

Advice for Tony Blair

Since June of this year the former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has been serving as Special Envoy for the Middle East Quartet. During his first trip to the Middle East in this capacity, Blair met with various experts in order to gain a more nuanced perspective on the region. Knut Dethlefsen, Resident Representative of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Jerusalem, was invited as an expert on the Fatah



Movement to a consultative discussion. During a breakfast meeting they discussed the organization and structure of Fatah, the influence of the movement, important personalities and the reform process.

Knut Dethlefsen informed Blair about programs of the Foundation aimed at supporting Fatah through its transformation into a democratic party including campaign workshops, seminars on inner-party democracy, conflict management, youth programs and regular exchanges with German parliamentarians. He referenced the pronounced calls to reform the movement following the death of Yasser Arafat and und electoral defeat in 2006. The implementation of such reforms has stumbled repeatedly on disputes within Palestinian society and within the Fatah movement and made only limited progress. Knut Dethlefsen recommended strong support for the reform process. Rejuvenation of the platform as well as leadership is the prerequisite for further development of Palestinian democracy.



Knut Dethlefsen, Head of the FES Jerusalem together with Tony Blair, Special Representative for the Middle East Quartet.