

CONFERENCE



INTERNATIONAL

ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

The Question of Jerusalem after 50 years of Occupation and 25 years of the Oslo Accords

Rabat, 26-28 June 2018

PANEL I

Mr. Abdallah Siam is the Deputy Governor for Jerusalem. He obtained his master's degree in public administration from Al-Quds University and has a long career in public administration with the Palestinian Authorities. He worked, among others, in the Palestinian Council for Higher Education and the Ministry of Interior as the Director General of administrative affairs and finance. He was appointed Deputy Governor for Jerusalem in 2007.

Ms. Lara Friedman is the President of the Foundation for Middle East peace. Prior to that, she was the Director of Policy and Government Relations at Americans for Peace Now, and a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, serving in Jerusalem, Washington, Tunis and Beirut. Ms. Friedman is a leading authority on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, with focus on the Israeli-Arab conflict, settlements and Jerusalem, and on the role of the U.S. Congress. She works closely with Jerusalem expert Danny Seidemann and his NGO "Terrestrial Jerusalem."

Mr. Daniel Seidemann is a practicing attorney and a leading expert on the geopolitics of contemporary Jerusalem. He is the Director General of "Terrestrial Jerusalem". He has argued more than 20 Jerusalem-related cases before the Israeli Supreme Court in relation to government and municipal policies. He is frequently consulted by the senior decision-makers and negotiators who deal with the Middle East and with Jerusalem-related issues confronting Israel and the Palestinians. Mr. Seidemann is a native of Syracuse, NY. He immigrated to Israel in 1973. He is a retired Reserve Major in the Israeli Defence Forces, and an active member of the Israeli Bar Association. In 2010, he was awarded the title of an honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his work on Jerusalem.

Ms. Amneh Badran is the Chair of the Department of Political Science at Al-Quds University and teaches at the Bard – Al-Quds Honors' College. Prior to her academic career, she worked as the Director of the Jerusalem Centre for Women in Palestine from 2001 to 2005 and as Project Manager from 1997 to 2001. She holds a BA in English Literature from Bethlehem University, a MA in Middle East Politics – Jerusalem Studies and a PhD in Political Science from Exeter University. She's the author of "*Zionist Israel and Apartheid South Africa: Civil Society and Peace Building in Ethnic-National States*" (2010).

PANEL II

Mr. Ziad AbuZayyad is an attorney at law, who graduated from Damascus University in 1965. He is the co-editor and co-publisher of the *Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, Economics and Culture*, which he co-founded in 1994 with prominent Israeli journalist Victor Cygielman as a joint Palestinian-Israeli venture. He is also the weekly columnist of *Al-Quds*. Mr. AbuZayyad was also a former member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, former Minister of State in the Palestinian Authority, and former Deputy Chairman of the Political Committee of the Euro-Med Parliament. He was also the advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team in Washington, D.C., in 1992, and later a member of the post-Oslo negotiating team that concluded the 1994 Israeli-Palestinian Agreement (“Cairo Agreement”). He co-authored *The West Bank Political Lexicon* and co-edited the book *Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism*.

Mr. Moshe Amirav is a Professor of Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an expert on the question of Jerusalem. He was involved in the political arena for many years. In 2001, as advisor to the Prime Minister Ehud Barak during the Camp David negotiations, he headed a committee of experts who prepared blueprints for a political settlement in Jerusalem. In 1987, he was the first to initiate negotiations with the PLO and prepared a plan for a confederative political settlement with Jordan, Palestine and Israel, with Faisal Husseini. He wrote *Jerusalem Syndrome: The Palestinian-Israeli Battle for the Holy City* (2009), which analyses Israel’s failed attempts to unify the city, and presents the argument that Israel should relinquish its claim on Palestinian neighbourhoods incorporated in 1967.

Mr. Dimitris Bouris is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam and a Visiting Professor at the College of Europe (Natolin). Mr Bouris is the author of “The European Union and Occupied Palestinian Territories: state-building without a state” (Routledge, 2014) and the co-editor of “The Revised European Neighbourhood Policy: Continuity and Change in EU Foreign Policy” (Palgrave, 2017). He has published several scholarly articles in leading peer-reviewed academic journals as well as policy briefs and op-eds for major news and policy outlets. Mr. Bouris’ research focuses on the external relations of the EU, the European Neighborhood Policy, the Arab Spring, the EU’s role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as on the broader domains of peacebuilding, state-building, security sector reform and conflict resolution.

PANEL III

Ms. Shoroq Nammari is a Project Coordinator at PalVision. Palestinian Vision (PalVision) aims at providing opportunities for young Palestinian leaders to become agents of positive, constructive change with their communities; to give them space, tools and training they need for their voices to be heard and taken into account. She obtained a BA degree from Bard College-Al-Quds University in 2016, with a major specialization in film-making and a minor specialization in Human Rights and International Law. She worked as a trainer in life skills and humanitarian development at several organizations including PalVision, Al-Saraya Center, IREX, MA'AN Development Center. Since years, she has been an active volunteer and is currently a member of "Lissa mish Arfeen" Youth Group.

Mr. Ali Ghaith is a freelance journalist who has covered Jerusalem since 2010. He was the regional TV producer in charge of Middle East news reports for TF1 - Europe's most watched news broadcast from 2010 to 2016. As freelancer, he has worked with major news channels in Jerusalem such as CNN and France24. In 2014, Mr. Ghaith founded MOUV – a media hub based in Ramallah. He serves as the "Alumni leader for Jerusalem" at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, being a 2005 MEPI alumni, in addition to leading an association of journalists trained through the United Nations annual training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists.

Mr. Sami Mshasha is the Director of Communications and Arabic spokesperson for UNRWA in Jerusalem. He is the co-founder of the Palestinian section of Defense for Children International. He was a board member of the Palestinian NGOs working in child protection and education. He worked with Al-Haq, a leading NGO in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, advocating for human rights and international law enforcement.

PANEL IV

Mr. Mohamed Salem Echerkaoui is the Director of General Affairs and Communication at Bayt Mal al-Quds Al-Sharif in Rabat since May 2014. He is a Professor and researcher in SICOM (Sciences de l'Information et de la Communication) at the Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences- Mohammed V University, Rabat.

Mr. Ufuk Ulutaş is the Chairman of the Centre for Strategic Research (SAM) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Turkey. The Centre functions as a bridge between the Ministry and the academic community and as an educational institution within the Ministry, by means of training programmes for young diplomats. Mr. Ulutaş served as the Middle East Programme coordinator at SETA Foundation in Washington, D.C. He also worked at the SETA Foundation in Ankara as the Director of Foreign Policy Studies and lectured at the University of Ankara's Department of International Relations. He authored many books and articles on Middle Eastern history and politics, Israel and Jewish history, Turkish foreign policy in the Middle east. His most recent publication is entitled *The State of Savagery: ISIS in Syria*.

Mr. Halit Eren is the Director General of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation's Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture (IRCICA) in Istanbul. The Centre serves as a platform for cooperation among scholars, researchers, organizations and other parties within and outside OIC Member States in the fields of Islamic culture and civilization. Mr. Eren obtained his doctoral degree from Marmara University. He joined IRCICA in 1981 as head of the documentation department, then coordinator of conferences and symposiums in Central Asia and the Balkans; to be appointed later as the Director General. He has been actively involved in the promotion of Islamic culture and art and the lead of various research projects in that regards. In 2011, he was elected a member of UNESCO coordination committee for the protection of international cultural heritage in Iraq.

Mr. Roberto Valent is the Special Representative of the Administrator for UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP). Prior to his current position, Mr. Valent was the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in El Salvador and Belize. From 2007-2010, he was Deputy Special Representative at UNDP/PAPP. From 2005-2007 he was Deputy Country Director in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and assigned as Deputy Resident Representative in Sudan from 2002-2005. Mr. Valent began his career with UNDP in 1995 in Albania.