POLICY FOCUS | POLITICS

Focus On: Palestinian-Israeli Security Coordination

By: Tariq Dana, Sabrien Amrov, Alaa Tartir · March, 2017

The Palestine Liberation Organization's top leadership body, the Central Council, called for a halt to Palestinian security coordination with Israel in 2015. Yet PLO Chair Mahmoud Abbas has described it as sacred despite the breakdown of the peace process to end Israel's 50-year military occupation and colonization of Palestinian territory. The killing by Israeli forces of activist and youth leader Basil Al-Araj, whom the Palestinian Authority had previously imprisoned – raising accusations that his jailing was part of its so-called revolving door policy – has refocused public attention on the issue. In the selection of pieces below, Al-Shabaka policy analysts discuss the origins and pillars of Israeli-PA security coordination as well as its consequences for the Palestinian people, who experience it as an additional layer of oppression to the multiple violations of their rights under occupation, within Israel, and in exile.

The Context and Evolution of Security Coordination

The Evolution and Reform of Palestinian Security Forces 1993-2013

By Alaa Tartir

Writing in *Stability: International Journal of Security & Development*, Al-Shabaka's program director Alaa Tartir provides a contextual analysis of the evolution and reform processes of Palestinian security forces over the last two decades. Read more…

After Gaza, What Price Palestine's Security Sector?

By Sabrien Amrov and Alaa Tartir

In this Al-Shabaka policy brief, Tartir and Al-Shabaka Policy Analyst Sabrien Amrov urge reform of a donor-driven sector that only serves Israel's colonial ambitions. They examine the sector's origins and its current machinations, and how the PA's fast-growing authoritarianism is turning "Palestine" into a security state. *Read more…*

The Beginning of the End of Palestinian Security Coordination with Israel?

By Tariq Dana

In a piece for *Jadaliyya*, Al-Shabaka Policy Analyst Tariq Dana argues that the Palestinian security sector in its current form is far from being part of a national project that would serve the Palestinian cause. Instead, he writes, it serves the PA elite in that it ensures their safety, protects their wealth, and suppresses political opposition. *Read more…*

Palestinian Sovereignty: Between International Recognition and Security Coordination

By Sabrien Amrov

Amrov's op-ed for *Middle East Monitor* argues that "reproducing a security paradigm which filters out the concerns of Palestinians and their right to security is effectively attempting to write-off Palestinians from their own sovereignty." *Read more…*

How US Security Aid to PA Sustains Israel's Occupation

By Alaa Tartir

Tartir's analysis for Al-Jazeera is based on little-known statistics that quantify the aid-reliant PA security sector, including the fact that half of Palestinian public sector civil servants are employed in security. Annually, the sector receives $1bn from the PA's budget and around 30 percent of total international aid. *Read more…*

Repression, Authoritarianism, and Criminalizing Resistance

Subcontracting Repression in the West Bank and Gaza

By Sabrien Amrov and Alaa Tartir

In a *New York Times* op-ed, Amrov and Tartir ask: "To what end do the international donors continue to subsidize an agency that helps to perpetuate the Israeli occupation, fails to meet the needs of Palestinian civilians, and violates the very human rights norms they claim to uphold?" *Read more…*

Israeli-Palestinian Security Collaboration Called into Question

By Tariq Dana

Dana's op-ed for *The Hill* argues that the priorities of the Palestinian security forces, originally set up under the 1993 peace process, took a sharp turn with the death of Yasser Arafat, the election of Abbas, and the subsequent split between Hamas and Fatah. *Read more…*

Securitized Development and Palestinian Authoritarianism under Fayyadism

By Alaa Tartir

Tartir analyzes perceptions of the PA's post-2007 state-building project in the journal *Conflict, Security & Development*, drawing on the findings of ethnographic

eldwork conducted at Balata and Jenin refugee camps. Many of those he spoke to described the detrimental effect of Fayyadism on their resistance against Israel's occupation as well as their own protection and security. *Read more…*

Criminalizing Resistance: The Cases of Balata and Jenin Refugee Camps

By Alaa Tartir

Tartir's forthcoming article in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* argues that conducting security reform to ensure stability within the context of colonial occupation and without addressing the imbalances of power can only have two outcomes: "better" collaboration with the occupying power, and a violation of Palestinians' security and national rights by their own security forces.

Keeping Yourself Occupied: The Palestinian Authority Guide

Produced by Visualizing Palestine

This infographic by Al-Shabaka partner Visualizing Palestine highlights the PA's complicity in sustaining Israel's military occupation. *Read more…*

Al-Shabaka's Tariq Dana, Sabrien Amrou, and Alaa Tartir are available for media interviews. Please email contact@al-shabaka for more details.

Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network, is an independent, non-profit organization. Al-Shabaka convenes a multidisciplinary, global network of Palestinian analysts to produce critical policy analysis and collectively imagine a new policymaking paradigm for Palestine and Palestinians worldwide.

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