

Annex III

Biographical data form of candidates to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)

Name and first name: Ammar M. A. Dwaik (Aldwaik)

Date and place of birth: 23 April 1972, Hebron (Palestine)

Working languages: Arabic (Mother tongue)
English

Professional background:

Director General of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) in Palestine (NHRI of Palestine) since August, 2015.

- Formerly Assistant Professor of Public Policy/Public Administration at Birzeit University (2013-2015)
- Chief Electoral Officer of the Palestinian Elections Commission (2004-2006)
- Human Rights officer with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (1999-2001)
- Police Officer (1995-1997)

As the head of ICHR, he supervises visits to all detention and liberty deprivation facilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (on average 1000 visits per year) and was personally involved in several factfinding missions to investigate incidents of in-custody death. In 2015, he led the preparation process for ICHR re-accreditation with the UN Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) maintaining its “A” status that underscores the full independency of the Commission. Furthermore, he supervises training and capacity building programs for prisons officials and security forces on relevant international standards. Under his supervision and for the first time in Palestine, ICHR developed a prison assessment instrument with 61 indicators to serve as the baseline for the situation of Palestinian prisons. Currently he is involved in drafting the Palestinian Law on the NPM.

- As a human rights officer at OHCHR, he was involved in developing and delivering trainings to prisons’ officials on relevant international standards.

Current position/function:

- Director General of Palestine Independent Commission for Human Rights.
- Chairman and member of the executive committee the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions.
- Member of the Governing Board of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM)
- Nominated to be the Asia Pacific Form (APF) representative to GHANRI subcommittee on Accreditation (SCA)
- Member of the Justice Sector Coordination Council in Palestine.

Educational background:

- PhD in Social Policy and Management. Brandeis University, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Massachusetts, USA (2006-2012)

- Masters of Law in Law and Government. American University, Washington College of Law (WCL- AU). Washington, DC. USA (2001 – 2002)
- Police Academy, Faculty of Specialized officers – Egypt (1994/1995)
- High Diploma in police science
- Law Degree. Al Yarmouk University, Faculty of Law – Jordan (1991-1994)

Other relevant courses:

Special Course on Human Rights (1999). University of Oxford.

Main professional activities:

- In charge of the overall management of ICHR, including the supervision of its field offices in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Acts as an Ombudsman; following up on complaints against Palestinian public institutions (handling over 2000 complaints per year).
- Supervises ICHR reporting process to UN treaty committees. (supervised ICHR's shadow reports for CEDAW, CRC, and ICERD committees – CAT report in progress)
- In charge of formulating international cooperation projects. He was the leader of a twinning project with the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- Led an advocacy campaign to urge the State of Palestine to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) leading to its ratification in December 2017; becoming the fifth State party in the MENA region.
- Led national consultations in partnership with the Ministry of Interior on the NPM model for Palestine. In this context, he supervised the organization of an international conference in Amman, Jordan in partnership with Penal Reform International MENA Office to discuss the proposed NPM model for Palestine and provide a platform for exchange with other regional and international NPMs.

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- Ammar Dwaik, Future of Public Basic Services in the West bank and Gaza, Carnegie Middle East Center, September 2014 <http://carnegie-mec.org/2014/09/17/future-of-public-and-basic-services-in-west-bank-and-gaza>
- Dwaik, A., Death Penalty in Palestine: The Legal Framework and The International Human Rights Standards, (PICCR:Ramallah) 1999

Other merits and recognitions

- Board member of the Palestinian-American Research Center (PARC) since 2015, <http://parc-us-pal.org/who.htm>
- Board member (representing civil society) of the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) <http://www.mdlf.org.ps/default.aspx?LangID=en>
- Board member of Annajah National University since 2019
- Chevening Scholarship 2009
- Clinton Scholarship Fellow (2001)