

# The United States' Position on the 2006 Palestinian Elections

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: 14 Nov 2024 Revised: 24 Dec 2024 Accepted: 10 Jan 2025	International positions, including the American position, had an impact after the announcement of the results of the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006. This is due to the significant role the Palestinian cause plays in the security and stability of the Middle East. In this chapter, we will learn about these positions and the extent of their impact on the events that took place in the Palestinian territories after Hamas' victory in the legislative elections, and which countries exerted pressure on the international community to reject the victory and not recognize the Palestinian government formed by Hamas.  <b>Keywords:</b> United States, Hamas, Fatah, Elections, (Israel)

The declared policy of the United States of America towards governments in the world in general and the Middle East in particular, was based on respecting the will of the peoples in choosing their political systems. American statements had urged the Palestinians to participate effectively in the elections for years before they were held in early 2006. When the elections were held on January 25, 2006, the observers, led by the Americans and including former US President Jimmy Carter, agreed <sup>(1)</sup>(Jimmy Carter) have agreed on the integrity of those elections that were won by Hamas.<sup>(2)</sup>US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced:<sup>(3)</sup> Condoleezza Rice)) before the elections “that everyone should be able to participate”<sup>(4)</sup>.

(1)Jimmy Carter: child in state Georgia in general1924Join At school General Local,And joined Faculty South western from Georgia And then It was completed Appoint him in academy Navy American,And in general1962Elected Member in council Sheikhs American on state Georgia,And in general1970Elected ruler For the state Georgia Until general1976,Nominated For elections presidential in States United American after His victory on President Gerad Ford in elections And it became President Ninth Thirty For the states United American on The party Democratic For a period of(1977-1981)unless that it lost before competition in elections presidential general1980on The party Republican Ronald Reagan(Ronald Reagan)And he got on prize loom For peace in general2002In appreciation For his efforts in years Peaceful,For more from the details Looks:  
Encyclopedia of the American presidency, New York, 2010,P. 74-76..

(2) Al Khaleej newspaper,UAE, January 27, 2006.

(3)Condoleezza Rice: American politician and diplomat, born in Alabama on November 14, 1954. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Denver, a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame, and a doctorate from the School of International Relations at the University of Denver. She joined the Foreign Service in the

The United States of America did not accept the results of the Palestinian elections and the victory of Hamas, and set conditions for the government formed by Hamas to recognize and deal with it, which are responding to the demands of the International Quartet Committee, which included the United States of America, the United Nations, Russia, and the European Union, which called on Hamas to abandon violence, recognize (Israel), adhere to international treaties and agreements, and renounce terrorism.<sup>5)</sup>The Quartet Committee stated in a statement issued by the US State Department that the establishment of two states must be preceded by both parties abandoning violence, aggression and terrorism, and by Hamas accepting the existence of Israel and disarming them.<sup>6)</sup>In contrast, Hamas rejected the Quartet's call to mediate with Israel, and stated that it would never recognize Israel's existence, especially after it headed the Palestinian government. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri stated, "The Quartet should have demanded an end to the Israeli occupation and aggression, not demanded that the victim recognize the occupation and stand idly by in the face of the aggression." He added, in the same context, "The Quartet is punishing the Palestinian people for exercising their democratic rights and voting, and Hamas is keen to establish good relations with Western countries."<sup>7)</sup>

The US administration began using aid to the Palestinians as a pressure card to obstruct the work of the Palestinian government headed by Hamas. US President George W. Bush stated in a press conference at the White House on January 27, 2006, "The United States will not support a Palestinian government that includes Hamas unless it recognizes Israel's right to exist. We may stop aid to the Palestinians if Hamas, which won the legislative elections, does not renounce violence and abandon its project to destroy Israel. If they do not do so, we will not deal with them. Hamas must get rid of this armed and violent part of their political program that calls for the destruction of Israel. Our policy is very clear: We do not and will not provide money to a terrorist organization."<sup>8)</sup>The US House of Representatives voted not to grant aid to Palestine as long as its government is controlled by the Hamas movement, which calls for the destruction of Israel.<sup>9)</sup>

The Council voted by a majority of 397 votes to stop direct financial support to the Palestinian Authority if it participated in the government formed by Hamas. The decision was issued on February 15, 2006.<sup>10)</sup>

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administration of President Jimmy Carter, then joined the administration of President George W. Bush on the National Security Council as an advisor on Soviet and Eastern European affairs between 2001 and 2005, and then served as Secretary of State between 2005 and 2009..For more details see:

US Government Printing Office, Congressional Directory, Printing Congress on Joint Committee, 2010, p. 587.

(4)Al-Ayyam Newspaper, Palestine, January 6, 2006.

(5) Imran Abu Odeh, The Issue of Reconciliation in Factional Political Discourse 2007-2015, Al-Azhar University-Gaza, 2016, pp. 60-61.

(6)Center for Middle East Studies, a statistical reading in Results of the second Palestinian legislative elections (25(January 2006), Hamas takes over power from Fatah, Amman, Middle East Studies Center, 2006, p. 26.

(7)Al-Riyadh newspaper, Saudi Arabia, February 1, 2006.

(8) Al-Hayat Newspaper, Issue No.3689, 29January2006,S2.

(9) Al-Hayat Newspaper, Issue No.3691, 31January 2006,S17.

(10) Ahmed Jawad Al-Wadiyya, American Foreign Policy Towards the Palestinian Issue 2001-2011, Al-Zaytouna Center for Studies and Consultations, Beirut, 2013, p. 142, Al-Hayat Newspaper, Issue 3707,On February 162006,S1.

It seems to us that there is a contradiction in the political position of the United States toward the Palestinian government, which came into being through fair elections, which it has acknowledged and praised for its procedures, and its approach to dealing with the victorious Hamas movement in those elections, and the United States' claim that it supports every democratic process in the world.

US President George Bush stated during a speech he gave to the American Jewish Committee on May 4, 2006, that "We will not deal with Hamas unless it abandons its political program, we will not support elected officials who are not committed to peace, we will not accept dealing with Hamas because it is in the terrorist camp, and we will not work with it unless it recognizes Israel."<sup>11)</sup>

American policy, through its dealings with the victory of the Hamas movement in the Palestinian elections, gave priority in its dealings with political systems on the basis of the extent to which the policy of that system was compatible with American policy, and not on the basis of the democracy of that system's arrival to power, and that is the policy of the United States of America towards the countries of the world.<sup>12)</sup>

The United States of America was against Hamas winning the elections and forming the Palestinian government. It exerted political and economic pressure by imposing a blockade on the Palestinian government and encouraged the Palestinian-Palestinian fighting that took place between members of the Hamas and Fatah movements.<sup>13)</sup>

Signs of economic deficit have emerged through the inability of the Palestinian government to pay the salaries of employees and members of the security forces, which led to demonstrations demanding the payment of salaries. It is known that the Palestinian Authority's revenues come from the crossings' funds and taxes provided to it by (Israel), and they are not sufficient to pay the dues of its employees, and the financing of the Palestinian government depends on the international aid provided to it.<sup>14)</sup>

The United States of America sought to ignite differences and conflict between the Palestinians, and prevented reconciliation efforts between the Hamas and Fatah movements. Rather, it aimed to create a crisis in the relations between them, as this led to their weakness, division and fragmentation, and consequently this affected the Palestinian issue regionally and internationally. Therefore, the American pressure not to implement reconciliation and not to give legitimacy to the government formed by the Hamas movement (<sup>15)</sup>.

The US administration worked hard to distract the Palestinian government with political and economic governance problems, as well as the military aspect, by inciting differences and division among the Palestinians. Therefore, the US administration adopted the plan developed by US Deputy National Security Advisor Elliott Abrams.<sup>16)</sup>(Elliott Abrams) to draw

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(11) The Christian Century Magazine, Chicago, vol 123, issue 11, May 30, 2006.

(12) Mohsen Mohammed Saleh, The Palestinian Strategic Report 2006, p. 203.

(13) Aya Zuhair JadGod, The Palestinian Division 2007: Circumstances and Repercussions, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Hebron University, 2019. S114.

(14) Ahmed Jawad Al-Wadiyya, previous source, p.142.

(15) ImranABu Odeh, the previous source, p. 61.

(16) Elliott Abrams: Born in New York City on December 24, 1948, he worked as a lawyer and held several positions during the terms of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, including Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy and Human Rights 1981-1985, and Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere 1985-1989, and MNational Security Advisor for Near Eastern and North African Affairs 2002-2005and Deputy National Security Advisor 2005-2009.

up a strategy to deal with Hamas<sup>17)</sup> This came after Elliott Abrams met with a number of Palestinian businessmen in his office in the White House in 2006. At the beginning of the meeting, he praised the transparency of the Palestinian elections, but he surprised the attendees with the US administration's intention to overthrow the Hamas government. He said, "It is the duty of the United States of America to extend a helping hand to Fatah, the direct and powerful competitor of Hamas, by supplying it with weapons and ammunition so that it can confront the active Hamas and control the reins of power in the Palestinian government."<sup>18)</sup>

Elliott Abrams' plan included gathering economic, political, and security demands to confront Hamas and the government it formed, and to prevent it from implementing and imposing its political and security program, by pressuring it economically and politically, both locally and internationally, and placing obstacles in the way of its management of the Palestinian government, leading to its downfall after splitting the Palestinian ranks.<sup>19)</sup>

The US administration, according to the Elliott Abrams plan, prevented the transfer of funds from abroad to the Palestinian government, especially from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iran, which were providing aid to the Palestinian people. It exerted pressure on Arab banks in the Middle East to prevent them from transferring those funds to the Palestinian government. The US administration considered that whoever provides money to the Hamas government is a supporter of terrorism.<sup>20)</sup>

The US administration pressured the international community not to receive or meet with the leaders of the Hamas movement in order to isolate it politically. It wanted to stop Qatari and Syrian support for the Hamas movement through its strong relationship with a number of Arab countries, but it did not succeed in doing so. Qatari and Syrian support for the Hamas movement continued economically and politically.<sup>21)</sup>

The American policy also proceeded from a security perspective to ensure the control of the Palestinian Authority, headed by Mahmoud Abbas, over the security services, and to block the way for the Hamas movement to control them. The American administration supported the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in issuing decrees to transfer security responsibility to his hands, to restrict the powers of the Palestinian government, and to pressure the security services not to respond to the orders of the Palestinian Minister of the Interior.<sup>22)</sup>

The American trends during the first months of the formation of the Palestinian government were towards dissolving the Legislative Council in preparation for calling for early elections, as this is within the powers of the Palestinian president. However, the Elliott Abrams plan did

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(17) Elliott Abrams, uncivil war, January 2007, available online at: <http://conflict.form.org/2007/ElliottAbrams-uncivil-war>.

(18) Muhammad Ahmad Khalaf Al-Jubouri, The United States' Position on the Palestinian Division..., p. 245.

(19) Elliott Abrams, uncivil, op, cit.

(20) Abu Bakr Al-Dasouqi, Hamas and the International Siege between Retreat and...SMood, International Politics Journal, Foundation Al-Ahram, Cairo, Issue 165, 2006, p. 133.

(21) Abu Bakr Al-Dessouki, The international position and Hamas's strategy Alternative, Al-Siyasa Magazine International, institution Al-Ahram, Cairo, number 164, 2006, p. 122.

(22) Mohammed Friday, Hamas, Fatah, and the Prospects of Open Conflict, Al-Siyasa Magazine International, institution Al-Ahram, Cairo, number 165, 2006, S125.

not achieve all of its goals, especially in bringing down the Hamas government, which was weakened but did not fall.<sup>(23)</sup>

The US administration supported the measures taken by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to dismiss the government of Ismail Haniyeh and announce the formation of an emergency government headed by Salam Fayyad. This came after Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip. The US support came to deepen the differences between the Hamas and Fatah movements and make dialogue between them difficult.<sup>(24)</sup>

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told members of the US Congress on March 21, 2007, "I believe very strongly that we need to support the development of security forces loyal to those who accept the Quartet principles, because I am absolutely certain that those who do not accept them will continue to build their security forces."<sup>(25)</sup>

The US administration has sought to obstruct any reconciliation or agreement between the Palestinians, including the Damascus and Mecca agreements mentioned above.

The US administration prepared another plan to confront Hamas, through the US security coordinator, Keith Dayton.<sup>(26)</sup> (Keith Dayton) is an extension of the plan developed by Elliott Abrams, and the plan focused on the economic, security and reform aspects.<sup>(27)</sup> He was assisted in his security mission by a number of officers from Britain, Turkey and Canada. The plan was prepared to enhance the security capabilities of the Palestinian security forces, especially after Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in June 2007. Keith Dayton and his security assistants focused on the West Bank, training 400 members of the Presidential Guard, in addition to training 1,700 members of the National Security. The number of Palestinian security forces trained in Jordan at the International Police Training Center under American sponsorship reached 10 corps, numbering 5,000 soldiers, whose mission was to maintain order and confront terrorist networks in the West Bank. These trained forces succeeded in arresting approximately 1,000 members of the Hamas movement in July and August 2007. On the other hand, in order to accelerate the pace of development of the security services, an amount

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(23) Amrou Hamzawi, The Fatah-Hamas conflict and the US-European escalation of goals regional, Al-Siyasa Magazine International, Al-Ahram Foundation, Cairo, Issue 170, 2007, p.123.

(24) Ahmed Jawad Al-Wadiyya, Source the previous, S138.

(25) MyShyto Dun, The two-state solution requires political life. Palestinian, Carnegie Papers, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Beirut, DT, S14.

(26) Keith Dayton: Born in 1949, He obtained a certificate Bachelor's degree in the date, He obtained a master's degree in relations. International, He speaks German and Russian, He was appointed director of the Marshall Law Center. with me For studies security, And responsible work and No, about organizing awareness programs and studies that included an international network of more than 8,000 employees in all... Grammar He studied Europe and Central Asia, including security studies, foreign affairs, and defense. He also worked as a military attaché in Russia and worked in training on the use of Russian weapons. He then worked on the inspection committee for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq in the 1990s. He was later appointed as a security coordinator between the Palestinians and (Israelis) Since 2005, for his military and security competence, and his duty was not only to NSecurity forces, but rather the leadership of the security services Palestinian And The order that It includes security. Israel) And stability of the situation between the two sides.

George.c. Marsall European center for Security Studies, Keith.w.Dayton, Gen.us Ary. (Yet).

(27) Mohammed Ahmed Khalaf Al-Jubouri, The United States' position on the division Palestinian, pp. 251-252.



of 161 million dollars of American funds was transferred under a law issued by the US State Department.<sup>(28)</sup>

US Coordinator Keith Dayton explained the most important goals that the Palestinian Authority, headed by Mahmoud Abbas, and Israel must undertake to strengthen military and security capabilities to confront the escalation of Hamas's military capabilities.<sup>(29)</sup> The American coordinator was afraid of the growing military and security capabilities of Hamas, especially after it obtained equipment and weapons from Iran, which made it more powerful than the Palestinian Authority forces, after the number of its forces reached nearly 12,000 fighters, in addition to the forces of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas.<sup>(30)</sup>

The American coordinator, Keith Dayton, set goals in his plan to make the Palestinian Authority the security balance, reduce the military power of the Hamas movement, and increase their capabilities. Among the most important goals that the American coordinator set in his plan are:<sup>(31)</sup>

1- Stopping rocket attacks on settlements, stopping tunnel digging, money smuggling via Egypt to the Gaza Strip, and arms smuggling, improving relations between the Palestinian presidential forces and the (Israeli) forces, and assigning the task of coordinating these tasks to the Palestinian president's national security advisor, Mohammed Dahlan, to oversee security reforms.

2- The (Israeli) side, for its part, will remove the security barriers it placed on the roads of the West Bank, approve requests to purchase supplies and weapons for the presidential forces, facilitate the movement of Palestinians and commercial traffic through the Kerem Shalom and Rafah crossings, and address the obstacles and problems that stand in the way of the lives of Palestinian citizens.

3- Rehabilitating the Palestinian security forces with American support to raise the capacity of those forces and train them, in addition to equipping them with modern weapons. Congress approved the provision of a financial grant amounting to \$59 million to implement this purpose.

The US administration, for its part, has prevented reconciliation efforts between the Palestinians. Several European countries have indicated that the United States is preoccupied with developing the Palestinian security services in the West Bank and has plans to implement them. It does not support dialogue between Hamas and Fatah or reconciliation between them.<sup>(32)</sup>

US President George Bush called for an international peace conference between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Invitations were extended to more than 40 countries, most of which had no connection to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Among those countries that were invited were: Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Tunisia, Sudan, Algeria, Syria,

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(28) center Olive For studies And consultations, The file Security between Authority Palestinian and Israel, to divide archives and information Beirut ,2009, S39-41.

(29)Office Media a movement resistance Islamic agitation, The book White, 2nd ed., practical decisiveness in sector Gaza compulsion no to choose ,2007, S27-28.

(30) Newspaper Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, number14150in2March2007.

(31)Office Media, The book white, S27-28, for more from the details on plan Dayton See Appendix (7).

(32) any Zuhair serious God, Source the previous, S116.

Morocco, and Yemen. Most of those countries attended due to American pressure. The conference was held in the state of Maryland, Maryland, USA, November 7, 2007<sup>(33)</sup>.

The US President announced that the goal of holding the conference is to restart negotiations in the Middle East, following the events that took place in the Palestinian territories throughout 2006 and 2007 following the victory of Hamas in the legislative elections.<sup>(34)</sup>

The main purpose of holding the Annapolis Conference (The Annapolis Agreement was not intended to achieve peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis, according to the data of American policy and orientations towards the Palestinian issue. If the American President George Bush wanted to achieve an achievement that would be credited to him before the end of his presidential term, and for it to be a step towards peace to be completed by his successor in the presidency, he also wanted to form an Arab alliance with Israel to confront the Iranian nuclear program that posed a threat to the Middle East region, especially to Israel. On the other hand, the American President wanted, according to his vision for the Middle East region, for Israel to have a regional position and dimension in the region on the political and economic levels.<sup>(35)</sup>

The Palestinian delegation that participated in the conference was headed by Mahmoud Abbas, and they were in a weak position due to the Palestinian division on the ground and the existence of two governments, one of which is recognized and the other is not, in addition to the procrastination and stalling on the (Israeli) side regarding the failure to implement joint commitments and agreements, including the issues of Jerusalem, settlements, borders, refugees, security and water.<sup>(36)</sup> The Palestinian delegation called for setting a schedule that would specify a clear date for declaring the establishment of the Palestinian state, to be supervised by the United States of America or the European Union.<sup>(37)</sup>

The Hamas government's position on holding the conference was to reject normalization with Israel. Ismail Haniyeh indicated that any concessions offered by the Palestinian delegation were non-binding and rejected by the Palestinian people. He called on the conference participants, especially the rulers of the Arab countries, not to be false witnesses at the expense of the fateful cause of the Palestinian people. At the same time, he stressed that President Mahmoud Abbas does not have a mandate from the majority of the Palestinian people, and that does not give him the legitimacy to negotiate on their behalf. Ismail Haniyeh explained that the goal of holding the conference was to be a step towards normalizing relations between more Arab countries and Israel, and he warned them of the danger of that step.<sup>(38)</sup>

The Israeli delegation participating in the conference rejected the Palestinian demands to reach a declaration of common principles and to set a date for declaring the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The Israeli Prime Minister indicated that the reality on the

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(33) Osama Al-Ghazali war, conference failure last For peace, magazine Politics International, institution Al-Ahram, Cairo, number 170, 2007, p. 6.

(34) Magazine Studies Palestinian, word President George Bush son in opening conference Annapolis, institution Studies Palestinian, Beirut, number 72, 2007, p. 175.

(35) Ahmed Beautiful Yusef brown, The American position from stay The state Palestinian from Clinton to Obama 1993-2012, message Master's (not Published), college Economy and science Administrative, university Al-Azhar, Gaza, 2014, p. 125.

(36) Mohammed Ahmed behind Al-Jubouri, position States United American from division Palestinian, p. 258.

(37) Ahmed Jawad Al-Wadiyya, the previous source, p. 159.

(38) Mohammed Ahmed behind Al-Jubouri, position States United American from division Palestinian, p. 259.

ground that was established after 1967 could be changed through direct bilateral negotiations, but that Israeli statement was nothing but a permanent procrastination within the Israeli strategic policy, especially since discussing the pending issues with the Palestinian side is an obligation on the Israeli government in the future.<sup>(39)</sup>

The Annapolis Conference, held on November 27, 2007, under American auspices, concluded with a joint understanding document, which indicated the continuous intensification of negotiations to reach a final agreement one year after the conference. The conference document obligated the Palestinian and Israeli parties to implement the commitments for a final solution that calls for a two-state solution. An American-Palestinian-Israeli committee was formed to follow up on the implementation of the agreement, and the date of December 12, 2007, was set as the date for the first session of the Joint Negotiating Committee. However, the negotiations were soon halted due to Israel's continued settlement expansion, especially in East Jerusalem, which the Palestinians demanded to be their capital. This led to the failure of the negotiations due to their futility, with the Israeli government not adhering to international agreements.<sup>(40)</sup>

### **Conclusion:**

From the above, it is clear to us that the position of the United States of America was a position of open support for the (Israeli) side in all events and circumstances, supporting it in all political, economic and military aspects. It did not have a neutral and objective position in all negotiations and agreements in which it was a party. Rather, it pressured the international community, especially the Arab countries, to stand with (Israel). American pressure increased after it refused to deal with the Hamas movement following its victory in the Palestinian legislative elections in early 2006, and imposed impossible conditions on the Hamas movement to deal with it and recognize it. Those conditions were rejected by the Hamas movement in full and in detail. The American administration began to support the Palestinian Authority with money and weapons to confront the elements of the Hamas movement and supported and encouraged the Palestinian-Palestinian fighting, which led to a Palestinian division and the emergence of two governments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The American administration worked to deepen that dispute and rejected any international effort for reconciliation to miss the opportunity for any meeting that would bring together the Palestinians, at a time when (Israel) was continuing its aggression and siege with American assistance, and continuing its policy. Settlement on Palestinian lands, in front of the eyes of the world, especially the United States of America, in continuation of its strategic policy of supporting (Israel).

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(39)Al-Akhbar newspaper: Olmert announces a new plan for negotiations..[www.al-akbar.com](http://www.al-akbar.com) Viewed on the site on the date30Canon the first2024.

(40) Mohammed Ahmed behind Al-Jubouri, position States United American from division Palestinian, p. 260.



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