Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

Executive Committee
- Established in 1964 by 422 Palestinian national figures in Jerusalem
- The first PLO chairman was Ahmad Shukeiri between 1964 and 1967
- Yasser Arafat was chairman of the PLO from 1969 until his death in 2004
- Since 2004, Mahmoud Abbas is chairman of the PLO
- The PLO is the ultimate decision-making body for all Palestinian issues; it formulates and ratifies policies
- Several rules and regulations constitute the legal base of the PLO
- PLO is recognized as sole legitimate representative body of all Palestinian people - in the diaspora and in the occupied territories - by the United Nations on 14 Oct. 1974 (Resolution 3210)
- PLO chartered in 1964, changed twice, in 1969 and 1995
- Recognition by Israel in 1993 as a result of the Declaration of Principles, signed by Israel and the PLO.
- The PLO recognizes the State of Israel in 1995
- Every Palestinian faction and independent figures are included in PLO, except for Hamas and Islamic Jihad
- Although the PLO enjoys comparatively high international acknowledgement and theoretical authority to represent the Palestinian people, it remains a weak institution within recent years. As the members dropped over the years and a result of the deadlocked situation, it did not manage to implement groundbreaking proposals to solve the conflict and reach a final status on Palestine.

Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinian National Authority (PNA)

Palestinian National Council (PNC)
- Established in 1946 after al-Naqba
- Chairmanship by Salim Zanoun
- Legislative authority; formulates policies, guidelines, agenda and legal framework
- Adopted the National Charter in 1984.
- Alteration of the National Charter in 1995 – acknowledgment of Israel's right to exist
- Used to meet in exile; now meets in the occupied territories
- Currently 740 members to represent all Palestinians: all 132 PLC members automatically included (seven members of Hamas), factions, representatives of unions (women's union, teacher's union, etc); majority of members represent the Palestinian Diaspora
- Although Hamas did not join the PLO officially, it is a de facto member of the PLO, because all members of the PLC are automatically members of the PNC. Due to its participation in the parliamentary elections in 2006, winning 74 seats in the PLC, Hamas became also part of the PNC by 10% of its members.
- Membership: In theory, the candidates for the PNC would be elected by the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories and diaspora. In practice, they are nominated by the grassroots of each faction. The head of the PLO can also directly appoint members in special cases. Once elected, the membership is not subject to votes and passes on through heritages.
- PNC to meet once a year and to change body every three years
- In effect, it met in 1983 to elect Yasser Arafat, in 1993 to establish the PNA, in 1996 to change its charter and in 2009
- Resolutions passed by simple majority with a quorum of two-thirds

PLO Representative Offices Around the World

Palestine Liberation Army (PLA)

Palestinian Voice (Radio)

Palestinian Research Center (Database of Palestinian Narrative)

Palestinian Planning Center

Palestinian Red Crescent

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