

Bundestag members Christian Lange and Siegmund Ehrmann advise Palestinian disseminators



In April 2008, a party-development training course for young Palestinian people in positions of responsibility, organized by FES Jerusalem and FES partner PASSIA (www.passia.org), took place in Jericho. On April 4, the course was attended by Kerstin Griese, a member of the SPD executive, Christian Lange, parliamentary

executive secretary, as well as Bundestag members Siegmund Ehrmann, Dr. Carola Reimann, and Andreas Weigel.

The five-day seminar addressed strategic, legal, financial, and political subjects relating to the issue of what constitutes a successful democratic party. Out of more than 120 applicants, FES partner PASSIA chose 25 young people in positions of responsibility in the worlds of politics, the law, administration, and civil society. Christian Lange ran the workshop on legal bases for parties, and described the differences between a political movement and a party. Siegmund Ehrmann lectured on the work of political parties in parliament.

There was an outstanding seminar atmosphere – the young people had so many questions which they were dying to ask that Siegmund Ehrmann compared the participants to dry sponges who positively soaked up knowledge about political processes in a parliamentary democracy. The 25 participants, who had traveled from various localities in the West Bank, had a discussion that lasted a number of hours – far longer than planned – about political procedures in democratic political parties. For most of them, this was their first encounter with European politicians.