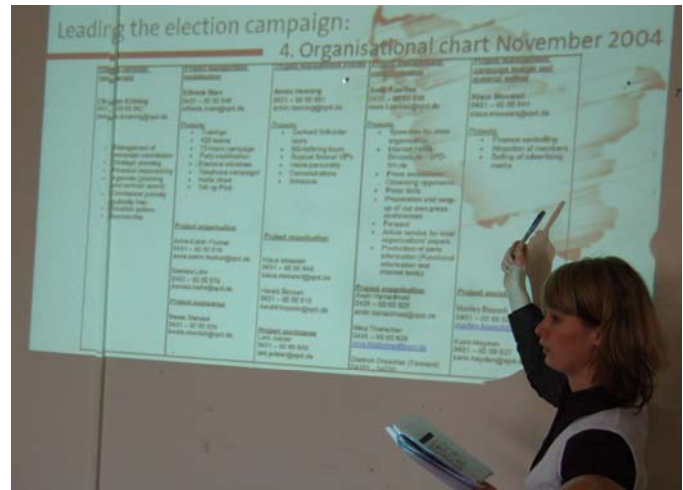


**Party Organisation and Structure.** April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Ramallah. At the request of the FES in Jerusalem, four short term experts from the Social Democratic Party visited the Palestinian Territories for a number of seminars on the work and organization of political parties.

Christian Kröning, Sven Zylla, Karsten Reimer und Anne-Katrin Fischer of the SPD in the German Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein visited during a phase of relative political stability in the Palestinian Territories. Following the creation of the National Unity Government between Fatah, Hamas and other smaller parties, the acute danger of civil war could be averted. The goal of the visit was to promote democratic structures within political parties and develop party platforms through discussions and workshops with political actors in the Palestinian Territories.



*Anne-Kathrin Fischer*

Workshops with the Fatah youth movement, Shabibet Fatah, and the relatively young Al-Mubadara party (Palestinian National Initiative) were conducted. On the programmatic level, the development of a party platform for the Fatah movement is critical for the future of the Palestinian Territories. The content of the workshops focused on developing a party platform and undertaking concrete reforms. The experts sought to inspire young politicians to consider creative approaches to the future of the Palestinian Territories as well as the future of the Fatah movement.

Al-Mubadara, a smaller party, is in many respects, a leftist movement with liberal social values. It is on the way to transforming from a movement to a political party with a unique platform profile and concrete structures. Here, as well as with the Fatah movement, a consolidation of ideas and articulation of a platform is necessary in order to develop a voter base between the existing blocks. The German experts emphasized the necessity for a clear vision of the political future as well as democratic internal party structures during the course of the workshops.

The visiting experts emphasized their interest and willingness to further work on the nuts and bolts political topics such as party organization, platform development, local level politics and campaign management with the FES in the Palestinian Territories.