



Forestalling Statehood: EU Financial Support for Democracy Building in Palestine

Executive Summary:

The overall objective of this paper is to critically engage with ‘democracy promotion’ as a contested international practice. It specifically focuses on the EU’s role and programs in Palestine, by unpacking their multiple and contradictory meanings and diverse impacts at the local level. The Palestine Case Study aims to center the voices and needs of the communities receiving aid, to understand the key notions of political democracy and democratic governance by highlighting diverse first-hand experiences. It explores local adaptation and contestation to such programs and what their effects are through one-on-one interviews as well as focus groups. We examine the way in which EU democracy promotion funding intersects with local dynamics in Palestine. We conclude that the EU’s funding practices tend to privilege EU agendas over local needs, and these practices also ignore the ongoing effect of the Israeli occupation.