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STATISCAL DATA COLLECTION PROJECT ON FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL MARKETS IN 9 MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

Country Profile: 5. Palestine

**EUROMED AUDIOVISUAL III / CDSU in collaboration with the EUROPEAN
AUDIOVISUAL OBSERVATORY**

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NATIONAL AUDIOVISUAL LANDSCAPES IN NINE PARTNER COUNTRIES

PALESTINE

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1. BASIC DATA

1.1 Overview

The UN General Assembly Resolution 67/19, adopted on November 29th 2012, has granted Palestine the status of an observer non-member State¹. Adopted by a majority of 138 votes (9 against and 41 abstentions), this Resolution has recognized Palestine a fully-fledged member State. The name of 'Occupied Territories', resulting from the Oslo agreements, has been officially replaced, in line with the UN nomenclature, by that of Palestine.²

The USA and Israel, which both do not recognize the status of Palestine as a State, claim that this decision is contrary to the Oslo agreements and comes too early along the peace process. The borders and the capital are equally a subject of controversy. The borders claimed are those which predated June, 5th, 1967, between Israel, Egypt and Jordan, prior to the six-day war. Yet, the final borderlines should be discussed between the Israel and Palestine. In 2000, the Palestinian Authority voted for law calling for the establishment of Jerusalem (Al Quds) as the capital of a future State; and the same law was ratified in 2002 by the Palestinian Council. In practice, however, the key ministries are based in Ramallah.

Since the Oslo agreements, the Palestinian territory has been partitioned in three zones:

- Zone A comprises the seven big cities in the West Bank, i.e., Jenin, Qalqiliya, Tulkarem, Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron, where the Palestinian security and administration departments are based. Zone A covers 20% of the West Bank area and comprises 55% of its population. Indeed, the Israeli army intervenes most of the time in zone A.
- Furthermore, and except for a few refugee camps and villages, zone B comprises most of the remaining Palestinian areas. In theory, it is the Palestinian Authority which is entrusted with the administrative management of these areas, while Israel has insisted on keeping their security management under its control.
- Zone C is totally under Israeli control for all administrative and security matters. Zone C accounts for the biggest part of the land in the West Bank (62%). It is the only zone to boast a territorial continuity there and that surrounds and divides zones A and B. Furthermore, it contains the biggest share of the fertile lands and natural resources available in the West Bank. Up to 87% of the Jordan River is located zone C.

Historically, the Palestinian territory is located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean sea. It is bordered by Lebanon, to the north, Egypt, to the south-west, and Jordan to the east. Known under her name until 1948, Palestine has since been partitioned into two zones: the Palestinian Territories and the State of Israel.. However, and even though limited to that space, deemed as quite small by international standards, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

¹ UN resolution adopted on November, 29th, 2012, is accessible on the site of the Standing Observation Mission of Palestine to the UNO: Status of Palestine in the United Nations A/RES/67/19 <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0080ef30efce525585256c38006eacae/181c72112f4d0e0685257ac500515c6c?OpenDocument>

Gilles Paris, Palestine becomes a non-member observer state to the UNO, Le Monde.fr | 29.11.2012, http://www.lemonde.fr/proche-orient/article/2012/11/29/la-palestine-devient-etat-non-membre-permanent-a-l-onu_1798052_3218.html

² Refer to the UN site, « The question of Palestine », <http://www.un.org/french/Depts/palestine/index.shtml>

which came as a result of the occupation of Palestine, has generated a big impact on international relations, and notably on the relations all around the Mediterranean rim.

In addition to the daily struggle of the Palestinians against the Israeli occupation, the contemporary history of Palestine has been marked by two major uprisings: the first Intifadha (1987-1993), also dubbed the war of stones, and the second Intifadha, also known under the name of Intifadha Al Aqsa, which erupted on September, 28th, 2000, in response to the controversial visit of Ariel Sharon, the head of the Likud opposition party at that time, to the Esplanade of the Mosques in Jerusalem.¹

In 1948, 1,4 million Palestinians used to live in 1.300 towns and villages. Over 800.000 people were kicked out of their homes to the west Bank and the Gaza Strip, or to neighbouring Arab countries and many other countries all over the world. Thousands of Palestinians, who were displaced of their homes, have settled in the inland-1948 territories, under Israeli control.² Ever since, the number of Palestinians, living all over the world, has multiplied by eight in sixty four years.

By the end 2012, and according to the data released by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)³, the global Palestinian population is estimated to à 11.6 million, with 4.4 of whom living in historical Palestine (between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean sea), 1.4 million in Israel, 5.1 million in the Arab countries and around 655.000 elsewhere.

More than one third of the population lives in the Gaza Strip.

The number of Palestinians living in the Palestinian Occupied territories, estimated by the PCBS to 4.4 million, is subdivided as follows: 2.7 million live in the West Bank, whereas 1.7 million reside in the Gaza Strip. Yet, out of every 100 persons living in the Palestinian territory, about 44.2% are refugees : 41.4% in the West Bank and 58.6 % in Gaza⁴.

As to the Palestinians living in the diaspora, the table below⁵ displays the figures disclosed, in late 2010, by the PCBS and that estimated the number of the Palestinian refugees inside and outside the Palestinian territories:

| Countries | % | Number |
|-----------------------|------|------------|
| Palestinian Territory | 37.5 | 4, 108,631 |
| Israel | 12.4 | 1, 360,214 |

¹ Second Intifada, MEDEA, <http://www.medeas.be/fr/themes/conflit-israelo-arabe/deuxieme-intifada/>

² Specific statistics bulletin issued on the occasion marking the 64th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, May, 10th, 2012, by Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Palestine - May, 12th, 2012, quoted in International Solidarity Movement IMS ; <http://www.ism-france.org/analyses/Bulletin-special-de-statistiques-a-l-occasion-du-64eme-anniversaire-de-la-Nakba-palestinienne-10-mai-2012-article-17024>

³ Palestinians at the end of 2012, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_PalestiniansEOY2012E.pdf
Estimated Population in the Palestinian Territory Mid-Year by Governorate, 1997-2016, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), State of Palestine, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/Documents/gover_e.htm

⁴ Palestinians at the end of 2012, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), op.cit.

⁵ Estimated Number of Palestinians in the World by Country of Residence, End Year 2010, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), State of Palestine; http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/Documents/PalDis-POPUL-2010E.htm

| | | |
|-------------------|------|-------------|
| Arab countries | 44.4 | 4, 876,489 |
| Foreign countries | 5.7 | 626,824 |
| Total | 100 | 10, 972,158 |

Yet, and in May 2012, the figures disclosed by UNWRA¹ indicated that 5.1 million Palestinians were registered, thus making 45,6% of the global Palestinian population.² They were subdivided as follows: 59,1% in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, 17,1% in the West Bank and 23,8% in the Gaza Strip. About 29% of the registered Palestinians live in 58 refugee camps, 10 of which are located in Jordan, 9 in Syria, 12 in Lebanon, 19 in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip.³ It is worth noting, here, that in spite of the status of refugees imposed on a large number of Palestinians, both inside and outside the Palestinian Territories, as well as the tough conditions through which many Palestinians are going, there are many Palestinians who have succeeded remarkably well in their life, be it in the business world or in many other sectors⁴.

The problem of the Palestinian refugees is one of the most ancient and complex the world over.

1.2 Benchmarks

The economy relies mainly on construction works and services. 2/3 of the population in Gaza and ¼ in the West Bank are threatened by food insecurity. The situation has been exacerbating in East Jerusalem due to colonization and the decreasing number of business transactions with the West Bank mainly caused by Israeli restriction.⁵

- Density (PCBS): 703 inh. / km² (in the West Bank : 462 inh. /km² ; in Gaza : 4.429 inh. / km²)
- Demographic growth (UNDP, 2011) : 2,9%
- Fecondity index (PCBS, 2012) : 4,3 children per woman
- Life expectancy (PCBS, 2011) : 71 years for man and 73 years for women
- Literacy rate (UNDP, 2011) : 92,4%
- Human development index (UNDP, 2011) : 0,641/ 114th rank
- In 2012, 40.3% of the population in Gaza were poor (live with less than 2,77 euros per day).⁶

¹ Founded in 1949, the UNWRA is the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Refer to : <http://www.unrwa.org>

² Special statistics bulletin issued on the occasion marking the 64th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, May, 10th, 2012, By the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Palestine – May, 26th 2012; <http://www.ism-france.org/analyses/Bulletin-special-de-statistiques-a-l-occasion-du-64eme-anniversaire-de-la-Nakba-palestinienne-10-mai-2012-article-17024>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Sari Hanafi, Between two worlds : palestinian businessmen in the diaspora and the building of the Palestinian entity, CEDEJ - Égypt/Sudan, Center of economic, judiciary and social documentation studies, Collection : Cedej files, 1997, Publication on OpenEdition Books : April, 15th, 2013 ; <http://books.openedition.org/cedej/739>

⁵ According to the page « Presentation Israel-Palestinian Territories », site of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs ; <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/israel-territoires-palestiniens/>

⁶ UNRWA: emergency appeal 2013, opt, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2013012971846.pdf>

*Economic data*¹

- GDP (PCBS and IMF, 2012) : 10.500 MUSD
- GDP/per capita (UNCTAD report, 2012) : 2453 \$ - poverty rate: 18% in the West Bank ; 38% in Gaza
- Growth rate (2012 estimate) : 5 % in the West Bank; 9 % in Gaza
- Unemployment rate (IMF and UNRWA, 2011) : 16 % (35 % in Gaza)
- Inflation rate (FMI, 2012) : 3,1 %
- Main customers: Israel, European Union. Major suppliers : Israel, Italy, China, USA, Jordan, Spain and Germany
- National currency: The Palestinian pound was used until 1948. Yet, Palestine has no national currency. The new Israeli shekel (ILS), the Jordanian dinar (JOD) and the US dollar are the main currencies used.² On the day of 18/08/2013 : 100 EUR= 474 ILS ; 100 EUR= 94 JOD. The Palestinian Ministry of Economy is trying to help the Palestinians operate independently from Israel, by endeavoring to coin their own national currency and negotiating the establishment of their own independent State.³
- The official language in Palestine is Arabic. However, English is also widely employed, mainly as a business language. Several other languages are used for daily communication such as Hebrew, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

1.3 Domestic policy⁴

The death of Yasser Arafat, (November, 11th, 2004), Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, led to a political transition. On January 9th, 2005, Mahmoud Abbas (known as Abu Mazen), candidate of Fatah, and the nits leader, was elected as head of the Palestinian Authority.

Hamas⁵, which won the elections of on January 25th, 2006, witnessed the appointment of its head Ismaël Haniyeh as head of government of the Palestinian Authority. The new government faced serious problems. Thus, a state of conflicting coexistence emerged between the President (Fatah) and the Prime Minister (Hamas), marked by clashed opposing militants from both camps.

¹ According to the page « Presentation Israel-Palestinian Territories».

² We use here ISO codes for the Israeli shekel (ILS) and Jordanian dinar (JOD).

³ Hélène Machline, The Palestinian authority will have its own currency in 2011, **January, 25th, 2011**; http://www.econostrum.info/L-autorite-palestinienne-disposera-de-sa-propre-monnaie-en-2011_a4390.html
Also, refer to: *Jonathan-Simon Sellem*, Palestinians should stop using the shekel and substitute it for the Palestinian pound in 2011, *JSSNews*, January, 23rd, 2011 ; <http://jssnews.com/2011/01/23/21686/>

⁴ According to the page « Presentation Israel-Palestinian Territories» site of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [op.cit.](#)

⁵ Hamas is a nationalist political and Islamist movement (sunnite) and a Palestinian armed group that has vowed to undertake the « liberation » of the historic Palestine from Israeli occupation and to establish an Islamic state. Established on December, 14th, 1987, (five days after the eruption of the first Intifadha), Hamas is considered as a terrorist movement by the European Union (it added the political branch in 2003), the USA and Israel, Canada and Japan. Refer to: «EU adds Hamas to list of terrorist organizations», in *Arabic News*, December, 9th, 2003; <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/030912/2003091213.html>
For more detailed information about Hamas movement, refer to: Pierre-Alain Clément, *Research note on Hamas, technical card*, Chaire Raoul-Dandurand, University of Quebec in Montreal- UQÀM, février 2009 ; http://www.dandurand.uqam.ca/uploads/files/publications/rflexions/fiche_hamas_pa_clement.pdf

The Mecca agreements, concluded between Fatah and Hamas in February 2007, led to the establishment of a national-union government. But following the coup de force by Hamas, on June 14th, 2007, to take control of the Gaza Strip, led to the political partitioning of the Palestinian territories.

Following the dismissal of the national-union government by President Abbas, Salam Fayyad was appointed, on June 17th, 2007, as head of the emergency government with the support of the international community, albeit not recognized by Hamas. Furthermore, and followed by the USA, the European Union decided to resume its direct financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority and to normalize its relations with it, after having suspended them in March 2006, following the electoral victory of Hamas.

Furthermore, and following the resignation of Salam Fayyad, on April 13th 2013, a new government, led by Rami Hamdallah, was sworn in on June 6th. However, R. Hamdallah handed in his resignation on June 20th. Then he was called in again on August 13th. Hamas does recognize this government (in Gaza, Ismaël Haniyeh is recognized as the official Prime Minister).

Yet, and in spite of the agreement concluded on Lay 14th, in Cairo, providing for the establishment of a « national-union government », within a three-month period in Gaza, the inter-Palestinian reconciliation is still in a state of deadlock. The two movements are split by conspicuous internal divisions, in spite of the election of Khaled Mechaal, on April 1st, 2013, as head of the political bureau of Hamas.

The 16th interim government of the National Palestinian Authority, presided by Rami Hamdallah, is made of the following ministers: Safa' Nasr A-Din, Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technologies ; Nabil Dhamidi, Minister of Transport and Communications ; Anwar Abu Aisheh, Minister of Culture.

1.4 Membership of Palestine and its public audio-visual institutions in international organizations operating in the audiovisual sector

Considered as a mere observer, as to the date November, 29th, 2012, Palestine became an observer non-member of the UNO, the same status offered to the State of Vatican. On the 23rd of the same month, Palestine became the 195th member of the United Nations Education, Sciences and Culture Organization (UNESCO). This membership represents a major breakthrough towards the recognition of Palestine a State, with the same status claimed at the UNO.¹

Palestine is also member of the League of Arab States, of ALESCO and of the Islamic States Education, Sciences and Culture Organization (ISESCO).

Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) is member of:

- ASBU: Arab States Broadcasting Union
- COPEAM: Permanent Conference of the Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators

¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/member-states/countries/> ; Refer also to « Palestine becomes a fully-fledged member of UNESCO », Le Monde.fr with AFP and Reuters | 31.10.2011, http://www.lemonde.fr/proche-orient/article/2011/10/31/l-unesco-se-prononce-sur-la-demande-d-adhesion-de-l-autorite-palestinienne_1596258_3218.html

- URTI: International Radio and Television Union

The Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technologies is member of:

- AREGNET : Arab Regulators Network for Telecommunications & Information Technologies

1.5 Closer links with European institutions

1.5.1 European Union ¹

The European Union collaborates with the Palestinian Authority with a view to laying down the institutions for a future democratic Palestinian state, that is independent and viable and lives in harmony with Israel and the remaining neighbor states. This topic is constantly raised within every meeting held by the European Council of Ministers.

The Action Plan concluded with the Palestinian Authority sets out the content of the economic and political cooperation program with the European Union. The interim partnership agreement, related to exchanges and cooperation, and signed with the PLO in the name of Palestinian Authority, constitutes the legal framework defining the relations between the EU and the Palestinian Authority.

Financial assistance

The European Commission is the first donor for the Palestinians.²

Since 1971, the European Community has been providing the Palestinians with assistance, i.e., ever since the first contribution was integrated within the regular budget allocated for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency of Palestine in the Middle East (UNRWA).

In 1993, an international donor mechanism Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC)³ was established in order to help coordinate the assistance programs geared towards the Palestinians. Since 1994, and by taking the move to combine the European community contributions and those of the UE member States, the EU has provided over half a billion euros in form of subsidies to the Palestinians. Yet, as to the second *Intifadha*, the EU assistance was mostly focused on development-aid programs.

With the eruption of the second *Intifadha* and the grave exacerbation of the Palestinian economic and social conditions, thus putting in jeopardy the viability of the Palestinian Authority, the European Community decided to reorient its assistance towards a direct financial assistance to be integrated within the budget of the PA, while ensuring to provide

¹ According to the page of the "European Union –External Action", consulted on August, 18th, 2012, http://eeas.europa.eu/palestine/index_fr.htm

² EC Assistance to the Palestinians, European Union External Action, http://eeas.europa.eu/palestine/ec_assistance/index_en.htm

³ Refer to AD-HOC LIAISON COMMITTEE (AHLC), London, 2 May 2008, Opening Statement of Benita Ferrero-Waldner Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy; http://eeas.europa.eu/palestine/docs/opt_ahcl_bfw_en.pdf

it with the assistance requested to become an independent State, boost its economy and meet the most urgent humanitarian needs.

During the period 1994-2006, the European Union offered over 2,7 billion euros, in form of support to the Palestinian people.¹

Cooperation framework

Since the signing of the Barcelona Declaration, in 1995, the Palestinian Authority has been a fully-fledged partner within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Agreement. In this context, an Interim Partnership Agreement, underlying the bilateral relations between the European Union and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), in the name of the Palestinian Authority, was signed in February 1997. This agreement provides for a global agreement calling for the progressive cooperation and implementation program relating to a free-trade zone. Since the eruption of the second *Intifadha* in September 2000, the implementation of the Interim Partnership Agreement has become even more difficult.

In 2004, the Palestinian Authority has been among the first partner countries to be involved in the European neighborhood policy. In the same vein, the European Union has drafted a country report to describe the general situation prevailing in Palestine. In May 2005, the European Union and the Palestinian Authority have adopted an action plan underlying the European Neighborhood Policy² and that was conducive to mutually-agreed-upon a common agenda. The implementation of this action plan was adopted by the European Union in March 2013.³

Palestine was granted a financial aid from the EU. This annual aid is granted under the European Neighborhood Policy Initiative (ENPI). The same assistance program is completed through a number of regional and thematic components.

At the regional level, the Barcelona Conference has convened, in November 1995, the 15 European Union countries and the 12 Mediterranean partners, thus leading to the [Declaration of Barcelona](#), an ambitious program calling for exchange and cooperation in order to guarantee peace, stability and prosperity all over the region. This unprecedented political commitment includes the topics related to "Politics and Security", "Economy and Finance " and " Social, cultural and human" items. This partnership is laid down at the bilateral level by every Mediterranean partner and the European Union. The main objectives of the [Partnership Agreement](#) are:

- To foster political dialogue,
- To determine the conditions required for the progressive liberalization of the exchange of goods, services and capitals,
- To enhance balanced economic and social relations among all parties concerned,
- To support South-South integration initiatives,
- To boost cooperation in the economic, social, cultural and financial fields.

In September 2013 and on the occasion marking the trip of Palestinian Premier Rami Hamdallah to Brussels, the European Union announced the granting of 52 million euros to

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/palestine/palestine_fr.htm

² EU-PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY ACTION PLAN ;
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/action_plans/pa_enp_ap_final_fr.pdf

³ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/palestine/palestine_fr.htm

Film and audiovisual data collection project

the Palestinian Authority in order to help finance projects related to the private sector and water treatment.¹

¹ "New big cheque from the European Union to the Palestinian Authority", Le Monde Juif.info, 09/09/2013 ; <http://www.lemondejuif.info/nouveau-gros-cheque-de-lunion-europeenne-pour-lautorite-palestinienne/>

Neighborhood policy : a new framework for the future

In 2003, the European Union launched [the neighborhood policy](#) which came to complete, specify and deepen the Euro-Mediterranean partnership agreement.

The EU resorts to the European neighborhood policy in a bid to avoid the emergence of further splits between the extended European Union and its neighbors to the east, as well as south and eastern coast, of the Mediterranean rim. The ENP goes beyond the current borders to offer a more conspicuous ENP political relation and economic integration, thus paving the way for a more reinforced stability, security and welfare for all.

This very relation is based on a mutual commitment to enhance a set of common values, such as:

- the respect of the rules of law,
- good governance,
- the respect of human rights,
- the fostering of neighborhood bonds,
- the market economy,
- sustainable development.

All these ideas are adopted by means of differentiated, well established and commonly adopted [action plans](#), both by the European Union and the each of the partner countries, and do take into account the characteristics of each one of them. These action plans define the program of economic and political reforms, along with the short and mid-term priorities.

With regards to Palestine

A big part of the European aid provided to the Palestinians is currently disbursed by the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The general department of the EC Foreign Relations is entrusted with the planning of the financial assistance. This requires the identification of the priorities and proposals of the budget amounts by objective. On the basis of this support, the [Europe-Aid Co-operation Office](#) draws up the financial plans and runs the projects from the identification to the evaluation phases. The financial aid is managed by the Commissions of the [Humanitarian Aid Office](#). The [EC Technical Assistance Office](#) for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is entrusted with the implementation of the major part of the assistance programs provided by the EC to the Palestinians.

Cooperation programs 2007-2013

In the bilateral envelope of the European neighborhood and Partnership Instrument, the European Union allocates funds for the Direct Financial Support to the Palestinian Authority (with PEGASE), for development programs, and for the Palestinian refugees (through UNRWA).

PEGASE

The Palestinian - European Management and Socio-economic Aid Mechanism PEGASE¹, launched on February 1, 2008, is the European mechanism for support to the Palestinians. Relying on the former program *International Temporary Mechanism*, PEGASE supports the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (PRDP) triennial, which was introduced by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad at the Conference of donors in Paris in December 2007 and the

current Palestinian National Development Plan (NDP) 2011-2013 which reinforces the results of previous programs. PEGASE supports the recurrent costs of the Palestinian Authority (salaries and pensions, vulnerable Palestinian families, the debts owed by the Palestinian Authority to the private sector).

In 2012, the European Union has awarded 156 million for recurrent costs of the Palestinian Authority. In 2013, the EU has allocated € 168 million for recurrent costs of the Palestinian Authority through the PEGASE mechanism.

Development programs

Development programs in Palestine are primarily focused on three focal sectors, in accordance with the priorities set by the Palestinian Authority:

- Rule of law, including support to the justice and security sectors
- Private sector and trade
- Infrastructure, especially for water

The allowances for 2012 include EUR 11 million for the reconstruction of the private sector, EUR 20 million for public infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and the area C, 27.5 million EUR for projects for institutional strengthening in support of the Palestinian Authority and EUR 8 million for initiatives in East Jerusalem.

Palestinian refugees

The situation of the Palestine refugees continues to be the object of attention of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument and other budgetary sources. Since 2000, an average annual contribution of more than EUR 100 million has been given to UNRWA. The European Union makes a contribution to the general fund of UNRWA of at least EUR 80 million per year for the period 2011-13, as part of a "joint declaration". The European Union and its Member States are major donors of UNRWA. This funding is intended to cover the essential services of the basic programs of UNRWA in the areas of health, education and social services, and is mainly used to pay the salaries of teachers, doctors and social workers active in the refugee camps.

¹ PEGASE Information Sheet, Overview of PEGASE; http://eeas.europa.eu/palestine/tim/pegase_en.pdf

In addition to the bilateral geographical instrument as defined in the multiannual indicative program, Palestine is eligible for additional funds under thematic programmes approved for the financial period 2007-2013 and which constitute other budget lines.¹

In 2011, the amount of financial assistance committed by the Commission for the Palestinian people was EUR 459, 34 million.²

Tuesday, July 23, 2013, the European Union and the Palestinian Authority have marked the beginning of a construction project of EUR 21 million for the construction of seven courts and the headquarters of the Palestinian Lawyer Association. The event took place in the

¹ For more information on the budget lines for Palestine, see: Development and Cooperation - EUROPAID, European Commission
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/palestine/palestine_fr.htm

² http://eeas.europa.eu/palestine/ec_assistance/eu_aid_to_palest_2011_en.pdf

presence of the representatives of the Palestinian institutions and the Minister of Public works, the head of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy and the Representative of the UE¹.

In regards of audiovisual cooperation with the European Union, Palestine has been partner of the two first Euromed Audiovisual Programs and is currently a partner of the Euromed Audiovisual Program III (2011-2013)².

Palestine participated in the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Culture, which was held in May 2008 in Athens and endorsed the "strategy for the Development of the Audiovisual Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation"³ in the context of the Euromed Audiovisual program II.

Access to the MEDIA MUNDUS Program

The MEDIA MUNDUS Program of the European Union was adopted by decision 1041/2009/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a program of audiovisual cooperation with professionals from third countries (MEDIA Mundus).⁴ With a budget of EUR 15 million for a period of 3 years (2011-2013). This new program is to strengthen cultural cooperation and commercial links between the European film industry and that of third countries. He succeeded the [MEDIA International Preparatory program](#). Its implementation meets a strong demand on the part of the various players in the audiovisual sector to facilitate and strengthen the cooperation between European countries and third countries.

The MEDIA Mundus program supports projects in the following areas:

-
- Training support to enhance skills of professionals in Europe and third countries
 - Support for access to markets: to contribute to the financing of projects aimed to promote audiovisual works access to international markets. These projects are related to the phases of development and/or pre-production (for example international co-production markets) and downstream activities (including events facilitating the international sale of works).
 - The aid distribution and circulation: to facilitate the distribution, promotion, projection and diffusion, in optimal conditions, of European works on third countries and markets of audiovisual works from third countries in Europe.
 - Transversal activities: to contribute to the financing of cross-cutting projects involving several priorities of the program, for example training followed by promotional events at co-production meetings.¹

¹ European Union Press release PR/21/2013, EU supports construction of new courthouses and headquarters for Palestinian Bar Association, Wednesday 24th July 2013;
http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/westbank/documents/news/2013/20130724_en.pdf

² Programme Euromed Audiovisual III (2011-2013),
<http://www.euromedaudiovisuel.net/p.aspx?t=general&mid=85&l=fr>

³ <http://www.euromedaudiovisuel.net/Files/2008/12/11/1229005879819.pdf>

⁴ DECISION No1041/2009/CE OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL , October 21, 2009 ; establishing an audiovisual cooperation program with third countries (MEDIA Mundus);
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:288:0010:0017:FR:PDF>

In order to be funded through the MEDIA Mundus, the projects must be proposed and implemented jointly by European professionals and professionals from third countries and aim at promoting the creation of networks at the international level.

The future Program creative Europe

November 25, 2011 the European Commission has adopted its proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the creative Europe Program.² This proposal has been the subject of a first 'Global Approach' adopted by the Council of Ministers on May 10, 2012. It is currently being discussed in the European Parliament and should be adopted on November 5, 2013.³

The "creative Europe" program should be equipped with an overall budget of approximately EUR 1.3 billion for the period 2014-2020, an increase of almost 9% compared to the existing MEDIA and Culture programs. The new program is subject to final approval by the European Parliament and the Council in the fall of 2013.

Article 16 of the Commission's proposal provides for accessibility in the future Program of the countries covered by the European neighborhood policy (including Lebanon), according to the procedures defined with these countries in the framework agreements providing for their participation in EU programs. This participation would be possible if it answers the requirements, including, for the pane MEDIA, those laid down in directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 regarding the coordination of certain provisions of laws, regulations and administrative action in the Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services, and also subject to the payment of additional loans.

¹ <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/12/st09/st09097.en12.pdf>

² Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the program 'Creative Europe' , European Commission, Brussels, 2011;
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/documents/proposal-regulation_fr.pdf

³<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/fr/opinions.html?linkedDocument=true&ufolderComCode=&ufolderLeqId=&ufolderId=&urefProcYear=2011&urefProcNum=0370&urefProcCode=COD;>

1.5.2 The Council of Europe

In May 2008, the Committee of Ministers has decided to allow cooperation between the Venice Commission and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). This enables the PNA to ask for the Venice Commission opinions.¹

¹ Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the policy of the Council of Europe with regard to neighboring regions, 122nd Session of the Ministers Committee, Information Document SG / Inf (2012) May 15, 16 , 2012;
<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=SG/Inf%282012%2915&Language=lanFrench&Ver=original&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

The status of « partner for democracy » of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, has been granted October 4, 2011, at the Palestinian National Council PNC pursuant to Resolution 1830 (2011) of the Parliamentary Assembly.¹ A status created in 2009 to strengthen the rule of law in the neighboring countries of the European continent.

The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the policy of the Council of Europe concerning neighboring regions (may 2012), stressed that the Palestinian National Authority is part of the countries included in this policy. The beneficiaries of this policy are the countries in North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. Currently participating Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Kazakhstan who have concluded, or are on track to conclude, agreements with the Council of Europe, namely Neighborhood Cooperation Priorities. In addition, the Palestinian Authority has partnered for democracy with the APCE.²

The conclusion of "Priorities" with potential beneficiaries will depend on the interest of the countries concerned, of their willingness to commit to respect the criteria for cooperation with the Council of Europe, to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, as well as the continued seamless to our first goal, the cooperation between the Member States of the Council of Europe.

*Modalities*³

The Dialogue of cooperation with the neighborhood: this vector of dialogue at the highest level combines the authorities of Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian national authority, and the Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The object is a reciprocal exchange of views on issues of common interest, the presentation of the objectives and terms of the policy of the Council of Europe concerning neighboring regions and, where appropriate, the determination of priority areas of bilateral cooperation.

Neighbourhood cooperation priorities, that have a formal agreement on specific priorities, have been concluded with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan.

All *priorities,* which are modulated on the bottom or by volume according to the countries, focused on the Human rights, the State of law and democratic issues. They are designed to be flexible and manageable, in their rhythm and their field of application, depending on particular resources and capacity, implementation and mobilization of partners.

The European Audiovisual Observatory, partial agreement expanded of the Council of Europe, is involved, as a provider, in the present draft of the Program Euromed Audiovisual III of EU data collection.

¹ Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the policy of the Council of Europe with regard to neighboring regions, 122nd Session of the Ministers Committee, Information Document SG / Inf (2012) May 15, 16 , 2012;
<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=SG/Inf%282012%2915&Language=lanFrench&Ver=original&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

² Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the policy of the Council of Europe with regard to neighboring regions, 122nd Session of the Ministers Committee, Information Document SG / Inf (2012) May 15, 16 , 2012;
<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=SG/Inf%282012%2915&Language=lanFrench&Ver=original&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

³ Ibid.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURES

Like political and economic relations between Palestinian and Israeli, technological relationships, are basically made of control and restrictions imposed by Israel.

Since the end of 1967 war, it is the Israeli regime that manages, monitors and control infrastructure and the telecommunications system in the occupied territories. Despite the direct and indirect taxes as well as other taxes paid by the Palestinians to the Israeli Government, four Israeli mobile operators: Cellcom, Partner, Pelephone and MIRS have infrastructure, antennas erected in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT). However and « *in violation of the Oslo Accords, Israeli companies do not pay taxes to the Palestinian Authority (PA) for their commercial activity on the Palestinian market. The report of the World Bank estimated that the loss of annual tax revenue of the PA amounts to \$ 60 million. The PA asked to banish Israeli operators from Palestinian cities* ». ¹

Helga Tawil-Souri wrote: « *whatever it existed as the infrastructure of telecommunications before the Israeli occupation, it has been rarely maintained or improved and what has been implemented in the Palestinian areas has been done to make any future Palestinian network dependent on Israel. For example, all telecommunications traffic switching locations have been built outside the sectors which could subsequently be placed under Palestinian control. This means that telephone calls between the city of Gaza and Rafah are transmitted via Ashqelon, and calls between Nablus and Jenin are by Afula. All international calls will likewise routed by Israel* ». ²

It took until 1995 and the second round of the Oslo Accords that the Palestinians hope to establish a telecommunications infrastructure that allows them to make direct telephone communications at the national and the international, as well as Internet access. The same year saw the attribution by Israel of responsibility for the telecommunications infrastructure in the territories under occupation to the Palestinian Authority. In turn, the AP has licensed to Paltel (Palestine Telecommunications Company) to establish a Palestinian infrastructure of telecommunications, owning and operating telephone lines, a GSM cellular network, data communications, radio-paging services and public telephones. Nevertheless, « the dependence on Israel for most of the domestic connections and all international connections however did not end with the advent of Paltel. No aspect of the Palestinian telecommunications will never be placed under full control of Paltel or PA ». ³

A strategic allocation mechanism is applied on the Israeli side and interpreted as follows by Helga-Tawil Souri: "Israel continues to determine the form that can take Palestinian telecommunications, the allocation of frequencies, even the places where the infrastructure can be built, how much bandwidth can be allocated for the use of the Internet and to the types of equipment that may be imported and installed.

¹ Colonisation : France Télécom-Orange must break its agreement with the Israeli company Partner, Association France Palestine solidarity (AFPS), 25 January 2012; <http://www.france-palestine.org/Colonisation-France-Telecom-Orange> :

² Helga Tawil-Souri, « Pirater la Palestine : une occupation numérique », Al Jazeera, December 10, 2011, Info-Palestine.eu, <http://www.info-palestine.net/spip.php?article11526>

³ Ibid.

Despite the emergence of Palestinian telecommunications companies (Jawwal, the cellular subsidiary of Paltel, its internet subsidiary Hadara, and from 2009 *Wataniya*¹, a second cellular provider in the West Bank), local calls from fixed positions in the Gaza Strip are still routed through Israel. Many domestic local calls in the western area are in the same case ».

The author also states the mechanism of "digital occupation" carried out by the Israeli authorities and illustrated by disruption of the daily lives of Palestinian users through interruptions and hacking of Internet connections combined with 'legal' and military measures which penalize yet more Palestinian telecommunications infrastructure. This in addition to confiscation or prohibition of equipment, illegal competition from Israelis providers (most notoriously in the field of cellular telephony), and the deliberate destruction of equipment and infrastructure.

This overview on the landscape of telecommunications in Palestine shall not prevent neither the presence of the Palestinian Authority in charge of the sector nor the efforts made by the Palestinian side for the development of this infrastructure in the West areas and Gaza.



2.1 Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MTIT)

Founded in 1994 under the name of the 'Ministry of Telecommunications', the current Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology is the entity responsible for the regulation of the sector of Telecommunications in Palestine. In addition to the monitoring of the performance of companies obtaining licenses, the Department's mission also includes the establishment of the regulatory framework to establish a competitive market for telecommunications and to provide different services at affordable prices for a wide range of the Palestinian population.

The Department is also responsible for regulation of the mail and the Internet services sector. The Department is also responsible for the development of technical specifications and evaluation of ICT projects. It also offers consulting services to Palestinian public administrations and conducts technical and statistical studies on the use and development of ICT in Palestine.

2.2 Telecommunications market Data

The digital media market is regulated by the Ministry of Information. The following table shows five relevant areas identified in the framework of regional initiatives for the Arab States region, which were adopted by WTDC-10 organized by ITU.

¹ Wataniya is the second supplier of telecommunications in Palestine. The company belongs in majority to one of the sons of the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas. "New spectrum by the Israelis to open a new cell phone service in the opt had conditioned the abandonment by the PA of the Goldstone report after the Israeli genocidal war against Gaza in the winter of 2008-2009", says Helga Tawil-smiled, op.cit.

| | National entity responsible |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Broadband access networks | MTIT |
| Digital broadcasting | Ministry of Information |
| Software open source | N/D |
| Digital content in Arabic | N/D |
| Cybersecurity | N/D |

Overview of the Telecommunications sector

The *Report on statistics, indicators of the telecommunications and the Internet in Palestine (2006-2011)*, published in June 2012 by the MTIT, provides data on the market fixed telephony, mobile telephony and the Internet in Palestine from 2006 to 2011.

According to the report, mobile telephony in Palestine is serviced by the PaTel or Palestinian Telecommunications group. PaTel provides even services of mobile telephony. JAWWAL, subsidiary of PaTel and Wataniya Mobile are also in Palestine mobile telephony services providers

Describing the Palestinian market of telecoms, Helga Tawil-Souri stresses that « *Paltel has become one of the largest and prosperous Palestinian companies - by practices that have been both criticized and praised as a monopoly and neo-liberal. By market capitalization, Paltel represents today more than half of the value listed on the Palestinian Stock exchange and contributes to about one-third of the tax revenues from the PA. Its revenues represent nearly 10% of Palestinian GDP. Most of the growth of Paltel occurred through its cellular subsidiaries and the Internet respectively Jawwal and Hadara* ». ¹

These operators provide the following services:

| These operators provide the following services: Operators | Fixed Telephony | Mobile Telephony | Internet | Leased lines |
|--|-----------------|------------------|----------|--------------|
| PALTEL | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| JAWWAL | – | √ | – | – |
| WATANIYA MOBILE | – | √ | – | – |

*The table in the report of MTIT does not mention the Jawwal provider because it is a subsidiary of PaTel. However, we prefer to integrate it to the names of operators acting on the market.

The fixed telephony market

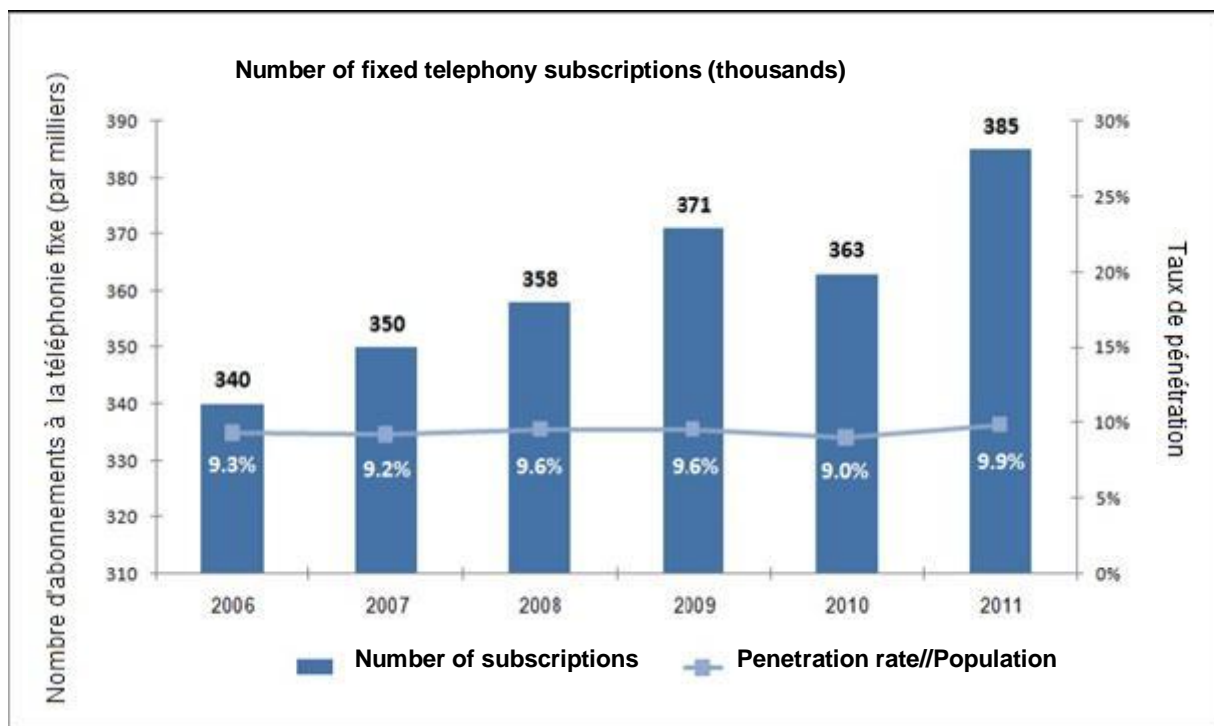
Palestinian Telecommunications (PaTel) is the only operator of fixed telephony in Palestine.

-Late 2011, there are 385,000 subscriptions to fixed telephony, a growth rate of 6.1% compared with 2010. The number of lines to homes is estimated at 319.596 with a growth rate estimated at 7.7%. The number of commercial lines amounts to 65.461 and a growth rate of 18%.

¹ Helga Tawil-Souri, op.cit.

-The rate of penetration of fixed lines is estimated at 9.9% compared to the population.

The increase in the number of subscriptions is due to PaITel investments in telecommunications infrastructure and the development of services through tenders.



Source : Report on statistics, telecommunications indicators and Internet in Palestine (2006-2011), published in June 2012 par le MTIT, op.cit.

According to figures from PaITel, the line subscriptions in 2012 have reached 396,000. At the end of the second quarter of 2012, 402,000 fixed line subscriptions are registered with PaITel registering a growth rate of 1.4% compared to 2012.

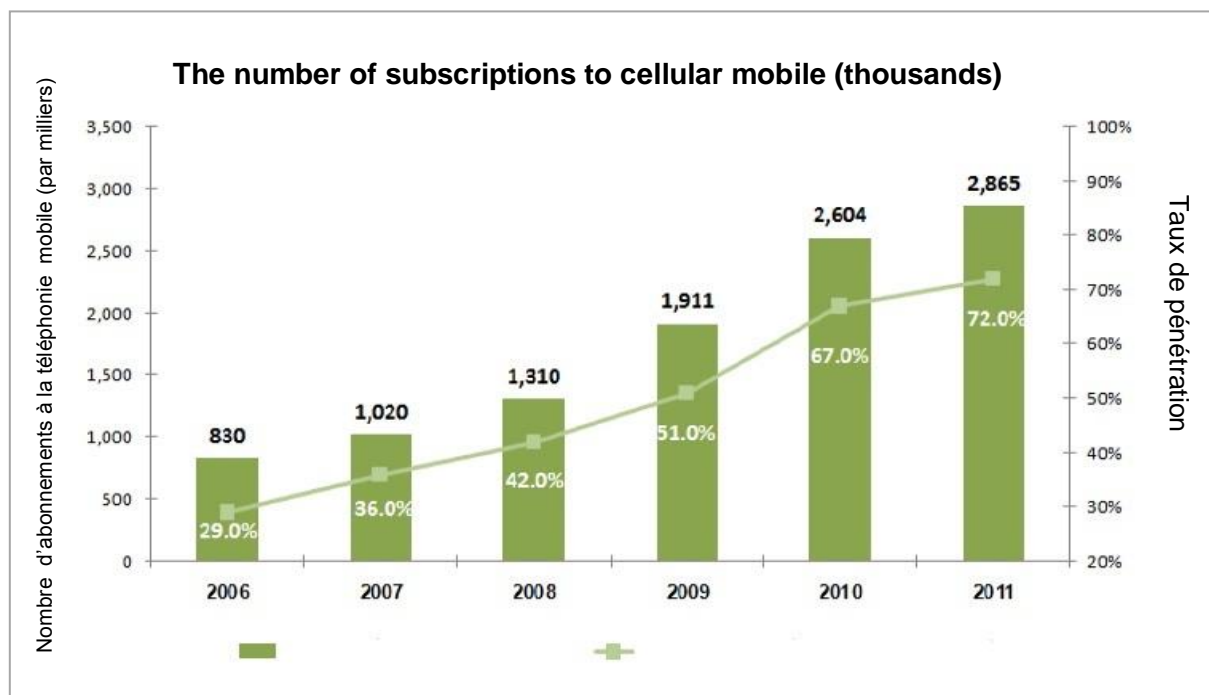
Mobile cellular telephony market

Palestinian mobile cellular telephony market is controlled by Palestinian Telecom (PaITel), its affiliate Jawwal and the Wataniya Mobile Company.

According to the 2006-2011 report of the MITT, mobile cellular subscribers is estimated at 2,865 subscribers in late 2011 and registering a growth rate of 10% from 2010. The mobile telephony penetration rate has increased from 67% to 72% between 2010 and 2011. The subscriptions increase is due, according to the report, the increase in the number of subscribers of the company Wataniya Mobile.

Mobile cellular telephony services achieved revenues estimated at 330 million JOD equivalent 358 MEUR in 2011, with a growth rate of 17% compared to 2010 where incomes are 285 million JOD (301 MEUR).¹

¹ The conversion is performed as of December 31, 2010 and 2011, according to the exchange rates displayed by Oanda Converter: <http://www.oanda.com/lang/fr/currency/convert/>



Source: Report on statistics, indicators of the telecommunications and the Internet in Palestine (2006-2011), published in June, 2012 by the MTIT, op.cit.

It is important to note that figures cited by PaTel on the website of the operator seem far more representative than those mentioned in the report by the MITT. The web site of PaTel indicates that some 2.58 million subscriptions are underwritten with PaTel in late 2012. This number increased to 2.62 million subscriptions by the end of the second quarter of 2013 registering a growth rate of 1.6%.¹

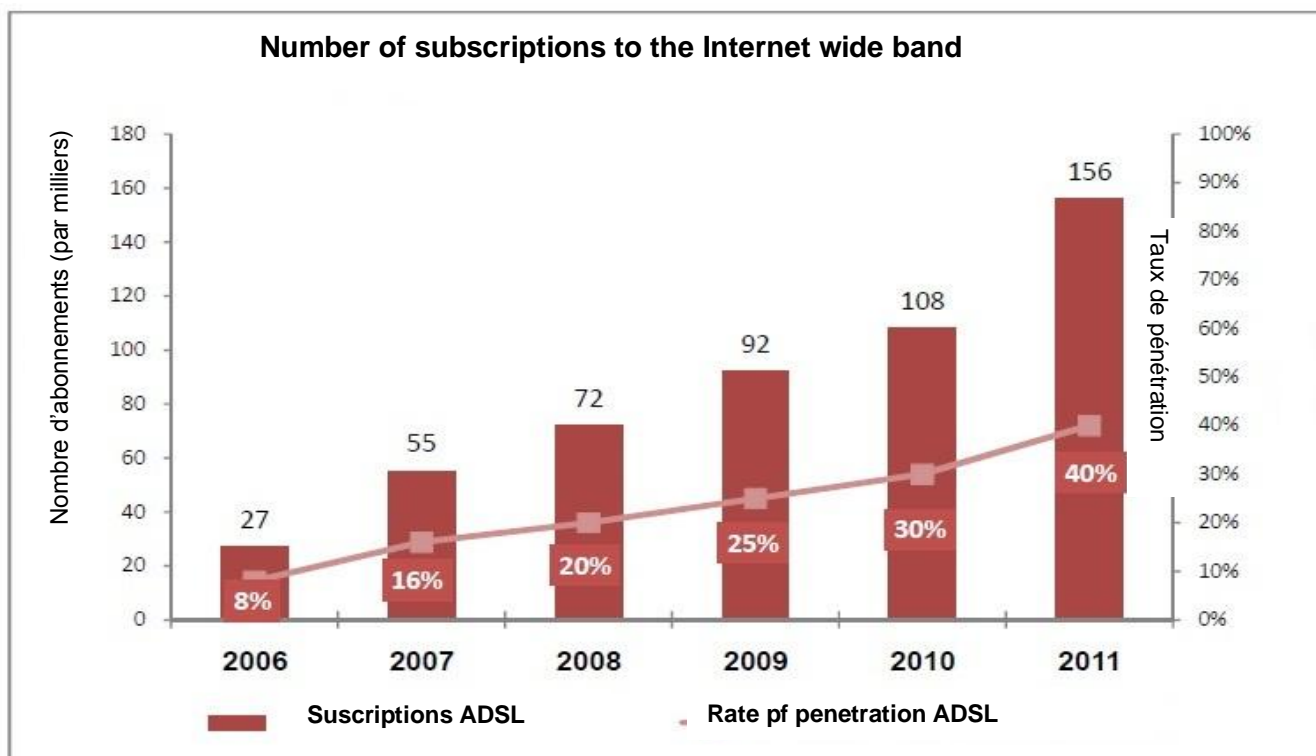
The Internet broadband market

The report of the Palestinian Ministry stresses that Internet services are provided by the public operator Palestinian Telecommunications under the control of the Ministry of telecommunications and Information Technology.

End of 2011, the rate of subscriptions to broadband Internet services is 165,000 (including ADSL and BSA subscriptions), registering an increase of 44.5% compared to 2010 where the number of subscriptions was 108,000.

- ADSL subscriptions fixed-line penetration rate has reached 40% in 2011.
- Broadband Internet penetration rate is 10% in total of the population living in the area of Gaza and the West Bank.
- The increase in the number of subscriptions is due, according to the Ministry report, implementing system BSA, which contribute to the expansion of fixed-line telephony infrastructure and lower prices.

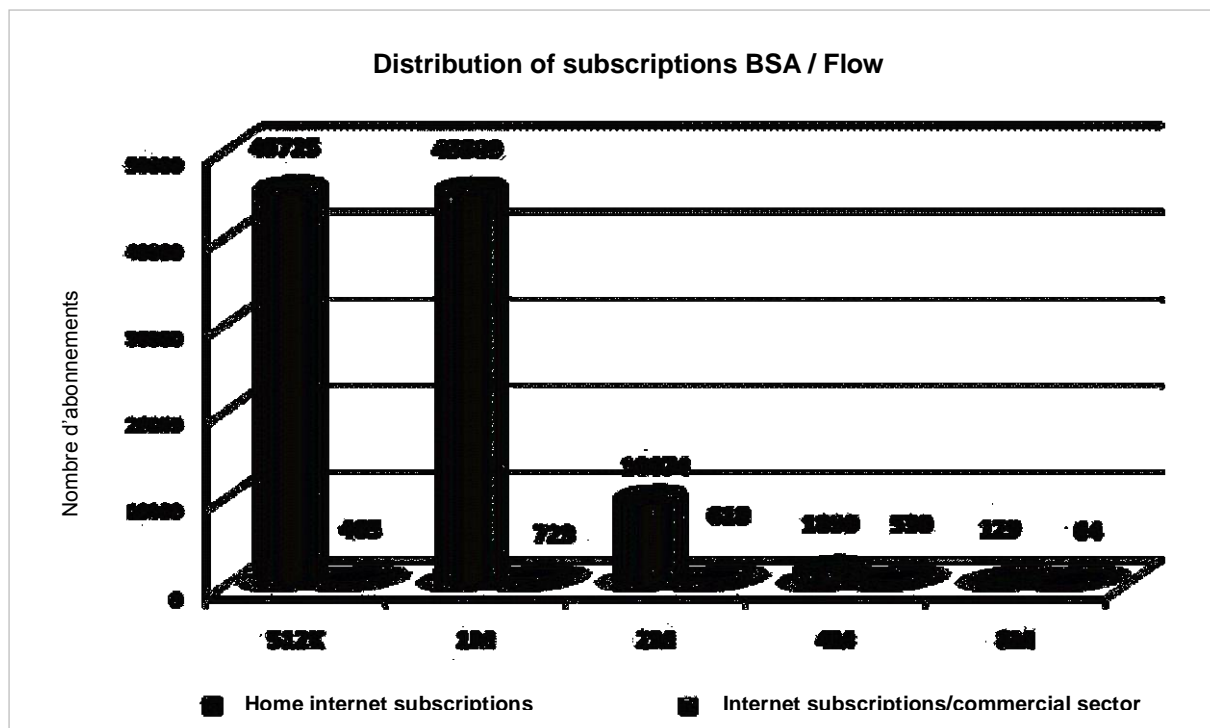
¹ <http://www.paltelgroup.ps/?Templateld=1&Pageld=7&Parentld=14&MenuId=19&Lang=ar>



Source: *Report on statistics, indicators of the telecommunications and the Internet in Palestine (2006-2011)*, published in June 2012 by the MTIT, op.cit.

Access to Internet – Bit Stream Access (BSA)

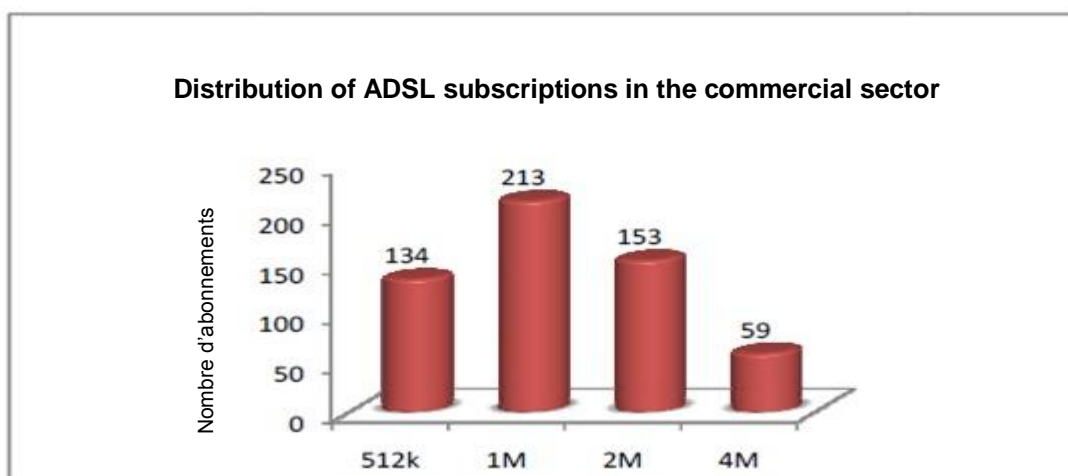
- BSA services were introduced and implemented in October 2010 in the West Bank and in August 2011 in the sector of Gaza.
- At the end of 2011, the number of ADSL subscriptions is estimated at 105,000 at a rate of 67 % of total subscriptions in the West Bank and Gaza.
- While the rate of subscriptions to homes reached 103,000 98% of total subscriptions, the commercial rate registers 2.430 subscriptions.
- 512 K and M1 home subscriptions represent 86% of the total of subscriptions.



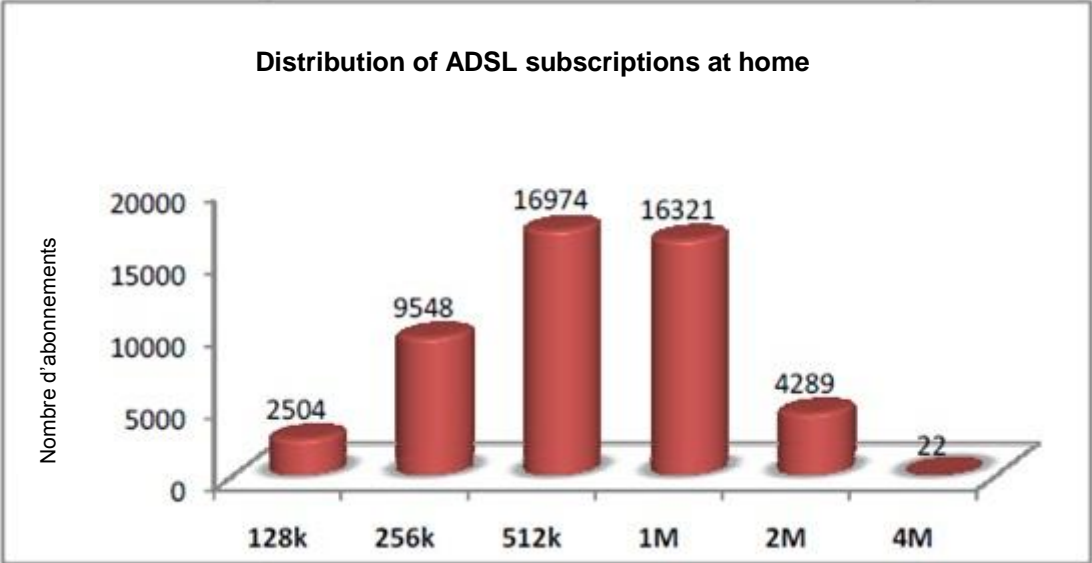
Source: Report on statistics, indicators of the telecommunications and the Internet in Palestine (2006-2011), published in June 2012 by the MTIT, op.cit.

Broadband Access to the Internet (ADSL)

- The number of subscriptions to the ADSL service is 50,000 or a rate of 32% of the total subscriptions to services wide band in the West Bank and Gaza at the end of 2011.
- Subscriptions at home for the same period were 49,000 and commercial subscriptions were 559.
- PalTel said that subscriptions to the ADSL service increased by 185,000 at the end of the year 2012 to 203.000 at the end of the second quarter of 2013, achieving a growth rate of 9.6%¹.



¹ Site Web Site of PalTel Group, op.cit.



Source: *Report on statistics, indicators of the telecommunications and the Internet in Palestine (2006-2011)*, published in June 2012 by the MTIT, op.cit.

3. THE TELEVISION REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

3.1 The Ministry of Information¹

Founded in 1993, the Ministry of information is in fact the body responsible for monitoring the media programs and can also punish radio and television operators who are in violation of the law.

The Department is also the body in charge of licensing radio and television to public and private operators. According to the list that was provided by the Department, there are 9 (local) terrestrial channels in Palestine. 13 satellite channels have obtained licenses from the Department and are operational from different Palestinian areas.

It should be noted that licensing of television broadcasting is governed by the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. (-) of 2004, relating to the regulation of radio, television stations, satellite and telecommunications.²

Tasks of the Ministry

- Develop draft laws relating to the media in order to present them to the Legislative Council for approval
- Observe the implementation of laws after their promulgation so as to guarantee freedom of the press and media, civil rights and freedom of others
- Regulate the functioning of radio, television and the transmission of private satellite, in addition to the organization of the work of local and foreign journalists without direct or indirect censorship in accordance with the provisions of the law on publications and press 1995 and other regulations
- Do everything possible to the consecration of the Palestinian rights to return, to self-determination, to the independent establishment of a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital
- Closely accompany the life of the Palestinian people on the various economic, political, intellectual and social plans while shedding light on the values, culture and Palestinian history
- Strengthen and highlight the fact that the Palestinian people is an integral part of the Arab and Islamic nations
- Regulate the media scene and safeguard the rights of journalists and their institution
- Being the spokesperson of the Government and all ministries

Special objectives :

- Take advantage of the technological revolution and transmit the Palestinian media message to decision makers in both local and external level in a professional and transparent manner.

¹ Website of the Palestinian Ministry of Information <http://www.minfo.gov.ps/>. However an introduction to the mission and objectives of the Department is available on the website of the Government Office of the media (The Government media office) which reports the AP: http://gmo.ps/ar/?page=menu_det&type=0&id=60

² Decision of the Council of Ministers No. (-) of 2004 relating to the regulation of radio, television stations, satellite and telecommunications; <http://www.MINFO.PS/Arabic/index.php?page=main&ID=125>
It is important to note that, while specifying the year of enactment, of many decisions and Palestinian laws have no numbers and are officially published in this format: No. (-).

- Help the Palestinian society to establish a pluralistic environment guaranteeing freedom of expression and the law enforcement while strengthening democratic values
- Clarify the justice of the Palestinian people cause and his rights

3.2 Decree of July 6, 1993

On July 6, 1993, the president of the Palestinian authority Yasser Arafat, for the sake of ensuring its people a reliable media source, issued a presidential decree on the creation of the national chain Palestine TV. The Ministerial Decree of July 1, 1998 permits the transmission by satellite of the chain.¹ The site of the Palestinian Ministry of Justice² offering a number of Palestinian laws, does not offer the texts of these decrees.

Palestine TV continued to operate without a law enacted specifically for the radio and the television until 2010. In addition to the legal provisions relating to freedom of expression cited in publications and the 1995 Press Act and the Palestinian Basic Law of 2002, no specific law on radio and television broadcasting was promulgated so that the Palestine TV institution operates in accordance with its provisions. The Palestine TV company was working on the basis of the decisions taken by the directors who had the responsibility for management of radio and television stations.

Certainly the absence of legislative and legal framework specific to the television institution had its impact on the working conditions of journalists as well as on the functioning of the institution itself. Since the Hamas movement won the legislative elections of 2006, the Palestinian territories were divided in 2007 between Gaza controlled by Hamas and the West Bank. The political situation was reflected on public television where a situation of legal uncertainty prevailed and this despite the fact that radio and television operators depend directly on the president of the Committee and the direction that had the prerogative to determine the line, objectives and priorities of. Palestine TV.³

3.3 Presidential Decree n°2 of March 2010

Therefore, it took until the Decree presidential n° 2 of March 9, 2010⁴ on the Palestinian Broadcasting Public Institution (PBC), so that the situation changes and that a legislative and legal framework directly governs the administrative operation of the public audiovisual operators including Palestine TV. The Decree also defines the responsibilities and tasks of these operators. It stipulates the creation of the general Committee for the management of the radio and the national television Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) or al hay 'a al-amma lil - iza' wal al-falastineya TV which depends directly on the president of the Palestinian Authority and granted pursuant to the Decree, an independent financial and administrative status (article 2).

¹ Palestine TV programs Director, Mr. Ahmed Al Hazouri, personal interview, February 2013

² <http://www.moj.gov/tashreaat/index.htm>

³ Palestine TV programs Director, Mr. Ahmed Al Hazouri, personal interview, February 2013

⁴ The Arabic version of the Decree presidential n°2 of 9 March 2010 on the Palestinian Broadcasting Public Institution is accessible to the : <http://muqtafi.birzeit.edu/pg/getleg.asp?id=16093>



3.4 Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation¹

Institution in charge of public broadcasting, the PBC made his first breakthrough in Palestine July 2, 1994. Its creation came top the long trajectory of radio and Palestinian television and become the flagship of the public audiovisual transmission carrying the voice and image of Palestine through its media: radio Voice of Palestine, television: Palestine TV and Palestine Satellite Channel, and press: Wafa News Agency, controlled by the PBC within the Palestinian Authority.

The first Director of the PBC was Radwan Abu Ayyash, Fatah activist, and former Director of the Association of Arab journalists.

The PBC is directed, in accordance with article 7 of the Decree presidential n° 2 on March 9, 2010, by a Board of Directors composed of nine to thirteen members chaired by the Director-general and appointed by the president for a renewable term of four years. In addition to the responsibility for management of Palestine TV, articles 3 and 4 of the same Decree define the objectives, tasks and prerogatives of the PBC including following:

- Strengthen national unity and social peace while ensuring its freedoms on the dignity of the individual, while working to spread national culture
- To ensure that citizens are more aware of the history of the Palestinian, Arab and human heritage.
- Address the public causes and strengthen the rights of citizens to freedom of expression, participation and knowledge
- Develop the television and radio broadcasting and promote audiovisual production in cooperation with specialized media institution
- Ensure the equipment necessary for the operation of the stations transmission and terrestrial networks while providing training of radio and television executives.

The PBC is also responsible to ensure total audiovisual coverage of the Palestinian territories and disseminate satellite.

➤ *Financial Resources*² :

The major financial contribution comes from the Palestinian Government. Due to the difficult political and economic situation in Palestine, financial resources remain weak and ascetic. The PBC is funded annually to about 4.7 million USD (2012). This amount is spent for the payment of operational activities, production, services, etc. The salaries of 1000 employees of the institution are not included in this amount. This amount could be compared to that of the (recorded in 2012) commercial advertising revenues amounting to USD 1,000,000.

¹ http://www.pbc.gov.ps/English/about_us.htm and <http://www.pbc.ps/>

² Hanadi Masoud, "TV Market in Palestine", Euromed Audiovisual : 1st meeting of TV expert Working group- Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation PBC, 23-24 September 2013, Tunis. <http://www.euromedaudiovisuel.net/Files/2013/10/01/1380639600473.pdf>

4. THE TERMS OF DISTRIBUTION OF AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES

In Palestine, the television services are provided according to different modalities: television analog without subscription in the UHF bands (UHF), cable television and radio without a license, system of direct satellite broadcasting to home (DTH). The main digital television services are provided via satellite operators and operators of digital video broadcasting using a multipoint video distribution system by satellite (DVB - MS).

4.1 Number of households and the number of TV households

The number of household in the Palestinian territories was estimated in 2007 by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) as being 691,463. Surveys estimated the increase of this number to reach 919,801 homes in 2012 and 1124,063 during 2017. distributed as follows : 728,881 in the West Bank against 395,182 in Gaza¹. This report does not specify the number of TV homes in Palestine.

However, estimates of the number of homes and TV homes in Palestine appear in *Arab Media Outlook 2009-2013*², as follows:

Number of homes and homes TV (000 s) 2007-2013

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | GAGR (09-13) |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| Number of homes | 638 | 664 | 691 | 719 | 748 | 778 | 808 | 4.0% |
| Number of homes TV | 596 | 618 | 645 | 674 | 705 | 735 | 766 | 4.4% |

Source: Informa quoted in *Arab Media Outlook 2009-2013*

4.2 Terrestrial broadcasting

4.2.1 Analogue terrestrial television

Palestinian broadcasters of terrestrial television in the UHF bands use analogue transmission networks and multiple transmitters.

4.2.2 Digital terrestrial television (DNT)

The Arab countries are part of GE06³ Plan, laying downs June 17, 2015 at the latest the analog broadcasts stops (for some countries operating frequency bands the dead line was

¹ Housing Projections up to 2017, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Ramallah, December, 2009, p. 29 ; http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1622.pdf

² *Arab Media Outlook 2009-2013*, Inspiring Local Content, Forecasts and analysis of Traditional and Digital Media in The Arab World, Dubai Press Club, UAE ; <http://www.fas.org/irp/eprint/arabmedia.pdf>

³ «Transition from analog television to digital television: overview of the situation in the Arab States region », *ITU News*, ITU, N° 2 2012, <https://itunews.itu.int/Fr/2371-Passage-de-la-television-analogique-a-la-television-numerique.note.aspx>

fixed to June, 17, 2020). They are therefore preparing to switch from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting.

If some countries are already well advanced in the process, others are starting or have not yet engaged in this process. The State of development of the actions undertaken by the Palestinian Authority towards the digital switchover is not clear. The following table, prepared by Arab Advisors Group¹ specifies the plan adopted for the passage to digital broadcasting in Arabic and southern Mediterranean region countries.

| Countries | Mobile television broadcasting service (based on IP / DVB) | Service of TVIP | Terrestrial digital broadcasting service | Expected Stop of the analog |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Algeria | Not available | Available | Expected | 2014 |
| Bahrain | Available | Available | Expected | 2013 |
| Egypt | Available | Expected | Expected | 2015 |
| Iraq | Available | Not available | Available | Uncertain |
| Jordan | Available | Available | Expected | 2015 |
| Kowaït | Available | Not available | Not available | 2015 |
| Libanon | Not available | Available | Not available | 2015 |
| Libya | Available | Not available | Not available | 2015 |
| Mauritania | Not available | Not available | Available | Uncertain |
| Morocco | Available | Available | Available | 2015 |
| Oman | Available | Not available | Expected | 2015 |
| Palestinian Authority | Not available | Not available | Not available | Uncertain |
| Qatar | Available | Available | Not available | Uncertain |
| Saoudi Arabia | Available | Available e | Available | 2015 |
| Sudan | Not available | Not available | Available * | 2015 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | Not available | Not available | Expected | 2014 |
| Tunisia | Available | Not available | Available | 2015 |
| United Arab Emirates | Available | Available | Expected | 2013 |
| Yemen | Not available | Not available | Not available | 2015 |

* according to available data
Source: Arab Advisors Group

The Palestinian Authority still experience a delay on digital broadcasting. Mobile TV, IPTV and digital terrestrial broadcasting services are not operational in the Palestinian territories².

The Plan for digital broadcasting was adopted by the Radio Regional Conference of the ITU (RRC-06), held in Geneva in June 2006. This plan covers 116 countries (mainly in Africa and Europe), in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz.

¹ Source: Arab Advisors Group, quoted in "Passage de la télévision analogique à la télévision numérique : Vue d'ensemble de la situation dans la région des États arabes", ITU News, N° 2 2012, op.cit.

² Ibid.

4.3 Cable television

There is no information about the operation of cable television in the Palestinian Territories.

4.4 Satellite television

Palestinian towns are lined with parabolas and almost every home has its own urban parabola that provides more than 800 free channels. The satellite is the most common means of dissemination, the most effective and most preferred by Palestinian households.

While the European operator Eutelsat published in 2010 data on the number of homes and homes equipped for satellite TV reception as well as satellite transmission signals HotbirdTM for many Arab countries, no data in this document¹ could inform us about the reception satellite in Palestine. However, the Egyptian satellite operator Nilesat and Arab Arabsat ensure the transmission of almost all Palestinian channels.

4.5 Internet television

As in the rest of the world, receiving live channels on the internet (fixed or mobile) is possible in Palestine. Available channels are listed on websites such as Lyngsat Stream² and Global Internet TV.³

The following table shows the available online channels.

| | |
|--|--|
|  Palestinian Satellite Channel |  Al Falstiniyah TV |
|  Aqsa Satellite Channel |  Salam TV |
|  AQ TV |  Ma'an Mix Satellite Channel |

Sources: Lyngsat: <http://www.lyngsat-stream.com/tvcountry/Palestine.html>
and <http://www.global-itv.com/>; Euromed Audiovisual

The web-TV channels can also be received through service aggregators that insert the signal in their own player. An aggregator of web-TV channels such as Livestation which offers 14 channels of information in Arabic (including Al Jazeera, BBC, France 24, Euronews, RT, CNBC, Deutsche Welle, Sky News).⁴

¹ EUTELSAT, Cable and Satellite TV Survey 2010; <http://www.eutelsat.com/products/pdf/cable-satellite-survey-2010.pdf>

² <http://www.lyngsat-stream.com/>

³ <http://www.global-itv.com/>

⁴ <http://www.livestation.com/en/ws#>

The referenceur-tv.com site offers channels from different Arab countries, including seven Palestinian streaming channels: AQ TV, Al-Quds Satellite Channel, Palestine Today, Falstiniyah TV Al Salam TV Palestinian Satellite Channel and Aqsa TV.¹

4.5.1 Applications for smartphones and tablets

Finally the signals of TV channels can also be obtained for playback on PC or tablet via apps available in the "Application Stores " such as iTunes (Apple), Google Play Store (Google), Amazon Appstore for Android (Amazon) .

There is no iTunes Store for Palestine, while there are in the neighboring countries. Regarding the Google Play Store (formerly "Android Store"), Palestine is not part of the country where free² and paid³ applications can be distributed.

4.5.2 Palestinian channels on IPTV operators

Unlike Lebanese television channels, Egyptian, Moroccan or other channels of region accessible in the bouquets offered by various IPTV operators in the Mediterranean region and elsewhere in the world, Palestinian chains rarely exist.

The bouquet Arabia TV offering Lebanese, Egyptian, Saudi Arabia channels, etc..., offers no Palestinian⁴ channel. While French operators IPTV (Free, SFR, Orange, Virgin, Bouygues Telecom), propose an offer "Lebanese Bouquet" with 7 Lebanese channel (LBC, OTV, Future Television, nbn, MTV, Al Jadeed, and M hits)⁵, no "Palestinian bouquet" is proposed by these operators to the Palestinian diaspora in France.

TV but.COM channel offers the Palestinian Al Aqsa among forty Arab channels⁶.

¹ <http://referenceur-tv.com/category/tv-du-monde/asia/tv-palestinienne>

² <http://support.google.com/googleplay/android-developer/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=138294>

³ <http://support.google.com/googleplay/android-developer/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=143779>

⁴ http://www.bouquet-arabia.tv/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=102

⁵ <http://www.bouquet-liban.tv>

⁶ http://www.tvbut.com/arabe_tv.htm

5. OVERVIEW OF THE MEDIA IN PALESTINE¹

The Oslo Accords led to the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1993. Before that date, the Israeli occupation authorities prohibited Palestinians living outside of Jerusalem the right to publish a newspaper or establish audiovisual media. However, only one Arabic newspaper published in East Jerusalem since 1951, Al Quds², newspaper, founded by Mohamed Abu Al Zalaf, continued to appear.

Since the Oslo Accords/treaties, new newspapers were established. The Palestinian Authority could, in turn, create the Palestinian national broadcaster Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation launching its national and independent radio and TV channels.

Nevertheless, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not without impact on the media and journalists in Palestine. Restrictions on journalists create extremely difficult working conditions. Also, the Second Intifada, which began in 2000, caused financial problems for a number of media institutions. On the other hand, the conflict between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas in Gaza led to more deterioration of the working environment for journalists.

Following the arrest of six Palestinian journalists by the security forces of Hamas in January 2013, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (SJP) launched calls for the immediate release of the journalists. In defense to SJP, The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) today accused the Hamas administration in the Gaza Strip a major crackdown on journalists, particularly against members of its affiliated organization the Union of Palestinian Journalists (SJP). "The climate of pure brutality and ruthless intimidation of media in Gaza has once again shown that Hamas is not a friend of freedom of the press," said Jim Boumelha, IFJ President. "These journalists are held without charges against them and their families while others live in fear of raids and arrests. They should be released immediately and their families left in peace," the official³ added.

In the context of suffering experienced by Palestinian journalists, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has called on the international community to sign the international petition for freedom of movement of Palestinian journalists and security. The call came after attacks by Israeli forces against Palestinian journalists July 17, 2013, during their peace march to launch a petition⁴ calling for the General Assembly of the UN to "insist on the right of the

¹ According to the page European Neighbourhood Journalism Network, Palestinian Territories - Media Landscape ; http://www.journalismnetwork.eu/index.php/en/country_profiles/palestinian_territories/

² <http://www.alquds.com/>

³ "IFJ Calls for End to Media Clampdown in Gaza", International federation of Journalists, 24 January 2013, <http://mena.ifj.org/en/articles/ifj-calls-for-end-to-media-clampdown-in-gaza>

⁴ The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate supported by the International Federation of Journalists has issued an international petition , as part of its campaign to stop attacks carried out against the Palestinian society and the violation of freedom of movement as well as the protection of fundamental rights allowing them to circulate in their territory and to travel abroad. Israeli authorities restrict the daily movement of journalists between the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Israeli territories , Israeli territories and Gaza because of the 505 checkpoints that restrict their movement and prevent them from passing. The petition also denounced the Israeli authorities' refusal to admit the Palestinian press cards and those IFJ granted to Palestinian journalists while these same authorities allow Israeli journalists to move freely throughout the Palestinian Territories. See : " Petition : Freedom of movement for Palestinian journalists " Association France Palestine Solidarité , August 26, 2013 ! ; <http://www.france-palestine.org/Petition-Liberte-de-circulation>

movement of Palestinian journalists and investigate the harsh constraints imposed¹ on them.

July 26, 2013, the IFJ condemned the closure of the office of the news agency Ma'an and television Al Arabiya in Gaza.² The day before, the Attorney general of Hamas said that Al Arabiya Office was closed "for diffusing false news relating to the smear campaign against Hamas and Gaza due to events in en Egypt³". Regarding the closure of the office of Ma'an, according to the same official, the Agency "deliberately published false reports calling for incitement against Gaza" and the agency "became complicit with the Egyptian media in inciting against the sector"⁴.

5.1 The written press

The Palestinian press is mainly composed of several newspapers:

- Al Quds (private daily based in East Jerusalem, but close to the PA and has an important distribution)
- Al Ayyam⁵ (private political daily published by the Al-Ayam Institution for publication, press and distribution, and is based in Ramallah)
- Al Hayat Al-Jadidah⁶ (daily private close to AP, founded by Nabil Amr and Hafez Barghouti in 1995).
- Al Sbah⁷ (privately-owned daily as close of the AP from part its journalistic and ideological orientations).
- Palestine (based and published in Gaza, the daily owned by the Wassat Company for media and press belongs to the Hamas movement. The first issue appeared on May 03, 2007). Palestine online is the web site of the daily lives of Hamas.⁸

Beside these dailies, there are many weekly papers and tabloid.

It should be noted that 14/01/2013 was the 101st anniversary of the creation of the first Palestinian newspaper entitled "Journal of Palestine", founded in the city of Jaffa in 1911

by Issa David Al Issa. Considered one of the most important Palestinian newspapers of the time, "Journal of Palestine" was at the beginning a weekly, then bi-weekly before

Other page available for the signing of the petition :

http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Freedom_of_Movement_for_Palestinian_Journalists/

¹ "IFJ Denounces Violence Against Palestinian Journalists and Backs 'Freedom of Movement' Petition", International Federation of Journalist, 17 July 2013, <http://mena.ifj.org/en/articles/ifj-denounces-violence-against-palestinian-journalists-and-backs-freedom-of-movement-petition>

² The media discourse of Ma'an news agency and of Al Arabiya office trying to highlight the terrorism perpetrated by Hamas and its implication in the terrorist acts ascribed to the regime of former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was the cause of their closure in Gaza.

³ "IFJ Condemns Closure of Gaza News Agencies", International Federation of Journalists, 26 July 2013, <http://mena.ifj.org/en/articles/ifj-condemns-closure-of-gaza-news-agencies>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <http://www.al-ayyam.com/>

⁶ <http://www.alhayat-j.com/newsite/index.php>

⁷ <http://www.alsbah.net/new1/index.php>

⁸ <http://felesteen.ps/>

transforming into eight pages daily. The "Journal of Palestine" was issued from 1911 to 1967. It was distributed in all cities and villages and was considered as one of the leading Palestinian newspapers¹.

➤ *Press Agencies*

The News Agency (WAFA) is the official government news agency. WAFA publishes its news in Arabic, Hebrew, English and French. However, several other independent news agencies exist on the Palestinian scene, like Ramattan News Agency and Media Services², which serves mainly television stations, and Ma'an News Agency³. Shehab News Agency⁴ was launched on 1 January 2007 and is supported by the Hamas movement.

The Jerusalem Media & Communication Center⁵ (JMCC) provides news and covers local and foreign news. The center also provides a news translated service to its subscribers.

There is also another feature of information of great importance: Palestine News Network (PNN).⁶

¹ "101^e anniversary of the creation of the first newspaper in Jaffa 'Palestine', Yaffa 48, 16/01/2013 ; <http://www.yaffa48.com/?mod=articles&ID=8375>

² www.ramattan.com

³ Ma'an News Agency has been launched in 2005 with generous funds to the Palestinian Authority (PA) by the Office of the Danish Representation and the Representation of the Netherlands. The Ma'an Agency of press offers local, regional, and international readers news of last minutes as well as analyses and opinions articles proposed by a range of political, economic and social analysts and authors. MNA scrupulously maintains its editorial independence and is designed to promote freedom of expression, access to information, media pluralism in Palestine. Through its web site in English, MNA strives to provide its audience a multidimensional picture of life in Palestine and at the same time guarantee the Palestinians a communication platform to speak to the international community. MNA maintains a network of correspondents and photographers in all Palestinian cities and working closely with editors and translators of MAN offices in Bethlehem and Gaza.

<http://www.maannews.net/arb/Default.aspx> ; see also : <http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx>

⁴ <http://shehab.ps/ar/index.php>

⁵ <http://www.jmcc.org/index.aspx>

⁶ Palestine News Network was created in 2002 by a group of journalists and independent Palestinian editors. PNN launched the first radio station on the Internet in Palestine emitting 24/24 providing Internet users with a number of live and recorded programming. The NNP team is present in the Middle East and Europe. In addition to Cairo, Beirut and Amman as well as in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. <http://english.pnn.ps/>

6. THE PALESTINIAN TELEVISION LANDSCAPE

Palestinian television landscape is characterized by the proliferation of private television channels whether terrestrial or satellite. Since its inception in 1993, the Palestinian Ministry of Information granted many broadcasting licenses (terrestrial and satellite) to radio and television operators. Currently, many private television channels are operating in the West Bank and Gaza.

Local channels cover limited portions of the Palestinian territories (mostly in cities) and a license is not regulated by a specific law¹, (despite the presence of the Council of Ministers Decision No. (-) of 2004 on the regulation of radio, television stations, satellite and telecommunications). This justifies the fact that local channels often broadcast before obtaining a license from the department.

Television is the most important source of information news in the Palestinian Territories. The main broadcaster Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) managed by the PA transmits terrestrial TV Palestine and Palestinian Satellite Channel via satellite.

6.1 L'Offre publique de la PBC



6.1.1 *Palestine TV et Palestinian Satellite Channel*

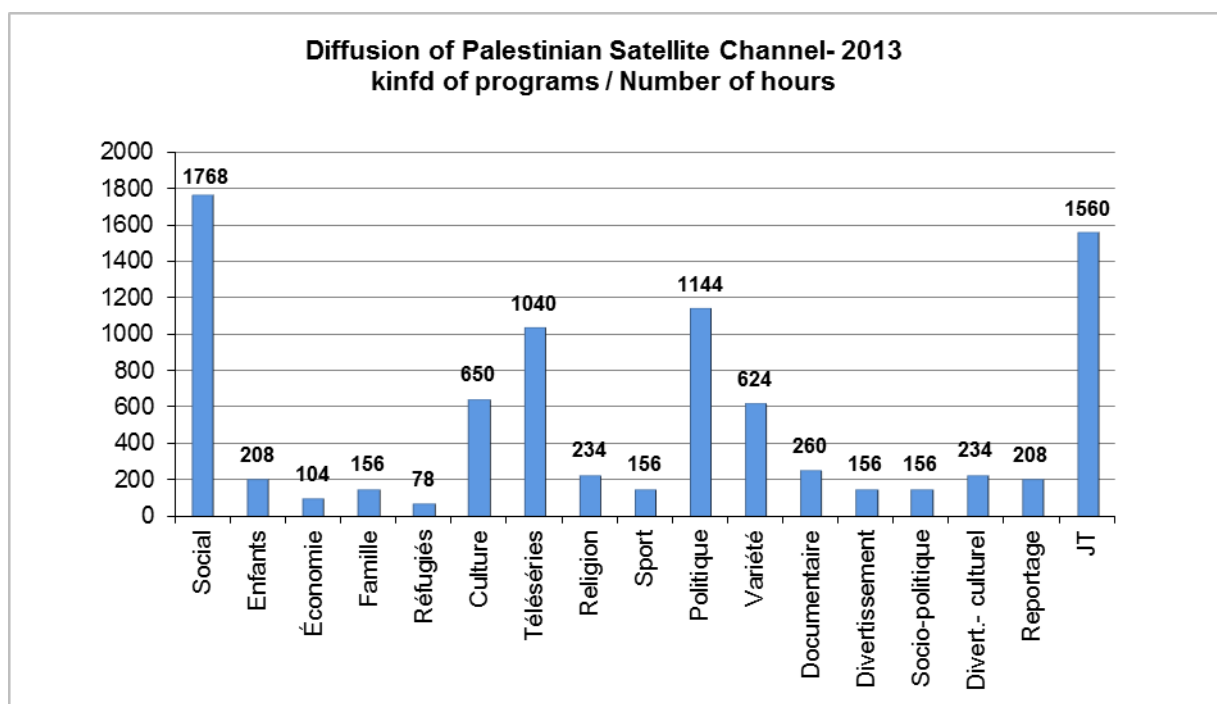
Prior to 1994, date of the first transmissions of Palestine TV, the Palestinian public could watch Egyptian and Jordanian television followed more for their televised serials than for the daily news in the Palestinian territories. The only source which provided local news for the Palestinian public was Israeli television which broadcast daily newsletter in Arabic for half an hour. Newscast and some Arabic-language programmes broadcast by Israeli television were the only source of local news available to Palestinians living in the occupied territories. This situation lasted until the advent of the Arab satellite in the early 1990s including the MBC (Middle East Broadcasting Center) and ESC (Egyptian Satellite Channel).²

¹ Khaled Abu Aker et Majed Talab Wad Saleh in [Olga Del Rio Sanchez](http://www.academia.edu/2134048/LA_MISSION_DE_SERVICE_PUBLIC_AUDIOVISUEL_DANS_LA_REGION_MAGHREB_MASHREK), The mission of public service broadcasting in the region Maghreb/Mashreq, Institut Panos Paris and Observatoire Méditerranéen de Communication, May 2012;; http://www.academia.edu/2134048/LA_MISSION_DE_SERVICE_PUBLIC_AUDIOVISUEL_DANS_LA_REGION_MAGHREB_MASHREK

² Ibid.

The first tests of Palestine TV broadcast began in Gaza in September 1994. Transmission by satellite of the chain started in 1999 in accordance with the Ministerial Decree of July 1, 1998. Diffusion tests began at the rate of seven hours a day before accessing the 24 hours broadcast via the Egyptian satellite Nile Sat. The Palestinian satellite channel served to publicize the violations perpetrated by the Israeli forces against the Palestinian population to the point that on November 20, 2000, the Israeli air forces planes bombed and completely destroyed the premises of the chain. The broadcast resumed shortly after through the merging of the services terrestrial and satellite under the name of Palestine TV.¹

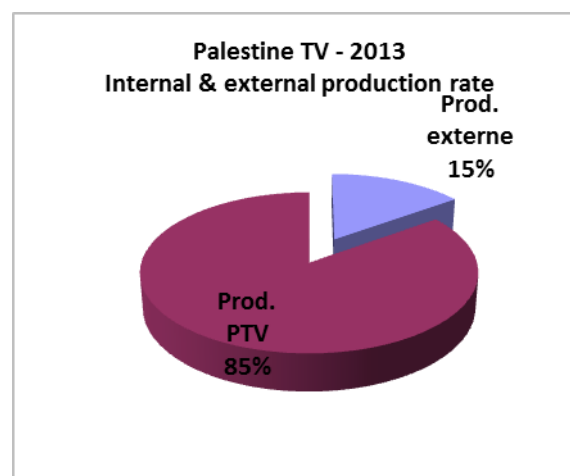
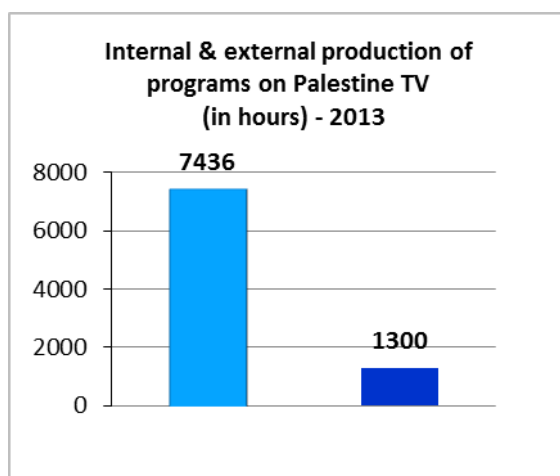
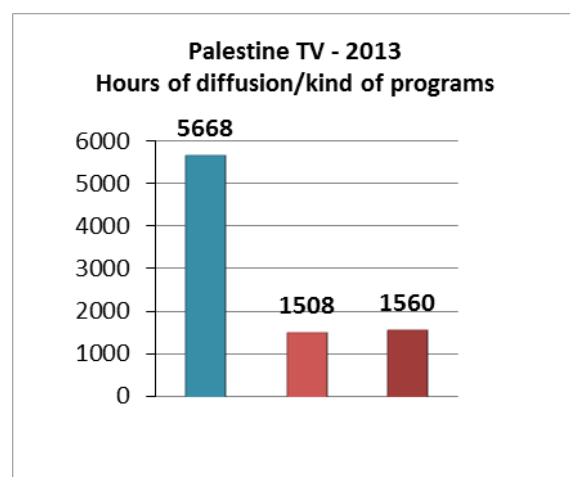
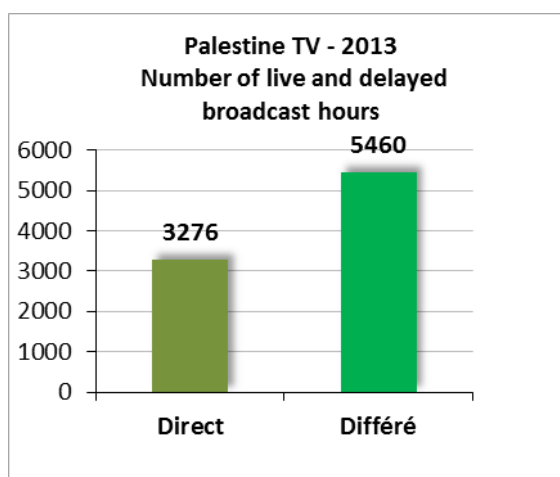
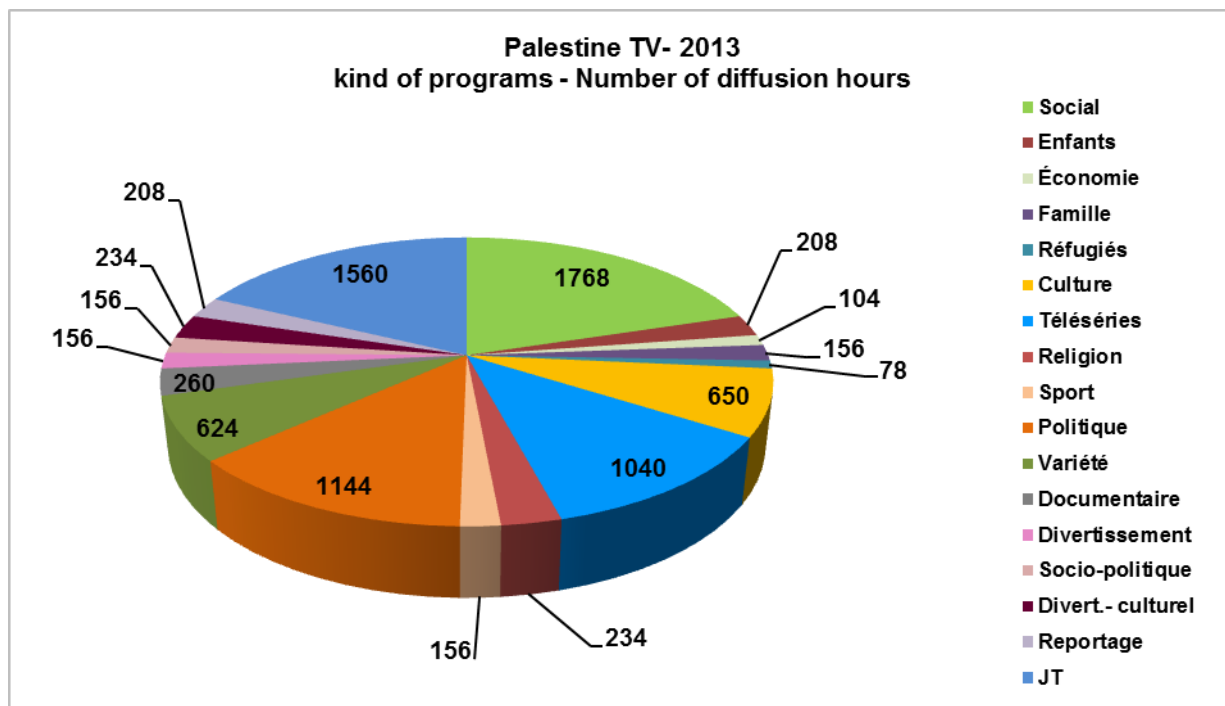
According to the Programs Director of the Palestine TV: « the annual budget of the chain is 30 million USD.". 65% of this amount is intended for the payment of the salaries of the 550 employees of the chain in Ramallah. The former employees of the chain, about 800 employees, located in Gaza are unemployed since 2006 when Hamas was occupied the headquarters of the chain. Occasionally, the headquarters has turned into Hamas movement police academy. The remaining 35% budget are allocated to operating expenses but are still insufficient to cover all costs and the development of programs. Moreover we get this budget in a partial manner, when the Ministry of the Finances has sufficient funds to grant us our budget».²



Source: Hanadi Masoud, "TV Market in Palestine", Euromed Audiovisual : 1st meeting of TV expert Working group- Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation PBC, 23-24 September 2013, op.cit., <http://www.euromedaudiovisuel.net/Files/2013/10/01/1380639600473.pdf>

¹ Ibid.

² Entretien personnel avec Ahmed Al Hazouri, Directeur des programmes – Palestine TV, op.cit.



Source: Hanadi Masoud, "TV Market in Palestine", op.cit.

The content of the two strings is the same and is accessible on the website of the web site Palestine TV.¹

¹ <http://www.pbc.ps/index.php>

6.2 Presentation of the main stations of private television



6.2.1 Wattan TV

Founded in 1996, Wattan TV is an independent, secular and non-profit television. Its main founders are the following civil society organizations: Medical Relief Society, Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee, and the Palestinian Hydrology Group. Since its inception, Wattan TV played an important role on the Palestinian television and media scene and has become one of the most popular local televisions in Palestine. The chain is part of a media institution grouping "Wattan TV, Media Centre Wattan and Wattan for television production". The chain was chosen as potential partner by many international development agencies, local organisations, semi-governmental agencies and media agencies.¹ The chain has its web site focused on local and foreign news.²

Wattan TV works to raise the voice of civil society in the West Bank and Gaza. His investigative journalism unit - the only one in Palestine - is an important media tool helping the chain to plea for democracy, peace, justice, pluralism and implemented laws in Palestinian society. Similarly, the chain focuses on the production and dissemination of programs on social development. Moreover, the chain aims to raise awareness of political, economic, social and environmental causes. It offers to the public of the interactive programs that allow them to participate, to comment and express themselves freely.

A series of programs focusing on the needs of marginalized groups as on the concerns and needs of Palestinian society in general composed the chain programs. Such as : "Let's talk frankly", "Life Tour", "People's rights", "An Eye on justice - a legal program", "Palestinian Issues", "National News production", "Public opinion", and "Mubdi'oon - Young entrepreneurs".

➤ *Awards and recognition*

The programs addressed to Palestinian public opinion received wide acclaim. In 2011, the Organization Wattan (Wattan TV & Online News) won the prize "Boazzizi Transparency and Integrity Award 2011". It was the first time that "Transparency Palestine AMAN Coalition for Transparency and Integrity/Transparency Palestine awards» awards this prestigious award to a media organization since 2006.³

¹ Wattan TV Profile, document non publié qui nous a été fourni par le Directeur général de Wattan TV lors de notre mission de collecte de données en Palestine, février 2013.

² <http://www.wattan.tv/>

³ "Wattan TV: Transparency Palestine Media Award 2011", MARSAD- The Palestinian security sector observatory, 07 December 2011; <http://www.marsad.info/en/content/transparency-palestine-media-award-2011>

Early May 2012, Nezar Habbash, journalist of Wattan TV, won the 2012 the press freedom Award for its investigation "Law of institutions to the investors and the municipality of Ramallah". The prize was awarded to the journalist by the Palestinian Prime Minister at that time M. Salam Fayyad.¹

Under the pretext that two channels 'Wattan TV' and 'Al - Quds Educational TV' used frequencies that violate Israeli-Palestinian agreements, interfering with communications and systems of transport in Israel, and that the interference affected air traffic at the international airport Ben Gourion, Israeli troops raided two Palestinian television located in Ramallah, end February 2012 stations, confiscating transmitters, computers and documents.² This action aroused the wrath of the Palestinian Authority, of the officials of the two chains as well as Palestinian journalists.

A year later, during our visit to Wattan TV headquarters, in February 2013, Executive Director of the chain Muamer Orabi insisted to explain that *"we began a long process of negotiations with the Israeli authorities in order to recover the confiscated equipment. Unfortunately! We bought new equipment so that the chain continues to perform its missions. So far, we still do not know what were the real reasons for this attack nor why they confiscated the equipment and closed the station as we work in areas under control of the Palestinian Authority which issued us the authorization of broadcasting"*.³



6.2.2 Al-Quds Educational Television (AQTV)⁴

On the air since 1996, AQTV is the only politically independent Palestine television channel. Being a local and non-profit channel, the AQTV provides, jointly with the Institute of Modern Media (IMM)⁵, the media support for Al-Quds University. The chain works in close collaboration with civil society, under the patronage of Al-Quds University to offer viewers a wide range of programs. AQTV broadcasts 24 hours a day on UHF39 and online.

¹ Imad Freige, "Ramallah : Announces the 2012 freedom of the press award winners", Palestine News, 04/05/2012 ; <http://www.panet.co.il/online/articles/110/111/S-543257,110,111.html>

² Ethan Bronner, "Israeli Troops Raid Two Palestinian TV Stations in the West Bank", The New York Times, February 29, 2012, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/01/world/middleeast/israeli-troops-raid-two-palestinian-tv-stations-in-ramallah.html?_r=1&

³ Personal interview with Mr. Muamer Orabi, the CEO of Wattan TV, Ramallah, February 2013

⁴ <http://www.imm.ps/en/1/1/35>

⁵ <http://www.imm.ps/en>

AQTV programs are devoted to strengthening the educational, cultural welfare and environmental of the Palestinians, including the most neglected with a particular emphasis on children, youth, women and persons with disabilities. The chain works closely with other local, national and international television channels and is a member of the newly formed network: Jossour affiliates Network. AQTV is part of the news agency "Multi – Media Agency HonaAlquds" to which the educational television provides videos.

The streaming of AQTV is available on the portal streema.com.¹ Another streaming release should be operational on <http://www.imm.ps/AQTV.php>. The chain has its own channel on YouTube.²

More information on AQTV current and past productions are available in the section "Projects"³ of the site of the Institute of Modern Media (IMM).



6.2.3 Al-Aksa TV

Hamas did not wait entering active politics institutional to implement a planned and highly integrated media device. Initially, the conditions of occupation had forced him to develop his machine of communication outside the Palestinian territories, a situation which continued even with the implementation of self-government.⁴

October 15, 2006, Hamas launches from Gaza, its satellite, first under the name of Siraj al-Aqsa TV, then under that of Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel (aqsatv.ps). Via Al-Aqsa Network for Media and Artistic Production, the new television uses first ArabSat⁵ services, because of the Egyptian Government's refusal to let it use Nilesat. a refusal which will be lifted in January 2007.

¹ http://streema.com/tv/AQTV_Al_Quds_Educational_TV

² <http://www.youtube.com/user/ALQudsedutv>

³ <http://www.imm.ps/en/1/3/54/>

⁴ Jean-François Legrain « Hamas and Fatah in their media rivalry », *Mediterranean Confluences* 2/2009 (N°69), p. 75-86. www.cairn.info/revue-confluences-mediterranee-2009-2-page-75.htm.

⁵ Established in 1976 by the 21 Member States of the Arab League, Arabsat is now the seventh largest world satellite company. Arabsat won "The best performing operator in the world 2011", according to *World Teleport Association (WTA) report – "Satellite Operator benchmarks 2012"* https://worldteleport.site-ym.com/store/view_product.asp?id=1049694

Since its launch, and until 2013, Arabsat operates 15 satellites, 6 are currently in Orbit. Arabsat has established several offices, and regional marketing in Riyadh, Dubai, Cairo and Paris to discover the needs of its customers and to develop all necessary procedures for the development of the company.

About Al Aksa TV and according to reports of Arabsat mentioned by the Information Centre on information and terrorism at the Center of Special Studies (CSS) in 2008, the chain is picked up by 164 million viewers who receive its transmissions from four satellites. It is in strategic partnership with most of the world communications satellite companies.

The media network of Hamas movement then reinforces its strike force in creating the Shehab News Agency (shehab.ps) led by Suhaib Shehada, nephew of Salah Shahada, one of the founders of the military wing of Hamas in January 2007.

In the spring of 2008, Hamas plans to further increase the TV audience using the European Hotbird satellite, which depends on Eutelsat, whose office is in Paris; the operation runs barely 24 hours in January 2009, interrupted on formal notice of the French higher Audiovisual Council. «Noorsat, the operator which ensured the broadcast on television of Hamas, Al-Aqsa TV to Europe, cut Thursday evening the signal of the channel of the satellite platform, Eutelsat, whose Noorsat is a customer, announced on Friday,. Eutelsat has "found" that Noorsat had removed the signal of the channel after a formal notice of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (audiovisual regulatory body-CSA), the high audiovisual authority in France. The signal has been removed from this platform Thursday at 18H00 GMT»¹.

The recurring use of the incitement to hatred, terrorism and anti-Semitism which characterizes the discourse of the broadcast programs on the chain represent the reason of its prohibition in France and the United States.

March 18, 2010, the U.S. Treasury Department designated Al-Aqsa TV as an organisation financing terrorism². The chain also appears on the European Union list of terrorist organisations. However, despite the restrictions imposed on his release, Al-Aqsa TV continues to issue via other Arab satellite operators and is available online, which reduces the effectiveness of the French decision that we could all similarly described case studies in the international circulation of television.³ services regulation.

Secondly, according to observers, the content of the programs for children of Al-Aksa TV also made the subject of severe critical that Hamas media encouraged Palestinian children to kill. Program for children "First class", aired April 2, 2008, showing a Palestinian child puppet stabbing the puppet of U.S. President Bush has caused a media storm⁴. The child asserted that he killed Bush to avenge his father killed in Iraq, his mother in Lebanon and his brothers and sisters by "Zionist criminals" in 'the Holocaust of Gaza'. Gaza⁵.

¹ Europe1.fr, "Le signal d'Al-Aqsa TV coupé en Europe", June, 25, 2010, <http://www.europe1.fr/International/Le-signal-d-Al-Aqsa-TV-coupe-en-Europe-222741/>

² "Treasury Designates Gaza-Based Business, Television Station for Hamas Ties", U.S Department of The Treasury, Press center, 03/18/2010; <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg594.aspx>

³ In this context, it should be noted that like his Hamas counterpart , the Lebanese channel Al-Manar of Hezbollah was also banned for the same reasons in several countries: United States (2004), France (2004), Netherlands (2005), Spain (2005), Germany (2008) as a case study in the international regulation of the circulation of television services. See : B. SAUIL and D. JOYCE, *International Approaches to the regulation of Al-Manar Television and terrorism related content*, Research report commissioned by the Australian Communication and Media Authority, Commonwealth of Australia, Sidney, 2011; http://www.acma.gov.au/webwvr/assets/main/lib310780/intntl_approaches-regulation-al-manar_tv_and_terrorism-related_content.pdf

Quoted in : S.ALI, « Data collection project on cinema and audiovisual markets in 9 Mediterranean countries », Euromed Audiovisual III / CDSU in collaboration with the « Observatoire européen de l'audiovisuel », Tunis, February 2013 ;

⁴ «In a children's program broadcasted on Al - Aqsa of Hamas, the puppet of a Palestinian child stabbed the puppet of U.S. President George Bush », Information Centre on information and terrorism (CES), April, 7, 2008, http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/data/pdf/PDF_18483_3.pdf

⁵ Ibid. According to the same source: the Hamas described the Tsahal operations in Gaza as "Gaza Holocaust".

"Farfour", character drawn up following a perfect hold-up having hijacked the famous Mickey Mouse, is the main character of the children show "Rouad Al Ghad" (the pioneers of tomorrow). He speaks to the children of war, martyrs, destruction of Israel, American hegemony and supremacy of Muslims who would soon resume the reins of the world. To add to the value of the program, children from dilapidated Palestinian cities have the opportunity to pick up the phone to ask questions to Farfour.

«Thrown shield in Israel where, officially, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced program content "incendiary and outrageous". The Western media follow conveying criticism of Al Aqsa TV. Controversy swells more when the same program is taken over by a U.S. television channel. Voices raised in the territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority to decry this audiovisual escalation of Hamas. Comment by Samir Zakkout, specialist of the mental health in Gaza is more incisive. "If I can kill my enemy, I can kill my brother," said the practitioner. Ordered to intervene, the Palestinian Minister of Information says that he had requested the Hamas chain to "review" its program. Subsequently, Mustapha Barghouti, tried to dilute his remarks highlighting also the violence of the Israeli occupation. For Hamas, no way to suspend its program broadcasted during the most "appropriate" hours: Friday between the two prayers of the afternoon... To the officials of the Hamas chain, show «Rouad Al Ghad» conveys "educational" content and is "not to cut children from the reality».¹

For its part, the media monitoring of the Research Institute of the media in the Middle East (RIMME) devotes a page on its RIMME TV portal to the controversies video extracted from Hamas² programs chain.

On the other hand, on August 4, 2013, the administration of social networking site "Facebook" blocked the Aqsa TV page. The chain Facebook page with the number of fans amounted to more than 116,000 people, has been completely removed from the site without notice and without giving specific reasons.³ For his part, Al-Aqsa TV has condemned this behavior, which has no real justification or explanation, describing it as an arbitrary act, and stressed that the closing of the account is closed will not succeed in silencing his voice nor cutting his communication with people, indicates does the same source.

It should be noted that the suppression of the page took place two days after the publication of documents that prove the involvement of officials in the Palestinian Authority, security agencies and media in a plan to discredit the Palestinian resistance in Egyptian media, and hold Hamas responsible for the death of Egyptian soldiers to damage their relationship with the Egyptian army.⁴

¹ "Farfour, the Mouse Discord", Aujourd'hui LE MAROC, 2007-05-18 N° : 1415, <http://www.aujourd'hui.ma/maroc-actualite/magazine/farfour-la-souris-de-la-discorde-87743.html>

² See the page MEMRI dedicated to Al-Aqsa TV (Hamas/Gaza) : http://www.memritv.org/content/en/tv_channel_indiv.htm?id=175.

³ "Facebook removes the page d'Aqsa TV", The Alternative Info, 04/08/2013 ; http://www.alterinfo.net/notes/Facebook-supprime-la-page-d-Aqsa-TV_b5745832.html

⁴ Ibid.

Nevertheless, the media propaganda of Hamas TV does not protect against the attacks of the Israeli army. On many occasions, its television issuers and radio studios were bombed. The TV channel Hamas has even been fully sprayed during the Israeli operation "Cast Lead" or defense pillar¹, forcing the journalists to work from secret underground offices. November 18, 2012, Reporters Without Borders condemns the series of bombings that targeted several media in Gaza and calls for an immediate halt to these attacks by Israel. At least nine journalists were injured, several media, local and international, were prevented to operate.²

Describing the facts, RSF says: « *About two o'clock in the morning, Israeli warplanes dropped several missiles on the tower Al-Shawa Wa Hassri in the Rimal neighborhood in Gaza, where are located local and international media. Fifteen journalists and photographers marked "Press TV", were at the top of the building covering air strikes. Five missiles destroyed the location of the Al-Quds TV, on the eleventh floor. According to the channel, six journalists were injured, including four reporters of Al-Quds chain Darwish Bulbul, Khadar Al-Zahar, Muhammad Al-Akhras and Hazem Al-Da'our and two other Hussein Al-Madhoun and Ibrahim Labed and a freelance photographer and journalist from Ma'an agency of the Palestinian news agency (SAFA). Khadar Al-Zahar has had his leg amputated. His prognosis was committed* ».³

According to the same source, during these attacks, the offices of several local and international media have been affected by the firing of missiles. Among them: Sky News Arabia, German television ARD, the Arab television channels MBC and Abu Dhabi TV, Al-Arabiya, Reuters, Russia Today and the news agency Ma'an.

Condemning the decision of the State of Israel to declare the Gaza Strip a "closed military zone" and denying access to journalists from the international press, Reporters Without Borders issued a report condemning Israeli practices against the freedom of media in Gaza. Believing that "the information had been the victim of the conflict during the operation "Cast Lead" in 2008 and 2009"⁴, the RSF report Israel / Gaza - Operation "Cast lead": news control is a military objective⁵, describes thoroughly the media situation and Palestinian journalists caught between Israeli fire and of Hamas threats. The report stands against any practice exercised against freedom of the press. Among the recommendations cited in the report:

¹ " In Gaza, bombs targeted against Hamas leaders also kill civilians," 20 minutes.fr, November 19 2012 ; <http://www.20minutes.fr/monde/1045044-gaza-bombes-ciblees-contre-chefs-hamas-tuent-aussi-civils>

² " RSF condemns the bombing of media in Gaza" , Reporters without Borders, November 18, 2012, <http://fr.rsf.org/rsf-condamne-les-bombardements-de-18-11-2012,43689.html>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibidem.

⁵ "Israel / Gaza - Operation" Cast lead ": news control is a military objective," Reporters Without Borders, Maghreb and Middle East Office, Paris, February 2009; http://fr.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/Rapport_Gaza_janvier_2009_FR-1.pdf

In the same context, the report Gaza Media Safety International published by Safety Media - January 20, 2009, describes the professional challenges of the media to Gaza have faced the military offensive launched December 27, 2008 by Israeli security forces, against the Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The report is based on theoretical studies and telephone interviews with media professionals covering the conflict on both sides of the Gaza border. Read: *Gaza Media Safety*, International Media Safety IMS, January 20, 2009; <http://www.i-m-s.dk/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ims-gaza-media-safety-2009.pdf>

- Reporters Without Borders strongly condemns all Israeli attacks against buildings housing Palestinian and foreign media. The organization calls on the army and the Israeli government quickly provide detailed information on the firings that hit the buildings information.
- The United Nations must demand to take part in these investigations as well as writing their conclusions. Non-governmental organizations should also be involved. Reporters Without Borders already expressed its wish to contribute independently to these investigations.

On another level, specifically in July 2013, when Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas praised the Egyptian military for toppled Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, and the Muslim Brotherhood who are ideological allies of Hamas and rivals of M. Abbas¹, Hamas supporter Fayeze Abu Shamala warns "*against the worldwide conspiracy that brought down the democratically elected government of Egypt*" and whose fault is - as usual - the Jews².

Wiping an unprecedented setback for decades, caused by the fall from power of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt following the Egyptian Revolution of June 30, 2013, Hamas institutions and "the two satellite channels affiliated to the movement - Al-Aqsa TV, which broadcasts from Gaza and Al-Quds TV, which broadcasts from Beirut - defended the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. They broadcast live from Rabia al-Adawiya, where supporters of the ousted president organizing protests. This illustrates the dependence of the institutions of the movement in Gaza compared to the global Muslim Brotherhood"³.

To conclude, it is obvious that the media discourse of Al-Aksa TV expresses and defends explicitly the ideology of Hamas. The Egyptian case is proof. Whatever the realities on the Egyptian ground, Al-Aksa TV treats them from a "hamsaoui" perspective and "anti-Egyptian army" horrifying and demonizing the authors of the revolution of June 30, 2013 which ended the power of the Muslim Brotherhood, ideological and strategic partner of Hamas.

¹ Lucas Martin, "The fall of Morsi and Hamas", MEDIAPART, July 7, 2013 ; <http://blogs.mediapart.fr/edition/le-conflit-israelo-palestinien-pour-les-nuls/article/070713/la-chute-de-morsi-et-le-hamas>

² Lucas Martin, "Fall of Morsi : a zionist conspiracy", MEDIAPART, July 7, 2013 ; <http://blogs.mediapart.fr/blog/lucas-martin/070713/chute-de-morsi-un-complot-sioniste>

³ Hazem Balousha, "Hamas is trying to draw conclusions from the military coup in Egypt" , Info-Palestine.eu-Proche-Orient.net, samedi 20 juillet 2013 ; <http://www.info-palestine.net/spip.php?article13762>



6.2.4 Al-Quds TV¹

Second channel satellite television Hamas, Al-Quds TV, began broadcasting on November 11, 2008, further expanding media empire of this movement. According to observers, Hamas' desire to invest considerable resources in its media, even in a situation of financial difficulties, shows the importance it attaches to win the media battle hearts and minds².

This chain is owned by the broadcasting company Al-Quds, registered in London. The channel broadcasts from two satellites of Arab communications: the Egyptian satellite Nilesat and Arabsat that inter-Arab. Emissions of Al-Quds TV can also be picked up by several countries of southern Europe, where Arab communities live. The offices of the Al-Quds TV are located in Gaza, the West Bank, Damascus and Beirut. The channel broadcasts 24 hours³. Its venue, Mr. Macina states: *the offices of the Al-Quds TV are located in Lebanon, even if they claim to broadcast "from the heart of Jerusalem."*⁴

Engaging with the principles and ethics of the media work, the channel said on its website that its tasks are:

- Highlight the importance and centrality of Palestine and Jerusalem
- Confirm the accuracy of the Palestinian cause
- Better understanding of the Palestinian cause in Arab and international levels
- Documenting news and current affairs of Palestine

While Al -Quds TV tries to present itself as reflecting the views of all Palestinians, its themes, its leaders, and some information on Hamas give ample evidence that this is another more television channel owned by Hamas⁵. Regarding the Hamas identity of the new channel, Mr. Macina writes: "The early trials of broadcasting television channel were entitled to ads and advertising promotion on Hamas information Internet sites (website of Radio al -Aqsa newspaper Felesteen). However, the identity of those who were behind this launch has not been clearly established. To celebrate the launch of the channel, a congratulatory message from Hamas activist Jamal al- Khudari was published March 17 in the first page of Felesteen Hamas daily. A Hamas forum emphasized that the chain was linked to the Quds International Foundation, based in Lebanon and Hamas-affiliated. The information of the Hamas administration office issued a statement welcoming the new chain, and requesting it to deliver to the world the messages of the Palestinian people "based on Palestinian rights and fundamental principles."⁶

¹ <http://www.qudstv.com/>

² M. Macina, "Deuxième chaîne par satellite du Hamas, Al-Quds a commencé à émettre", Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Israel Intelligence Heritage & Commemoration Center (IICC), 27 novembre 2008 ; <http://www.debriefing.org/27244.html>

³ <http://www.qudstv.com/aboutus.aspx>

⁴ M. Macina, op.cit.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibidem.



6.2.5 Al Falastiniah¹

Launched on 20 July 2012 and based in Ramallah, Al Falastiniah TV is a private generalist channel, owned by the international company Massar that belongs to the US-British billionaire of Palestinian origin Munib Al Masri.

Bashar Masri, director of Al Massar said that Falastiniah TV is the first Massar investment in the field of audiovisual production, noting that coordination is underway to invest in the production of television series and movies to promote the talents of young Palestinian artists. El Masri said: "We started the construction of the first modern Palestinian city of Rawabi which will host distribution sophisticated studios not only for Al Falastiniah but also for any company operating in the sector"²

About the political orientation of the chain, the CEO of the chain Maher Chalabi said that the chain will walk equality of all Palestinian and that the chain is not affiliated to Fatah or Hamas specifying that the chain transmit the suffering of the Palestinian citizen, shedding light on his life and visions without focusing solely on political reality. As to content, the official added that the channel will broadcast a single newspaper and news flashes every hour from studios of the chain. These are located inside and outside Palestine: to Rawabi (city under construction), Ramallah, Jerusalem, Gaza, Nazareth, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Cairo.³

One of the two sections of the web site of the channel (accessed October 2, 2013), provides an overview of ten programs broadcasted by Al Falastiniah. The second offers a non-operational link to the streaming (<http://alfalstiniah.tv/index.html>).

¹ <http://alfalstiniah.tv/>

² " Official launch from Ramallah Falastiniah the new satellite channel Al" , Palestine News Network, 20/07/2012, (article in arabic) ; <http://www.pnn.ps/index.php/local/20310> بالصور -اطلاق فضائية-الفلسطينية رسميا من رام الله-بير امج-تتميز بمضون-فلسطيني-جديد

³ Ibid.



6.2.6 Ma'an-Mix Satellite channel¹

Broadcasted media of Ma'an Network², Ma'an-Mix Satellite channel is characterized by a varied and active programming in all areas relating to aspects of Palestinian daily.

This generalist channel offers its viewers attractive programs. A socio-political perspective of Palestinian society is ensured through the daily magazine "Palestine this Evening." For its part, "Mock Court Program" produced in cooperation with Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program (PJEP) is a series of 13 episodes of providing viewers, from a room of television justice, quality information on legal system in the West Bank.

His program "New Star" is the first Palestinian TV issue in search of talented singers in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. Since the launch of New Star in 2010, the show has managed to attract the Palestinian audience across the region and abroad. In general, emissions Ma'an Mix TV are characterized by their attractive ideas.³

Indeed, whereas the local television stations in Palestine are under increasing threat due to expensive licensing and the growing interest in satellite TV, the UHF technology (television frequency that can be received by simple antennas) - relevant to local television stations - becomes weaker, and the impact in the West Bank and Gaza was significant, Ma'an Network decided to change that by developing his televised media Ma'an-Mix TV.

Considering that the Palestinian audience became less connected to local news given that it focuses increasingly on large satellite continuous news channels, Ma'an-Mix satellite channel tries through its daily newspaper to overcome this obstacle and form a counterweight fighting against the loss of interest for local news not only in Palestine but also in the entire region.

As an institution capable of providing local media reports from Gaza and the West Bank, Ma'an Network reveals stories that would otherwise remain untold.

The daily newspaper of Ma'an network, connected directly to Gaza, broadcasts minute news from around the region with limited media tools. Ma'an Network studios in the West Bank and Gaza, have the technological capacity for instantaneous transmission of events to local and international viewers.

¹ Outre son siège basé à Bethléem, le réseau Ma'an a des bureaux régionaux à Ramallah, Naplouse et Gaza. L'organisation travaille en partenariat avec 8 stations de télévision et 12 stations de radio locales assurant des programmes atteignant un large public local ; <http://www.maannet.org/modules/publisher/item.php?itemid=19>

² <http://www.maannet.org/modules/publisher/item.php?itemid=1>

³ <http://www.maannet.org/modules/publisher/item.php?itemid=19>

Thanks to satellite broadcasting, Ma'an-Mix satellite channel reaches the entire Middle East, North Africa and Southern Europe. From Morocco to Dubai, the channel is received in 29 countries across the Arab world.

Deep understanding of the needs of Palestinian and Arab viewers guarantee chain faithful regional audience, and allows it to become a major media player in the Palestinian television scene.



6.2.7 Falasten Al Youm (Palestine Today)¹

Falasten Al Youm is a Palestinian satellite channel licensed in London belonging to Arab businessmen and professionals of Arab and Palestinian media. The channel broadcasts 24 hours. Its program focuses mainly on the Palestinian cause with its various national, Arabic, Islamic and human dimensions,

The channel is available in streaming at <http://paltoday.tv/index.php?act=page&id=3>. the distribution of the chain is also available at <http://liveislam.info/ar/watch/paltoday.html> and centraltv.fr² and also via le portal habbabi.com³ ensuring streaming for a hundred Arab channels of different categories: continuous news channels, general channels, religious, cultural, etc...



6.2.8 AlKitab TV⁴

Al Kitab or (the book) is a satellite channel, according to its web page, a cultural and social education chain, addressing mainly the Palestinian people wherever they are and the Arab and Islamic nations. However, the religious character, already appearing across the name of the Al Kitab chain or Book, is expressive. The chain is located in Gaza.

¹ <http://paltoday.tv/>

² <http://www.centraltv.fr/palestine-television/palitoday-tv>

³ http://habbabi.com/palestine_today_live.aspx

⁴ www.alkitab.ps

➤ *Mission*

- Contribute to social development at all levels
- Raising the cultural and educational level
- Throw light on the historical origins of the Palestinian cause to revive in the hearts of Arabs, Palestinians and Muslims.

The programming of the channel also features documentaries, TV news, a main talk show "Men El Akher" and 17 cultural, social, and educational¹ broadcasts. The chain ensures streaming on its web site.



6.2.9 *Hona Al-Quds² (Ici Jérusalem)*

Without mention of the date of its inception or its venue, the Hona Al-Quds chain defines its mission as follows: awareness of the value that represents Jerusalem in order to create a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic and world popular interest that could pave the ground for the liberation of the city.

The programming of the channel is composed of a variety of cultural, religious and historical³ programs.

In order to raise public awareness to the cause of Jerusalem, the chain has decided in 2013 to launch the price Bab Shams (the sun gate) for the victory of Jerusalem⁴, in memory of the epic of the village bearing the same name. This contest is open to people with an innovative idea: documentary, novel, poem, photo, radio or television broadcast, cartoon, etc... recounting the history of Jerusalem and / or the Bab Shams.

¹ <http://www.alkitab.ps/arabic/?Action=Dept&ID=1>

² <http://www.honaalquds.tv/hona/index.php>

³ <http://www.honaalquds.tv/hona/program.php>

⁴ <http://babshams.com/files/bab.jpg>



6.2.10 Nablus TV¹

Nablus TV is the first local television that has emerged in Palestine. The idea arose during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the National University in Nablus in 1992. Students of the Department of Electronic then succeeded experimental diffusion. Because the conditions of the occupation, the project was born on 08/05/1994 and was considered as a local acquisition offering to the city of Nablus and the Palestinian territory the first local television station.

Currently, the system covers most of the Nablus Governorate and a part of neighboring governorates. Given the geographical nature of the city of Nablus and as the mountain peaks belong to Area C (controlled by the Israeli authorities), the wider dissemination of Nablus TV is experiencing a significant delay.²

Nablus TV broadcasts 17 hours a day, from 8: 00 am to 1: 00 Am. The chain has played a pioneering role in the local society, when it launched in cooperation with the national and Islamic institutions, a campaign to collect donations for the war victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995. Another campaign was conducted a few years later in favor of Iraqi children, and in cooperation with the institution of the Palestinian Red Cross. Since its launch, the channel broadcasts live all graduation ceremonies for students of the National University in Nablus.

TV experienced extensive damage during the Al-Aqsa Intifada, which began in late 2000. In 2002, due to the Israeli invasion of the city, the transmission was suspended from April 3 to 26, until the technical teams are able to restore the affected equipment.

On February 7, 2001, the Israeli occupation forces bombed the stations strengthening the dissemination of Nablus TV causing their total destruction.

However, the chain has played a media and social pioneer role in the blockade of the city 2002-2004. It was the only source for local information and almost the only means of communication between citizens and the various civil institutions and NGOs, which had guaranteed the chain recognized credibility on the part of citizens and local and foreign institutions operating in Palestine.

On July 3, 2006, during a raid conducted against Nablus, the Israeli army invaded the headquarters of the chain, holding employees and suspending transmission for ten hours.³ . Several videos on YouTube illustrate the different invasions by the Israeli forces against the

¹ <http://www.nablustv.net/>

² Ibid.

³ <http://www.nablustv.net/internal.asp?page=one&cat=48>

See also: Committee to Protect Journalists : "Israeli army detains TV director, attacks journalists during Nablus raid", The electronic intifada, 28 February 2007; <http://electronicintifada.net/content/israeli-army-detains-tv-director-attacks-journalists-during-nablus-raid/3147>

the city of Nablus. Among these include that video filmed by Nablus TV entitled: Invasion, July 19, 2006, Nablus TV¹. Finally, the website of the chain ensures a variety of new political, social and economic local and foreign, as well as many online videos.



6.2.11 AlFajr TV²

Based in Tulkarem, the AlFajr TV channel is a private general channel with a broadcast license from the Ministry of Information since 1998³. No information is available on the owners of this TV.

Like all Palestinian televisions, programs of the chain, give an important place to politics. The chain also offers programs focusing on youth, women, heritage and Palestinian history and aims to contribute to social and media development in Palestine.

The website of the chain's offers a daily news coverage of Tulkarem and different Palestinian areas. A range of information on the various political, economic, social and artistic fields also appears on the site. Diffusion of Al Fajr TV streaming is available at: <http://www.alfajertv.com/live/>.

6.2.12 List of local *chains* in Palestine

Local channels are listed in the following table are listed which was provided to us by the Ministry of Information in February 2013. 9 local channels are operating according to this official list. Nevertheless, it is quite possible that the official list is not exhaustive as some researchers believe that there are 25 operational local channels in Palestine⁴, but do not count. For this, it seems more relevant to report on local channels in accordance with the sources and official documents.

¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b54yjibafZ0>

² <http://www.alfajertv.com/>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/fajertv/info>

⁴ Hanadi Masoud, "TV Market in Palestine", op.cit. <http://www.euromediaaudiovisuel.net/Files/2013/10/01/1380639600473.pdf>

| | Name of the chaine | Category | Diffusion location |
|---|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Amwaj | Generalist | Ramallah |
| 2 | Al Salam | Generalist | Tulkarem |
| 3 | Central Jénine | Generalist | Jenine |
| 4 | Farah TV | Generalist | Jenine |
| 5 | Jama TV | Generalist | Nablus |
| 6 | Nablus TV | Generalist | Nablus |
| 7 | AQTV | Educational | Ramallah |
| 8 | Amal TV | Generalist | Hebron |
| 9 | Qalqilia TV | Generalist | Qalqilia |

Source: List of licensed channels in Palestine, Ministry of Information, Ramallah, February 2013

6.2.13 List of Palestinian satellite channels

The Directory of Palestinian satellite channels has 17 channels including 4 broadcasting from abroad (three from Egypt and one from London). The following table lists the Palestinian satellites channels and their venue.

| | Name of the chaine | Category | Diffusion location |
|----|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1 | PSC Palestinian Satellite Channel | Generalist | Ramallah |
| 2 | Ma'an Mix Satellite Channel | Generalist | Ramallah |
| 3 | Al Falstiniah TV | Generalist | Ramallah |
| 4 | Palestine Al Yawm | Infos | Londres |
| 5 | Alaqa TV | Infos | Gaza |
| 6 | Wattan TV | Infos | Ramallah |
| 7 | Al Fajr Al Jadid TV | Generalist | Tulkarem |
| 8 | UNRWA TV | Charity | Gaza |
| 9 | Palestine Live | Infos | Gaza |
| 10 | Al-Awdah | Generalist | Ramallah |
| 11 | Al Kitab TV | Education | Gaza |
| 12 | Al-QudsTV | Infos | Gaza |
| 13 | Al-Najah satellite channel | Éducation | Nablus |
| 14 | Hona Al-Quds | Generalist | Gaza |
| 15 | 4Shbab TV 1 | Religion | Egypt |
| 16 | 4Shbab TV Quran | Religion | Egypt |
| 17 | 4Shbab TV 2 | Religion | Egypt |

7. RATING TV CHANNEL AUDIENCES

The problem faced by researchers investigating the Palestinian audiovisual market is the absence of tools to measure and rate audiences and broadcasting ranges of TV channels and media in Palestine.

In spite of the rapid development of satellite and local TV channels, the mobilization of radio outlets, TV stations, papers and Internet sites by the two factions i.e. Fatah and Hamas, institutions such as the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) providing reliable data in various sectors, rely in their statistics on households' equipment in the field of media research and do not consider audience related issues. The institution's most recent figures (*Information and Communications Technology Statistics in the Palestinian Territory, 2011*)¹ were based on data collected in 2006 and did not at all refer to audience rating.

In this regard, Jean-Francois Legrain² states that "Data provided by some pollsters as the *Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR)*³ in Ramallah or the *Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre (JMCC)*⁴, offer the benefit of being regularly updated. It is hard however to give them credit in the absence of independent data concerning media broadcasting and audiences. In fact, no matter how honest a pollster is, it would be impossible to adjust the "natural" and necessary distortion of answers to questions of the poll especially when we know how risky it is today in the West Bank to confess to a pollster watching Hamas' Al Aqsa TV or the Ramallah Authority's Palestine TV from Gaza."

Nevertheless, the considerable position held by TV, mainly satellite TV, in the Palestinian media landscape cannot be neglected. IPSOS Media CT Jordan launched its first media analysis study in September 2012 aiming at analyzing, understanding and measuring media consumption habits of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.⁵

In this study, IPSOS interviewed 2200 Palestinians aged 15 years and more in September 2012. Responders included Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and reflected the geographic distribution of Palestinian urban and rural areas.⁶

Results of the study on television were published in Al Ghad newspaper.⁷ Without giving audience statistics related to various Palestinian TV channels, the article states that the study conducted by IPSOS shows that television represents the most popular medium in Palestine as 83% of Palestinians watch TV on a daily basis. Results also show that TV is considered by 53% of Palestinians as the most reliable and credible source of information, followed by the Internet (21%), interpersonal sources (9%), radio stations (8%), dailies (5%) and other sources (3%).

¹ http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/HouseholdICT2011_E.pdf

² Jean-Francois Legrain, Hamas versus Fatah : Media War, CNRS ; http://iremam.cnrs.fr/legrain/fath_versus_hamas.htm

³ <http://www.pcpsr.org/>

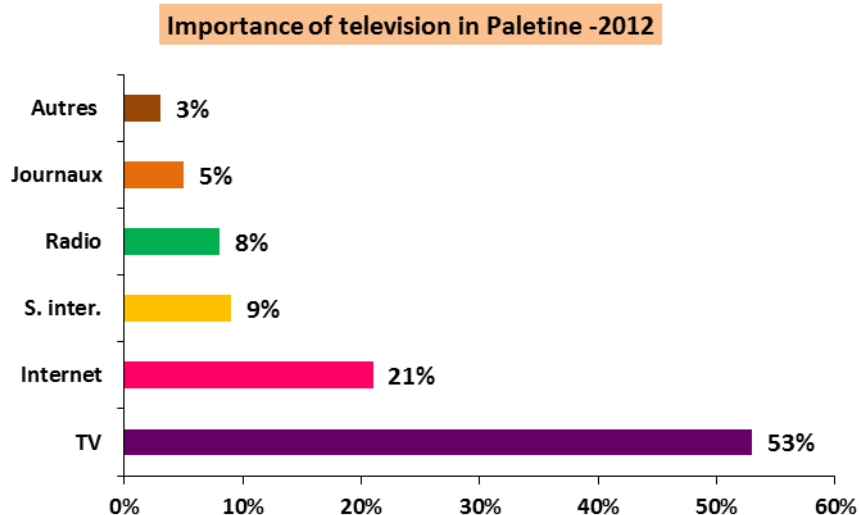
⁴ <http://www.jmcc.org/>

⁵ Amjad Tadros, "Ipsos MediaCT launches its first national media analysis study in Palestine which analyzes digital media & new technology trends", 10/21/2012;

http://mediame.com/news/announcement/ipsos_mediact_launches_its_first_national_media_analysis_study_palestine_which_analyzes_digital_media_new_tech

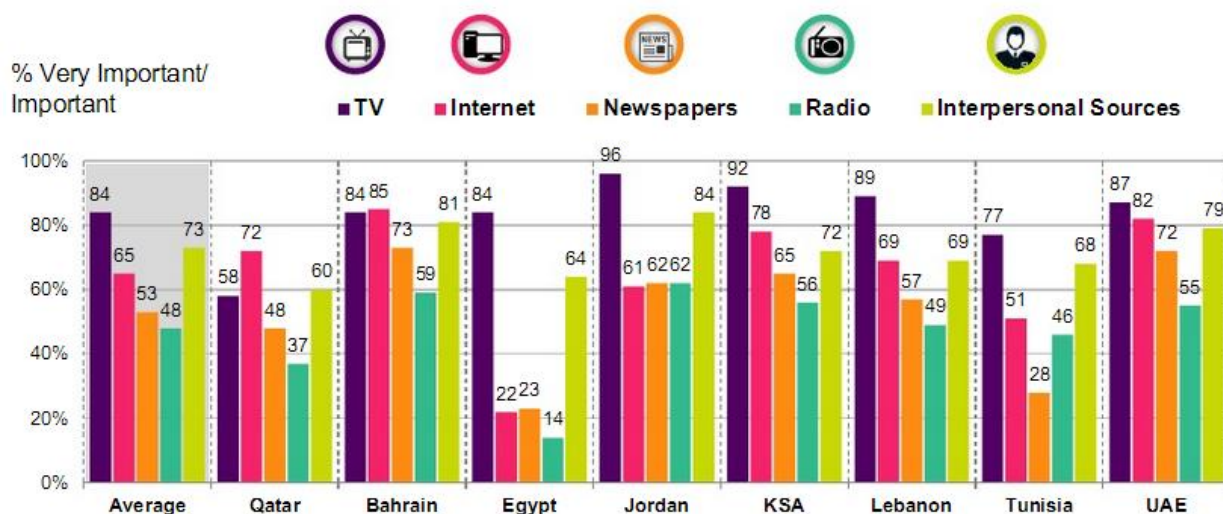
⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "Ipsos: 73% of Palestinian Internet users are present on social networks", (article en arabe), Al-Ghad, 03/03/2013 ; <http://www.alghad.com/index.php/article/610840.html>



Source : Ipsos cited in Al-Ghad, op.cit

Palestine was not covered by the *Media Use in the Middle East: Eight-Nation Survey – NU-Q* which interviewed 1250 individuals aged 18 years and more in various countries covered by the study (Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Tunisia and Qatar). This survey conducted between December 2012 and April 2013 showed that TV also represented the main source of information for citizens in seven out of the eight subject countries.



Source: Media Use in the Middle East - An Eighth-Nation Survey, Northwestern University in Qatar, April 2013; <http://fr.scribd.com/doc/137906439/Media-Use-in-the-Middle-East-An-Eight-Nation-Survey-NU-Q>

8. THE ADVERTISING MARKET

Due to its political situation and constraints imposed by Israel, the Palestinian economy has not reached its optimal growth potential. The *Invest in Palestine – 2013* report states that once stability is achieved, growth in various sectors will be considerable, taking in consideration the economic situation prevailing during the peace process marking the 1990's and the economic development in the West Bank between 2008 and 2011. The economic activity in different sectors rapidly reacted to better security conditions prevailing during these periods (+10% growth of the GDP).¹

On the other hand, *Arab Media Outlook 2011-2015*² mentioned that economic growth did not necessarily result in a major development of the country's advertising sector. Due to little information available about the advertising sector in Palestine, and in order to give an estimate of advertising spending rates and distribute advertising platforms in Palestine, the Arab Media Outlook used data collected in various meetings held with the main audiovisual and media stakeholders, including results and outputs of secondary research.

While in 2010, spending on advertising increased by 9%, they grew by 6% only in 2011 (a distinct trend in the advertising sector throughout the Arab Region). Nevertheless, the future seems to be promising with an average annual increase rate (AAIR) in advertising spending amounting to 12% in the 2012-2015 period³; estimates largely depend on the country's economic situation. According to Arab Media Outlook, total spending on advertising will amount to 6.9 million dollars in 2015.

8.1 Television's Advertising Market

Estimates made by the Arab Media Outlook suggest that television attracted about 36% of advertising budgets spent in 2011. The report expects the television's share in advertising to increase in 2011 and in subsequent years to reach 2.7 million dollars in 2015.

As shown before, Palestine holds a number of terrestrial and satellite TV stations most of which are privately owned. Channel's revenues are mainly provided by political parties (affiliated channels) or from grants and subsidies provided by international organizations such as UNESCO or non-governmental organizations operating in Palestine. WATTAN TV constitutes a good example of a private channel not connected with any political party. The channel focuses on local content including news, talk-shows, and debates. The broadcasting public operator is the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), with funds and revenues largely depending on subsidies provided by the Palestinian Authority.

In the same line, Arab Media Outlook anticipates an increase in TV advertising revenues to reach an average annual increase rate of 12% between 2011 and 2015, provided the country's reconstruction is maintained and the economy keeps on growing.

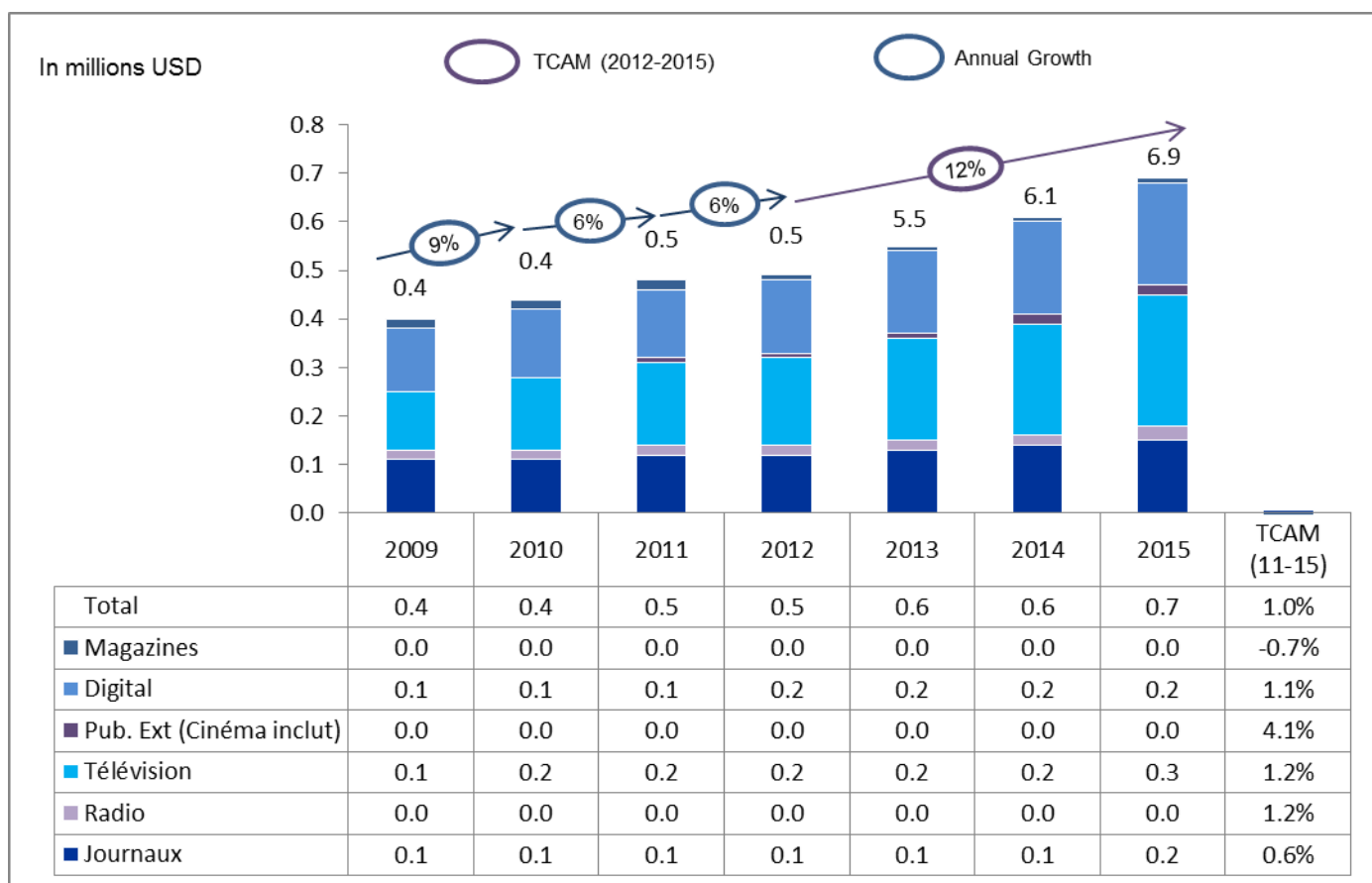
- Net Advertising Revenues in Palestine (2009-2015)

¹ *Invest in Palestine 2013*, Paltrade- Palestinian Trade center, Ramallah- Gaza, 2013; <http://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/File/388135>

This document is the French translation of "Doing business in Palestine" enriched with specific information designed for French companies.

² *Arab Media Outlook 2011-2015 – Arab Media Exposure and Transition, Forecasts and analysis of Traditional and Digital Media in The Arab World*, 4th edition, Dubai Press Club, UAE, 2012; <http://www.arabmediaforum.ae/userfiles/EnglishAMO.pdf>

³ Deloitte analysis cited in *Arab Media Outlook 2011-2015*.



Source: Arab Media Outlook 2011-2015, p.201

8.2 Radio Advertising

Radio stations largely contribute to advertising revenues with a share of 31% of budgets spent in 2011. According to forecasts made by the Arab Media Outlook, the share of radios will be quite limited throughout the forecasting period until 2015.

In this context, it is important to note that Palestine hosts the third largest pool of FM radio stations in the Arab Region, including a considerable number of private radio stations operating in Gaza and the West Bank. They are affiliated with political parties. According to data provided by the Ministry of Information in Ramallah, 41 private stations broadcast programs in Palestine¹.

PBC operates the Voice of Palestine radio channel. On the other hand, HAMAS runs its own station called *Izaat Sawt Alaqsa* (Voice of Al Aqsa) launched in June 2003. Another private radio started in 2010, *Nisaa 96FM* (Women 96 FM) with no political affiliation but aiming at reinforcing the role of women in the Region.

According to Arab Media Outlook, radio advertising budgets will reach an AAIR of 10.5% during the 2011-2015 projection period.

¹ List of licensed radio stations ; unpublished document, Palestinian Ministry of Information, Ramallah, February 2013.

8.3 Written Media

Written media attracted about 29% of advertising revenues in 2011. Papers publish 86% of printed advertisements. This is not unusual with regard to the high literacy rate, hence a higher trend to look for news in printed material.

In 2013¹, Palestine ranked 146th out of 179 countries in the field of freedom of the Press, reflecting tough conditions characterizing the work of journalists in this country.

Palestinian media include four dailies and a large number of weeklies published in Gaza and in the West Bank.

Arab Media Outlook anticipates the development of advertising turnover in print media to reach an AAIR of 6% during the 2011-2015 forecasting period. During this period, magazines are expected to achieve the highest AAIR with a 12% rate. The report stresses that this will not be the case in other parts of the region where the share of advertising budgets in print media has declined, reflecting the importance of media industry in the country.

8.4 Digital Industry

Revenues generated by digital advertising represent 4% of the Palestinian advertising market. However, estimates of the Arab Media Outlook suggest that this share will grow to 5% of all advertising revenues in 2015. The report also anticipates an increase in digital advertising spending budgets to reach an AAIR of 41% between 2011 and 2015.

We believe that this progression may result of the assimilation of mobile bandwidths, the intensive use of the Internet and the development of the media sector in Palestine.

8.5 Film and foreign advertising

The absence of a movie industry infrastructure in Palestine is obviously reflected in the movie sector's advertising budget.

Arab Media Outlook considers that the share of movie and foreign advertising was 0.1% in 2013, and expects the AAIR to be -7.4% during the 2011-2015 projection period.

9. ON-DEMAND AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES AND VIDEO SHARING SITES

9.1 Online and on-demand audiovisual services

The public broadcaster Palestine TV offers an online TV streaming service. The channel's website <http://www.pbc.ps/> offers free videos of its various programs and news bulletins in streaming. Links to the channel's various programs are also available.

On the other hand, Aksa TV provides a link to its streaming service from its website <http://aqsatv.ps/>. Al Quds is available on streaming at <http://www.qudstv.com/LiveFeed.aspx>; the channel also offers free videos of its various programs.

¹ World Freedom of the Press Ranking 2013, Reporters without Borders, Paris, 2013; http://fr.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/classement_2013_fr_bd.pdf

Most Palestinian radio-broadcasters offer live-streaming options on their websites. However, the paying VOD option is not always available on channels' sites but can be accessible through Arab portals.

Istikana¹, a major on-demand audiovisual services portal in the region enables Arab and Palestinian Internet TV viewers to have access to a real treasure of audiovisual archives offering Egyptian, Syrian, Jordanian and Arab movies and TV series.²

9.2 Video sharing sites

The development of broadband networks also represents an opportunity for video sharing platforms funded by advertising.

In March 2011, Google Arabia announced the launch of geo-localized options in 8 Arab countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen. A Palestinian version, [Google.com.ps](http://google.com.ps), offers search possibilities in Arabic and in English.

On April 30, 2012, Google and YouTube in Africa and the Middle East announced the launch of a "Homepage Ad" on YouTube. The largest world entertaining platform in the MENA Region, YouTube started to offer an ad space on the homepage.

With more than 6.2 million daily online comments posted from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco, and about 5.2 million comments published daily on mobiles, this will have a huge impact on media planning. Google Arabia announced on its blog in October 2012 a program aimed at "Arabising the Internet" with the cooperation of the Academia. In order to compensate the prevalence of English on the Internet and the trend of Arab Internet users to write in English, Google created a tool enabling the transcription of Arabizi (Arabic written with Roman letters) in traditional Arabic letters³.

9.3 Palestinian broadcasters' branded channels on video-sharing channels

In addition to their websites, some Palestinian channels (as is the case for several European channels) use possibilities offered by branded channels on video-sharing platforms such as YouTube and Daily Motion.

AQTV, an educational channel, has been member of YouTube since January 28, 2012. As of October 6, 2013, this channel was followed by 461 subscribers and was viewed by 358,659 viewers.⁴

Aksa TV, though member of YouTube since January 3, 2008, has attracted less subscribers and less viewers than AQTV. On October 6, 2013, Aksa TV counted 116 subscribers and accumulated 55,923 views. As for Qods TV, it joined YouTube on July 31, 2012, has attracted 42 subscribers and 15,188 views. On the same date, Wattan TV, one of the most

¹ <http://www.istikana.com/>

² Thanks to an agreement concluded between Istikana and Arab Radio & Television (ART), one of the most important movie archive-holders in the region, Istikana's VOD platform offers more than 4000 hours of audiovisual archive hours. While audiovisual services currently offered by Istikana are free, the company is considering implementing a general pay-per-view system.

³ Google Arabia blog, December 5, 2012; <http://google-arabia.blogspot.fr/>

⁴ <http://www.youtube.com/user/Alqudsedutvchannel/about>

popular channels in Palestine and member of You Tube since March 6, 2011, strangely registered 50 subscribers only and 87,343 views. The You Tube page of the Wattan press agency (parent company of Wattan TV) proved to be more active as it attracted 1835 subscribers and was viewed 1,358.104 times.¹

The Palestinian Media Watch² is an Israeli media research institute studying the Palestinian society and its trends based on a wide range of perspectives. Its page called Palwatch created on October 16, 2008 on You Tube registered 4201 subscribers in October 2013 and was viewed by 1 697 462.³

¹ <http://www.youtube.com/user/WattanNews/about>

² Founded in 1996, the Palestinian Media Watch studies primarily focus on leadership ideologies, education, religious sermons, political, social and cultural publications. PMM also studies messages sent by leaders of the Palestinian Authority, Fath and Hamas to the Palestinian population via institutions and bodies under their control. The institute uses special indicators to determine whether the Palestinian Authority is preparing people for peace or for an extended conflict with Israel. See: <http://www.palwatch.org/>

³ <http://www.youtube.com/user/palwatch/about>

9.4 Audience of online video sites in Palestine

In its report called *ICT Adoption and prospects in the Region of Arab States 2012*¹, ITU suggests a table of the 20 most visited sites in all Arab countries with the exception of Palestine. Tables in this report were made based on ranking rates developed by Alexa².

In order to provide a general overview about the Internet world in Palestine, we designed the following table based on Alexa's classification system. The table features the most visited twenty sites by Internet users in Palestine. Although the adoption of Arab script by online sites in the Arab Region remains limited compared to contents offered by World renowned sites such as Facebook, Google and You Tube, the table highlights innovative regional and local portals such as alwatanvoice.com, and maannews.net: Online information sites classified first and third most visited sites by Palestinian Internet users.

➤ Classification of the 20 most popular sites in Palestine (as of October 06, 2013)

| Rank | Website | Target users | Default language of site* | Description |
|------|--|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | alwatanvoice.com | Regional | Arabic | Online news site |
| 2 | Facebook.com | Global | English | Online social network |
| 3 | maannews.net | Regional | Arabic – English | Online news site |
| 4 | google.ps | Global | Arabic | Global search engine |
| 5 | youtube.com | Global | English | Video sharing and broadcasting Site |
| 6 | google.com | Global | English | Global search engine |
| 7 | panet.co.il | Global | Arabic | Online service site |
| 8 | shobiddak.com | Local | Arabic | Online advertisements site |
| 9 | alfajertv.com | Regional | Arabic | Video sharing and broadcasting Site |
| 10 | blogspot.com | Global | English | Online blogging |
| 11 | live.com | Global | English | Email service site |
| 12 | palweather.ps | Local | Arabic | Online news site |
| 13 | kooora.com | Regional | Arabic | Sports |
| 14 | yahoo.com | Global | English | Online service site |
| 15 | hihi2.com | Regional | Arabic | Online sports news site |
| 16 | g9g.com | Global | Arabic | Online game site |
| 17 | twitter.com | Global | English | Online social network |
| 18 | irarab.com | Regional | Arabic | Online news site |
| 19 | El-wlid.com | Local | Arabic | Online forum site |
| 20 | wikipedia.org | Global | Arabic | Search site |

Note: * The default language is the language used when website is first opened.

Source : <http://www.alexa.com/topsites/countries/PS>

Of the 20 sites mentioned above, several sites include a large number of videos :

¹ ICT Adoption and Prospects in the Arab Region 2012, Connect Arab Summit 2012, International Telecommunications Union (ITU) ; <http://www.itu.int/pub/D-IND-AR-2012>

² Alexa is a site (subsidiary of Amazon inc.) producing international classifications by country about Internet audience rating. The reliability of their calculation tools was questioned by Internet rating experts as it is based on a less sophisticated methodology than the ones used by paying rating services (such as the ones suggested by Comscore, Nielsen, Médiamétrie). In case non-sophisticated measurement tools are not available, Alexa may be considered to be a useful indicator. For a more exhaustive and up-to-date ranking please see <http://www.alexa.com/topsites/countries/PS>.

- Social networks and video-sharing sites : Facebook.com (US), Youtube.com (US), google.com.ps, (PS)
- New sites alwatanvoice.com (PS), with no mention of the owner. This site is considered to be a major hub for information and news about Palestine.
- News site <http://maannews.net/arb/> in Arabic and its English version <http://maannews.net/eng/> enabling readers to instantaneously react and post their comments about local and regional developments. The site belongs to the Ma'an network, a non-profit media institution created in 2002 aimed at reinforcing independent media in Palestine.

9.5 Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn

9.5.1 Facebook

In the beginning of March 2013, IPSOS Jordan declared that 98% of Internet users in Palestine were using Facebook and that 10% only were using Twitter.¹

According to *Madar Research Development*, On September 6, 2012, Palestine was ranked 81th worldwide in terms of Facebook penetration with regard to its population, with 1,012,980 users. Egypt is ranked first in the Arab Region and 21st worldwide with a Facebook penetration rate of 9.83% over a period of 6 months, followed by Saudi Arabia with 5.24 million users, then Morocco with 4.72 million users. We also note that as of September 6, 2012, the number of Arab Facebook users amounted to 46,422,540 representing 5% of users worldwide.²

| Facebook use in the Arab Region (by number of users) | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|
| As of September 6, 2012 | | | | |
| World Rank | Country | Number of Users | 6 month-increase | % change |
| 21 | Egypt | 11, 472,400 | +983,820 | 9.39% |
| 32 | KSA | 5, 240,720 | +97,080 | 1.89% |
| 37 | Morocco | 4, 764,560 | +338,240 | 7.67% |
| 43 | Algeria | 3, 736,440 | +407,880 | 12.25% |
| 47 | Tunisia | 3, 157,860 | +204,060 | 6.90% |
| 48 | UAE | 3, 078,000 | +168,140 | 5.78% |
| n.a | Syria* | 2, 932,680 | - | - |
| 56 | Jordan | 2, 456,100 | +232,100 | 10.43% |
| 62 | Iraq | 2, 087,760 | +536,220 | 34.58% |
| 71 | Lebanon | 1, 519,660 | +78,660 | 5.45% |
| n.a | Sudan* | 1, 440,740 | - | - |
| 81 | Palestine | 1, 012,980 | +95,760 | 10.47% |
| 86 | Kuwait | 772,440 | -127,520 | -14.19% |
| 89 | Qatar | 699,420 | +126,600 | 44.99% |
| 95 | Libya | 633,640 | +168,960 | 36.36% |
| 96 | Yemen | 576,500 | +140,420 | 32.20% |
| 102 | Oman | 485,140 | +63,780 | 15.11% |
| 110 | Bahrain | 355,500 | +10,620 | 3.07% |
| | TOTAL | 46, 422,540 | 3, 524,820 | n.a |

¹ "Ipsos: 73% of Palestinian Internet users are present in social networks", (article in Arabic), op.cit.

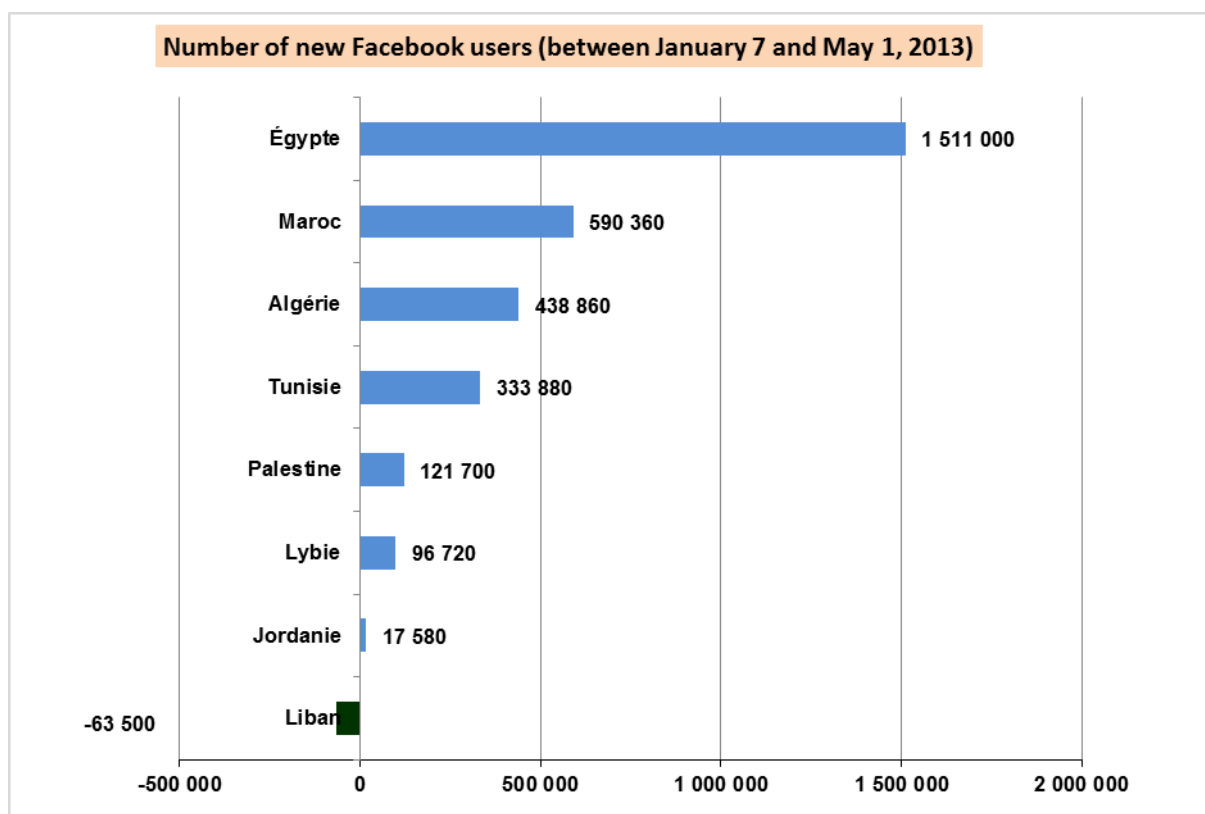
² Ibid.

Source: www.socialbakers.com *Arab Social Media Report by Dubai School of Government, figures dated June '12; <http://www.madarresearch.com/>

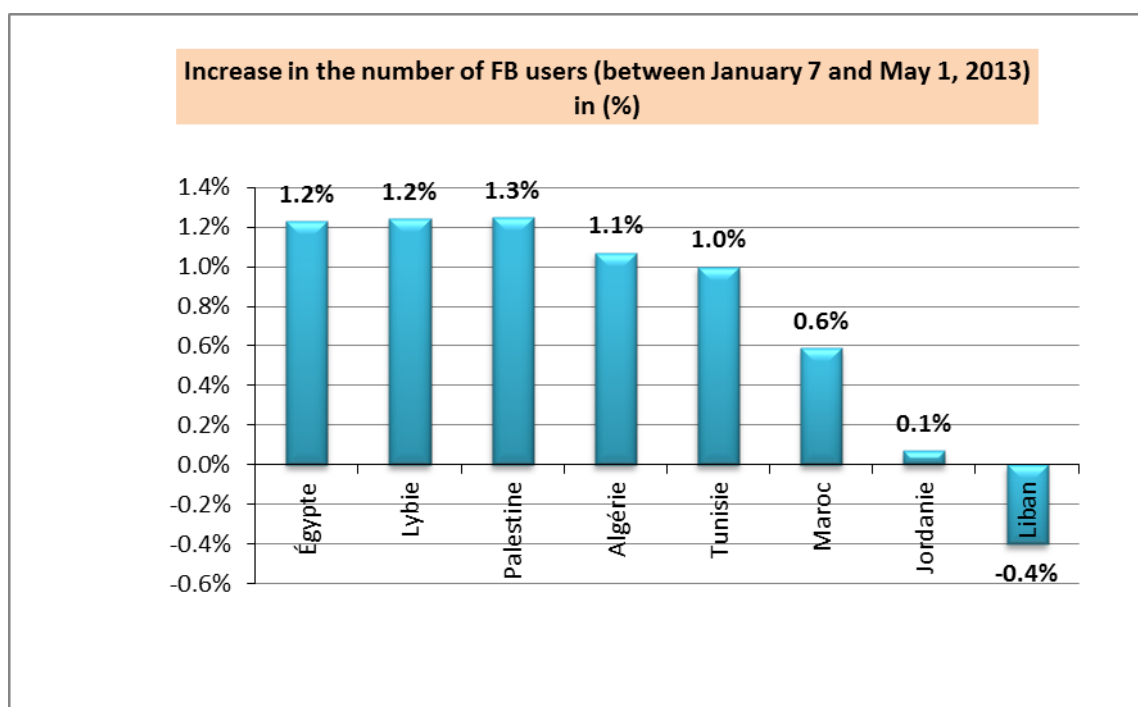
Facebook in the Arab World: Snapshot

- The total number of Facebook users in the Arab World by the end of May 2011 was 54,552.875 versus 45.194.452 in June 2012
- In May 2013, Facebook average penetration rate in the Arab Region was more than 15% compared to 12% in June 2012;
- The rate of female users remained stable (33.4% in May 2013) after slightly fluctuating between 33.4% and 34% in the previous two years. This is well below the 50 % world rate.
- The rate of young users slightly dropped due to the slow and regular assimilation of users aged 30 and more. In May 2013, the rate of users aged less than 30 was 68%.
- The United Arab Emirates continue to have the highest Facebook penetration rate in the region, followed by Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and Tunisia.
- Egypt continues to constitute more than one quarter of the region's Facebook users, and registered the highest number of new Facebook users since January 2013 with an increase of more than 1.5 million users.

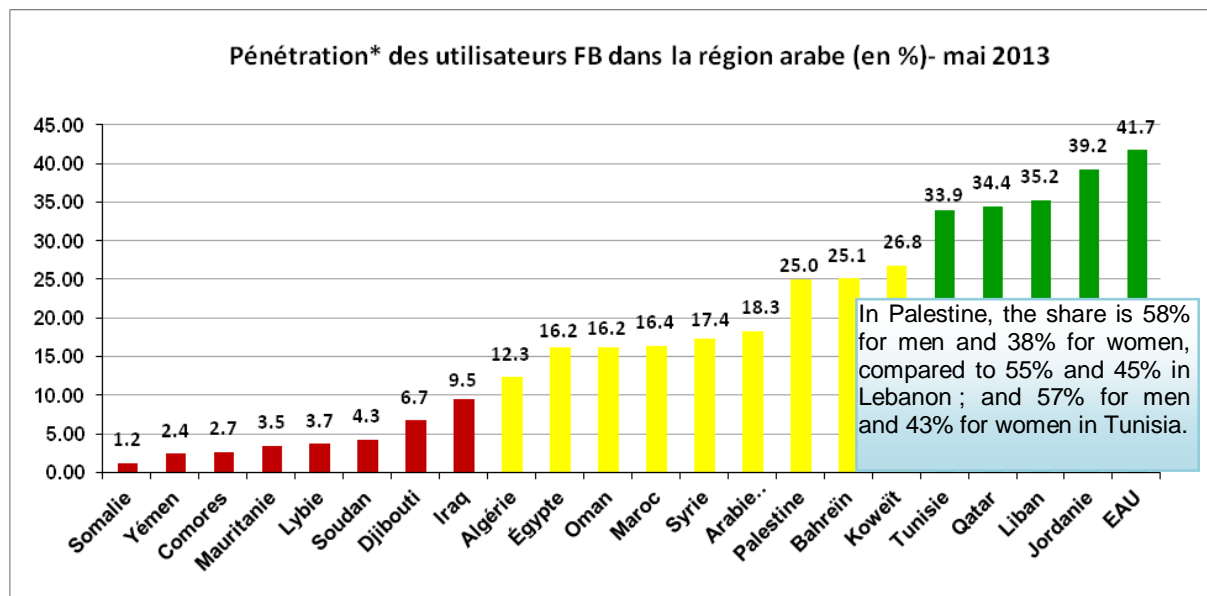
Source: Arab Social Media Report – AMRS, Dubai School of Government, 5th edition, Dubai, June 2013; http://www.arabsocialmediareport.com/UserManagement/PDF/ASMR_5_Report_Final.pdf



Source: Data drawn from the graph "Number of New Facebook Users in the Arab Region (Between Jan. 7 and May 1, 2013)", Arab Social Media Report – AMRS, 5th edition.



Source : Arab Social Media Report – AMRS, 5th edition, op.cit.

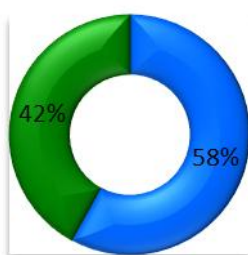


*Populations 2013, from United Nations ILO Department of Statistics, <http://laborsta.ilo.org/>

Similarly, the population in Sudan does not reflect changes happening in the country since January 2011. Source : Arab Social Media Report – AMRS, 5th edition, op.cit.

- High Penetration:** Penetration rates of Facebook users in these countries reflect sustained increase and a generalized use of Facebook (penetration is 30% and more)
- Emerging countries:** Penetration of Facebook in these countries ranges between 10% and 30% reflecting an average penetration of Facebook users.
- Users in development:** These countries have low Facebook penetration rates ranging between 1% and 10%, offering growth potential.

Share of Facebook users by gender (Men/Women) in Palestine, October 2013.



Source : <http://www.socialbakers.com/facebook-statistics/palestinian-territory>; consulted on October 9, 2013

9.5.2 Twitter

More than all other online social tools, Twitter is a very dynamic platform where usage is closely related to major national and international events of interest to users, as it incites them to immediately share the news and their comments. Events may be a natural or synthetic disaster, an electoral campaign, a major social, artistic or sports event, or any other event having the capacity to raise interest or controversies. Twitter's usage frequency depends on the intensity of events.

According to Twitter, more than 280 million tweets are exchanged everyday worldwide in February 2012.¹

According to the *Arab Social Media Report*, in March 2012, 18 Arab countries registered an average number of 3.64 million daily tweets exchanged representing, 1.3% of tweets worldwide. Stressing that the use of Arabic was increasing compared to other languages, the Report stated that 62.1% of tweets were in Arabic (or 2.2 million tweets) while 32.6% were in English and 5.3% in other languages.²

| Twitter penetration in South Mediterranean countries, June 2012 | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>(Ranked by Twitter penetration)</i> | | | | |
| Rank | Country | Internet penetration | Twitter penetration* | Twitter penetration (Internet users) |
| 1 | Lebanon | 43.52% | 1.83% | 4.20% |
| 2 | Jordan | 37.02% | 0.95% | 2.56% |
| 3 | Palestine | 33.46% | 0.79% | 2.35% |
| 4 | Egypt | 29.39% | 0.36% | 1.22% |
| 5 | Morocco | 45.24% | 0.11% | 0.26% |
| 6 | Tunisia | 35.02% | 0.11% | 0.32% |
| 7 | Libya | 23.24% | 0.07% | 0.31% |
| 8 | Syria | 25.52% | 0.05% | 0.20% |
| 9 | Algeria | 23.56% | 0.02% | 0.10% |
| | TOTAL | 295.97% | 4.29% | 11.52% |

Source: Figures drawn from the table *Arab Twitter Penetration by Country, June 2012 (Ranked by Twitter Penetration)*, MRD, *Arab Social Media Report

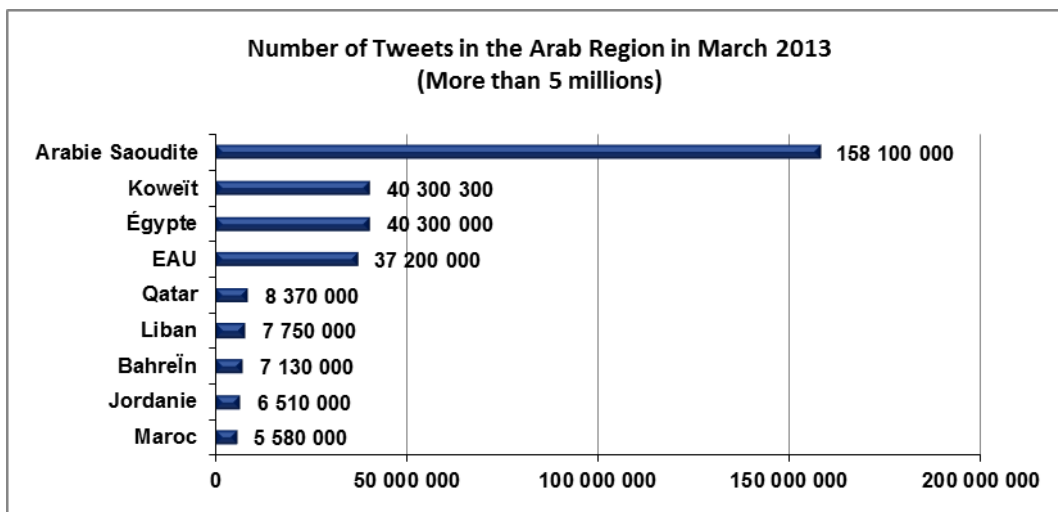
Twitter in the Arab World: Snapshot (March 2013)

- The total number of Twitter users in the Arab World amounted to 3,766.160 in march 2013.
- Saudi Arabia hosts the highest number of Twitter active users with 1.9 million users representing more than half of Twitter active users in the Arab World.
- The estimated number of tweets produced by Twitter users in the Arab World in March 2013 was 335,792.000 tweets or 10,832.000 tweets per day;
- Saudi Arabia produces about half (47%) the tweets exchanged in the Arab World, Egypt produces 12% and the UAE 11%.

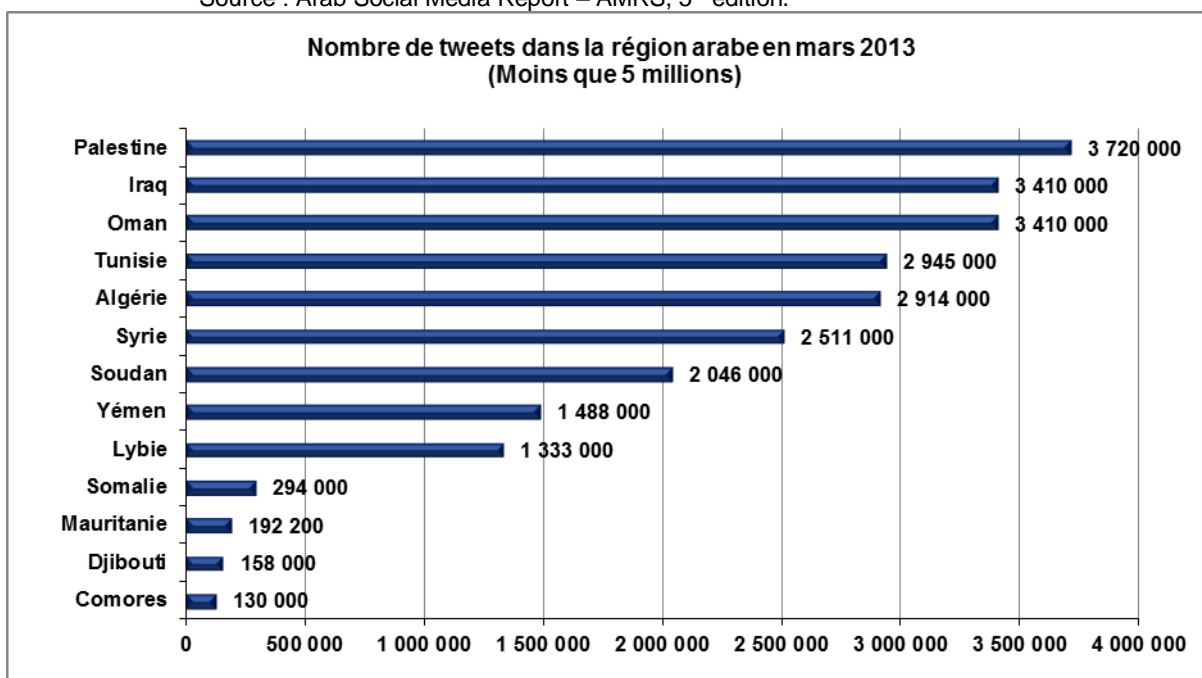
Source: Arab Social Media Report – AMRS, Dubai School of Government, 5th edition, op.cit.

¹ Arab ICT Use and Social Networks Adoption Report - 2012, Madar Research & Development, Sponsored by: KACST, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, p. 101; <http://www.kacst.edu.sa/en/about/publications/Other%20Publications/Arab%20ICT%20Use%20Report%202012.pdf>

² Ibid.

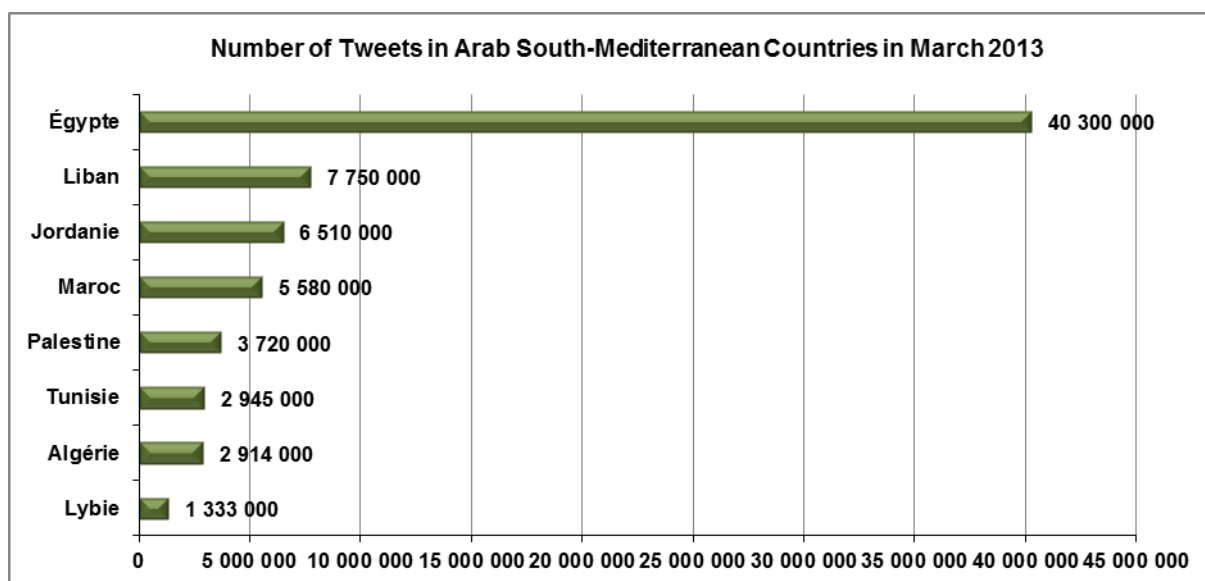


Source : Arab Social Media Report – AMRS, 5th edition.



Source : Arab Social Media Report – AMRS, 5th edition.

According to data produced by the Arab Social Media Report, Palestine is ranked first on the list of Arab countries with less than 5 million tweets exchanged in March 2013. With a total of 3,720,000 Tweets, Palestine is ranked 5th among Euromed program’s South-Mediterranean partner countries in terms of number of tweets exchanged in various countries in March 2013.



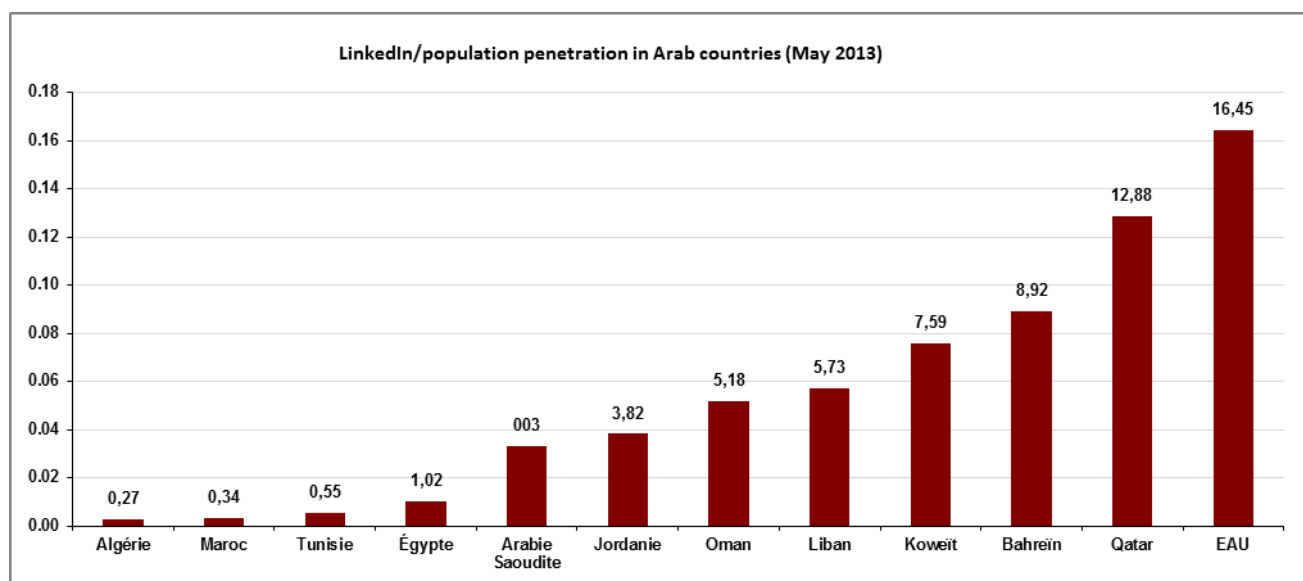
6.5.3 LinkedIn

LinkedIn is a professional network serving the business world, linking professionals or job seekers to employers and business leaders. LinkedIn is not an entertaining social network as Facebook but rather a network bringing similar-minded employers close together.

LinkedIn in the Arab World: Snapshot

- In May 2013, the total number of LinkedIn users in the Arab World was 4,716,515 versus 4,294,484 users in June 2012;
- LinkedIn penetration rate in Arab countries was 6% in May 2013 versus 2% in June 2012;
- As is the case for Facebook, the share of LinkedIn users (women-men) in the Arab region is considerably lower than the world average. In May 2013, women users of LinkedIn represented 26% versus 28% in June 2012.
- Users aged less than 35 represent the majority of LinkedIn users in the region. In May 2013, 60% of LinkedIn users were aged 18 to 35.
- Oman considerably changed the age of LinkedIn users, as 69% of them are aged more than 35% versus 11% only in June 2012.

Source: Arab Social Media Report – AMRS, Dubai School of Government, 5th edition.



In the MENA region, the United Arab Emirates are ranked first with a penetration rate of 16.54 % in May 2013. Lebanon is first among the southern countries of the Mediterranean partnering with the Euromed Program with a LinkedIn penetration rate of 5.73% followed by Jordan 3.82%, Egypt 1.02%, Tunisia 0.55%, Morocco 0.34% and Algeria 0.27%.

As several sources consulted did not have any figures concerning LinkedIn penetration in Palestine, and though we know this service is used both in Gaza and in the West Bank, we were unable to come up with the exact rate of LinkedIn usage Palestine.

10. MOVIE MARKET

10.1 Background

Palestine has had movie showings since last century. The first theatre was built in Jerusalem in 1908. During the British mandate, the number of theatres increased in Palestine along with the publication of a law on movies and cinema bands in 1927. This Law included conditions regulating projection, censorship, the import of films, and marketing for projection.

Some biographers of the Palestinian cinema history consider that the Palestinian movie industry started with the arrival of the two brothers Ibrahim and Badr Lama in 1926 in Alexandria. Their parents were Palestinian immigrants from Bethlehem who settled in Chili at the beginning of the 20th century. The Lama brothers decided to return home in 1926 to start a movie industry project, they took back with them all necessary shooting and development equipment and material. Due to the situation in Palestine, to the political and popular turmoil prevailing in the country at that time, and to the interruption of their trip by sea in Alexandria, the Lama brothers were unable to continue their trip to Palestine. The suitable conditions and the intense cultural activity marking Alexandria at that time incited the Lama brothers to settle in Alexandria and to develop their moving making project.¹

The Lama brothers founded in Alexandria the Mina Film Cine Club and the Condor Film Company which produced one of the first Arab silent movies *A Kiss in the Desert* broadcast in May 1927. Condor Films produced 62 feature movies until 1951. It is obvious that movies produced by the Lama brothers cannot be considered to be part of the Palestinian film industry, because at that time, the foundations for a Palestinian film infrastructure did not exist. In addition, the Lama brothers' productions were developed in Egypt, employing Egyptian actors and movie players, and dealt with the Egyptian social, political, and cultural life. As stated by Mahmoud Rouka, the Lama brothers represent leaders of the Arab movie industry.

For example, "A chronology of Palestinian cinema (1927-1999)" of Noemí Artal² (one of the few and almost unique inventory of the Palestinian Cinema Industry), considers the beginning of the Palestinian movie activity based on films produced by Ibrahim and Badr Lama in 1927 in Alexandria. Nevertheless, the database elcinema.com classifies all Lama films in the Egyptian movie repertoire. Similarly, several researchers consider that 1935 marked the beginning of the Palestinian movie industry with the film produced by Ibrahim Hassan Sarhan: *Ziyara al-Malak 'Abd al-'Aziz (The visit of King Abd al-Aziz)*.

According to *the 20th Century Palestinian Cinema*³, written by the Researcher Bachar Ibrahim, the *Palestinian Cinema (1923-2003)* designed by the Palestinian Ministry of Culture⁴, and *A Chronology of Palestinian Cinema (1927-1999)* and *(2000-2012)*, we can divide the Palestinian movie industry in four different phases: Movie making attempts before 1948; cinema of the Palestinian Revolution; the 1980's era; and the Years 2000.

¹ Mahmoud Rouka, "Les débuts du cinéma palestinien", Al Quds Institution for Culture and Heritage, Théâtre et cinéma, 24/07/2011 ; <http://alqudslana.com/index.php?action=article&id=1919>

² Noemí Artal, Una cronología del cine palestino - A chronology of Palestinian cinema (1927-1999), Center for Palestine Studies, Columbia University, US, 5 Feb. 2013; <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/palestine/>

³ Bachar Ibrahim, "Le Cinéma palestinien au XXe siècle", 7th Art's Series, Ministry of Culture, Damas, 2001

⁴ <http://www.moc.pna.ps/page.php?id=201>

➤ **Movie making attempts before 1948 :**

The first Palestinian to have engaged in a movie making adventure is Ibrahim Sarhan. He literally built his equipment by himself and shot his first 20 minute-long short movie in 1935 about the visit made by King Saud to Palestine. With the collaboration of the Filmmaker Gamal Al Asfar, Sarhan produced the film *Dreams Realized (Ahlam Tahakakat)*. Ibrahim Sarhan founded the Palestine Studio in 1945. He tried to make more movies but decided to look for refuge in Jordan then in Lebanon. He signed several contracts to make films but did not eventually do them. He finished his life as a mechanic in the Refugee Camp of Shatila.¹

Having studied film shooting and production in Cairo where he graduated in 1945, Ahmed Helmi Al Kilani returned to Palestine to found with Jamal Al Asfar and Abdellatif Hachem the “**Arab Film Making Company**”. After the Nakba event, Ahmed Helmi Al Kilani settled in Jordan and worked in the movie industry sector. As for his partner Jamal Al Asfar, producer of the *Party Eve* movie, he decided to settle in Kuwait and their company based in Palestine disappeared because of the difficult situation then prevailing in the country.

In spite of previous film-making attempts, the Palestinian Ministry of Culture considers the *Dream of One Night* (45 mns) produced in 1946 by Salah Edine Badrakhan having an Egyptian origin, to be the first Palestinian feature film. This movie was shown in Jerusalem, Jaffa, Amman and in many other countries.²

Citing another name from the early period of Palestinian cinema, Mahmoud Al Rouka mentions Mohamed Salah Al Kayali who founded in Jaffa a photography studio in 1940. He later travelled to Italy to study Cinema. Upon return, he cooperated with the Arab League which asked him to produce a film on the Palestinian Cause. Due to Nakba, this film could never see the light. After Nakba, Al Khayali left Palestine to settle in Cairo where he produced several documentaries, some of which deal with the Palestinian Cause.

➤ **Cinema of the Palestinian Revolution**

It's only in the late sixties that the film making industry started to revive back in Palestine. The PLO evolution and the launch of a series of actions by various Palestinian fractions boosted the Palestinian cinema industry. This marked the birth of the Palestinian Revolution Cinema along with the beginning of the armed Palestinian revolution. It started with the setting up of a small photography department which shot events and archived martyr's pictures. Soulafa Mersal, graduate from the Cairo Higher Institute of Cinema, created a special department to make movie footages and began operation in 1968 with the short 20-minute film *No to Peaceful Solution*, a collective work bringing together the film makers Salah Abou Henoud, Hani Gawhareya and Soulafa Mersal, under the supervision of the producer Mostafa Abou Ali.

Bi al-Ruh, Bi al-Dam (With our Souls, With our Blood) of Mustafa Abu Ali, was made in 1971. This film is a documentary about the alliance between Imperialism and Zionism telling events of the bloody September. More Palestinian films were later produced to report on various events and incidents, but dependent on the producer's financial capacities. They were in general connected with Palestinian fractions, such as the Palestinian Film Unit affiliated with the National Liberation movement, Fath. The creation of this unit marks the real beginning of

¹ Mahmoud Rouka, “Les débuts du cinéma palestinien”, op.cit.

² Le cinéma palestinien 1923-2003, Ministry of Culture, Ramallah ; <http://www.moc.pna.ps/page.php?id=201>

the Palestinian film industry. The Palestinian Film Unit also contributed to the creation of the Palestinian Cinema Venture in 1973, which cooperated with the Palestinian Research Center to present *Mashahid min al-Ihtilal fi Ghazeh (Scenes from the Occupation of Gaza)* by Mostafa Abou Ali. A 12-minute short film telling the suffering striking Gaza Strip after its occupation by the Israeli occupation.

Palestinian productions supported by armed fractions and by the PLO were abundant and created a rich inventory of Palestinian short-movies and documentaries. The Artistic committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine operating under the name of the Earth Institution for Cinema Production produced several documentaries but also the only feature film at that time: *Returning to Haifa* by the Iraqi Kassem Hewl in 1982.

On the other hand, the Iraqi film maker Kais Al Zoubaydi produced several documentaries for the PLO's Department of Information and Culture. Documentaries include: *The Barbed Wire State and Palestine ... One People's Register* considered to be one of the most important documentaries on the history of Palestine.

➤ The 1980's

In the eighties, the Palestinian cinema was marked by several films including one movie produced by the Iraqi film maker Hekmet Daoud, *Always in Memory*. As for *Under Ruins* of Mai El Masri and Jean Shamoun, it mainly talked about besieged Lebanon. Mai El Masri later presented her movie *Children of the Fire Mountain* in 1991 dealing with the issue of childhood under Israeli occupation.

- Towards new Palestinian cinema

It should be noted that the Palestinian Cinema started a new phase in the Eighties with Mai Masri's films. The cinema project of this great Palestinian producer guided the "Palestinian Revolution's cinema" towards the "new Palestinian cinema". This new film making industry was marked in the beginning by *Al-Dhakira Al-Khasba (Fertile Memory)* of Michel Khleifi (1980). Michel Khleifi, a major name in Palestinian cinema studied movie making in Brussels where he settled down. He produced a number of remarkable features such as *Tariq al-Na'im (The Tranquil Path)* in 1981, *Ursul Jalil (Wedding in Galilee)* in 1987 ; *Nashidul Hajar (Canticle of the Stones)* in 1990 ; and *Hikayatul Jawahiril Thalath (Tale of The Three Jewels)* in 1995. Michel Khleifi is considered to be the real founder of the new Palestinian cinema. In 2003, he produced along with his Israeli colleague Eyal Sivan a documentary called *Route 181: fragments of a journey in Palestine-Israel*.

As for Georges Khleifi, he enriched the Palestinian movie repertoire with the *Stone Children, Heart to Heart, Jerusalem Besieged, and Dawn*.

Other names also appeared during this period such as Omar El Kattan who produced his first feature *Ahlam fi Firagh (Dreams and Silence)* in 1991 then his second film *Al-'Awda (Going Home)* in 1995. The movie producer Azza El Hassan who studied in Great Britain produced *Time of Novels* and Koshan moussa. The feature *Light at the end of the Tunnel* of Sobhi Zobaydi was also produced during that period.

In 1996, Rachid Mashharawi, another major name of Palestinian cinema, founded the Cinema and Audiovisual Production and Distribution Center in Ramallah. He produced several feature films including *Entezar (Waiting)* in 1994 ; *One Step and Another* in 1996 ; and *Khalaf al-Aswar (Against the Walls)* in 1999.

➤ The years 2000

In 2000, Rashid Mashahrawi presented *Ghabash (Out Of Focus)* and *Makloubé (Upside Down)*. In 2001, Hany Abu Assad produced *Nasseriya 2000 (Nazareth 2000 2000)*. Nezar Al Hassan also produced several documentaries including *Yassin, the Legend and the Challenge*. On the other hand, Hiam Abbas featured *Al-Khubz (Bread)* in 2002.

According to Bachar Al Hassan, the new Palestinian cinema is characterized by the fact that most film-makers are Palestinians. Whether originating from Palestine or coming from Europe or the US, some producers had the opportunity to produce their films and to adopt the new visual techniques of modern cinema.

The years 2000 memorize the names of a number of Palestinian producers who have gone well beyond national and regional borders with high quality documentaries and fiction films registered in the Palestinian film repertoire. They include among others *Taht al-Mahjar (Sanctuary)* in 2000, *Nasseriya 2000 (Nazareth 2000)*, *Quds fi Youm Akhar (Rana's Wedding: Jerusalem, Another Day)* in 2002 of Hani Abu Assad. *Jerusalem's High Cost of Living* de Hazim Bitar; and *The Elevator* of Mahdi Fleifel in 2001. The repertoire is still being enriched by remarkable Palestinian film makers and producers.

Eight years after *Paradise Now* awarded in the Golden Globe 2006 (best foreign film), the Palestinian film maker Hany Abu Assad offered with his drama *Omar (Price of the Jury for A Look at the Cannes Festival in 2013)* a new portrait of the Palestinian resistance and fragility¹.

The wealth of talents is unfortunately not supported by a policy strategy setting the foundation for a Palestinian cinema industry. In general, the Palestinian cinema production mostly rotates around short films and documentaries, funded by personal budgets, coproduction initiatives or foreign grants.

Finally, the historical overview of Palestinian cinema cannot be complete without describing what the Palestinian Ministry of Culture refers to as "Islamic Cinema". This film industry produced by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement, or through other specialized production units has come to supposedly replace the "Palestinian Revolution Cinema". This type of production has nothing in common with the revolution cinema: different style, different discourse and different content.²

In October 2012, *The Dispersion of Illusion*, a documentary produced by Hamas and its armed wing Azzeddine Al Kassam reporting on the abduction of the Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit and preparations preceding the act, has literally invaded the Internet.³

In September 2013, Hamas declared having allocated 100,000 dollars to produce a movie on the abduction and exchange of Gilad Shallit against Palestinian prisoners.⁴ The purpose of the film is to reinforce the "cultural" Palestinian identity and the sacrifice spirit.⁵

¹ Ella Leudanla, Hany Abu Assad, "For most Palestinians, resisting is surviving", regards.fr, 01/10/2013 ; <http://www.regards.fr/web/Hany-Abu-Assad-Pour-la-majorite.7059>

² Palestinian Cinema 1923-2003, Ministry of Culture, op.cit.

³ http://www.hadithna.com/2012/10/blog-post_9508.html

⁴ "Hamas plans to produce a film on the abduction of an Israeli soldier, French.news.cn, Gaza, 18/09/2013 ; http://french.news.cn/monde/2013-09/18/c_132729538.htm

⁵ Gilad Shalit was abducted on June 25, 2006 by Hamas in an assault conducted in the Israeli territory, he was freed on October 18, 2011 against 1.027 Palestinian prisoners imprisoned by the Hebrew State. See : Eric Hazan, "Hamas is working on a film featuring captivity of Gilad Shalit", Le Monde Juif .info, 17/09/2013 ; <http://www.lemondejuif.info/hamas-prepare-film-captivite-gilad-shalit/>

10.2 Ministry of Culture

The Ministry of Culture reporting to the Palestinian Authority based in Ramallah is the official entity in charge of cinema in Palestine. Operating with very tight financial and economic conditions, the Ministry of Culture is making a lot of efforts to promote the Palestinian cinema industry.

While highlighting the modest infrastructures held by the Palestinian cultural institutions, the 2011-2013¹ strategy of the cultural sector designed by the Ministry lists challenges it faces to ensure cultural development in the various creative arts:

- 1- Inappropriate cultural policies of the Government and legislations not allowing for the setting up of a successful cultural development process. The budget allocated to the cultural sector constitutes 0.003% of the State's general budget.
- 2- National heritage is under the risk of loss and negligence;
- 3- The limited participation of citizens in cultural activities especially in underserved areas;
- 4- Poor contribution rate of intellectuals and cultural institutions in the sector's development and change.
- 5- Absence of a cultural infrastructure encouraging creative competition in the various regions under the control of the National Palestinian Authority.

Cultural Strategic Priorities (2011-2013) and missions to perform :

- Implement the National Library Project or the Palestinian Book Center;
- Set up a financial and institutional cultural infrastructure that should be suitable to promote various cultural tools: press, cinema, theatre, etc..
- Develop a detailed plan to encourage handcraft industry.

10.3 Palestinian Cultural Fund (PCF)

Founded in 2005 thanks to an annual subsidy of 757,230 USD² granted by the Norwegian Government, the Palestinian Cultural Fund (PCF) is under the tutorship of the Ministry of Culture and plays an important role in the Palestinian cultural environment. The fund's budget also includes grants and subsidies offered by other donors.

➤ *PCF Goals*

- Contribute to the dynamics and development of the cultural sector and support cultural projects and activities in the different regions and in the various cultural and arts sectors;
- Build the capacities of the Ministry of Culture

It is important to note that the Norwegian Government and the Palestinian Ministry of Culture agreed to set up a steering committee made up of civil society volunteers to work jointly with

¹ Strategy of the cultural sector 2011-2013, Ministry of Culture, National Palestinian Authority, Ramallah, August 2010; <http://www.moc.pna.ps/page.php?id=6>

² Samir Baidoun- PhD, The Palestinian Cultural Fund, Evaluation Report, Submitted to The Ministry Of Culture and The Norwegian Representative Office - Jerusalem, Ramallah, September 2009; www.pcf.pna.ps/ar_fund/admin_cp/pdf.../pdf_test.php?

the Palestinian Ministry of Culture in order to ensure the professional and transparent implementation of PCF's various projects.¹

According to Mr. Moaweya Tahboub, PCF Director in charge of international relations and projects: "Movie making constitutes an integral part of projects of interest to PCF and to the Ministry of Culture. PCF would normally devote an annual budget of 150,000 to 200,000 USD to support the production of short films. With regard to the role of Film and its impact on society, we try to provide the means to young people and to institutions submitting movie making proposals. PCF and the Ministry strive to support Palestinian talents and to develop the movie industry in Palestine. In this framework, grants provided in 2011/2012 to Palestinian film makers and producers amounted to 233,000 USD".² (or 176,275 EUR)³

| Support to the production of short movies provided by PCF (2011-2012) | | | |
|--|--|---------------|------------------------------|
| | Name of beneficiary individual or institution | Region | Grant Amount (in USD) |
| 1 | Nasr El Din Hajaj | Ramallah | 12.000 |
| 2 | Nahed Awad | Ramallah | 10.000 |
| 3 | Palestinian Cinema Venture | Ramallah | 25.000 |
| 4 | Institution Shashat | Ramallah | 11.000 |
| 5 | Hanna Atallah | – | 10.000 |
| 6 | Palestine youth union | Ramallah | 20.000 |
| 7 | General union of cultural centers | Gaza | 10.000 |
| 8 | Mohannad Aziz Salahat | Nablus | 18.000 |
| 9 | Ihab Jadallah | Jerusalem | 10.000 |
| 10 | Ghada Terawi | Ramallah | 25.000 |
| 11 | Ramzi Joeba (Makdessi) | Jerusalem | 30.000 |
| 12 | Idioms Film | Ramallah | 10.000 |
| 13 | Mohannad Adnan Salahat | Nablus | 20.000 |
| 14 | Ahmed Tarek Mohamed | Bethlehem | 6.000 |
| 15 | Palestinian movie makers association | Ramallah | 16.000 |
| | TOTAL | | 233.000 |

Source: PCF- Ministry of Culture, Unpublished document, February 2013.

*"The cinema cycle for 2012/2013 allocated an amount of 150,000 USD for the production of short movies. Huge budgets required for the production of feature movies prevent us from efficiently contributing to funding large film making projects. Nevertheless, we have tried to allocate amounts to the production of long features as was the case for the film "Palestine Stereo" by Rashid Mashharawi, which received from the Ministry a production subsidy amounting to 30.000 USD"*⁴, (22,696 EUR), said the PCF Director.

¹ Ibid.

² Personal interview with Mr. Moaweya Tahboub, PCF Director in charge of international relations and projects at the Ministry of Culture, Ramallah, February 2013.

³ Amount calculated according to the exchange rate posted by Aonda currency converter on December 31, 2012 ; <http://www.oanda.com>

⁴ Personal interview with Mr. Moaweya Tahboub, op.cit.



10.4 A.M Qattan Foundation¹

Founded in 1993, the Abdelmohsen Qattan Foundation is an independent nonprofit development organization. The foundation is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity organization (n°2.171.893). the foundation's subsidiary is also registered in Palestine as a nonprofit association (n° QR-0035-F).

One of the largest and most vibrant Palestinian associations, Qattan Foundation remarkably works for the development of culture and education in Palestine, primarily focusing on children, teachers and young talents through three major programs:

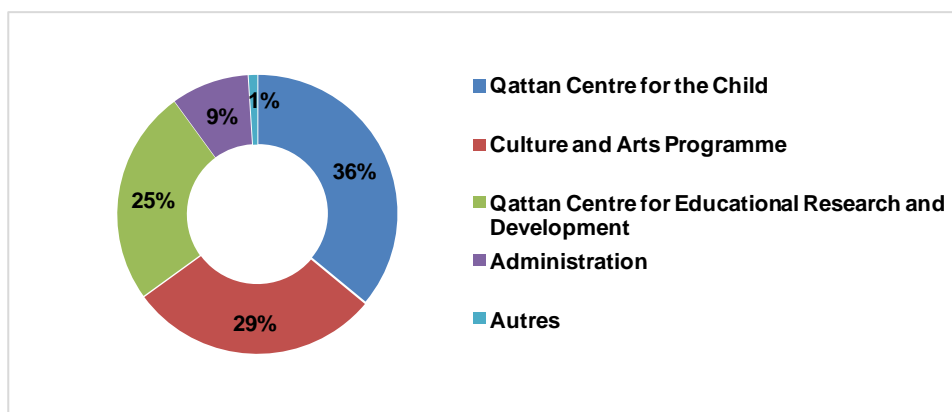
- Qattan Centre for Educational Research and Development
- Qattan Centre for the Child
- Culture and Arts Program

Revenues accumulated by the foundation during fiscal year ending on March 31, 2012 amount to 3,847.863 GBP (4.7 Million Euros) including 2,194.125 GBP (2.6 M. EUR) directly funded by the Qattan family. External contributions to projects funded by the foundation amounted to 1,199.818 GBP (1.4 M. EUR), Mosaic Room: 74,802 GBP (91.404 EUR), in addition to other resources amounting to 19,118 GBP (23.361 EUR).

| Program Expenses during FY ending on March "8, 2012 | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------|-----------|
| GBP/EUR | Administration | Qattan Centre for Educational Research and Development | Qattan Centre for the Child | Culture and Arts Program | Others | Total |
| GBP | 287 823 | 837 576 | 1 188 340 | 974 735 | 42 739 | 3 331 213 |
| EUR | 351 707 | 1 023 480 | 1 452 100 | 1 191 080 | 52 225 | 4 070 592 |

Source: A.M Qattan Foundation, Annual Report 2011-2012; <http://www.qattanfoundation.org/en/annual-report-2011-2012-1>

¹ <http://www.qattanfoundation.org/en>



Source: A.M Qattan Foundation, Annual Report 2011-2012, op.cit

The Qattan Foundation's 2011-2012 annual report features a number of achievements performed by the Culture and Arts Program (CAP) through specialized units including the Audiovisual Unit.

- *A project supporting the production of fiction short and long features (2011-2012)*

Based on recommendations of a specialized jury, production subsidies have been allocated to the following projects:

- *Morning* by Rama Miri from Ramallah
- *No Exit* by Mohannad Yaqubi from Gaza/Ramallah
- *Stolen Dawn* by Ramzi Hazboun from Bethleem

Two films were shot in the framework of the 2nd cycle of the Production Support Project:

- *Maqloubeh* by Nicolas Doumani, from Beyrouth/Paris, shot in Cairo
- *Ismail* by Nora Al-Sharid from Amman, produced in Jordan.

The movies *Flower Seller* by Ehab Jadallah and *The Well* by Ahmed Habash produced in the framework of the project's first cycle have been rewarded. The movie *Haneen* by Ossama Bawardi from Nazareth was briefly monitored.

- *School Film Project*

The School Film Project is part of several initiatives taken by the Qattan Centre for Educational Research & Development. the School Film Project aims at reinforcing and disseminating the movie culture in Palestinian schools. In 2012, 25 short movies were produced by students in five different schools with the support of their teachers. In addition to this, "Drama" was introduced in the summer school curriculum, sponsored by the foundation.



10.5 Shashat¹

Based in Ramallah, Shashat is a non-profit civil institution officially registered in Palestine. Though working on the development of women's film making projects, its board of directors is made up of men and women officials active in the field of culture, cinema, media, education and development.

Shashat defined four axes to achieve its goal and promote Palestinian cinema :

- **Reinforce the capacities of Palestinian cinema with focus on women film makers**
 - Shashat offers the use of its subsidized equipment, mentorship and consultations for movie production and development projects;
 - Financial support to film projects with the cooperation of international film festivals and various organizations;
 - Facilitate registration in festivals and the shipping of film tapes;
 - Connect Palestinian film makers with regional and international organizations and networks working on the development of films and video projects.
- **Shashat Annual Women Film Festival**

Unique of its kind in the Arab World, Shashat's annual festival highlights creative Palestinian, Arab, and international women movie makers. The festival's first edition took place in 2005 and the festival has been held every year since that year. During the festival, Shashat displays large screens in four different cities: Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus and Jerusalem. Every year, the Shashat festival defines a different topic. With the cooperation of ten universities, selected films are featured in a national tour. Workshops, panels, debates and projections are held in schools on the margin of the festival, and films participating in the festival are subtitled in Arabic.

- **"Films for everyone, Debates/Projections program throughout the year"**

With the belief that "Culture constitutes a human right", Shashat has held nearly 700 film showing events, mainly of women's films over the previous five years. Projections were made thanks to partnerships with more than five hundred community associations and nine universities in various cities, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank and in Gaza Strip.

- **Cultural Action**
 - Film Library: Shashat created three decentralized film libraries in different regions in order to remedy to traffic and movement constraints in Palestine: in Ramallah in the West Bank; at the headquarters of An-Najah National University in Nablus in the

¹ <http://www.shashat.org/>

north of the West Bank; and at the Bethlehem Peace Center in the south of Bethlehem.

- Research and publications.
- Weekly movie-club holding debates about masterworks of world cinema aimed at promoting knowledge about international film heritage.

➤ Shashat Productions

From 2008 to 2012, Shashat produced 65 movies including short-films, fiction and documentaries. Every year, the institution's productions are shown in the framework of the Shashat Festival.

Between 2005 and 2010, the institution sub-titled 6 foreign movies, including *Sisters in law* by Kim Longinotto and Florence Ayisi (fiction-104 mn) ; *Family* by Phie Ambo and Sami Seif (documentary-90 mn) ; and *Paradise* by Ahang Bashi (documentary-28mn).¹

| Shashat 2012 Productions - "I am a woman from Palestine" Festival | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------|
| | Film | Producer | Length | Type |
| 1 | Noise! | Alaa Desoki | 7 mn | Doc. |
| 2 | Separation | Areej Abu Eid | 9 mn | Doc. |
| 3 | Cut! | Athar Al-Jadili | 6 mn | Doc. |
| 4 | This is the Law! | Fadya Salah Al-Deen | 17 mn | Doc. |
| 5 | Little Feet | Enas Ayish | 8 mn 30 sec. | Doc. |
| 6 | If they take it! | Liali Kilani | 15 mn | Doc. |
| 7 | White Dress | Omaima Hamouri | 9 mn | Sh. F |
| 8 | Black & White | Rana Matar | 9 mn | Doc. |
| 9 | Out of frame | Riham Am-Ghazali | 11mn30sec. | Doc. |
| 10 | Engagement Ring | Taghreed Al-Azza | 13 mn | Sh. F |

Source : « Shashat Productions (2008-2012) », Unpublished document, Ramallah, February 2012

| Shashat 2011 Productions – Worlds festival | | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| | Film | Producer | Length | Type |
| 1 | The first was the last | Salam Kanaan | 4:07mn | CM |
| 2 | Restriction | Taghreed Al-Azza | 5:40 mn | CM |
| 3 | On Air | Ghada Terawi | 6:16 mn | CM |
| 4 | Just Forbidden | Fadya Salah Al-Deen | 5 mn | CM |
| 5 | Fruity dreams | Laila Abbas | 5:20 mn | CM |
| 6 | Forgotten Flowers | Raya Orouq | 5 mn | CM |

¹ Personal interview with the General Director of Shashat Dr. Aliaa Arsoughly at the Institution's Headquarters in Ramallah, February 2013.

Film and audiovisual data collection project

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------|------|
| 7 | Echo of Silence | Wafa Nassar | 7 mn | CM |
| 8 | Date | Omaima Hamouri | 5:10 mn | CM |
| 9 | Birth | Dima Abu Ghoush | 9:12 mn | CM |
| 10 | It's a Tough Life | Dara Khader | 10 mn | CM |
| 11 | The Fig & the olive | Georgina Asfour | 19 mn | Doc. |
| 12 | 5 Cups & a cup | Laila Abbas | 10 mn | CM |
| 13 | Acrid & Honey | Lana Hijazi | 9 mn | CM |
| 14 | .com | Fatema Abu Odeh | 7 mn | Doc. |
| 15 | Portrait | Rana Mattar | 5:30 mn | Doc. |
| 16 | Madleen | Riham Al-Ghazali | 6 mn | Doc. |
| 17 | Kamkamah | Eslam Elyan & Areej Abu Eid | 6 mn | Doc. |
| 18 | Step & a Half | Enas Ayish | 5:45 mn | Doc. |
| 19 | Sardine & Pepper | Athar Al-Jadili & Alaa Desoki | 5:23 mn | Doc. |

Source : « Shashat Productions (2008-2012) », Unpublished document, Ramallah, February 2012

10.6 Palestinian Social Cinema Arts Association (PSCAA)

Created in February 2009, PSCAA was officially registered as an NGO in Palestine in 2009. Its main objective is to develop Palestinian cinema through three main projects: Palestinian mobile cinema, annual film festivals and Open Air Cinemas. PSCAA's vision is based on an understanding and the requirement to use movie arts as a necessary social tool to ensure social change and development. In addition to introducing films to the general public, the association's projects focus on training youth and the creation of opportunities for media and movie professionals in Palestine.¹

10.6.1 Palestinian Mobile Cinema (PMC)

The Palestinian Mobile Cinema (PMC) project, founded and managed since 2008 by the PSCAA association represents one of the most important film events held in Palestine over the last two years. The mobile cinema concept was introduced in a specific dimension, and the association has been able to show local, regional and international movies in several rural communities that had never had any experience with cinema before. Debates on films shown were held after projections. The project also holds debates about films featuring social issues likely to create equal opportunities at the community level to the profit of women, children, the elderly and students.²

One of the main initiatives taken by PSCAA is the *Palestinian Mobile Cinema* Project providing regular and easy-access to West-Bank Palestinians to watch movies. The project carries a large screen and a video projector to communities having no access to theatres in the West Bank.

As for the (Human) International Film Festival, it constitutes the second major initiative taken by PSCAA, See : 11. *National Movie Events*.

¹ <http://pscaa.wordpress.com/2012/01/11/human-rights-film-festival-2012/>

² Ibid.

10.7 Film Production in Palestine

10.7.1 Production companies

Difficulties hampering the Palestinian movie production sector are multiple: quasi-absence of an institutional system supporting production; difficulty to provide funds; closure and scarcity of film showing theatres; deterioration and/or closing of some regional markets due to the unstable political situation further to the Arab Spring, and a relatively limited public.

Nonetheless, the private audiovisual and film production sector relies on several production companies registered at the Ministry of Information. The following table lists companies registered between 2007 and 2012 by the Ministry.

| Audiovisual and film production Companies (2007-2012) | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| Year | Company | City |
| 2007 | Dimension Studio | Ramallah |
| | Clear Vision for production & AV services | Ramallah |
| | FOZ Media for TV production | Nablus |
| | Carisma for artistic production | Hebron |
| | Nour Media Production | Bethlehem |
| 2008 | Nahawend for artistic production | Nablus |
| | Sama Productions Ltd | Ramallah |
| | Bethleem Center for AV productions | Bethlehem |
| | El Shmoukh for artistic productions | Broukin - Salfit |
| 2009 | Ben Media for AV production | Ramallah |
| | Al Riyada for artistic production | Nablus |
| | Al Yamira for artistic production | Ramallah |
| 2010 | Fonoun Media | Ramallah |
| | Assoul for AV production | Hebron |
| | Al Ghad for AV production | Ramallah |
| 2011 | 4th Dimension for AV production | Ramallah |
| | Transmedia Productions | Ramallah |
| | Modern Media for AV services | Ramallah |
| | Independant Media Center | Ramallah |
| | Art Media | Ramallah |
| 2012 | Ro'ya Media Production | Ramallah |
| | Blue Ray for artistic production | Ramallah |
| | Dozan media production | Ramallah |

Source: Arts and audiovisual production companies registered in Palestine, Unpublished document, Ministry of Information, Ramallah, February 2013

However, it is important to note that other production companies well settled in Palestine are not listed in the previous formal table provided by the Ministry of Information in Ramallah. These companies belong to independent movie makers and producers, producing short

films, documentaries or fiction movies, using their own means or grants provided by institutions within or outside Palestine. They include among others:

| Company | Film maker/producer | City |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Cinema Production & Distribution Center | Rashid Mashharawi | Ramallah |
| Black & White Productions | Abdel Salam Shehadah | Gaza |
| Idioms Films | Mohanad Yaqubi | Ramallah |
| Wejhat Nazar Productions | Ghada Terawi | Ramallah |
| Al-Arz Productions | Nizar Younis | Nazareth |
| Anat Films | Ihab Jadallah | Jerusalem |
| Jerusalem First Films | Enas Muthaffar | Jerusalem |
| Go Capture Productions | Talal Jaabari | Jerusalem |

Due to the scarcity of information on investments made Palestinian production companies, it is difficult to determine the overall annual turnover, invested amounts and the market share held by various movie production and distribution companies. However, this type of information is necessary to assess the capacity of the Palestinian film market.

10.7.2 Palestinian Filmography

The last years witnessed an extraordinary increase in the number of films produced by Palestinians – from within Palestine, in exile and in Israel. There is a wide variety of films: fiction, documentaries, long and short features, political, cultural, and personal. Some films try to remove the distinction between political and artistic features. The film *Society of Lincoln Center* has shown that this movement produced “a number of provocative and perspicacious works often contesting the notion of rigid ideologies or monolithic historical interpretations. On the contrary, these films have tried to explore the complexity of Palestinian history, culture and identity making use of a large variety of styles and genres.”¹

Palestinian films, producers and actors have gained broad international recognition, including a number of prizes and awards in festivals, compliments from critics, media attention and serious analyses in academic publications. Formally, institutionalized financial aids are almost non-existent, and film makers literally struggle to collect funds for their projects². They are supported in their quest for funds by non-profit organizations working on the promotion of cinema and film in Palestine, by the Fonds Sud Cinéma or Aide aux cinémas du monde (from France), by co-productions with European and American companies or by Gulf Festival Institutions such as the Dubai international Film Festival, the Abu Dhabi International Film Festival and the Doha International Film Festival, etc.

Moreover, many movies have been produced about Palestine and the Israeli-Arab conflict by non-Palestinians: Arab, Israeli and international film makers. The commented guide and film Chronology *Palestine In Film* by Marvin Wingfield³, provides a remarkable and exceptional digital database of Palestinian films produced by Palestinians and non Palestinians.

Wingfield stresses that the Internet is full of films and videos about the Palestinian issue and that no other liberation movement has been so well and promptly documented for the World audience. The author also states that a large portion of his work was carried out in spite of several obstacles raised by the Israeli occupation and by Israel's political supporters. According to Wingfield, the production, distribution and public dissemination of these films are inevitably political and cannot be only a commercial and artistic enterprise.

Nevertheless, in order to highlight the rich Palestinian production, we preferred to show in the following pages Palestinian works realized in the previous three years by Palestinian film makers.

The following tables: Palestinian Film Chronology 2012, 2011 and 2010 include titles of Palestinian movies and their producers based on a repertoire provided by Noemí Artal A *Chronology of Palestinian Cinema (2000-2012)*.⁴

¹ Marvin Wingfield, *Palestine in Film, A guide and an annotated filmography*, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Washington, DC; www.adc.org

² Ibid.

³ Ibidem.

⁴ Noemí Artal, *Noemí Artal A Chronology of Palestinian Cinema (2000-2012)*, Center for Palestine Studies, Columbia University, US, 9 March. 2013, <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/palestine/>

| Chronology of Palestinian Films – 2012 | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Film | Producer |
| 1 | Héritage (Inheritance) | Hiam Abbas |
| 2 | The Courier | Abu Assad, Hany |
| 3 | Love, Older... Hiroshi & Kiyoko | Abu Hamdan, Zaid |
| 4 | Art/Violence | Abu Khaled, Mariam, Udi Aloni, Batoul Taleb |
| 5 | Spread by rabbis, believed by the army | Aleddin, Ghasoub |
| 6 | Flight | Alshaibi, Sama |
| 7 | The Tethered | Alshaibi, Sama |
| 8 | Farther than the eye can see | Alsharif, Basma |
| 9 | Ismail | Alsharif, Nora |
| 10 | Khsara (The Cup Reader) | Araj, Suha |
| 11 | Gaza Calling | Awwad, Nahed |
| 12 | Eye Drops | Bakri, Mohammad |
| 13 | Dances with Ladybug | Bitar, Hazim |
| 14 | Maqloubeh | Damuni, Nicolas |
| 15 | Mawsem Hisad (Family Albums) | Darwazeh Mais, Nassim Amouche, Erige Sehiri, Sameh Zoabi |
| 16 | Deir Yassin Village and Massacre | Dirbas, Sahera |
| 17 | A World not Ours | Fleifel, Mahdi |
| 18 | When I Saw You | Jacir, Annemarie |
| 19 | Mutasalilum (Infiltrators) | Jarrar, Khaled |
| 20 | A Sketch of Manners _Alfred Roch's Last Masquerade | Manna, Jumana |
| 21 | Alal mad al basar (Line of Sight) | Mansour, Aseel |
| 22 | Under The Sky | Maqdisi, Ramzi |
| 23 | Bouddhi Bouddha | Marcos, Norma |
| 24 | Wahdon (Alone) | Marcos, Norma |
| 25 | Land of the Story | Masharawi, Rashid |
| 26 | Peek-A-Boo | Muthaffar, Enas |
| 27 | Gaza 36 mm | El Muzayen, Khalil |
| 28 | The Gaza Mono-Logues | El Muzayen, Khalil |
| 29 | Restored Pictures | Nasser Eldin, Mahasen |
| 30 | Metran men hada al-turab | Natche, Ahmad |
| 31 | Dima | Nazzal, Rehab |
| 32 | Mourning | Nazzal, Rehab |
| 33 | ONE-Thousand Palestinian Political Prisoners | Nazzal, Rehab |
| 34 | Target | Nazzal, Rehab. |
| 35 | Military Exercise in Al Naqab (Negev) Prison | Nazzal. Rehab |
| 36 | The Turtle's Rage | El-Qalqili, Pary. |
| 37 | Where Should the Birds Fly? | Qishta, Fida |
| 38 | Beyond the Walls | Al-Ramahi, Ahmed Adnan |
| 39 | Nation State | Sansour, Larissa |
| 40 | Under the Same Sun | Zoabi, Sameh |

Source: Ibid.

| Chronology of Palestinian Films – 2011 | | |
|--|--|---|
| | Film | Producer |
| 1 | Al Juma al Akheira (The Last Friday) | Al-Abdallah, Yahya |
| 2 | Dear Dad | Abousaid, Hiyam |
| 3 | We Rise & Fall | Abousaid, Hiyam |
| 4 | Do Not Forget Me Istambul | Abu Assad, Hany & Shargawi, Omar |
| 5 | Poisson Rouge | Abu Ghoush, Ala'. |
| 6 | Birth | Abu Ghoush, Dima |
| 7 | Bahiya & Mahmoud | Abu Hamdan, Zaid |
| 8 | Love, Older... Jack & Martha | Abu Hamdan, Zaid. |
| 9 | Tanathur | Abu Wael, Tawfik |
| 10 | Jean Wejnoon (Genies and Madness) | Afdile, Mamdooh |
| 11 | Sacred Stones | Alayan, Muayad Mousa, Laila Higazi |
| 12 | Uzla Taht al-Shams (Private Sun) | Alayan, Rami. |
| 13 | Thowra (Revolution) | Alshaibi, Sama |
| 14 | Vs. Him (vs. The Empire; vs. Brother; vs. Son; vs. Father) | Alshaibi, Sama |
| 15 | Profane | Alshaibi, Usama |
| 16 | The Story of Milk and Honey | Alsharif, Basma |
| 17 | Al-Teen wa al-Zaitoun (The Fig and the Olive) | Asfour, Georgina |
| 18 | The Incredible Juicer | Awad, Tahani |
| 19 | Donor Opium | Azar, George, Mariam Shahin |
| 20 | Everyday Nakba | Al-Azza, Mohammad |
| 21 | Sayyad Elmih (The Salt Fisherman) | Bakri, Ziad. |
| 22 | Fish Above Sea Level | Bitar, Hazim |
| 23 | 5 Broken Cameras | Bunat, Emad, Guy Davidi |
| 24 | Al Bier (The Well) | Habash, Ahmad |
| 25 | Duma (Dolls) | Haddad, Abeer Zeibak |
| 26 | C the C | Horani, Eyad |
| 27 | Baya'a el ward (Flower seller) | Jadallah, Ihab |
| 28 | Shurti al al hamesh (The Invisible Policeman) | Al Juneidi, Laith |
| 29 | Uncle Nashaat | Mansour, Aseel |
| 30 | Koulouna lil Watan (All for the Nation) | Mansour, Carol |
| 31 | Elvis of Nazareth | Massalha, Rani |
| 32 | Rejoice, O My Heart | Moufawad-Paul, Vicky |
| 33 | Half a Person | Moufawad-Paul, Vicky |
| 34 | Room Service | Nasir, Tariq |
| 35 | Women in the Stadium | Qaoud, Sawsan |
| 36 | Samir's Room | Qashoo, Osama |
| 37 | Eid | Saaheb Collective |
| 38 | House | Saleh, Ahmad |
| 39 | Yala al amar (Yala to the Moon) | Salloum, Jacqueline & Suhel, Nafar |
| 40 | No News | Salman, Eyas |
| 41 | Tresspass the Salt | Sansour, Larissa |
| 42 | Bits & Pieces | Sarawi, Ashraf; Bakarwa Thaer; Suha Daes, Wisem, Ammar Daes |
| 43 | ½ revolution | Shargawi, Omar & Karim El Hakim |
| 44 | Before You is the Sea | Zreiq, Hisham |

Source : Ibid.

| Chronology of Palestinian Films - 2010 | | |
|--|--|---|
| | Film | Producer |
| 1 | Kingdom of Women | Abourahme, Dahna |
| 2 | The Clock and the Man | Abu Baker, Gazi |
| 3 | First Love | Abu Ghoush, Dima |
| 4 | Baram & Hamza | Abu Hamdan, Zaid |
| 5 | A Cup of Coffe from Palestine | Ahmarwo, Ameer, Kareem Karaja, Murad Nessar |
| 6 | Mute | Alayan, Muayad Mousa |
| 7 | 25,000 Tents, Maybe More | Alsadi, Ala'a & Samer Salameh |
| 8 | Chicken; Sissy; Sweep | Alshaibi, Sama |
| 9 | Ilham | Alshaibi, Sama |
| 10 | Tariqah | Alshaibi, Sama |
| 11 | End of September | Alshaibi, Sama, Ala' Younis |
| 12 | Baghdadi Mem | Alshaibi, Sama & Dena Al Adeeb |
| 13 | Turkish Delight | Alsharif, Basma |
| 14 | Wednesday Afternoons | Alsharif, Nora |
| 15 | Nssaa Hamas (Women of Hamas) | Arraf, Suha |
| 16 | Haneen (Nostalg) | Bawardi, Ossama |
| 17 | Into the Belly of the Whale | Bitar, Hazim |
| 18 | Samaa | Copty, Fady |
| 19 | The Owners of the Land | El-Damen, Rawan |
| 20 | The Imperialists Are Still Alive! | Durra, Zeina |
| 21 | Esmi Ahlam (My name is Ahlam) | Essa, Rima |
| 22 | Sense of Morning | Hamoud, Maysaloun |
| 23 | Looking for Zak | Jadallah, Ihab |
| 24 | Life on Wheels | Al-Khatib, Haitham |
| 25 | Sufair (Yellow mums) | Khoury, Firas |
| 26 | Blessed Blessed Oblivion | Manna, Jumana |
| 27 | The Umpire of Whispers | Manna, Jumana |
| 28 | I Come from a Beautiful Place | Mansour, Carol |
| 29 | Mirage | Maqdisi, Ramzi |
| 30 | 77 Madregot (77 Steps) | Mara'ana, Ibtisam |
| 31 | Fragments of a Lost Palestine | Marcos, Norma |
| 32 | Clichés | Naous, Nadine |
| 33 | From Palestine with Love | Nasser-Eldin, Mahasen |
| 34 | Bil'in | Nazzal, Rehab |
| 35 | Wajeh (Face) | Nessar, Murad |
| 36 | Diaries | Odeh, May |
| 37 | First lesson | Omari, Areen |
| 38 | Missing | Rimawi, Tariq |
| 39 | Victim of the Former Victim | Salem, Edward |
| 40 | Al tareeq ila Bait Lahem (The Road to Bethlehem) | Sansour, Leila |

Source : Ibidem.

10.7 Coproduction

For about fifteen years, several Palestinian movies have been supported by the Fonds Sud Cinema or by its subsequent program, Aid to World Cinema. This is mainly the case of *Palestine Stereo* by Rashid Masharawi, selected in 2013 at the Toronto Festival. While French movie-lovers mainly know Eila Suleiman for *Intervention Divine* rewarded both in Cannes and Venice or Hiam Abbass with *Héritage (Inheritance)*, the Palestinian Territories also host several young film makers specialized in documentaries. In the few last years, some films received prestigious awards as was the case for *Paradise Now* by Hany Abu-Assad (Golden Globe of the best foreign film, 2005), *Le sel de la mer* by Annemarie Jacir (2008), or this year 2013 in Cannes, *Omar* by Hany Abu-Assad.¹

In this regard, France and the Palestinian Authority signed on September 11, 2013 a cinema coproduction agreement. This agreement will facilitate the financial setting of bilateral coproductions involving cooperation at the artistic and technical levels. The minority coproduction share cannot be less than 20%, and exceptionally 10% if authorities of both parties agree for technical and artistic considerations. The concluded agreement also includes provisions aimed at encouraging common initiatives in the field of training related to cinema, image education, exchange of know-how between professionals, distribution and dissemination of works and the conservation of cinema heritage.²

On April 12, 2012, the Government of the United Kingdom ratified a coproduction treaty with the Palestinian Authority. The purpose of this treaty is to reinforce relations between film industries in the United Kingdom and the Occupied Palestinian Territories by encouraging British and Palestinian producers to work on joint projects reflecting creativity, the cultural diversity and the patrimony of the two territories.³

Palestine has also concluded a cinema coproduction agreement with Ireland. Data of coproduction agreements can be found in a report called *Census and Analysis of film & Audiovisual Co-productions in the South-Mediterranean Region 2006-2011*.⁴

On the other hand, several cultural cooperation agreements signed between the Palestinian Authority and different World countries involve the organization of Cinema Weeks in Palestine and in the different signing countries.

¹ France signs a coproduction agreement with the Palestinian Territories, Ecran noir, 13/09/2013 ; <http://ecrannoir.fr/blog/blog/2013/09/13/la-france-signe-un-un-accord-de-coproduction-avec-les-territoires-palestiniens/>

² "Signing of a French-Palestinian cinema coproduction agreement, Ministry of Culture and Communication, 11/09/2013 ; <http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/Espace-Presse/Communiqués/Signature-d-un-accord-de-coproduction-cinematographique-franco-palestinien>

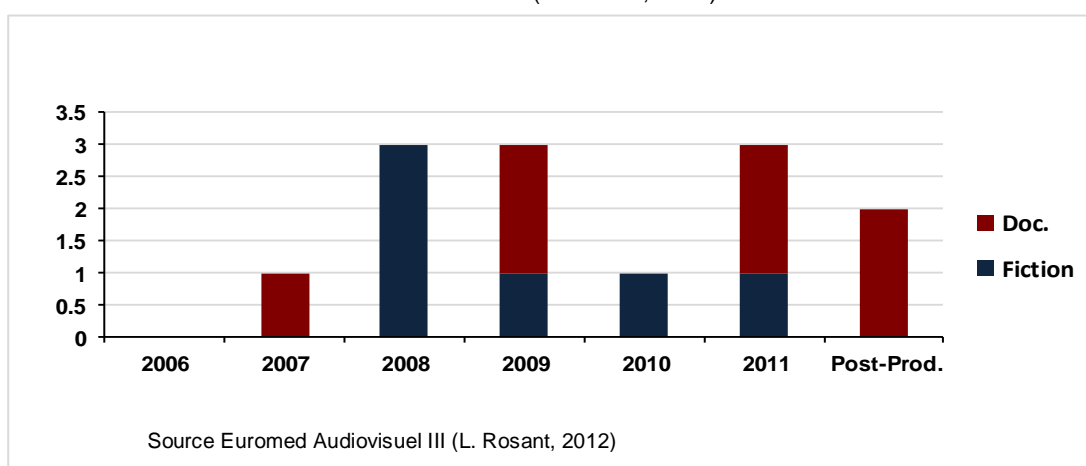
³ Tony Prosser, "United Kingdom: Enforcement of a coproduction treaty with the Palestinian Authority", IRIS 2012, <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/iris/2012/6/article22.fr.html>

⁴ L. ROSANT, *Census and Analysis of film & Audiovisual Co-productions in the South-Mediterranean Region 2006-2011*, EUROMED AUDIOVISUAL III, Tunis, May 2012; <http://euromediaudiovisuel.net/Files/2012/05/29/1338310192044.pdf>

- Number of Palestinian co-productions by year and by gender (2006-2011)

| | Fiction | Doc. | Total |
|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2008 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2009 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2010 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2011 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Post-Prod. | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 6 | 7 | 13 |

Source Euromed Audiovisuel III (L. Rosant, 2012)

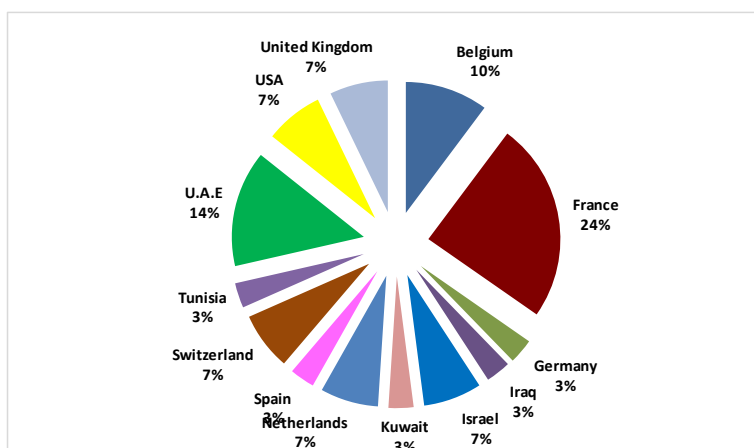


Source Euromed Audiovisuel III (L. Rosant, 2012)

- Co-production country: (Projects are not listed in this table)

| Country | Fiction | Doc | Total | % |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----|
| Belgium | 3 | 0 | 3 | 10% |
| France | 4 | 3 | 7 | 24% |
| Germany | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3% |
| Iraq | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3% |
| Israel | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7% |
| Kuwait | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3% |
| The Netherlands | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7% |
| Spain | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3% |
| Switzerland | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7% |
| Tunisia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3% |
| U.A.E | 2 | 0 | 2 | 14% |
| USA | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7% |
| United Kingdom | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7% |
| TOTAL | 20 | 9 | 29 | |

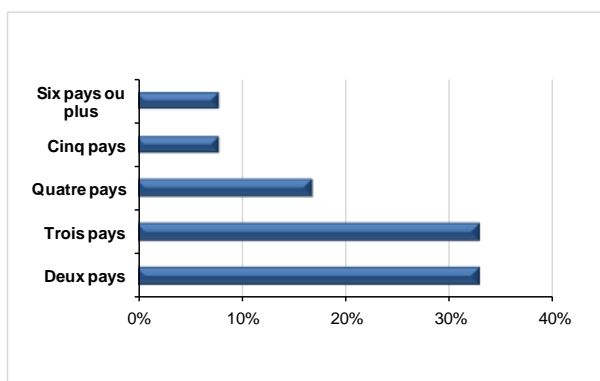
Source Euromed Audiovisuel III (L. Rosant, 2012)



Source Euromed Audiovisuel III (L. Rosant, 2012)

- Number of countries involved by coproduction

| | Fiction | Doc | Total | % |
|-------------------------|---------|-----|-------|------------|
| Deux pays | 0 | 4 | 4 | 33% |
| Trois pays | 2 | 2 | 4 | 33% |
| Quatre pays | 2 | 0 | 2 | 17% |
| Cinq pays | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8% |
| Six pays ou plus | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8% |
| TOTAL | 6 | 6 | 12 | |



Source Euromed Audiovisuel III (L. Rosant, 2012)

- List of films coproduced with Israel by year¹ :

2007

War, Love, God & Madness, de Mohamed Al Daradji – Documentary

2008

L'anniversaire de Leila, de Rashid Mashrawi - Fiction

Grenades et Myrrhe, de Najwa Najjar-Fiction

Le Sel de la Mer, d'Annemarie Jacir- Fiction

2009

Fix Me, de Raed Andoni - Documentary

What Happened?, d'Eid De Gaulle - Documentary

Zindeeq, de Michel Khleifi – Fiction

No Exit, Mohanad Yaqubi, Documentary

2010

Téléphone Arabe, de Sameh Zoabi – Fiction

2011

5 Broken Cameras, de Emad Burnat - Documentary

Habibi, de Susan Youssef – Fiction

The Invisible Policeman, de Laith Al-Juneidi - Documentary

2012

The Infiltrators, de Khaled Jarar - Documentary

The Inheritance, de Hiam Abbas - Fiction

Projects

A Gaza Weekend, de Basil Khalil - Fiction

Dead Sea, de Ihab Jadallah - Fiction

Eyes of a Thief, de Najwa Najjar - Fiction

Giraffada, de Rani Massalha - Fiction

Off Frame, de Mohanad Yaqubi - Documentary

The Wanted, de Amer Shomaly - Fiction

Via Dolorosa, de Sobhi Al Zobaidi - Fiction

¹ Source Euromed Audiovisuel III (L. Rosant, 2012)

10.8 Distribution of Palestinian Films abroad

According to the database LUMIERE operated by the European Audiovisual Observatory, between 1996 and 2012, 11 Palestinian films were distributed in Europe, of which 2 films were Palestinian-Israeli only co-productions, and 5 were mainly co-productions with France and often with other partners (Germany, Switzerland, Australia). Finally, *Divine Intervention* (2001) by Elia Suleiman is the film included in this repertoire having attracted the largest audience: 443 347 viewers. This film was one of Cannes Festival's discoveries in 2012. The second film of Suleiman, *Le temps qu'il reste*, a co-production between France, Belgium and Italy, presented in Cannes in 2009, attracted 237 232 viewers in the European Union..

- Viewers of Palestinian Films in Europe (1996 - 2012)

| Film | Country Participating To production | Year of production | AT | BE | BG | CH | CZ | DE | DK | ES | FI | FR | GB | GR | HU | IE | IS | IT | LU | NL | NO | PT | SE | SI | TR | Total EUR EU(27) |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|----|--------|-------|--------|-----|--------|-------|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|------------------|
| <i>Divine Intervention</i> | FR / MA / DE | PS2001 | 5 032 | 23 063 | | 14 110 | 3 579 | 24 671 | 689 | 10 556 | 1 387 | 287 130 | 20 644 | 15 517 | 3 093 | 1 833 | 338 | 14 896 | 715 | 6 691 | 7 654 | 20 952 | 2 889 | 10 11 | 11 177 | 443 347 |
| <i>Chronicle of a Disappearance</i> | PS / IL / US | DE 1996 | | 1 077 | | 54 | | | | | | 23 141 | | | | | | 84 | | | | | 521 | | | 24 823 |
| <i>Le mariage de Rana</i> | PS | 2002 | | | | | | | | | | 15 316 | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 15 339 |
| <i>Fix ME</i> | FR / PS / CH | | | | | 575 | | | | | | 10 567 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 11 142 |
| <i>Son of Babylon</i> | IQ / GB / FR / NL / AE / EG / PS | NL 2009 | | | | | | | | 4 237 | | | 891 | | | | | | | 2 448 | | | | | | 7 576 |
| <i>Ticket to Jerusalem</i> | NL / PS / FR / AU | 2002 | | | | 1 646 | | | | | | 92 | | | | | | 4 187 | | | | | | | | 4 279 |
| <i>Waiting</i> | FR / PS | 2005 | | | | | | | | 185 | | 4 024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 209 |
| <i>Al-mor wa al rumman</i> | PS | 2008 | | | 44 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 340 | | | 2 384 |
| <i>Israel vs Israel</i> | SE / IL / PS | 2010 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 108 | | | 108 |
| <i>Coffee: Between Reality and Imagination</i> | PS / IS | 2011 | | | 39 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 39 |
| <i>Three Times Divorced</i> | PS / IL | 2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 56 |

Source : LUMIERE Database/European Audiovisual Observatory

During this period, the share of Palestinian films distributed in the European Union is very little: less than 0%. According to data of the European Audiovisual Observatory, Non European and Non American films generally represent accumulated market shares ranging between 1% and 2% in the EU.¹

We have very little data about Palestinian films in other parts of the World..

¹ The database LUMIERE of the European Audiovisual Observatory (<http://lumiere.obs.coe.int>) provides a systematic compilation of data available about viewers of films shown in European theatres since 1996. It is the fruit of collaboration between the European Audiovisual Observatory and various national specialized sources as well as with the European Union's MEDIA Program. The coverage rate for the European Union is 90 %. However for less successful films, the base has some shortfalls due to the fact that some countries do not provide full lists for the various films distributed in their territories.

10.9 Physical video and VOD Market

Regarding the distribution of DVDs, Palestine belongs to Zone 2 including Japan, Europe, South Africa, the Middle East and Egypt.¹

The video market is not documented enough. Various editors from other Arab countries (particularly the Saudi holding ROTANA) publish national films. American studios distribute their films in their original versions. The main sale points are specialized department stores (Virgin Megastore ...)

Although the consumption of online films and TV series is dominated in Palestine and in the rest of the World by piracy, there have been attempts to launch legal offers targeting the Arab market. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries seem to be the main markets in a starting phase. The site shofha.com, operated from Egypt by LINKonLINE, a subsidiary of LINKdotNET (a company of the Orascom Telecom Holding), is available on the Internet in Palestine and offers access to a list of Arab movies.² We do not have sufficient information about the notoriety and success of this service in Palestine.

We do not know whether there are any VoD legal sites established in Palestine. It is therefore not difficult to see on the Internet free streaming offers (and hence very likely not authorized).³ The site <http://www.bokra.net> offers Arab, Turkish and foreign movies, TV series and televised programs in streaming. The site also offers several Palestinian films including: *Amreeka* (2009) by the Palestinian-American producer Cherien Dabis ; *Al-mor wa al rumman (Pommagranates and Myrh)* (2008) by Najwa Najjar ; and *The Dispersion of Illusion* (2012) of Hamas. The site <http://www.3afrit.net/> offers Lebanese, Egyptian, Moroccan and foreign movies.

The site trigon-film.ch displays four Palestinian films for an amount of 26 CHF / 21 EUR and de 23 CHF/ 19 EUR. These movies are: *Chronique d'une disparition* (1996) and *Intervention Divine* of Elia Suleiman and *Salt of this Sea* (2008) of Annemarie Jacir. As for *Ticket to Jerusalem* (2002) by Rashid Mashharawi, it is offered in DVD by the same site for the price of 15 CHF/ 12 EUR. However, the Palestinian repertoire offered by the French site Universciné⁴ (arthouse cinema) seems to be more furnished. Universciné offers 12 Palestinian films.

The same applies for the catalog "The global film initiative" offering a wide range of Arab and Middle Eastern movies in VOD and in streaming and also lists several Palestinian movies for the price of 24.95 USD.⁵

¹ Industrials designed a Zoning system mainly used to limit the export of DVDs outside designed regions, which enables editors to control selling prices and the launch date in different World regions.

² See S. ALI, *Project for the collection of statistical data about cinema and audiovisual markets in 9 countries. First Interim Report: National Monographs: EGYPT*, Euromed Audiovisuel III / European Audiovisual Observatory, 2012, p.66. <http://www.euromedaudiovisuel.net/Files/2012/09/17/1347873169237.pdf>

³ The site Watcharabicmovies.net offers free access to Arab movies: <http://www.watcharabicmovies.net/>

⁴ <http://www.universcine.com/films/pays/territoires-palestiniens>

⁵ <http://catalogue.globalfilm.org/>

10.10 Cinema Exploitation in Palestine

10.10.1 Background of movie theatres in Palestine

In the 1930s' there were many movie theatres in the various Palestinian cities. They would mainly show Egyptian features as well as other silent and/or speaking foreign movies. Jerusalem was home for the following theatres: Rex, Adisson, Orion and Rion. As for Jaffa, it offered six theatres: Al Hamra, Farouk, Nabil, le cinéma de l'Orient, Rachid Movie Theatre and Appollo Movie Theatre. There were four other theatres in Haïfa : Al Karmel theatre, Jaffa theatre, Ein Dour and Armon. Two theatres used to show films in Acre city: Al Ahali and Al Borj movie theatres.

Laws strictly enforced by British colonizers prohibited cinema activities that were likely to reflect images about Palestine contradicting the opinion then prevailing in the West, designed on the one hand through Orientalism somehow related to colonialism, and on the other through the active Zionist propaganda.

In spite of the projection of films since that time, the Seventh Art has not been able to shift into a cultural and social phenomenon for the following reasons:

- The propagation of some social and ethical concepts considering cinema to be an obscene Western phenomenon distorting good morals;
- Laws of the British mandate stifling the rise of the film industry and preventing the development and construction of movie theatres;
- The political unsettlement and instability, and the difficult financial conditions contributed to the absence of popular awareness about the importance of film;
- Further to Nakba and the Palestinian exodus in 1948, movie theatres were badly struck and cinema disappeared from the Palestinian life for several decades.

The 1967 war had the same repercussions as the 1948 Nakba on the presence of film industry in Palestine: another strike that persisted until the eighties.

After 1967, Israeli occupation authorities took control of the film industry, obliging a number of movie theatres, mainly in Jerusalem to shut down, while remaining theatres in other cities resorted to showing foreign movies not compatible with the Palestinian social culture of that time. Films shown did neither feature the people's history or its future nor the Palestinian cause or the Israeli Palestinian conflict. As movie theatres were privately run, they preferred not to show movies featuring the Palestinian issue in order to avoid Israeli sanctions and continue to generate funds. This led Palestinians and mainly the Palestinian elite to boycott movie theatres in general.



Al Hamra movie theatre located in Jamal Pacha Street in Jaffa.

Source : <http://www.mofa.pna.ps/index.php/ar/services-informaion/photo-albums/view-photo/21/678>

| Movie theatres operating in the past in Palestine | |
|---|---|
| City | Name of Hall of Theatre |
| Jeusalem | Roxi Hall |
| | Adisson Hall |
| | Orion Hall |
| | Rion Hall |
| Haïfa | Al Karmel Movie Theatre |
| | Ein Dor Movie Theatre |
| | Jaffa Movie Theatre |
| | Armon Movie Theatre |
| Jaffa | Al Hamra Movie Theatre |
| | Rachid Movie Theatre |
| | Farouk Movie Theatre (summer only) |
| | Apollo* Movie Theatre |
| | Nabil Movie Theatre |
| Acre | Al Chark Movie Theatre |
| | Al Ahali Hall |
| Tulkaram | Al Borj Movie Theatre |
| | Al Andalous Movie Theatre |
| Gaza | Al farid Movie Theatre |
| | Al Khadra Movie Theatre |
| | El Samer Movie Theatre |
| | Al Jala'a Movie Theatre |
| | El Naser Movie Theatre |
| | Amer Movie Theatre (summer only) |
| Rafah | Al Shatea Movie Theatre |
| | El Salam Movie Theatre |
| | Sabrine Movie Theatre |
| Nablus | Al Horeya Movie Theatre |
| Jenine | Al Assi Movie Theatre |
| Ramallah | Jénine Movie Theatre |
| | Al Walid Movie Theatre |
| | Dounya Movie Theatre |
| | Al Seraj Movie Theatre (currently theatre and Al Kassaba movie library) |

Source : Mahmoud Rouka, Early says of Palestinian cinema ; op.cit.

Further to the first Palestinian Intifada in 1987 and for economic, political and social reasons, movie theatres shut down in all different Palestinian cities. Most theatres were transformed in wedding halls, meeting rooms or parking areas. Some theatres, mainly Gaza have simply been smashed down.

However, the closure of theatres did not contribute to the total extinction of the film industry in Palestine. Some cultural centers in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem as the Baladna Center and the Popular Art Center started to show movies. Other Centers would regularly hold showings of new features, Film Weeks and Film Festivals. In Gaza, several film showing events were held in Al Shawa Center, in cultural centers and in Youth Clubs. In Jerusalem, several showings were given to compensate the lack of programs in Al Hakawati theatre. On the other hand, the exchange and marketing of videotapes and later of DVDs have offered alternative options for Palestinians to watch movies at their convenience.

In the beginning of the years 2000, after thirteen years of inactivity, some movie theatres started to revive, especially with the advent of the Palestinian Authority, in order to find their way in the Palestinian social life and play a pioneer role matching the Palestinian culture and living style.

10.10.2 Movie theatres currently operating in Palestine

- ***Jenine Theatre***

Located downtown the city of Jenine, this theatre was built in 1958 at the initiative of some Palestinian families living in the city when it was under the control of Jordan. This theatre used to be one of the most important in Palestine.

The theatre shut down until 2008 when local efforts supported by the Germans contributed to its reopening. A summer film showing area and a guesthouse were added to the theatre. The inauguration of the new Jenine Movie Theatre was held on August 5, 2010. The first floor offers 250 seats; balconies offer 200 more seats. The Jenine Movie Theatre strives to develop cultural life and in addition to showing films, it hosts theatre and musical performances, folklore dance events, etc..

- ***Cinema City***

Located in the commercial center of Nablus city, Cinema City was inaugurated on June 20, 2009 for a cost of 2 million dollars. It includes sophisticated film showing equipment enabling the projection of 3D movies. It offers 175 seats.

- ***Al Kassaba Film Library and Theatre***

Inaugurated downtown Ramallah in 2000, Al Kassaba film library and theatre is the only theatre showing movies on a daily basis in Palestine.

Al Kassaba cinema could create a movie culture among Palestinians through daily film showings, Week Films and Festivals regularly held including mainly the Kasaba International Film Festival.

| Number of movie theatres currently operating in Palestine (1998/2012) | | |
|---|-----------|------|
| Year | West Bank | Gaza |
| 1998 | 3 | 0 |
| 1999 | 3 | 0 |
| 2000 | 3 | 0 |
| 2001 | 4 | 0 |
| 2002 | 2 | 0 |
| 2003 | 2 | 0 |
| 2004 | 2 | 0 |
| 2005 | 2 | 0 |
| 2006 | 2 | 0 |
| 2007 | 2 | 0 |
| 2008 | 2 | 0 |
| 2009 | 3 | 0 |
| 2010 | 3 | 0 |
| 2011 | 3 | 0 |
| 2012 | 3 | 0 |

Source : 'Movie Theatres in Palestine', Palestinian News & Infos Agency (WAFA), Ramallah, 2012 ; <http://www.wafainfo.ps/atemplate.aspx?id=8702>

10.10.3 Cinema in Gaza: Cinematography in distress

As they reflect the society's cultural level and openness on the World, movie theatres constitute a crucial tool reflecting social development. In addition, the movie industry represents a business sector generating financial resources to countries showing it interest.

Despite the presence of a Movie culture Gaza since the forties of the last century, and the current social willingness to revive the Seventh Art, Cinema has disappeared in the Gaza strip for more than two decades.

The famous Film historian Salim Al Moubayed stresses that the birth of cinema in Gaza was at personal initiatives as the first movie theatre in Gaza was built in Al Shgaeyah neighborhood and was called Al Khadra Cinema. This attempt could not make it through due to the area's political and economic conditions and people's socioeconomic conditions, as they simply could not afford going to theatres¹.

In 1946, Rashad Al Shawa inaugurated El Samer movie theatre which offered more than film showings, mostly Egyptian, but also hosted theatre plays performed by famous Palestinian and Arab actors. El Naser movie theatre was built in the fifties. In the sixties, the "News Caravan" toured the city to announce times and sites of film showings, including national movies.

¹ Mohammed Al Erawi, "Role of cinema in Gaza between fears of revival and access", Al Jazeera Talk, 20/05/2011 ; <http://www.aljazeeraatalk.net/old/node/7954>

Later, other movie theatres were built such as Al Jalaa and Amer. According to Al Moubayed, all theatres would import Arab and foreign movies from Egypt. The Film historian states that at that time, movie theatres were not coed, seats were reserved for men and others for women, in addition to seats reserved for families.

When Gaza was still under the control of Egypt until 1967, *“the sector witnessed the Film Golden Age: crowds would line up in across theatres, new movies imported from Cairo were always shown. This continued until the Israeli occupation started in 1967. The Film activity was suspended for many years. Several years later, Gaza theatres reopened and tried to show Egyptian, Chinese and foreign movies borrowed from theatres in Jerusalem”*¹, said Samir Al Efrenji, former employee of a theatre in Gaza in a TV documentary broadcast on DW Arabic (Deutsche Welle).

As for censorship, the historian Al Moubayed confirms that various types of films were shown but movies were subject to a censorship committee made up of legal experts, intellectuals and teachers who would watch the film and decide what to censor. Movie theatres not complying with the Committee's instructions were sanctioned and penalized. Egyptian cinema and movies had a great impact on the Palestinian society of that time. Changes would clearly be seen at the level of clothing habits and behavior, according to Al Moubayed.²

In an interview with DW Arabic, Al Efrenji states that during the launch of the first Palestinian Intifada in 1987, all movie theatres in Gaza were shut down until Israeli occupation forces left the area and the Palestinian Authority returned in 1994, when theatres resumed their showing business for some time. Later and due to political conflicts between Islamist parties, theatres gave up showing films.

It should be noted that the Gaza strip offered ten theatres: 6 in Gaza, 3 in Rafah³ et 1 in Khan Younès.⁴

After winning the 2006 elections, Hamas took by force control over the Gaza strip in 2007 after kicking out Fatah members, the then National Party in power in the West Bank. Emanating from the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas aspires to establish an Islamic State and has imposed several constraints on Film Industry and on the freedom of expression in several areas. The hope of Gaza citizens to reopen movie theatres has now vanished.

The director of artistic creation at the Ministry of Culture of Hamas Government in Gaza justifies this state by *“the fact that no request to reopen movie theatre has been sent to the Ministry, and I don't think we will object reopening theatres Pending the enforcement of censorship and the control of films for showing by a specialized committee.”*⁵

An intense passion for cinema is now spreading in Gaza especially that many generations have been totally prevented from watching films in a movie theatre. For these generations, watching movies is only possible on TV, or eventually for the very few who are lucky to travel, in a movie theatre in an Arab or foreign country, according to the documentary.

Opinions converge about reviving cinema and reopening movie theatres. The historian Al Moubayed states that : *“If theatres are reopened, profits will not be enough to cover*

¹ Hazem Baelousha, Yasser Abu Moeilak, ' Movie theatres in Gaza : the social desire faced by governmental constraints, DW, 27.09.2013 ; www.dw.de/دور-السينما-في-غزة-الرغبة-المجتمعية-تصطدم-بالقيود-الحكومية/a-17114982

² Mohanned Al Erawi, op.cit.

³ Located on the borders with Egypt, Rafah is a city part of the Gaza Strip.

⁴ Khan Younès is a Palstinian city located in the south of the Gza Strip.

⁵ 'Movie theatres in Gaza : the social desire faced by governmental constraints, op.cit.

investments, adding that the reopening of movie theatres should not depend on parties' orientations."¹

While considering that the Gaza Government would not oppose reopening a movie theatre, the writer Mostafa El Sawaf wonders about the type of films that will be shown as well as about feature films production tools. The writer states that "It will not be a good thing to open up a movie theatre and only show Western movies not suiting our morals and the customs and traditions of the Palestinian people."²

As for closing theatres, the writer curiously mentioned that this was not decided by the Government but was rather a popular decision, and that the general situation prevailing in Gaza imposing shutting down theatres.

It should also be noted that in spite of all restrictions imposed by the Hamas Movement on Cinema in general and on Film in particular, the movement is aware of the importance and impacts of films on the public. In this regard, the movement produces short films dealing only with the Palestinian issue, the movement's ideology, topics likely to generate positive impressions about actions performed by the movement, etc... and any film going beyond lines drawn by the movement is considered offending to good morals and ethics.

In this framework, the Mufti of the Koran and Sunna Center Association, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Astol declared "*Movie theatres disseminated sins. Pervert films contributed to youth perversion and took them away from good morals and virtues.*"³

It is interesting to note that the Association's headquarter used to be home of Al Horeya movie theatre before it was shut down in 1986 by quick-tempered demonstrators guided by Islamist movements. The theatre was transformed in a scientific library before being turned in the office of the Koran and Sunna Center Association.

Expressing his total rejection of all films even those aimed at reinforcing the culture of resistance, the Mufti adds that "*the closing of this theatre emanates from the desire to end corruption, and to reestablish good morals and virtues as movies included nudity ... dignitaries of the city of Khan Younes signed in 1986 a document confirming their approval to transform the movie theatre into the quarters for the Koran and Sunna Center Association.*"⁴

However, the truth is that this theatre was actually closed on several stages. The first was by calling on people in preaches, public speeches and flyers to stop going to the theatre. Then, people were asked to buy shares in the building and finally in a third phase, there was the physical assault on the theatre to shut it down.

The explanation of what is and what was happening in Gaza against Films and against all aspect of modern life is summarized in the statements made by the Middle East Specialist Jean François Legrain who says: "*groups soaked by Saudi inspiration have developed in Gaza since the 1930s and are considered to be legitimate by a large portion of the population as religious movements ... the novelty is that some of these groups claim their affiliation with Al Qaeda and some were manipulated by Fatah.*" One of the most influential groups is clearly the Majlis al-Shura al-Mujahidin (The Fighters' Consultative Council).

¹ Mohammed Al Erawi, op.cit.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibidem.

“These fundamental groups blame Hamas for not Islamizing society enough as a movement pretending to be Islamist”, adds Jean-François Legrain.¹

Nevertheless, in spite of these blames, Hamas agrees with the Gaza fundamentalist groups in terms of militant ideology and constraints imposed to social life, but the pragmatism of Hamas, who wanted to show the movement's open mindedness being aware of some limits of film powers, approves to resort to Film as an influential cultural product but only if it deals with issues related to resistance, if it embellishes the image of the movement and if it highlights suffering induced by the Israeli occupation and blockage on the sector.

The attitude of Hamas with regard to the film industry constitutes an integral part of its strategy to Islamize the daily life in Gaza. A strategy applied since 2007 on Films as on women and other aspects of the individual and collective lives: fight against ostentatious hair, law prohibiting coed schools ... the Islamist party is progressively imposing its ideology of Gaza society.²

The short film *Gaza 36 mm* by Khalil Almuzayen produced in 2012, represents a little window for Gaza to look at the external world. It reflects the state of the art of a distressful cinematography, translated by destructions and damage affecting movie theatres for social and ideological reasons.³

Shown in the framework of the 16th edition of the Ismaïlia Film Festival in Egypt, *Gaza 36 mm* has had a lot of echoes. Analyzing the relation linking Gaza society with Art and culture in general and with cinematographic arts in particular, or the art that was most able to “bring people together”, the political analyst Mohamed Hegazi and the novelist Khedr Mohtagaz explain that assault against Film started in some mosques and then developed in well organized campaigns claiming the closure of theatres and accusing movies of obscenity.

This has had an impact on some people, and attacks against movie theatres started. With the rise of extremism and calls to reject modern life, one of the largest theatres in Gaza, EL NASER cinema was set on fire in 1980. The saga continued until Gaza residents were totally deprived of movie theatres, constrained to watch movies from other countries and other regions including the West Bank, but not from Gaza. They started to enjoy some film screenings held by international relief organizations which decided to mount large screens in the street to entertain underserved areas as was the case several times in 1997.⁴

¹ Ibidem.

² Armin Arefi, “How does Hamas Islamize Gaza, Le Point.fr, 12/04/2013 ; http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-le-hamas-islamise-gaza-12-04-2013-1654299_24.php

³ <http://www.premiere.fr/film/Gaza-36-MM-court-metrage-3779358>

⁴ Magda Maurice, “How theatres in Gaza were burnt: the surprise film at the Ismailia International Festival”, Al-Ahali, 11/06/2013 ; <http://www.al-ahaly.com/> ماجدة موريس تكتب كيف احترقت سينمات غزة



El Naser movie theatre as it is today in Gaza

Source : Islam Al Saqa, "Gaza, a city that loves cinema", Quds Al Ekhbaria, July 14, 2013 ; <http://www.qudsn.ps/article/22087>

10.10.3 In wait of resuming film industry in Gaza

In an article published on Al-Jazeera.net on September 26, 2012, questioning Gaza needs to host movie theatres in the light of blockages and suffering affecting Gaza residents, the site reveals that the conclusion of an agreement signed few days before between the Government in Gaza led by Hamas and Iran would open a movie theatre in Gaza.¹

In his interview to Al-Jazeera.net, the Gaza Minister of Culture, Mohamed Al Madhoun stressed that the agreement signed with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Orientation includes 19 provisions aimed the cultural promotion of Gaza Strip, showing the necessity to shed the light on the value of suffering, the Palestinian resistance and achievements in film making and works.

"The agreement provides for the creation of a movie theatre and a training and development center ... we work through the center to support the film industry reinforcing social positive values" said the Minister, *"Films shown in this theatre shall commit to Islam values and ethics We would like to implement a cinema preaching values and resistance."*²

Al Madhoun stressed the Ministry's orientation to develop Palestinian films and to support their marketing. He stated that the movie industry will shape public opinion in favor of the Palestinian cause and will highlight sufferings and concessions endured by the Palestinian people.

On the other hand, in the beginning of September 2013, a group of young people created a Facebook page called *"We want films in Gaza"*³ in order to incite the society to put pressure on the Government and on the private sector to open a movie theatre in the area.

We should note that some limited cinematographic events are still held in Gaza. To celebrate the agreement concluded in September 2012 between the Gaza Ministry of Culture and the

¹ Deyaa Al Kahlout, "Observing recovery of the role of film in Gaza", Al Jazeera, Gaza, 26/09/2012, <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/pages/72d3ec83-6398-4e65-8f76-4d40ff8d0861>

² Ibid.

³ https://www.facebook.com/cinema.for.gaza?ref=stream&hc_location=stream

Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Orientation, three Iranian movies were shown on December 31, 2012 in Gaza in the framework of a festival aimed at “supporting resistance movies”. Films were “*the Saturday Fisherman*”, “*Remains*”, and “*33 days*”. The three works deal with several issues such as the Palestinian Naqba (the Suffering Day), resistance and fights against the Israeli Mossad and the war of Israel against Lebanon in 2006. The Festival was held at the Cultural Center Rashad El Shawa.¹

¹ “Showing of three Iranian cinematographic films”, Fares News, Ramallah, 01 January 2013 ; <http://arabic.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=9107132251>

11. NATIONAL MOVIE EVENTS

11.1 Festivals and challenges

Just like all the other aspects of the daily life in Palestine, the organizing of movie events depends, up to a large extent, of the political situation as well as on the economic and financial conditions.

Apart the Shashat Annual Women Film Festival, which has been held on an annual basis since its inception in 2005, it has proven to be rather difficult, mainly due to political instability, as well as the blockade and the economic and financial situation, to provide an annual and regular agenda reflecting the movie events being held in Palestine. Yet, and despite the hard circumstances, the festivals have, willy-nilly, managed in attracting movies coming from the world over.

The 1st session of Ramallah International Film Festival was held in July 2004. On the other hand, the Al Kasaba Cinematheque and Theater organizes, depending on the circumstances, Al Kasaba International Film Festival, the 1st session of which was held in November 2006. Yet, and acting from its headquarters in Ramallah, the Cinematheque has organized, since 2002, a series of very important movie events, and notably:

- Immigrants in European Cinema, October, 3-10, 2002
- European Film Festival, April 8-20, 2004
- Women Pioneers Film Festival, March 9-20, 2006
- Refegee Fim Festival, 2007.

11.1.1 Film festivals in Palestine and in exile

The Wordpress.com Palestinian cinema¹ page lists the Palestinian film festivals held in Palestine and in exile, as follows :

➤ *Film festival in Palestine*

- Gaza International Film Festival
- Gaza Documentary Film Festival
- Through Women's Eyes Film Festival – Gaza
- Jerusalem (Quds) Film festival
- Al-Ksabab International Film Festival
- Shashat Annual Women Film Festival

With regards to the festivals held in Gaza, it is worth noting that the participating films should meet criteria that are generally imposed by the Hamas Movement. In other words, their topics should be related to the resistance, to liberation, to copyright, etc...By the end of January 2013, Hamas announced the holding of the first Arab film festival in Gaza: Gaza Palestine International Festival of Films.² Not much information has been disclosed about this festival.

¹ <http://palestiniancinema.wordpress.com/>

² " The first international Arab film festival in Gaza will be held in a few days", 26/01/2013 ; <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/01/26/262648.html>

- *Palestinian film festivals in exile*
 - Chicago Palestine Film Festival
 - PFF | The Palestine Film Foundation
 - Palestinian Film Festival- Australia
 - Boston Palestine Film Festival
 - Toronto Palestine Film Festival
 - Houston Palestine Film Festival
 - Providence Palestinian Film Festival
 - Ann Arbor Palestine Film Festival
 - Canada Palestine Film Festival



11.1.2 Human International Film Festival

The festival is a successful initiative taken by the PSCAA. In 2011 and 2012, the Palestinian Social Cinema Arts Association (PSCAA) has succeeded in organizing two film festivals: the first is about documentaries and the second about feature films. Known under the name of “*Insan*” in Arabic or (human), the festival is held in Ramallah.¹

- Vision

According to the Palestinian Social Cinema Arts Association, and in order to introduce positive changes within societies nowadays, the youth should be allowed to voice their concerns and claim their needs through appropriate ways. Nowadays, cinema represents an efficient tool in the technologically advanced societies and, therefore, when we allow individuals to use this tool we contribute to more creativity, tolerance and positive changes.

By taking place in Palestine, this festival, which is focused on human rights, is likely to open up more communication avenues and better communicate with other cultures. Furthermore, such a festival could be used to shed further lights on the community-based and relevant causes to back up the notions calling for the acceptance of the other, tolerance and compassion among nations.

- Festival objectives

- To allow young talents in Palestine to reinforce their media and artistic skills, and as far as cinema is concerned, through information, counseling and coaching.
- To help young film makers direct, produce and market their products.

¹ Human Rights Film Festival 2012 : <http://pscaa.wordpress.com/2012/01/11/human-rights-film-festival-2012/>

- To offer to the Palestinian society regional and international films directed or produced by young directors in order to be able to interact more efficiently with other cultures and other film-producing techniques.
- To contribute to the enhancement of the film industry at the national and regional levels.
- To offer to young Palestinian and other regional artists a new cultural and independent podium to help them voice their opinions and display their problems.

The 2013 Festival session was launched on 08/15/08/2013, from the Cultural Palace in Ramallah.¹



11.1.3 Very Short International Film Festival²

Very short International Film Festival is an event without borders, with the simultaneous screening, for nine days, in about one hundred French and 23 other cities from foreign countries.

The main item on the agenda of the festival is the international contest. Fifty films, representing the best, and notably the shortest annual audiovisual productions, that are screened on an annual basis.

The Palestinians cities to host this festival are: Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus, and Gaza.³

The 16th session of the very short International Film Festival is scheduled in May 2-11, 2014.

Here, and in spite of the tough financial and political conditions in Palestine, it must be underlined that various film events are being held. By means of illustration, and on the occasion marking the world cooperation day in the water sector, the French-German cultural center in Ramallah has organized, jointly with the EU delegation and EUNIC, the first water film festival in Ramallah and other Palestinian cities, during the period October 21st to November 7th, 2013.⁴

¹ "Launching of the Insan film festival, with the screening of the movie of Tabashir Molawanah men Askalan", Maannews.net, Ramallah, 16/08/2013 ; <http://www.maannews.net/Arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=621457>

² <http://trescourt.com/en/presentation>

³ <http://trescourt.com/en/cities>

⁴ <http://www.goethe.de/ins/ps/prj/dfk/vka/fr11716057v.htm>

12. COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS IN PALESTINE

Palestine is part and parcel of the following international instruments :

- Convention of Berne (Act of Paris) since 1933
- Arab convention for the protection of copyright since 1981

Palestine has been officially granted the status of observer member of WIPO since 2005.¹

12.1 Historical overview

The multiple and changing governing authorities in Palestine, since the Ottoman Empire to the present day, did have a big impact on the Palestinian law, and notably on the laws akin to copyright and related rights. According to the Ministry of Culture, the various legislative texts have had a conspicuous impact on the copyright in Palestine² :

- **From 1910 to 1918** : During that period, the Ottoman Turkish Empire of 1910, about copyright, was applied in Palestine. This law provides for various guaranties to be granted to literary authors and artists, inter alia, and whereby a protection period of thirty years should be granted to the author and/or his heirs, as spelled out in article 6.
- **From 1918 to 1948** : Several laws were underway during that period, which was marked by colonization and the British mandate, and notably the law of 1924, relating to copyright, as promulgated by the government of the British mandate. Article 25 of this law requested the implementation in Palestine, of the British law underlying the publication rights.
- **From 1948 to 1967** : Following the creation of the state of Israel and in conformity with the Jericho Conference of 1948, the mountainous region and the West Bank were under the control of the Kingdom of Jordan, whereas Gaza was under Egyptian control. Furthermore, and given that the Kingdom of Jordan was still applying the Ottoman law about copyright, and in spite of the lack of promulgation of a law to substitute for the one of 1924, it was the Ottoman law which was applied in theory. In Gaza, the 1924 Act continued to be applied. At any rate, none of these laws about copyright in the West Bank was really implemented.
- **From 1967 to 1994** : The abrogation by Israel of the Jordanian and Egyptian control, over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, virtually led to the reimplementation of the 1924 Act.

12.1.1 Under the Palestinian Authority:

Due to what had happened prior to the emergence of the Palestinian Authority, the legislation related to copyright in Palestine, even after the advent of the Palestinian Authority, from 1994 to 2011, was the 1924 Act. Between 1996 and 2006, several unsuccessful attempts were made with a view to promulgating a new law underlying copyright in Palestine

¹ <http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/members/en/docs/observers.pdf>

² <http://www.moc.pna.ps/rights.php>

Eventually and in 2012, the Palestinian Authority has promulgated a draft law related to copyright and related rights.¹

The competent body, entrusted with copyright, is the copyright protection Office, which is operating under the aegis of the National Library.

According to article 31 of the draft law of 2012, the protection period to be allocated film and audiovisual productions, extends over a fifty years, commencing as of the date of its publication, and on the proviso that the date marking the beginning of the calculation of that period shall start as of the 1st of January, starting on the 1st of January of the calendar year following that publication.

13. PIRACY

According to the *2012 Special 301 Report on Copyright Protection and Enforcement*, published by the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), the Palestinian Authority does not figure, presently, on any USTR list. Since 2001, the IIPA has submitted no report concerning the Palestinian Authority, but had done so before.² From 2001 to 2012, the Palestinian Authority the Palestinian Authority did not figure on any list released by the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA)³.

Worried by the rapid increase of the media and piracy in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, the IIPA has submitted its first *Special 301 comments in 1999, concerning the Palestinian Authority*. In the same vein, the IIPA has recommended to the USTR to signal its commitment towards the Palestinian Authority. This could be undertaken by outing the PA on the Watch List. Furthermore, the IIPA has recommended to the USTR to undertake an Out-of-cycle review (OCR), with a view to controlling the anti-piracy measures as well as the legal procedures undertaken by the Palestinian Authority thereto. Yet, the name of the Palestinian Authority did not appear on any of the 1999 Watch List.

In 2000, and in a bid to voice its growing concerns towards the production of pirated works geared towards exports, the IIPA recommended that the Palestinian Authority be added to the Priority Watch List. On May 1st, 2000, the USTR pledged to undertake an Out-of-cycle review cycle (OCR) about the Palestinian Authority. Furthermore, and due to the state of instability prevailing in the region, this oversight never took place and then the IIPA recommended to undertake the OCR for the whole region and as long as this remains amenable. Yet, the Palestinian Authority has not been added either to the list of 2001 or 2002.

Here, it is worth noting that the West Bank does participate in the program of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), an American business program that offers preferential commercial treatment to eligible beneficiary countries. Among the skills criteria to be raised

¹ Draft n° (-) of 2012, relating to copyright and related rights, Intellectual Property Unit, Ministry of Culture, Ramallah, 2013 ; <http://moc.pna.ps/page.php?id=604>

² Refer to: IIPA's country page available at <http://www.iipa.com/countryreports.html>.

³ International Intellectual Property Alliance, 2013 Special 301 Report - Appendix C: Chart of countries' special 301 placement (1989-2012) and IIPA 2013 Special 301 Recommendations de l'IIPA; <http://www.iipa.com/pdf/2013SPEC301HISTORICALCHART.pdf>

here, one can mention the fact that the territory/country ensures 'an adequate and effective protection of the intellectual property rights (IPRs)'.

In its 2001 Special 301 Report, about the Palestinian Authority, the IIPA makes it clear that :
« *This year, the industry of book publishing causes that amount to at least 2 million USD, due to piracy practices in 2000. Throughout the previous years, the IIPA has incurred losses amounting to at least 31 million USD, in 1999, and due to piracy (including the decrease of losses, compared to 1998, for sound recordings/musical composition category, thanks to a five-month production suspension), and losses of at least 55 million USD in 1998, due to piracy (including sound recordings/musical composition category, on the basis of the production of the biggest company known within the zones coming under the control of the Palestinian Authority)*»¹.

No data are currently available on the rate of losses incurred due to piracy in Palestine for the last years.

14. TRAINING OF PROFESSIONALS OPERATING IN THE AUDIOVISUAL SECTOR

Given the state of the art, underlying the audiovisual and film creative industries in Palestine, the academic training tool does exist in Palestine and encompasses about the overall needs in this sector. The faculties of arts, located in the various universities and media centers, award all the training and diplomas requested. Let us mention some of these institutions by means of illustration:



- **An-Najah Media Center²**

As a member of the An-Najah National University, in Nablus, the An-Najah Media Center accommodates the university radio station of Sawt An-Najah, audio recording rooms, broadcasting rooms, an audio control unit and a multi-media unit. This two-story center, which covers a total area of 1430 square meters, also includes training rooms, photography studios and computer rooms.

In order to get ready for the local TV station to be launched soon, the center is busy preparing a TV broadcasting studio.

¹ International Intellectual Property Alliance 2001 Special 301 Report - Palestinian Authority; <http://www.iipa.com/rbc/2001/2001SPEC301PALESTINIAN.pdf>

² <http://www.najah.edu/page/3971>



- ***Institute of Modern Media (IMM)***²⁴²

Founded in 1996, the Institute of Modern Media is considered as the media forum at Al-Qods University. The IMM is based in Ramallah / Al-Bireh, as well as in the heart of the old city of Jerusalem. The IMM grants a Bachelor of Arts degree in media studies.

The IMM accommodates 440 students who are allowed to choose their fields of study among four options: TV, radio, printed press and cinema. Their training is based on a solid combination of practical and theoretical academic curricula.



- ***Dar El Kalima College for Arts and Culture***²⁴³

Based in Bethlehem, the faculty Dar al Kalima awards a diploma in documentary-film production. The Bethlehem Media Center (BMC)²⁴⁴, operating under the aegis of Dar El Kalima College accommodates a recording studio, a newsroom and a training center in the audio visual sector.

Here, it is worth noting that, and in spite of all these relevant examples of academic training institutions, the reality of the professional sector require various training practices that are likely to respond to the various needs of the audio visual and cinema sector in Palestine.

In this respect, and in order to fill in the gap caused by the lack of practitioners, the various non-profit NGOs and institutions, striving for the enhancement of the of the audio visual and cinema sector, and that are based in Palestine, play a paramount role to make up for the drawbacks affecting the field of training and learning deemed to be indispensable for the progress of the market. These bodies are provided with training and learning programs that do contribute to upgrading the skills of the youth and professionals operating in the field of cinema and media.

²⁴² <http://www.imm.ps/en/1/2/47/>

²⁴³ <http://www.daralkalima.edu.ps/>

²⁴⁴ <http://www.annadwa.org/media/media.htm>

15. FUTURE PROSPECTS

As mentioned above, and in spite of the occupation policy, drawbacks and shortcomings to stifle the establishment of a film industry in Palestine, the Palestinian films do exist on the regional and international levels. The development of the film industry in Palestine is surely slow, but it does exist.

To conclude this analysis focused on the cinema market, we can refer to the following items could be called upon to summarize and highlight the main drawbacks and shortcomings underlying the film industry in Palestine, without omitting its strengths and major assets.

The drawing up of a cinema policy, within the framework of the general strategy advocated by the Palestinian Authority, as included in its budget, reflects a necessary decision to set up a solid infrastructure underlying the film industry in Palestine. By means of illustrations, we propose to display the following additional measures as suggested by the professionals in order to give more impetus to the Palestinian film industry:

- The setting of a substantial subsidy fund
- The setting up of a national film center entrusted with the production and distribution of Palestinian films
- The building of movie theaters
- The drawing up of acts that are tailored to the needs of this sector
- The involving of the television through production or via films that are bought beforehand, and the allocating of more broadcasting time for films
- The granting of extra customs facilities and exempting of some films taxes
- The alleviating of censorship
- The safeguarding of film archives.

Furthermore, the presence of talented film makers and directors in Palestine and in the diaspora constitutes a major asset conducive to more development and expansion of the Palestinian film market. Yet, the institutional role and allocation of potential state funds remain a sine qua non in order to further support the film-industry sector in Palestine.

The opening of more movie theaters in many Palestinian regions is a request that should be further enhanced by institutional measures aimed at further disseminating and protecting the culture of cinema. In addition to that, co-productions and the success of the Palestinian films, in regional and international festivals, reflect good indices that are likely, in case of political stability, to attract more investments in the sector and allow, by the same token to Palestine to lay down the bases for a genuine Palestinian film industry and occupy a fully-deserved status among the Arab and Mediterranean platforms operating in the audio visual and cinema sectors.

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Annex. List of executives and persons interviewed in Palestine (February 2013)

1. Mr Muawia Tahboub, Director of Palestinian Cultural Fund and entrusted with international relations and projects, Ministry of Culture.
2. Mr Walid Abdel Salam, Director General of Arts, Ministry of Culture.
3. Dr. Alia Arsoughly, Director General of Shasha institution.
4. Mr Ahmed Hazouri, Director Palestine TV programs, Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.
5. Mr Muamer Orabi, Director General of Wattan TV.
6. Mr Georges Ibrahim, Director General of Al Kasaba directeur général du Theater and Cinematheque.
7. Mr Georges Khleifi, Audiovisual Consultant– A.M Qattan Foundation, film maker and director.
8. Mr Ayman Annimer, Director General, Najah University Media Center, Naplouse.
9. Mrs Hanadi Masoud, Director of the Department of International Relations, Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.
10. Mrs Itidal Ismail, Senior Youth and Sports Council.
11. Mrs. Ghada Terawi, Director of Wejhat Nazar Productions, film maker and director.
12. Mr Ihab Jadallah, Film maker and Director Cinéaste et réalisateur- Anat Films.
13. Mrs May Odeh, Director and producer.
14. Mrs Enas Muthaffar, Director of Jerusalem First Films, Film Director.
15. Mrs Lucy Nusseibeh, Director of Al-Quds Educational Television.
16. Mr Haroon Abu-Arrah, Deputy Director of Al Quds Educational Television.