



Youth's political participation of Palestinian in parties



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The paper examines youth's participation in political parties and focuses on their representation, involvement; ability to reach advanced positions; and shape party policies based on their needs, ambitions, demands, and vision through internal elections to contribute to drawing partisan policies.

Youth in Palestinian political parties are excluded, marginalized, isolated, and distanced from public affairs and current national challenges and concerns that plague the Palestinian cause and the national project, instead of being the backbone of the national movement and the main actor in it, as they used to be in the past. The paper concluded that youth are absent from political participation and decision-making positions because of:

- the ongoing political division since 2007;
- the ongoing Israeli occupation and its tight control over the Palestinian areas in the West Bank, its continued blockade of the Gaza Strip, and its prevention of general elections in Jerusalem;
- the lack of laws regulating the formation of political parties and the practice of partisan work based on genuine representative democracy that guarantees the participation of youth; and
- the prevailing patriarchy that dominates all structures and institutions of Palestinian society in the political, social, and economic aspects.

In this sense, the paper presented a set of proposals and work mechanisms that may encourage young people to engage in the Palestinian partisan life and enhance their representation within their parties:

- reforming parties' internal regulations to develop mechanisms to enhance youth participation;
- parties' adopting programs to develop the capabilities of party youth and develop their political skills;

- enacting and approving a law for political parties, which is an urgent need to organize partisan work in Palestine; and

- ending the political division, as it is not possible to talk about guaranteeing the freedom of individuals to form and join political parties considering the continuing political division between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Palestinian youth are also required to activate their role in the political parties, organizations, and factions, to which they belong; to develop a national vision, away from what is currently prevailing in the Palestinian arena; and to make great strides towards agreeing on a youth vision that brings together all spectrums of Palestinian youth.