



Youth Voice

Youth and Elections in Palestine

A (Youth for Palestine) Coalition Publication

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Is a coalition representing a number of youth civil society organizations in Palestine, with the aim of encouraging and strengthening youth participation in public affairs and the upcoming “legislative and presidential” elections as a catalyst to strengthen the role of youth in society and ensuring their involvement in the political arena. This is particularly vital as Palestinian youth make up 22% of the total Palestinian population and 40% of those that are entitled to the right to vote. “Youth for Palestine’s” vision calls for “broader youth participation in public affairs.” The “Youth for Palestine” initiative aims to: strengthen the role of youth in society; encourage youth participation in the electoral process both as voters and election candidates in addition to activating the role of youth as observers in the upcoming elections.

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Youth and Elections in Palestine

Introduction,

President Mahmoud Abbas issued a Presidential Decree on January 15, 2021 calling for legislative elections to be conducted on May 22, 2021 followed by presidential elections on July 31, 2021.¹ President Mahmoud Abbas also issued Decree-Law No. (1) of 2021 amending Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections. Despite many calls to discriminate in favor of the youth sector, the proposed amendments in the General Election Law (presidential and legislative) have not served youth justice; on the contrary, they have magnified obstacles to their full representation. This paper addresses a number of topics related to youth and elections.

First Theme: the Palestinian Electoral System (general elections)

The Palestinian Basic Law is the highest ranking law in Palestinian legislation. It is in effect the constitution among other laws; therefore, it is impermissible for any law to violate provisions of the Basic Law.

The amended Basic Law of 2003, Article No. (5) states that “The governing system in Palestine shall be a democratic parliamentary system, based upon political and party pluralism. The President of the National Authority shall be directly elected by the people. The government shall be accountable to the President and to the Palestinian Legislative Council.” Article No. (26) also states, “To vote, to nominate candidates and to run as candidates for election, in order to have representatives elected through universal suffrage in accordance with the law.”²

Legislation governing general elections:

-Law No. (13) of 1995 Concerning Elections, adopted the majority system. In accordance with this law, the West Bank and Gaza Strip were divided into 16 electoral districts to elect the 88 members of the Legislative Council. The majority system provides the voter the right to vote for a number of candidates equal to or less than the number of

¹ Decree No. (3) of 2021 regarding the call for Legislative, Presidential, and National Council elections.

² Amended Basic Law 2003, Articles (5) and (26).

parliamentary seats in the given electoral district. According to this system, candidates that receive the highest number of votes win the parliamentary seats in the district. This system does not provide much importance to the number of votes that the winning candidate receives, whether they are abundant or few, that is, it is not required to win with an absolute majority of votes. According to this law, a number of seats are allocated to Christians and distributed according to a presidential decree. The law also allocated one seat to the Samaritan community in the Nablus district. The 1996 general elections were conducted according to this system.³

-General Election Law No. (9) of 2005, adopted a mixed electoral system, which combines between the proportional majority system (districts) and the proportional representation system (lists). The law also specifies the number of members represented in the Palestinian Legislative Council, which is 132 of these 66 members are elected according to the majority system and 66 members are elected according to proportional representation system (lists). The General Elections Law No. (9) of 2005 dictates the election of 66 Legislative Council members according the majority system, with the seats allocated to each electoral district based on the number of residents in the district with at least one seat designated to each constituency. The number of seats in each constituency is determined by a Presidential Decree issued by the President of the Palestinian Authority. Another Presidential Decree was also issued distributing the number of seats in the 16 constituent districts according to the majority system based on the population in addition to allotting six seats for Christians. According to the majority system (districts) candidates individually compete for election with their names appearing on the ballot. Voters can cast votes equal to or less than the number of candidates allotted in a given district. Candidates that receive the highest number of votes in each district win the election; however, in the event that two or more candidates receive an equal number of votes in a single-seat district, or if they place last in a multi-seated district, elections are held between two or more candidates within a ten-day period. This scenario also applies to seats allocated for Christian candidates, as these six seats are considered a minimum number for their representation in the Council.

³ Law No. (13) of 1995 Concerning the Elections.

As for the proportional representation system (list), 66 members of the Legislative Council are elected according to this system. Candidates are nominated on the national level according to closed lists; therefore, names do not individually appear on the ballot but rather it is the name of the list that is placed on the ballot. The voter can select only one list. The names of candidates on each list are arranged according to the will of each list with the number of candidates consisting of no less than seven and no more than 66. Each list commits to include at least woman among the first three slots on the list, and at least one woman in every four names following that, and one woman for every five names that follow until the conclusion of the list. The seats are distributed to the electoral lists based on a proportional manner according to the “ Sainte Lague” Method, whereby each electoral list that receives 2% (threshold percentage) or more of the valid votes are allocated seats commensurate with the number of votes they obtained on the national level. Seats are won by each candidate on the list based on their standing in the given list.⁴

– **Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections**, calls for nullifying Palestinian Election Law No. (9) of 2005. Most prominently, this decree-law completely adopts a proportional representation system in the Legislative Council elections (lists system) by considering the Palestinian territories as one electoral district as opposed to the mixed system specified in Law No. (9) as was the case in the legislative elections conducted in January of 2006. According to this law, all members of the Legislative Council are elected according to lists with nominations taking place within the framework of closed lists on the national level. Seats are then appropriated among the electoral lists based on the “Sainte Lague” proportional manner where each list receives a number of seats relative to the number of votes the list receives on the national level. The decree-law adopts most articles of Election Law No. (9) of 2005 such as the definition of a resident, candidacy conditions, and the general elections process but with some amendments. It should also be noted that the decree-law adopts a two-round system to elect the Palestinian president, noting that Law No. (9) of 2005 clearly adopts a majority system to elect the president of the Palestinian National Authority. The two-round system is based on the condition that the winning candidate must receive a majority of votes (over 50%). In the

⁴ Law No. (9) of 2005 Concerning Elections.

event that the candidate does not receive this absolute majority, a second round must take place with the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes, in this case, the candidate obtaining the majority of votes in this round, wins the race.⁵

– **Decree-Law (1) for the Year 2021 amending Decree-Law No. (1) for the Year 2007 Concerning the General Elections:** includes amendments related to procedural matters, and other issues related to increasing the women’s quota so that it becomes one women in the first three names on the list, then one woman for every four names and so on. In addition, the decree-law requires certain categories of employees to resign from their positions and their resignation must be accepted as a condition to run for office.⁶

Number of Legislative Members	Election System	Law
88	Proportional majority system (districts)	Law No. (13) of 1995
132	Mixed system: 66 seats proportional majority system (districts) and 66 seats according to proportional representation system (lists)	Law No. (9) for 2005
132	Proportional representation system (lists)	Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007

– **1996 general elections** took place according to the relative majority system (districts).

– **2006 general elections-** took place based on the mixed system: 66 seats allocated based on the proportional majority system (districts) while 66 seats were allocated according to the proportional representation system (lists).

⁵ Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections.

⁶ Decree-Law No. (1) of 2021, amending Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections.

- **The general elections scheduled for 2021-** these elections are scheduled to take place according to the proportional representation system (lists).

Second Theme: Youth in Palestine and the Elections

According to Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics data as of mid-2020, 1.14 million youth (18-29 years) in Palestine comprise one-fifth of society or 22% of the total population (23% in the West Bank and 22% in the Gaza Strip). On the other hand, the gender ratio was 105 males for every 100 females.⁷ Statistics also show that the number of youth working in decision-making positions, does not exceed 1%, as data indicates that only 0.9% of youth work in professions that can be classified as legislators or senior administrators with 1.0% of these located in the West Bank and 0.4% in the Gaza Strip.⁸

Statistical data also indicate that the youth group (18-29) encompass 40.2% of all eligible voters in Palestine at the end of 2020, where the number youth in the (18-29) age group includes 1,157,481 young men and women out of the total 2,887,203 eligible voters in Palestine.⁹

In a review of the Central Election Commission data regarding the numbers and percentages of voters in the 2006 legislative elections and their distribution according to various age groups, it is noted that youth participation was considerably high. The relative weight of the (18-22) age group reached 18% of the total eligible voters, whereas the relative weight of the (23-30) age group accounted for 24% of all voters. Thus, the relative weight of the (18-30) age group encompassed 42% of the total voters.¹⁰

Based on the previously presented information, it is noted that youth participation in the 2006 elections carried the highest relative weight and

⁷Situation of Youth in Palestinian Society on the Occasion of International Youth Day, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 12/8/2020.

⁸ Situation of Youth in Palestinian Society on the Occasion of International Youth Day, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 12/8/2019.

⁹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020, Palestinians at the end of 2020.

¹⁰Central Elections Commission, Report on Second Legislative Council Elections, voter data according to age groups.

this figure might be even higher in the upcoming 2021 elections. Despite this fact, the youth vote was not unified in support of a specific youth list or youth candidates but rather was dispersed based on party, clan, and geographic area.

– Candidacy age in the legislative (parliamentary) elections, comparative data

Article No. (45) of Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections, sets as a condition that candidates seeking Legislative Council seats, “must have reached the age of 28 years or older on the designated election day.”¹¹

Upon a review of electoral systems around the world, it is noted that:

- 51 countries in the world set the candidacy age at 18 such as Turkey, Israel, and most European Union countries.
- 62 countries around the world set the candidacy age at 21. These countries include Russia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Venezuela, Indonesia, Estonia, Costa Rica, Singapore, Malaysia.
- 59 countries in the world designated the candidacy age at 25 including the United States.
- Two countries set the candidacy age at 17, namely North Korea and East Timor.
- Two countries (at the very least) set the candidacy age at 30 including Jordan and Kuwait.
- Most Arab countries set a candidacy age ranging from 23-25.¹²

In light of this information, most countries across the globe adopt an age of 21 years or under for candidates in legislative “parliamentary” elections. Thus, the age of candidacy of 28 in Palestine is unusual and inconsistent with the general norms adopted in countries across the world. There is a need to immediately modify this condition.

¹¹ Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning General Elections, Article No. (45).

¹² A Masarat Center publication dated 17/2/2021.

According to Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics data updated as of the end of 2020, 37% of those that are entitled to the right to vote fall within the (18-27) age group;¹³ this fundamentally means that the law prevents most youth from running in Palestinian Legislative Council elections. As the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics considers youth as anyone in the (18-29) age group, essentially only youth in the 28-29 age group have the right to seek seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Consequently, this means that (1,066,600) young men and women in Palestine (more than one million) are prevented from seeking Legislative Council seats.

-Youth running for the position of president

Pursuant to Article No. (36) of Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections, a condition is placed on those running for the office of president, stating that they “must have at least reached the age of forty on the designated election day.”¹⁴ According to Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics data updated at the end of 2020, 63.3% of those that are eligible to vote fall in the 18-39¹⁵ age group, this in effect means that the entire youth population is prevented from running for the office of president and two-thirds of individuals that have the legal right to vote are deprived from the right to run for this office.

Third Theme: Youth, the List System “proportional representation” and the Chances of Winning Elections

Amendments made to the General Elections Law and the adoption of the list system deprived youth from the opportunity to run as individual candidates through the district system. According to Article No. (48) of the Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Election, “The number of candidates running in the closed election list must not exceed 16.”¹⁶ This limits individual youth initiatives from seeking Legislative Council offices or even small initiatives by groups of less than 16 candidates. In addition, Article (49) of Decree-Law No. 1 of 2007 Concerning the General Elections sets as a condition that “every list running for Legislative Council elections should deposit in the Commission’s account a non-refundable guarantee in the amount of \$10,000 dollars or its

¹³ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020, Palestinians at the end of 2020.

¹⁴ Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections, Article No. (36).

¹⁵ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020, Palestinians at the end of 2020.

¹⁶ Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections, Article No. (48).

equivalent in the officially circulated currency.”¹⁷ Furthermore, the list must deposit an additional \$10,000 dollars to guarantee the list’s commitment to the rules of the electoral campaign in accordance with Article No. (67) of the Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections¹⁸ and in accordance with the regulations and procedures issued by the Central Election Commission.¹⁹ This cumulative sum which amounts to \$20,000 is considered a major impediment and serious challenge for youth, particularly as youth are among the most economically vulnerable groups in society. This financial challenge is further exacerbated in marginalized and poor areas such as the Gaza Strip, refugee camps and Bedouin communities. This constraint limits opportunities for youth and violates the principle of providing equal opportunities on par with other economically empowered groups in society.

-Independent youth and the chances of winning elections

The current Palestinian electoral system and in accordance with the legal amendments tightened the grip on independent youth candidates and seriously limited their chances of winning election races. In the event that youth are a part of independent lists, since the electoral system considers the country as one distinct unit, competition within the list system puts large parties at an advantage as these parties gain the majority of their support from the party apparatus or large clans, unlike independent candidates.

-Youth and the need to be placed in high slots on electoral lists

When several lists compete, the chances of youth winning seats in these lists is invariably weak, unless youth are placed in advanced slots on these lists.

-The women’s quota

Despite Decree-Law No. (1) of 2021 amending Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections, Article No. (5) regarding the representation of women was amended to state, “Each electoral list

¹⁷ Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections, Article No. (49).

¹⁸ Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections, Article No. (67).

¹⁹ Nominations for the Palestinian Legislative Council 2021

<https://www.elections.ps/tabid/1121/language/ar-PS/Default.aspx>

nominated for the elections shall include a minimum limit for the representation of women that is not less than one woman in:

1. The first three names in the list;
2. The next four names that follow”²⁰

This however is not commensurate with the actual representation of women in society including young women, keeping in mind that the percentage of women that win will decrease as the number of seats in the winning list increases.

For example, if a list wins (3) seats in the Legislative Council, the number of women that will win seats according to the approved quota is (1) or 33.3% of the winning candidates. Whereas, if a list wins (7) seats, the number of women that will win seats according to the approved quota are (2) or 28.5% of the winning candidates. In the event that a party block wins (51) seats in the next legislative elections, (13) women will win seats according to the quota or 25.5% of the winning candidates. This percentage will decrease “although slightly” as the number of seats won by the single list increases; therefore, women have a better chance of winning seats if they take part in multiple lists.

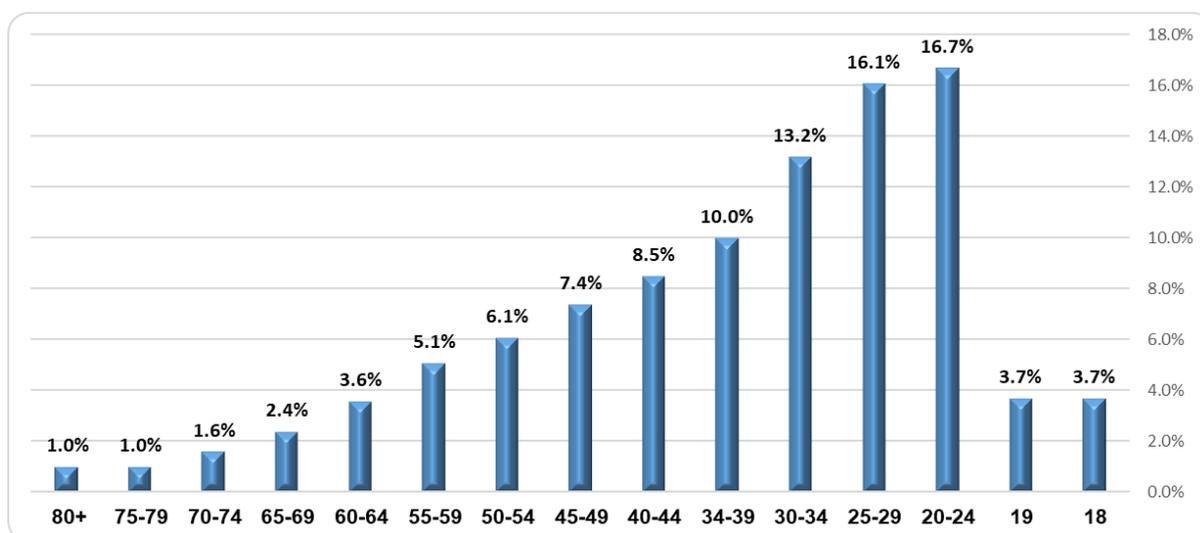
– The Amendment of Article No. (8) of the General Elections Law of 2007 restricted the participation of youth, particularly “managers and heads of civil society organizations” since youth are the key players and influencers in these organizations. Decree-Law No. 1 of 2021 placed a condition that these parties resign from their positions and that they must also attach evidence of their accepted resignation prior to candidacy. This issue seriously hinders the participation of youth that fear losing their jobs, particularly since they are among the most vulnerable groups in society.

Fourth Theme: Electoral Strength of Youth

Based on Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics data updated until the end of the year 2020, the figure below shows the breakdown of age groups that have the right to vote and percentages of each group:²¹

²⁰ Decree-Law No. (1) of 2021 amending Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections, Article No. (5).

²¹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020, Palestinians at the end of 2020.



It is noted in the above figure that youth groups are the primary electoral force in Palestine. The percentage of those that have the right to vote within the (20-24) age group represents 16.7% of all individuals that have the right to vote. The electoral strength of this group exceeds that of all voters above 55 years old.

The number of youth (18-29) that are entitled to vote exceeds 40%²² of all age groups that are entitled to vote. Youth's electoral strength exceeds that of all groups over the age of 40, and with a considerable statistical advantage.

Fifth Theme: Youth Opportunities for Change through Elections

Despite the negative aspects related to youth and elections, at the forefront of which is the age requirement to run for the office of president and Legislative Council membership, reducing the 2% decisive (threshold) percentage in Election Law No. (9) of 2005²³ to 1.5% in Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections²⁴ is a positive development that enhances the chances for youth lists to win elections (should they be nominated), particularly as the decisive

²² Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020, Palestinians at the end of 2020.

²³ General Election Law No. (9) of 2005, Article No. (5).

²⁴ Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections, Article No. (6).

(threshold) percentage in some election systems is much higher than this figure.

As youth are the primary electoral force with the (18-29) age group representing 40.2% of all eligible voters, specifically 1,157,481 out of 2,887,204²⁵ from those that have the right to vote among all age groups; therefore, youth hold the power to affect change particularly if they are allocated high slots on lists or if they support lists that adopt programs aimed at youth and strengthening their political, economic and social rights. Thus, all parties, blocs and list that compete in the upcoming elections must pay special attention to youth, as they can clearly control the outcome of the election.

Sixth Theme: Jerusalem Youth and the Elections

According to Central Elections Commission data, after the registration period was completed, the lowest voter registration rate was reported in the Jerusalem area, where the voter registration rate was only 76.36%, whereas in other areas it exceeded 93.36%.²⁶ This matter raises alarm bells due to the importance of participation in the electoral process by those that have the right to vote in Jerusalem, including youth. It is also necessary to make proper arrangements to ensure their participation.

Upon a thorough review of the 2006 legislative elections, it is noted that Israel only allowed 5,500 Palestinian voters to cast their ballots in six post office polling centers in East Jerusalem, which is under Israeli occupation and annexation, whereas it forced the remaining registered voters to cast their ballots outside Jerusalem.

Reviewing the historical context of legislative and presidential elections in Jerusalem, Israel as the occupying power, imposed and implemented a series of obstacles for these elections, including:

- Restricting freedom of movement for Central Elections Commission staff and their election material.
- Obstructing the voter registration process, closing centers, arresting Central Election Commission staff, serious harassment by Israeli police, placing restrictions on election candidates and their campaign staff.

²⁵ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020, Palestinians at the end of 2020.

²⁶ Central Election Commission, press release dated 17/2/2021, <http://www.elections.ps>

- Weak voter turnout due to misinformation and Israeli intimidation tactics.
- Insufficient polling stations to allow voters to cast their ballots in their constituencies.

These violations posed serious challenges to meeting the necessary requirements to hold transparent, free, fair, and democratic elections and limited the participation of Jerusalemites in the elections, including youth. Should these Israeli measures continue, the election process in Jerusalem will be seriously hindered; therefore, it is necessary to guarantee sound election procedures in Jerusalem, which is an authentic part of Palestine. It is of utmost importance that Jerusalemites including youth are represented in the elections, both as candidates and voters. It is also vital that polling stations be opened in Jerusalem, specifically increasing their number from 6 to 18 polling stations to keep pace with the natural population increase and the difficulty of casting ballots outside their areas of residence, especially in light of logistical difficulties in addition to circumstances and procedures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Central Elections Commissions should also be free to work in Jerusalem in order to ensure fairness and transparency in the upcoming elections.

Seventh Theme: Youth Participation as Observers

To ensure youth engagement in public affairs, and to strengthen the principles of transparency, integrity and accountability, youth must participate in these elections as observers to the electoral process and their mission should be facilitated by all relevant parties.

Eighth Theme: Role of Civil Society Organizations in Election Awareness

An election process (legislative and presidential) has not been organized in Palestine since 2006, i.e. 15 years ago, subsequently, about half of those entitled to the right to vote in 2021 are first time voters. In addition, there is apathy in Palestinian society and particularly among youth towards the subject of elections. Therefore, it is necessary that civil society organizations work on election awareness campaigns that are specifically targeted towards youth. They should also utilize new tools and mechanisms to carry out awareness that are in tune with youth interests and priorities.

Conclusion:

- Despite calls to strengthen the role of youth in society in general and particularly the political stage and despite the fact that youth groups (ages

18-29) constitute 40.2% of eligible Palestinian voters, they have a zero chance of running for the office of president due to the current election law.

– The opportunities for youth to run for Legislative Council seats is also limited due to a number of reasons, the most prominent of which is the age requirement to run for office which is 28 i.e. almost the end of the youth age group; thus, **one million** young men and women are deprived from running for Legislative Council seats in Palestine. In addition, the electoral list system prevents youth from individually competing and creates financial obstacles burdening youth who are already burdened by a difficult economic reality.

– The guarantee requirement that carries a total value of \$20,000 hinders the participation of youth as they are the most economically vulnerable group.

– The current electoral system deters the potential for youth to form independent lists and limits their chances of winning.

– The odds of youth winning seats within these lists is limited unless youth are slated in the top positions on these lists.

– Women’s representation in the women’s “quota” has been modified; yet, it is still limited and not commensurate with the role of women in society. There is a need to amend this quota.

– Youth groups are the primary electoral force and they can fundamentally change the outcome of elections if their power is united.

– Youth, as the driving electoral force can exert pressure and influence on all lists in order to propose programs tailored towards youth.

– There is a need to guarantee the rights of youth to take part in elections in Jerusalem by implementing a series of measures including increasing the number of polling stations in Jerusalem and ensuring that the Central Elections Commission and candidate lists have the freedom to conduct their work.

– The importance of youth participating as observes to the election process to reinforce the principles of transparency, integrity, and accountability and to enhancing their involvement in society.

– There is a need for civil society organizations to launch community awareness campaigns in general and particularly campaigns targeted towards youth addressing the importance of their participation in the election process.

Recommendations:

-There is a necessity to amend Article No. (45) of Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Elections which stipulates in its second paragraph that Palestinian Legislative Council candidates “must be 28 years of age or older on the designated election day.” This should be amended to “must be 21 years or older on the designated election day” in order to provide youth with the opportunity to actively participate in the legislative elections and to give a significant segment of this population the right to run for office.

- It is necessary to amend Article No. (49) of Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Election which stipulates that “every list running for legislative elections must deposit in the Commission’s account a non-refundable guarantee in the amount of \$10,000 dollars or its equivalent in the officially circulated currency.” It is also necessary to amend Article No. (67) of Decree-Law No. (1) of 2007 Concerning the General Election that states in its second paragraph that “The Commission should impose a guarantee amount not less than \$10,000 dollars or its equivalent of the circulated currency in order to guarantee the adherence of the list or the candidate of the presidency to the electoral campaign provisions stipulated in this law and also the regulations and directives issued by the Commission.” This financial obstacle poses a serious challenge for youth, particularly as they are among the most economically vulnerable groups in society. This impediment is further exacerbated in poor and marginalized communities such as the Gaza Strip, refugee camps, and Bedouin communities. This condition seriously restricts opportunities for youth and violates the principle of providing equal opportunities on par with other economically empowered communities. The proposed amendment calls for reducing this sum to **\$1,000** for each guarantee.

- The necessity to increase the women’s quota so that it becomes “at least one woman in every three names” to guarantee 33.3% of seats.

- It is necessary that the various parliamentary blocs and lists include youth in their lists and place them in high slots on these lists to ensure their victory in addition to adopting election programs targeting youth.

- The need to guarantee the right of youth in Jerusalem to participate in the elections process through a series of measures including increasing

the number of polling stations in Jerusalem and ensuring the Central Elections Commission and election candidates have the freedom to carry out their work.

- It is necessary that youth participate in the elections process as observers to reinforce the principles of transparency, integrity, and accountability as well as to enhance their involvement in society.
- It is necessary that civil society organizations launch community awareness campaigns in general and specifically campaigns targeted towards youth focusing on the importance of their participation in the elections process.
- It is necessary to unify youth in order to augment their strength and influence on election blocs and lists so they can be included on their lists. It is also necessary to adopt programs aimed towards youth and meeting their political, economic, and social priorities.

We, in the **“Youth for Palestine” Coalition**, call upon the international community to:

- Ensure the participation of Jerusalem residents including youth, in the elections, by exerting pressure on Israel not to obstruct the elections process in Jerusalem.
- Encourage international observation at all stages of the elections process, to ensure its transparency and integrity.
- Urge decision-makers to provide youth of both genders the opportunity to run for elections and placing them in advanced slots to ensure their victory.
- Provide international community assurances that election results will be accepted and the outcome of the democratic process in Palestine will be recognized.
- Urge decision-makers and civil society organizations to actively promote the participation of women in the nominations process, beyond the boundaries of the women's quota.
- Contribute to strengthening the participation of marginalized groups in the elections, specifically "Bedouin communities, areas C, women, individuals with special needs, youth" by supporting special programs for these groups through civil society organizations and youth institutions.

- Lobby and advocate enhancing youth participation in decision-making centers in both the governmental and non-governmental sectors alike.

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