

Obituary

Antoine Zahlan (1928-2020)



It is with great sadness that the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) received the news of the passing of Dr. Antoine Zahlan. Dr. Zahlan was a Professor of physics and a prominent development expert, always full of initiative ideas, including some that led to the establishment of influential Palestinian institutions, amongst them MAS.

Zahlan (known widely as Tony) died at the age of 92 on the 1st of Sep 2020 in Beirut-Lebanon, where he had lived since expulsion from his hometown Haifa in the aftermath of Al-Nakba. He lived, studied, and worked in Beirut for many years, dedicating his life, time, and knowledge to serve the Palestinian people, both as an independent enthusiastic scientist or through his engagement with the P.L.O.

Zahlan was an Arab nationalist, par excellence. He published numerous books and publications in different fields and interests, especially on development issues in the Arab region. He is widely noted for establishing one of the biggest databases for Arab scholars and their publications. His 1996 book, *The Reconstruction of Palestine*, a unique collection of over forty forward-looking papers on Palestinian housing conditions and needs and urban and rural development strategies and policies for the interim period and beyond (a review of the book may be consulted [here](#)).

With his help, MAS could reach out, connect, and collaborate with many qualified economists in the diaspora, and attracted a number of researchers to work in Palestine following the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority.

The Institute extends its deepest condolences to his family and friends, and the Palestinian people for their great loss, and stresses the importance of preservation of his developmental and scientific legacy.