



International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East

5-6 October 2017

Conference Room 3, Vienna International Centre
Vienna, Austria



UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL INFORMATION PROGRAMME ON
THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

*Organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information
in cooperation with the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue*

The Question of Palestine: Media Narratives and Public Perceptions

DRAFT PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2017

Opening Session

09:00 - 10:00

Registration

10:00 - 10:45

Opening session

Welcoming remarks

- **Remarks from Mr. Yury Fedotov, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, to be delivered by Mr. John Brandolino, Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

Opening statements

- **Ms. Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations**
- **Ms. Gertraud Borea d'Olmo, Secretary General, Bruno Kreisky Forum for international Dialogue**

Messages

- **H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations**
- **H.E. Mr. Fodé Seck, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People**

10:45 - 11:00

Break



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PANEL I

11:00 - 13:00

Panel I: Quest for peace in the Middle East and the impact of 50 years of occupation on future prospects

Moderator: Ms. Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations

- Mr. Avraham Burg, Former Speaker of the Knesset
- Ms. Zaha Hassan, Former Coordinator and Senior Legal Advisor to the Palestinian Negotiation Team
- Ms. Gudrun Harrer, Senior Editor, *Der Standard*

11:00 - 12:00

Initial statements and panel discussion

12:00 - 13:00

Q&A session

LUNCH

13:00 - 15:00

Lunch

PANEL II

15:00 - 17:30

Panel II: Empathy as an alternative way for seeking peace

Moderator: Ms. Gertraud Borea d'Olmo, Secretary General, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue

- Mr. Ahmad Abu Akel, Research Fellow, Institute of Psychology, University of Lausanne
- Mr. Stephen Apkon, Executive Director, Disturbing the Peace



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- **Mr. Simon Baron-Cohen, Professor, Developmental Psychopathology, the University of Cambridge**
- **Ms. Gaby Goldman, Director of Communications, Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel**
- **Ms. Haifa Staiti, Executive Director, Empathy for Peace**

15:00 - 16:00 | **Initial statements and panel discussion**

16:00 - 17:30 | **Q&A session**

RECEPTION

18:00 - 20:00 | **Reception hosted by Ambassador Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Director General, Development, at the Austrian Foreign Ministry and former Under-Secretary-General for Public Information and Communications of the United Nations**
[by invitation only]
Venue: [TBC]

FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2017

PANEL III

9:30 – 12:00 | **Panel III: Media narratives and public perceptions from the Israeli and Palestinian perspectives**

Moderator: **Ms. Viola Raheb, Theologian, Vienna University**

- **Ms. Allyn Fisher-Ilan, News Editor, *The Jerusalem Post***
- **Ms. Amira Hanania, TV Presenter, Palestine TV**
- **Mr. Daoud Kuttab, Columnist and Journalist**
- **Dr. Yonatan Mendel, Director, Center for Jewish-Arab Relations, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute**



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Resource persons:

- Ms. Tala Halawa, Journalist
- Mr. Noam Sheizaf, Journalist, + 972 Magazine

09:30 - 10:30 | Initial statements and panel discussion

10:30 - 12:00 | Q&A session

LUNCH

12:00 - 14:00 | Lunch

PANEL IV

14:00 – 16:30 | Panel IV: The Israel-Palestine conflict
through the lens of international media

Moderator: Mr. Maher Nasser, Director, Outreach Division, Department of Public Information, United Nations

- Ms. Taghreed ElKhodary, Journalist and scholar
- Dr. Edmund Ghareeb, Professor, American University
- Dr. Tony Klug, Special Advisor on the Middle East, the Oxford Research Group
- Ms. Barbara Plett Usher, U.S. State Department Correspondent, BBC
- Ms. Alexandra Rojkov, Freelance journalist

Resource persons:

- Mr. Joseph Dana, Editor-in-Chief, emerge85
- Mr. Ahmed Shihab-Eldin, Senior Correspondent and Producer, AJ+



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14:00 – 15:00

Initial statements and panel discussion

15:00 – 16:30

Q&A session

Concluding Session

16:30 - 17:00

Concluding session

Closing Statements

- **H.E. Ambassador Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations**
- **Ms. Gertraud Borea d'Olmo, Secretary General, Bruno Kreisky Forum for international Dialogue**
- **Ms. Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations**

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For tweeting during the seminar, please use: #UNMediaSeminar

For more information on the question of Palestine and the United Nations,
please visit: <https://unispal.un.org>

Email: PDHRS-DPI@un.org

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