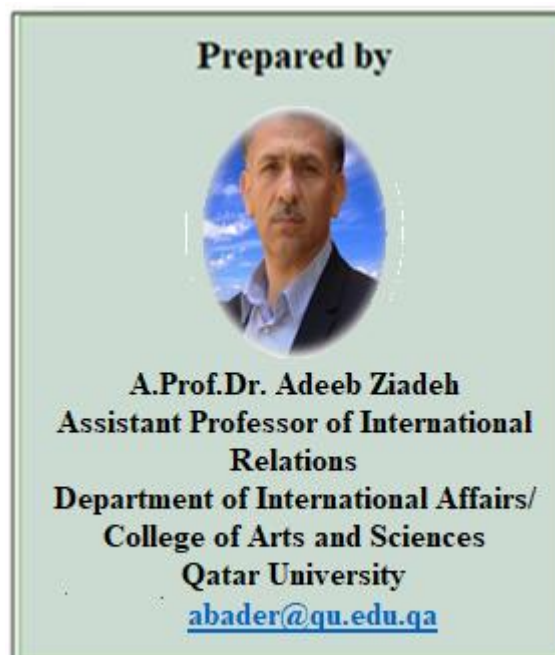


**The Oslo Accords and Palestinian Diaspora Activism: The Presence of the  
[Periphery] and the Absence of the [Center]**



## Abstract

The Oslo Accords affected the Palestinian situation, particularly the Palestinians of the diaspora, who have become marginalized and excluded in the Palestinian decision-making. However, the right of return to their homeland has become merely an issue on the agenda of the permanent status negotiations that have not started since the signing of the agreements in 1993. The paper hypothesizes that the Oslo Accords and the subsequent transfer of the PLO leadership to the interior have had a tangible impact on the activism among the Palestinian diaspora in terms of quantity and quality. This impact has been a result of the failure in addressing the grievances of the Palestinian diaspora who have automatically filled the subsequent vacuum. In this context, the Palestinian activism in the diaspora was discussed in terms of its structure, the challenges it faces, and the nature of the corresponding response. These are manifested in collective actions accompanied by processes of framing and mobilization at various social, cultural, media, and political levels. By utilizing the center-periphery model and tools provided by the theory of social movements, the paper analyzes its subject holistically (at a macro level), based on qualitative interviews with a group of officials among the Palestinian elite distributed in the diaspora, along with relevant literature. The paper concludes the validity of its hypothesis with several findings that emphasize the need to capitalize on the opportunities that have emerged as a result of this situation. Consequently, the option of building national references, leading Palestinian activism in the diaspora and achieving its goals, appears essential, but it should be approached from a bottom-up perspective, rather than the other way around.

## Key words

The Palestinian diaspora, activism, the Oslo Accords, the right of return, the Palestine Liberation Organization, marginalization, national references

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