

Arabic Newspapers and Periodicals

- Palestine Newspapers
- Egyptian Oppositional Newspapers
- Early Arabic Newspapers



General information

Palestine Newspapers

Scope 55 titles
Number of fiche 3,831
Number of reels 4,727

Egyptian Oppositional Periodicals

Scope 5 titles
Number of fiche 233

Early Arabic Periodicals

Scope 5 titles
Number of fiche 212 microfiche

Size of fiche 105 x 148 mm.

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Palestine Newspapers

During the period of the British mandate, i.e., until 1948, a large number of Arab newspapers appeared irregularly in Palestine. The level of the local Arab press was inferior to that in Egypt or Lebanon, but superior to that in other countries. These newspapers generally had a rather narrow political focus and their political line changed, sometimes in response to personal or economic factors. Until 1948, the major Palestinian newspapers were *Filasṭīn*, *al-Difāʿ*, and *al-Ittiḥād*, the first two published in Jaffa and the third in Haifa. The large role played by Christians in these and other papers, is noteworthy.

The center of Palestinian Arab press shifted from Jaffa to Jerusalem with the establishment of Israel as a state in 1948, but *al-Difāʿ* and *Filasṭīn* continued to appear in Jordan until King Hussein decided to close them in March of 1967.

After the War in 1967, new Arab newspapers were published in Jerusalem. The major ones that should be cited are *al-Kuds*, *al-Shaʿb*, *al-Fajr*, and the semi-official Israeli Arab paper *al-Anba*. The political line of this press is noted for its hostility to Israel and support for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

These newspapers are important not only because they help form public opinion in Jerusalem and the occupied territories, but due to the fact that they constitute a tool of political expression for local Arab population. They thus express the mood in the occupied territories and the political views that are prevalent within the Arab community, especially among the intellectuals.

al-Anbāʾ. Jerusalem,
1968(Oct.)-1985(Jan.).

Ceased in 1985.

This newspaper began publication on 24 October 1968 in Jerusalem. *al-Anbāʾ* in fact became the new form of *al-Yaum*, which had served as an Arab daily from 1948 until May of 1968 and was considered by Israeli Arabs as an authorized spokesman of the Israeli government. This stigma still clings to the new *al-Anbāʾ* version. The Prime Minister's Office (the Bureau of the Adviser on Arab Affairs) supports the newspaper and supervises it in conjunction with representatives of the paper's editorial staff, the two sides forming a common committee for this purpose *al-Anbāʾ* has attempted to avoid appearing as an authorized Israeli Arab organ by according full freedom of expression to its reporters and to Palestinian Arab personalities. This liberal approach led to an increased distribution as the paper developed a group of "moderate" Palestinian newsmen including Muhammad Abu Shilbaya, Fauzi al-Shanti, and others. It is important to note that the owners and editors of the paper are Jews: until 1970, Yitzhak Bar-Moshe was editor, later followed by Yaacov Hazma. Both are veterans of the Arab Broadcasting Network, which is connected with the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

50 reels

Order no. J-93-1/3

el-Carmel. 1920(Oct.)-1934(May).

8 reels

Order no. J-91-205/3

al-Difāʿ. Jaffa, Jerusalem,
1934(April)-1966.

This newspaper was founded in Jaffa in 1934. Throughout its life it was edited by Ibrahim al-Shanti, member of a peasant family that became rather wealthy. The paper bore a strong Muslim, anti-British, and fascist character, so much so that it openly supported Nazism. In its early period the paper was considered the voice of al-Istiqlal circles. (The Independent Party, a pan-Arab political movement not limited exclusively to Palestinian Arab goals). In the 1940s *al-Difāʿ* was financed by the Arab Bank (al-Bank al-Arabi) and supported the Husayni political element in the country. With a more cautious and reserved orientation than *Filasṭīn* its opposite number in Jaffa, it attained a much larger distribution, especially in Muslim and village circles. After 1948 and the establishment of Israel, *al-Difāʿ* too moved from Jaffa to East Jerusalem. It appeared until March 1967, when Hussein closed down all Jordanian newspapers. Missing: 1934(Jan.-March); 1935(Dec.); 1939(Jan.-Aug.); 1948(May)-1949(Feb.); 1952(Sept.)-1955(Jan.).

57 reels

Order no. J-93-2/3

al-Fajr. Jerusalem,
1972(April)-1993(July).

Appeared weekly, later twice a week and daily. Ceased publication.

This paper was established on 7 April 1972 in Jerusalem. Yusuf Nasr, a Christian born in 1939, founded the newspaper, and Jamil Hamad, a Muslim from Bethlehem, became the first editor. Both belonged to a group of young intellectuals known as the New Thinking (al-Fikr al-Jadid), and *al-Fajr* served as the voice of this circle. From the start the newspaper adopted an anti-Israel and anti-Jordanian line and frequently also attacked the local "reactionary" leadership among the Arabs in the territories under Israeli control, their foremost target being Sheikh Ja'bari, mayor of Hebron. In February of 1974 Nasr was kidnapped and has not been seen since. Jamil Hamad was among those who were suspected and arrested, but he was subsequently released; he did not, however, resume the paper's editorship. Afaf Ajluni, Nasr's sister, later came to Jerusalem from the United States to run *al-Fajr*; she and her husband had financed the paper from abroad. With the assistance of a group of young Communists who have transformed the newspaper into a Communist organ, Afaf Ajluni runs *al-Fajr* in her brother's place. The paper openly identifies with the PLO and acts as their voice in the territories under Israeli occupation.

66 reels

Order no. J-93-3/3

al-Fajr - The Dawn. Jerusalem,
1980(April 23)-1993. V.1-14. Index
1980-1985.

In English.

Jerusalem Palestinian weekly. The only English language newspaper published in the occupied territories. Politics, culture.

Missing: 1981(83, 84); 1982/1983(139); 1983(161); 1983/1984(191); 1984/1985(243); 1986(343-346); 1990, V.11.

13 reels

Order no. J-91-117/3

Filasṭīn. Jaffa, Jerusalem, 1911-1914, 1921-1967(March).

Founded in 1911 in Jaffa, then the largest Arab town in Palestine, *Filasṭīn* was run by Isa al-Isa, a member of a Christian Orthodox family. In the beginning the paper did not appear as a daily or even regularly. In its most checkered history, *Filasṭīn* ceased publication between 1914 and 1918 when the Turks closed it down, appeared two or three times weekly until 1929, when it finally became the first Arab daily in the country. Because the owners and editors were Christians, *Filasṭīn* was not widely read within the Muslim community, especially in the villages, even though it adopted an Arab nationalist line. It was not a party organ, but expressed a consistent political orientation. In the early 1920s it served as the vehicle for the Arab Executive Committee. In 1927-1928 it began to voice the views of the Nashashibi elements, which opposed the dominance of the Husayni family in Palestinian politics. In 1942-1943, the paper received financial support from the al-Umma Bank (Nation Bank) and expressed the line of the al-Istiqlal circles. After the establishment of the State of Israel, *Filasṭīn* moved to Amman (Jordan) and later to Jerusalem. It was published until 21 March 1967, when King Hussein closed it down (along with other Jordanian newspapers). This marked the end of the longest-surviving Arab press in Palestine. Missing: 1948(May-Dec.); 1949(Jan., Sept.-Dec.); 1951(July-Dec.); 1952(Sept.-Dec.); 1953-1955(Jan.).

99 reels
Order no. J-93-7/3

al-Ittiḥād. Haifa, 1944(May)-2002(Aug.).

Subscription to regular updates possible. A weekly until 1954, since then published twice a week.

This newspaper was established in May of 1944 as the voice of the Workers Sections Federation in Haifa. It served as the common vehicle for this Federation and the National Liberation League, the Communist political organization. With the rejection of the Federation and the founding of the Workers' Congress in August 1945, the paper became the organ for the Congress and the National Liberation League. Efforts to turn it into a daily have failed. The organ became the exclusive property of the Arab wing of *Rakah*, the Israeli Communist Party, after the split in 1965; *Maki*, the other party wing, published a bi-weekly called *Sawt al-Sha^cb*. *al-Ittiḥād* has always been characterized by a noticeable political-party dimension. Emil Tuma served as its chief editor, and most Arab Communist leaders have participated as staff members. It provides systematic political propaganda and analysis, directed at the worker and a mass public. The consistent line of *al-Ittiḥād* is anti-Western and pro-Soviet and pro-Arab. It consistently opposes the government of Israel and its policies, and supports Palestinian Arab nationalism.

123 reels
Order no. J-93-4/3

al-Jami'ah al-Arabiyyah. Jerusalem, 1927-1935.

Initially published twice a week, then, following the 1929 riots, daily.

Organ of the Supreme Moslem Council.

15 reels
Order no. J-93-9/3

al-Ḳuds. Jerusalem, 1968(Nov.)-2005(Febr.).

Subscription to regular updates possible.

After King Hussein closed the newspapers in Jordan in March of 1967, *al-Jihad* and *al-Difā^c* united to form a new Jerusalem paper called *al-Ḳuds*. This paper managed to appear 34 times before the Six Day War broke out in June of 1967, and then ceased publication. On 19 November 1968 the paper reappeared and has since adopted a pro-Hashemite line, generally seen as moderate within the Palestinian political context. Mahmud Abu Zuluf, its owner and editor, was born in Jaffa in 1924, and signs himself Abu Marwan when he writes the major editorial in *al-Ḳuds*. From a professional point of view, *al-Ḳuds* is a good newspaper and the most stable in the West Bank region; it has a larger circulation than the other press (*al-Fajr*, *al-Sha^cb*).

200 reels
Order no. J-93-5/3

Mir'āt al-Sharq. Jerusalem, 1919-1938. V.1-19.

The first Arabic newspaper in Jerusalem.

Missing: V.1(32-33, 45); V.2(55, 83, 102, 106, 123-124); V.3(135, 143); 1922/23-1924/25, V.4-6; V.7(452); V.10(597, 605, 607, 626, 629); V.11(632); V.15(1074, 1076-1079, 1099, 1109-1110, 1112).

5 reels
Order no. NE-1515/3

al-Mithaq. Jerusalem, 1980-1986.

March 1980-July 1982: weekly; August 1982-July 1984: twice a week; August 1984-August 1986: daily. Ceased.

Political newspaper of independent nationalistic line.

12 reels
Order no. J-93-10/3

al-Nahār. Jerusalem, 1986(March)-1995.

Initially weekly (1986, March 7 - 1987, April 3), then daily (1987, April 10-).

Political newspaper.

Missing: 1986(26); 1987(289); 1988(April 6, 12, 29-30; June 24, 29); 1989-1990; 1991(1403, 1443, 1459, 1576, 1619, 1679, 1683).

30 reels
Order no. J-93-11/3

al-Quds.

See: al-Ḳuds.

al-Sha^cb. Jerusalem, 1972(July)-1992.

Ceased publication.

This newspaper was established in 23 July 1972 in Jerusalem by Mahmud Yaish, an old-time publisher who was involved in a large number of papers in Jordan. From the beginning, *al-Sha^cb* adopted a strong anti-Israel, anti-Jordan, and anti-Western attitude and attacked the moderate position in the Arab world and in the territories. The acting editor, Ali al-Khatib, set the paper's tone. Born in Dura (near Hebron) in 1919 of Muslim parents, al-Khatib worked for *Filasṭīn* until 1967; before that he had served as secretary to the Jordanian governor of Jerusalem. al-Khatib usually wrote the major editorials in *al-Sha^cb*, as well as a stinging column called *Good Morning*, written under the pen-name of Abu Ghassan. At the end of 1974 he was expelled to Lebanon (for obvious reasons not to Jordan) along with three other people charged with incitement in the Arab areas.

The paper still openly supports the PLO and attacks Israel vigorously. In the past, according to certain rumours confirmed by the President of Egypt, Libya has financed the newspaper.

57 reels
Order no. J-93-6/3

Early Arabic Periodicals

In the nineteenth century the already weakened power of the Ottoman Empire declined further and further, and the Arab subjects in the Middle East provinces shared in the general misery. As Ottoman power decreased, the European influence in the Middle East increased correspondingly and became one of the major factors contributing to the rise of Arab nationalism.

The Arabs had become used to the idea of being dominated by foreign powers. The successive invasions and subsequent occupations of Syria and Egypt by French and English armies confronted the Arabs with a European Christian aggressor for the first time since the Crusades. The reaction of the Arab peoples to the impact of the West may seem ambiguous: on the one hand the Arabs were fully prepared to receive and adopt Western ideas and techniques; on the other hand they resisted a further advance of European influence. But this was only natural for peoples who were trying to establish their own identity after having been forced into a slumber which had lasted several centuries.

For the Arabs, the Arabic language constituted the first means to establish their own identity. Eminent scholars among them started to use their mother tongue in order to spread knowledge, hoping to revive Arabic pride and induce a renewed self esteem in the Arabs. In this period many European works were translated into Arabic by Arab writers. The efforts of these scholars led the Arabs to abandon the by then traditional style of writing - characterized by endless variations on classical poetry and the petty pursuit of trivial religious disputes - in favour of a more factual style. For this new style, periodicals were an excellent medium.

al-Muqtabas. Damascus, 1906-1911.

V.1-6.

Monthly.

52 microfiche

Order no. NE-20327 /1

al-Nibrās. Beirut, 1909-1910. V.1-2.

Monthly.

10 microfiche

Order no. NE-20334 /1

Nūr al-Islām. Cairo, 1930-1936. V.1-7.

Ten issues per year.

Missing: 1935, V.6(1).

102 microfiche

Order no. NE-20331 /1

al-Sā'ih. New York.

Weekly.

Available: 1930, V.18(216-224); V.19(1-5).

9 microfiche

Order no. NE-20332 /1

al-Zahrā'. Cairo, 1924-1928. V.1-5.

Monthly.

39 microfiche

Order no. NE-20329 /1

Egyptian Oppositional Periodicals

During the second half of the Sadat Era (1970-1981) the Egyptian Government permitted a certain amount of freedom of the press, especially for religious journals and magazines.

In June 1976 two monthlies, *al-Da'wa* and *al-I'tisām*, which were associated with the famous Muslim Brotherhood, started to appear, and in the spring of 1979 the Sufi Brotherhoods began to publish a monthly called *Majallat al-Islām wa-ʾl-Taṣawwuf* (The Journal of Islam and Mysticism).

In September 1981, on the eve of his assassination, President Sadat revoked the "permission to appear" for a number of journals, because according to him and his government these journals had misused the granted freedom of the press by "inciting people to religious strife and civil war". However, long before their dissolution in September 1982 these journals had vehemently criticized the Egyptian Government, the person of Anwar al-Sadat, the Egyptian official policy of normalization or relations with the State of Israel, etc.

The contents of these journals reflect an important phase in the history of Islam. They throw an interesting light on the intellectual world which has given rise to Islamic activism and Islamic extremism. No academic library for modern Middle Eastern studies that does not possess these journals can call itself adequate.

al-Da'wa. Sawt al-Haqq wa 'l-Quwwa wa 'l-Ḥurriyya. Cairo, 1976-1981.

General Islamic weekly which appeared monthly during the years 1976-1981.

Missing: No. 36 (May 1979).

77 microfiche

Order no. NE-20322/1

al-I'tisām. Cairo, 1977-1981.

Two issues were confiscated by the Egyptian government (March and April 1979).

18 microfiche

Order no. NE-20323/1

Jarīdat al-Sha'b. Cairo, 1979-1981.

General Socialist weekly. Edited by the Egyptian Socialist Party.

Missing: 1981(122).

50 microfiche

Order no. NE-20325/1

al-Taṣawwuf al-Islāmī. Shari'a wa Ḥaqīqa wa Tariqa. Cairo, 1979-1982.

General Islamic (Sufi) monthly. Edited by the High Council of Sufism.

34 microfiche

Order no. NE-20326/1

al-Tawhīd. Cairo, 1973-1981.

Islamic monthly.

Missing: Rabi' al-Thānī and Jumādā 'l-Ūlā 1394. Shawwāl, Dhū 'l-Qa'da, and Dhū 'l-Hijja 1395, Muḥarram and Ṣafar 1396, and Ṣafar 1401.

54 microfiche

Order no. NE-20324/1