



**Dr. Tarik Alami** is the Director of Emerging and Conflict Related Issues Division (ECRI) at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). In this capacity, he is in charge of ESCWA's Program on Governance and Conflict Mitigation and Development, which focuses on studying root causes of conflict and how to reduce the impact of conflict and instability on socio-economic development in the Arab region and to assist member countries in addressing the challenges of democratic transitions. He has served the United Nations in a number of capacities. He has been the Director, a.i of Economic development and Globalization Division. He has written, spoken and organized meetings on topics such as MDGs, Food Security, Conflict-Driven Displacement, Governance Deficit and conflict relapse, Conflict-Driven Displacement, Dynamics of Communal Tension. Dr. Alami was a professor of Economics at the American University of Beirut from 1996-2004. He taught International Trade, International Finance and Advanced Microeconomics. He has published several articles including in: *Journal of Policy Modeling*, *Journal of Economics and Business*, *Journal of Macroeconomics*, *Journal of Economic Studies*, *Journal of Development and Economic Policies* and *Arab Economic Journal*. He graduated with a B. A. in Economics from Bir-Zeit University, Palestine; M.A. from George Mason University in Virginia, USA and a Ph.D. in Monetary Economics from the American University in Washington DC, USA.



**Mr. Tawfiq BDEIRI**, is currently the head of the Municipal Development and Lending Fund.

He is a former minister's deputy assistant for engineering and planning issues at the Ministry of Local Government in Palestine.

Mr. Bdeiri holds a doctorate degree in urban and regional planning and has a work experience for over 24 years in the public sectors. He filled several governmental positions including being a mayor for Al Bireh City in the West Bank.



**Mr. Hans FREHAUF**, works as Head of Programme for the Local Governance Reform Programme (LGRP) of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and Governance Cluster Coordinator for Germany's technical support to the sector.

He has more than ten years of experience in working on local government issues, decentralization, municipal development, democratic transformation and EU rapprochement. Before taking up his assignment in the MENA region, Mr. Fruehauf worked in South-East Europe and the Caucasus.

He holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Tuebingen/Germany and a Master of Public Administration in International Development from the University of York/UK.



**Mr. Zaghoul SAMHAN**, currently the Director General of the Policies and Planning, Environment Quality Authority in Palestine.



**Ms. Lamis DEEK**, is a Palestinian Attorney and Human Rights Advocate based in New York.

In her practice she has litigated Palestinian, Arab and Muslim human rights and criminal defense issues ranging from free speech and free worship to state repression and terrorism charges.

Ms. Deek has been an advocate for Palestinian, Arab and Muslim rights for nearly two decades and regularly lectures on a broad range of issues related to Palestine, the liberation struggle, Zionist colonization, neoliberal policies in Palestine and the Palestinian Right of Return. She is also a frequent lecturer on issues related to government surveillance, discrimination, and predatory policing of Muslim, Arab and Palestinian Communities.

Lamis Deek is member of the National Lawyers Guild, a long- time member of Al-Awda-NY- the Palestinian Right to Return Coalition- and advisor to several domestic and international Charitable and Political Organizations. She is now part of the growing international movement for the implementation of Palestinian rights and is helping develop alternate methods for the prosecution of human rights violations.



**Jamil HILAL**, is an independent Palestinian sociologist who has been living and working in the occupied West Bank since 1995.

He has published and edited a number of books and numerous articles on Palestinian society and on polarization and fragmentation in Arab societies. Hilal has held the status of a senior associate research fellow at Muwatin-the Palestinian Institution for the Study of Democracy (Ramallah), the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) in Ramallah, the Institute of Palestine Studies (Beirut and Ramallah), and at Birzeit University (Law Institute, at the Institute of Women Studies, and at the Development Study Centre).

Hilal book publications cover; impoverishment in Palestinian society; Palestinian political parties (published by Muwatin), the formation of the new Palestinian middle class (published IPS and Muwatin), Palestinian political system (published by Muwatin and IPS), Palestinian elites (Muwatin), socio-urban changes in the city of Ramallah (published by the Centre of Development Studies (CDS) at Birzeit University in 2015), and contributed and edited a book on Palestinian youth published by CDS at Birzeit University this year (2017). Hilal edited *Where Now for Palestine; the Demise of the Two-State Solution* (Z Books, 2007), and co-authored a book on customary law in Palestine (Law Institute at Birzeit University), and co-authored a book on social capital in West Bank and Gaza Strip (MAS), and social capital and primary education in West Bank (MAS). Hilal has edited jointly with Ilan Pappé a book on Palestinian and Israeli historic narratives (*Across the Wall*, published by I.B. Taurus, London in 2010). He has one of the main contributors in the drawing of the strategic cultural plan for the Palestinian Ministry of Culture (2012- 2015), and the contributed to a study on unprotected employment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (ILO, 2008).

Hilal writes regularly in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* (Arabic) and occasionally to other journals published in Arabic, English and some of writings was translated to other languages. He has been (and continue to do so) a board member for a number of Palestinian institutions.



**Jad ISAAC**, is the director general of the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ) which is a leading Palestinian institute that conducts research on agriculture, environment, land use and water.

He got his B.Sc. degree from Cairo University and his M.Sc. degree from Rutgers University and his Ph.D. degree from the university of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. He is the former Dean of Science at Bethlehem University. He headed the Palestinian delegation for the environmental working group in the multilateral talks and is an advisor to the Palestinian Negotiation Affairs Department.

He is a member of the Palestinian National Committee for Register of Wall Damages, Palestinian National Committee for ICC, Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence, Scientific Research Council and the editorial board of Water Policy Journal. He received the Abdul-Hamid Shuman's award for Arab Biologist of the Year, 1986, Professor Abdul-Salam award for Palestinian biologists of the year, 1990 and an Honorary Ph.D. from Bethlehem University 2015.



**Shawkat SARSOUR** is the General Director of Al-Sahel for Institutional Development and Communication, a development consulting firm located in Ramallah, Palestine, which he established in 2002.

Mr. Sarsour has over twenty-five years of experience in community and organizational development work in Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia. His experience spans the entire development programming cycle from facilitation of participatory planning and design processes, to project implementation and technical assistance, on through monitoring and evaluation. Shawkat, who is an agronomist by training, has advised governmental and non-governmental organizations, community-based entities, and cooperative associations.

Mr. Sarsour's key areas of expertise however is in planning and community development, where he has led scores of participatory livelihood analyses in dozens of communities across the West Bank and Gaza through which he has gained an in-depth understanding of the dynamics affecting livelihoods and development in

Palestine, including those related to Israeli occupation and its crippling policies. Shawkat is based in Ramallah. He is married and has four children.



**Mr. Samir ABDALLAH** is an Associate Professor, working as a Senior Researcher at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS). Prior to this position, he was the Director General of MAS for two terms (2004-2007 and 2010-2013). He also served as the Minister of Planning and the Minister of Labor in the Palestinian National Authority in 2007-2009.

Mr. Abdullah received his Ph.D. in Economics in 1984 and began his academic career at Al-Najah University in 1985, where he was the Head of the Economics Department (1987-1990). He won the Fulbright Scholarship to do research and teach at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the 2000/2001 academic year. Dr. Abdullah was selected as a member of the Palestinian Delegation to the Bilateral and Multilateral Peace Negotiations in 1991 and participated in the Madrid Conference and the Washington Bilateral Negotiation. He headed the Palestine Counterpart Team of the World Bank and the IMF (1992-1994) and was a Deputy Minister of National Economy (1995-1996).

Mr. Abdullah also worked in the private sector as the General Manager of the Arab Palestinian Investment Bank (1996-1999) and the General Manager of the Palestine Trade Center (Paltrade) (1999-2003). Dr. Abdullah has intensive experience in voluntary work and community development: as a Founder of the Palestinian Economists Association, the Arab Center for Agricultural Development (ACAD), and the Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy (PCPD). Member of the Board of Directors of the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) from 2004-2016 and elected as the Chairman of the Palestinian Economists Association since 2013. He has published numerous research papers and articles.



**Mr. Naser ABDELKARIM** is currently a Professor of financial Economics at the Graduate School of the Arab American University in Palestine.

He earned a PhD in Financial economics from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, USA in 1992, and Master's degree in Finance from Texas A &M, USA in 1984, and Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Jordan in 1980. He worked for many Palestinian Universities since 1992 in teaching and administrative positions. He served as Head of Accounting Department, Dean of College of Business and economics and Director of MBA Program at An-Najah National University in Nablus over the period 1992-2001. He served as a professor of finance and accounting at Birzeit University and head of the Accounting Department over the period 2002-2013. Currently, teaching finance and accounting at the School of Graduate Studies of the Arab American University in Palestine.

Mr. Abdelkarim served as a research director and fellow at Palestine Institute of Economic policies Research in Ramallah over the period of 2009-2011. He served as a consultant and advisor for many local and international organizations including the World Bank, UNDP, ESCWA, ILO, EUC-Jerusalem, GIZ, FES, Palestine Monetary Authority, Palestine Investment Fund and others.

He attended and presented tens of research papers in local and international conferences and workshops. He also published tens of research articles in refereed academic journals in the area of development, economic policies, fiscal policy, corporate governance and financial markets.



**Michele DI MAIO** is Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Naples Parthenope (Italy). He received his PhD from the University of Siena (Italy) in 2006 and the Laurea (Master) from Bocconi University in 2001.

His current research topics include economics of conflict, economics of education, and the analysis of international trade and industrial policy in developing countries. Since May 2010 he is Senior Affiliate of the Households in Conflict Network (HiCN). He has published his research in academic journals such as the Economic Journal, the Journal of Development Economics, the Journal of Population Economics and as chapters in several books. He has worked as a consultant on issues related to conflict, education, industrial development, and

international trade for WORLD BANK, CEPAL, IPD Initiative, UNECA, UNIDO, UNCTAD, and IGC.



**Omar SHABAN** is an analyst on political economy of the Middle East and the founder of Palthink for Strategic Studies which is a think and do tank based in Gaza. Omar regularly writes for various international magazines and has been interviewed by many well-known international newspapers. He occasionally participates in conferences on political and economic issues, and Palestinian affairs such as the reconstruction of Gaza, the reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Euro-Med cooperation. Omar Shaban holds a BA in economy from Egypt (1984), and a MSc. Degree in Entrepreneurial Studies, Stirling University, Scotland (1995).



Rafat Soboh; is the first economic officer, Emerging and Conflict Related Issues Division, ESCWA. Rafat is an expert in impact assessment, effectiveness and efficiency of policies and economic strategies. He has worked with different multinational and national agencies around the globe, among which he worked in the Palestinian Territory. He has a PhD in Econometrics and his thesis is titled as: Econometrics Analysis of the performance of the cooperatives in the EU. He has a number of publications on issues related to the impact of policies and governance structure on allocative, economic and technical efficiency. He has worked on the development of the governmental services for the SMEs in Palestine and as the head of the economic program at BARD college in al-Quds university.



**Mr. Khalil TOUFAKJI**, Director of the Department of Cartography and Information Systems at the Arab Studies Society.



Tamim Al-Barghouti is the head of the Palestine Unit within the Emerging and Conflict Related Issues Division, ESCWA. He is an acclaimed Palestinian poet and political scientist. He received his PhD in political science in 2004, and has since taught at Georgetown University, the Free University in Berlin, and the American University in Cairo. He was also a fellow at the Berlin Institute for Advanced studies 2007-2008. Al Barghouti published seven poetry collections in both colloquial and classical Arabic and two academic books in English and Arabic on Arab politics and history: *Benign Nationalism* (Cairo: 2007) and *The Umma and The Dawla: The Nation State and the Arab Middle East* (London: 2008). He was a lead author of “The Arab Development Outlook; Vision 2030”, published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (Escwa) in 2016. He is also the author of “War, Peace, Civil War: a Pattern?” in *Palestine and the Palestinians in the 21 st century*(Bloomington: 2013) and “Cracking Cauldrons” in *Shifting Sands: the Unraveling of the Old Order in the Middle East* (London: 2015). He currently heads the Palestine Unit at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia



**Mr. Mahmoud ATAYA**, Policy and Reform Unit, Office of the Prime Minister, Palestine.





**Youssef COURBAGE**, born in 1946, has lived his infant and childhood in Beirut. After studying Economics and Sociology in Lebanon, he graduated in Demography and Urban Planning at the Sorbonne and Dauphine Universities in Paris.

Since then his career was mainly devoted to demographic research and training. Namely, with the United Nations in Beirut, Cairo, Yaoundé (Cameroon), Port-au-Prince (Haiti) and Rabat (Morocco). He was then appointed as research director in demography at the National Institute of Demographic Studies in Paris. He has been continuously a member of this Institute, except in 2003-2005 where he headed the department of contemporary studies at the French Institute of the near East in Beirut (IFPO).

His area of researches has covered the study of the populations of the world, especially the Arab countries of the Near East and North Africa, the old and new minorities and the political, social and economic correlates of population dynamics. He has published around 600 books, chapters of books, articles in peer reviews, reports etc.