



**European Union Election Observation Mission
West Bank and Gaza
Palestinian Legislative Council Elections 2006**

LTO Manual

Dear Long Term Observer,

Welcome to the European Union Election Observation Mission for the observation of the elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council 2006. As an LTO you have a demanding task ahead, and we hope that you find the experience rewarding and enjoyable.

The input of the LTO teams will be crucial to the success of our mission. You represent the EUEOM in the districts and we rely on your observations for a comprehensive picture of the electoral process across the country. You must also prepare thoroughly for the arrival and deployment of short term observers (STO) and coordinate their work to enable a complete observation on Election Day.

Your work in the West Bank and Gaza will be complicated by unique security and political environments. There will be strict security measures enforced on all mission members, particularly in terms of movement and reporting, and there will be restrictions regarding which stakeholders you will meet. You may find these aspects of the mission frustrating, but it is imperative that they are respected at all times. Please read carefully the important notice on the conduct of mission members in this manual, and understand that the success of our mission depends entirely on maintaining good relations with the Israeli authorities.

At any point in the mission, please feel free to contact any of us with concerns or questions or if you feel you need additional support. We are here to facilitate your work to the extent possible.

Once again welcome to the mission, and good luck.



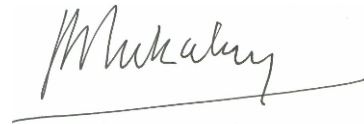
LTO Coordinator

Richard Atwood



Deputy LTO Coordinators

Miguel Alonso-Majagranzas



Narcisse Banze

Contents

- **The European Union Election Observation Mission**

- The EU and Election Observation
- The EUEOEM West Bank and Gaza
- Core Team Details
- LTO Deployment and Contact List
- EUEOM Calendar
- Overview of the LTO role
- Code of Conduct and IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CONDUCT OF MISSION MEMBERS

- **Observation Guidelines**

- Guidelines for meetings with interlocutors
- Guidelines for meetings with the media
- Overview of reporting
- Weekly report format and guidelines
- Summary of Recommendations from EUEOM West Bank and Gaza 2005

- **Political Overview**

- Historic Context
- The Palestinian National Authority
- Electoral Districts by numbers of seats, district candidates and number of registered voters
- Preliminary National Proportional Lists submitted by Political Party and number of candidates
- Political Parties and Factions contesting the 2005 PLC Elections

- **Legal and Electoral Framework**

- Electoral framework
- Legal framework
- Voter registration
- Registration of candidates and voter lists
- Electoral Campaigning
- Voting, counting and tabulation and announcement of results
- Special provisions for elections in East Jerusalem
- Electoral complaints
- Electoral Bodies and Institutions
- Constituencies and allotted parliamentary seats
- Election observation
- Electoral Calendar

- **Logistics**

- **Security**

- MOSS for EUEOM LTO and STO teams
- Mission Travel – Deployment, Management and Staff Numbers
- Road Movement
- Minimum Operational Residential Security Standards
- Standard Procedures for EUEOM West Bank and Gaza 2006

- **Maps**

- Electoral Districts in the West Bank and Gaza
- Eligible voters on the voter's list by gender and by district
- Eligible voters on the voter's list by age group and by district

The European Union and Election Observation

The EU has undertaken an increasing number of election observation missions (EOM) in recent years, as well as undertaking projects, such as the training of Long Term Observers (LTOs) and the commissioning of a handbook on election observation, in order to standardise the EU approach to election observation. These developments reflect the importance the EU place on election observation.

The observation of elections is an important component of the EU's policy in promoting human rights and democratisation throughout the world. The EU undertakes such activities on the basis of partnership with the host country and with the objective of developing national capacity.

EU Election Observation Methodology

Prior to deciding whether or not to deploy an EOM, the EU will send an Exploratory Mission (ExM) to take account of the legal framework and political situation. In short, the EU will wish to determine whether its involvement in monitoring is likely to promote further democratisation in the country.

The ExM will also determine whether the minimum conditions for democratic elections are present. These minimum conditions include the following factors:

- voting franchise is genuinely universal
- political parties and candidates are able to enjoy their legitimate right to participate
- there is freedom of expression, freedom of movement and freedom of assembly
- contesting parties and candidates have reasonable access to the media

The EU will also require an invitation from the host government as well as assurances that other pre-conditions for the work of observers are present. These include: the welcoming of observers by contesting parties; sufficient lead-in time for an effective observation; clearly stated objectives written and agreed with host country; freedom of access to all parties; access to the polling and counting processes; freedom of movement; access to information; and, confidence in the security situation.

If there is no possibility of an election being held under minimum conditions, or if the pre-conditions for observation are not present, then the EU may decide not to deploy an EOM in order to avoid giving credibility to a flawed election. However, this decision will also take account of other factors, such as whether the election is the first for the country, if it follows a period of conflict or oppression or whether the elections are part of a peace process and the possible return of refugees.

EU Election Observation Missions

The EU has developed a long term methodology for the conduct of its EOMs, in accordance with good international practice. Each mission will, wherever possible, consist of a Core Team, Long Term Observers (LTOs) and Short Term Observers (STOs). The EOM will be led by the Chief Observer, who is usually a Member of the European Parliament and the core team will comprise a substantive and an operational logistics component.

The key objectives of a mission are to:

- conduct a comprehensive and national analysis of the electoral process,
- to be able to offer an impartial, balanced and informed assessment of the election, with a series of recommendations for the further consolidation and development of the democratic process in a country;
- by the presence of observers, to seek to reduce tension, minimise instances of fraud, intimidation and violence and hopefully give confidence to contestants and voters to participate freely.

In recent years the EU has organised EOMs in a large number of countries, including: Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Togo, Tanzania, Guyana, Zimbabwe, Peru, Nicaragua, Ivory Coast, Palestine, Indonesia, Bangladesh, East Timor, Suriname, Cambodia, South Africa, Zambia and Nigeria.

The observation mission assesses the registration of voters and candidates, the campaign and the preparations for election day, as well as making an assessment of the electoral framework, the democratic

and human rights environment and sometimes conducting a monitoring of the media during the campaign. Regular meetings are held with election officials at the national, regional and local levels, and with political parties, candidates, civil society and media throughout the country.

Usually on the day after the election, the Chief Observer of the EU EOM issues a preliminary statement based on the long term and short term observations of the entire process. One month after the final results, a more comprehensive report will be issued, which will include a series of recommendations for improvements to the overall electoral process and democratic environment.

In making its assessment of the entire electoral process an EU EOM will consider

- ❖ The impartiality of the electoral administration
- ❖ The campaign freedoms afforded to political contestants, including the fair use of state resources
- ❖ The fair access for all contestants to the media, and in particular the state media
- ❖ The universal franchise afforded to voters
- ❖ The conduct of the polling and counting of votes
- ❖ Any other issues that concern the democratic nature of the election

European Union Election Observation Mission to West Bank and Gaza 2006

Elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) are scheduled to take place on 25 January 2006. Following an invitation from the Palestinian Central Election Commission (CEC), the EU has established an Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) in West Bank and Gaza for the duration of the election process. The Chief Observer is Ms. Véronique De Keyser MEP (Belgium). The mandate of the EUEOM is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process and to offer an assessment of whether the elections are conducted in accordance with domestic law and international standards relating to democratic elections.

The EUEOM was deployed on 14 December and a press conference announcing its launch took place on 21 December. Based in Ramallah, with offices also in Gaza and East Jerusalem, the EUEOM consists of a core team of fourteen experts. On 29 December, 36 long-term observers (LTOs) will join the mission to allow for a widening of its assessment of the technical and political aspects of the electoral process. They will observe the process in all sixteen Palestinian electoral districts. Ahead of Election Day, a further 136 short-term observers (STOs) from 23 EU Member States will observe voting and counting in a majority of the polling stations. Observers from Switzerland and Norway will also join the Mission. The EUEOM will cooperate closely with an observation delegation from the European Parliament as well as a number of other international observation missions. In line with the recent conclusions of the Council of Ministers, the EUEOM will meet with all candidates and liaises closely with the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Government of Israel.

The mission follows on the success of the 2005 EU EOM for the 2005 Presidential Elections. All LTOs should read the Final Report from the EUEOM 2005, in particular the recommendations. Dr. Harald Haas (Austria) & Mr. Ron Helmut Herrmann (Germany), who worked on the previous mission, are working again with the core team. A number of long term observers are returning to the West Bank and Gaza having worked on the EU EOM 2005.

The EUEOM West Bank and Gaza HQ address is

Ambassador Tower, Gemzo Suites, Al-Bireh, Ramallah
P.O. Box: 4101, Al Bireh Tel: + 972 (0) 2 240 5610/11/12 Fax: + 972 (0) 2 240 5614 /15

Core Team Details

<p>Veronique de Keyser</p>	<p>Chief Observer 054-6970834</p>	<p>Ms. Veronique de Keyser is a Belgian member of the European Parliament with the Socialist Worker's Party, part of the Socialist Group and sits on the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>Born in 1945 in Brussels, Belgium, she graduated from the University of Brussels with a degree in psychology in 1968 followed by a Doctorate in work psychology in 1974. After 16 years as researcher in psychology at the ULB and the Brussels Industrial Study and Research Center, she became a junior lecturer at the University of Liege. Between 1990 and 1998 she was Dean of the Psychology and Education Science Faculty at the Liege University. During this time she was also the President of the Belgian Psychology Society. She became a Member of the European Parliament in 2001 and is a substitute on the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection. As a member of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs' Committee, she has been strongly engaged in Human Rights issues in the Middle East.</p>	
<p>Richard Chambers</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Observer 054-6985327</p>	<p>Background in law and elections, Team Leader of the EU Democracy and Election Support Mission to the Afghanistan Presidential Elections 2004, also observed numerous elections for the OSCE/ODIHR as Deputy Head of Mission. Most recently, Richard has acted as an independent technical adviser to the National Election Board of Ethiopia. A former practicing barrister in Wales, Richard has also worked for the OSCE Missions to Serbia & Montenegro and in Kosovo.</p>	
<p>Rebecca Cox</p>	<p>Legal Expert 054-6971934</p>	<p>Rebecca Cox is a lawyer specialising in democratisation and human rights issues. She has observed many elections around the world, from Cambodia to Bosnia, from Ghana to Guatemala. Most recently she worked as an election commissioner on the joint international/Afghan election commission that oversaw the Afghanistan parliamentary elections of September 2005. She has worked for several years as a human rights lawyer with the U.N. in Latin America, and she has also practiced law in London and in New York. Rebecca is particularly interested in women's political participation.</p>	
<p>Ron Herrmann</p>	<p>Election Expert 054-6970839</p>	<p>Brussels-based international consultant for human rights, democratization and election processes, also a lecturer on electoral affairs and a trainer on domestic and international election observations for various organizations. Election Expert of the EU EOMission to West Bank & Gaza in the 2004/05 presidential election, then participated in the elections in Lebanon. As Head Serbia-Montenegro (EUMM) he was also the EU's chief observer for all elections in the State Union from 2002 – 2004; election expert in Albania (2003), LTO for the EU election observation missions in Bangladesh (2001) Zimbabwe (2000). OSCE/ODIHR EOM Kosovo (FRY) in 2001, Albania (1998) and various elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the late 1990s.</p>	
<p>Giuseppe Milazzo</p>	<p>Media Expert 0546979228</p>	<p>Giuseppe Milazzo is a researcher at the <i>Osservatorio di Pavia</i>, an Italian based Media Research Institute, where he manages projects of communication research, particularly related to media monitoring of political pluralism, gender studies and agenda setting. He is involved in training activities on media monitoring both at a national and international level. He has been a Media Expert on a number of international election observation missions, including Serbia (1997), Slovakia (1998), Kazakhstan (1999 and 2004) and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2000 and 2002).</p>	
<p>Mathias Eick</p>	<p>Press Officer 054-6979287</p>	<p>Prior to his appointment as the Spokesperson of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro, he has worked as a Media Development Officer in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. In 1999-2000 he was the OSCE Project Manager for Radio TV Kosovo (RTK). He participated in a number of international election observation missions in the former Yugoslav republics. Following his graduation from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, Mathias Eick worked as a journalist for a number of international media outlets, including the Deutsche Welle, BBC, APTV and WTN, travelling extensively in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.</p>	

Richard Atwood	LTO Coordinator 054-6907101	Richard Atwood has a background in elections, with experience both in technical assistance and in observation. He has frequently worked for the EU, and also for the UN, the OSCE and IFES in a variety of different positions in more than twenty countries across the world. Most recently, he worked with the election administration in Afghanistan.	
Miguel Alonso	Dep. LTO Coordinator 054-6908776	Madrid-based consultant has a degree in law and wide experience in development cooperation and elections. He was recently a Long-term Observer for the OSCE in Azerbaijan. Some of his previous experiences include two years as the Representative for the Spanish International Cooperation Agency in Amman (portfolios like UNRWA, UNAMI, UNDP, the EU Development Group & UN Regional Agencies). From 1998-2000 he was the UNDP Programme Manager in the Ombudsman's Office in Curitiba, Brazil. He has also previously worked as Core Supervisor, Supervisor and Regional Registration Officer for the OSCE in Bosnia and more recently as a Long-term Observer for the EU in Venezuela, Peru, Nicaragua, Republic of Congo and Ecuador.	
Banze Narcisse Mukalay	Dep. LTO Coordinator 054-6985706	Has experience in Election Observation, Supervision and Technical Assistance., since 1997 in more than 20 elections missions for the EU, UN and OSCE as Project Manager, Management Advisor, Electoral Officer, Election and Registration Supervisor, Long Term and Short Term Observer. His work has taken him in Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Suriname, Guyana, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nigeria and Liberia. He holds a Master degree in Political Science and International Relations from Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.	
Thomas Goransson	Operations Expert 054-6979209	Thomas Goransson has extensive experience in International Humanitarian Missions as a Logistics expert and Team Leader. He has a BA in International Economics and Business Management and worked 10 years for commercial transport companies. In addition he has participated in 3 EU Election Observation Missions before as Core Mission Member in Nicaragua and twice in Mozambique. In 1997-98, he worked as the Chief Procurement Officer for TIPH in Hebron, West Bank.	
Maria Rosa Acuna	Dep. Operations 054-6913087	Based in Barcelona and has a degree in Law, Master in International Law and PhD Courses in International Relations. Started working for the Spanish Embassy in Egypt as an Analyst almost 15 years ago and has since then been working on Human Rights for UNICEF in Colombia, the UNHCHR in Geneva Participated as a Long-term Observer (LTO) in elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Madagascar, Cambodia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.	
Dariusz Rasinski	Dep. Operations Gaza 054-6908677	has taken part in many election, observation and peacekeeping missions on the Balkans, in Africa, South-East and East Asia with the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) and EUOM. He holds an engineering degree and a masters in economics. He served for more than 20 years in the Polish Navy as an officer in the field of IT, logistics and command posts. He has been on several missions related to elections on the Balkans, in Cambodia, East Timor, Mosambique, Palestine, Ethiopia and Afghanistan	
Juan Garcia	Security Coordinator 054-6961284	Graduate of Guardia Civil Military Academy, helicopter pilot. From 1999 to 2004, he worked for the United Nations as a Coordinator of the Police Development Program first with UNMIBH and thereafter as a Security Officer with UNMIK in Kosovo. He has participated in various election missions including the Iraq Out-of-Country as Deputy Country Security Advisor in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Most recently he was a member of the European Commission's Electoral Observation Mission in Ethiopia and Sri Lanka.	
Harald Haas	Security Expert Gaza 054-6968592	Dr Harald Haas works as a senior researcher with the Institute for Strategic Research/Austrian National Defence Academy in Vienna. Since 1999, he has been living in Gaza city working on a research project on psycho-political aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Previously, he served as a commissioned officer with the Austrian Armed Forces and as a civil servant with the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs (in Vienna as well as at the Austrian Embassy in Bangkok). From 1996-1997 he served with UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOP) on the Syrian Golan Heights. He graduated in political sciences from University of Vienna.	

Long Term Observer Deployment (note that deployment is subject to change)

Accommodation Location	Electoral District	Team No.	LTO Details		
			Name	Nat	Mobile Phones (Country code +972)
WEST BANK					
Jenin	Jenin	01.01a	Robert Bystricky	SVK	Orange 0546985194
		01.01b	Christine Smers	DEU	Orange 0546951809
	Jenin	02.01a	Anne Marie Agatha Steeman	NLD	Orange 0546908678
		02.01b	Peter Egloff	SWI	Orange 0544659625
	Tubas	03.01a	Egle Zalckiene	LIT	Orange 0546840937
		03.01b	Hans Leopolder	NOR	Orange 0544659245
Tulkarm	Tulkarm	04.01b	Fotini Rantsiou	GRC	Orange 0546971269
		04.01b	Michiel Irish'Stephenson	NLD	Orange 0546979313
Nablus	Nablus	05.01a	Audrone Ranonyte Sidiskiene	LIT	Orange 0546971283
		05.01b	Robert Anciaux	BEL	Orange 0546596379
	Nablus	06.01a	Anne Bourlond	BEL	Orange 0546970792
		06.01b	Renato Giglio Cacioppo	ITA	Orange 0546979309
	Qalqiliya	07.01a	Alexandra Priess	DEU	Orange 0546979294
		07.01b	Janno Simm	EST	Orange 0546971241
Ramallah	Ramallah	08.01a	Polona Rifelj	SLO	Orange 0544658254
		08.01b	Jean Francois Bougeant	FRA	Orange 0546951827
	Ramallah/Salfit	09.01a	Jitka Adamcikova	CZK	Orange 0546592748
		09.01b	Karoly Soos	HUN	Orange 0546592767
Jerusalem	Jerusalem	10.01a	Isabelle Ribot	FRA	Orange 0546908679
		10.01b	Mariusz Wojtan	POL	Orange 0546985298
	Jerusalem	11.01a	Naledi Trine Lester	UK	Orange 0542259167
		11.01b	Peter Ballagh	IRL	Orange 0542259096
Jericho	Jericho	12.01a	Catherine Clarke	UK	Orange 0542259124
		12.01b	Gregorio Aranda Bricio	ESP	Orange 0542259085
Bethlehem	Bethlehem	13.01a	Dimitra Ioannou	GRC	Orange 0542259118
		13.01b	Soren Ingemar Enochsson	SWE	Orange 0542259078
Hebron	Hebron	14.01a	Jan Solovic	SVK	Orange 0542259081
		14.01b	Claudia Aranda	POR	Orange 0542259125
	Hebron	15.01a	Petr Franc	CZK	Orange 0542259082
		15.01b	Henning Maagard	DK	Orange 0542259083
	Hebron	16.01a	Monique Nobs-Margairaz	SWI	Orange 0542259084
		16.01b	Leif Broch	NOR	Orange 0542259160
GAZA					
Gaza	Gaza/North Gaza	17.01a	Hanna Wolasiewicz	POL	Orange 0542259116
		17.01b	Luis Castellar	ESP	Orange 0542259161
	Dier Al Balah/Khan Kunis/Rafah	18.01a	Tania Maria Magalhaes	POR	Orange 0542259162
		18.01b	Jorma Esko Virtanen	FIN	Orange 0542259086

EUEOM West Bank and Gaza 2006 Calendar - DRAFT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 Dec CEC announce preliminary list of candidates	19 Dec	20 Dec Deadline for challenge to candidate list	21 Dec Deadline for CEC to address challenges	22 Dec	23 Dec	24 Dec Deadline for judicial appeal to challenge candidate list
25 Dec	26 Dec	27 Dec	28 Dec	29 Dec LTO arrive	30 Dec LTO briefing	31 Dec LTO briefing
1 Jan LTO Briefing Deadline for withdrawal of candidacy	2 Jan LTO Deployment Deadline for CEC to announce final list of candidates	3 Jan <u>Start of campaign period</u>	4 Jan	5 Jan	6 Jan LTO Weekly Report 1	7 Jan
8 Jan	9 Jan	10 Jan	11 Jan	12 Jan	13 Jan LTO Weekly Report 2	14 Jan LTO mid term briefing
15 Jan LTO mid term briefing	16 Jan	17 Jan	18 Jan	19 Jan	20 Jan LTO Weekly Report 3 Arrival of STO	21 Jan STO briefing
22 Jan STO Briefing MEP Delegation Arrives	23 Jan STO Deployment and Regional Briefing Close of Campaign Security Forces Voting Pre election Report	24 Jan STO AoR Deployment	25 Jan Election Day (07:00 – 19:00)	26 Jan Preliminary Statement Press Conference STO regional debriefing and return Jerusalem LTO Spot Report	27 Jan STO National Debriefing LTO Spot Report E day	28 Jan STO departure
29 Jan	30 Jan	31 Jan	1 Feb EOM Post Election Report	2 Feb LTO Debriefing	3 Feb LTO Final Report	4 Feb
5 Feb LTO Departure	6 Feb	7 Feb	8 Feb	9 Feb	10 Feb	11 Feb
12 Feb	13 Feb	14 Feb Draft Final Report	15 Feb	16 Feb	17 Feb End of Mission	18 Feb

Overview of the LTO Role

The following guidelines are intended to provide you with a comprehensive overview of your role, tasks and the issues you will become involved with during our observation activities. They are also intended to assist you with your responsibilities but they do not pretend to cover all situations you may encounter in the field.

The work of the LTO is two-fold – firstly to observe the process through meetings and observation of political events, reporting back regularly with an analysis of your observation to the core team, and secondly, to prepare for and coordinate the work of the STOs.

In the first aspect, the long term observers' work essentially reflects at local level the work of the core team at national level. Whereas the core team will meet national authorities, the Central Election Commission, national political leaders and the country coordinators of civil society groups, you will meet with their regional counterparts (ie district authorities, the District Election Commissions...etc). From your meetings and other observations you will analyse the electoral process in your respective area of responsibility and report back with your observations and analysis at least weekly to the core team. Thus the core team will have a comprehensive picture of the electoral process across the country.

In addition, you must prepare thoroughly for the arrival of the STOs. Full details of how we expect you to have prepared for LTOs will be given to you on your arrival in country – but essentially you must prepare regional briefing packages, deployment routes and make all logistic preparations for the STOs. It is likely that you will spend a substantial portion of your time with this aspect of your work because of the large number of STOs that will observe these elections. Be careful not to neglect this side of your duties – it is often through the STOs that the success of the mission is judged.

Some LTO teams will also receive Members of the European Parliament around Election Day, and should prepare additional material and to brief them thoroughly.

Usual Terms of Reference for LTOs are the following:

- Familiarize yourself with the relevant election rules, regulations and procedures.
- Establish the district-based presence for the EU EOM.
- Establish good working relations with the electoral and civil administration, political parties, NGOs and international organizations at local levels.
- Gather security and logistics information pertaining to your area of responsibility (AOR) including presence of other observer groups, UN and International projects, road conditions, food and water availability, and accommodation facilities.
- Follow complaints, notifying the core team of the cases.
- Monitor local media in accordance with the methodology specified by the Media Expert
- Co-ordinate the EU observation and monitor the election campaign and administrative preparations in your AoR.
- Report regularly to the LTO-coordinator and/or LTO Coordinator Deputies on findings and activities.
- Attend meetings and briefings with the core-team and other LTOs as requested.
- Liaise with domestic and international observers deployed in AoR.
- Assist in the training and deployment of short term observers, by contributing to the briefing sessions and organising presentations concerning their area of responsibility.
- Assist in finding vehicles and interpreters for themselves and the STOs, if requested
- Participate as trainers in the briefing for short-term observers, by providing information on their experiences during the previous weeks in their respective areas of responsibility AoR including a short written brief.
- Manage the deployment of the STOs to observe polling.
- Observe Election Day procedures.
- Ensure that STO report forms are sent back to the EOM HQ as soon as is feasible.
- Debrief the STOs in their AOR or participate in a general debrief of STOs and LTOs as requested.
- Prepare a Final Report on the observation in their geographical area.
- Comply with any other requests made by the core team.

For the EUEOM to function efficiently, an effective co-ordination of the activities of the core-team and the LTOs and a two-way communication should be ensured. Your principal contact point will be the LTO Coordinator and the two LTO Coordinator Deputies, though you may also need to contact other members of the core team. In addition, the LTO teams operating in the capital will liaise with the core-team to ensure that meetings with officials and parties are not duplicated.

Due to the specific conditions and to anticipate eventual evacuation needs, a security warden system will be put in place (which will be explained in detail in the security briefing) with one LTO acting as senior warden in each duty station. There will be 7 LTO Senior Wardens, one in Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron and Gaza respectively.

All teams should be aware that there are a relatively large number of observers in the West Bank and Gaza for the elections, certainly in proportion to the size of the electorate and the number of polling stations. Please remember that while the District Election Commissions should be open with you and afford you time for meetings, they also have an election to administer – please do not take up inordinate amounts of their time.

The objective of neutral observation is to monitor election activities and note their successes and achievements as well as to identify circumstances, issues or irregular practices that jeopardize or impair compliance with accepted international standards. This is particularly important if irregularities appear to be deliberate, pervasive or part of an organized scheme.

In fulfilling this key objective, it is also important to consider that the elections do not begin and end with the conduct of the poll on Election Day.

EU Observer Code of Conduct

European Union election observers have always signed a Code of Conduct, the key elements of which are below. In October 2005, the European Commission and around twenty other international organisations commemorated the Declaration of Principles for Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which will be signed by all EUEOM mission members on their arrival.

Key elements of the EU Code of Conduct for observers

- ❖ Observers shall maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of their duties, and shall at no time express any bias or preference in relation to national authorities, parties, candidates or with reference to any issues in contention in the electoral process
- ❖ Observers will **refrain from making any personal or premature comments** about their observations to the media or any other interested persons, but shall provide, through a designated person, general information about the nature of their activities as observers
- ❖ Observers must **respect the laws of the land**. Observers enjoy no special immunities unless so afforded by the host country. Observers must therefore comply with all national laws and regulations, but take note where such rules prevent them from carrying out their duties, such as limiting their freedom of movement or assembly
- ❖ Observers will **undertake their duties in an unobtrusive manner**, and will not disrupt or interfere in the electoral process
- ❖ Observers may bring irregularities to the attention of election officials, but will not give instructions or countermand decisions of election officials
- ❖ Observers will be **subject to the direction and management of the observer team leadership**, carrying out their written terms of reference and covering the geographical schedules specified by team leaders
- ❖ At all times during the mission, including during private time away from work, each election observer should behave blamelessly, exercise sound judgement and observe the **highest level of personal discretion**

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF MISSION MEMBERS

The EUEOM West Bank and Gaza is being conducted in a unique political environment, which is further complicated by a difficult security situation. The success of the mission depends entirely on our relationship with the Israeli authorities.

With this in mind, the mission will strictly implement a number of policies. The core team understands that you may find these policies frustrating and that to some extent, the policies will impact your duties as LTOs, but please ensure that you follow them throughout the mission. Failure to do so will be viewed very negatively by the mission, and could lead to an early termination of your contract.

Meeting with candidates

The EUEOM is mandated to meet with all candidates for the 2006 Palestinian Legislative Council Elections. However, due to the sensitive nature of the mission, it is imperative that LTOs seek permission from the core team, through the LTO Coordinator, before conducting formal meetings with certain candidates. Details of these candidates will be provided during your briefing here.

Conduct at Israeli checkpoints.

Most of you will pass regularly through Israeli checkpoints. During your security briefing, you will receive instructions for reporting movements to your Israeli security liaison. Please follow these consistently and report all movements on a daily basis – this will facilitate your movements through checkpoints.

If you experience problems at a checkpoint, please remain calm and polite. Report the incident immediately to your EUEOM Security Expert (details will be provided here). If you are not allowed through, please respect this and return to your previous location. Do not argue with the Israeli security personnel and do not create a scene at any checkpoint.

Impartiality

The EU Code of Conduct states that observers shall maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of their duties, and shall at no time express any bias or preference in relation to national authorities, parties, candidates or with reference to any issues. Please note that this does not only extend to relations between the candidates competing in the elections, but also to relations between Palestine and Israel. Please be discreet about your opinions on the subject.

General behaviour

The EU Code of Conduct states that each election observer should behave blamelessly, exercise sound judgement and observe the highest level of personal discretion. While important for all observation missions, your good behaviour is particularly important for the EUEOM West Bank and Gaza. The conduct of all mission members will be under close scrutiny from stakeholders, and any misconduct will damage the credibility of the mission. Please also note that it is not permitted to leave your duty station without the permission of the core team, through LTO Coordinator.

Again, the core team would like to emphasise even before your arrival that failure to comply with any of the above will be viewed very negatively by the mission and could lead to an early termination of your contract.

OBSERVATION GUIDELINES AND MANUAL

Guidelines for meeting with interlocutors

While all observers have their own 'style' of conducting meetings, it is important that all introduce the EUEOM in the same manner and that, to some degree, mission members use the same methodology. These guidelines provide a suggested format for your meetings with interlocutors. This section can be taken from the binder and used for reference in meetings.

Introduction

- This general introduction applies to all your interlocutors. Don't forget to allow your interlocutors to introduce themselves!
- Give an explanation about the EUEOM (emphasizing our mandate, our neutrality and impartiality and that EOM observed the presidential elections and is now observing the PLC elections). Also explain EUEOM structure – core team in Ramallah, LTOs covering all districts, around 200 observers on Election Day. The largest international observation mission.
- Explain what your function is and the EOM methodology – meeting with stakeholders, weekly reports, a preliminary statement based on long and short-term observations followed by a more detailed final report.
- Also if you feel useful, give your background (observed elections in which countries etc). Make sure that you give your coordinates (business cards or mobile-number, email address).
- Try also to learn something about the political affiliation of your interlocutors.

Suggested questions for interlocutors

Public Officials (mayors, municipal/ community officials, police and all other relevant officials).

- In which way is your work connected with the preparation and conduct of the elections?
- Do you provide concrete assistance to the electoral process? If yes, In what way?
- What are your experiences with electoral officials and other related public officials, candidates and domestic observers?
- Do you have any concerns regarding the overall electoral process?
- How can freedom of movement for election officials, candidates and the electorate be achieved best, considering the present circumstances?

Election Officials

- Do you see election preparations as being on track?
- How would you assess the communication and co-operation between the CEC, the DEC and the polling staff?
- How and when are polling commission members appointed and trained? Can the EOM can be present at the training?
- Are you involved in voter education? (if yes, in which way?).
- What challenges are you currently confronted by?
- Which future challenges might occur over the next days and weeks?
- Have you published the final candidates' list? When?
- Have you received any formal complaint (by candidates, voters or domestic election observers? Details if yes.
- When do sensitive election materials arrive? Can we observe their arrival?
- Do you envisage problems with the tabulation of results.

Candidates and their supporting staff, political party representatives

- What are your current and future plans for campaigning? (what? when? how?)
- What are, if any, your main obstacles in conducting your campaign?
- How do you perceive the tone of other candidates' campaigns?
- In what way are your movements limited? How does this affect the ability to campaign?
- What are your experiences with electoral officials and other election related officials?
- Did you experience any problems with candidate registration?
- With domestic observers?
- With military and the police?
- Who are your coordinators in the different districts and communities?
- How do you finance your campaign? (figures)
- How do you assess the coverage of your campaign in the Palestinian media?
- At which aspects of the electoral process should the EUEOM look at closely?

Domestic observers, civil society representations

- What are your main fields of activities?
- Have you conducted election observation in previous elections? If yes, in which?
- How do you intend to observe the electoral process?
- Does it include the pre-election/campaign period/do you focus only on voting day?
- Are you conducting a parallel tabulation and publishing it on election night?
- Are you conducting an exit poll?
- Do you also continue during post-voting period?
- Are you also involved in voter education and If yes in which way?
- How many observers do you have?
- Who are your different coordinators in different districts and communities?
- Are you supported by any internationals (non-governmental organizations, If so in which way?)
- How do you assess the registration process?
- How do you assess the electoral process so far?
- What obstacles do you foresee for the forthcoming elections? Specific geographic area, legal loopholes, operation obstacles?
- What impact might the conduct and result of the forthcoming legislative election have for other coming elections in the various constituencies?
- What are your concrete experiences with, electoral bodies and other election related public officials, candidates, parties, military & police.
- Have you submitted any formal complaint to any electoral body so far or do you intend doing so?
- How do you assess the coverage of the electoral process (include parties, candidates campaign), by the Palestinian media.
- How do you assess the campaign?
- Any misuse of state resources?
- At which aspects of the electoral process should the EOM look at closely?

Guidelines for Meetings with Media

Please gather information on media institutions and issues and include detailed reports as part of weekly format.

Who to meet

- Representatives of local media in your area
- Editors in chief or political editors of TV/newspapers/radio.
- Editors in chief of news agencies or printing houses.
- Representatives of journalists' associations and trade unions.
- NGOs and organisations that are active in the media field (training, media monitoring, protection of freedom of expression, lawyers)

What to ask

Please refrain from expressing any opinion in the formulation of your questions. Remember you are not allowed to give interviews on any aspect of the elections. When you ask information from journalists, remember to formulate your questions in the most neutral way and vocabulary in order to avoid any misunderstanding or manipulation.

- **Media data**
 - (Estimated) viewership/readership
 - Coverage of the territory/ diffusion of the media outlet
 - Range of broadcasting/Frequency of issue
 - Ownership. Number of employed and free lance journalists working for the media outlet. Please remember to ask also the number of employed women and their position in the media structure.
 - For print media: printing house and channels for the distribution they have resort to.
 - News agencies and sources of information they resort to.

- **Editorial line**
 - What section of the public do they target?
 - What is the extra electoral level of attention for politics? For electronic media: ask them to describe their normal schedule, with particular attention for the collocation in the schedule and the frequency of TV news, current events programs and political information programs.

- **Election coverage**
 - What kind of coverage are they offering to the electoral campaign? How many electoral debates and programs are they broadcasting?
 - What is their editorial policy and their schedule as for voters' education and information?
 - Do they support any particular candidate or list?
 - How is organised the free airtime/space offered to candidates? How much does it cost normally a minute of free airtime to the TV/radio? How is it reimbursed (by the state authorities after elections, by parties with funds got from the state, etc.)?
 - Only for print media: are they selling paid space to candidates and parties? How much is this space? And how much does it cost? If possible try to get the price list for political advertising and, after elections, try to get the final budget containing the sold time and the rates paid by candidates and parties.

- **Opinions**
 - What are the issues of this campaign?
 - What is their perception of the role of the media and its situation in the country (level of development, independence, freedom of expression, professional standards, technological innovation, etc.).
 - Do they think that institutions and laws regulating media are sufficient to guarantee their free activity? If not, what are the measures and the options that should be taken into account?
 - What is the role of the state and of the political parties in media management and media activity?
 - What influence does media have on public opinion? Are they trusted and perceived as reliable sources of information?

If you are asked to do an interview

This is OK. We have no secrets.

BUT DO NOT GIVE A COMMENT ON THE PROCESS.

Explain to the journalist:

- who you are and where you are from
- how you are doing your job as an LTO
- explain how the observation mission is structured throughout the country
- explain that we have had a long term observation, taking account of the entire process
- explain that all the long term and short term observations will be considered and a preliminary press statement will be issued by the Chief Observer after the election.

If they want a comment on a particular incident, e.g. a violent incident in your area, or a claim of fraud – explain that of course we take all such allegations seriously and will look into all such claims and take them up with the appropriate authorities. Reiterate our mandate, that we are observers and cannot interfere in the process.

For follow-up or more substantive comments they should always be referred to the HQ in Ramallah, to the Chief Observer, DCO or Press officer.

AGAIN, DO NOT COMMENT ON THE PROCESS – EXPLAIN THAT WE WILL ISSUE A STATEMENT THAT WILL REFLECT THE OBSERVATIONS OF ALL THE OBSERVERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

LTO reporting

LTOs will use a number of reporting formats.

PLEASE STICK TO THE REPORTING FORMATS

1. Weekly summary

The weekly summary will be sent at the start of each week to LTOs by the core team. The summary will include political, electoral and operational issues identified by the core team from meetings with stakeholders in Ramallah and from LTO reports. The summary will include a series of questions that can be answered with a 'yes' or a 'no'.

LTOs should return summary by 1400 every FRIDAY to Richard Atwood (richard.atwood@eueomwbg.org)

2. Weekly report

The weekly report should be submitted by 1400 every FRIDAY to Miguel (miguel.alonso-majagranzas@eueomwbg.org). Weekly reports should not exceed 5 pages.

The weekly report should be a concise analysis of your work and observations that week. It should not contain minutes from meetings. Please also be clear in your reports about what you have actually observed, and what has been reported to you by interlocutors (and who has reported each incident). Please ensure that you note all contact details for interlocutors that you have met that week.

Format and guidelines for the Weekly Report can be found over the following pages.

3. Rally report

Rally reports should be completed each time LTOs attend a political rally and sent the same day to Miguel.

4. Spot report

LTOs should complete a spot (or incident) report each time they observe or hear about an incident which they feel should be reported immediately. Spot reports should be sent to Miguel.

Every Friday at 1400, LTOs will submit by email in a zip folder all reports for that week, including the weekly summary, the weekly report and all rally and spot reports

Templates for all reports will be available on the LTO CD.



EUROPEAN UNION
ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
West Bank and Gaza Palestinian Legislative Council Elections 2006

LTO Weekly Report

Observers Name	
No	
Station	
Post number	
Reporting to period	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- *Less than one page, a bullet point summary of key points*

2. SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

Meeting date and time	position and contact details of interlocutor

3. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

- *General overview, election related events*
- *Urban and rural areas comparison*
- *Party and candidate activity*
- *Candidates security situation*
- *Any particular or exceptional circumstances*
- *Official complaints by individual candidates or electoral lists*

4. ELECTION PREPARATIONS

- *General Overview*
- *Election Administration*
 - *Impartiality*
 - *Composition of DEC (same as for last election?, profession, age, gender, political/religious background)*
 - *Recruitment and composition of registration and polling station commissions*
- *Any indication of pressure on election administration from political authorities or parties – details if yes*
- *Candidate registration and publication of candidate lists (both races), complaints*
- *Voter registration/complaints, Final Voters' List published?*

- *Voter Information/Civic education activities (include any activities by NGOs)*
- *Accreditation of candidate and list agents*
- *Perception of election administration by contestants and voters*
- *Polling station locations and accessibility. Any additions to last election?*
- *Election logistics and material distribution – level of security and transparency in material transfer*
- *Any movement restriction and if so, impact of restrictions*
- *Complaints and administration of complaints*

5. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

- *General Overview*
- *Campaign security –*
 - *freedom of speech, movement, assembly,*
 - *intimidation and/or threats to candidates and supporters, orchestrated disturbances, other incidents/obstacles*
- *General campaign environment –*
 - *campaign activities (rally attendance, tone, inflammatory language, presence of weapons),*
 - *electorate's perception of campaign*
 - *influencing voters (any illegitimate means?)*
 - *political campaign funding*
 - *presence and attitude of police and military (include number of security personnel at rallies)*
 - *formal complaints?*
- *Use of state resources in campaigning?*
- *Campaign events for following week*

6. DOMESTIC OBSERVATION

- *General Overview*
- *Domestic observer organisations (scale and political affiliation)*
- *Number of observers and composition (gender, age, competence, remuneration etc)*
- *Training of observers (when, where, how, who?)*
- *Relations of domestic observers with election administration, parties/candidates, other observer groups, police and military*
- *Coverage of electoral process*
- *Domestic observer organisations' assessment of the process*

7. MEDIA

- *General overview of media in AoR*
- *Media coverage of elections in local media*
- *Media coverage of the EUEOM*

8. SECURITY

- *Incidents involving LTOs at checkpoints*
- *Relations with security authorities (daily contact with liaison etc)*
- *Planned demonstrations*
- *Clashes between militias*
- *Confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli army*

- *Any other security-related issues*
-
-

9. YOUR LOGISTICS

- *Transport, accommodation, personnel, communications (mobile, sat phone, email), equipment (laptop, printer),*
 - *Any additional logistic support needed from Core Team*
-
-

10. PREPARATIONS FOR STO ARRIVAL

- *Substance (district information package, briefing)*
 - *Any disagreement with suggested number of observers (if yes, please justify)?*
 - *Logistics (transport, accommodation, personnel, comms plan)*
-
-

11. COORDINATION WITH OTHER OBSERVERS

- *Planned coordination of observation with other observer teams (shared briefings, sharing information, debriefing)*
-
-

12. PROGRAMME FOR NEXT WEEK

- *Basic overview of the following weeks planned activities*
-
-

13. NEEDED FROM CORE TEAM

- *Any additional support needed from core team*
 - *Any questions/issues that need to be answered*
-
-

14. OTHER ISSUES

Summary of Recommendations from EUEOM West Bank and Gaza 2005

General Recommendation	Specific Action Recommended
1. Ensure electoral arrangements are finalised in good time	<p>1. All electoral arrangements need to be considered and agreed in good time to avoid the late finalisation of the electoral arrangements and the consequent poor provision of information to voters and candidates.</p> <p>2. This is particularly relevant to any arrangements which require a Palestinian-Israeli agreement, as this proved to be extremely time consuming and problematic.</p>
2. Provide Reasonable Electoral Conditions for Candidates and Voters in East Jerusalem	<p>3. It is imperative that the electoral process in East Jerusalem is conducted in an equal manner as far as possible in comparison to the other electoral constituencies. Whilst it is understood that Annex II of the Declaration of Principles may still be relevant, it is hoped that good will and common sense will prevail in this respect to prevent a recurrence of the problems which characterised the process in Jerusalem in both 1996 and 2005.</p> <p>4. There must be a full and inclusive registration of Palestinian voters in Jerusalem, with clear information provided as to where they will vote on election day.</p> <p>5. Voters must receive assurances that their participation in the electoral process will not in any way jeopardise their rights and status as Jerusalem ID card holders.</p> <p>6. The arrangements for election campaigning, including the establishment of campaign offices for candidates and the free movement of candidates throughout the constituency must be articulated in good time before the start of the campaign.</p> <p>7. Candidates eligible to stand for election in Jerusalem, but currently residing elsewhere, must be afforded proper access to the constituency.</p> <p>8. Proper, reasonable and adequate provision must be made for voting by all registered voters in the vicinity in which they live, in accordance with basic international electoral standards of equal treatment, secrecy of the vote and convenient provision of adequate polling places.</p> <p>9. If the postal services should remain the provider of infrastructural support to the voting process, then this should not necessarily in itself mean there is a limitation on the number of premises that can be provided, as based on examples elsewhere in the world when there is an increased "seasonal" demand for postal services, temporary postal facilities can be utilised.</p> <p>10. Regular electoral officials should be permitted to oversee the proper conduct of the election, possibly in a supervisory role so that problems can be properly addressed.</p>
3. Ensure the Independence and Integrity of Electoral Administrative Bodies	<p>11. The EUEOM strongly recommends that political authorities undertake to respect the independence of the CEC and its subordinate bodies in all districts, in the interests of the integrity and legitimacy of the electoral process. This is a question of political will, as the required provisions are already present in the law.</p> <p>12. It is encouraging that the newly-elected President has apparently reiterated this, but it now must be seen to be the case as the CEC prepares for the crucial PLC elections. Any repetition of these pressures and interference would have serious consequences for the integrity of the electoral process in future elections.</p> <p>13. Further, the suggested changes to CEC and DEC procedures (see below) would add extra safeguards in this respect.</p> <p>14. In addition, agreement on or reiteration of clear and binding procedures for the registration and voting rights of security and police personnel would help to avoid any repetition of the highly detrimental pressure to which the CEC and other electoral management bodies were subjected to during this election, as well as serve to prevent such large numbers of public servants from potentially losing their rights. The CEC and Ministry of Interior should ensure that the procedures for this are agreed and implemented in good time before the next election.</p> <p>15. The EUEOM also wants to stress that there is no requirement for the CEC to resign following an election. There is no legal imperative for this and it would bring into question the independence of the body.</p>
4. Conduct Voter Registration and end the use of Civil Register for Electoral Purposes	<p>16. The law should be amended to end the use of the civil register in the electoral process.</p> <p>17. There should be a parallel end for a need for 'special polling stations'.</p> <p>18. A period of supplementary voter registration is organised to provide reasonable opportunity for persons not on the voter list to confirm their eligibility and be added to the list and informed of the location of their regular polling station.</p> <p>19. Voters should be made aware that they have a responsibility to present themselves for registration and political parties and civil society organisations should be mobilised to publicise the registration process, ensuring as many eligible persons as possible are reached.</p>

	20. The law is amended again to end the possibility for the use of the civil register for voting purposes, meaning that for future voting there are just regular polling stations and regular polling lists.
5. Provide Appropriate Freedom of Movement for Electoral Stakeholders	21. The EUEOM strongly recommends that the electoral process must enjoy the basic freedoms of movement and assembly. Even in the worst case scenario whereby Israeli forces are still imposing strict measures, given sufficient time it should still be possible to expand upon the procedures employed for the 9 January election in order to put in place adequate arrangements for the proposed July elections, where the number of candidates will be significantly larger.
6. Enforce the Prohibition on Involvement of Public Authorities in the Electoral Campaign	22. It is important that the law on the prohibition of abuse of "state resources" is respected and enforced, ending the pervasive practice during the 9 January elections of support being provided to one candidate by PA officials and institutions.
	23. Internal guidelines for public bodies and public figures should be developed, explaining clearly what is permissible and what is not.
	24. Heads of public bodies could be asked to sign a declaration to indicate support for such prohibitions, and would therefore be held accountable in the face of evidence of abuse.
	25. The CEC and DEC are urged to act, and be seen to act, upon complaints.
	26. The liable sanctions for violations should be widely publicised to ensure familiarity.
7. Increase the Transparency of the CEC and DECs	27. The CEC should establish and publish clear internal procedures for decision making, to preclude ad hoc decisions.
	28. There should be no changing the rules of the election on the day of the election.
	29. There should be a requirement on behalf of the CEC for the publication and notification to relevant stakeholders of all formal CEC and DEC decisions.
	30. The CEC should consider allowing a limited number of relevant stakeholders (such as political party representatives, observers) to attend formal meetings of the CEC and DECs.
	31. The CEC must ensure the publication of decisions on complaints and appeals, including information on and reasons for the refusal to consider any complaint.
8. Develop Clearer and More Comprehensive Guidelines on Media Coverage	32. Develop internal guidelines for media outlets, providing a barometer for assessing media output as well as serving to inform media of their responsibilities. Including guidelines on Journalists' rights (right to report, right to criticise, confidentiality of sources, access to information, etc.) and, Duties (produce information that is reliable, true, clear, timely, verifiable, substantiated and accurate)
	33. Develop external guidelines, with a more detailed explanation in the election law of how media should cover the election campaign in order to provide balanced coverage for the public. This can help define: Right to reasonable access and fair treatment for all election contestants, particularly with regards to the official media; duty to provide fair and professional editorial coverage (news, debates, etc.) on behalf of all electronic and official media; any potential conflict of interest (i.e. candidates owning media outlets, journalists running as candidates, advantage of the incumbent government etc.).
	34. If the CEC puts in place a proper framework for media conduct for the election it could consider establishing a media monitoring unit to measure compliance.
	35. The legal framework for media should include provisions regulating the purchase of airtime both in terms of amount of paid advertisement candidates are entitled to buy during the campaign period and in terms of fees that media can impose on candidates, including the provision that the same rates should apply for all candidates and the rates should be the lowest for the time band requested.
9. Develop More Comprehensive Procedures for Verifying Campaign Financing and Expenditure	36. The political and electoral process would benefit from the development of more comprehensive, feasible and viable procedures for verifying campaign financing and expenditure.
	37. There also needs to be a concurrent will to enforce such regulations, because if successful, such mechanisms can have a positive effect on the process, including increasing the accountability of political parties, ensuring more effective political competition, preserving the integrity of the electoral process by increasing transparency, enhancing accountability, eliminating corruption and strengthening the rule of law.
	38. The EUEOM recommends a re-consideration of this part of the law, leading

	to the development of a more rigorous, but feasible and enforceable, series of financial disclosures on behalf of all candidates.
10. Provide Increased Safeguards Against Manipulation of Assisted Voters	39. The legal provisions on procedures for assisted voters should be amended to place a limit of just one voter to be assisted by any other person. This will help address the problem of individuals assisting multiple persons in a polling station.
11. Ensure the Proper Management, Verification and Scrutiny of Sensitive Election Materials	40. The CEC should ensure that it improves its handling and scrutiny of the various stages for production and distribution of the sensitive election materials, such as the printing and delivery of ballots.
12. Provide Full, Timely and Transparent Publication of Election Results	41. The EUEOM strongly recommends that the CEC fully utilises the resources it has to ensure for future elections a prompt publication of all details relating to results and voting turnout. It has been shown in elections elsewhere, that such a willingness and capacity to rapidly provide such information greatly adds to the transparency and confidence in an election.
	42. Such transparency and confidence would be further enhanced if the results were also published down to polling station level. The Palestinian election is actually of a very modest size compared to many, with just over 3,000 polling stations in total and such a prompt breakdown should be feasible.
	43. Further, as civil society organisations and party representatives are permitted to collect copies of polling station results and as such results are also to be posted at the polling station site for a period of days after the election, it is somewhat logical that this exercise is only valuable if such results can be compared

The recommendations that affect the work of the election administration at district level have been highlighted. Throughout the mission, LTOs should keep these issues in mind and report the extent to which they have been addressed your reports.

Political Background

Historical Context

History of the Israeli-Palestinian and general Arab-Israeli conflicts is a contentious matter, with fierce debate on either side. It is expected that most observers will have read their own chosen history, but the following timelines are offered as a way of highlighting key events.

- According to Ottoman records, in 1878 there were 462,465 subject inhabitants of Jerusalem, Nablus and Acre districts: 403,795 Muslims (including Druze), 43,659 Christians and 15,011 Jews. In addition, there were perhaps 10,000 Jews with foreign citizenship (recent immigrants to the country), and several thousand Muslim Arab nomads (bedouin) who were not counted as Ottoman.
- At the beginning of World War I, the British agreed to support the creation of an Arab state in the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire (Husayn-Mc Mahon agreement).
- In 1917 the British Foreign Minister, Lord Arthur Balfour issued a declaration announcing his Government support for the establishment of the “Jewish National Home” in Palestine.
- In 1921 (after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire) the British divided the region in two: east of Jordan River became the Emirate of Transjordan, the west bank of the Jordan became the Palestine Mandate.
- During the persecution of Jews in Europe (1935/1945) a immigration of Jews to Palestine increased.
- The United Nations Partition Plan (1947) divided the country in such a way that each state would have a majority of its own population, although some Jewish settlements would fall within the proposed Palestinian state and many Palestinians would live within the boundaries of the proposed Jewish state.
- In May 1948 the British evacuated Palestine and the state of Israel was proclaimed. First Arab-Israeli war involving Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq. The state of Israel encompassed over 77% of the territory. Palestine divided into three parts each under separate political control. Over 700.000 Palestinian refugees abroad.
- The following period was characterized by difficult living conditions for the Palestinians in Israeli territory as well as for the Jewish colony in Palestinian areas.
- In 1956, Israel joined the French and British to attack Egypt in Suez canal.
- In 1967, the Israeli military carried out a “pre-emptive” attack and destroyed the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian armies in the area. The six day war established Israel as the dominant regional military power. Israel occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt and the Golan Heights from Syria, and created a second wave of Palestinian refugees.
- As a consequence of the occupation, the Palestinian National Movement emerged as a major actor in the form of a political and military group that made up the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization).
- In 1967, the UN resolution 242 called for Israel to withdraw from “the territories.”
- In 1973, the Egyptian and Syrian army stormed over Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights, during Yom Kippur, claiming the “territories” still occupied by Israeli forces. The attack was eventually repelled.
- 1979 brought the Camp David I accords. The first agreement led to the Egyptian-Israeli Peace treaty and the second agreement proposed to grant autonomy to the Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- In 1987, the Palestinian population started a massive uprising against the Israeli occupation in West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This first Palestinian Intifada shifted the center of gravity of Palestinian political initiative from the PLO leadership in Tunis (in exile) to the occupied territory.
- In 1991, a US coalition attacked Iraq. The PLO’s opposition to US policy led to the cut off of financial support from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, leading to PLO diplomatic isolation.
- The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) and the Islamic Jihad became more and more popular in the occupied territories. This led to a confrontation with Israeli forces and the beginning of secret negotiations between PLO (considered now as a moderate) and the Rabin Government.
- In 1993, the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles was signed in Washington, based on the mutual recognition of Israel and PLO. It established that Israel would withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho with further withdrawals in areas of the West Bank within five years. During this period, the PLO formed the “Palestinian Authorities” with “self-governing” powers.
- In 1995, the Oslo II agreement was signed, foreseeing 7% of territory going to full Palestinian control and 21% to joint Palestinian-Israeli control. Palestinian prisoners were released.

- In 1995, Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. Netanyahu (Likud) elected as prime minister of Israel, and Israeli policy moves away from the Oslo Accords.
- 1996, elections for president (Ra'is) of PA and 88-member Palestinian Legislative Council
- In 2000, the Camp David II summit ended in a failure of the Palestinian-Israeli talks over east Jerusalem leading to the second intifada.
- In 2002, Al-Aqsa Martyrs started suicide attacks inside Israel. Israel's re-invasion of most of the West Bank. Road Map launched by international community as framework for addressing problems of peace and reform.
- 2003, Palestinian suicide bombings and Israeli "targeted killings" continued. Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) was chosen as Palestinian prime minister.
- Thursday Nov. 11. 2004 Mr. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader who led his people's struggle for 40 years, died at a French Hospital at the age of 75. A presidential election is called. Elections for the PLC, initially envisaged to be held concurrently with the presidential election, are postponed to July.
- The presidential elections take place on 9 January 2005. Generally peaceful, they were described by the EU EOM as "represent[ing] a genuine effort to conduct a regular electoral process....However, the occupation and continuing violence as well as restrictions on freedom of movement meant that a truly free election was always going to be difficult to achieve." The elections were won by the Fatah candidate and former prime minister Mahmood Abbas.
- January 2005: Hamas and Islamic Jihad agree to suspend attacks on Israel in order to give the new Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, time to secure international guarantees for a comprehensive ceasefire that would end more than four years of intifada.
- February 2005 The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, and the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, agree a ceasefire and pledge to end violence after more than four years of intifada. Israel says it will lift roadblocks around some West Bank cities to allow freer movement and will take other steps to ease controls on Palestinians as both sides seek to build on the newly announced ceasefire.
- June: The PLC elections are postponed again to January 2006.
- August/September: Israel military and settlers unilaterally 'disengage' from Gaza.
- November The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, resigns as leader of the ruling Likud party, saying it is unfit to run the country. He is joined by former PM Shimon Peres from the Labour party and an election is called.
- December A Palestinian suicide bomber – the seventh since January - kills at least five people and wounds at least 35 outside a shopping mall in the Israeli city of Netanya..

Palestinian National Authority (PNA)

Political Structure

The Palestinian Leadership body consists of the PLO and the PNA. The PLO is the highest political body that represents the Palestinian people in the Palestinian homeland and the Diaspora. The Palestinian Authority (PA) is the highest political authority responsible for the Palestinian people in the Palestinian Territories. The highest executive body in the PLO is the PLO Executive Committee

PLO Executive Committee (EC):

Consists of 18 members elected by the Palestine National Council (a body of over 500 members mostly from diaspora), with full operational authority over all PLO organizations and budget. Directs the activities of the PLO in accordance with the Covenant and the Basic Law. Members have ministerial positions in the various PLO departments responsible for foreign affairs, higher education, military, the OPT, national relations (with Arab states), popular organizations, information and culture, administration, social affairs, economics, planning, health and finance. The current head of the PLO is Mahmoud Abbas

The PA structure

The PA is a combination of parliamentary and presidential systems, divided into executive and legislative bodies. The balance of power between these bodies has been a matter of tension for some time and is a highly pertinent issue in the post-Arafat period. The President of the PA, together with the government, holds the executive authority and the PLC performs the legislative role.

Dr. Mahmoud Abbas (born [1935](#)), commonly known as Abu Mazen was [elected President](#) (*Ra'ees*) of the [PA](#) on 9 [January 2005](#) with 62% of the vote. He took office six days later. Abbas is a leading politician in [Fatah](#). He served as the first [Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority](#) from March to October [2003](#) when he resigned citing lack of support from Israel and the United States as well as "internal incitement" against his government. Before being named Prime Minister, Abbas led the PLO's Negotiations Affairs Department. He has served as Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee since [November 11, 2004](#), after [Yasser Arafat](#)'s death. His reputation in the West is that of a moderating influence in the Palestinian Authority. "Abu Mazen" is an Arab honorific title, meaning "father of Mazen", his eldest son.



The current Prime Minister is Ahmad Qurei but he has announced his resignation to take part as a Fatah candidate in the PLC elections.

The PA also consists of:

- Council of Ministers
- The currently 88-member Palestinian Legislative Council
- Palestinian National Security Council

Palestinian Authority Security Forces:

Consists of six separate forces: National-Security Force; General Intelligence; Military Intelligence; Civil Police; Preventive Security; Civil Defence

2006 Palestinian Legislative Council elections

Electoral Districts by numbers of seats, district candidates and number of registered voters.

	District	Seats	Number of set-aside seats for Christians	Preliminary Number of Candidates	No of registered voters as of Oct05
1	Jerusalem	6	2	39	39,562
2	Jenin	4	0	32	97,173
3	Tulkarem	3	0	17	69,704
4	Tubas	1	0	9	20,171
5	Nablus	6	0	33	125,652
6	Qalqilya	2	0	10	32,783
7	Salfit	1	0	9	25,165
8	Ramallah & Albireh	5	1	36	103,476
9	Jericho	1	0	5	15,247
10	Bethlehem	4	2	36	67,137
11	Hebron	9	0	55	179,570
12	North Gaza	5	0	28	92,208
13	Gaza (City)	8	1	53	163,336
14	Der Elbalah	3	0	20	75,966
15	Khan Younis	5	0	44	98,037
16	Rafah	3	0	11	63,534
	TOTAL	66	6	437	1,268,721

Preliminary National Proportional Lists submitted by Political Party and number of candidates

Position on List	Name in English	Name as in Arabic	Number of Candidates
1	The Alternative	Al-Badeel	41
2	Independent Palestine/ Mustafa Bargouthi	Falastin Almusaqellah	41
3	Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa	Ashahid Abu Ali Mustafa	51
4	Martyr Abu Alabbas	Ashahid Abu Alabbas	11
5	Freedom and Social Justice	Alhoreya Waladalah Alejtima'eya	13
6	Change and Reform	Attaghyeer Waleslah	62
7	National Coalition for Justice and Democracy	Ale'telaf Alwataney laladalah Wademoqratelyyah	7
8	The Third Way	Attareeq Athaeth	16
9	Freedom and Independence	Alhorreya Walestiqal	10
10	The Future	Almustaqbal	36
11	Palestinian Justice	Aladalah Alfalastineyyah	8
12	Fateh	Fateh	47
			343

Political Parties and Factions contesting the 2005 PLC Elections

FATAH

فتح
Fatah

Position on national proportional list ballot: 12

Heading List: Mohamad Ebraheem Abu Ali

Number of proportional list candidates: 47

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation: Dominant ruling party dividing in two.



Fatah (literally means. victory or conquest; also a reverse acronym of *Harakat al-Tahrir al-Watani al-Filastin*, Palestinian National Liberation Movement) was founded by Yasser Arafat and others refugees in the late 1950s. It is the traditionally dominant political force in Palestine. It is a secular nationalist party that won the majority of seats in the 1996 PLC elections and, following Arafat's death, its candidate won the 2005 presidential election. Although it retains connections to militia groups, most notably the al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades, it has accepted the 'two-state' solution proposed by Oslo and the Road Map. With widespread public perception that many of its established members are tainted by corruption and lack of authority, the party has seen internal cleavage between the 'old guard' and the 'young guard' who seek a new direction. This split led to violence during the primaries used to select its candidates for the 2006 PLC elections, which led to the 'young guard'- headed by Marwan Barghouti – submitting the separate 'Future' list. The episode has shown a lack of political savvy and party discipline (Barghouti also headed the list submitted by Fatah) and the expectation that the 'Fatah' vote will be split in these elections. At the time of writing, there are media reports of withdrawals from the Fatah party lists by its senior candidates..

FUTURE

Al-Mustaqbal

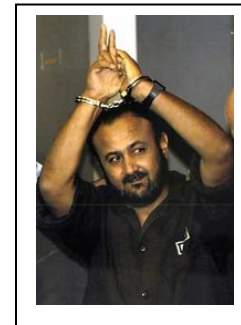
Position on national proportional list ballot: 10

Heading List: Marwan Barghouti

Number of proportional list candidates: 36

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation: Breakaway split by the Fatah 'Young Guard' led by the most popular Palestinian politician.



The Future list consists of a breakaway faction of the 'young guard' from Fatah. It is headed and dominated by **Marwan Barghouti** (born 1959), who is currently serving five life sentences in an Israeli jail for murder. Barghouti's supporters believe that these charges were politically motivated, and consider him a political prisoner. One of the leaders of the first 1987 Intifada, in 1996, he was elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council, in which he advocated peace with Israel and campaigned against corruption in the PA, often coming into conflict with Yasser Arafat. During the second Intifada, he led Fatah-linked militias known as the al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigades. He was captured by Israel military in 2002 and convicted in 2004 of five counts of murder. Throughout his trial, Barghouti largely refused to offer a defense, arguing instead that the court lacked jurisdiction and that the trial itself was illegal. Barghouti said that he supported armed resistance to the Israeli occupation, but condemned attacks on civilians. Initially standing as a candidate – first for Fatah and then as an independent – in the 2005 presidential election, he withdrew from the contest following pressure from the Fatah faction to support the candidacy of Mahmoud Abbas.

CHANGE & REFORM

Attaghyeer Waleslah

Position on national proportional list ballot: 06

Heading List: Ismaiel Abdaslame Hanieya

Number of proportional list candidates: 62

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation: Radical Islamic movement with rapidly strengthening support across the political spectrum.



This list represents the political wing of Hamas, a radical Islamist movement which has committed terrorist attacks against Israel. Hamas is an acronym of Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyyah (literally "Islamic Resistance Movement") and in Arabic means 'zeal' or 'courage'. The movement's popularity, especially in Gaza, stems from its paramilitary activities and from its provision of welfare and social services to the Palestinian poor. Hamas does not recognise Israel and, in its Charter, is committed to the destruction of Israel. A number of its leaders have been killed by the Israeli military.

Hamas has begun to engage in political activity through elections. It boycotted the 2005 presidential election on the basis of the delay in the holding of PLC elections. However, it has performed very strongly in municipal elections and has won control of over one third of Palestinian municipal councils, including Jenin and Nablus. This popularity may reflect growing public disillusionment in the PA and the Fatah party in particular, especially in relation to corruption and relations with Israel. Its list for the PLC elections –in which it is expected to win a significant number of seats through its internal discipline – is headed by the person who is considered to be its second-in-command. Analysts identify that many of the persons on the list are not typical Hamas supporters and includes business leaders.

In its conclusions of 21 November, the EU Council of Ministers welcomed, “the Palestinian Authority’s statements condemning violence and urging Palestinian groups who have engaged in terrorism to abandon this course and engage in the democratic process. The Council recalls the EU’s position that all factions, including Hamas, should renounce violence, recognise Israel’s right to exist, and disarm. Ultimately, those who want to be part of the political process should not engage in armed activities, as there is a fundamental contradiction between such activities and the building of a democratic State.”

INDEPENDENT PALESTINE

Falastin Almusaqellah

Position on national proportional list ballot: 02

Heading List: Mustafa Kamel Barghouti

Number of proportional list candidates: 41

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation:



The Independent Palestine list is a coalition of independents and NGO members, is headed by an influential civil society activist, Mustafa Barghouti, who was also a candidate in the January 2005 presidential election where he came second with 19.8% of the vote. During the campaign, he was arrested by Israeli forces while trying to enter East Jerusalem and was also prevented from entering Nablus and Gaza. The list has promised to fight corruption and nepotism, demand the dismantlement of the barrier, and fight against Fatah corruption and radical Islam. Dr Barghouti is Secretary-General of the Palestine National Initiative. He is also a distant cousin of Marwan Barghouti from the Future list.

THIRD PATH

Attareeq Athaleth

Position on national proportional list ballot: 08

Heading List: Salam Khaled Fayyad

Number of proportional list candidates: 16

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation: Coalition of independent candidates with close connection to civil society and the Oslo peace negotiations.



The list is headed by the former senior IMF employee and PA Minister of Finance. The second-placed candidate is the high-profile former negotiator of the PLO in Oslo.

MARTYR ABU ALI MUSTAFA

Ashahid Abu Ali Mustafa

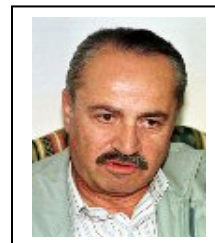
Position on national proportional list ballot: 03

Heading List:

Number of proportional list candidates: 36

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation:



This election list represents the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). It is named after Abu Ali Mustafa, its former general secretary who was killed by Israeli forces in 2001. It is headed by the current Secretary-General. The PFLP is a Marxist-Leninist, nationalist party that includes a military wing who allegedly have been involved in kidnappings of foreign nationals in Gaza in December 2005.

THE ALTERNATIVE

Al-Badeel

Position on national proportional list ballot: 01

Heading List: Qais Kamal Abdul Karim

Number of proportional list candidates: 41

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation:

No information is known about this list at this stage

MARTYR ABU al-ABBAS

Ashahid Abu Alabbas

Position on national proportional list ballot: 04

Heading List: Omar Ahmed Shibly

Number of proportional list candidates: 11

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation:

No information is known about this list at this stage.

FREEDOM & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Alhoreya Waladalah Alejtima'eya

Position on national proportional list ballot: 05

Heading List: Ahmad Abd Al-Salam Majdalany

Number of proportional list candidates: 13

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation:

No information is known about this list at this stage

JUSTICE & DEMOCRACY

Ale'telaf Alwataney laladalah Wademoqratelyyah

Position on national proportional list ballot: 07

Heading List: Ghazi Mahmoud Abu Jayyab

Number of proportional list candidates: 7

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation:

No information is known about this list at this stage

FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE

Alhorreya Walestiqlal

Position on national proportional list ballot: 09

Heading List: Salem Ali Albredeny

Number of proportional list candidates: 51

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation: TBC

No information is known about this list at this stage

PALESTINIAN JUSTICE

Aladalah Alfalastineyyah

Position on national proportional list ballot: 11

Heading List: Smeer Sadik Kadri

Number of proportional list candidates: 8

Number of single-mandate candidates: TBC

Profile/Orientation:

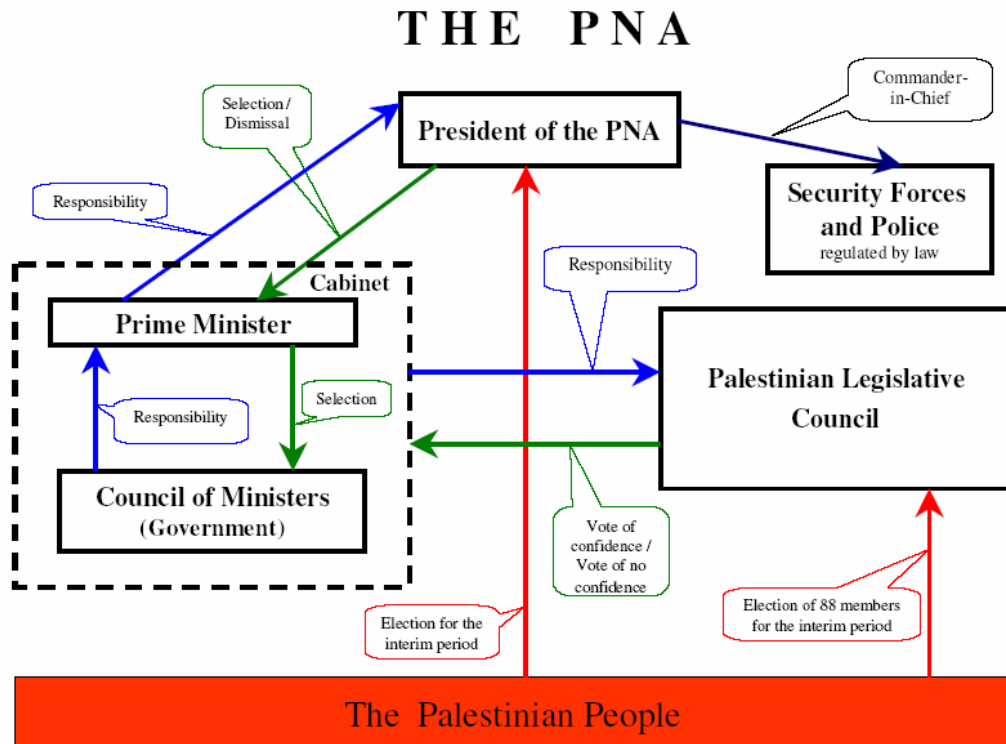
No information is known about this list at this stage

Electoral and Legal Framework

"The governing system in Palestine shall be a democratic parliamentary system based on political and party pluralism ... The Legislative Council shall be composed of 132¹ Members elected in accordance with the law." (amended Basic Law, §5 and §35)

By Presidential Decree (PD) of 08 January 2005 PLC elections were originally called for 17 July 2005. Another Presidential Decree (03 June 2005) cancelled the call for Presidential Elections, without specifying an alternative polling day. On 20 August 2005 a new Presidential Decree finally defined 25 January 2005 as the day of PLC elections.

PLC within the institutional context:



(PNA: Palestinian National Authority)

The first and so far only Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections were held on 20 January 1996. At that time 1,028,280 electors had been registered in the 16 districts and 736,825 ballots were cast (71,66% turnout). 672 candidates (370 from West Bank and 370 from Gaza) competed for the 88 seats in the PLC in a simple majority system with specified seats per constituency.

Electoral Framework

All electoral processes with regard to electing the President and the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) are organised, implemented and supervised by the Central Election Commission (CEC) as an independent public institution. (Municipal elections are run under the auspices of the Higher Commission for Local Elections (HCLE) on behalf of the PNA Ministry for Local Government.)

The unicameral legislature is the PLC, and it will be composed of 132 Deputies, who are elected by popular vote. The amendment of the election law adopted by the PLC on 18 June 2005 increased the number of PLC seats from 88 to 132, and changed the electoral system to provide for a mixed system (adding a proportional representational component to the voting).

¹ The amended Electoral Law adopted on 18 June 2005 changed the number of seats from 88 to 132.

50% of the members of the PLC (ie 66 MPs) are elected individually by a simple majority from the 16 constituencies. The other 50%, or 66 MPs, are elected by a closed (party/fraction etc) list proportional representation system from one nationwide electoral district (West Bank with Jerusalem and Gaza).

Majority system

Voters are free to mark as many candidates' names on the respective ballot as they wish, as long as it does not exceed the number of parliamentary seats allotted to the respective constituency (see the section below on Seats per Constituency for a table of seats allotted to each constituency).

In the majority system (also known as the district or constituency system), the seats allocated to each electoral district are won by candidates who obtain the highest number of valid votes in that district. Six out of the 66 seats allocated to the majority system are reserved for Christians. In the event of two or more candidates obtaining an equal number of votes in an electoral district with one seat, or the last seat in a multiple seats district, a full by-election is held between two or more candidates within ten days.

Proportional system

Voters vote for just one list. This is a closed list system, meaning that the voter cannot specify preferences for individual candidates on a list. 12 political parties or coalitions have put forward lists.

Each list obtains a number of seats in proportion to the number of valid votes obtained. The counting method is described by the CEC as follows:

The percentage of all valid votes obtained by each electoral list (EL) – which PASSED the 2% THRESHOLD – is calculated to determine which one qualifies. Then the number of valid votes for each EL is divided by successive odd numbers (1/3/5/7...). That division results in descending order. Finally PLC seats are allocated according to that order (starting from the highest number) until all 66 seats have been assigned. This is known as the Sainte-Lague method of seat distribution, designed to eliminate the problem of fractions in the allocation process.

The Sainte-Lague method is also used in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and Kosovo.

Voting is not mandatory, and any Palestinian - male or female over the age of 18 - is eligible to vote in national elections, as long as s/he is not disenfranchised (see below). Who qualifies as a "Palestinian" is defined in Article 8 and 9, of the Election Law (see the section below on Voter Registration).

The most recent elections were held on December 15, 2005, to elect local councilors and mayors in Jenin, Nablus, al-Bireh, Ramallah and another 36 smaller municipal districts. On 23 December 2004 the first round of local elections was held in 26 municipal districts in West Bank (followed by municipal elections in 10 districts in Gaza on 27 January 2005). After the Presidential Elections on 9 January, 2005, the second round of local elections was held on 4 May in 84 local districts, followed by the third round on 29 September in 82 local districts. The final stage of local elections is foreseen for 2006 either in one final round or several ones.

Legal Framework

The basic legal framework is defined by the following legal documents, the Basic Law (BL, amended by 19 March 2003), the Palestinian Election Law of 1995 as amended on 18 June 2005, a series of Presidential Decrees, CEC by-laws and procedural regulations, the 1995 Oslo Accords Protocol Concerning Elections (especially with regard to Jerusalem) and an (announced) CEC handbook for election administration and procedure.

Redefining the electoral framework has since the 1990's been a bone of contention. The major changes, compared with the PLC elections of 1996 are the increased number of seats in the PLC and the introduction of a mixed election system.

Article (BL,26)

Palestinians shall have the right to participate in the political life individually and in groups. They have the following rights in particular:

1. To establish and join political parties in accordance with the law.

2. To establish unions, guilds, associations, societies, clubs, and public institutions in accordance with the law.
3. To vote and nominate for election, representatives among them by ballot in accordance with the law.
4. To hold public office and positions in accordance with the principle of equal opportunities.
5. To conduct special meetings without the presence of police members, and to conduct public meetings, processions, and assemblies, within the limits of law.

Voter Registration

Palestine has not had a census and runs – according to various analysts - only a poorly maintained civil registry. Since September 2004 the CEC has conducted various voter registration exercises. According to the CEC as of 4 October 2005 the total number of constituents enrolled in the Voters' List was 1,347,535 representing about 77% of all estimated eligible voters. The final drive of voter registration, exhibition and challenges at the 16 electoral District Offices ended on 20 December 2005 and the CEC announced that it would provide access to the final voters' list (FVL) by the end of the year. Since the electors are usually registered at the traditional residence of the family, many voters cast their ballot away from their actual place of residence.

The Election Law (Article 9 and 10) states that persons eligible to vote must be:

- Palestinian
 - be born in Palestine as defined by British Mandate, or
 - be born in Gaza or West Bank, including Jerusalem, or
 - irrespective of place of birth having one or more direct ancestors born as above,
 - or is the spouse of an eligible Palestinian
 - and never acquired Israeli nationality
- at least 18 years of age on election day
- entered in the final voters' list
- not deprived of the right to vote by a judicial sentence from Palestinian court

Registration of candidates and electoral lists

According to the law, contestants had to register either as individual candidates on the district level or as part of national 'electoral lists' at the CEC or its regional offices by 14 December 2005. Contestants must be Palestinians, at least 28 years of age on the day of elections, permanent residents in the Palestinian territories, and registered to vote. There is no specific bar on them having a criminal record, except for the crime of high treason, or if a Palestinian court has deprived them of the right to vote.

Candidates for the constituency elections must be supported by 500 signatures of eligible voters. All individual candidates must pay a deposit of \$1,000 (or the equivalent in NIS). If the candidate is elected s/he would recover that deposit. The registration of an electoral list must be supported by 3,000 signatures of eligible voters and a deposit of \$6,000 (or the equivalent in NIS). If any members of the list are elected, that deposit is refunded. Each electoral list must include a minimum of 7 candidates and a maximum number of 66.

According to the law, civil servants, members of the security forces, anyone whose salary is paid from public funds, employees of international organizations, and (unusually for an Election Law) employees of non-governmental organisations cannot stand as candidates for the PLC unless they resign from their position by the date of publication of the final candidate lists (scheduled for 2 January).

Female Candidates

Although Palestinian women have reached a recognizable level of social participation and are guaranteed the fundamental right to vote and to be elected (according to the Basic Law), only a small number of women contested in previous elections. In 1996 only 5 of the 25 female candidates won one of the 88 Parliamentary seats (5.7%). For the 2006 PLC elections a women's quota is provided by law which guarantees female candidates certain positions on the electoral lists. Women Each electoral list must include at least 1 woman within the first three nominees, at least another woman within the following four nominees and at least 1 woman in each following groups of five nominees on the electoral list. There is no female quota in the constituency elections.

If an individual candidate wants to resign before the final list of contestants is announced on 02 January 2006, s/he must sign and submit a specific form to the CEC; in case a contestant of an electoral list wants to resign s/he and the officially accredited representative of the electoral list must sign and submit such form.

Election Campaigning

The period for electoral campaigning is defined by law, starting 22 days prior to Election Day, ie 3rd January, and ending at midnight on the night of the 23 January - ie 24 hours before polling. The campaign silence period ends at the end of polling day. All key players in the electoral process - individual candidates, electoral lists, political parties, movements, fractions etc, and also public and private media - have to obey this provision.

Locations for campaigning (rallies and public gatherings, and also for the display of posters and banners) are to be assigned by the constituency election commissions. Campaign activities are prohibited in mosques and churches, and in governmental or public buildings. Inflammatory propaganda that defames or humiliates any other candidate or that may lead to tribal or factional conflicts is also prohibited. PNA slogans or logos are not to be used for campaigning.

Campaign Financing

The Election Law prohibits any candidate or list from financing its campaign from foreign resources. No electoral list may spend more than one million US dollars on their campaign, and no constituency candidate may spend more than sixty thousand US dollars. All electoral lists and all successful candidates are required to submit a detailed financial report to the CEC within 30 days of the final results.

The Code of Conduct

Initiated by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), sponsored by the USAID-funded Tampkin project, and carried out by the Palestinian NGO 'Arab Thought Forum' under the auspices of the CEC, all major political forces except HAMAS signed a draft Code of Conduct in October, reiterating their commitment to a peaceful, non-violent and democratic electoral process. In addition to the restrictions on campaigning and campaign financing already outlined in the amended election law, the Code of Conduct also requires the signatories to abstain from any armed electoral rallies or meetings, and prohibits them from sabotaging or removing the posters of other candidates.

Voting, counting and the announcement of results

The electorate will receive two separate ballots – one to elect the assigned number of individual candidates in each respective constituency based on the simple majority system ('FPTP') and another ballot to choose one electoral list, to be used for the identification of the 66 parliamentary seats based on the proportional system.

Voting takes place only in person. There is no proxy, out-of-country or absentee voting and no provisions for house-bound, hospitalized or institutionalized voters. The issue of voters imprisoned in West Bank and Gaza and also in Israel remains unresolved.

Officers of the security forces will vote – in accordance with a Presidential Decree – on 23 January 2006. Their votes will not be counted until the votes from the main elections on 25th January are counted.

Voters can only cast their ballots at the place where they registered, which in most cases is the residence of the head of the (wider) family.

Voting hours are defined by law and are from 7am until 7pm. A December Presidential Decree provides that the CEC may extend polling for two hours at polling stations where that is necessary, limited to people already present at the polling centres.

Once voting is concluded, the polling station committee will count the ballots on the spot. Voting and counting protocols are to be signed by the official members of the Polling Station Committees, and candidates, agents, and observers who are present. A final copy of the results is to be displayed at the Polling Station.

All Polling Station results are submitted to the district electoral offices, who consolidate the results at the constituency level. The CEC finally collects all protocols in its Headquarters in Ramallah and its Regional Office in Gaza City. It then announces the preliminary and later final results by publication in the official gazette, within two weeks of Election Day.

Each candidate and electoral list is entitled by law to submit lists of their representatives/agents, who would be entitled to observe the overall electoral process on Election Day, incl. voting, counting and tabulation.

Special Provisions for elections in East Jerusalem

In East Jerusalem (the Old City plus surrounding area, such as Sheikh Jarrar, Wadi Joz) there will MOST LIKELY be provisions limiting the number of voters allowed to cast their votes there. It remains to be seen if - as in the past - the casting of ballots will be held in five to six Israeli postal offices. This provision for a limited amount of postal voting has its roots in the Protocol to the Oslo Accords of 1995, and was used in the 1996 elections, and also the 2005 Presidential elections. It attracted widespread criticism from observers and others, as the number of voters permitted to vote there was very small, and the arrangements were made at the last minute. The subject of voting in East Jerusalem has also been a source of controversy and uncertainty for these PLC elections, with no agreement reached one month before the elections.

All other voters from East Jerusalem will have to vote in Jerusalem district (outside the municipal boundaries, in places such as Abu Dis etc).

It remains to be seen whether voting in East Jerusalem would be based on an 'open list system' due to the fact that no voter registration took place there. The right to vote might only be verified by presenting the 'blue ID' issued by the Israeli authorities.

Electoral Complaints

The Election Appeals Court (EAC) is constituted by Presidential Decree and consists of 9 judges, including its Chairman. It hears appeals from decisions of the CEC, including the announcement of the final results. Complaints can be received at the ECA's offices in Ramallah or Gaza City. A complainant has two days from the date of a CEC decision to file an appeal, and the EAC must make a decision within five days of receiving the appeal.

Neither the EAC nor the CEC have criminal jurisdiction to deal with cases where an electoral offence is alleged to have been committed. These cases should go to the ordinary courts. The amended Election Law sets out various electoral offences, which are criminally punishable by fine or imprisonment. These include:

- taking a weapon into a polling station
- threatening or obstructing voters
- assisting non-eligible voters
- forcing a person to reveal who they voted for
- bribery
- multiple voting
- falsification, destruction or damage of electoral materials and protocols

Electoral Bodies and Institutions

Central Election Commission (CEC)

Its 9 members were appointed by a Presidential Decree of 01 April 2005, and include academics and judges. The CEC headquarters are in Ramallah, and there is also a CEC Regional Office in Gaza City. The CEC's mandate includes the following:

- Supreme authority conducting and supervising the elections
- Adopting measures and procedures necessary to organize and conduct the elections, "ensuring the integrity and freedom of the elections"
- Supervising the work of the electoral constituency committees and the Central Elections Office
- Registering the candidate lists and the electoral lists
- Accrediting observers and agents
- Re-conducting elections in any polling stations in which it is proven that violations have taken place that could affect the results
- Adjudicating appeals against decisions of the electoral constituency committees or polling station committees
- Announcing the final results
- To be totally independent in political, financial and administrative terms

Electoral Constituency Committees (or District Election Commissions)

Each of the 16 ECCs is run by a commission of 5 members appointed by CEC and shall

- implement all CEC regulations and instructions
- supervise voter registration
- monitor the election operations
- receive and rule on complaints during pre-election period and against the work of PSCs
- verify election results provided by the Polling Station Commissions, prior to submitting them to the CEC.

Polling Station and Registration Committees (PSRC)

Its members are nominated by the respective ECC and appointed by the CEC. They are responsible for

- voter registration
- running the polling station and conducting voting and counting

Central Election Office (CEO)

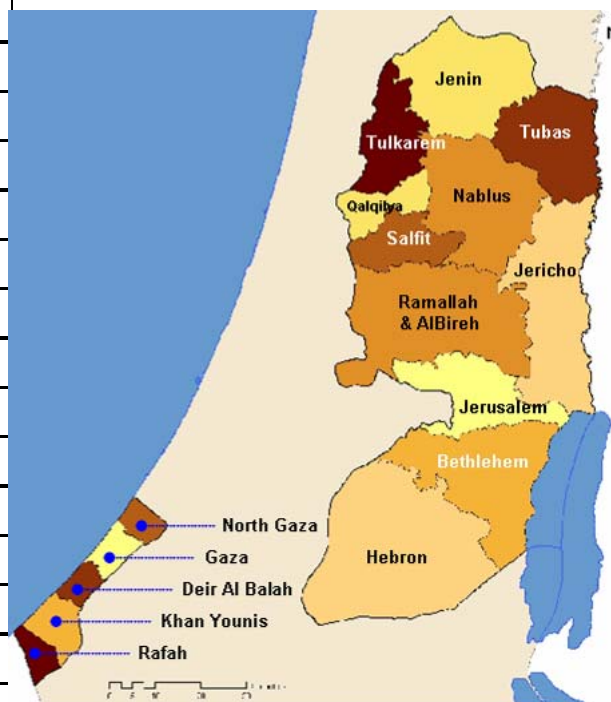
The CEO is the administrative and executive body of the CEC, responsible for planning and carrying out all overall electoral operations, including to

- select and train all election officials
- be in charge of public information and voter education
- supervises the work of 16 District EOs
- ensures the implementation of electoral operations

Constituencies and allotted parliamentary seats

By Presidential Decree of 15 September 2005 the 66 seats to be elected by the majority system are allotted to each constituency as follows:

Electoral District	No of Seats	incl. Christian Seats
Jenin	4	
Tubas	1	
Tulkarem	3	
Qalqilyah	2	
Salfit	1	
Nablus	6	
Jericho	1	
Ramallah & al-Bireh	5	1
Jerusalem	6	2
Bethlehem	4	2
Hebron	9	
North Gaza	5	
Gaza	8	1
Deir al-Balah	3	
Khan Younis	5	
Rafah	3	



Election Observation

Article 113 of the Election Law sets out the right for local and international observers to monitor all phases of this electoral process. From 14 May until 19 November 2005 Palestinian organisations and individuals were entitled to register at the CEC and its constituency offices as domestic PLC election observers. 254 organisations were granted 17,261 personalized accreditation cards. International observers were able to be accredited on a later schedule. The ten domestic organisations with the most accredited observers are:

Local Institution for Social Development	2065
Publicity Drive for the Release of Marwan Bargouthi and all Prisoners	1039
Young Muslim Women's Association	731
The Islamic Society	634
Mizan Center for Human Rights Care	573
The Arab Jordan's Association	508
The Islamic Complex Association	489
Palestinian Center for Human Rights	462
Talae' Alsahwah Youth Association	347
National Committee for the Palestinian Martyrs Families	323

Electoral Calendar (to Election Day)

2005	
May 05	1 st national drive for voter registration at all registration offices
14 May 05	Start to register domestic observers
18 Jun 05	Adoption of amended Election Law
20 Aug 05	President issued decree defining 25 January 2006 as Election-Day
Nov 05	2 nd national drive for voter registration at all registration offices
19 Nov 05	End of accreditation period for domestic observers (254 organizations with 17261 representatives)
03 Dec 05	Opening of registration for candidates and electoral lists
14 Dec 05	Closing of registration for candidates and electoral lists
16-18 Dec 05	3 rd and final national drive of voter registration (incl. exhibition and challenge)
17 Dec 05	Deadline for CEC to process registration applications of candidates and electoral lists
18 Dec 05	CEC to announce preliminary roll of candidates and electoral lists (not required by law)
18-20 Dec 05	Period to submit challenge to registered candidates and electoral lists
21 Dec 05	Deadline for CEC to resolve accreditation issues of candidates and electoral lists
22-24 Dec 05	Period to appeal at EAC against CEC decisions on accredited candidates and electoral lists
29 Dec 05	Deadline for EAC to settle appeals for candidates
31 Dec 05	Planned start of 2-day training of 300 CEC supervisors (training of trainers - 200 for WB and 100 for G)
31 Dec 05	Deadline for EAC to settle appeals for electoral lists
2006	
01 Jan 06	2400hrs - Deadline for withdrawal of candidacy
02 Jan 06	CEC to publish final record of candidates and electoral lists
02-17 Jan 06	Period to submit application for candidates' and electoral lists' agents
03 Jan 06	Start of electoral campaign period
23 Jan 06	2400hrs Start of campaign silence period (until end of Election Day)
23 Jan 06	Security forces will cast their ballots
25 Jan 06	Polling Day (7am-7pm)

Final results should be published no later than two weeks after the Election Day

Further details are to be announced by the respective authorities.

Logistics

Accommodation

The mission will make reservations for suitable accommodation in each district. The same hotel/apartment complex/guest house will serve as the base for the LTOs. The cost of the accommodation is to be born by the observers themselves.

The LTOs will assist the Operations Experts and the IP in identifying accommodation and logistics arrangements for STOs.

Transport

Each LTO team will be provided with one vehicle for the period of their deployment. To allow easier mobility, especially through checkpoints, most LTO cars in West Bank duty stations will wear yellow Israeli number plates.

All vehicles will be supplied with first aid kits, fire extinguisher, triangle, tools, spare tire, adequate legal documentation and a third party passenger insurance. Observers should ensure that all these items are available in the car during all travel.

The mission will provide the LTOs with detailed information regarding travels and maps in each district.

The LTOs must assure that no unauthorized person travels in the EUEOM vehicles and that drivers adhere to rules and regulations set up by the mission.

Mission vehicles can only be driven by drivers contracted by the IP. Observers are not allowed to drive themselves more than in extreme emergency situations.

Communications

The LTO bases/accommodation will be located in an area with mobile phone coverage. When traveling in the areas of responsibility some areas will not be covered by the same mobile phone system. When necessary the mission will provide each team with alternative mobile systems to allow maximum coverage.

LTO teams located in high security phased areas will also receive a satellite phone. In addition Gaza teams will receive one VHF radio which allows access to UN security information (listen only)

LTO team based in the Gaza Strip will be provided with a MERS radio-telephone. In the West bank and Jerusalem, every duty station will have access to one MERS to be used by the designated LTO security warden.

Each LTO team will be provided with Internet access through laptop/mobile phone connection.

The Operations Section and the IP will provide communications training during the LTO briefing and when necessary also after deployment.

Briefings

The LTOs will be accommodated for two nights at the venue for the LTO briefing and debriefing at their own expense. It is foreseen that the LTOs will once meet for a mid term briefing. The mission will bear the cost for two nights for LTOs that are not stationed at the location of the mid term briefing.

Observer Kits

All observers will be provided with an observer kit containing visibility material, briefing packs, business cards, stationeries, an EU Observation handbook and maps. Observer clothes and stickers will bear the EUEOM logo.

Each LTO team will receive *petty cash*.

Health

The IP will inform all members of the mission about medical precautions needed in the West Bank and Gaza. The teams will be provided with medical and first aid kits.

Accreditations and ID-cards:

There will be three different types of accreditations and IDs

- a) An election observer accreditation provided by the Central Election Committee.
- b) An Israeli accreditation provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- c) An EU ID-card issued by the mission

Observer should carry these accreditations and IDs with them at all times together with their duly stamped passports. Upon entering in the country the Immigration authorities usually stamps the passport on a separate document. This document should always be carried together with the passport.

Security

EU – EOM MINIMUM OPERATING SECURITY STANDARDS IN WEST BANK AND GAZA

SECTION ONE

MOSS for EUEOM LTO and STO teams

A. MINIMUM INDIVIDUAL TRAINING STANDARDS

❖ REQUIREMENT:

➤ REGION BRIEF BY SECURITY EXPERT COORDINATOR

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: Upon arrival into MISSION area.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: Not required

➤ AREA BRIEF BY IDF-IL (Liaison Officer)

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: On arrival

No travels outside of arrival location/Duty Station until briefing has been received.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: Not required.

*EU-EOM Security Expert Coordinator will inform to LTO teams about contact details and locations of the District assigned Liaison

* STO teams will be briefed by LTO teams upon arrival to their AoR.

B. INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

❖ REQUIREMENT:

➤ DOCUMENTATION TO TRAVEL WITHIN MISSION AREA

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: COMPULSORY for every individual.
Should contain, passport, travel documents, Israeli accreditation, CEC of Palestine ID card and EUEOMWBG ID card.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: ID card / licenses granted by the authorities and EOMWBG ID.

➤ LONG RANGE COMMUNICATIONS: SATPHONE

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: Observers deployed in the field must have long range communications.
Long range COMMS may be handheld sat phone (Thuraya recommended) or IRIDIUM.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: Not required.

SECTION TWO.

Mission Travel – Deployment, Management and Staff Numbers

A. SECURITY CLEARANCE

❖ REQUIREMENT

➤ DEPLOYMENT ORDER

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: Mandatory, in writing.
Under no circumstances the assigned teams will leave their AoR without informing/reporting to Security and after obtaining clearance.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: Not applicable.

B. MISSION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

❖ REQUIREMENT

➤ SENIOR STAFF MEMBER

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: To be appointed as “in charge” for security matters (Senior Warden/Warden).

(LTO's will manage/direct the STO's appointed under his/her responsibility).

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: Not applicable.

➤ REPORTING

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: The Senior Warden in each District must make a contact with the appointed EU-EOM Security Expert:

- At the start and end of the working day.
- Every two hours when in the move within High risk areas.
(Set by Security Expert Coordinator upon security dictates)
- Whenever there is an incident.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: Not applicable.

C. EU – EOM PROCEDURES FOR OVERNIGHT STOPS.

❖ REQUIREMENT

➤ TIMING

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: There is to be no night travel by road or by foot within the region of deployment, EXCEPT in an emergency OR when authorized by the CO.
(Security appointed person has to be informed accordingly).

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: As for international staff when on duty.

➤ MINIMUM NUMBER OF STAFF

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: The overriding principle is that an international staff member should be accompanied by at least one other international whenever he or she is staying overnight at any location.

Two (2) in the same compound/approved overnight site*

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: National staff may stay alone at any location they consider to be safe.

* In exceptional circumstances when an international staff member finds her/himself alone, s/he must make every effort to move to a location where there is another international.

They should inform the appointed security person as soon as they are not accompanied.

When an international finds him or herself without accompanying international staff member they should seek advice of the security appointed person (Security Expert Coordinator), regarding safe accommodation.

➤ ACCOMMODATION

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: Upon orders of deployment by EUEOM Management.
(OPS will inform accordingly on the selected assets).

(Refer to section IV “Minimum Operational Residential Security Standards”).

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: National staff may stay at any site they consider safe.

Road Movement

A. DRIVERS

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: International staff members are not permitted to drive in mission area EXCEPT in an emergency.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL: Must be in possession of a valid driving license and ID for the area of operations.

Drivers must not drive when under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

B. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

❖ **REQUIREMENT**

➤ EQUIPMENT

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: The following equipment is recommended in hired vehicles:

- Fire extinguisher
- Jack and tools
- Spare tire
- First Aid Kit

➤ MARKINGS

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: In principle all vehicles used by the EU – EOM must be clearly marked with the “EU – EOM West Bank and Gaza 2006” approved Logo as instructed by Security Expert Coordinator.

➤ SERVICIABILITY

INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL; To a EUEOM acceptable standard.
To be checked by Observers.

C. URBAN / RURAL AREAS (WITHIN OR WITHOUT MOBILE NETWORK RANGE)

❖ **REQUIREMENT**

➤ NUMBER OF VEHICLES

- INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: Single vehicle is permitted.
- OWNERSHIP OF VEHICLES
- INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: Only hired vehicles may be used.
- MINIMUM NUMBER OF STAFF
- INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL PERSONNEL: 2 together with 1 experience national interpreter and a national driver.
- COMMUNICATIONS: LONG RANGE
- INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: Mandatory. International staff must have handheld sat phone* (minimum of one in each team).
- * Thuraya recommended.
- NATIONAL PERSONNEL: Mobile phone is desirable (Orange network for WB and Jawwal one for Gaza .
- TRAVEL TIME
- INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL: Daylight only.
- NATIONAL PERSONNEL: Daylight only, when on duty.

II. SECTION FOUR

Minimum Operational Residential Security Standards

❖ **REQUIREMENT**

- PERIMETER
- GUESTHOUSES AND HOTELS: Compound wall is mandatory. At least 2.2 m high.
- GATE
- GUESTHOUSES AND HOTELS: Steel with lock.
- EXTERNAL LIGHTING:
- GUESTHOUSES AND HOTELS: Perimeter lighting is mandatory.
- ALTERNATE EXIT:
- GUESTHOUSES AND HOTELS: Alternate exit away form main entry/exit to be available.
- COMMUNICATIONS
- GUESTHOUSES AND HOTELS: Fixed line phone when available.
Routine access to e-mail (landline, satphone)

Standard Procedures for EUEOM West Bank and Gaza 2006

- ❖ Behaviour:
- Dress.-

West Bank and Gaza is populated by a majority of Muslim. Correctness in dressing is mandatory to avoid reluctance and antipathy among the

population. Women are not requested to cover their head, at least in the main cities. Wear EUEOM ID at all times.

- Conversation.-
Keep a good tone in your conversation and do not get into any argument with local population. Be respectful and listen carefully without challenge anyone if there are disagreements.
Remember, EUEOM Mandate is only to observe the electoral process.
- Culture and customs.-
Be respectful at any time with people's culture and customs and try to stick to some of them (Introduction manners and socializing rules).
- Alcohol/drugs.-
Observers will avoid the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public; bearing in mind the sensitivity of Muslim community to this regard (in Gaza is strictly forbidden). Illegal drugs consumption is banned.
- The law.-
EUEOM Observers will fully respect law and regulations in place set by the Palestinian National Authority and Israeli government.
- Health.-
Medical facilities in Israel are well equipped.
In Gaza basic First Aid clinics are available. For MEDEVAC from Gaza arrangements are to be coordinate with Israeli authorities, if necessary.
Notice the area of operations is also affected by the HIV/Aids pandemic. Take all the precautionary measures to this matter.
It is also important to point out that water intakes should be restricted to bottled water, only.
- Money.-
Do not keep large amount of money. If available, keep it into a safe. Split the amount of money up into different pockets/bags. Keep a small amount of money always at hand for petty expenses, avoiding handling with large amounts of money in public.

❖ Personal Security / Basic Principles:

- Preparation.-
 - Follow your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable about a location or a situation, leave immediately.
 - Know your own ability. Be honest with yourself and be aware of your capabilities. You should always try to maintain yourself in a good physical and mind condition.
 - Be sure that you know what specific security arrangements are in place; know and/or keep at hand useful phone numbers (EU-EOM Security, Core Team staff members, Police Station, nearest international colleagues Observers, etc).
 - Respect peoples' customs, find out how to behave, potential threats and areas to avoid (Off-limits)
 - Become knowledgeable about your neighbourhood. Where is the nearest Police St.? Which stores, restaurants, business, are open late at night? Is there a telephone nearby?
- Research.-
 - Learn to notice details about people. In the event of an incident, this will help you in giving a good description.

- Be alert of any evidence of surveillance of your accommodation, office or travel route between the two; serious attacks are usually preceded by a period of surveillance.
 - Learn a few phrases in the local language so that you can signal your need for help.
 - Make sure your level of security is balanced by the level of threat in the region where you have been deployed.
- Planning.-
 - Always know where you are going. Always behave as though you know where you are going. Demonstrate a confidence that you may not necessary feel;
 - Identify routines and change the time at which they occur.
 - Establish several routes to work if possible and vary your selection of them and the time you depart for work and return home. Most incidents take place as the individual either leaves or returns home; be aware of routines that cannot be avoided (coordinated movements through Check-points).
 - Communication.-
 - Abide by Security communication/reporting emergency procedures set by EU – EOM Security Expert Coordinator in West Bank and appointed Security Expert in Gaza.
 - Common sense.-
 - Exercise your common sense upon situation dictates.
 - Keep a low profile.
- ❖ Mobile security:
- Locking.-

Make sure the doors are locked while on the move and do not keep the windows wide opened.
 - Checking.-

Instruct the driver to properly check the vehicle before starting a working day (brakes, filters, oil, fuel, wheels, spare tyre, tool kit, first aid kit, etc). Before moving, set the odometer in order to locate your position more accurately in the event of a road accident/incident and check the boot of your vehicle before departing. Do not allow your assigned drivers / interpreters to take goods, mail etc, from one place to another.
 - Communication.-

Report on regular basis as instructed by EUEOM Security Expert Coordinator (Refer to MOSS).
 - Planning.-

Schedule the working day movements along with the driver and interpreter before-hand. Thereafter and upon decision making, give them concise and clear instructions about routes and driving layout.

In West Bank it is absolutely compulsory to contact the Israeli Districts' Liaison Officers assigned to your area of Operations the day before travelling and let them know your route plan and estimated timings. Set a time to report on daily basis (before 1900 hrs). This way the movements through CP are coordinated before hand. Refrain from move through CP's without reporting.

At Israeli Checkpoints (CP's)”:

- ✓ Abide by the established protocol to approach the check-point (Drivers are familiarized on how to approach to / through them. **DO NOT INSTRUCT THEM TO DO OTHERWISE WHILE APPROACHING IT**).
- ✓ Follow the instructions given by the IDF personnel manning the CP.
- ✓ **NEVER** argue with the IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) personnel.
- ✓ If you are instructed to turn back and your crossing is denied, follow the instructions given by IDF and leave the CP without arguing. When out of the CP perimeter contact to your Senior Warden and assess the situation to him / her. He/She will contact to the IDF Liaison Officer.
- ✓ Carry always your passport and ID's.

Further information about this subject; refer to Security Briefing on arrival into mission area.

Specific Risks (designed for West Bank and Gaza).

- ❖ Car-jacking:

The following guidelines should be adhered to when travelling in areas of potential vehicle robbery threat;

 - Keep the vehicle door locked and windows closed at all times.
 - Not stop to help anyone if they appear to be injured or lying in the road – Call the police, they will investigate.
 - If having the impression to be follow – drive to the nearest Police Station.
- ❖ Hold-ups:

If confronted by someone either with or without gun it is advised to do as told and not to resist and handover the vehicle. The vehicle is simply not worth it:

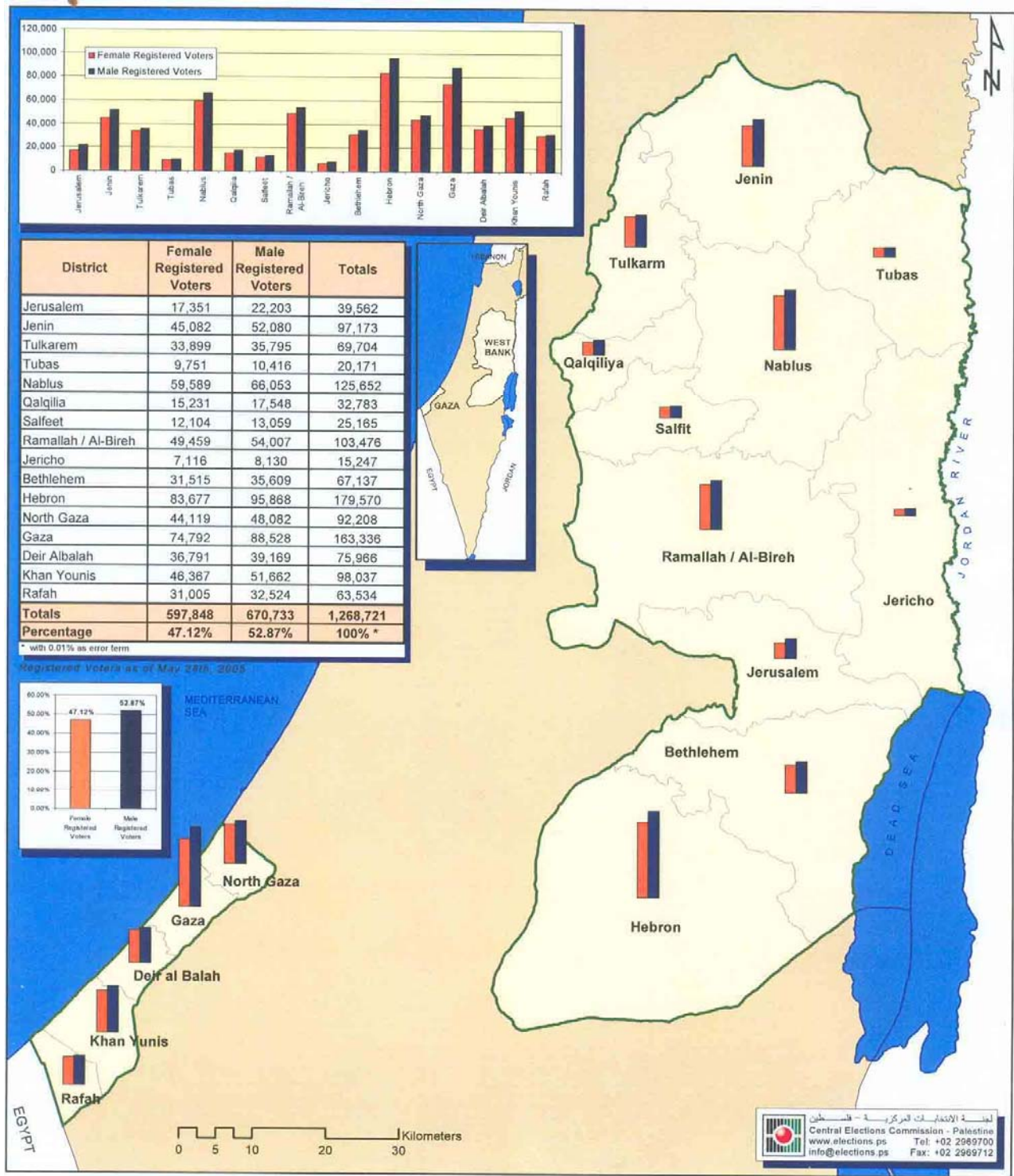
 - Instruct the driver to stop the vehicle.
 - Remain calm.
 - Tell the driver to apply hand-brake, but leaving the engine running.
 - Instruct him to leave the vehicle in neutral.
 - You all get out, but leaving the doors open.
 - Put hands up – if requested to do so.
 - Not look directly to hijackers.
 - Allow the hijackers to depart without interference.
- ❖ Ambush:
 - By careful selection, planning and securing the route, the risk of ambush can be reduced. Ambushes mostly take place in rural and isolated locations (but not only).
 - The general rules – stop and take cover – basically apply to ambushes as well. In certain cases, however – for example if you are sure you are the target – it may be better to drive away.
 - In practice, decisions are very often governed by common sense or instinct, and this is indeed preferably, since rigid rules in conduct ill-adapted to the circumstances.
- ❖ Shooting:
 - If you hear shooting, keep calm. How you react should depend on how far away the shooting takes place and on the behaviour of the local people, who definitely may have more experienced of this kind of situation.

- If fired while on foot, immediately take cover on the ground and lie flat, identify the direction of firing and try to find shelter behind a wall in a ditch/hole or inside a building.
 - If fired when in a building, keep clear of windows and doors; if possible have two walls between yourself and the source of danger.
 - If fired while in the vehicle, and the firing is ahead, stop immediately and instruct the driver to reverse, turn around and drive to a safe area; if caught in the midst of firing, stop immediately, take cover on the ground, preferably behind a wall, never takes shelter under the vehicle, unless the area around is mined.
- ❖ **Shelling or bombing:**
- The principle danger of shelling / bombing is from shrapnel and flying debris. A second importance is the direct effects of a high explosive blast (shock, wave, heat, fire, etc).
 - If in a building, it is best to take cover in a protected room (shelter), which will largely protect against all the effects, except a direct hit, which is rather unlikely.
 - If in a vehicle, either back up, accelerate, or stop and get out of the vehicle and seek protection (in buildings, behind walls, in ditches, etc), all depending on the situation and/or the location of the impacts of the shell(s).
 - If in the field, react to the sound of “incoming” shells, explosions, sirens, etc. by seeking cover immediately. Never seek shelter beneath a vehicle, because it is not a protection as the fuel tank may easily ignite.
 - Always protect eardrums by covering your ears and keep your mouth open to balance the pressure from the blast. – Do not emerge from any shelter until you are sure that shelling has ceased.
- ❖ **Kidnapping (identified threat for Gaza):**
- Strictly stick to the tailored “Security Proceeding” and tailored risk mitigation measures for Gaza Strip that will provide a decent level of risk avoidance although there remains a significant residual risk.
 - The observers assigned to Gaza will be briefed accordingly upon their arrival into mission area and previously to their in-country deployment.
- Guidelines for kidnapped individuals:
 - General:
 - ✓ Keep a low profile.
 - ✓ Obey the captors.
 - ✓ Always be polite.
 - ✓ Take the captors seriously.
 - ✓ Do not attempt to escape and/or negotiate.
 - ✓ Accept the situation.
 - ✓ Keep a positive attitude.
 - ✓ Do not forget that you are not forgotten.
 - During holding:
 - ✓ Assess the situation and decide on relations with the captors.
 - ✓ Do not despair.
 - ✓ Keep mentally and physically fit.

Maps Electoral Districts



Eligible voters by gender and district



Eligible voters by age-group and district

