

Jerusalem, Hebron, Ramallah –At the invitation of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Palestine, Dr. Rolf Mützenich, a German parliamentarian who is a member of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee and spokesman on disarmament policy for the SPD Bundestag parliamentary group, visited the Palestinian Territories. In two intensive days, the parliamentarian met with high-ranking representatives of Fatah, the Palestinian Authority, and other important partners of the FES.



One of the goals of the consultative program was to support Fatah in continuing its reform process. Dr. Mützenich encouraged his interlocutors to pursue vigorously the change of generations and further democratization of the movement. The German parliamentarian promised SPD support for Fatah's still upcoming Sixth General Congress. Holding the congress, he said, could constitute a positive signal which might not only regain the trust of the Palestinian population, but could also through positive reports increase support in Germany and Europe.

Another stop on the consultative visit was Hebron. Together with representatives of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), Dr. Mützenich discussed the current situation in the city, where there are frequent clashes between Jewish settlers and Palestinians. In a political guided tour of the city, consultations with PLC parliamentarian Dr. Sahar Qasawsmi, and a meeting with the mayor of Hebron, Khaled Osaily, the German parliamentarian highlighted the importance of solving the settler issue and resolutely countering settler violence.



At the end of his visit, Dr. Mützenich met in Ramallah with young scientists and Fatah politicians. In the setting of a discussion group, he underscored the important role of political parties, particularly Fatah, for peace and democracy, and explicitly advocated women's participation in the political process. In addition, Dr. Mützenich promised continued cooperation. A solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, he said, was only possible if Germany and the SPD on the one hand, and Fatah and the Palestinian Authority on the other would also work together in the future.

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