*
4. *Social aspects (take care of mothers, children, rehabilitate prisoners, handicapped and children of martyrs).*
5. *Education (encourage education, develop schools and higher education, care for the distinguished students through grants and fellowships).*

Hindi, Jamal

Name: *Jamal Younis Hindi*
Constituency: *Jenin*
Age: *38*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA*

Residence: *Jenin*
Telephone: *06-437161/2 - 06-436536 - 06-436777*
Fax: *06-437163*
Profession: *Former Head of Najah University Student Council*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *17474*
Rank in Constituency: *Second*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other : *LC Refugee Affairs & Palestinians Abroad Committee Chair; Interior Committee member*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Hourani, Mohammed

Name: Mohammed Abdul Fatah Hourani

Constituency: Hebron

Age: 35

Marital Status: Married

Religion: Muslim

Education: BA

Residence: Halhoul

Telephone: 9926767 - 9925529 (050) 464402

Fax: 9926766

Profession: Political Activist

Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee

Number of Votes: 23034

Rank in Constituency: Fifth

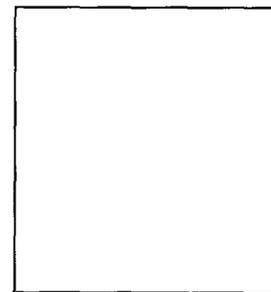
Returnee / Resident: Resident

Political Affiliation: Fateh

Other Positions: LC Political Committee Rapporteur; Member: LC Legal Committee; Land & Settlements Committee

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. National independence (right of self-determination, proclaim national independence, work towards its achievement, since these are the only realistic grounds for building our society).
2. Development (basic prerequisite for stability, solidifies Palestinian condition which reacts to future aspirations).
3. Democracy and separation of powers (civil democratic society that guarantees by law the rights of individuals and groups creating means of flexible, creative and active society).
4. External relations (with Arab & other countries, based on friendship & openness, provide another support for building the country & legitimize our rights).
5. National Authority (improve its performance vis a vis final status negotiations, guarantee the rights on basis of internal legitimacy and fight corruption).

Jarar, Burhan

Name: Burhan Nihad Jarar

Constituency: Jenin

Age: 51

Marital Status: Married

Religion: Muslim

Education: MA in Mechanical Engineering (industrial Production)

Residence: Jenin

Address: Zuhour Street - Jenin

Telephone: 06-436901 / 437161/2 - (050) 524608

Fax: 06-437163

Profession: Engineer, Brigader

Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee

Number of Votes: 18608

Rank in Constituency: First

Returnee / Resident: Returnee

Political Affiliation: Fateh

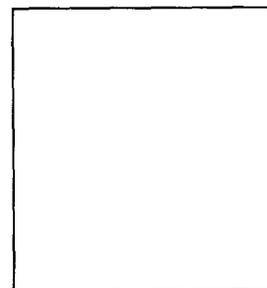
The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Jerusalem (declare the capital of the State of Palestine).
2. Establishing an industrial Base (disconnect external dependence and end unemployment).
3. To develop agricultural and livestock resources (to develop agriculture and upgrade the standard of living in rural areas).
4. Housing (a house for every citizen - starting with the families of martyrs and wounded).
5. Education (set educational curriculum consistent with the present situation. Upgrade educational and cultural standards and concentrate on mid-level colleges (pre-university colleges).

Jarjou'i, Emile

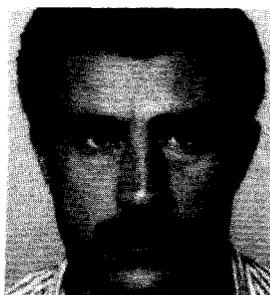
Name: *Emile Jarjou'i*
Constituency: *Jerusalem*
Age: *56*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Christian*
Education: *Ph.D. in Pediatric*
Residence: *Jerusalem*
Telephone: *5828066 - 5741171/2/3 - (050) 243601*
Fax: *5828066*
Profession: *Physician*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *5334*
Rank in Constituency: *Seventh*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh Independent*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Kanafani, Marwan

Name: *Marwan Fayez Kanafani*
Constituency: *Gaza*
Age: *48*
Marital Status: *Divorced*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA*
Residence: *Gaza - Rimal*
Telephone: *07-821090 - 07-822518 (050) 378552*
Fax: *07-824777*
Profession: *Former Spokesperson of PA's President*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *22994*
Rank in Constituency: *Ninth*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *Member: LC Political Committee; Education & Social Affairs Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

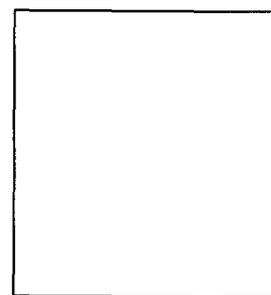
Khader, Husam

Name: Husam Mahmoud Khader
Constituency: Nablus
Age: 35
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA
Residence: Balata Refugee Camp - Nablus
Address: Yafa Neighborhood - Balata Refugee Camp - Nablus
Telephone: 09-385930 - 09-380936
Fax: 09-385930
Profession: Political Activist, Member of the Executive committee for the Palestinian Student Union
Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee
Number of Votes: 21328
Rank in Constituency: Fifth
Returnee / Resident: Returnee
Political Affiliation: Fateh

Other Positions: Member: LC Refugee Affairs and Palestinians Abroad Committee and Education and Social Affairs Committee.

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Democracy and freedom (dignity of the citizens and the maintenance of the national agenda).
2. Public control over the Executive Authority (stop mismanagement).
3. Upgrade the performance of the negotiators and affirm national goals (achieve national independence).
4. Active the role of the Legislative Council and affirm principle of separation of powers.
5. Maintain the PLO as a political resource for the unity of our people (continue the struggle).

Kriesheh, Hasan

Name: Hasan Abdul Fatah Khriesheh
Constituency: Tulkarem
Age: 40
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: MA in Gynecology
Residence: Tulkarem - Denabeh
Telephone: (050) 352983 - 674498 - 675029
Fax: 675029
Profession: physician

Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee

Number of Votes: 8154
Rank in Constituency: Fourth
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Independent
Other Positions: LC Political Committee and Education and social Affairs Committee

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Democracy (stand against all forms of political oppression).
2. Civil Society (remove all remnants of occupation, rule of law, equal opportunities, abolish State Security Court).
3. Health (increase hospital beds, health insurance scheme, good salaries for human resources in field of health to reduce possibility of bribing).
4. Education (build generation loyal to country, not to tribe, through mothers and teachers, new education curriculum concentrating on mothers and teachers, new education curriculum concentrating on national struggle, fight illiteracy).
5. National Unity (find new standards for our unity other than those that were prevalent during period of armed struggle).

Krounz, Sa'edi



Name: Sa'edi Mahmoud Al-Krounz
Constituency: Deir Al -Balah
Age: 38
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Ph.D. in Mathematics & Statistics
Residence: Breij
Telephone: 07-830960 - 07-830280 - (050) 342251
Fax: 07-832166
Profession: Head of Mathematics Department, College lecturer
Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee
Number of Votes: 11713
Rank in Constituency: Second
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: LC Budget Committee Chair, Refugee Affairs and Palestinians Abroad Committee and Political Committee
The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Sovereignty (of the state, powers over national resources, borders).
2. Economic development (Self-reliance, utilization of trained labor force, industry).
3. Diaspora (Palestinian passport for Diaspora Palestinians because they represent us).
4. Health (develop health insurance scheme, free health insurance for needy).
5. Education (mandatory, free education in primary and secondary schools, develop technical and vocational education).

Mash'al, Sharief



Name: Sharief Mash'al (Abass Zaki)
Constituency: Hebron
Age: 54
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA in Law
Residence: Hebron - Sa'eir
Telephone: 9926391 - 9926391 (050) 507314
Fax: 9926766 - 9926390
Profession: Political Activist
Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee
Number of Votes: 39348
Rank in Constituency: First
Returnee / Resident: Returnee
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: LC Education and Social Affairs Committee Chair, Refugee Affairs and Palestinians Abroad Committee member
The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Rule of law and separation of powers (protect society & fight corruption, abolish centers of power, maintain and protect institutions).
2. Administrative development (modernize ministries, administration and institutions, fill deficiencies and control functions according to norms).
3. Social development (achieve development & progress in society, include setting programs & training & plans necessary for social unity and to solve unemployment, rehabilitate prisoners and disabled to take up their role in society & future building).
4. Enhance democracy in work and deed (guarantee legitimacy of political pluralism, protect individual feelings of identity and dignity, encourage citizenship).
5. Affirm nationalist dimension and affiliation to forces of peace and justice (guarantee maintenance of Palestinian goals that require Arab & international support & end the seizure of our people).

Masri, Maher

Name: *Maher Nash'ath Tahir Al-Masri*
Constituency: *Nablus*
Age: *50*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *MA*
Residence: *Nablus - Al-Rashid Street*
Telephone: *09-382055 - 09-387748 - (050) 373705*
Fax: *09-382050*
Profession: *Vegetable Oil Company Director*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *23125*
Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

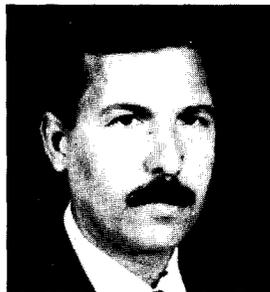
1. *Demand permanent open roads between Gaza and West bank (open internal Palestinian market, thus activating the Palestinian market and also bring back combination / contracts between people; Palestinians in West bank to relay their views to leadership in Gaza).*
2. *Re-negotiate Israeli-Palestinian economy agreement (access to Arab markets and relations between Palestinians and Arabs, reduce reliance on Israeli markets and products).*
3. *Laws (facilitate institutions, individual companies that function on clear principles and institutionalization).*
4. *Free industrial zones (encourage export and create job opportunities for workers and technicians).*
5. *Administrative structures of PA institutions (examine and evaluate current situation, present necessary recommendations to develop the situation for better performance).*

Masri, Mu'awya

Name: *Mu'awya Al-Masri*
Constituency: *Nablus*
Age: *52*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Ph.D.*
Residence: *Nablus - Prophets Street*
Telephone: *09-389070 - 09- 379912 - (050)288671*
Fax: *09-385630 - 09-379912*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *28016*
Rank in Constituency: *Second*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Hamas*
Other Positions: *Member: LC Economic Committee and Interior Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Musalam, Abdul Karim

Name: *Abdul Karim Musalam (Abu Salah)*
Constituency: *Khan Younis*
Age:
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Law & MA in International Relations*
Residence: *Abassan Al-Kabeera*
Telephone: *(050) 534017 - 07-854448*
Fax: *07-851134*
Profession: *Lawyer*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *9209*
Rank in Constituency: *Eight*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh Independent*
Other Positions: *LC Legal Committee Chair Person.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

- 1.
2. *Supervision and control (correct present administrative structure of Palestinian institutions and ministries, abolish all forms of corruption and position right person in right place).*
3. *Laws and legislation (state building, correct social and economic structure and system).*
4. *Social conditions (entitlements, confront all necessary issue of Palestinian society).*
5. *Dignity of Palestinian citizens (provide citizen's rights and their protection in regard to work, social welfare and freedom of speech).*
6. *National economy (separate Palestinian economy from Israeli hegemony).*

Al-Musaddar, Jalal

Name: *Jalal Friej Al-Musaddar*
Constituency: *Central Gaza*
Age: *38*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Engineering*

Residence: *Gaza - Al-Zawaydeh*
Telephone: *07-832400/ 831149/830950 (050)409771*
Fax: *07-832166*
Profession: *Engineer*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *7891*
Rank in Constituency: *Fifth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Other Positions: *LC Economic committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Continue the struggle for Palestinian independence to reach the Palestinian State and Jerusalem the Capital*
2. *Make this council the core of the free Palestinian democratic Society, establish the rules and the correct Parliament basis.*
3. *Build the institution State and the law sovereign.*
4. *The right person in the right place.*
5. *Emphasize social justice in Palestinian society and provide equality opportunities.*

Al-Najar, Ra'fat

Name: *Ra'fat Al-Najar*
Constituency: *Khan Younis*
Age: *51*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Tawjihi*
Residence: *Khan Younis - Joureth Al-Lout*
Telephone: *07-852445 - (050) 536010*
Fax: *07-851134*
Profession: *Employee in Technology & Science Faculty*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *14473*
Rank in Constituency: *Third*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *PFLP*
Other Positions: *LC Legal Committee and Interior Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Democracy (building civil and democratic society based on laws).*
2. *Education.*
3. *Health*
4. *Employment (build infrastructure and opportunities for workers).*
5. *Economic independence.*

Naser, Ahmad

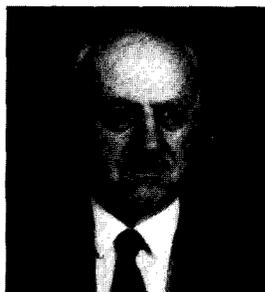
Name: *Ahmad Abdul Fattah Naser*
Constituency: *Khan Younis*
Age: *44*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Tawjihi*
Residence: *Khan Younis Refugee Camp*
Address: *Burj al-Nur - Gaza*

Telephone: *07-822576 - 07-866351 - (050)278233*
Fax: *07-823055 - 07-822576*
Profession: *Political Activist*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *11465*
Rank in Constituency: *Seventh*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

Other Positions: *LC Political Committee, Education and Social Affairs Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Return all the land which was occupied in June 1967.*
2. *Confirm the Security situation and work on cooperation between the security departments; restore civil liberties to daily life.*
3. *Revive freedoms of democratic life and spread freedom of thought and opinions etc...*
4. *End the unemployment and develop the educational situation.*
5. *Infrastructure*

Natsheh, Rafiq

Name: Rafiq Shaker Al-Natsheh
Constituency: Hebron
Age: 61
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA in Political Science
Residence: Hebron - Sebta
Telephone: 9924244- 9927850- 746524 (050) 341810
Fax: 9926766 - 746524

Profession: Director, Ministry of Education, former ambassador.

Refugee/Non refugee: Non refugee

Number of Votes: 17242

Rank in Constituency: Sixth

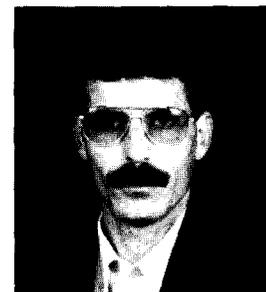
Returnee / Resident: Returnee

Political Affiliation: Fateh

Other Positions: LC Legal Committee, Jerusalem Committee and Political Committee

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Democracy.
2. Institutionalization.
3. Follow up the final status negotiations.
4. Free the Palestinian economy from dependency.
5. Halt settlement activity and follow up the implementation of the previous phase.

Qadoura, Faris

Name: Qadoura Faris (Abed Al-Qder Faris Hamed)
Constituency: Ramallah
Age: 45
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Tawjihi
Residence: Ramallah - Silwad
Telephone: 9987214- 9987008- 9987628(050) 394850
Fax: 9987628 - 9987214
Profession: Political Activist

Refugee/Non refugee: Non refugee

Number of Votes: 20980

Rain Constituency: Second

Returnee / Resident: Resident

Political Affiliation: Fateh

Other Positions: LC Land & Settlements Rapporteur; Education & Social Affairs Committee member

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Return all the land which was occupied in June 1967.
2. Confirm the Security situation and work on cooperation between the security departments; restore civil liberties to daily life.
3. Revive freedoms of democratic life and spread freedom of thought and opinions etc...
4. End the unemployment and develop the educational situation.
5. Infrastructure

Qawasmeh, Ali

Name: *Ali Ibrahim Qawasmeh*
Constituency: *Hebron*
Age: *56*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Pharmacy and chemistry*
Residence: *Hebron*
Telephone: *9926020/1- 9928165 (050) 433942*
Fax: *9928165 - 9926766*
Profession: *Pharmacist*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *10334*
Rank in Constituency: *Tenth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Health (improve health situation, better care and hospital service).*
2. *Education (upgrade educational level by improving teachers' skills, opening universities and colleges and improving educational levels).*
3. *Industry (build factories to increase employment and improve economic status of employees and employers).*
4. *Agriculture (cultivate land, increase produce and exports).*
5. *Trade (increase trade with Arab world).*

Qrei, Ahmad

Name: *Ahmad Ali Qrei (Abu 'Ala)*
Constituency: *Jerusalem*
Age: *60*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Banking Diploma*
Residence: *Jerusalem - Abu Deis*
Address: *POBox 54910 - Jerusalem*

Telephone: *050-249565 - 749263 - 9987716*
Fax: *9987712 - 749262*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *18839*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

Other Positions: *Fomer Economic & Commerce Minister. Head of the PLC. Member of Fateh Central Committee.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

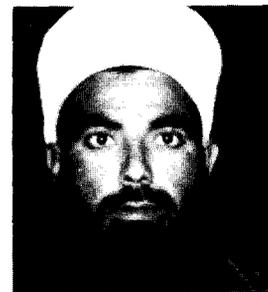
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Al-Rayiss, Nahid

Name: *Nahid Munir Al-Rayiss*
Constituency: *Gaza*
Age: *59*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA Law*
Residence: *Gaza*
Telephone: *07-824896*
Fax: *07-860056*
Profession: *Judge*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *40959*
Rank in Constituency: *Third*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *To maintain the national unity.*
2. *Build an independent national economic.*
3. *Guidance the structure and the basis of the administration.*
4. *Distribute the justice and law respects.*
5. *Equity martyr's families and to honor the injuries and the prisoners.*

Al-Roumi, Sulieman

Name: *Sulieman Al-R*
Constituency: *Rafah*
Age: *36*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Islamic Studies*
Residence: *Northern Rafah - Imam Ali Street*
Telephone: *07-836910/836911/836606 (050)433676*
Fax: *07-836912*
Profession: *UNRWA School teacher*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *10659*
Rank in Constituency: *Fifth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Independent*
Other Positions: *LC Legal Committee, Education and Social Affairs Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Compliance with Islam (as source of law).*
2. *Education (Islamic Shari'a consistency and modern requirements).*
3. *Religious morality (religious control and enforcement committee).*
4. *Role of mosques in society (reform society).*
5. *Economic situation (socio-economical living conditions).*

Salameh, Dalal

Name: Dalal Abdul Hafeth Salameh
Constituency: Nablus
Age: 31
Marital Status: Single
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA in Biology
Residence: Nablus - Balata Refugee Camp
Address: Al-Quds Street - Balata Refugee Camp - Nablus
Telephone: 09-385647 - 09-381230
Fax: 09-385647
Profession: Political Activist
Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee
Number of Votes: 20749
Rank in Constituency: Sixth
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: LC Refugee Affairs and Palestinians Abroad Committee, Political committee, Education and Social Affairs Committee

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Build and develop a democratic society; respect the law; sovereignty; and enforcement of the principal of separation of the 3 authorities.
2. Economy (encourage investment by offering security and incentive for the investors, free economy, solving unemployment problem).
3. The negotiations methods (the negotiations policy depends on strategy, so reinforce the Palestinian negotiator for the final status tasks and implementation of the transitional period).
4. Refugee needs, the Palestinian refugee situation (improve living conditions, unemployment and poverty of the refugees).
5. Women (reinforce the role of Palestinian women, equalize chances of work, support the participation of women in decision making etc....).

Samiri, Saloum

Name: Saloum Imran Ishaq Al-Samiri
Constituency: Nablus
Age: 75
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Samaritan
Education: BA
Residence: Nablus - Jarzim Mountain
Address: POB 61 - Omar Bin Khattab Street - Nablus
Telephone: 09-371739 - 09-382111 - 09-385888
Profession: Imam Samaritan (Preacher)
Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee
Number of Votes: 2451
Rank in Constituency: Eight
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Independent

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. National unity (establish cultural and social center for Islamic, Christian and Samaritan religions).
2. Samaritan community (include them in social, economic, cultural conditions of community).
3. Economy (establish factories and workshops to employ labor force as economic guarantee, independent of others).
4. Education (set Palestinian educational curricula and Palestinian philosophy of education, and build more schools to cover increasing number of students).
5. Environmental protection (establish ministry for Protection of the environment and raise environmental awareness).

Saraf, Faraj



Name: *Faraj Al-Sarraf*
Constituency: *Gaza City*
Age: *78*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Law*

Residence: *Gaza - Rimal*
Address: *POB 17548 - Gaza*
Telephone: *07-866596 - 07-860011*
Fax: *07-866596 - 07-822449*
Profession: *Lawyer*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *7893*
Rank in Constituency: *Twelfth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *LC Legal Committee member*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *The Truth*
2. *The Honesty*
3. *The work*
4. *The Courage*
5. *Non-compliance of positions*

Sha'ath, Nabil



Name: *Nabil Sha'ath*
Constituency: *Khan Younis*
Age: *58*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Ph.D. in Economic & administration Science*

Residence: *Gaza - Rimal*
Address: *POB 4017 - Gaza*
Telephone: *07-829260 - (050) 536010*
Fax: *07-824090*
Profession: *Planning & International Cooperation Minister*

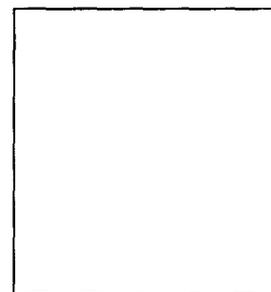
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *22931*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Shahin, Abdul Aziz

Name: *Abdul Aziz Shahin (Abu Ali Shahin)*
Constituency: *Rafah*
Age: *58*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *Tawjihi*
Residence: *Rafah - Tel Sultan*
Telephone: *07-826420/826430/836140 (050)419995*
Fax: *07-824324 - 07-825140*
Profession: *Pharmacist Assistant*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *11459*
Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Shaka'a, Ghassan

Name: *Ghassan Shaka'a*
Constituency: *Nablus*
Age: *50*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA*
Residence: *Nablus - Omar Khattab Street*
Telephone: *09-379313/383395/386457 (050)539334*
Fax: *09-374690 - 09-372069*
Profession: *Mayor / Businessman*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *27865*
Rank in Constituency: *Third*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

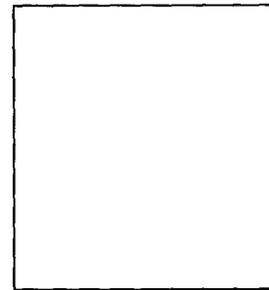
1. *Economy (structure society for the future, develop economic resources, reduce unemployment, set minimum wages).*
2. *Infrastructure (suitable for society and economy).*
3. *Democracy (one for all and all for one, institutionalization, strengthen human rights institutions, concept of elections).*
4. *Governmental institutions (build governmental institutions to serve the public, strengthen democracy-building).*
5. *Administrative division and local government (specialization according to responsibilities, examination of administrative divisions according to social requirements, service provision for all villages, cities and camps).*

Shakoura, Fakhri

Name: *Fakhri Shakoura*
Constituency: *Gaza City*
Age: *57*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA*
Residence: *Gaza - Al Naser Street*
Telephone: *07-825324 - 07-824288 (050) 520250*
Fax: *07-825324*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*

Number of Votes: *54996*
Rank in Constituency: *Second*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *LC Interior Committee Chair; Member: LC Economic Committee; Refugee Affairs & Palestinians Abroad Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:
(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Shanti, Yousef

Name: *Yousef Al-Shanti*
Constituency: *Gaza*
Age:
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA*
Residence: *Gaza - Rimal*
Address: *POB 188 - Gaza Mashieh Street*

Telephone: *07-863901 - 07-861324 (050) 365165*
Fax: *07-822449 - 07-867105*
Profession: *Businessman*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *22607*
Rank in Constituency: *Tenth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*

Political Affiliation: *Close to Hamas*
Other Positions: *LC Budget Committee and Economic Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Economy (end unemployment).*
2. *Increase salaries.*
3. *Increase industrial productivity, develop agriculture and industry.*
4. *Upgrade education and culture.*
5. *Build and reconstruct infrastructure.*

Shawwa, Rawya

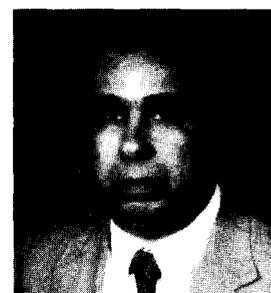
Name: Rawya Al-Shawwa
Constituency: Gaza
Age: 50
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA
Residence: Shija'ieh - Gaza
Address: West Line - Al-Shija'ieh

Telephone: 07-824177/860177/821242 (050)372567
Fax: 07-824177 - 07-860177
Profession: Journalist
Refugee/Non refugee: Non refugee
Number of Votes: 18283
Rank in Constituency: Eleventh
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Independent

Other Positions: LC Interior Committee and Political Committee

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Economy (form a follow up committee to implement economic agreements, open borders, free economy, open the security passage, regard a priority).
2. Women and personal status law (work towards implementation of existing laws, commit officials to comply with laws pertaining to early marriage, develop strategies to deal with overpopulation).
3. Education (adopt compulsory education, develop and modernize curriculum, adopt extensive training programs for teachers).
4. Ombudsman (establish legal system to supervise state bodies and to direct the administration of new ministries).
5. Freedom of expression (through enactment of press and publication laws).

Al-Sheibi, Ahmad

Name: Ahmad Al-Abed Al-Sheibi
Constituency: Khan Younis
Age: 50
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Ph.D. in Pediatrics
Residence: Khan Younis - Bani Sahila
Telephone: 07-851275 - 07-854531 - (050) 484150
Fax: 07-851134
Profession: Physician, Health Consultant in Health Ministry
Refugee/Non refugee: Non refugee
Number of Votes: 13953
Rank in Constituency: Fifth
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: Member: LC Economic committee; Education & Social Affairs Committee; Former Health Minister Consultant

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Health situation (improve health situation quantitatively and qualitatively).
2. Education (upgrade educational level, improve vocational education to benefit from all types of skills).
3. Economy (absorb workers, upgrade living conditions, create job opportunities).
4. Export and opening external markets for Palestinian products.
5. Improve Palestinian, international and Arab relations (participate with Arab brethren in building phase).

Shobaki, Jamal

Name: Jamal Abdul Latif Shobaki
Constituency: Hebron
Age: 43
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA
Residence: Hebron
Address: POB 328 - Beit Jala

Telephone: 9926767 - 745880 (050) 289722
Fax: 745880 - 9926766
Profession: Employee
Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee
Number of Votes: 24555
Rank in Constituency: Third
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Fateh Revolutionary Council

Other Positions: LC Interior, Security and Refugees Committees, Local Government Committee.

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Individual rights and freedoms.
2. Democracy.
3. Institution - building.
4. Women's rights.
5. Unemployment, education, and health insurance.

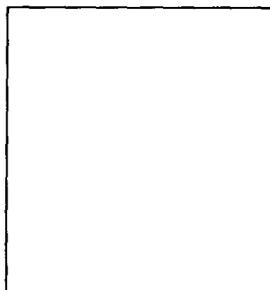
Shu'aibi, Azmi

Name: Azmi Shu'aibi
Constituency: Ramallah
Age: 49
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA in P-Medicine
Residence: Satih Marahaba - Al-Bireh
Telephone: 9987628 - 9951084
Fax: 9952803
Profession: Politician, Dentist

Refugee/Non refugee: Non Refugee
Number of Votes: 13962
Rank in Constituency: Fifth
Returnee / Resident: Returnee
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: LC Budget Committee; Economic committee; Political Committee; PA Youth and Sports High Council Head

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

(The Agenda was not provided by the Council Member)

Sharafi, Kamal

Name: *Kamal Al-Sharafi*
Constituency: *North Gaza*
Age: *41*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in medicine and Surgery*
Residence: *Jabalia Refugee Camp*
Telephone: *07-856428 - (050) 283524*
Fax: *07-855040 - 07-857337*
Profession: *Physician*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *8529*
Rank in Constituency: *Sixth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *PFLP*

Other Positions: *LC Education and Social Affairs committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Unemployment (job opportunities).*
2. *Fight against administrative corruption.*
3. *Judicial Authority (fair and free judiciary).*
4. *Education and health development and upgrading.*
5. *Youth*

Sydem, Jamileh

Name: *Jamileh Ahmad Sydem*
Constituency: *Deir Al-Balah*
Age: *49*
Marital Status: *Widow*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in History*
Residence: *Gaza*
Telephone: *07-825595/824116/832166 (050)392484*
Fax: *07-822365 - 07-822366*
Profession: *General Director in Labor Ministry*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *8734*
Rank in Constituency: *Third*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Member Fateh Revolutionary Council*
Other Positions: *LC Refugee and Economic Committee.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Unemployment.*
2. *Solve the problem of infrastructure in refugee camps and improve their health conditions including the establishment of a central hospital for them.*
3. *To establish cultural centers for the youth particularly women.*
4. *Solve the problem of over population in refugee camps.*
5. *Secure schools and colleges for those injured in the Intifada.*

Tarifi, Jamil



Name: *Jamil Yousef Tarifi*
Constituency: *Ramallah*
Age: *50*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Law*
Residence: *Al-Bireh - Radio Street*
Telephone: *9987452 - 9987336/7/8/9*
Fax: *9987451 - 9987335*
Profession: *Lawyer*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *13504*
Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *Minister of Civil affairs*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Finalize implementing the transitional interim agreement.*
2. *Finalize the negotiation of the final status.*
3. *Democracy and multi-party system.*
4. *Improve the infrastructure in Palestinian cities, villages and refugees camps.*
5. *Organizing the work of PA on the correct administration system*

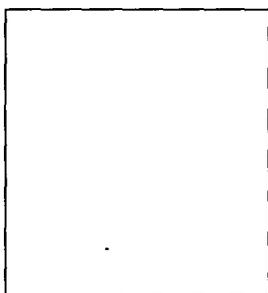
Tibi, Jawad



Name: *Jawad Khalil Al-Tibi*
Constituency: *Khan Younis*
Age: *39*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *MA in Surgery*
Residence: *Khan Younis*
Address: *Al-Amal Neighborhood - 189/52 - Khan Younis*
Telephone: *07-851349 - 07-853394 - (050) 451362*
Fax: *07-851134*
Profession: *General Surgeon*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *20037*
Rank in Constituency: *Second*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *LC Education and Social Affairs Committee Rapporteur, Refugee Affairs and Palestinians Abroad Committee.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *To focus on the educational curriculum and emphasize religious education.*
2. *To focus on prisoners affairs, rehabilitation, and rights.*
3. *To develop the city of Khan Younis in regard to sewage treatment and electricity and the aesthetic aspect of the city.*
4. *To establish productive projects in Khan Younis and to focus on the southern part of Gaza Strip in regard to employment and projects.*
5. *To strengthen democracy and human rights and to focus on the dignity and culture of the Palestinians.*

Turkman, Fakhri

Name: *Fakhri Mousa Turkman*
Constituency: *Jenin*
Age: *57*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Psychology & Sociology , High Studies Diploma in Education*
Residence: *Jenin*
Address: *Jenin Refugee Camp*
Telephone: *06-437161/2 (050) 578025 - 06-436650*
Fax: *06-437163 - 06-436650*
Profession: *School Principal*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *11529*
Rank in Constituency: *Sixth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Independent*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *The Unity of the Palestinian people (The unity of the people will lead us towards the realization of our goals and objectives).*
2. *To set clear relations between the Legislative Council and with the Executive committee, The Palestinian National Council and President by specifying the powers and roles in a manner that is neither ambiguous nor contradictory).*
3. *Specify the limitations and powers of the security apparatus to enable citizens to feel save and secure).*
4. *To build an environment from which an educational philosophy will develop to serve the goals of the Palestinian people.*
5. *To halt settlement and bypass roads by not allowing Israeli violations of the agreements.*

Wazir, Intisar

Name: *Intisar Wazir*
Constituency: *Gaza City*
Age: *55*
Marital Status: *Widow*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in History*

Residence: *Gaza - Rimal*
Address: *Wihdeh Street - Gaza*
Telephone: *07-827474/829189/824730 (050)326999*
Fax: *07-827474 - 07-820686*
Profession: *Social Affairs Minister*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *40896*
Rank in Constituency: *Fourth*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *Member of Palestinian National Council.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Israeli occupation.*
2. *Borders*
3. *Jerusalem*
4. *Refugee (stand for implementation of UN resolution 194).*
5. *Prisoners, detainees.*

Yaghi, Wajieh

Name: *Wajieh Khalil Yaghi*
Constituency: *Gaza City*
Age: *51*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Islamic Studies & Degree in Islamic Law*
Residence: *Gaza Al-Naser*
Address: *Al-Rimal, Al-Naser street*

Telephone: *07-825732/867144/861137 (050)483773*
Fax: *07-863988*
Profession: *UNRWA School teacher*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Refugee*
Number of Votes: *31750*
Rank in Constituency: *Seventh*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Islamist Independent*
Other Positions: *LC, Education committee, General Monitoring and Human Rights Committees, Head of Gaza Strip Palestinian Islamic Clergy's Union.*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *The future of Jerusalem, refugees, land and settlements, prisoners and detainees, water, etc....*
2. *Security and stability.*
3. *Equality and social justice, end favoritism and nepotism unemployment.*
4. *Education.*
5. *Social issues.*

Za'bout, Musa

Name: *Musa Za'bout*
Constituency: *Gaza*
Age: *47*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *MA Pediatrics*

Residence: *Gaza - Rimal*
Telephone: *07-822788 - 07-869747 (050) 364352*
Fax: *07-869459 - 07-822449*
Profession: *Physician / college Lecturer*

Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *23531*
Rank in Constituency: *Eight*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Close to Hamas*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Freedom of opinion and expression.*
2. *National unity.*
3. *Council bylaws.*
4. *Economy.*
5. *State of law and justice*

Za'noun, Riyad

Name: Riyad Za'noun
Constituency: Gaza
Age: 59
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Ph.D. in medicine
Residence: Gaza
Address: P.O.BOX 1035 Tal El-Hawa Rimal - Gaza
Telephone: 07-829176/829154 (050) 349671
Fax: 07-826295
Profession: PA health minister

Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee
Number of Votes: 39596
Rank in Constituency: Fifth
Returnee / Resident: Returnee
Political Affiliation: Fateh
Other Positions: LC education and social affairs committee

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. security(achieve security rights and dignity of every citizen while setting constraints on the security apparatus through the enactment of laws and regulations).
2. Equal opportunities (work towards achieving justice and equality between citizens, regarding rights, obligations and equal opportunities in relation to public services).
3. Health (complete the national health plan in both phases 1978 towards reconstruction and expansion of health services, start 1999 with first 5 year health plan).
4. Investment (review and enact investment law in order to assure capital from outside, set bases for free economy).
5. Infrastructure projects (concentrate on accomplishing basic infrastructure projects - water, electricity, activate private sector in equal and free environment).

Zarandah, Karam

Name: Karam Zarandah
Constituency: North Gaza
Age: 43
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: Ph.D. in Art
Residence: Beit Lahia
Address: Beit Lahia 2/214
Telephone: 07-823311 - 07-863554 - 07-858750
Fax: 07- 857337
Profession: Head of Art Faculty in Islamic University

Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee
Number of Votes: 8757
Rank in Constituency: Fifth
Returnee / Resident: Resident
Political Affiliation: Close to Hamas
Other Positions: LC Refugee Affairs and Palestinians Abroad Committee, Education and Social Affairs Committee

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Water
2. Health (build hospitals and clinics and provide medication).
3. Environmental protection and public services, infrastructure conservation, protection of antiquities.
4. Communal solidarity and national unity.
5. Education (guarantee minimal education, erase illiteracy, develop school curriculum).

Al-Zeer, Dawood

Name: Dawood Hassan Al-Zeer
Constituency: Bethlehem
Age: 57
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA in Law & MA in International Law
Residence: Bethlehem
Telephone: 647036/7 (050)202947 /401767
Fax: 6470461 - 743503/2
Profession: Businessman

Refugee/Non refugee:

Non refugee

Number of Votes: 9531

Rank in Constituency: Second

Returnee / Resident: Resident

Political Affiliation: Fateh

Other Positions: LC Budget Committee Rapporteur, Economic Committee, Land and Settlement Committee

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Justice of law and modernity of legislation (consistent with internal development).
2. Economy (building of strong economy, national industry, national banking, open and free trade, external markets, encourage investment, tourism, establish tourist institutions).
3. Health (modernize hospitals, build new ones, health insurance for all).
4. Taxation (tax laws and set regulations for tax collection, exempt tax payers from tax estimated by Israeli occupiers, prior to entry of PA).
5. Education and teachers (upgrade education and preserve it, protect rights of teachers in regard of salaries, upgrade educational level through training courses).

Zeid, Hikmat

Name: Hikmat Hashim Zeid
Constituency: Jenin
Age: 50
Marital Status: Married
Religion: Muslim
Education: BA
Residence: Jenin
Address: Zahra' Neighborhood - Jenin

Telephone: 06-437161/2 - 06-503533 - (050) 369734

Fax: 06-437163

Profession: PA Ambassador to Hungary

Refugee/Non refugee: Refugee

Number of Votes: 14220

Rank in Constituency: Third

Returnee / Resident: Returnee

Political Affiliation: Fateh Independent

Other Positions: LC Land and Settlements Committee and Interior

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. Pursue the peace process (achieve complete independence, a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital).
2. work on laws and legislation for the new state.
3. Rule of law and the achievement of social justice.
4. Freedom of the press, media and political parties (propose progressive law that guarantee freedom of speech and freedom of political parties with total commitment to the state and its laws, respect for the opinions of others).
5. State institution-building (build state institutions on realistic, legal foundations).

Zeidan, Fayez

Name: *Fayez Zeidan*
Constituency: *Nablus*
Age: *51*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA in Aviation Engineerin*
Residence: *Nablus*
Address: *Tal-POBOX 1579*

Telephone:*09-821309- (050) 343603/369733*
Fax: *09-821309*
Profession: *Head of Aviation Authority*
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non refugee*
Number of Votes: *36455*
Rank in Constituency: *First*
Returnee / Resident: *Returnee*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *LC Economic Committee and Interior Committee*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

1. *Palestinian democracy and human rights.*
2. *Pursue the peace process leading to the Palestinian independent state with Jerusalem as capital.*
3. *Palestinian state institution-building through the principle of the right person in the right place, including inter alia, civil aviation, Palestinian air lines and airports department.*
4. *Legislation and social justice.*
5. *Equal and modern infrastructure in the Palestinian cities and villages including water, roads, electricity, telephone and sewage networks etc....*

Zghayar, Ahmad

Name: *Ahmad Hashim Al-Zghayar*
Constituency: *Jerusalem*
Age: *60*
Marital Status: *Married*
Religion: *Muslim*
Education: *BA*
Residence: *Wadi Al-Joz - Jerusalem*
Telephone: *5747450/1 - 6276788 - (050)389761*
Fax: *5747452/1*
Profession: *Businessman*

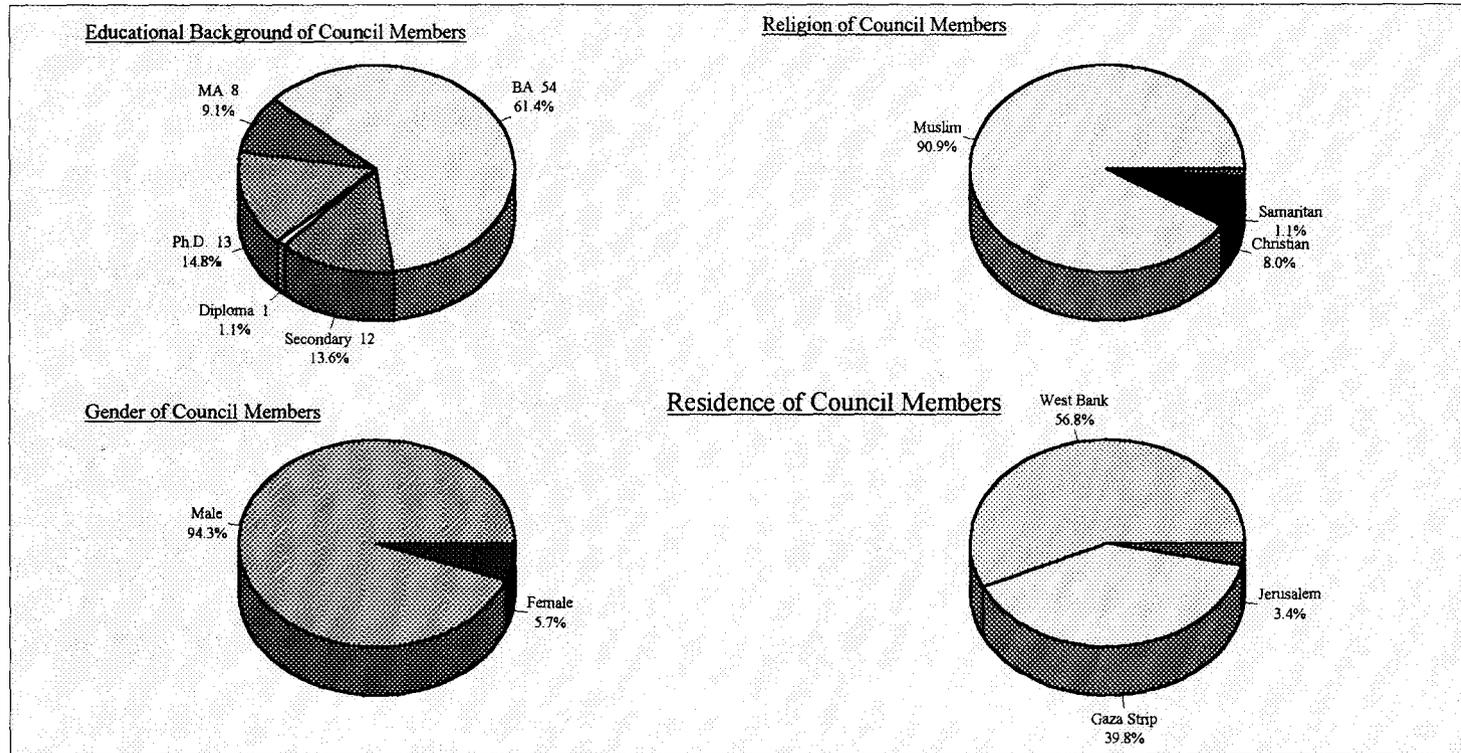
Refugee/Non refugee: *Non Refugee*
Number of Votes: *7613*
Rank in Constituency: *Sixth*
Returnee / Resident: *Resident*
Political Affiliation: *Fateh*
Other Positions: *LC Jerusalem committee Chair*

The Five Priorities of the Council Member:

(The Age is not provided by the Council Member)

Figure 1

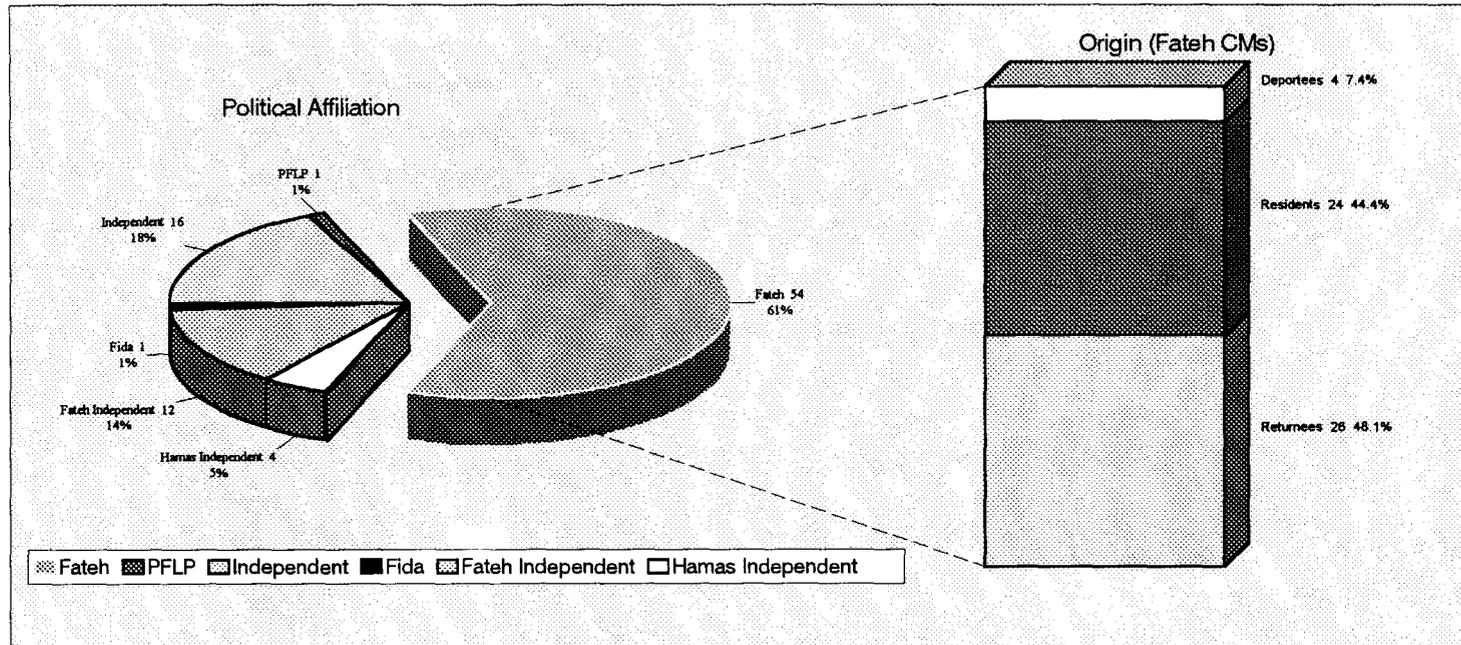
Basic Statistics About Palestinian Council Members



Source: JMCC, Jerusalem January 1998

Figure 2

Council Members' Political Affiliation

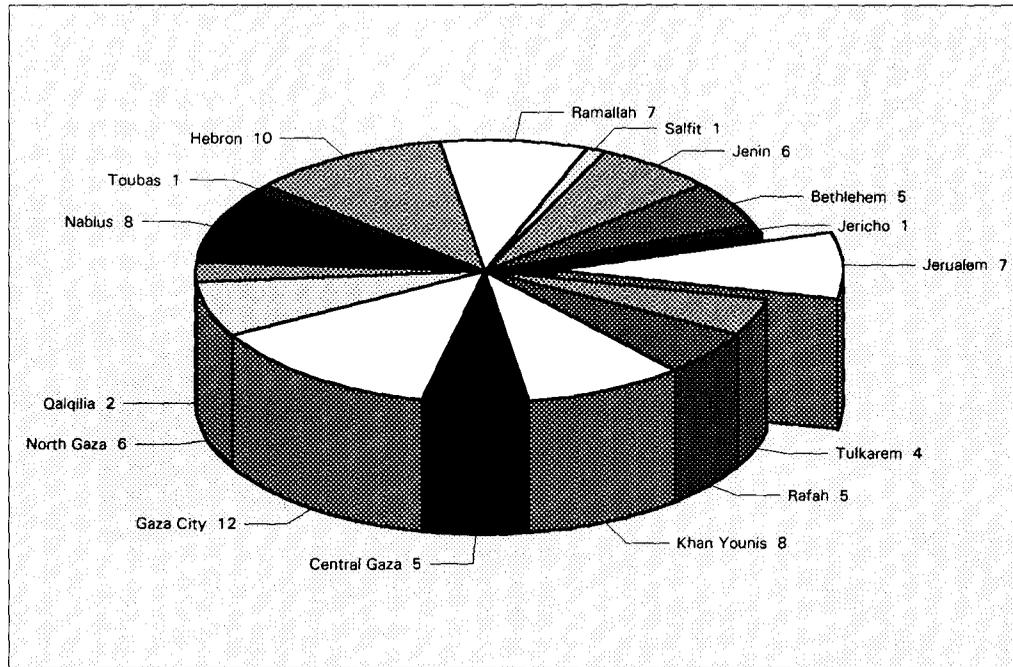


As shown above, Fateh enjoys the largest share of elected officials in the First Palestinian Legislative Council. Fateh here implies those candidates who won elections based on being on a Fateh List. In reality many council members who are described here as Fateh Independent are in fact official Fateh members. Moreover, most of the Council members who ran on Fateh lists were Palestinians who came from outside as a result of the agreements reached between the PLO and Israel. 33% of CMs are returnees.

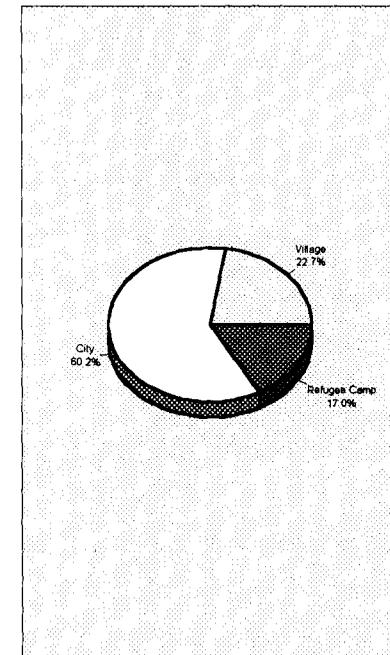
Source: JMCC, Jerusalem, January 1998

Figure 3

Distribution of Council Members According to the constituencies



Residency Of Council Members

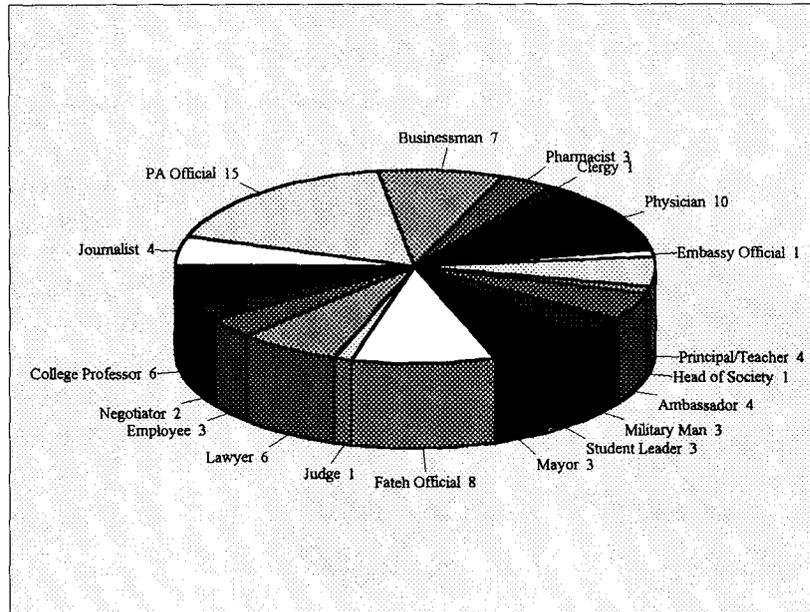


The West Bank (including Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip were divided into 16 electoral districts; the West Bank having 11 constituencies, and the 5 for the Gaza Strip. The number of seats allocated to the West Bank constituencies were 52 (of which 7 are for Jerusalem), and the Gaza Strip constituencies were allocated 36 seats.

Source: JMCC, Jerusalem January 1998

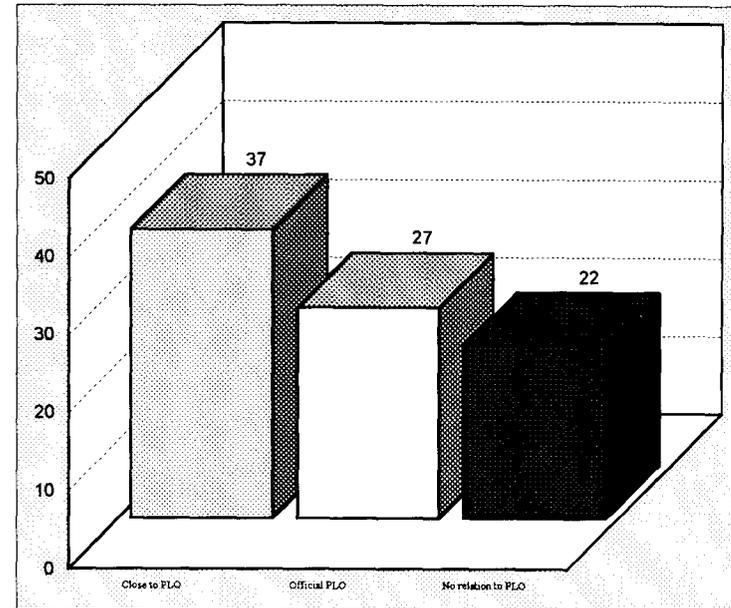
Figure 4

Council Members by Profession



As shown above, a large number of the Palestinian Council Members are 'career politicians'. However, a sizable number is involved in such professions as medicine, engineering, and teaching. There is an absence of representatives from the labor movement. Also the business community lacks representation.

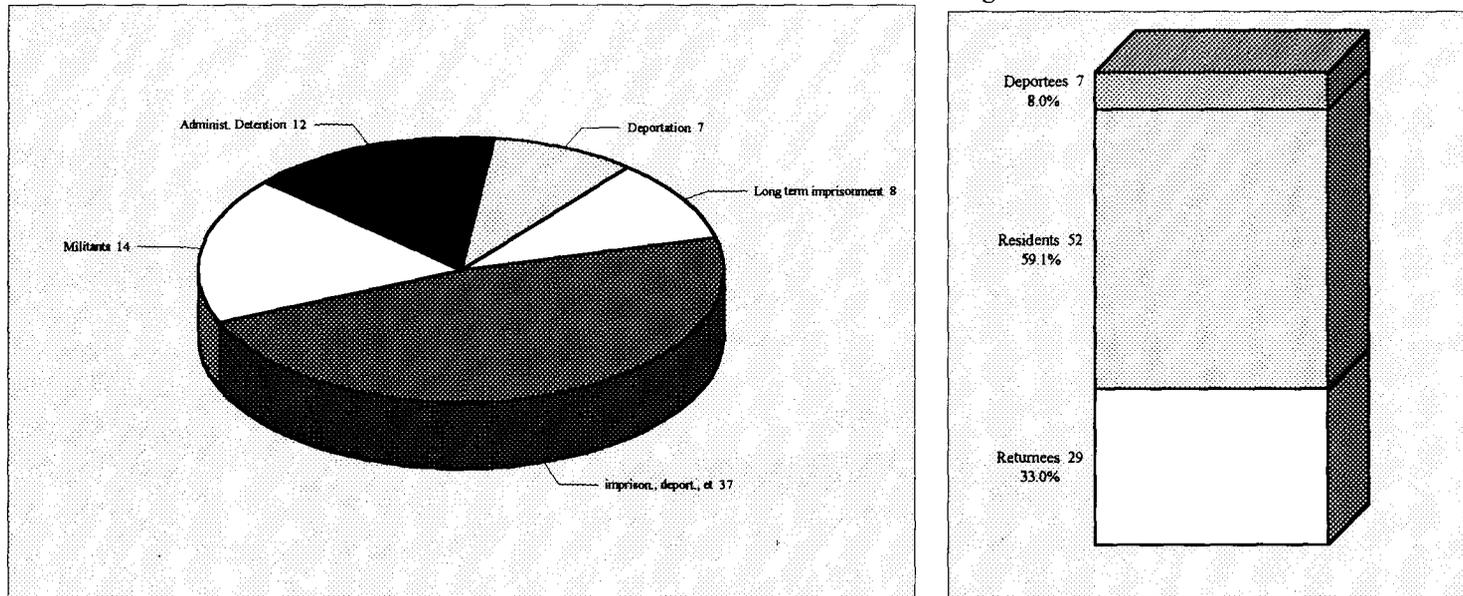
Council Members and the PLO



As the figure above shows, the majority of Council Members are either close to or officials in the PLO. This is also reflected in the strong presence of the returnees in the elected Palestinian Legislative Council.

Figure 5

Struggle History of the Council Members

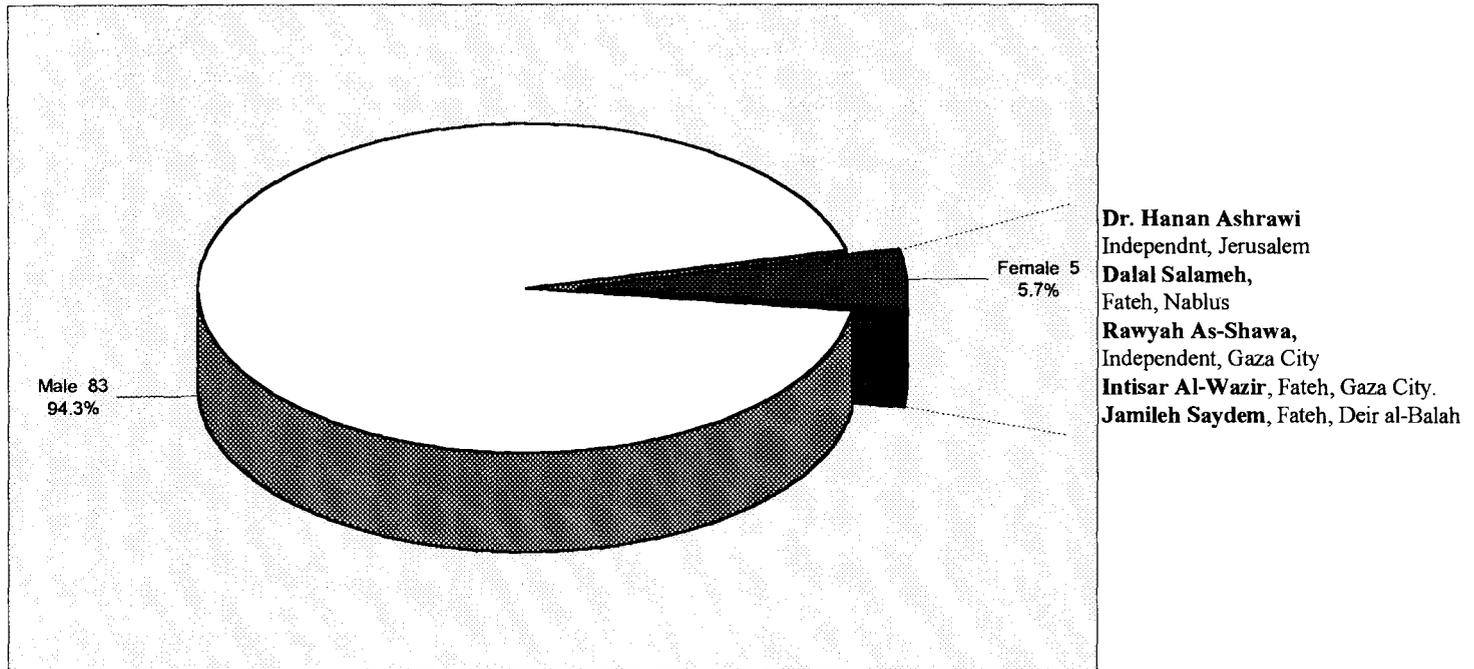


Most of the Council Members (78) have been very active in resisting the Israeli occupation, whether politically or militarily. Many Council Members spent most of their lives as members of the Palestinian factions in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, etc. Some of them were in the Palestinian armed struggle. As for those who were living inside Palestine, many were subjected to deportation and/or imprisonment for long years. In general, Council Members' political history was a significant factor in winning the election, unlike in Jordan, for example, where many of the Parliament members were elected on tribal basis.

Source: JMCC, Jerusalem January 1998

Figure 6

Gender of Council Members



Although only five women were elected to the Palestinian Council, this number is significant in that only 25 women candidates (out of 672) nominated themselves. Accordingly, the success rate of women candidates was more than 20%. Moreover, other women candidates received a substantial number of votes and had close races. Of the five women CM's three are from Fateh, and the other two are independent. Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, independent, was recently appointed the Minister of Higher Education. Intisar el-Wazir, fateh, was appointed Minister of Social Affairs.

Source: JMCC, Jerusalem January 1998

Palestinian Ministerial Cabinet

Name	Age	Religion	Residency	Political Affiliation	Portfolio	Telephone
1. Elias Freij*	70	Christian	Bethlehm	Independent	Tourism Minister	741581/2
2. Muhammad Nashashibi	70	Muslim	Gaza	Independent	Finance Minister	07-863994
3. Hasan Tahboub	75	Muslim	Jerusalem	Independent	Waqf & Religious Affairs Minister	6282085/6
4. Yasser Abed Rabbo	50	Muslim	Ramallah	Fida	Culture & Arts Minister Information Minister	9986205/6 9954041
5. Intisar Al-Wazir	55	Muslim	Gaza	Fateh	Social Affairs Minister	07-829189
6. Bashir Bargouthi	65	Muslim	Ramallah	PPP	Industry Minister	9987641
7. Abdul Jawad Saleh	65	Muslim	Ramallah	Independent	Agricultural Minister	9986788
8. Imad Falouji	34	Muslim	Gaza	Close to Hamas	Telecommunication Minister	07-829171
9. Ali Qawasmeh	55	Muslim	Hebron	Fateh	Transportation Minister	9986020
10. Abdul Aziz Shahin	58	Muslim	Rafah	Fateh	Supply Minister	07-824324
11. Abdul Rahman Hamad	45	Muslim	Beith Hanoun	Fateh	Housing Minister	07-822233
12. Azzam Ahmad	47	Muslim	Jenin	Fateh	Public Works Minister	07-829232/3
13. Maher Masri	50	Muslim	Nablus	Fateh	Economy & Trade Minister	9982370
14. Nabil Sha'ath	55	Muslim	Gaza	Fateh	Planning & International Cooperation Minister	07-822482 5747045
15. Sa'eb Erekat	41	Muslim	Jericho	Fateh	Local Government Minister	9922619
16. Riyad Al-Z'anoun	65	Muslim	Gaza	Fateh	Health Minister	07-829173
17. Freih Abu Medein	51	Muslim	Gaza	Fateh	Justice Minister	07-822231
18. Jamil Tarifi	50	Muslim	Ramallah	Fateh	Civil Affairs Minister	9987336/9
19. Yasser Amer	67	Muslim	Ramallah	Independent	Education Minister	9983222
20. Samir Ghosheh	55	Muslim	Ramallah	Popular Struggle Front	Labor Minister	07-868393 9985607
21. Hanan Ashrawi	48	Christian	Ramallah	Independent	Higher Education Minister	9954490
22. Talal Sider		Muslim	Hebron	Close to Hamas	Youth & Sports Minister	9986490

* *The Minister of Tourism Elias Freij retired.*

Due to the importance of the Council and its responsibilities and as a result of the great local and international interest in this body, the Jerusalem Media & Communication Centre (JMCC) presents the 2nd edition of this book to enable the reader to get a better idea of the structure of the Council, the members elected to it, its jurisdiction, and other aspects relevant to it. This attempt, we believe, may contribute to strengthening the link between the Council and the people on one hand, and those interested in its work, on the other. We hope that such a modest effort will further strengthen the building of democracy in Palestinian society and its relations with the outside world.