

## Brazil to Monitor Palestine Elections

Contributed by Newsroom  
Monday, 03 January 2005

The presidential election in the occupied Palestine territories, set for January 9, 2005, will be monitored by representatives of Brazil's Federal Elections Board, who will be part of the delegation of Brazilian observers.

The four judiciary members of the mission will be indicated by the president of the Federal Electoral Court (TSE), Sepúlveda Pertence.

They will collaborate with Palestine magistrates appointed to the Central Electoral Court, established by the Palestine National Authority (ANP), to handle pre-election matters, such as dealing with candidates' complaints.

The Brazilian delegation is expected to concentrate its activities in Ramala, following the entire electoral process and maintaining contact with other international observers and journalists.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, the Palestinians didn't express any interest in using Brazilian electronic ballot boxes.

Nevertheless, the introduction of this technology may occur gradually, combining with the Palestinian legislative elections set for May, 2005.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, the presence of members of the Brazilian Electoral Board in the Palestine elections represents an important experience in the area of electoral cooperation when it comes to Spanish-American countries, as well as Guinea-Bissau, East Timor, and Haiti.

The participation of Brazil in the process of monitoring elections in Palestinian territories will be headed up by the European Union and the United States, as well as observers from various countries such as Canada, Norway, Japan, and Sweden.

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