



EUROPEAN UNION

European Commission Technical Assistance Office (West Bank and Gaza, UNRWA)

By e-mail

REVIEW OF THE PALESTINIAN PRESS

August 31, 2007

1. Summary of key news

- **IDF, PA meet for highest-level security talks held since 1994**
- **Olmert seeks to reach a one-page "Agreement of Principles" document**
- **The UN conference held in the European Parliament called for imposing sanctions on Israel**
- **An UNCTAD report reveals that more than one million Palestinians suffer from severe poverty**
- **The Executive Force shot dead one citizen in Gaza**

2. Domestic situation

2.1 Political

- **Abdul Rahman: the Palestinians will not accept the continuation of Hamas' crimes in Gaza**
- **PA prepares a plan to develop Gaza and protect its economy from collapse**
- All three Arabic dailies (Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida), focus on the warnings against a division of Al Aqsa Mosque between Jews and Moslems, the ongoing practices of the Executive Force against Fatah members, the departure of a second group of Gazans to Egypt through Erez Crossing, and Olmert's intention to reach a one-page "Agreement of Principles" document.
- Fatah official spokesperson Ahmad Abdul Rahman affirmed yesterday that the Palestinian people will not accept the continuation of the crimes committed by Hamas in the Gaza Strip as such crimes serve only the occupation. (Al-Hayat al-Jadida)
- Dr. Nabil Shaath (member of Fatah Central Committee) reveals a plan prepared by the PA to develop the Gaza Strip and protect its economy from collapse. (Al-Hayat Al-Jadida)
- Palestine Forum holds its second meeting in Jerusalem and issues its founding statement. Munib al-Masri: Our goal is to improve the conditions of the society. (Al-Quds)

2.2 Security

- **One Palestinian shot dead by the Executive Force in Gaza**
- **Fatah called its members to pray in public squares; Hamas issues threats against them.**
- The Executive Force shot dead a handicapped person in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza. (palpress)
- Thousands of young men in the Gaza Strip received threatening messages from Hamas on their mobile phones, warning them against responding to Fatah's invitation to hold prayers in public squares instead of the mosques. (Al-Ayyam)
- Three Palestinians were injured in an internal explosion in Gaza. (fnp)

3. Palestinian - Israeli conflict

- **Israeli and Palestinian security officers met near Ramallah**
- **Olmert seeks to reach a one-page "Agreement of Principles" document**
- **Sheikh Salah called on Arab and Islamic leaders to prevent Israel from dividing the Al Aqsa mosque**
- Palestinian security organizations in the West Bank met on Thursday with their Israel Defence Forces counterparts in the highest-level talks held since 1994 in Beit El army headquarters, near Ramallah. At the meeting the Palestinians requested that the IDF remove roadblocks, which they said would be an important gesture for the Palestinian people during the approaching holy month of Ramadan. The IDF promised to consider a variety of measures that would ease the difficulty in travel faced by the Palestinian population in the West Bank. However, at this stage they did not specify the roadblocks that would be lifted (Haaretz)

- Olmert seeks a one-page agreement of principles to be reached with President Abbas, which will give the moderate Palestinians a political horizon. He will refrain from going into details in this agreement, fearing that this will lead to an internal Israeli political crisis that could destroy the entire political process. (*Al-Hayat al-Jadida*)
- Sheikh Ra'ed Salah, Head of the Islamic Movement inside the 1948 Territories, demanded from the Presidents and Kings of Arab and Islamic countries to work on frustrating a scheme by the Israeli occupation authorities, which aims to divide the al-Aqsa Mosque between the Muslims and Jews. (*Al-Hayat al-Jadida*)
- Hebron settlers seek to seize 70 real estate properties and agricultural lands, using the Absentees Law. (*Al-Ouds*)
- The spokesperson for the Presidency condemns the Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
- Arrest campaign in West Bank leads to the detention of 12 young men. (*Al-Ouds*)
- Early this dawn: An Israeli raid on northern Gaza Strip. (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Sderot: one rocket falls and the Israeli army reinforces security measures with the opening of schools. (*Al-Ayyam*)

4. EU coverage in the local media

- **The Palestinian Mufti called on a Swedish newspaper to apologise for publishing an offensive cartoon**
- **The UN conference held in the EP called for imposing sanctions on Israel**

- The Palestinian Mufti General, Sheikh Muhammad Hussein, has called for the editor of a Swedish newspaper to apologise for publishing an offensive cartoon depicting the Prophet Mohammad. (*maannews*)
- A UN conference held in the European Parliament called for imposing sanctions on Israel. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
- Mohammed Awad, the SG of the discharged government in Gaza said that none of the Arab countries has proposed any initiative except the Yemeni one and the contact with Europeans is still ongoing. (*maannews*)
- Jerusalem Post: European Security Officials held talks with Hamas. (*Al-Ouds*)
- The new Turkish President approves a reformed government that supports the EU. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
- The European Troika starts talks with the Serbs and Kosovo. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)

5. Others

- **Ban Ki-Moon 'encouraged' by recent progress in Middle East conflict**
- **President Abbas met Amro Musa**
- **UNCTAD: more than one million Palestinians suffer from severe poverty**
- **An Arab economic conference to support Palestinians will be held in 2008**
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today that he was encouraged by recent international efforts to return Palestinians and Israelis to the path of negotiations, but warned that the leaders of both sides still face internal obstacles that may prevent any serious momentum towards peace. (*www.un.org*) The UN Special Coordinator confirmed the meeting of the international Quartet Committee on September 23, 2007. (*Al-Ouds*)
- President Abbas briefed the General Secretary of the Arab League Amro Musa on results of his talks with Olmert. (*Al-Ouds*)
- Report by UNCTAD: more than one million Palestinians are suffering from severe poverty and 71% of government employees live under the poverty line. (*Al-Ouds*)
- An Arab economic conference to be devoted to support the PA on all territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It will be sponsored by the Arab League and will be held at the beginning of 2008. (*Al-Ouds*)
- Representatives of the Israeli government and British Gas held yesterday a meeting tackling the issues that prevent producing the gas from the Gaza seashores. (*Al-Ouds*)
- After meeting with President Abbas, the Jordanian King will visit Saudi Arabia and France to discuss the developments in the region. (*Al-Ouds*)
- Osama Hamdan, Hamas Representative in Lebanon, warned of the dangers of the measures taken by the illegitimate government of Salam Fayyad on dissolving the charitable associations and the private organizations, explaining that this step does not target Hamas only but also the Palestinian society, which will continue to believe in resistance and liberation regardless of the costs and sacrifices. (*Paltimes*)
- The second group of Palestinians (146 person) left Gaza heading to Egypt via Al Awja Crossing. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
- Russia sends food and medicine to the Palestinians in Gaza. (*Al-Ayyam*)

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IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: Please note that the language used in this press review is a reflection of the language used in the Palestinian press, and not a reflection of EU policy.