

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

President of the PLO Executive Committee

President of the PNA

Having reviewed:

**Law No.5 of 1996 on the Elections of the Palestinian Local Bodies' Councils,
Law No. 5 of 2004 amending some provisions of Law No. 5 of 1996 on the Elections of Local
Bodies' Councils,
The Palestinian Local Bodies' Law No. 1 of 1997,
The draft Law submitted by the cabinet and based on the ratifications of the PLC in its session
held on 13/8/2005 and on behalf of the Palestinian People we promulgate the following Law:**

Chapter One Definitions

Article 1

To implement provisions of this law, the following words and utterances shall have specific meaning except when the presumption indicates otherwise: -

Central Election Commission: is the high commission that will assume the administration and supervision of elections and shall be responsible for preparing and organizing elections and undertaking all procedures required for safeguarding their integrity and freedom.

Local Body: The local government unit within a specific administrative geographic vicinity, the borders of which are based upon structural maps accredited as appropriate. In the absence of such maps, the borders shall be determined by the Central Elections Commission.

Chairperson: Chair of the Local body

Council: The Local Council which includes the Municipality Council, or the local council, or the village council, or the administrative committee, or the development committee, or any other council formed in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Resident: Any Palestinian citizen residing within the area of the local council, with a fixed residence address in it.

Competent Court: Court of First Instance.

Final voters' list: The final list prepared by the Central Elections Commission containing names and personal information of voters who have the right to vote, which will be used for purposes of voting.
Electoral list: The political parties of movements or coalitions or groups that are formed by citizens who are entitled to nomination for purposes of running for local councils elections.

Electoral district: The area of every local council shall be considered as one electoral district.

Polling center: location where people cast their ballots and includes several polling stations.

Polling station: The location where the ballot box, ballot papers, and the polling personnel supervising the ballot box are present and is located inside the polling center.

Article 2

1. In accordance with provisions of this law, the function of administration and supervision of local elections will be assigned to the Central Election Commission.
2. The Central Election Commission shall have the powers stipulated by the General Elections Law, without prejudice to the provisions of this law.

Chapter Two Election administration

Article 3

1. In implementing the provisions of this law and toward achievement of its intended purpose, the Central Elections Commission shall undertake the task of administering and supervising elections and shall be responsible for preparing and organizing the elections, taking all necessary measures to ensure its integrity and free nature. To this end, the Central Election Commission shall be assigned the following:
 - a. Take measures necessary to conduct elections in terms of preparation, organization, and supervision to guarantee the integrity and free nature of these elections.
 - b. Appoint staff of electoral districts, registration, voting, and sorting and counting personnel.
 - c. Supervise the administration and the work of staff and electoral districts offices and implement the provisions of this law.
 - d. Issue accreditation documents for observers and facilitate their work.
 - e. Determine polling centers locations
 - f. Prepare voters registries and update them, in accordance with the provisions of the law.
 - g. Practice any other powers assigned to it in accordance with the provisions of the law.
2. The Central Elections bureau, shall work under the supervision of the Central Elections Commission his bureau is considered the executive tool of the Central Elections Commission.

Article 4

1. Local elections shall be held in all local councils on the same day, once every four years upon a decision issued by the Cabinet
2. If legal requirements provide for conducting elections for a local council on a day different from the set date for conducting the local elections in accordance with paragraph (1) of this article, the term of the elected council shall be in accordance with the following:
 - a. If the remaining period of the council's term from the date of taking into effect of the legal requirement is more than one year, the term of the new Council shall be the legally determined remaining period of the term.
 - b. If the remaining period of the council's term is less than one year from the date the legal requirement enters into effect, the term of the new council shall be considered as the remaining period of the previous term and for a new four-year term.

Article 5

The Central Election Commission may request the postponement of the elections in one or more local councils for a period not exceeding four weeks for technical needs and elections integrity purposes. The postponement decision shall be issued by the Cabinet

Chapter Three

The right to vote

Article 6

Elections shall be conducted in a free, direct, confidential and individual manner. No vote by proxy shall be allowed.

Article 7

The right to vote shall be practiced according to provisions of this law, for who shall fulfill the following conditions: -

1. A Palestinian, who shall attain eighteen years on polling day.
2. Resident at the electoral district for a period not less than six months from the date of elections.
3. His/her name is listed on the final voters' list of the electoral district where he/she shall vote
4. He/she shall not be legally incompetent.

Chapter Four

Voters' List

Article 8

1. Any one who fulfills voter conditions, shall have right to enlist his name in voters' list of his local body area.
2. Voters name shall not be incorporated in the list of more than one electoral district. If the voter met the conditions for registration in more than one district, the voter shall be given the right to choose in which district to register.

Article 9

The Central Election Commission shall prepare the final voters list prior to a period not less than sixty days and not more than ninety days, in all electoral districts where elections are to be conducted.

Article 10

The voters' registries shall include the following data:

1. Full quadruple name
2. Sex
3. Date and place of birth
4. Residence address
5. Type of the personal identification document and its number

Chapter Five

Challenges to voters' list registry

Article 11

1. The Central Election Commission shall publish the voters' list where people can have easy access in the same electoral district. Any person is entitled to submit a written complaint asking to have his or her name incorporated if it is not and can also have somebody else's name cancelled if it is wrongfully incorporated, or correct personal information in case of mistakes.
2. Contests and claims shall be accepted for a period of five working days.

Article 12

1. The Central Elections Commission shall take a decision of submitted challenges, within five days of challenge termination period .
2. If a challenge shall concern enlisting another person's name or not at voters' list , that shall not be decided except when the said person shall be legally informed to defend himself.

Article 13

Decisions of The Central Elections Commission shall be subject to appeal within five days of their issue before the competent court of jurisdiction over the electoral district. The court shall issue its decision within three days of the date of the appeal; its decision shall be final.

Chapter Six

Nomination and lists registration

Article 14

1. Nomination shall take place within electoral lists on the basis of proportional representation
2. The candidates list shall be considered closed, the names of the candidates placed in the order or priority of each candidate.
3. The lists wishing to participate in the elections shall be registered with the Central Elections Commission, in accordance with the rules, regulations, and instructions set forth by the Commission.
4. Lists registered with the Election Commission, in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article, may nominate its candidates, and participate in the elections under the name and the logo the list shall select for itself.
5. The number of candidates on one electoral list shall not be less than the majority of the number of seats allocated to the electoral district.

Article 15

1. Nomination requests for local councils elections shall be accepted forty-four days prior to the designated election date, and continues for ten days. Nomination applications shall not be accepted after that period.
2. The list may request withdrawal of its nomination one day prior to the beginning of the legal period for election campaign.
3. One or more candidates of a list may request withdrawal of his/her nomination, upon a written notice submitted to the representative of the list that he/she is incorporated in, with a copy to the Central Elections Commission, one day prior to the end of the legal period for submission of nomination requests.
4. The electoral list, prior to the end of the nomination period, may fill the vacancy as a result of a candidate's withdrawal. If the candidate's withdrawal shall affect the order of the candidates on the list, the Central Election Commission shall be informed of the new order during the same period of time, and shall receive approval of remaining candidates of the new order.

5. If withdrawal of one or more candidate led to a violation of the provisions of paragraph 5 of article 14, and the list is unable to fill the vacant positions during the nomination period, the list shall be considered null and void.

Article 16

1. Nomination applications shall be submitted according to the specific form prepared by the Central Elections Commission within the period stipulated by this law, and shall include the following:
 - a. Name, code, and logo of electoral list
 - b. Quadruple names of list's candidates, ages, addresses, numbers on voters' list.
 - c. Order of names of candidates within the list.
 - d. Statement by each candidate within the list acknowledging acceptance of his/her nomination, in accordance with the order listed in the nomination application.
 - e. Name and address of list's coordinator authorized to sign for on its behalf.
 - f. Address of list's headquarters, if any.
2. The nomination application shall be accompanied by a copy of the list's electoral platform.
3. The Central Elections Commission shall register the nomination applications submitted to it and shall issue a certificate for each list including time and date of application submission, and list's registration number with the Central Election Commission.
4. The names of the lists shall appear on ballot papers in the order of the date and time of their registration with the Central Elections Commission.

Article 17

1. In the local body in which the number of seats does not exceed 13, the women representation should not be less than two seats:
 - a. One woman shall be among the first five names
 - b. One woman shall be among the next five names
2. In the local body in which the number of seats exceeds 13, a seat shall be allocated for women among the five names that follow paragraph 1 (b) mentioned above;
3. Local bodies in which the number of voters is less than 1000 according to the final table of voters are excluded from provisions of paragraph (1) mentioned above. In such a case, the option for selecting places allocated for women among the candidates shall be left for the electoral lists.
4. If a post allocated for a woman in the local body council becomes vacant, the woman that follows in the sequence of seats allocated for women in the same list to which she belongs, shall replace her;

Article 18

A candidate shall: -

- a. Attain twenty-five years on Election Day.
- b. An enlisted name in voters' list and fulfill an elector's conditions.
- c. Not be indicted by a felony against honor or a crime.
- d. Not to be an employee for the ministry of local government, public security, the local council or a lawyer unless he had resigned and attached a resignation certificate with the nomination application..
- e. Reside within the local community in which he/she is running for a period of no less than one year from the date of conducting the elections, and shall not be a candidate in another electoral district or within another list.
- f. The heads, members and employees of the local bodies councils, who are willing to run for elections, shall have to resign from their posts and attach the resignation letter to the candidacy application. The Ministry of Local Government shall have to commission any public official, who it deems suitable, to undertake the tasks of the resigned persons until the elections take place and the new council undertakes its tasks;

Article 19

Each electoral list shall pay five hundred Jordanian Dinars or their equivalent in circulated currency to the Central Election Commission as a guarantee that will be refunded in case of winning a seat at least within the elected local council or withdrawal of its nomination prior to the beginning of the legal period of election campaign.

Article 20

The Central Elections Commission shall reject the registration request of an electoral list if:

- a. the application did not meet the conditions stipulated in this law.
- b. data or attachments to the application were proved to be incorrect
- c. The list requested use of a name or a slogan specific to another registered list, or a non-registered electoral list but known in the Palestinian Territories, despite being notified by the Central Elections Commission that such a duplication or similarity in slogans/names exist.
- d. The electoral list requested registration under a name or a logo that insinuates or create the illusion that its affiliated with the Palestinian National Authority or it belongs to it.
- e. The electoral list did not submit a certificate for each candidate whose name appears on the list stating that the candidate has paid all his fees and taxes due to the local council.

Article 21

Names of Electoral lists and their candidates shall be published at electoral district centers and councils headquarters, thirty four days prior to election day. .

Article 22

Any person , within three days of publishing candidates lists , may contest , in writing , to his election committee a list or one or more of its candidates, indicating contest reasons, attaching proof and documents supporting his/her claim..

Article 23

The committee shall issue decisions of submitted challenges within three days of the challenge termination period. Its decisions shall be subject to appeal before the competent court, within three days of issue.

Article 24

The court shall issue decisions of submitted appeals within five days of submissions. Its decisions shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Chapter Seven

Election Campaign

Article 25

1. Electoral lists, or their candidates, may organize various events to explain their election programs to the public, in the style and method they deem appropriate, without prejudice to valid laws and regulations.
2. The lists coordinator and the candidates within the lists shall bear, together and in solidarity, the responsibility for all election campaign materials and events organized by the list.
3. Each list may nominate one or more of its candidates or non-candidates to be responsible for election campaign.
4. Lists and candidates shall remove all election campaign materials within a period not exceeding two weeks following the elections day.
5. The Central Election Commission may, in case of non-compliance with provisions of paragraph (4) of this article, remove all election campaign materials at the expense of the list, deducting removal costs from the insurance amount referred to in article 30.

Article 26

The Executive authority and its various institutions shall pledge to take a neutral attitude towards election process. The Central Election Commission shall issue leaflets and adverts that manifest elections significance and encourage citizens to participate, and explain to them the conditions, requirements, and procedures of participation. .

Article 27

Election campaign shall commence two weeks prior the designated polling day and shall end twenty four hours of the election day whereby all election rallies, gatherings, meetings, TV and Radio campaigns as well as ads published in the newspapers, as well as all other forms of election campaign activities shall cease.

Article (28)

In election campaigns, the following shall be taken into consideration: -

- a. Not to held festivals, public meetings at mosques or churches, near hospitals, buildings, and places occupied by governmental departments or public corporations.
- b. Not to place labels and election signs in private places owned by individuals, companies, or societies, without prior approval of the owners.
- c. Not to use governmental mottoes in pamphlets and adverts in all kinds of writing, drawings and photos and not to use official automobiles or supplies for election campaign activities
- d. Speeches, pamphlets, adverts or photos shall not include any instigation or infamy of other candidates based on gender or religion or sect or profession or disability, and shall not incite sectarianism affecting the nation unity.
- e. Religious clerics shall not call in their sermons at mosques upon people to elect or not to elect any list, neither explicitly nor implicitly.

Article 29

Official media outlets shall allow equal and appropriate opportunities for all electoral lists.

Article 30

The Central Elections Commission may impose an insurance fees not exceeding 500 Jordanian Dinars or its equivalent in local currency to guarantee compliance of electoral lists with provisions of election campaign as stipulated by this law, and other laws and regulations issued by the Commission.

Article 31

The Central Election Commission may refer any individual violating the provisions of election campaign stipulated by this law to the public prosecution office.

Article 32

1. Each list which participated in the elections shall submit within one month from the date of announcing final results a detailed financial statement stating the costs of the election campaign, funding sources of the campaign, and ways of spending the funds.
2. The Central Election Commission may request that the financial statements referred to in paragraph 1 of this article be audited by a certified public auditor.

Chapter Eight Ballot Papers

Article 33

The ballots shall include the following data:

- a. the name of the electoral district of the local council where voting takes place
- b. the names of the electoral lists and their logos (slogans)
- c. a square next to each list so that it can be marked with an "X" to indicate the name of the list selected by the voter

Article 34

Each polling station associated with the Central Elections Commission shall be provided with two copies of voters' list, a ballot box, necessary balloting materials, and a number of ballot papers matching the number of registered voters at the station in addition to a number of reserve ballot papers upon the discretion of the Central Elections Commission.

Article 35

One copy of electors' names list shall be placed in prominently to be viewed by electors; and another copy to do ballot process by election committee.

Article 36

The names of the electoral lists and names of candidates of each list shall be posted in a prominent place within the polling center to be reviewed by the voters.

Article 37

1. Lists shall have the right to appoint agents and authorize them to observe the electoral process. The agents may be present inside the polling station, and no more than one agent shall be allowed inside the polling station on behalf of the same list at the same time. .
2. The agents shall be accredited and issued special cards in accordance with the regulations and instructions set by the Central Elections Commission.

Chapter Nine

Polling

Article 38

Prior to polling process, the polling station presiding officer, or his/her deputy, shall open the ballot box in the presence of election committee members and candidates agents to ensure that it is empty, and close again with locks or special stamp, it shall not be opened till commencement of counting of votes .

Article 39

Polling shall commence from 7:00 AM and will last until 7:00 PM of Election Day according to the following procedures:

1. The polling station presiding officer or whoever he chooses from his committee must examine the ID of the voter and that the voter's name is incorporated in the voters' list for his/her electoral district and mark the name.
2. The polling station presiding officer or whoever he chooses from his committee hands in the ballot paper to the voter which must be stamped with the commission's seal and signed by the director of the commission.
3. The voter takes the ballot paper to the allocated place that safeguards confidentiality. The voter marks an (X) in the appropriate box next to the list of his/her choice. The voter shall not mark more than one list. .
4. The voter places the ballot paper in a box under the sight of the polling committee
5. The voter's who received the ballot paper shall have his/her name crossed out of the voters list.
6. If the voter marks the ballot paper wrongly, he/she can give it to the polling station presiding officer who shall give him another ballot paper after canceling the old one which should be kept in a special envelope to be delivered to the Central Elections Commission.

Article 40

1. If the voter is illiterate or disabled in a manner that would prevent him/her from marking the ballot paper by him/herself, he/she can ask the help of a second degree relative to mark for him the name of the list that he dictates.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of this law, the Central Elections Commission may set forth legal regulations it deems appropriate to ensure non-manipulation of illiterate or disabled votes to commit a violation of the provisions of this law.

Article 41

At the time set for the end of the polling process, the door shall be closed, unless there are a number of voters standing in queue in front of the polling station, who should be allowed to cast their votes.

Article 42

The polling station presiding officer shall prepare the protocol in which he fills in the number of voters who did actually cast their votes, the number of voters registered on the voters lists, attaching to it any complaints or remarks made by observers or electoral lists' agents.

Article 43

The counting of ballot papers shall start at the polling station within one hour from closing the ballot boxes, in the presence of committee members , candidates agents , and observers provided that it shall end within a period not exceeding twelve hours from the start of the sorting process. .

Chapter ten

Article 44

1. The committee shall commence opening boxes, getting out ballot papers and counting votes, ensuring that the number of papers taken out of the box matches the number of people who voted at the station.
2. The committee then proceeds to sorting the votes by reading aloud the name of the list elected in each ballot paper, marking that on the board.
3. Agents and observers have the right to review the publicly read ballot paper.

Article 45

Ballot papers shall be considered void in the following situations:

- a. if the ballot paper was not stamped with the polling station seal
- b. if the paper was not a ballot paper issued by the Central Election Commission
- c. If the paper was signed in the name of the voter or was marked by any mark that distinguishes it
- d. If the ballot paper was marked for more than one electoral list.

Article 46

1. When the counting is completed, it should be ensured that the number of the ballot papers including void and blank papers, is equivalent to the number of voters registered in the voters' list. The balloting committee shall prepare the protocol indicating the number of ballot papers found in the box, the number of voters registered at the station, the number of papers that were voided or replaced in accordance with the law, the number of individuals who did not cast their votes, and the registration of claims made by the candidates or agents during the counting or polling process.
2. The protocols shall be signed by members of the polling station committee present, and shall be stamped with the station's stamp.
3. The protocols referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall be prepared in two copies, a copy of which is sent with all attached valid, void, and blank ballot papers to the Central Election Commission or any of its offices authorized to receive these protocols, that ensure that these protocols are kept in an accurate manner.
4. The final copy of the protocol shall be posted in a prominent place within the polling center.

Article 47

1. The office of the Central Elections Commission shall receive and compile all copies of protocols sent to it by polling stations committees of each electoral district, and shall add the election results written in these protocols as soon as possible.
2. The counting protocols of polling stations of an electoral district shall be compiled in the presence of electoral lists agents of that district, accredited observers and journalists.
3. Following that the office of the Central Election Commission authorized to publish the preliminary of the elections results in the districts whose polling stations sorting protocols it has compiled, including the number of votes that each list received.

Article 48

Immediately upon completion of this process, the authorized Central Elections Commission's offices shall submit to the Central Elections Commissions the initial election results of each district under its jurisdiction, as well as any challenges or claims submitted by candidates' agents during the sorting and counting process.

Article 49

The Central Election Commission shall take the appropriate decisions in the claims and challenges submitted, and may order the re-sorting and counting of any ballot box.

Article 50

Once the Central Elections Commission receives all protocols and results from the various electoral districts, the Commission shall calculate the number of seats won by each list, in accordance with provisions of article 52.

Chapter Eleven Allocation of seats

Article 51

1. Each electoral list that received 8% or more of the valid votes of the voters shall be allocated a number of seats in the council in proportion to the total amount of votes it received, in accordance with provisions of article 52 of this law.
2. The seats won by each list shall be distributed to its candidates in accordance to the order of their names on the list (the first and then the second and so on).

Article 52

The seats shall be distributed according to Saint-Laguë as follows:

1. The seats shall be distributed on the lists that have obtained 8% and more of the correct votes of voters proportional to the total votes the list has obtained.
2.
 - a. Each electoral list shall deposit with the elections committee a list of the names of its candidates prior to the closure of candidacy period.
 - b. The list of an election list shall be considered closed as regards the order of names and the seats that each list wins shall be distributed on its candidates according to the sequence of their names in the list: the first is first followed by the next and so on.
3. The number of votes for each list that made the elimination percentage shall be divided on odd numbers 1,3,5,7,8,11 as needed for the allocation of seats
4. The figures as a result of this division process are “division results”
5. The number of division results shall be organized in a descending order.
6. The seats are allocated according to the order starting from the top number until all seats are allocated.
7. In case two of the division results numbers are equal, the seat will be allocated to the list that received a fewer number of seats at the moment of the tie.
8. In case of a tie in the numbers at the allocation of the last seat, the seat shall be allocated to the list that received the highest number of votes.

Chapter twelve

Announcement of elections results

Article 53

The Chairman of the Central Elections Commission or his/her deputy shall announce the results of the elections, including the number of votes received by each list, the number of seats allocated to each list within the council, within a period not exceeding seventy-two hours from the end of the counting process, and shall issue official certificates to the winners.

Article 54

The Central Elections Commission shall maintain voters list, names of candidates, ballot papers, election protocols, claims and contests and the relevant decisions pertaining thereto.

Chapter thirteen

Contest against Elections Results

Article 55

1. Each voter, or candidate, or candidate's agent may contest the announced elections results before a competent court within one week from the announcement of the results. The court shall issue its decision within five working days from the date the claim is submitted to it, and shall inform the Central Elections Commission of its decisions to implement them accordingly.
2. If the court's ruling is to cancel all the electoral process or parts of it, the elections shall be conducted within four weeks from the date the decision is issued in accordance with the provisions of this law, and shall adopt in the second electoral process the voters' list used in the first electoral process.

Chapter fourteen

The elected council

Article 56

1. The first meeting of the council shall be held within 2 weeks following the date of its member's election in order to elect the Head of the council. The meeting shall be presided by the oldest council member, and a quorum is established with the presence of two thirds of the members
2. If the meeting could not be held in the presence of two thirds of its members, the oldest member calls for another meeting within a period not exceeding one week from the date of the meeting, and a quorum will be established with the presence of the majority of the council members.
3. The Council's head shall be elected by absolute majority of the number of members. In the event of the nominees not receiving an absolute majority, the elections are repeated for those who obtained the two highest votes. The nominee receiving the highest votes shall become the Council Head. In the event of a tie, a lot is conducted to select the council Head.
4. The provisions of this Article shall apply to the elections of the council's head

Article 57

With the exception of village council heads, heads of development and administrative committees, chairpersons of local councils shall be fully dedicated on a full-time basis to their work within the council and shall not combine council chairmanship with any other position of function.

Article 58

Observers and electoral lists agents have the right to monitor and observe all stages of the electoral process, in accordance with the law, and its rules and regulations and instructions.

Chapter Fifteen

Vacancy of Chairperson or Member position

Article 59

Vacant chairperson position:

1. The chairman post shall be deemed vacant in the following cases: -
 - a. Illegibility or incapacity to do duties according to absolute writ.
 - b. Resignation or death.
 - c. If two thirds of the local council's members cast a vote of no-confidence in the chairperson
2. The deputy chairperson shall be invested powers of the chairperson until the election of a new council chairperson.
3. New elections shall occur within a month of the date of vacancy to elect a new chairman for the concerned local body , according to provisions of this law .

Article 60 (Member Post vacant)

1. The member's post shall be deemed vacant in the following cases: -
 - a. Resignation or death.
 - b. Illegibility or incapacity to do duties according to absolute writ.
2. The council shall announce vacancy of member post and inform the minister of local government
3. The vacant post shall be filled by the member who came directly after last winner of the same list of whom the member whose post has become vacant belonged to.
4. If no member followed the last winner on the same list, then a move is made to the other person who ranked behind the last candidate who received a seat upon the calculation of the results based on "Saint-Laguë" method.
5. All vacant posts are filled in accordance with the provisions of the two paragraphs above not exceeding half the number of members

Article 61

If more than half of the council members posts became vacant simultaneously, the council shall be considered as dissolved, new elections shall take place within a maximum period of one month from the date the vacancies are announced to select new members for all the council in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Chapter Sixteen

Elections Crimes

Article 62 (Bribery and buying of votes)

An individual shall be considered as having committed a crime and shall be sentenced for a period not exceeding three years or with a fine not exceeding the amount of 3000 Jordanian Dinars or their equivalent in local currency or to both penalties if:

1. the individual has given directly or indirectly or loaned or promised to achieve a benefit to any elector so as to dictate his/her vote or to prevent him/her from voting.
2. the individual asked, directly or indirectly, money , or loan or benefit or any return to himself or somebody else in the intention to vote in a specific manner , or to refrain from voting or to influence others to vote or to refrain from voting.

Article 63 (Threatening voters' freedom)

An individual shall be considered as having committed a crime and shall be sentenced for a period not exceeding one year or a with a fine not exceeding the total amount of 1000 Jordanian Dinars or their equivalent in local currency or to both penalties if he/she threatened the freedom of voters in any of the following aspects:

- a. Use of violence or threat to use violence against any person to force him/her or influence him/her to vote or not to vote to the benefit of an electoral list exclusively and not any other list or to participate or refrain from participating in any public meeting or election rally ;
- b. Instigation or assistance of somebody to vote knowing that he is illegible;
- c. hindrance or attempt to hinder any elector by any way to exercise his right of vote freely ;
- d. obligation of any elector , by any means , to reveal the name of the list he voted for or unveil contents of his ballot paper.

Article 64 (Illegal Voting)

An individual shall be considered as having committed a crime and shall be sentenced for a period not exceeding one year or a with a fine not exceeding the total amount of 1000 Jordanian Dinars or their equivalent in local currency or to both penalties if:

- a. he/she obtained or tried to obtain any voting document in the name of any other individual whether that individual is alive or dead.
- b. Present or use forged or incorrect identification documents
- c. Assume the personality of another elector (imposter)
- d. Vote more than once in any polling station
- e. Vote knowing that he is not entitled to vote.

Article 65 (Electoral materials)

An individual shall be considered as having committed a crime and shall be sentenced for a period not exceeding one year or a with a fine not exceeding the total amount of 1000 Jordanian Dinars or their equivalent in local currency or to both penalties if:

- a. he/she transported, hid, helped to hide, damaged any election item, violate content of this law and not assigned by any competent authority ;
- b. Printed, produced, or prepared any official election item a stipulated in this law without a permit from a competent authority

Article 66 (Ballot papers or Electoral protocols)

An individual shall be considered as having committed a crime and shall be sentenced for a period not exceeding one year or a with a fine not exceeding the total amount of 1000 Jordanian Dinars or their equivalent in local currency or to both penalties if:

- a. Anyone who shall forge or present false details in election protocols and electors lists;
- b. Insert or allow insertion of ballot papers in any ballot box for voters who didn't vote or for imaginary voters.
- c. Listed false information knowingly in the nomination application or its announcement or date of submission or date of registration
- d. Hid or destroyed or deformed any nomination request or claim against any electoral list in accordance with this law.

Article 67 (Other Crimes)

An individual shall be considered as having committed a crime and shall be sentenced for a period not exceeding one year or a with a fine not exceeding the total amount of 1000 Jordanian Dinars or their equivalent in local currency or to both penalties if:

- a. Revealed any secret of the electoral process secrets.
- b. Disseminated or spread news prior to elections or during the elections any false statements about the conduct of one of the candidates of the lists with the intention to influence the results of the elections.
- c. Committed or let or refrained or shunned or neglected carrying out a duty stipulated by this law unless another specific penalty is imposed as a result.

Article 68

The court may deprive anyone convicted of elections crimes, according to provisions of this law,

from the right of vote for a period not less than four years; if he shall be a member in an elected council, he shall lose right of membership during elections during which the crime has occurred .

Chapter Seventeen

Final provisions

Article 69

Members of the Secretariat Council shall be selected in accordance with the Capital Secretariat law.

Article 70

The Central Elections Commission shall set forth regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this law. The regulations shall be issued upon a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article 71

1. The categories of councils shall be divided based on objective general criteria depending on the size and number of residents of the local council.
2. The number of local councils' members shall be determined in accordance with regulations issued by the Council of Ministers, whereby the councils are divided into four categories, their number of members shall be 9,11,13,and 15 members.

Article 71 repeated

“The president shall issue a decree for allocating a number of seats for the Christians in some of the local bodies constituencies and the elections committee shall have to set up the regulation that ensures the implementation of that decree.”

Article 72

1. The Higher Commission for Local Elections shall undertake all tasks assigned to the Central Elections Commission as stated in this law for a period not exceeding the end of December 2005, after which the Central Election Commission shall assume its responsibilities.
2. The in-kind and cash asset, documents and statistical data of the Higher Committee for Local Elections shall be granted to the Central Commission for Elections without doing any injustice to the rights of officials and employees working in it in accordance to the provisions of the law".

Article 73

Elections Law No.5 of 1996 for the Palestinian local bodies elections and elections law No. 5 of 2004 amending some provisions of the previous law shall be considered void and null as well as any provisions that contradict the provisions of this law.

Article 74

All competent authorities shall have to execute provisions of this law, each in its own field; it becomes in force as of publication in the official gazette .

Issued in the city of Gaza on: 15/8/2005 AD

10/ Rajab / 1426 H

Mahmoud Abbas

Chairman of the Executive Committee of Palestine Liberation Organization

President of the Palestinian National Authority