

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

Elects the members of the Executive Committee

Executive Committee

- Founded in 1964 according to the outline, set by the PLO
- Headed by Mahmoud Abbas
- Most important body in the PLO
- International representation of the Palestinian people
- Sole body for representation at the international level by sending diplomats abroad or establishing PLO Representative Offices around the world:
 - First ambassador was sent to the UN in 1974
 - Responsible for international peace agreements: negotiation, ratification
- Established the PNA in 1993 in Tunis
- 18 members of various factions: 6 Fatah, 1 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 1 Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 1 Palestinian Liberation Front, 1 Palestinian People's Party, 1 Arab Liberation Front, 1 Popular Struggle Front, 2 Palestinian Democratic Union (FIDA), 1 Arab Nationalists and 3 independent members
- Membership: The members of the Executive Committee are elected by the PNC after nomination for membership by the factions. In special cases, members can be directly appointed by the Head of the PLO.
- Quorum of two-thirds
- Responsible to the PNC

Central Council

- Established in 1973
- Headed by Zanou; Head of Central Council is also head of PNC
- Consultative body to the Executive Committee since 1991
- Central Council is responsible to the PNC
- Members of Executive Committee are automatically members of the Central Council
- Representatives from all factions, unions, members of PNC, at least 18 independents as well as 6 observatory bodies

Palestinian National Fund

Unions and Grassroots Organisations

General Union of Palestinian Labour	General Union of Palestinian Women	General Union of Palestinian Physicians
General Union of Palestinian Student's	General Union of Palestinian Teachers	General Union of Palestinian Artists
General Union of Palestinian Journalists and Writers	General Union of Palestinian Engineers	General Union of Palestinian Peasents
General Union of Palestinian Youth	General Union of Palestinian Lawyers	

General Information

- Established in 1964 by 422 Palestinian national figures in Jerusalem
- The first PLO chairman was Ahmad Shuqeiri 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)
- Announced Declaration of Independence on 15 Nov 1988 from Algeria
- PLO charter released in 1964, changed twice, in 1968 and 1996
- Recognition by Israel in 1993 as a result of the Declaration of Principles, signed by Israel and the PLO.
- The PLO recognized the State of Israel in 1996
- 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 drooped 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)

PLO	PNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Representation of all Palestinian people in the Palestinian Territories and the Diaspora by running PLO foreign offices •Considered as the legitimate body by the Arab League and the United Nations (UN) to represent the whole Palestinian people •Signing of all agreements on behalf of the Palestinian people •includes all Palestinian factions apart from Hamas, Islamic Jihad and a few others •Negotiation of the Oslo Accords on behalf of the Palestinian people in 1993, which resulted in the establishment of the PNA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Due to its establishment following the Oslo Accords, negotiated by the PLO, it is historically accountable to the PLO •Provisional institutional body of the Palestinian Autonomous Territories, providing interim administrative institutions only for the Palestinian people living in the Palestinian Territories until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state •Limited authority after armed struggles between Hamas and Fatah following the parliamentary elections in 2006

- In the context of the establishment of the PNA, several structures of the PLO have been copied, which caused overlaps and confusion about responsibilities.
- In theory, as the PLO established the PNA, it is also able to dissolve it at any time

Factions within the PLO

Palestinian National Liberation Movement (FATAH)	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)	Palestinian People's Party (PPP)
Palestinian Arab Front (PAF)	Arab Liberation Front	As Sa'iqa
Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)	Palestine Liberation Front (PLF)	Arab Nationalists
Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF)	Palestinian Democratic Union (FIDA)	

Palestinian National Council (PNC)

- Established in 1948 after al-Naqba
- Chairmanship by Salim Zanoun
- Legislative authority; formulates policies, guidelines, agenda and legal framework
- Adopted the National Charter in 1964
- Alteration of the National Charter in 1996 – acknowledgement of Israel's right to exist
- Used to meet in exile; now it meets in the occupied territories
- Currently 740 members to represent all Palestinians: all 132 PLC members automatically included (even 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 heritage.
- 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)

Palestine Voice (Radio)

Palestinian Research Center (Databank of Palestinian Narrative)

Palestinian Planning Center

Palestinian Red Crescent