

Official Translation

Letter of Resignation

Your Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas,
President of the State of Palestine,
Chairperson of the Executive Committee,
The Palestine Liberation Organization,

November 26, 2020

Allow me first to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for our frank and distinctive meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 in your office in Ramallah. Pursuant to our discussions during that meeting, I hereby place my resignation at your disposal, in anticipation that you would accept it by the end of this year.

My resignation comes in the wake of more than five decades serving our homeland and the just cause of our people and their preeminent human values in various capacities. My election as a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, came as a culmination of a constant life commitment which was part of my upbringing and a trust that I have borne and will continue to do so all my life.

As always, I will never refrain from exerting all my efforts in the defense of the Palestinian people's interests and rights. And I will devote all my abilities and experience in the service of our people's noble and just cause. I will remain loyal to our people and committed to our struggle. This pledge has always guided my personal and professional life and will continue to do so outside formal office.

At this difficult juncture, I hope my resignation will be part of a new phase that would include electing an Executive Committee. Such a move should invigorate the capabilities of women and youth and enable them to bear the responsibility of serving our people and defending our basic rights as well as reinforcing true democratic practices and the principles of good governance.

The issue right now is not personal or a career decision. Rather, it has to do with the current reality and future of Palestine, and with the imperative of the transfer of authority and responsibility.

Statement by Dr. Hanan Ashrawi

Consistent with my lifelong commitment to the principles of integrity and transparency, I would like to state the following pertaining to my resignation from the PLO Executive Committee:

I met with President Mahmoud Abbas on November 24, 2020 and we had a candid and amicable discussion in which I informed him of my decision to resign from the Executive Committee, effective the end of the year. I sent the resignation in writing on November 26, 2020, with the agreement that it will not be publicly disclosed until all necessary arrangements are concluded.

Regrettably, news of my resignation was leaked from “senior sources” in a misleading and irresponsible manner that lead to conjecture and rumors. I refrained from making any comments until I communicated with President Abbas on Tuesday, December 8, and agreed to the disclosure of my resignation and publication of the letter.

The President responded that evening with a notation on my letter deferring the decision till the convening of the Palestine Central Council. While I appreciate and respect the President’s position, I reaffirm my resignation and consider it to be in effect.

I believe it is time to carry out the required reform and to activate the PLO in a manner that restores its standing and role, including by respecting the mandate of the Executive Committee rather than its marginalization and exclusion from decision-making.

The Palestinian political system needs renewal and reinvigoration with the inclusion of youth, women, and additional qualified professional. It is incumbent upon us all to assume our individual responsibilities and to carry out our duties with honesty and integrity, including by facilitating this needed change.

As I have reaffirmed to President Mahmoud Abbas, I will continue to serve the Palestinian people and our just cause in every capacity, albeit outside public office.

Hanan Ashrawi

Palestine - December 9, 2020