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The Partition of Water Resources in the Jordan River Basin ***A Palestinian Perspective***

Summary

The Jordan River is an international water course shared between Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Syria. During the past 50 years, several projects have been executed which altered the flow of the river. The current water allocations have not been negotiated but are somehow based on Johnston plan of

Palestinian are full riparian in the Jordan River basin and have historically used its water for irrigation in the Jordan Valley. The Johnston plan included a West Ghour Canal aimed at providing Palestinian farmers with mcm per dunum. However, this plan was never implemented. Up to 1967, Palestinian farmers have been extracting close to 10 mcm from the Jordan river to irrigate their fields in the Jordan Valley.

Following the 1967 war, Israel prevented Palestinian farmers from utilize the water resource of the Jordan River and large areas of Palestinian farm land in the area.

With peace in the horizon, an integrated water management for the intended Jordan River is essential to secure the sustainability of peace. Such a scheme should include all riparians and be based on fairness and justice in allocating the water resources and preventing the pollution of this important water body.

The paper will address the issue of water allocations in the Jordan River basin from a Palestine point of view.