

After Abbas 'Postpones' Elections, EU and UN Ask Him to Reschedule

by Hugh Fitzgerald



The EU and UN have asked Mahmoud Abbas to reschedule the elections he has just “postponed.” Oh, for god’s sake. Get real, EU and UN. Mahmoud Abbas didn’t just “postpone” Palestinian elections. That’s what he said he was doing. But you don’t “postpone” elections if, no matter when you hold them, you will suffer a crushing defeat. That’s not what despots such as Abbas do. There’s little fun in being a despot, a President-For-Life in the sixteenth year of your four-year-term, if you can’t call the whole thing – that is, elections – off. He called it a “postponement” knowing full well that he’d had his short-lived dalliance with elections, but now it was been long past time to put paid to the whole silly business. Things were getting entirely out of hand. First there was Nasser al-Kidwa, refusing to endorse Abbas’

parliamentary list and instead joining Marwan Barghouti in a Kidwa-Bargouti “Freedom” list of parliamentary candidates. Then there was Mohammad Dahlan who, not to be outdone, came out with his “Future” list of candidates. And of course, let’s not forget the Hamas list.

But that was not the worst of it. Mahmoud Abbas realized that he would not just lose control of the Palestinian parliament – his Fatah list was predicted to win only 30 of the Parliament’s 132 seats – but that Abbas himself would lose the presidential election, and by a lot, to any of his rivals – the Hamas candidate, whoever he might be, or Marwan Barghouti (running from an Israeli prison) or Mohammad Dahlan (running from his exile in the United Arab Emirates), each of whom was predicted, if matched against Abbas, to win at least 60% of the vote.

The latest on Abbas’ elections farce is here: “EU, UN call on Abbas to set new date for Palestinian elections,” by Tovah Lazaroff, [Jihad Watch](#).