Thomas Birringer





Results of the Elections of the Palestinian Legislative Council on January 25, 2006

Results of the Election:

Party / List:	Electoral District:		National List:		Total:	
	Seats	Percentage	Seats	Percentage	Seats	Percentage
Hamas ("Change and Reform")	45	68 %	29	44 %	74	56,1 %
Fatah	17	26 %	28	42 %	45	34,1 %
"Third Way" (Fayyad and Ashrawi)	0	0 %	2	3 %	2	1,5 %
"Independent Palestine" (M. Barghouti)	0	0 %	2	3 %	2	1,5 %
"Popular Front" (left-wing)	0	0 %	3	4,5 %	3	2,3 %
"The Alternative" (left-wing, Coalition of PLDF, PPP and Fidah)	0	0 %	2	3 %	2	1,5 %
Independents	4	6 %			4	3 %
Total	66	100 %	66	100 % (rounded off)	132	100 %

On January 25, 2006 the Palestinians elected their representatives in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) for the second time since the signing of the Oslo Agreement. The first election took part in January 1996, and the ruling party, Fatah, won more than two thirds of the votes. At that time, Hamas, PFLP (Popular Front for the Election of Palestine) and

PLDF (Palestinian Liberation Democratic Front) boycotted the election, because they did not accept the Oslo Agreement.

The <u>election system</u> in the Palestinian Territories is mixed: half of the PLC members, 66 seats, are elected by lists through the proportional system, and the other half is based on the majority of votes in districts. In the elections of January 2006, 11 lists with 314 candidates competed for half of the seats in the PLC, and 414 candidates in 16 districts competed for the other half of the seats.

According to local and international monitoring observers, the elections went in a decent and transparent way and the regulations were followed. There were only two incidents of violence – a clash between Hamas and Fatah in the village of Al-Shieukh near Hebron and an attack on a policeman in the village of Beit Awa also near Hebron. The Palestinian security forces were able to deal with these incidents and stop the fighting.

The CEC did not report any incidents of fraud. Observers from the parties and the international election observers both reported that the election had been implemented in an orderly manner. The election campaigning, however, was continued on the election day by followers of all parties who distributed campaigning material to the voters and the observers in front of the polling premises.

The CEC declared the results 24 hours after closing the polling centers. In a Press Conference it was declared that out of 1,332,296 registered voters 1,011,992 people voted, which is a percentage of 74,64 %. The voters voted in 11 districts of the West Bank and in 5 districts of the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, 582,471 voters voted, which is 73,1% and in the Gaza Strip there were 429,521 voters, which is 76 %. The electoral district of Rafah obtained the highest percentage of voting at 82,65 %.

The results in the districts:

District	No. of seats in the district	Fatah	Hamas	Indep.	Remarks
Jerusalem	6	2	4	0	The seats for Fatah arise from the "Christian quota" in the districts.
Bethlehem	4	2	2	0	The seats for Fatah arise from the "Christian quota" in the districts.
Ramallah	5	1	4	0	The seat for Fatah arises from the "Christian quota" in the districts
Hebron	9	0	9	0	
Nablus	6	1	5	0	The winner of Fatah was the former Governor of the District.
Tulkarem	3	0	2	1	The independent candidate ran with the list of Hamas in the district.
Qalqiliya	2	2	0	0	
Jenin	4	2	2	0	
Tubas	1	0	1	0	
Salfit	1	0	1	0	
Jericho	1	1	0	0	
Gaza City	8	0	5	3	The three independent candidates ran with the list of Hamas in the district, including the seat which has been distributed according to the "Christian quota".
Northern Gaza	5	0	5	0	
Dir Al-Balah	3	1	2	0	
Rafah	3	3	0	0	
Khan Younis	5	2	3	0	
Gesamt	66	17	45	4	