

**Jerusalem and Ramallah. July 24<sup>th</sup> 2007.**

Christian Kröning and Sven Zylla, leaders among German Social Democrats in Schleswig-Holstein, visited Israel and the Palestinian Territories this past week to gain perspective on the political situation in the region and facilitate workshops for Palestinian youth and alternative parties.

Following the collapse of the National Unity Government and the creation of an Emergency Government, elections could take place in the Palestinian Territories as early as January. Strengthening alternative parties and equipping young leaders with campaigning skills can lay the foundation for a more democratic future.



*Al Mubadara Workshop with  
Christian Kröning*

In this spirit, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung welcomed the two campaign experts and organized workshops with young members of the Fatah movement as well as the alternative Al-Mubadara party. In addition to facilitating training sessions with Palestinians, the pair toured parts of Israel and the West Bank meeting with experts and political leaders.



*Workshop with the Young Fatah  
Movement*

On Thursday Kröning and Zylla conducted a workshop with members of Shabibet Fatah. Young people from across the West Bank traveled to Ramallah for the workshop. Young leaders of the Fatah movement were trained in campaign planning and strategy. Following the workshop the two met with Quaddura Fares, a senior member of Fatah and later Abdullah Frangi, General Delegate of Fatah for International Affairs.

In further dialogue with the Fatah movement at the Institute for Public Policy, Kröning and Zylla further explored the ways in which parties can draw from external think tanks, policy consultants and experts in preparing for elections. Political parties not only need to be able to identify sound policy advice, but should also serve as a catalyst for turning good ideas into productive policy. Parties cannot win elections only by identifying problems of the past. They must also stand on a platform of coherent ideas that guides the electorate toward a promising future.



*Campaign Expert  
Sven Zylla*

The two experts spent the subsequent two days in a comprehensive workshop with members of the Palestinian National Initiative (Al-Mubadara) facilitating the preparation for the next elections. Members began organizing internal structures to implement the campaign. At the end of the two day session Mubadara members gave positive feedback and indicated their readiness to engage young people and women in the next election.

Broad participation among all Palestinian demographics is critical not only for the party itself, but for enhancing the participation of all members of society in representative democracy.

On Monday the two experts took part in a roundtable event sponsored by FES partner PASSIA, the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs. In attendance were members of the Fatah movement as well as independent political analysts and members of the international community. During the discussion Kröning and Zylla emphasized the need for political parties to develop a clear vision for the future of the country as well as concrete strategies for implementation. Moreover, it is essential that internal party structures should operate democratically if the greater system shall be broadly participatory.