

Palestinian National Authority

Environment Quality
Authority (E.Q.A)

Law No. (7)
For The Year 1999
Concerning The Environment

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Chairman of the Executive Committee of
the Palestine Liberation Organization

Chairman of the Palestinian National
Authority

In view of the presentation of the Minister of
Environment Affairs, and,

Following the approval of the Palestinian
Legislative Council at its session which was
held on 6th July 1999 AD.

We have promulgated the following Law:

Chapter One: Definitions & General Principles

Part One: Definitions

Article [1]

In implementing the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned thereto unless the context provides otherwise:

Environment: The biosphere which includes the organisms with its content of air, water, soil, the installations thereon and the existing interactions between them.

Air: The mixture of gases constituting it with its natural characteristics and known rates.

Soil: The surface crust of the earth in which planting is made, building is made thereon or excavated therein and includes all types of land.

Bulldozing: Removal of any part of the soil.

Water: The water existing on the ground or in the sub surface be it fresh, salty or semi salty.

Environment Pollution: Any direct or indirect change in the environment characteristics which may lead to damaging one of its elements or breach its natural equilibrium.

Air Pollution: Any change in the characteristics and constituents of the natural air which may cause hazard to the environment.

Water Pollution: Any change in the characteristics and constituents of the water which may lead to damages in the environment.

Pollutant Materials and Factors: Any materials be it gaseous, liquid, solid, smoke, vapour, odour, radiation, heat, light glare, noise or vibrations which may lead to environment pollution or its deterioration.

Hazardous Materials: The materials or material

compounds with hazardous characteristics which forms a hazard to the environment such as toxic materials, radiation materials, biologically contagious materials, burstable or inflammable materials.

Hazardous Waste: Residues of various activities and operations or ashes thereof which preserve the characteristics of the hazardous materials with no subsequent utilizations such as the nuclear waste, medical waste, waste resulting from the processing of any of the pharmaceutical preparations, medicaments, organic solvents, paints, insecticides or other hazardous materials.

Solid Waste: Any waste other than the hazardous waste or garbage arising out of the various domestic, commercial, agricultural, industrial and constructional activities as well as the wastes resulting from the waste water treatment stations.

Waste Water: The polluted water due to the action of solid, liquid, gaseous, energy or micro organism materials which were caused or surplus from houses, buildings or various installations.

Underground Water: The flowing, running or still water existing under the ground.

Installation: The lands, buildings, facilities and equipment constituting same.

Installation Owner: Any natural or corporate person whether he is an owner or a lessee of an installation or responsible for its operation or management.

Environmental Damage: The damage resulting from the exercise of any activity that leads to inflicting harm to the public health, public welfare and environment.

License: An official document issued by the competent authority which permits the construction and operation of the Installation wherein the conditions and controls that govern same are set out.

Environmental impact: Every thing that negatively or positively ensue as a result of activities of a project or installation on the various environmental factors.

Prevention of Pollution: The measures and actions which are taken to prevent the occurrence of the pollution.

Pollution Control: The measures and actions which are taken to control or reduce the release of pollutants.

Environment Protection: Preserve the elements of environment, limit its pollution, improve same or its deterioration as well as prevent the pollution or deterioration.

Sinking: Dumping the different polluted materials resulting from the various installations or means of transportation in the internal or regional waters or the pure economic zone.

Ship: Any floating or submerged marine unit in the water be it civil or military.

Marine Installations: Any fixed or mobile installations erected over or under its surface for the purpose of carrying on commercial, industrial, touristic, military or scientific activities.

Public Places: The places allocated for receiving the people in general or a specific category of them for any purpose.

Measurements: The percentages, volumes or criteria which are determined by the competent authorities to measure the environment pollutants and its harmful effects.

Waste Management: Collection of the various waste and hauling same to specific places for recycling, treatment or disposal thereof.

Environmental Disaster: The accident resulting from natural factors or human act which caused severe damage to the environment and its confrontation requires potentials that may surpass the local capabilities.

Compensation: What ever provided in return of the damages which are caused by the various pollutants arising from any act of natural or corporate persons to the environment elements and such be according to administrative decisions, court judgements or in implementation of provisions stated in international conventions.

Environmental Disturbance: What ever material or moral hardship or damage that arises from noise, uproar, vibrations, radiations or odour resulting from the human activities, installations or means transportation

and others which have an impact on the human being's exercise of his normal life and his properties.

Environmental Control: The measures carried out by the competent authorities to ascertain the respect of individuals and entities of the established environmental standards and instructions to ensure its none infringement or overstepping.

Environmental Monitoring: The activities of the environment quality control.

Environmental Deterioration: Any impact on the environment or its elements which leads to inflicting damage therein, distorts its nature, exhausts its resources and harms the organisms.

Ministry: Ministry of Environment Affairs.

Minister: Minister of Environment Affairs.

Environmental Awareness: Diffusion of knowledge that promotes the principles and values which would enhance the level of the required general consciousness for preserving the environment and its elements.

Closed Public Places: The public place which has an integrated building shape where air does not enter except through outlets provided for this purpose (theatres, movie houses, museums, restaurants, meeting hallsetc). The means of public transport is considered amongst the closed public place.

Natural Reserves: The areas specified for preserving specific types of organisms or any other environmental systems with natural or ecological value which may not be removed, affected or destroyed.

Disposal: Dumping, leakage, emission, pumping, pouring or discharging directly or indirectly of any of the environment pollutants in the air, earth or internal or regional waters.

Pure Economic Zone: The marine area which is located beyond the regional sea and adjacent thereto which does not extend to more than two hundred nautical miles measured by the base lines from which the breadth of the regional sea is measured.

Environmental Approval: An official document issued by the Ministry expressing the environmental opinion concerning the establishment or practicing of any activity that requires the environment's approval.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): A detailed study to evaluate the environmental effect resulting from exercising any activity.

Article [2]

Aims of the Law

This Law aims at the following:

- 1- Protect the environment from all forms and different shapes of pollution.
- 2- Protect the public health and social welfare.
- 3- Introduce the basis of environment protection in the economic and social development plans and encourage durable development of the bio-sources so as to observe the right of the coming generations.
- 4- Maintain the biological diversification, protect the areas with environmental sensitivity and improve the areas which have experienced damage from the environment aspect.
- 5- Encourage the compilation and publication of the various environmental information and enhance the public consciousness of the environment issues.

Part Two: General Principles

Article [3]

Individual right to protect the Environment

Any individual has the right to:

- a- Submit and follow up any complaint or judicial proceedings without looking into the private interest conditions against any natural or corporate person who causes a damage to the environment.

- b- Obtain the official information which is necessary for coming to know the environmental effects of any industrial, agricultural or constructional activity or other development programs according to the Law.

Article [4]

Environmental consciousness circulation:

The Ministry shall circulate, in cooperation with the competent authorities, the concept and objects of the environmental consciousness through schools, universities, entities and clubs as well as encourage the collective and individual initiatives towards the voluntary work that aims at the protection of the environment.

Article [5]

Rights guaranteed by the law

This law guarantees:

- a- The right of every human being to live in a sound and clean environment as well as enjoy the highest extent of public health and welfare.

- b- Protect the country's natural wealths and its economic resources as well as maintain its historical and civilization heritage without damage or side effects which may appear sooner or later as a result of the different industrial, agricultural

or constructional activities on the basic life species and the environmental systems such as air, water, soil and sea, animal and botanical wealths.

Chapter Two: Environment Protection

Part One: Ground Environment

Article [6]

General policy for the land use

The competent authorities in cooperation with the Ministry shall prepare the general policy for the land use so as to observe the optimum utilization, protection of the natural resources, areas with special nature and preservation of the environment.

Solid Waste

Article [7]

The Ministry in coordination with the competent authorities shall formulate an overall plan for managing the solid waste at the national level including the determination of the methods and disposal sites thereof as well as supervise the execution of this plan by the local entities.

Article [8]

The competent authorities, each in so far as it is concerned, shall encourage the taking of the appropriate measures to reduce the production of solid waste to the lowest level possible and re-use same as much as possible, recover the components thereof or recycle same.

Article [9]

The Ministry, in cooperation with the competent authorities, shall determine the specifications of the solid waste dump sites.

Article [10]

All parties or individuals undertake, upon carrying out excavation, building, demolishing or mining works or transport the resulting wastes or dust, to carry out the necessary precautions for storage or safe transportation thereof in order to prevent any environmental pollution.

Hazardous Materials & Waste

Article [11]

The Ministry shall issue, in coordination with the competent authorities, one list or more of the hazardous materials and waste.

Article [12]

No one may process, store, distribute, use, treat or dispose of any solid or liquid or gaseous hazardous materials or waste except according to the regulations and instructions determined by the Ministry in coordination with the competent parties.

Article [13]

- a- The importation of hazardous waste into Palestine is prohibited.
- b- The transiting of hazardous waste through the Palestinian territories, regional waters or special economic zones is prohibited except by a special permit from the Ministry.

Insecticides & Agricultural Fertilizer

Article [14]

The Ministry shall determine in cooperation with the competent authorities, the environmental conditions for importing, distributing, processing, utilizing and storing the insecticides, materials and agricultural chemical fertilizers which may form a hazard to the environment.

Article [15]

The Ministry in coordination with the competent authorities shall formulate the directives and standards relating to the agricultural chemicals which are permitted to be imported, processed and distributed in Palestine and ascertain the compliance therewith.

Exploration & Mining

Article [16]

The Ministry shall, in coordination with the competent authorities, formulate the appropriate environmental conditions for the exploration, mining, quarries, stone extraction, crushers and mine activities in a manner which would ensure the protection of the environment from the risks of environmental pollution and preservation of natural resources.

Desertification & Soil Erosion

Article [17]

The Ministry may, for the purposes of fighting the desertification and preventing soil erosion, in coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and other competent authorities, take the appropriate measures for encouraging the plantation of fallow lands.

Article [18]

It shall be prohibited to bulldoze the agricultural lands or transport its soil for the purpose of using same in purposes other than agricultural ones. The levelling of the ground or transporting its soil shall not be considered as bulldozing for the purposes of building thereon according to the conditions and controls which are determined by the competent authorities.

Part Two: Aerobic Environment

Article [19]

- a- The Ministry shall, in cooperation with the competent authorities, determine the standards pertaining to controlling the air pollutant rates which may cause harm and damage to the public health, social welfare or environment.

- b- Every Installation erected in Palestine should comply with these standards and the existing installations should adjust their situations in a manner consistent with these standards within a period of time not exceeding three years.

Article [20]

The owner of the installation should provide the necessary means of protection to the workers and neighbours of the Installation in implementation of the safety and occupational health conditions against any leakage or emission of any pollutants inside or outside the place of work.

Article [21]

Smoking shall be prohibited in the means of transportation and closed public places.

Article [22]

It shall not be permissible to use machines, engines or vehicles which result in an exhaust that violates the established standards pursuant to the provisions of this law.

Article [23]

It is prohibited to dump, treat or incinerate solid garbage and waste except in the places provided for this purpose and according to the conditions which are set out by the Ministry so as to ensure the protection of environment.

Article [24]

The Ministry shall endeavour to curb the exhaustion of the ozone strata as are provided for in the international conventions which are complied with by Palestine

through the taking of suitable measures with respect to the importation, production or use of any chemical materials which cause harm thereto.

Article [25]

Environmental Disturbance & Noise

The Ministry shall endeavour, in cooperation with the competent authorities, to formulate the standards, instructions and conditions for limiting the environmental disturbance which originates from the different activities and the owner of every Installation, any party or individual shall be prohibited from causing disturbance to others.

Article [26]

All parties and individuals undertake, upon the operation of any machines, equipment or utilization the horns, microphones, or practicing any other activities, not to exceed the permitted limit for the intensity of the voice and vibration.

Article [27]

The level of radiation activity or concentration of the radioactive materials originating from the installation or any other activity may not exceed the permitted limits as are determined by the competent authorities.

Part Three: Aquatic Environment

Article [28]

The Ministry shall, in cooperation with the competent authorities, determine the quality standards and characteristics of the drinkable waters.

Article [29]

The Ministry shall formulate, in coordination with the competent authorities, the standards and criteria necessary for the method of compiling, treating, re-use or dispose of the waste water and rain water in a sound manner which is consistent with the preservation of the environment and public health.

Article [30]

It shall be prohibited for any individual to dispose of any solid, liquid or other material except in accordance with the conditions and standards determined by the competent authorities.

Part Four: Marine Environment

Article [31]

The Ministry shall undertake to formulate, in coordination with the competent authorities, the quality specifications of the sea water and determine the standards, instructions and conditions necessary for controlling the marine pollutants.

Article [32]

It shall be prohibited for any one to carry out any work which would pollute the sea water contrary to such standards, instructions or conditions for the purpose of protecting the marine environment from pollution.

Article [33]

The Ministry shall determine, in coordination with the competent authorities, the environmental conditions necessary for the erection of any buildings or constructions on the sea shore or inside the waters thereof.

Article [34]

It shall be prohibited to carry out any work which would touch on the natural route line of the shore or modifying it inwards the sea waters or retraction therefrom except after obtaining the environmental approval from the Ministry.

Article [35]

The Ministry shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for preventing the marine environment from pollution, preserving and controlling it from every thing that result from the various activities which take place in the pure economic zone, continental shelf or sea bed which is subject to the Palestinian jurisdiction.

Article [36]

The Ministry shall formulate, in cooperation with the competent authorities, the necessary rules and regulations for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment through flooding.

Article [37]

The Ministry shall formulate, in cooperation with the competent authorities, the rules and regulations for preventing or limiting the pollution of the marine environment resulting from the ships at the Palestinian ports and territorial waters.

Article [38]

It shall be prohibited for all parties including the ships irrespective of their nationality to dispose or throw the oil, oil mix or any other pollutants in the territorial waters or the pure economic zone of Palestine.

Article [39]

All companies and national and foreign entities which

are authorized with the drilling works, exploration, crude oil production, processing, extraction there of or utilization the oil fields and other marine natural materials should comply with the environmental conditions.

Part Five: Protection of Nature, Archeological & Historical Areas

Article [40]

The Ministry shall formulate, in cooperation with the competent authorities, the basis and criteria of preserving, supervising, make announcements on the natural reserves and national parks and establish, determine and supervise the national parks.

Article [41]

It shall be prohibited to hunt, kill or catch birds, wild and marine animals as well as the fish specified in the executive by-law hereof. It shall be prohibited to possess, transport, roam, sell or display such birds and animals for sale whether dead or alive. Also, it is prohibited to destroy their nests or destroy the eggs thereof.

Article [42]

The Ministry shall determine, in coordination with the competent authorities, the necessary conditions for preserving the biological diversity in Palestine.

Article [43]

The Ministry shall undertake, in coordination with the competent authorities, to formulate the basis and criteria which would determine the forest plants and trees whose picking, cultivation, destruction or cutting is temporarily or permanently prohibited in a manner that ensures its existence or continuity.

Article [44]

It shall be prohibited for any one to carry out any works, acts or activities which would lead to damaging the natural reserves, forest areas, public parks, archeological and historical sites or touch on the aesthetic level of such areas.

Chapter Three: Environmental Impact Assessment, Licensing, Inspection, & Administrative Measures

Part One: Environmental Impact Assessment

Article [45]

The Ministry shall, in coordination with the competent authorities, formulate the criteria for determining the projects and fields which are subject to the studies for the environmental impact assessment and preparing lists of these projects as well as formulate regulations and proceedings for environmental impact assessment.

Part Two: Licenses

Article [46]

The competent authorities shall, upon licensing any installations, endeavour to avoid the environmental hazards by encouraging the transformation into the projects which use the less harmful materials or operations on the environment and give priority to such projects according to the basis of economic development.

Article [47]

The Ministry shall, in coordination with the competent authorities, determine the activities and projects which should obtain an advance environmental approval for obtaining a license as well as the projects which are permitted to be erected in the restricted areas.

Article [48]

It shall be prohibited for the competent authorities to issue licenses for the establishment of projects, installations or any activities which are specified under article (47) of this law or renew same except after obtaining an environmental approval from the Ministry.

Part Three: Inspection & Administrative Measures

Article [49]

The Ministry shall follow up the implementation of decisions which are issued concerning the environmental impact through cooperation with the competent authorities.

Article [50]

The Ministry shall, in coordination with the competent authorities, control the various corporations, projects and activities in order to ascertain the extent of its compliance with the approved specifications, standards and instructions for the protection of environment and vital resources formulated by them according to the provisions of this law.

Article [51]

The Ministry inspectors and other inspectors who are appointed in the Ministries and other parties who have the capacity of judicial police as per the law may impound the environmental violations and crimes that take place in violation with this law.

Article [52]

The Ministry inspectors shall have, in cooperation with the competent departments and authorities, the right of entry into the installations for the purpose of inspecting them, taking samples, carry out the measurements and ascertain the application of the standards and conditions of the environment protection and prevention of pollution.

Article [53]

The owners of projects and other activities should enable the inspectors of the Ministry and competent authorities to carry out their functions and provide them with the information and particulars which they deem necessary to obtain in implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Article [54]

Every owner of an installation should carry out self supervision operations according to the standards and conditions formulated by the Ministry in coordination with the competent authorities and submission of reports according to the instructions of the Ministry or any other party determined by the executive by-law hereof.

Article [55]

The competent authority shall have the right, with respect to every installation or project which has violated the environmental conditions necessary for granting the license, to cancel the license or withdraw same before the competent court.

Article [56]

The violating installation or project may not resume its activity unless it has removed the reasons of the violation. Should it not remove the violation, the competent authority shall remove same at its (installation or project) own account.

Article [57]

The Minister may decide to stop the work in any project or prohibit the use of any machine or material in part or in whole if the continuation of work in the project or use of the machine or article involves a serious hazard to the environment. The stoppage or prohibition shall be for a period not exceeding two weeks and may not be extended except by a judicial order from the competent court. Whoever was harmed from the stoppage or prohibition order may take exception towards it before the competent court.

Chapter Four: Penalties

Article [58]

Without prejudice to any severer penalty provided for in other laws, the penalties stated in this law shall be applied.

Article [59]

Every owner or manager of an installation who has given untrue or misleading particulars with respect to the environmental matters of the installation which he owns or manages shall be penalized by imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months and a fine not exceeding two thousand Jordanian Dinars or its equivalent in the currency in legal circulation or by one of these two penalties.

Article [60]

If a contagious disease spreads as a result of violation to any of the provisions of this law, regulation or decision issued pursuant thereto and the violator was able, within the reasonable framework, to expect same, he will be

penalized by imprisonment for a minimum period of five years and a minimum fine of ten thousand Jordanian Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation or by one of these two penalties.

Article [61]

Whoever violates the provisions of article ten of this law shall be penalized by a fine amounting to twenty Jordanian Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation or by imprisonment for a minimum period of three days.

Article [62]

Whoever violates the provisions of article twelve of this law shall be penalized by a minimum financial fine of one thousand Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding three thousand Jordanian Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or by one of these two penalties.

Article [63]

- a- Whoever violates the provisions of paragraph (a) of article thirteen of this law shall be penalized by imprisonment for life with hard labour, confiscation or destruction of the waste at the expense of the violator.

- b- Whoever violates the provisions of paragraphs (b) of article thirteen of this law shall be penalized by a minimum financial fine of three thousand Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding twenty thousand Jordanian Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency legal circulation or by imprisonment for a minimum period of three years and not exceeding fifteen years or by one of these two penalties.

Article [64]

Whoever violates the provisions of article eighteen of this law shall be penalized by a financial fine of not less than five hundred Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding three thousand Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation and by imprisonment for a minimum period of one month and not exceeding six months or by one of these two penalties.

Article [65]

Whoever violates the provisions of articles twenty one, twenty two or twenty three of this law shall be penalized by a minimum fine of ten Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding one hundred Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation and by imprisonment for a minimum period of two days and not exceeding one week or by one of these two penalties.

Article [66]

Whoever violates the provisions of articles twenty five and twenty six of this law shall be penalized by a financial fine of not less than fifty Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding one hundred Jordanian Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation and imprisonment for a minimum period of one week and not exceeding one month or by one of these two penalties.

Article [67]

Whoever violates the provisions of article twenty seven of this law shall be penalized by a financial fine of not less than one thousand Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding

seven thousand Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation and imprisonment for a minimum period of one month and not exceeding one year or by one of these two penalties.

Article [68]

Whoever violates the provisions of article thirty of this law shall be penalized by a financial fine of two hundred Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding one thousand Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation currency and imprisonment for a period of not less than one month and not exceeding six months or by one of these two penalties.

Article [69]

Whoever violates the provisions of articles thirty two, thirty eight or thirty nine of this law shall be penalized by a financial fine of not less than five thousand Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding fifty thousand Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation and by imprisonment for a period of not less than one year and not exceeding ten years or by one of these two penalties.

Article [70]

Whoever violates the provisions of article thirty four of this law shall be penalized by a financial fine of not less than one thousand Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding five thousand Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation and imprisonment for a period of not less than one month and not exceeding six months or by one of these two penalties.

Article [71]

Whoever violates the provisions of article forty one of this law shall be penalized by a financial fine of not less than twenty Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding two hundred Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation and imprisonment for a minimum period of three days and not exceeding two weeks or by one of these two penalties.

Article [72]

Whoever violates the provisions of article forty four of this law shall be penalized by a financial fine of not less than twenty Dinars and not exceeding two hundred Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal

circulation currency and imprisonment for a period for not less than three days and not exceeding one month or by one of these two penalties.

Article [73]

Whoever violates the provisions of article fifty three of this law shall be penalized by a fine of not less than one hundred Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding five hundred Dinars or the equivalent thereto in the currency in legal circulation and imprisonment for a minimum period of one week and not exceeding one month or by one of these two penalties.

Article [74]

In addition to what has been provided under the articles of this chapter, the removal of damage and effects thereof shall be at the expense of the violator.

Chapter Five: Concluding & Provisional Provisions

Article [75]

In implementation of the provisions of this law or any international conventions concerning the environment in which Palestine is a party therein, the Ministry shall, in coordination with the competent local authorities in cooperation with the counterparts thereof in the countries contracting therewith, exchange the scientific and technical information as well as coordinate its programs in the field of environmental research with common capacity, formulate joint cooperation programs in the field of preventing or reducing the environmental pollution and exchange the various assistances relating therewith.

Article [76]

Every natural or corporate person who caused any environmental damage as a result of an act or negligence in violation to the provisions of this law or any international agreement in which Palestine is a party thereto shall be bound to pay the appropriate

compensations in addition to the penal responsibility which is provided for in this law.

Article [77]

According to the provisions of the law, the international or regional conventions and agreements as well as the provisions of the international organizations in which Palestine is a party or any other laws relating to the environment which are valid in the Palestinian territories shall be considered as a complementary part to this law unless it has been expressly provided otherwise.

Article [78]

The Ministry shall formulate, in participation with the competent authorities, emergency plans for coping with the environmental disasters.

Article [79]

The Ministry shall cooperate with the authorities concerned with the environmental monitoring activities for the purpose of compiling the information on the various environment elements, prepare the comprehensive reports and submitting them to the competent authorities.

Article [80]

The Council of Ministers shall issue, upon the proposal of the Minister, the necessary executive by-law for implementing the provisions of this Law.

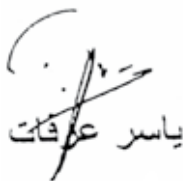
Article [81]

Any provision contrary to the provisions of this law shall be repealed.

Article [82]

All competent authorities are requested, each in so far as it is concerned, to implement the provisions of this law and shall be put into operation after thirty days from its publication in the official gazette.

**Issued at Gaza City on 28th December
1999 AD. corresponding to 20th
Ramadhan 1420 AH.**



Yaser Arafat
**Chairman of the Executive
Committee of the Palestine
Liberation Organization**
**Chairman of the Palestinian
National Authority**

