



BIOGRAPHIES

Day One – 19 March 2012

Mr. Robert Serry, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process



Mr. Robert H. Serry is a Dutch national. Appointed by the Secretary General in 2007, Mr. Serry serves as the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process. Also since 2007, he is the Personal Representative to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority of the UN Secretary-General. In this capacity, Mr. Serry is the Envoy of the UN Secretary General to the Quartet.

Mr. Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General, UNRWA



Mr. Filippo Grandi has been a UN official for 24 years. Between 1988 and 2004 he worked for UNHCR, responding to refugee crises throughout Africa and the Middle East, and was the High Commissioner's Chief of Staff. In 2004-2005 he was Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, and then joined UNRWA as Deputy Commissioner-General. He was appointed Commissioner-General on 20 January 2010.

Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs, Kingdom of Belgium



Born in Liège on 6 August 1958, Mr. Didier Reynders obtained a Law degree at the University of Liège in 1982. Mr. Reynders is the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs of Belgium since December 2011. He was Chairman of the Mouvement Réformateur from October 2004 until February 2011. In 1999, he became Minister of Finance and in 2004, Deputy Prime Minister. He was elected Deputy Chairman of the PRL Liberal Party (PRL), becoming a Member of Parliament in 1992.

Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice- President of the European Commission



Born on 20 March, 1956 in the United Kingdom, Baroness Catherine Ashton is since 1 December 2009 the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Vice President of the European Commission. From 2001-2006 she served as Minister in the Department for Education and Skills, at the Department for Constitutional Affairs, and subsequently in the Ministry of Justice where her responsibilities included human rights, freedom of information and equalities.

Dr. Riyad Al-Malki, Foreign Minister, Palestinian Authority



Dr. Riad Malki was reappointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in May 2009. Prior to this, he also served as Minister of Information and Official Spokesperson of the Government from September 2007 to June 2009 and as Minister of Justice from June 2007 to August 2007. He was the General Director and the Founder of Panorama Center for the Dissemination of Democracy and Community Development in Palestine from 1991 to 2007. Mr. Malki holds a PhD in engineering from a US university.

Dr. Nabil El-Araby, Secretary General, League of Arab States



Born in 1935, since May 2011 Dr. Nabil El-Araby is the Secretary General of the League of Arab States. Dr. El-Araby is a lawyer, former judge at the International Court of Justice, international arbitrator, veteran diplomat, and peace negotiator. He was Foreign Minister of Egypt in the interim government between March and July 2011 and played a major role in resolving key Egyptian foreign policy issues.

Mr. Nasser Judeh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Chair of the UNRWA Advisory Commission



Mr. Nasser Judeh has served as Foreign Minister for Jordan since February 2009. From 2007-2009 he was Minister of State for Media and Communication in Jordan. Prior to that, he served as the official spokesperson of the Government. Furthermore, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is Chair of the Advisory Commission to UNRWA.

Armchair Discussion

Ms. Lana Abu Hijleh, Country-Director, Co-operative House Foundation (CHF) International



Ms. Lana Abu-Hijleh is a Palestinian development expert with 26 years of experience. Since 2003, she has been the Country Director of CHF International for Palestine. Prior to that, she served as the DRR of the UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People for over 17 years, covering policy and programme development.

Mr. Alan Duncan, Minister of State for International Development, United Kingdom



Mr. Alan Duncan was appointed as Minister of State for International Development in May 2010. He has kept a constant watch on the wider world throughout his parliamentary career, reflected in his appointment as Shadow Secretary for International Development from 2004 to 2005. He is personally committed to DFID's (Department for International Development) central goal of combating global poverty and has long been an advocate of well-managed, effectively spent aid.

Ms. Nisreen Barakat, Minister of Social Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



Ms. Nisreen Barakat is the Minister of Social Development for Jordan. Previously she was the Director General of the National Aid Fund and served earlier in her career as Minister of Public Sector Development. She has held a number of other directorial positions in the Jordanian Government. Minister Barakat holds an MA in Business Administration from the United Kingdom.

Moderator: Ms. Sherine Tadros, Correspondent, Al Jazeera English



Ms. Sherine Tadros, an Egyptian-British correspondent for Al Jazeera English, is currently based in Cairo and covering the Middle East and North Africa. She holds two degrees in Middle East politics. In the last year, she has covered the Egyptian Revolution, the uprising in Yemen, reported from North & South Sudan and just recently the 'Liberation' Declaration in Libya. Reported solely inside Gaza during the war on Gaza in 2008-2009. Her work has been nominated for multiple awards, including an Emmy and Monte Carlo award.

Reception: Performance by Palestine refugee youth



Maqamat (*Arabic for Traditional Musical Scale*) Band (established in 2010) is a group of young talented Palestinian student musicians from the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Jerusalem. The band strives to revive the musical heritage of the classical Arabic music (commonly known as *takht*). They perform classical Eastern and Arabic musical pieces composed by well-known Arab and oriental musicians. Edward Said's Conservatory of Music seeks to promote music education and awareness among the various Palestinian communities in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza, including in the refugee camps.

Day Two – 20 March 2012

Opening panel: "Youth Answers Back"

Mr. Ronan Farrow, Special Adviser to the United States Secretary of State on Global Youth Issues



Mr. Ronan Farrow is the Special Adviser to the United States Secretary of State on Global Youth Issues and Director of the State Department's Global Youth Issues office. A lawyer and former human rights advocate and journalist, Special Adviser Farrow assumed his current role following two years as the State Department's Special Adviser for Humanitarian and NGO Affairs in the Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Prior to joining the State Department, he served as Spokesperson for Youth at UNICEF.

Panel I: Youth participation: Engaging Palestine Refugee Youth in Social and Civic Development

Mr. Mustafa Barghouti, General Secretary, Palestine National Initiative



Currently based in Ramallah, Dr. Mustafa Barghouti has since 2006 held a seat in the Palestinian Legislative Council. From March to June 2007 he served as Minister of Information in the Palestinian Unity Government. He is a co-founder of the Palestinian National Initiative established in 2002 and currently serves as the Initiative's General Secretary. In 1979, Dr. Barghouti founded the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees working in the West Bank and Gaza.

Ms. Nisreen Haj Ahmad, Researcher and Co-Founder, Middle East Community Organizing Initiative



Ms. Nisreen Haj Ahmad is the co-founder and co-director of Ahel and the founder of the Mujtama3i Initiative. Nisreen is also a research fellow at the Hauser Center at the Harvard Kennedy School where she completed her Mid-Career Masters in Public Administration in 2008. From 1999 to 2007, she was a legal counsellor to the Palestinian negotiating team in the peace talks with Israel and also worked as a legal adviser to the Palestinian Ministry of Economy on international trade agreements.

Mr. Mohammed Al Mbaid, Country Director, International Youth Foundation



Dr. Mohammad Al Mbaid, PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University, is the Country Director for Palestine and Regional Adviser for the Middle East with the International Youth Foundation. Dr Al Mbaid has more than fifteen years of experience in international development and has served as Assistant Country Director for CARE International, Country Director for International Relief and Development, and Program Director for a major Civil Society Development programme in Palestine.

Mr. Saad Al-Harithy, Adviser to HRH Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz, Crown, Prince and Minister of the Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Born in 1948, Dr. Saad Al Harithy is a Saudi national Adviser to HRH Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Minister of the Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of “The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques’ Relief Campaign for the Palestinian People in Gaza.” He has written on i.e. Saudi youth and the press and on the use of radio and TV as a platform for youth.

Mr. Salvatore Lombardo, Director of UNRWA Affairs – Lebanon, UNRWA



Mr. Salvatore Lombardo joined UNRWA as Director of UNRWA Affairs, Lebanon as of September 2008. Mr. Lombardo is an Italian national who holds a Bachelor and Master Degree in international law from the Catholic University of Milan and Cambridge University, respectively. Mr. Lombardo joined the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1986. His last assignment was in Afghanistan as UNHCR Representative. He also served in Djibouti, Cambodia, Lebanon, Bosnia, France and the UN Headquarters in Geneva and New York.

Moderator: Rami Khouri, Director of the IFI for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut



Mr. Rami George Khouri is a Palestinian-Jordanian and US citizen. He is a political columnist and book author and the first Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. He also serves as a non-resident senior fellow at the Kennedy School of Harvard University and the Dubai School of Government. Mr. Khouri was awarded the Pax Christi International Peace Prize in 2006.

Panel II: Economic Empowerment of Youth: Creating and Building Resources for the Economic Inclusion of Young Palestinians

Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, Regional Director, International Labour Organization (ILO)



Ms. Nada Al-Nashif was appointed Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Arab States in Beirut in 2007. She came to the ILO from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) where she last held the position of Chief of the Regional Programme Division, Regional Bureau for Arab States from 2005–2006.

Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed, Secretary General, Royal Charity Organisation of the Kingdom of Bahrain



Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed is the Secretary General for Royal Charity Organization of Bahrain, and until 2007, he was the Chief Executive of Bahrain Petroleum Company. He has also worked with Bahrain's Energy Ministry. A Mechanical Engineer by qualification, Mr. Al Sayed also holds a PhD and Master in Industrial Management and is the author of a management book, "The Key to Organizational Success". He holds the Crown Prince Award for Best Research in Social Science.

Mr. Hashim Shawa, General-Director, Bank of Palestine



Mr. Hashim Shawa has been the Chairman and General Manager of the Bank of Palestine since 2007 - the first and largest Palestinian bank with assets of \$1.65 billion. In 2005, he joined HSBC in Switzerland as a Director of the group's Middle East and North Africa business. After obtaining his BSc from University College London, Mr. Shawa joined Citigroup in 1997.

Dr. Salem Ajluni, Consultant on Socio-Economic Affairs, UNRWA



Salem Ajluni serves as a socio-economic consultant and researcher for UNRWA. He previously worked as a consultant for the Palestinian Ministry of Planning and the World Bank. During the period from 1996-2001, he was a Chief Economist at the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator and was the principal author of UNSCO's regular reports on economic and social conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Special Guest: Emilio Butragueño, Director of Institutional Relations of Real Madrid



Mr. Emilio Butragueño Santos is a Spanish national and a graduate in Economic and Business Sciences. In 2009 he became the General Manager of the Real Madrid University Studies School and at present holds the position as the Director of Institutional Relations in Real Madrid Club. In the summer of 1981 he had his debut as a football player for Real Madrid, and retired in April 1998.

Panel III: Education: Building Capability of Palestine Refugees

Dr. Lamis Al-Alami, Minister of Education, Palestinian Authority



Since June 2007, Dr. Lamis Alami is the Minister of Education and Higher Education of the Palestinian Authority. She administers all education reform endeavours and mobilizes support for financial sustainability. From 1994 to 2004, she worked as Director General of the UNRWA Education Programme in the West Bank, administrating 100 schools and 3 major community colleges. Dr. Alami holds a BA in English Language and a Master of English literature from Beirut University College.

Dr. Yusuf Sayed, Reader in International Education, University of Sussex



Dr. Yusuf Sayed is an education policy specialist with a career in international education and development research. Previously he was Senior Policy Analyst at the EFA Global Monitoring Report for UNESCO, a team leader for Education and Skills at the Department for International Development in the United Kingdom, and head of the Department of Comparative Education at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

Prof. Elaine Unterhalter, Professor of Education and International Development, Institute of Education, University of London



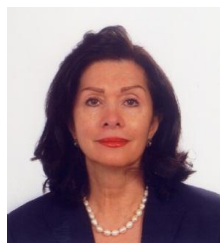
Prof. Elaine Unterhalter is Professor of Education and International Development at the University of London, where she teaches Master courses in Education and International Development and in Education, Gender and International Development. She works on themes concerning gender, race, and class inequalities and their bearing on education. Her specialist interests lie in the capability approach and human development and education in Africa, particularly South Africa. Her current concerns are with education, poverty and global social justice.

Dr. Tafeeda Jarbawi, Director-General, Welfare Association



Dr. Tafeeda Jarbawi is Director General of the Welfare Association. Dr. Jarbawi holds a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Cincinnati and has served as Professor and head of Chemistry Department at Birzeit University. She also served as a Director of UNRWA Ramallah Women's College and as Dean of Educational Science Faculty. Her contribution to the development of Palestine covers active membership in the administrative and consultative boards of more than 30 academic and non governmental organizations at national, regional and international level.

Ms. Ikhlass Al-Sheikhly, Head of Grants Unit, OFID



Born in Iraq in 1952, Mrs. Ikhlass Al-Sheikhly joined the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) in 1982, and is now Head of the Grants Unit. Since September 2004, she is in charge of grant operations in the average of \$75 million per lending programme, managing five programs including Technical Assistance, Research & Similar Intellectual Activities, Emergency Operations, HIV/AIDS Operations, and the Palestine Programme. She holds a BSc in Business Administration from Al-Hikma University and a post graduate in Cost Accounting from 1974, Baghdad.

Dr. Caroline Pontefract, Director of Education, UNRWA



Dr. Caroline Pontefract is a British national and holds a Ph.D. in Education. Since January 2010, she is the Director of Education in UNRWA. Before assuming this position, Dr. Caroline Pontefract was Director of the Social Transformation Programme Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat from 2008 to 2010 and Chief of the Teacher Education Section at UNESCO from 2006 to 2008.

Panel IV: Youth and Marginalization: Countering Exclusion and the Role of Protection

Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna



Since 9 July 2010, Mr. Yury Fedotov is the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna. Before that, Mr. Fedotov was the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Court of St. James's in London. Mr. Fedotov is a career diplomat who started his Foreign Service in 1972, and has since spent his life in a series of senior positions for the Russian Foreign Service.

Ms. Rola Badran, Director, Palestinian Human Rights Organization



Ms. Rola Badran is a Palestinian refugee, born in Lebanon in 1982. She holds the position of Programmes Director at the Palestinian Human Rights Organization and is Member of the Scientific Committee of the Arab Institute for Human Rights. She is also a trainer with the Geneva Institute for Human Rights. She is highly motivated and practiced in defending human rights, especially for marginalized groups, particularly refugees and displaced people with a specific focus on youth and women.

Mr. Mouin Rabani, Senior Fellow, Institute for Palestine Studies



Mr. Mouin Rabani is an independent analyst currently based in Amman, Jordan. He is a Senior Fellow with the Institute for Palestine Studies, Co-Editor with Jadaliyya, and Contributing Editor to Middle East Report. Until 2006, Mr. Mouin was a Senior Analyst on the Middle East with the International Crisis Group focusing on Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Previously he worked as Palestine Director of the Palestinian American Research Centre.

Ms. Fida Abu Turki, Fellow, Ashoka – Innovators for the Public



Ms. Fida Abu Turki was at the age of 21 the youngest woman in Palestine who manages the rural development committees. She was selected as one of 41 female Arab leaders in 2011. In 2011 she also received two global awards for her initiatives, namely the Ashoka Global Award and King Abdullah the Second Award for Achievement and Excellence.

Ms. Martha Myers, Director (a.i.) of Relief and Social Services, UNRWA



Ms. Martha Myers, acting Director of Relief and Social Services, joined UNRWA in early 2011. Prior she was the oPt Country Director for CARE and Chairperson of the 80+ member Association of International Development Agencies. She has also worked with USAID and with Palestinian civil society, including teaching at Palestinian universities.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Martin Schulz, President, European Parliament



Mr. Martin Schulz was born on 20 December 1955 in Germany. Since 1994, Mr. Schulz is a Member of the European Parliament and has served in a number of committees of the European Parliament. In 2004 he was elected group leader of the second largest group in the European Parliament and was in January 2012 elected President of the European Parliament.

Dr. Salam Fayyad, Prime Minister, Palestinian Authority



Dr. Salam Fayyad was born in Palestine in 1952 and holds an MBA from St. Edward's University from 1980 and a PhD in Economics from the University of Texas from 1986. Dr. Fayyad is since May 2009 serving as Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Before embarking on a political career, Dr. Fayyad worked for the International Monetary Fund from 1987-2001, acting as Resident Representative in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from 1996-2001. He left the IMF to work as Regional Manager of the Arab Bank, Palestine in 2002.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Mazrouie, Chairman, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society



Mr. Ahmad Humaid Al Mazrouie is the Chairman of the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent and the Personal Adviser of the Chairman of the Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company of the Abu Dhabi Government. In 2000, he was Director General of Abu Dhabi Securities Market. Al Mazrouie holds two Bachelor's Degrees in Business and Economics from the United States and two Master Degrees, in Public Administration and in Economics, respectively.

