



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

***Rethinking the Question of Palestine
Policy Options in an Age of Transition***

International Conference

11 December 2022

Hotel Grand Hyatt Amman



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

Marking the 75th Anniversary of the UN Partition Plan
As part of its Question of Palestine Program,
The Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD)
cordially invites you to The International Conference

**Rethinking the Question of Palestine:
Policy Options in an Age of Transition**

Sunday, 11 December 2022
From 10:30 – 18:00

At the Grand Hyatt Amman and via Zoom

For further information, please find attached an overview
of the Conference, noting that the agenda will follow.
To RSVP or to name a representative, please send an email to

stroian@ardd-jo.org

Your participation, views, and insights
are highly valued and appreciated.

The event will be held in both Arabic and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.





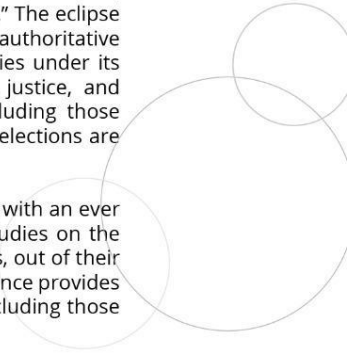
The International Conference **Rethinking the Question of Palestine: Policy Options in an Age of Transition**

Overview:

The Question of Palestine has been central to Jordan since its establishment, with the lack of progress on the political front a grave concern for the Hashemite Kingdom. The current global developments, including the war in Ukraine, and its economic and political repercussions, have been putting unprecedented pressure on socioeconomic needs in both Jordan and Palestine.

As one commentator recently put it, "contrary to a prevailing perception of 'stuckness' and stalemate, in actual fact, 'the Question of Palestine is passing through a quite profound transition.'" The eclipse of the two-state 'solution' has prompted a journey towards a new paradigm in which the authoritative designation of Israel perpetrating the international crime of apartheid in the territories under its control, provides renewed impetus to the Palestinian struggle for decolonization, justice, and liberation. Unprecedented settler provocations and violence in the West Bank, including those directed against the holy sites in East Jerusalem, and the outcome of the latest Israeli elections are challenging the status quo.

In the meantime, UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, has been struggling with an ever more serious financial crisis, prompting calls for change, in 2022 alone three new studies on the agency were conducted. These profound shifts are taking many, primarily policymakers, out of their comfort zone, and their long-term significance merits careful consideration. The conference provides an opportunity to engage on the subject and explore several recent developments, including those impacting Jordan.



Program:

10:30 – 11:00 **Welcome and participant registration**

11:00 – 12:30 **Opening ceremony**

Welcome by Professor Zaid Eyadat, Director of the Center of Strategic Studies, The University of Jordan

Address by Dr. Lex Takkenberg, Senior Advisor on the Question of Palestine

Keynote address by Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Occupied Palestine

Coffee Break

12:30 – 14:00 **Session 1 – 75 Years Beyond Partition: Towards a new Paradigm?**

This session will address pertinent developments concerning the Palestine question, including those impacting Jordan and Palestine. It



will begin by exploring contemporary trends in Israeli and Palestinian politics and why it is urgent to rethink Palestine/Israel. The second speaker will look at the deteriorating situation of Palestinian refugees against the ongoing financial crisis of UNRWA and explore options for a way forward. The final speaker will consider the implications for Jordan of the recent upsurge in violence in Palestine and Israel, the outcome of the latest Israeli elections, and the recent Palestinian reconciliation agreement – and its implications for Jordan.

Moderator: Dr. Omar Rifai, Head of the Board of Directors, WANA Institute

Violence, elections, and Palestinian reconciliation: impact across the Jordan river

Oraib Al-Rantawi, Director-General, Al Quds Center for Political Studies

Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, and the way forward

Dr. Kjersti G. Berg, Postdoctoral research fellow, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway

Where now for Palestine: a new conceptual frame?

Professor Bashir Bashir, Associate Professor Open University of Israel and Senior Research Fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Lunch Break

15:00 – 16:30

Session 2 –Al Aqsa Mosque/Haram El Sharif: Challenges to the status quo

This session will explore the increasing incursions at the Al Aqsa Mosque and Haram El Sharif compound and discuss the extent to which this challenges the long-held status quo with respect to the complex's governance. The status of Jerusalem in international law will be discussed in addition to Hashemite custodianship of the Jerusalem Holy Sites.

Moderator: H.E. Reem Abu-Hassan, Former Minister of Social Development, Lawyer (TBC)

Overview of recent developments with respect to Jerusalem

Mounir Marjeieh, International Advocacy Officer International, Community Action Center - Al-Quds University



Jerusalem in International Law

Dr. Munir Nuseibeh, Assistant Professor of Law, Al Quds University

Dr. Anis Al-Kassem, International Lawyer, Founder, Palestine Yearbook of International Law

Jordan's Special Role with respect to the Holy Sites in Jerusalem

Dr. **Wasfi Al-Kilani**, Executive Director of the Hashemite Fund for the Reconstruction of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock

16:30 – 17:00

Closing remarks

Samar Muhareb, Chief Executive Director, ARDD

17:00 – 18:00

Reception