



المبادرة الفلسطينية لتعميق الحوار العالمي والديمقراطية

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of **Global Dialogue and Democracy**

M I F T A H
A C T I V I T I E S
R E P O R T

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MIFTAH

Jerusalem 95908

Ramallah, Al Massayef St.

P.O.Box 69647

Rimawi Center, 4th Floor

Tel: +972 2 5851842

Tel: +970 2 2989490/1

Fax: +972 2 5835184

Fax: +970 2 2989492

info@miftah.org

www.miftah.org

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Prepared by Dolly Nammour

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L E T T E R
FROM THE CHAIRMAN
OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

.....

If an organization is to make a genuine impact, it must maintain an enduring and relevant presence, rising above challenges to become an integral and forceful part of its community. To achieve this, the organization must remain creative and willing to adapt to a changing environment and make a significant impact. This past year, MIFTAH took significant steps to keep pace with the rapid changes at the local, regional and international levels. This year, in an enormously challenging political, economic and social environment, MIFTAH demonstrated that it continues to be relevant, vibrant, and necessary in promoting democracy in Palestine and establishing networks for international cooperation allowing for a global dialogue guided by the principles of democracy, human rights, gender equality and participatory governance. The many accomplishments MIFTAH has made and that the report at hand shows,



particularly in the areas of empowerment of women, youth, reform and the media, have presented promising opportunities as well as frustrating roadblocks.

Our progress is a clear indication of the incredible resolve and continued dedication of our staff and stakeholders to achieving MIFTAH's mission. They are the core of our strength and the primary force behind MIFTAH's leadership in the field of democracy and participatory governance.

Sa'id Khoury



**FOREWORD
BY
THE SECRETARY
GENERAL**

.....

In its fifth year of operation, the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) has continued a robust life. The organization's programs have continued to bear fruit. They have evolved into popular options for our participants, particularly in the programs of empowerment of women and youth leadership.



Throughout 2004, MIFTAH has drawn on vibrant contemporary developments and there have been plenty of achievements to tout. Some of these achievements have been in the areas of the empowerment of youth and women, particularly the empowerment of women in elections, peace and raising awareness of a gender-sensitive national budget. Other equally important achievements are media related. The project on monitoring the media to encourage a public and media discourse free of incitement, prejudice and

dehumanization of the other has given rise to a wide ranging debate as to the role of the media. In addition to that, the conference MIFTAH jointly held with AMAN on the critical assessment of the Arab reform initiatives held in June 2004 has brought the issue of reform to the forefront.

What remains solid is our commitment to advocacy on behalf of democracy and the rule of law. As a civil society organization, it is this commitment to advocacy and justice that links together our programs as well.

All accomplishments could not have happened without a great deal of goodwill and effort by a large number of people at MIFTAH and its stakeholders. MIFTAH is grateful for the ongoing contributions of our long-standing partners, and those of our new partners who recently discovered or actively participated in MIFTAH's work during the past year. To all of them, I extend my appreciation and gratitude. MIFTAH has already established itself as an energetic and significant actor within the civil society community in Palestine. We seek not only to maintain momentum, but also to forge ahead with vigor and confidence.

Hanan Ashrawi



MISSION STATEMENT

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The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy, MIFTAH, is a non-governmental non-partisan Jerusalem-based institution established in December 1998. Its domestic objective is to promote democracy in Palestine and ensure accountability and transparency in the public sphere while safeguarding the public's right to know. It also seeks to establish networks for international reconciliation and cooperation allowing for a global dialogue that is guided by the principles of democracy, human rights, gender equity and participatory governance.

Over the years, MIFTAH has maintained a credible position on human-based development in Palestine and in the region and has worked on long and short-term policies and strategies to deal with emerging issues. It adopts a pro-active approach to addressing issues through consensus building and networking. It strives to re-shape public perceptions and stereotypes, thereby opposing the long legacy of exclusion, disinformation, and distortion.

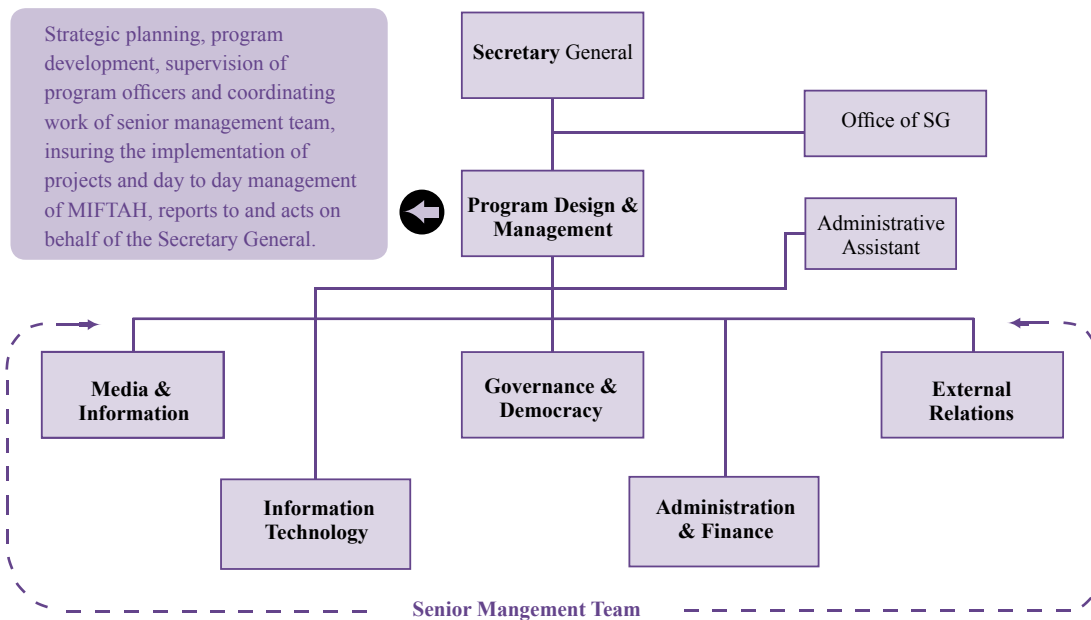
Through networking with like-minded organizations locally, regionally and internationally, and with Palestinian expatriate communities, MIFTAH has forged lasting relationships and partnerships in pursuit of a common vision of dialogue and democracy.



OBJECTIVES

- Reinforce the Palestinian nation-building process and the evolution of statehood by adopting a pro-active and an inclusive participatory approach and safe-guarding the rule of law and respect for human rights.
- Promote free access to information and the public's right to know.
- Increase awareness and knowledge of Palestinian realities by providing reliable, accurate and comprehensive information, policy analyses, and strategy and position papers.
- Complement and solidify international efforts pertaining to cooperation and conflict-resolution based on a genuine understanding of the facts, the issues at stake, and the implications of foreign policy decisions on national, regional, and global realities.
- Empower Palestinian women and youth leadership in the different fields and advocate behavior reflecting good citizenship.
- Provide a forum for a free and open debate on issues of Palestinian concern, whereby decision makers, experts and intellectuals from civil society, the private and public sectors are brought together for focused high level discourse.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Three Program areas and two support / service programs. Senior management team comprising the Deputy/Program Design and Management, Program Directors, and Supervising Consultants/Experts (as needed)

Media and Information Program: presentation of Palestinian political and social aspects via several means such as regular key issues, online perspectives, policy briefs, fact sheets and reports, press releases and statements, briefings for visiting delegations and diplomatic corps and various media emergency campaigns that cover monitoring and rapid response aspects, website management, listserv and link.

Democracy and Good Governance Program: umbrella program that encompasses projects of Palestinian internal affairs, policy formulation and empowerment of Palestinian leadership (gender and youth), reform, special projects of public awareness, networking with and strengthening Palestinian NGOs, ongoing activities that cover specialized discussion groups, meetings, workshops, seminars and outreach projects.

External Relations Program: Palestinian/European/US/Arab relations. Focus on networking with international interlocutors, institutions of civil society, grassroots organizations; monitoring various country positions; conducting regular policy briefings to diplomatic corps; conducting regular meetings with media institutions at the local and international levels and conducting meetings with decision-makers and opinion formers in the U.S. and European Union States .

Information Technology and Website: service program to cover inter and intra net communications and documents.

Administration and Finance: financial affairs; HR development and capacity building.



The Board of Trustees is comprised of local and expatriate Palestinians. The diversified backgrounds and experiences of the Board members, who are committed to the implementation of MIFTAH's objectives and mission, are invested in their involvement and active participation in the work plan and strategies of this institution. The Board meets annually in April to review the institution's progress report and to discuss current and future projects and work plans. Ernest and Young is the institution's auditor.

Members of the Board

- Ziad Abu-Amr: Former President of the Palestinian Council on Foreign Relations and member of the Palestinian Legislative Council.
- Maha Abu-Dayyeh: Director of Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling.
- Ghassan Al-Khatib: Minister of Labor (Membership frozen)
- Suheir Azzouni: Former Director General of Women's Affairs Technical Committees. Currently, woman activist.

- Mustafa Bargouthi: President of the Union of Palestinian Medical relief Committees and Director of Health Development, Information and Policy Institute
- Azmi Bishara: Palestinian intellectual and member of the Kenneset
- Mahmoud Darwish: Palestinian national poet
- Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far: Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Cancer Patients Charity in UAE.
- Rema Hammami: Professor of Anthropology, Head of Women's Studies/Higher Education Program, Birzeit University. Woman and human rights activist
- Khalil Hindi: Professor, Brunel University- UK and AUC Beirut
- Mohammad Abdel-Qader Hussein: Head of the Board of Directors of Faisal Hussein Foundation. Member of the Board of Trustees of the Jerusalem Society for Welfare and Development
- Khalil Jahshan: President of the National association of the Arab Americans (NAAA) and former President of American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee (ADC), Washington D.C.
- Rashid I. Khalidi: Professor, University of Chicago
- Sabih Al-Masri: Chairman of ASTRA Group
- Muhammad Masrouji, President of the Palestinian Businessmen Association. Chairman of Birzeit University Friends Association
- Abdel-Muhsin Qattan: Founder and President of A.M. Qattan Foundation, London
- George Salem: Attorney at Law and partner at Atkin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld, Washington D.C.
- Eyad Al-Sarraj: Director General of Gaza Community Mental Health Program
- Khalil Shikaki: President of the Center for Palestine Research and Studies
- Azmi Shuaibi: General Coordinator of the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) and member of the Palestinian Legislative Council
- Raji Sourani: Director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights

Chairman of the Board
Sa'id Houry

Secretary General
Hanan Ashrawi



Name

Job Title

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi

Secretary General

Dr. Lily Feidy

Deputy/ Program Design and Management

Dolly Nammour	Development Director
Rula Muzaffar	Administration and Finance Director
Wafa' Abdel-Rahman	Coordinator in Governance and Democracy Program
Bisan Mousa	Gender Desk Coordinator
Sana' Asi	Project Coordinator / Advocacy for Reproductive Health Project
Nadia Hajal	Project Coordinator / Empowerment of Women in Elections Project (worked at MIFTAH from August-December 2004)
Rana Malki	Special Assistant to the Secretary General (worked at MIFTAH from April 1999-December 2004)
Margo Sabella	Special Assistant to the Secretary General
Lina Afifi	Administrative Assistant/ Governance and Democracy
Ivan Karakashian	Webmaster (worked at MIFTAH from June 2002-June2004)
Husam Madhoun	Media Information Coordinator (TOKTEN consultant from August 2004- February 2005 and has been contracted by MIFTAH since then)
Labib Naser	Media and Information Coordinator
Mousa Qous	Arab Press Coordinator
Ruham Nimri	Information Coordinator / Palestinian Media Monitoring Project

Mohammad Yaghi	Data Analyst / Palestinian Media Monitoring Project
Ayman Bardaweel	Coordinator / Palestinian Media Monitoring Project (worked at MIFTAH from August-October 2004)
Michael Neuwirth	Coordinator / Media and Information Program (Special Service Agreement / UNDP, worked at MIFTAH from December 2003-July 2004)
Akram Khatib	Coordinator / Media and Information Program (TOKTEN Program / UNDP worked at MIFTAH from July-October 2004)
Yassar Qumsieh	Information Technology Coordinator (worked at MIFTAH from September 2003- April 2004)
Muhannad Zallum	Information Technology Coordinator (worked at MIFTAH from April 2004-December 2004)
Muath Bakri	Information Technology Coordinator
Nahed Abu-Sneineh	Administrative Assistant
Etessal Barghouthi	Secretary (worked at MIFTAH from May 1999-August 2004)
Kholoud Al-Joubeh	Secretary
J'afar Ladadweh	Receptionist
Eyad Awar	Driver
Saed Ma'ale	Messenger (worked at MIFTAH from March 2002-June 2004)
Mohammad Misleh	Messenger
Uhud Abu Ein	Messenger

Staff at AMAN

Dr. Azmi Shuaibi	General Coordinator / The Coalition for Integrity and Accountability “AMAN”
Issam Haj Hassan	Administrative Assistant
Nidal Hasan	Program Director
Rami Mousa	Web site and Resource Center

Interns at MIFTAH

Sreemati Mitter	Intern / Media and Information Program (from June- September 2004)
Tala Abu-Rahmeh	Intern / Media and Information Program (from October- December 2004)
Hani Amrah	Intern / Media and Information Program (from September –October 2004)
Nancy Andony	Volunteer / Administrative Assistant / Palestinian Media Monitoring Project (from September-October 2004)



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Governance and Democracy

Program of Empowerment of Young Palestinian Leaders

The program of Empowerment of Young Palestinian Leaders is planned to encourage good governance and democracy in Palestine. It aims at elevating the quality and effectiveness of civic participation in governance through the empowerment of young civil society leaders by means of specialized training in civics, principles of good governance, leadership and methods of effective participation, including accountability of public decision making.

Projects

1. Empowerment of Young Palestinian Political Leaders

{Funded by National Endowment for Democracy}

{Effective dates of project: November 1, 2003- September 30, 2004}



Empowerment of Young Leaders. Dialogue Session June 2, 2004 - Jenin.

MIFTAH's project The Empowerment of Young Palestinian Political Leaders in the West Bank and Gaza aimed at expanding discussions on political party building. The objectives of the project included raising the awareness of young political leaders on democratic values and principles;

identifying the needs of these leaders and building their capacity to play an active and meaningful role in democratic party politics; and fostering dialogue and coordination between political party leadership and young members so that the needs of these youth be better addressed in the political parties, and then they can assume a more representative and credible role. In the initial stage of the project, a needs assessment for third-rank political party leaders was conducted in Nablus, Ramallah and Bethlehem in the West Bank and in Khan Younis, Gaza and Beit-Hanoun in the Gaza Strip. The assessment focus groups were followed by three dialogue meetings between the first and second rank leadership, and the young leaders in the third rank. The final activity of the project comprised two strategic workshops conducted in Gaza city and Ramallah.

Upon completion of project activities, a final comprehensive report was prepared for publication and distribution to all participants and concerned parties.

2. Empowerment of Young Palestinian Community Leaders: West Bank and Gaza

{Funded by Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation}

(Effective Dates of Project: March 1- December 1, 2004 and January 1- March 31, 2005)

MIFTAH's project The Empowerment of Young Community Leaders in the West Bank and Gaza aims at empowering young Palestinian community leaders. The objectives of the project include identifying the needs of young community leaders, building their capacity,



Empowerment of Community Leaders. Oct. 7, 2004

raising their awareness on democratic values and principles; facilitating a network of young community leaders and fostering dialogue and coordination between the old and young generations in the local communities so that the needs of the youth be better addressed.

Implemented Activities

Partner Organizations

In order to overcome the strict closures imposed by the Israeli occupation, MIFTAH decided to work in close partnership with credible and like-minded organizations based in the different governorates.

Partner organizations that MIFTAH is working with are:

- Tadamun Association (the Union of the Women's Centers in the Refugee Camps in Palestine and the Diaspora): to conduct the workshops in the middle

governorates of the West Bank (Ramallah and Jerusalem).

- Hiwaar Center in Bethlehem: to implement project activities in the southern areas of the West Bank (Bethlehem and its surroundings).
- Association for the Support of Youth (ASY) in Nablus: to conduct project activities in the northern governorates of the West Bank (Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem).
- Sharek Youth Forum in Hebron: to implement project activities in Hebron. It is worth noting that Hebron is given a special focus due to its large population and large geographic area.

Information Kit

As part of its plan to raise the awareness of young community leaders on issues of democracy, good governance, women's rights and citizenship, MIFTAH prepared an Information Kit made up of a collection of articles and statistics from different sources including the internet,



Empowerment of Young Palestinian Leaders. May, 2004

books in print and studies published by Palestinian organizations. MIFTAH also distributed its publications which include posters and postcards promoting women's participation in the elections, a booklet in the form of Q&A on women's quota and a booklet on young politicians.

Needs Assessment

At the initial stage of the project, a needs assessment for young leaders was conducted in Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, Gaza city, Northern Gaza, and Southern Gaza. A minimum of 150 participants attended these needs assessment meetings.

This assessment helped identify the obstacles, the needs and the most appropriate interventions to be implemented by MIFTAH and other like-minded organizations.

Dialogue Sessions

Four dialogue sessions were held in Ramallah, Nablus, Bethlehem, and Gaza city that placed young and older community leaders side by side. Discussions between both were very fruitful as highlighted by young leaders since it gave them the opportunity to present their perceptions and opinions.

Workshops

Two central workshops were conducted in Ramallah and Gaza to draw a strategy for supporting young leadership in the social and political institutions. A minimum of 80 participants from West Bank cities and Gaza Strip attended the workshops. The workshops were concluded with proposed advocacy strategies at the level of the media, the institutions, and the political parties.

Training Sessions

In response to one of the needs of the target group, two training sessions were conducted in Ramallah and Gaza city, where about 60 young leaders participated. The training covered a variety of topics such as: community mobilization, networking, leadership skills, and communications skills.

Publication

At the end of the project, a booklet, containing the outcomes of the project and the target group's recommendations and perceptions, will be published and widely distributed.

Program of Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leaders

1. Women in Elections: Phase One- Preparing for Elections

In December 2003, MIFTAH completed implementation of Phase One of the Program for the Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leaders in Elections (Preparing for Elections). The strategy of the project was to support affirmative action towards women's representation by supporting the principle of women's rights to participate in the electoral process as candidates and voters and to help them develop a gendered democratic agenda. The project Women in Elections will take place in three phases: Phase I-Preparing for Elections; Phase II- Elections; Phase III-Post Elections.

MIFTAH believes that the participation of Palestinian women in politics through elections and the peace process will foster the principles of democratic participation, human rights and gender equity, all crucial elements for the long-term aim of building a democratic Palestinian state.

The objectives of the Women in Elections project include strategies to advocate and lobby a change in the electoral law so that it incorporate the principles of affirmative action towards women's representation; to raise public awareness of women's right to run for public office in the upcoming elections; to provide a forum for women candidates to address and become known in their communities, and to build the capacity of women candidates so that they have equal running chance in the electoral process.

Women in Elections: Activities Implemented in January and February 2004

Open Meeting with the Palestinian Minister of Women's Affairs

Miftah initiated a meeting with the Palestinian Minister of Women's Affairs, Ms. Zahira Kamal. 20 participants representing women's organizations and women activists attended the meeting and discussed mechanisms of coordination and cooperation to attain success for the Ministry. The meeting resulted in several recommendations one of which is forming a Consultancy Committee to assist in setting an agenda or strategic plan for the Ministry. The Minister promised that she would lay the issue of the "quota" on the cabinet table. She later noted that the cabinet in general supports this principle.

Policy Meeting

As part of its series of policy meetings, MIFTAH held a meeting on January 7, 2004 with Mr. Jamal Al-Shobaki, Minister of Local Governance, and 13 decision makers from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), media, Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and political parties. The topic under discussion was local elections and the electoral law. Mr. Al-Shobaki and most of the participants were very supportive of the quota for women, this being one of the outcomes of the lobbying efforts made by the Follow up Committee for the Improvement of Women's Participation in the Elections. The participants also proposed forming pressure groups to advocate the quota in the local communities.

Lobbying Meetings

The Penal Code Committee met with legislator Dalal Salameh, a young women leader in Fateh movement, in order to solicit her support for the proposed amendments. The meeting was held on February 25, 2004 at MIFTAH's office in Ramallah.

Lobbying Activities in Other Locations in the West Bank

MIFTAH's objectives of conducting lobbying activities at the local level in four cities outside Ramallah were to win over the support of community leaders for women's demands for the "quota," to mobilize local women activists and leaders, and advance the relationship with those women who participated in MIFTAH's program of Women and Elections until the launching of the program's second phase.

2. Women Electoral Support Points

{ Funded by the International republican Institute}

{ Effective dates of project: August 2004-September 2005}

As MIFTAH's project of Women and Elections Phase I: Preparing for Elections was deemed an outstanding success by all accounts, both in its substance and level of organization at a very difficult time on the ground in Palestine, MIFTAH continues to be committed to promoting and supporting potential women candidates running for office at the local and national levels. It will continue to provide different types of support at a variety of levels for those women to help prepare them for the election process, as well as during the election process and during post-election, through setting up Women Electoral Support Points in several areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These points can provide the framework for reaching out to and building the capacity of both women incumbents and first-time candidates.

In the pre-election period, MIFTAH will implement activities that aim at enhancing women's involvement in the electoral process such as networking, capacity building, logistical support, and mobilizing women constituency. During elections, the WESPs can provide much needed support for potential women candidates and their support teams. They can provide objective evaluation of the progress of a campaign as well as ways to address problems in it. In addition, they can do extensive community outreach to "Get out the Women's Vote" in the respective communities where they are located. In post-elections, WESPs can provide a framework for networking, capacity building, collecting best practices

of women who run for elections and providing a guide for women candidates who may want to run in future elections.

Project Objectives

1. Sustain the established network of potential women candidates.
2. Maintain support for potential candidates running for office on the local and national levels through providing a place for networking and learning from the experience of others, an address, and a place to go to for advice, mentoring, meetings and get-togethers.
3. Provide a framework for reaching out to and building the capacity of both women incumbents and first-time candidates.
4. Assist women candidates in articulating their political platforms and presenting them succinctly and effectively.
5. Mobilize women constituency through campaigns to “Get-out the Women’s Vote” locally.
6. Provide a local framework for ongoing contact and coordination among potential women candidates as to their needs and problems as they arise as well as provide them with a locally-available and accessible support point inside their communities.
7. Maintain ongoing contact and coordination among potential women candidates and their support teams.
8. Provide a framework for the delivery of various trainings, as these become identified by potential women candidates and their support teams.
9. Network with local organizations.

Project Activities

Building on MIFTAH’s experience in working with women in the local

communities and its access to those locations, MIFTAH has set up WESPs in preparation for elections in the following areas: Jenin. Tulkarem. Qalqilyah. Nablus. Ramallah. Jerusalem. Jericho. Bethlehem. Hebron. Northern Gaza Strip (Gaza City\Jabalia Refugee Camp\Beit Hanoun\Beit Lahia). Middle Gaza (Khan Younis\Deir Al-Balah). Southern Gaza (Rafah).

MIFTAH has a commitment to sustaining these WESPs for two-years after the elections, and preferably over one election cycle, four years

3. Program of Empowerment of Palestinian Women in the Peace Process

Women in the Peace Negotiations: Preparatory Phase

{Funded by The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs }

{Effective Dates of Grant: November 1, 2003- October 31, 2004}

The project Women in the Peace Negotiations: Preparatory Phase builds on MIFTAH's experience in the area of empowering Palestinian women leaders in politics and responds directly to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 of October 2000 requiring women's equal participation in decision-making and calling on all actors to adopt a gender perspective to maintain and promote peace and security. It aims at creating linkages between gender equity issues, conflict management and peace building, and contributing to women's empowerment in the decision making process, including peace negotiations.

The objectives of the preparatory phase included preparing a roster of qualified professional women as potential negotiators, establishing contact with them to identify their needs and creating a network to assist them in their attempt to be part of the political decision-making process. In addition, it aimed at raising the awareness of young women activists of critical issues of political negotiations and at the same time introducing them to a perspective of engendered peace process.

Implemented Activities

Preparation for the project

At the initial stage of the project, MIFTAH conducted several meetings with different women groups especially those working on issues of peace and women empowerment. These meetings aimed at promoting the project and at the same time avoiding duplication of work.

In these preparatory meetings, MIFTAH sensed the importance of this preparatory phase as there were no lists of women activists that women organizations wanted to share, nor was there any claim that any organization can set criteria for the selection of women participants in this project.

Women's Resource list

The absence of any master list of women activists who wish to join the political negotiations encouraged MIFTAH to develop a questionnaire to be disseminated to all governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector in Gaza and the West Bank. More than 400 completed questionnaires were received and MIFTAH built its first database of almost 300 names of qualified women who are potential negotiators. This list was also combined with MIFTAH's women's resource list of potential women candidates for local and national elections.

Information Kit

Through the individual meetings conducted with young activists and women groups, MIFTAH observed the striking lack of knowledge concerning peace initiatives, the Palestinian-Israeli agreements-especially those related to Camp David. In addition, women couldn't explain why a women's perspective is important in any peace initiative, nor could they clarify why women should be part of the process. Moreover, the majority of women has not heard about resolution 1325 nor its implications.

As such, MIFTAH decided to conduct research to prepare an information kit

that provides information on agreements, initiatives and resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and at the same time provide studies, reports and articles on women's perspective of peace. The research was conducted through visits to research centers, women's organizations and of course internet search. MIFTAH also added some of its publications on women empowerment which included posters, postcards and a booklet in the form of Q&A on women's quota promoting women's participation in the elections

All information was collated in a one big file, photocopied and distributed through MIFTAH's focus groups and workshops. It is important to note that this kit was also distributed in Gaza. In addition MIFTAH received many requests for copies of this kit from different people participating in MIFTAH's other programs. The Minister of Interior requested a copy of the Information Kit. In this context, it is ironic to note that MIFTAH faced a problem of the scarcity of documents in Arabic in this regard and so had to do with translations from English.

Focus Groups and Workshops

The main objective of the focus groups and workshops conducted in this project was to assess the views of women activists interested in getting involved in the peace negotiations and peace process, their needs and their expected role and type of involvement.

The first and second focus group meetings were held in Ramallah on March 24 and May 18, 2004. Those two meetings targeted young women leaders and outstanding young professionals. 20 young women, representing civil society, public and private sectors, attended the meetings and raised many issues of concern. In the first focus group, MIFTAH devoted part of the meeting for two presentations one by the Director of the Jerusalem Center for Women, and the other by the Coordinator of Civil Society at the Geneva Initiative. The aim behind hosting these two organizations was three-fold: first to insure the coordination and involvement of other civil society organizations, and second to introduce the participants to the civil society initiatives for building peace and finally to restore hope that has been lost in the last four years, through briefings on the work done by MIFTAH and other organizations in this regard.

The young women's concerns were concentrated in the following:

1. The set back of the peace process has disheartened women from participating actively in any peace initiatives.
2. Negotiations are perceived to be dominated by men, particularly by a group of men who are favored by and have close ties with the leadership.
3. Civil society campaigns should be comprehensive and should pressure the political leadership to hear the voice of civil society which implicitly carries women's voices.
4. Women's priorities are changing over time. Internal politics and security are the priority for women in this Intifada, but that doesn't mean in anyway not seizing the chance and building the capacity of women negotiators.
5. Despite the gap that exists between old and young women generations, both should coordinate work as both are mutually dependent on each other.

Exploring international experience

- As part of activating the network MIFTAH managed to build throughout the course of this project, and as part of introducing this network at the international level, MIFTAH hosted a meeting on April 19, 2004 for the Executive Director of an American women's organization "Peace x Peace" with 20 members of MIFTAH's network. A documentary film, Power of Circle, was shown at the beginning of the meeting and was followed by a presentation and open discussion. The event was described as an effective opportunity to build relations with other women's groups from around the world. In addition to networking, it was good for women to learn about other communities fighting for peace and the big lesson learnt was that women have a lot of issues that they share despite their locales.
- In cooperation with the South African Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority, a workshop was organized in Ramallah on August 10,

2004. It aimed at presenting and discussing women's political involvement at the international level. Participating activists from South Africa, Switzerland, Norway, and Sweden highlighted women's status and women's political participation in their countries. Attended by 35 participants, the meeting was a learning opportunity about women's experiences around the world and their tactics in overcoming obstacles that are hindering their participation in politics.

4. Engendering the Palestinian National Budget: Phase One-Raising Awareness of a Gender-Sensitive Palestinian National Budget

{Funded by Kvinna till Kvinna}

{Effective Dates of Project: August 1, 2004- July 31, 2005}

The project Raising Awareness of a Gender-Sensitive National Budget is a preparatory phase in the more comprehensive program of Engendering The Palestinian National Budget. It seeks to draw attention to the significance of mainstreaming gender in the budgetary process as a first step in engendering the system. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to gender mainstreaming in the Palestinian government policies. The specific objectives include building skills for gender responsive planning and budgeting in the executive and legislative bodies; enhancing the ability of women's organizations in reading and analyzing the national budget from a gender perspective; increasing women's participation in the planning and budgeting processes; building the capacity of women's organizations in national policy formulation and budgeting processes; and raising the awareness of decision makers of the necessity of taking women's rights into account in the process of forming policies and budgeting.

The project is being implemented through the following activities: an assessment of budgetary procedures in the Palestinian context; a gender review of the national budget; gender-awareness sessions for officials and employees responsible for budgeting in the main ministries in the West Bank and Gaza; lobbying meetings with decision-makers especially the Minister of Finance and the Minister of

Women's Affairs; a handbook of the assessment and gender review outcomes to be published and widely disseminated; and monitoring the 2006 national budget to evaluate the results.

Implemented Project Activities

Project set-up

a. Literature review

The literature review includes documents showing varied international experiences in the field of engendering national budgets, in addition to several theoretical approaches and analytical frameworks in the same context. The materials were obtained from local libraries, the publications of governmental and nongovernmental organizations and the internet.

b. Forming the project's team

As the field of this particular project is new, MIFTAH's staff worked profoundly on forming a team which encompasses three organization's staff and two contracted researchers. This team was delegated the responsibility of reviewing the budget formulation assessment and the gender review, exchanging thoughts and proposing recommendations.

Assessment of national budgetary procedures

A researcher has been contracted to carry out an assessment of the national budget. The assessment includes the following four sections:

a. National budgets: characteristics and types

As a theoretical introduction, this section defines the concept of national budgets, budgetary procedures, the chronological development of the process, methods of showing revenues and expenditures, concepts of accountability and transparency, and finally formats of budgets.

b. Budgetary procedure in the Palestinian law.

This section illustrates the different stages of setting the national budget as delineated in the Palestinian law.

c. Budgetary procedure in the Palestinian reality

This section presents implementation procedure in the real context.

d. Recommendations

Gender review of the Palestinian national budget

The review/ assessment comprises the following sections:

- a. Gender as an analytical tool.
- b. Budget as a development mechanism.
- c. Budget as a tool towards enhancing social equity.
- d. International experiences in the field of engendering the budget.
- e. Quick analysis of the 2004 national budget from a gender perspective.
- f. A comprehensive framework for a gender analysis of the budget and recommendations for the next phase.

5. Advocacy for Reproductive Health

{ Funded by UNFPA }

(Effective dates of project: October. 2003-April 2005)

Among MIFTAH's advocacy efforts is the Advocacy for Reproductive Health, a project, funded by UNFPA, MIFTAH has just started implementing

with the aim of increasing awareness, understanding and mobilizing commitment among legislators, decision makers, leaders and other key stakeholders to the implementation of priority issues in population, RH and gender brought forward by the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.



The project relies on three strategies to attain the anticipated results: getting access to key decision makers; getting access to local media; and building a team of experts.

Main Activities and Achievements

I. Literature Review

A literature review and bibliography were prepared. The review comprises five chapters that analyze data since 1997 to show various aspects of the studied areas. The first chapter tackles reproductive health and its history in Palestine. The second discusses early marriage and its causes and effects in the Palestinian society; the third chapter features school dropout; the fourth deals with women's work; and the fifth and final chapter highlights the size and the dominant types of violence in Palestine

In addition, a roster of speakers was prepared and is continually updated for use throughout the project.

II. Strategy Meeting

Strategy Meeting: Gaza

A two-day strategy meeting was held at the Beach Hotel in Gaza city on January

27-28, 2004 and was coordinated by the Women's Empowerment Project of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program. The 80 participants came from the Palestinian Legislative Council, UNRWA, UNFPA and key NGOs working in the field of reproductive health and rights' advocacy. The following five priority issues were discussed in the meeting: *early marriage, school dropout among girls, employment opportunities for women, violence against women and reproductive health services for adolescents*. A final report of the meeting was prepared.

III. Research

A. Journalist Investigative Interviews

Three journalists were subcontracted to conduct investigative interviews. The following five interviews with key decision makers were made and published:

1. Interview with Dr. Mohammed Ghadieh, the General Director of the Human Development Directorate in the Ministry of Planning. The main issues highlighted in the interview were: education services, health services and work opportunities needed to respond to the rapid population growth in the Palestinian Territory. The interview was published in Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah daily newspaper on February 14, 2004.
2. Interview with Ms. Wijdan Syam, General Director of Women's Health and Development Unit at the Ministry of Health. The interview highlighted the available and needed reproductive health services. Another interview was made with Dr. Abu Mughly, Coordinator of the Developing Health System in the Ministry of Health. The interview highlighted the obstacles that threaten the sustainability of reproductive health services. Both interviews were published in one article on March 8, 2004 in Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah newspaper.
3. Interview with Sheikh Taiseer Tamimi, Qadi el Qudaah, on raising the age of marriage to 18. This interview was published in Al-Ayyam newspaper on March 16, 2004.
4. Interview with Mr. Ghassan Al-Khateeb, Minister of Labor, on women's

share in the contingency work opportunities and the inequality between women and men in decision making positions. The interview was published on March 28, 2004 in Al- Hayat Al-Jadidah newspaper.

5. Interview with Dr. Zahera Habash, General Director of Health Promotion and Education Unit in the Ministry of Health. It highlighted the need for services for Palestinian women in menopause. The interview was published on September 23, 2004 in Al-Ayyam's supplement entitled 'Sawt Al-Nisaa'.

B. Additional Research

A researcher was contracted to conduct a survey of "the opinion of decision makers on premarital counseling and testing." The sample size was 130 decision makers coming from ministries and NGOs, the academic sectors in the West Bank and Gaza. 23% of the sample was selected from the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). A Pilot study was made to check the accuracy and the response rate. A questionnaire of 54 questions was prepared and distributed. Data cleaning is completed. Preparation is being done for focus group discussion and a final draft of the findings expected in Jan 2005.

C. Research for conferences

1. Research on school dropout
2. Research on Palestinian women work opportunities
3. Three papers on the social, medical and religious effect of early marriage
4. Research on the types of violence against women

D. Media activities

1. A national debate on the negative effects of early marriage was broadcast on AL-Quds Educational TV. The guests were Ms. Ohaila Shomar from SAWA Center for Violence Against Women, Dr. Aysha Rifaae', a reproductive health specialist, and Ms. Hanan El Bakri, a lawyer and a specialist in women's

issues. Al-Quds Educational TV produced the program and provided 10 VHS copies to be distributed to other local TV stations in the West Bank.

2. Three radio spots on the importance of raising the age of marriage, women's share in the contingency work opportunities, and pre-marital medical tests were aired in 7 local radio stations in Ramallah, Nablus, Tulkarm and Qalqelia, Jenin, Bethlehem, and Gaza 36 times over a period of 6 days.

IV. Briefings, Meetings, and Mini-Conferences

A. Mini-Conferences

1. School Dropout

A mini-conference on school dropout was held on April 7, 2004 at the Best Eastern Hotel in Ramallah. About 45 participants attended, and a report summarizing the discussion and recommendations was prepared.

2. Early Marriage

Three mini-conferences on the social, medical, and religious effects of early marriage were held in Nablus, Hebron, and Gaza. The conferences were implemented in coordination with Hawa Centre in Nablus, PFPPA in Hebron, and Women's Empowerment Project in Gaza. More than 180 participants, including PLC members, attended.



Workshop Raising the Age of Marriage

3. Contingency Work Opportunities

A mini-conference on contingency work opportunities was held on July 29, 2004 at the Best Eastern Hotel



Women and the Contingency Work Opportunities, July 29, 2004

in Ramallah. Around 50 participants representing different ministries and municipalities attended.

B. Expert Briefings

Fifteen expert briefings were made in coordination with Women's Empowerment Project in Gaza, PFPPA in Hebron and Bethlehem, FDS in Nablus, Majd Centre in Jenin, and El Fajr Al-Jadeed in Tulkarm. More than 300 participants, including NGO representatives, attended and shared in preparing short presentations for discussions. Several key areas were discussed and supported by the key decision makers who attended.

C. Advocacy Days

Three advocacy days were implemented in Tulkarm, Ramallah and Hebron, and supported by Tulkarm Governor, the Minister of Health, and PLC members in Hebron. The activities were done in coordination with Al-Fajr Al-Jadeed TV in Tulkarm, PFPPA, and Thalassemia Patients' Friends Society.

Policy Formulation

MIFTAH's *Policy Formulation* Project is a two-year initiative. The first phase of the project will encompass formation of Specialized Policy Formulation Task Forces, to consist of representatives of civil society organizations, private sector organizations, political parties and Palestinian National Authority (PNA). These task forces will be responsible for determining the issues to be discussed for policy recommendations. MIFTAH will conduct four research studies, one of which will be to identify gaps and weaknesses in existing public policies and the others to be determined by the Policy Task Forces. MIFTAH will then conduct a series of policy dialogue sessions. Policy papers, one of the outcomes of the meetings, will be drafted, reviewed at a wider level of public participation and amended accordingly. The amended policy papers will then be discussed by the Policy Task Force with decision makers for adoption. Media briefings will be carried out as a tool for the public to know. MIFTAH will make the policy papers, the discussions, and recommendations available on its web site and will

also have them published, in both Arabic and English, and distributed widely.

Policy Meetings

1. MIFTAH held a meeting on January 7, 2004 with Mr. Jamal Al-Shobaki, Minister of Local Governance, and 13 decision makers from the PNA, media, PLC and political parties attended. The topic under discussion was local elections and the electoral law. Mr. Al-Shobaki and most of the participants were very supportive of the quota for women, this being one of the outcomes of the lobbying efforts made by the Follow up Committee for the Improvement of Women's Participation in the Elections. They also proposed forming pressure groups to advocate the quota in the local communities.
2. MIFTAH hosted Robert Malley, Director of Middle East/North Africa Program- International Crisis Group(ICG), in a policy meeting entitled A Review of the American Politics on the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: Probabilities and Post Election Options. The meeting was held on Wednesday May 19, 2004 at MIFTAH's office in Ramallah.
3. MIFTAH hosted Ziad Assali, President of the American Task Force for Palestine and former President of ADC in a policy meeting entitled The Future of Palestinian-American Relations: Arab Communities: the Role of the Arab and Palestinian Communities. The policy meeting was held on July 13, 2004 at MIFTAH's office in Ramallah.



Media Monitoring

Projects

1. Words Can Kill-A Joint Palestinian-Israeli Effort for an Alternative Media Discourse

{ Funded by EU Partnership for Peace}

{Effective dates of project: July 2004-July 2006}

This is a joint Palestinian-Israeli project that aims at encouraging a public and media discourse free of incitement, prejudice and dehumanization of the other in Palestine and Israel, through monitoring, research, advocacy and lobbying activities. The action will facilitate the development of an independent media and a culture of moderation, tolerance, and understanding between the two peoples, and implementation of the anti-incitement provisions in the Road Map and in agreements between Palestinians and Israelis, all of which will assist in the re-launching of the peace process.

The objectives of the project are defined as follows:

1. Promote a culture of moderation, tolerance, and understanding that is conducive to a peace environment.
2. End incitement and defaming against the other side in the media and by politicians and public officials.
3. Build a new platform for developing a common language and agreed-upon terms for use by Palestinians and Israeli for promoting an independent media and an alternative discourse in the media, among decision-makers and among the general public on both sides.
4. Create a model of cooperation: To show that Palestinians and Israelis can indeed work together on this important subject, but not only on this issue, and that cooperation between the peoples is feasible to achieve various

common goals that affect the lives of both peoples.

5. Establish a mechanism to monitor incitement and bias against the other side that will offer lasting coverage of incitement on both sides, and assist the sides in reaching a final political arrangement, or, during the interim period of negotiation, an arrangement of the kind set forth in the Wye Plantation Agreement, and especially in the Road Map.

6. Promote an environment that benefits minority rights, specifically those of the Arab population in Israel

Target groups: The Palestinian and Israeli media, Palestinian and Israeli policy makers, civil society organizations, law enforcement officials and the legal community, media students, and the Palestinian and Israeli general public.

Main activities: Setting up media-monitoring units, information gathering and research, holding seminars and workshops, publishing findings and reports, and advocacy.

Implemented Project Activities

1. Setting up independent steering committees (July – August 2004)

In July and August of 2004, a “basis for joint work” was established as both MIFTAH and KESHEV set up independent steering committees for this project.

2. Setting up media-monitoring units (July – December 2004)

Beginning in July 2004, each side recruited and formally trained its monitoring staff

3. Mapping and cataloguing the media agencies (August – October 2004)

During this period, MIFTAH and Keshev mapped the respective media outlets on the Palestinian and Israeli sides and selected the media outlets that they would monitor. MIFTAH has chosen to monitor three Arabic newspapers (Al-Quds, Al-

Ayyam, and Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah), Palestine Television (PBC's state channel) and Voice of Palestine (PBC radio). KESHEV has chosen to monitor three daily Hebrew newspapers (Yedioth Ahronoth, Ma'ariv and Ha'aretz) and three nightly television news broadcasts (Channel 1, Channel 2 and Channel 10).

4. Collecting official documents (August – October 2004)

MIFTAH and Keshev collected all of the official documents from international agreements concerning the need to battle incitement in Palestinian-Israeli conflict. These documents provide *part of the* rationale that guides this project.

5. Holding preparatory workshops (November 2004)

At this stage, each side held a preparatory workshop for its media monitoring staff.

6. Preparing professional guidelines (October – December 2004)

During this period, MIFTAH and Keshev established professional guidelines that set the methodological procedures for media monitoring in this project. Given the differences in the media landscape in the Palestine and Israel, each organization set its own guidelines.

7. Monitoring the media (September 2004)

MIFTAH's and Keshev's media monitoring activities began in September 2004, earlier than stipulated in the original project timeline. The monitoring methods were adapted at various points in the first few months to absorb knowledge gained in the preparatory training seminars. The ongoing media monitoring has so far led to the publication of one major periodic report by MIFTAH and one major periodic report by Keshev, as well as five shorter subject reports by KESHEV.

2. Monitoring the Coverage of the Presidential and Legislative Elections in Palestine

MIFTAH's project concept on Monitoring the Coverage of the Presidential and

Legislative Elections in Palestine aims at monitoring media outlets and their performance during the presidential elections to be held in January 2005 and afterwards the national elections in Palestine.

The main activities of the project will be implemented into three stages:

In the first stage, a manual of international standards on the media performance during elections will be prepared in Arabic in order to be used in application to the Palestinian media by the monitoring team. Indicators will be prepared as tools to measure the media biases during elections. Equipment will be installed and volunteers recruited and trained to carry out the monitoring activities.

The second stage of the project will comprise monitoring government-owned media, selected privately-owned media in addition to a couple of regional media outlets. The team will employ quantitative and qualitative methodological tools. Reports on the biases or violations committed by the media will be composed and published weekly and distributed widely. Letters to media outlets and phone calls will be paid on daily bases to the violating media outlets as part of the effort to raise their awareness on those violations.

In the final stage, a final report will be prepared. A press conference will be held to present the initial findings after the closing of ballot centers and if possible before the declaration of the results.

The project will coordinate with other monitoring efforts whether domestic or international.

Objectives

The objectives of the project are as follows:

1. Provide accurate and un-biased information on the electoral process in terms of media coverage.
2. Develop a manual of international standards of media operation during elections.

3. Build the capacity of the media to identify problems and the best ways of carrying out a professional job during elections.
4. Create a team of professional monitors and build their capacity to be able to monitor other elections in a neutral and professional manner.

MIFTAH has been coordinating closely with the Open Society Foundation which had an impressive experience in assisting local Tunisian organizations in monitoring the coverage of the October 2004 legislative and presidential elections.

In principle, MIFTAH and OSF are discussing the possibility of carrying out this initiative together.

Conference on Reform

Critical Assessments of Arab Reform Initiatives – June 18, 2004.

A conference aimed at critically examining the various recent Arab reform initiatives was organized jointly by MIFTAH and AMAN in Ramallah on June 18, 2004. The well-attended conference, titled “Critical Assessments of Arab Reform Initiatives,” provided a platform for a wide range of speakers comprising Palestinian politicians, intellectuals and civil servants, who presented the many diverse, complex - and sometimes conflicting - views prevalent today in Palestine on the crucial and often polarizing subject of reform. The conference witnessed a wide participation of representatives of political parties, governmental institutions, civil society organizations, private sector, in addition to academicians and political analysts. Representatives of the diplomatic missions and international organizations were also present in addition to international, Arab and local media outlets.

The conference was organized into three sessions: the first focused on Palestinian assessments of three “Arab Reform Initiatives” (the G8 Statement on Reform in the Middle East, the Arab League Reform Project, and the Alexandria Document);

the second explored in particular the “Palestine Question in Relation to Reform,” while the third highlighted the economic, societal and security dimensions implicit in any reform initiative. The conference proceedings are published in Arabic, with an executive summary in English. The documents are also posted to MIFTAH’s web site.

The first session of the conference, titled “Palestinian Assessment of Arab Reform Initiatives,” was chaired by Dr. Ashrawi. Mr. Ziad Abu Zayyad, Head of PLC’s Legal Committee presented a critical paper on the Arab League’s Reform Plan (published by the Arab League on May 23, 2004 in Tunis). Dr. Nassiraldeen Al-Sha’er, Professor at Al-Najah University, largely agreed with Mr. Zayyad’s comments. Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, Minister and Head of PECDAR, spoke about the “Broader Middle East Initiative.” Dr. Khalil Shikaki of Palestine Center for Research, while agreeing with many of Dr. Shtayyeh’s comments, especially those regarding the hypocrisy of the US in prescribing reforms for the Arab world, pointed out that external pressure is often required in order to provide the impetus for change and reform in the Arab world. Dr. George Giacaman of Muwatin discussed “The Alexandria Declaration”, which he described as a tactical step taken by Egypt and some Arab societies, including some non- governmental Palestinian agencies, to devise a reform plan suited to their particular needs.

The second session of the conference, titled “The Palestine Question in Relation to Reform,” was chaired by Ms. Faiha Abdul Hadi. Mr. Abdul Rahman Abu Arafeh, of the Arab Thought Forum, presented his thoughts on the Global Corruption Report published annually by the International Transparency Organization. Dr. Nabil Kassis, Minister of Planning, spoke in some detail about actual Palestinian reform initiatives currently underway, in particular, the “Hundred Days Plan” and the “National Reform Committee Plan.”

The participants of the third session, chaired by Ms. Hadeel Qazzaz, explored the complex ramifications of all reform initiatives on the economic, societal and security sectors of Palestinian society. The participants in this session were Dr. Ismail Al-Nashif, of Birzeit University and Mr. Samir Hulileh and PALTrade who spoke about the impact of corruption and reform on the knowledge and economic sectors respectively.

MIFTAH and AMAN (National Coalition for Transparency and Accountability)

MIFTAH, as one of the founding members and a hosting organization of AMAN, has continued to advance the objectives of the Coalition of setting up a national plan for combating corruption and administrative and financial mismanagement across the media and the public sector. Activities in the legal framework, institutional framework, official procedures and public awareness aim at formulating the values of integrity, transparency and accountability and ultimately curbing corruption.

MIFTAH has set upon itself to implement two projects that constitute an essential component of AMAN's comprehensive program for strengthening integrity, transparency and accountability in Palestine. The two projects are: *Strengthening Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in the Palestinian Public Sector* and *the Role of the Media in Public Monitoring, Free Access to Information and the Public's Right to Know*.

AMAN adopted a strategy for combating corruption and placing the issue of combating corruption on the agenda of the Palestinian society. This strategy comprises the following:

I. Diagnostic and research studies

This phase included a study and diagnosis of the strengths and weaknesses in the fields of integrity, transparency, accountability and supervision of the Palestinian society organizations. AMAN contracted independent researchers to conduct these diagnostic and research studies which included the following

1. Global Corruption Report 2005

In coordination with countries at the regional and international levels, AMAN prepared the country report to complete Transparency International Global Corruption Report 2005

2. Analytical assessment of The Palestinian Judiciary system: its independence, integrity and accountability systems.

3. Assessment study of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC):

Analysis and identification of the main strengths and weaknesses in the performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council and its members, and factors that hinder its role as a body that holds Palestinian institutions accountable to.

4. Assessment study of the local governments' performance.

This study focuses on the efficiency of accountability and transparency systems in local governments, through examining the mechanisms, methods, and rules and regulations adopted, especially in the fields of accounting and supervision, and in the decision-making process. Areas of strengths and weaknesses areas were analyzed, and the positive and negative indicators identified to come up with suggestions, recommendations, and implementation mechanisms.

5. Study on Transparency in the life of the Palestinian political parties, in addition to their regulations and systems of accountability.

6. Assessment of the right to access information

This study is mainly a comparative study of the right to access information in Palestine and in other countries. It concentrated on gathering and reviewing laws and regulations pertaining to the right to access information in the region in comparison with the Palestinian situation.

7. Assessment study of the separation of powers among the three government authorities

This study focuses on the reality of the separation of powers of the government three authorities, current situation, factors that prevent the separation, and recommendations to insure the separation of powers

8. Assessment study of the role of the media in enhancing transparency, accountability and integrity in the Palestinian society

The media assessment study focuses on the current status of the media in Palestine, the laws, regulations and the official media institutions. The study also tackles the relation between media and the official bodies and the space of freedom it enjoys. This study lays the ground for establishing the first media index in Palestine.

9. Assessment study of the integrity and accountability systems in the work of the non governmental organizations and their role in combating corruption.

This assessment focuses on diagnosing the efficiency of accountability and transparency systems in the work of NGO's in addition to its role in combating corruption and raising public awareness on corruption issues.

10. Preparatory studies for AMAN's conference on Wasta:

AMAN's annual conference on Wasta, Favoritism and Nepotism in November 2004 entailed the need to conduct several research and study papers to be presented in the conference. These research studies included the following:

Corruption in the Education Sector:

Study the effect of Wasta and Favoritism on the distribution of educational grants and scholarships, and in admission to universities.

Corruption in the Health Sector:

Study the effect of Wasta and Favoritism on the health sector and health services.

Corruption in the distribution of relief aid

Study the impact of corruption on the distribution of relief aid to the poor and the marginalized people.

Corruption in filling vacancies

Study the effect of Wasta and Favoritism on the recruitment and employment in

public offices, which has been one of the most areas of corruption in the public sector as viewed by the people.

A special focus in those four areas would be given to the impact of Wasta and Favoritism on women and the poor.

11. Study on the Complaint of the Public.

II. Networking

A. At the local level:

AMAN's initiative in establishing the civil society coordinating committee on reform.

AMAN prepared the General Framework for the Concept of Reform in the Palestinian Authority (Perspective of the Civic Society Institutions)

AMAN presented a plan to reform the security units.

B. At the regional and international levels:

1. Participation in the second workshop pertaining to the source book adaptation held in Beirut, September 8-9, 2004
2. Participation in a round table meeting on corruption and good governance in the Arab countries, held in Beirut, September, 20-23, 2004.
3. Participation in a workshop titled: *Role of the civil society organizations in reform in the Arab world*, held in Beirut, September 5, 2004.
4. Participation in TI's Annual General Meeting in Nairobi 6-11 October 6-11, 2004.

III. Coalition building and capacity building

The aim is the establishment of an efficient AMAN secretariat capable of supporting the work of the Coalition in enhancing principles of integrity, transparency, accountability and combating corruption in the Palestinian society.

1. Recruiting staff, (Program Director and the Web Master - information specialist.)
2. Developing internal control and management systems for AMAN Coalition and the secretariat as reflected in the production of bylaws and regulations, administrative and financial manuals.
3. AMAN completed its registration to the Palestinian Ministry of Interior.
4. Establishing the anti-corruption resource center. This center is the only one specialized in corruption issue in the region. It includes more the 300 books both in Arabic and English in addition to several articles, opinion polls, research studies, magazines and reports on transparency, accountability, integrity and good governance.
5. Complete the Accreditation of TI to be the National Chapter

An important part of AMAN's strategy for combating corruption is not limited to local initiatives/activities but includes AMAN's involvement in activities on international and regional levels. The Coalition of AMAN signed the accreditation agreement with TI on September 8, 2004 to become the national chapter.

AMAN also signed cooperation and funding agreement with the Norwegian and the Netherlands governments for capacity building and the diagnostic research and studies for combating corruption in the Palestinian society.

IV. Advocacy and raising public awareness

Conference held by AMAN and MIFTAH on "Critical Assessments of Arab Reform Initiatives", June 18, 2004

Two day-workshop held by AMAN in cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Foundation in September 2004. The first day session was on activating the performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council. The second day was on Complaint Bureau in the Palestinian Legislative Council; mechanism to activate PLC's representation of constituency.



MEDIA AND INFORMATION PROGRAM

Introduction

The year 2004 was to be a simple continuation of Israel's concentrated campaign of demoralizing the Palestinian people. Continuous closures and curfews, humiliations at checkpoints, killings with impunity by Israeli soldiers, ever-growing settlements in the heart of Palestinian land and the continued construction of the dreaded 'Separation Wall' have come to be a serious impediment to any proposed peaceful solution to the decade's long conflict.

In general MFTAH, as a Palestinian NGO, and its Media and Information Program have a large role to play in firstly providing accurate and reliable information, free of censorship and bias, secondly in promoting and presenting the Palestinian perspective/narrative in relation to the realities of Palestinian everyday life, thirdly in being actively involved in media issues with other partner NGOs and international/local media organizations and outlets.

The importance of the media, with regard to this conflict, can be no better described than by the Secretary General of MIFTAH, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, when she told Reuters Israel of the importance of the media, and she quoted Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as saying that “winning the struggle was 80-90 percent dependent on the media’s effectiveness.” Because of the importance of the media in this lingering conflict, the Media and Information Program at MIFTAH has taken upon itself the goal of keeping up-to-date with the latest developments as well as giving expert and balanced analyses to the current affairs.

Since its inauguration in 1998, MIFTAH’s web site has been a reliable and authentic Palestinian source for information. Continuously growing in size and content material, MIFTAH’s Media and Information program has been concerned with upholding its solid reputation that the web site has earned in its relatively young history.

The information provided by MIFTAH includes policy analyses through MIFTAH’s Key Issues written by Dr. Ashrawi and Perspectives, Fact Sheets, Special Studies and Reports on diverse aspects of the Palestinian Israeli conflict (e.g. The Separation Wall, home demolitions, land confiscations), as well as Press Releases and Statements on current affairs.

Sections of MIFTAH’s Web site

The scope of content covered by the web site has expanded significantly while ensuring user friendliness. Sections have been added or developed so as to best cater to our viewers’ needs and ensure a comprehensive and constructive treatment of the various developments.

Key Issues: This is the analysis of MIFTAH’s Secretary-General, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi. The key issues cover key political developments, ranging from internal developments within the Palestinian territories to global issues and concerns related to the Middle East peace process.

MIFTAH’s Perspective: This is MIFTAH’s main position paper, which is issued in the form of an essay on a continuous basis. It reflects MIFTAH’s perspective

on political, economic and social developments. Since the resurgence of the conflict in September 2000, MIFTAH has issued over 300 Perspectives.

In The Spotlight: This is MIFTAH's direct and factual paper. This paper is in easy form; it tackles controversial laws, acts, policies and personalities. Further, the articles aim to bring important, but often sidelined, issues back to the fore.

NOTE: The articles in these sections are regularly republished throughout the media and online news agencies and disseminated through their mailing lists.

News: This section includes brief news articles that tackle issues on a daily basis; the articles are short and are aimed at updating our viewers on the latest developments in the region.

Press Releases and Statements: MIFTAH issued 25 press releases in 2004, covering a wide array of topics including Israeli violations of Palestinian rights, Israeli targeting of the media/journalists and media workers, international activists, and wide scope of internal Palestinian issues. The press releases are disseminated to the media, governments and embassies, and are often used by them to report the incidents.

Special Studies and Fact Sheets: MIFTAH continues to supply its viewers with the latest facts, figures and information on topics that are at the core of the conflict, namely Israeli settlements, Palestinian refugees, Jerusalem, water issues and the separation wall. Special Studies section provides information in a detailed, contextual and analytical setting, while Fact Sheets offers the raw facts, within a scientific and consistent context leaving the viewer to make his/her own judgments.

Photo Gallery and Photo-Essays: They say "a picture can speak a thousand words." The Photo Gallery section continues to grow rapidly, illustrating the suffering endured by Palestinians which can often be lost in all the analyses. MIFTAH's Photo-Essays and Photo Gallery sections provide highly evocative pictures that allow viewers to reach their own conclusions. The material in both sections has been used in presentations and peace rallies worldwide.

Maps: Realizing that many are unaware of the geographical land in conflict, MIFTAH has developed a comprehensive section on the web site that provides visual illustration of historical Palestine and the proposed partitions and plans to create a viable Palestinian state. Recent additions to this section illustrate the debilitating effects of Israel's separation wall combined with the fracturing of Palestinian territorial contiguity by the wall as well as settlements/outposts and by-pass roads.

True Stories: **MIFTAH's True Stories section** includes real life accounts depicting the daily suffering of the Palestinian people. Palestinians have been reduced to numbers, as thousands have been killed, making the tireless effort to humanize them a vital ambition. This section has received an overwhelmingly positive reaction from our readership.

MIFTAH's Arabic Web site

Realizing our services were primarily tailored towards the international community, the Media and Information team felt the need to rival the English web- site and provide the same quantitative and qualitative information to the local community. To that endeavor, they have developed an Arabic web site that provides a high standard of analysis, while targeting the issues that are of particular significance to local readers. The Arabic web site continues to be steadily improved and developed to match the success of the English web site. The Arabic web site includes MIFTAH's Perspective, Special Studies and Reports, Press Releases, Headlines and a growing database of compiled articles, polls and other material relevant to the conflict.

Other Activities of the Media and Information Program

The Media and Information program organized and actively participated in several conferences, committees, presentations and special events. These events enabled us to extend our strong relationships with the media and like-minded NGOs,

allowing for greater networking, cooperation and the sharing of information and expertise.

1. Media Ethics and Journalism in the Arab World, Conference in Beirut

MIFTAH's Media and Information Program actively participated in the conference held at the Lebanese American University (LAU), entitled "Media Ethics & Journalism in the Arab World: Theory, Practice & Challenges Ahead" and organized by the [Institute of Professional Journalists](#).

The paper presented by MIFTAH's representative discussed the issue of media biases and stereotypes in the western media at great length.

2. Popular Initiative to Resist the Wall

Exactly one month prior to the International Court of Justice ruling on the wall (Which deemed the Separation Wall illegal and called for its dismantlement), MIFTAH, along with other partner NGOs and Palestinian government bodies, initiated the Popular Initiative to Resist The Wall.

The initiative included a petition which was drafted by MIFTAH's Media and Information Program. The petition can still be found on the internet under www.stophthewallpetition.com, www.stophthewallpetition.org and www.stophthewallpetition.net. Furthermore MIFTAH's Media and Information employees were part of the media committee responsible for coordinating information amongst local TV/Radio and other media outlets.

3. Conference on the Initiative to Promote Non-Violent Resistance

The Media and Information Program at MIFTAH took part in an initiative by various Palestinian NGOs to promote non-violent resistance as an alternative Palestinian strategy to face the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. MIFTAH's Media and Information Program actively participated in workshops, publications, and think-tank sessions.

4. Hunger strike at Al-Ram

MIFTAH, along with other Palestinian organizations and international personalities, staged a hunger strike at Al Ram to protest specific Israeli policies like the planned route for the Separation Wall through the Jerusalem suburb of Al-Ram. The Media and Information program assisted once again in media related matters such as contacting local and international media to cover the event, as well as draft and disseminate all related press releases.

5. 5th International Sabeel Conference

At Sabeel's 5th international conference, the issue of Christian Zionism took center stage due to its role as a powerful driving force in the formulation of American as well as European foreign policy. MIFTAH's Media and Information Program took part in the conference, assisting Sabeel with the book fair and dissemination of posters.

Acknowledgements

Our evaluation of the web site is primarily based on our viewers' feedback, which is publicly archived under our online guestbook through posted comments on the content of the web site and through the countless e-mails we receive. The viewers' enthusiastic response, unwavering support, and constructive criticism motivate us to try our best to meet their needs. We would like to acknowledge our viewers for all their efforts in helping us develop the web site for the better and we promise to continue improving, while maintaining the highest standards that our viewers have become accustomed to and rely on.

External Relations

MIFTAH has continued to solidify its external relations program that aims at facilitating Palestinian/US/European/Arab relations by networking and partnering with international locutors, institutions of civil society, grassroots organizations and other similar bodies, by monitoring various country positions vis-à-vis Palestine and by conducting regular policy briefs to the diplomatic corps. In particular, MIFTAH has expanded its well established *Palestinian-European Relations*. MIFTAH's external relations is basically carried out through the Secretary General's office. For further detail, please refer to the section on the Secretary General's activities.

MIFTAH'S PUBLICATIONS

1. Publication of MIFTAH's project on the Empowerment of Young Palestinian Political Leaders
2. Changing the Vicious Circle: Changing the Dominant Political Patterns, a series of papers on policy sessions that address four major aspects of the Palestinian political condition
3. Publications of the project Advocacy for Reproductive Health



Q&A on RH Issues and Policies	
School Drop Out fact sheet	
Violence Against Women fact sheet	
Early Marriage fact sheet	
Youth Access to RH information fact sheet	
PLC letter on raising the age of marriage	
Report on “Reproductive health of Palestinian women- Literature Review”	
Women’s share in the contingency work opportunities	
Pre-marital medical test	
Raising the age of marriage	
Video tape on “National debate on the negative effects on early marriage”	
Video tape on the strategy meeting that was held in Ramallah in Dec. 2003	
Video tape on the strategy meeting that was held in Gaza in Jan. 2004	
Report on the results of “ Decision makers attitudes on the importance of pre-medical test before marriage	

AMAN’s Publications

1. Towards an Active Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) Series: The relationship with the public; PLC members- First experience; Administrative and Supporting functional units; PLC Committees.

2. Corruption Series

This educational series consists of three-level booklets on corruption issues to be distributed among schools and universities. The booklets include many caricatures on corruption forms and results.

Corruption 1: Problem and solution: for students 12-15 years of age

Corruption 2: Causes and Measures: for students 15-19 years

Corruption 3: Causes and Results



**T H E
A C T I V I T I E S O F T H E
S E C R E T A R Y G E N E R A L
O F M I F T A H**

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi

Meetings			
No.	Description	Date	Place
1.	Meeting with Mrs. Angelica Beer-Chairperson of the German Green Party accompanied by political officer from the German Representative Office in Ramallah. Discussion highlighted the current political development and the role to be played by the German Green Party in bringing peace to area.	January 24,2004	Ramallah
2.	Meeting with Mr. Mathias Mossberg-Head of the Middle East Department/East West Institute. Discussed the current political developments.	January 27,2004	MIFTAH's office / Ramallah
3.	Meeting with Canadian Senator Mobina Jaffer. Discussed the current political developments.	January 28,2004	Ramallah

4.	Meeting with David Satterfield-Advisor to Secretary of State on Middle East and Ambassador John Wolf, Special US Envoy to the Road Map. Discussed current political developments.	January 28,2004	Ramallah
5.	Meeting with President Yasser Arafat and the Reverend and Right Honourable Dr.Rowan Williams, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. Discussed the role to be played by the church in supporting the Palestinian just case.	January 29,2004	Ramallah
6.	Meeting with Condoleeza Rice, Eliot Abrams, Robert Danin. Conveyed the Palestinian position and perspective, urging the US administration to intervene and take a more serious stance concerning the expansion of the settlements and the separation wall.	February 12,2004	Ramallah
7.	Meeting with Plymouth Congregational Church. Spoke about the actual situation for Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation. Addressed the Plymouth congregation about the Palestinian struggle for peace and justice.	February 15,2004	Ramallah
8.	Meeting with British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Stephen Teigg, and the British Consul General Dr. John Jenkins. Purpose of activity: Study tour to make an assessment of the educational process in the occupied Palestinian territories.	February 25,2004	British Consulate
9.	Meeting with the Head of the ICRC Mission. Purpose of activity: Discuss the issue pf political prisoners and humanitarian situation in the OPT.	March 01,2004	Jerusalem
10	Meeting with Richard Bruden, MP, Chairman of M.E. Council. Purpose of Activity: Discuss the situation on the ground and means by which the Council can be more effective in moving the peace process.	March 10,2004	England

11.	Addressed a meeting of MPs at the House of Commons and highlighted the current political situation and ways overcoming the deadlock in the implementation of the Road Map.	March 10,2004	England
12.	Meeting with Jonathan Powel, the Chief of the State of the Prime Minister's office at 10 Downing St. Purpose of activity: Discussed the role of the British Government in influencing the US policy in the Palestinian- Israeli conflict.	March 12,2004	England
13.	Meeting with Baroness Symons. Purpose of activity: A continuous dialogue channel. Tackled recent political developments and the British role in activating the Road Map.	March 12,2004	England
14.	MAP UK Representative and Staff, Prince Torkey Bin Faisal. Purpose of activity: Fundraising dinner that will help implement several aid projects in the OPT.	March 12,2004	England
15.	AMAN Board meting including Dr. Azmi Shuaibi. And donor agencies. Purpose of activity: Agreement with Norway and Netherlands.	March 29,2004	MIFTAH's office / Ramallah
16.	Meeting with a representative from the US Green Party. Purpose of activity: Discuss the US foreign policy particularly its policy in the Middle East.	March 30,2004	MIFTAH's office/ Ramallah
17.	Meeting with representative from the World Alliance of YMCA, Ms. Abla Nasir , representing the East Jerusalem YWCA and members of the YWCA Ramallah Chapter. Purpose of activity: witness visit to the region.	April 10,2004	Ramallah
18.	Meeting with a delegation from the United States at President Arafat's Headquarters. Purpose of activity: Solidarity with the President.	April 16,2004	Ramallah
19.	Meeting with a French delegation. Purpose of activity: Fact-finding mission.	April 19,2004	Ramallah

20.	Meeting with Ambassador Bill Burns. Purpose of activity: Discuss the recent political developments, the continuous Israeli violations and the US role in bringing peace to the region.	May 10,2004	Ramallah
21.	Meeting with Dr. Condoleeza Rice. Purpose of activity: Discuss recent political developments.	May 10.2004	USA
22.	Policy meeting	May 19,2004	MIFTAH's office /Ramallah
23..	Meeting with a Canadian delegation comprising Mr. Michael Bell, Mr. Michael Molloy, Mr. John Bell who are on a country study tour . Purpose of activity: Political discussion.	May 25,2004	Ramallah
24.	Meeting with renowned world actor and activist Richard Gere. Purpose of activity: Discuss means of creating a global peace movement in support of reaching a just peace in the region.	June 04,2004	USA
25.	Meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. Purpose of activity: Assess the situation of women under occupation and the double suppression of the occupier and the traditional society.	June 17, 2004	Ramallah
26.	Meeting with US official delegation .Ambassador William Burns, US Consul General Mr. David Pearce, Mr. Don Bloom and Mr. Chris Stevenson. Purpose of activity: discuss most recent political developments.	June 26,2004	USA
27.	MIFTAH and Jawwal. Signing of agreement with Jawwal.	June 28,2004	Ramallah
28.	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights—PICCR annual meeting.	July 30, 2004	Ramallah
29.	Policy Meeting with guest speaker Mr. Ziad Assaly.	July 13,2004	Ramallah

30.	Meeting with UNRWA Goodwill Ambassador actress Vanessa Redgrave. Purpose of activity: Solidarity with the Palestinian refugees.	July 02,2004	Ramallah
31.	Meeting with delegation from the office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) from the US State Department.	August 04,2004	Ramallah
32.	Meeting with OCHA Representative, Mr. David Shearer, Ms. Allegra Pacheco—Chief of Humanitarian Information and International Law section. Purpose of activity: Explore means of cooperation and introduce the work and mission of OCAH in the occupied territories.	August 04, 2004	Ramallah
33.	Meeting with Ms. Elisabeth Dibble—Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, and Mr. David Pearce – US Consul General. Purpose of activity: Discuss recent political developments in the region.	August 19, 2004	Ramallah
34.	Meeting with Dr. Mitchell Reiss- Director for Policy Planning at the US State Department. Purpose of activity: Discuss recent political developments and the US Middle East policy.	September 01,2004	Ramallah
35.	Meeting with members of the Bundestag (German Parliament). Purpose of activity: discuss political situation and the role of the international community, and parliamentarians in particular, in reaching a peaceful solution.	September 07,2004	Ramallah
36.	Meeting with Mr. Yoschka Fischer, German Ambassador and Mr. Shlomo Bin Ami. Purpose of activity: Presentation followed by a question and answer session with the participation of the German Ambassador.	September 07, 2004	Jerusalem

37.	Meeting with German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. Ms. Heidemarie Weic-zorek-Zeul. Discussion of the current situation in the Palestinian territories and deteriorating economic and humanitarian situation.	September 08, 2004	Ramallah
38.	Meeting with the Editorial Board of the <u>Washington Post</u> . Purpose of activity: Discussing the Palestinian Israeli and presenting a Palestinian perspective that is rarely heard or covered in the US media.	September 09,2004	
39.	Meeting of the Club of Retired Foreign Service Diplomats. Purpose of activity: discuss current political developments and the US policy in the Middle East.	September 10,2004	Ramallah
40.	Meeting with Ambassador William Burns.	September 14,2004	
41.	Meeting with Dr. Condolezza Rice/NSC. Purpose of activity: present the Palestinian perspective of the current political developments and urge the US to play an evenhanded role as a peace maker.	September 14,2004	
42.	Policy meeting. EU Special Envoy to the Middle East, Ambassador Marc Otte.	October 19,2004	Ramallah
43.	Meeting with delegation from Open Society Institute, Ms. Bilijana Tatomir- Deputy Director of the Media Department.	October 26,2004	Ramallah
44.	Meeting with Baroness Symon, Foreign and Common Wealth, UK. Purpose of activity: discuss current issues in the Middle East.	November 02,2004	England.
45.	Meeting with Mr. Bill Burns, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, US State Department; Dr. Robert Danin, Director for the Levant, Israeli and Palestinian Affairs; Mr. David Pearce, Consul General in Jerusalem. Purpose of activity: Discuss political developments and upcoming Palestinian elections.	November 21, 2004	England

46.	Meeting with Baroness Symons—British Minister of State for the Middle East, and accompanying delegation. Purpose of activity: Revive the Road Map and study the situation through meetings with the Palestinian leadership.	November 22,2004	Ramallah
47.	Meeting with H.E. Marc Otte, European Special Representative to the Middle East Peace Process, and staff. Purpose of activity: Speak about the upcoming elections and other issues of concern to the Palestinian public.	Novenber 20,2004	Ramallah
48.	Meeting with RT. Hon. Michael Ancram QC MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Affairs, Shadow Foreign Secretary & Deputy Leader for Conservative Party (UK).	December 08,2004	UK
49.	Meeting with outgoing Norwegian Representative Mr. Nils Ragnar Kamsvaag. Purpose of activity: Farewell Activity.	December 19,2004	Ramallah
50.	Meeting with the editors and senior journalists from seven Australian newspapers and staff from the Australian Representative Office in Ramallah. Purpose of activity: Present the Palestinian perspective and discuss upcoming Palestinian elections.	December 20,2004	Ramallah
51.	Meeting with Jerusalem Center for Women and Bat Shalom to discuss draft joint statement.	December 30,2004	Ramallah
52.	Board Meeting. The Jerusalem Center for Women. The women met to discuss JCW's activities, finances, etc.	December 30,2004	MIFTAH's office/ Ramallah

Speeches

No.	Description	Date	Place
1.	Speaking tour at different universities addressing students and faculty and the public at large.	Feb.07,2004	USA
2.	Addressed the student body and faculty at the University of St. Paul about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.	Feb.16,2004	USA
3.	Speaking tour in the United States and official meetings. Gave a lecture entitled The Context and Imperatives of Peace, followed by a session of Q&A.	May 5,2004	USA
4.	Panel discussion entitled: Israeli and Palestinian Peace: Just Compromises or Collapse, held at the American University in Washington.	May12,2004	USA

Conferences/ Workshops

No.	Description	Date	Place
1.	Conference on International Mobilization of Public Opinion and Action, resulting in the creation of an international network for peace and justice in the Middle East.	January 04,2004	Ramallah
2.	Workshop organized by AMAN in an effort to activate civil society's role in fostering principles of accountability and integrity within the Palestinian society.	January 06,2004	Ramallah
3.	World Presidents' Organization's annual conference, General Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum delivered keynote speech.	January 10,2004	UAE

4.	Workshop to address congressman and their staffers about the US foreign policy and their stance concerning the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and urging them for a more fair role as a peace broker.	January 12,2004	Ramallah
5.	Conference held at the Commonwealth Institute Kensington to raise awareness of the actual political situation in the OPT and the role of the US and Europe in achieving a just peace to the region.	March 10,2004	England
6.	A series of lectures held by the Middle East Center Seminar hosting Palestinian figures and thinkers to address different aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from a Palestinian perspective.	March 11,2004	Ramallah
7.	A speech in a conference at Harvard University about Contemporary Context and Options for Peace.	May 06,2004	USA
8.	Keynote address at the event held to help children in Palestine at a conference held in Washington for the PCRFB	May 08,2004	USA
9.	High level conference meeting assessing the urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian refugees in the Near East: Building Partnerships in Support of UNRWA.	June 07,2004	USA
10.	Roundtable discussion of the current political situation and the role of the Arab Americans in influencing the US biased Middle East policy.	May 13,2004	USA
11.	Keynote speaker at the IIMRC's ninth annual International Student Symposium on Negotiations.	July 19,2004	
12.	Keynote speaker at a conference arranged by the Council for National Interest	September 10,2004	USA

13.	13th Annual Arab-US policymakers' conference: Restoring Arab-US Mutual Trust and Confidence.	September 12,2004	USA
14.	Cultural event entitled: The Palestinian Cultural Day, Palestinian Cultural Awareness Program. Organized by Ibin Rushd Center in Richmond Virginia.	September 18,2004	USA
15.	Workshop. UNFPA event.	October 09,2004	Ramallah
16.	A lecture on Legality, Humanity, Identity and the Pursuit of Peace in the Middle East. University of London.	November 02,2004	England
17.	A lecture for the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.	November 04,2004	England
18.	An intervention in the session for a Workshop on the Disengagement Plan and the Future of Gaza.	December 04,2004	Ramallah
19.	Intervention in the second session: Political Systems in the Arab World 2020: Moving Towards Reform and Development. Also participated in parallel sessions: Fundamentals of Political Reform: Shifts in Governance and the Arab World: Between the Realities of Today and the Promises of Tomorrow.	December 13,2004	Dubai



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Trustees

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH)

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) as of December 31, 2004, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of MIFTAH's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable

assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy as of December 31, 2004, and the results of its operations, and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Ernst & Young
Ramallah, Palestine
June 1, 2005

The Palestinian Initiative For The Promotion Of Global Dialogue And Democracy (MIFTAH)

Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2004

(Currency: U.S. \$)

	Notes	2004	(Restated Note 16) 2003
Assets			
Current Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	441,932	468,457
Contributions receivable	4	292,141	248,582
Other current assets		8,770	3,989
Total Current Assets		742,843	721,028
Property and equipment, net	5	59,039	65,720
Total Assets		801,882	786,748
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities:			
Current Liabilities			
Accrued expenses		16,907	38,678
Temporarily restricted contributions	6	634,852	581,342
Other accounts payable		23,173	28,502
Total Current Liabilities		674,932	648,522
Deferred revenues	7	36,002	24,581
Provision for severance pay	8	66,348	64,038
Total Liabilities		777,282	737,141
Net Assets:			
Unrestricted net assets		24,600	49,607
Total Net Assets		24,600	49,607
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		801,882	786,748

The Palestinian Initiative For The Promotion Of Global Dialogue And Democracy (MIFTAH)

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

(Currency: U.S. \$)

	Notes	2004	(Restated Note 16) 2003
Revenues			
Temporarily restricted contributions released from restrictions	9	690,900	462,536
Unrestricted contributions	10	75,000	150,000
Deferred revenues recognized	7	7,505	3,224
Interest revenue		2,196	5,690
Sundry		7,420	195
Total revenues		783,021	621,645
Expenses			
Projects' expenses	11	690,900	462,536
Administration and general	12	117,128	259,787
Total expenses		808,028	722,323
Decrease in net assets		(25,007)	(100,678)
Net assets, beginning of the year		49,607	150,285
Net assets, end of the year		24,600	49,607

The Palestinian Initiative For The Promotion Of Global Dialogue And Democracy (MIFTAH)

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

(Currency: U.S. \$)

	2004	(Restated Note 16) 2003
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Decrease in net assets	(25,007)	(100,678)
Adjustments:		
Non cash items:		
Depreciation	25,605	28,616
Provision for severance pay	2,310	16,672
	2,908	(55,390)
(Increase) decrease in assets		
Contributions receivable	(43,559)	(118,582)
Other current assets	(4,781)	(2,243)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities		
Accrued expenses	(21,771)	7,162
Other accounts payable	(5,329)	17,214
Deferred revenues	11,421	24,581
Temporary restricted contributions	53,510	(67,787)
Net cash flows used in operating activities	(7,601)	(195,045)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(18,924)	(28,633)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(18,924)	(28,633)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(26,525)	(223,678)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	468,457	692,135
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	441,932	468,457

Projects' Expenses

Components of projects' expenses follow:

	Empowerment of Women						Empowerment of Youth			
	Empowerment of Women in Elections	Women Electoral Support Points	Empowerment of Women in Peace	Advocacy in Reproductive Health	Training-Gender Based Violence	RAGSNB 1 *	Empowerment of Community Leaders	Empowerment of Young Politicians	Empowerment of Young Leaders through Media	Printing of a Palestinian Photo-Essay
	IRI	IRI	SWISS	UNFPA	UNFPA	Kvinnor Till Kvinna	FES	NED	NED	Jawwal
Salaries and related expenses	4,000	41,812	20,625	33,784	-	10,762	6,880	11,026	2,830	-
Severance pay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	-
Experts honoraria and training fees	1,000	-	-	-	403	-	-	-	-	-
Office, equipment and hall rental	1,000	6,900	2,210	1,800	-	-	-	2,300	-	-
Workshop expenses	2,800	4,163	667	12,644	1,863	-	5,471	4,655	-	-
Travel and accommodation	1,471	2,735	764	783	660	96	1,177	813	112	-
Information and Publications	8,367	5,306	1,042	23,386	2,181	1,415	1,772	1,883	46	3,500
Professional fees	-	1,049	600	1,404	-	200	-	430	-	-
Training expenses	-	2,200	435	738	478	-	1,574	767	-	-
Hosting delegations and meetings	191	1,582	449	2,481	993	-	539	774	-	52
Postage, telephone and fax	852	5,929	1,809	1,909	-	911	380	1,212	275	-
Information technology expenses	30	61	51	265	-	50	-	102	50	-
Utilities	389	1,027	1,262	614	-	789	-	714	381	4
Sundry	67	61	107	149	-	43	47	62	-	-
Total	20,167	72,825	30,021	79,957	6,578	14,266	17,840	24,738	3,994	3,556

1 * Kvinnor Till Kvinna funded the project named "Raising Awareness of Gender – Sensitive National Budget (RAGSNB)".

Projects' Expenses - Continued

	Media Monitoring		Media and Information, Governance & Democracy Programs		Conferences		Other Projects	Miscellaneous	2004 Total	2003 Total				
	Monitoring Incitement in Palestinian Media	Monitoring Media Coverage during Presidential Elections	Keshev through EC	IMS	Norway	Ford Foundation 2 *					3 *	UNDP	An End to Occupation	TOKTEN Palestinian Program
Salaries and related expenses	35,274	2,900	46,316	46,996	795	3,600	3,150	24,879	49,587	9,795	940	4,482	359,638	211,988
Severance pay	-	-	814	795	-	-	-	2,021	1,888	-	-	-	5,818	-
Experts honoraria and training fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,550	2,100	900	11,800	20,753	3,750	
Office, equipment and hall rental	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	4,300	-	-	-	-	38,510	25,950
Workshop expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	412	242	-	-	-	-	32,917	-
Travel and accommodation	1	2	849	1,214	-	141	2,557	9,566	533	546	31,469	55,489	20,520	
Information and Publications	1,202	225	2,015	1,454	2,623	2,725	17,867	58	12,877	-	-	89,944	115,681	
Professional fees	-	-	1,000	1,401	-	-	-	1,638	-	-	-	-	7,722	3,185
Training expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,828	4,447	590	-	-	22,057	24,592
Hosting delegations and meetings	21	163	682	478	3,099	5,400	908	-	1,463	570	-	19,845	12,366	
Postage, telephone and fax	-	252	3,263	2,143	1,080	-	-	1,528	54	-	-	-	21,597	18,378
Information technology expenses	-	-	278	-	-	-	-	593	25	-	-	-	1,505	12,432
Utilities	1,155	-	3,255	2,079	220	-	-	1,216	-	-	-	-	13,479	12,603
Sundry	97	-	314	104	56	47	96	309	58	9	9	1,626	1,091	
Total	37,750	3,542	68,786	66,664	10,819	14,291	24,879	105,153	18,958	17,412	48,330	690,900	462,536	

2 * Ford Support for years 2002 to 2004.

3 * The British Consultant and the European Commission made funding for MIFTAH's conference on the "Palestinian Critical Review of Arab World Reform".

4 * These donors are Konrad Adanuer, Heinrich Boll Foundation and Transparency International.

5 * Other projects include the expenses of long-term research and special activities.

6 * CCC's donation is restricted for the setup of Ramallah office.

Administration and General

	2004	2003
Salaries and related expenses	68,874	172,509
Severance pay	16,370	25,351
Depreciation	25,605	28,616
Office, equipment and hall rental	-	12,050
Professional fees	-	1,495
Hosting delegations and meetings	44	1,308
Postage, telephone and fax	-	3,349
Information technology expenses	-	2,062
Travel and accommodation	1,175	565
Information and publication	-	3,482
Utilities	5,005	7,484
Sundry	55	1,516
	117,128	259,787



**A M O N G
M I F T A H ' S
S U P P O R T E R S
2 0 0 4**

-
- The National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
 - Freidrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)
 - International Republican Institute (IRI)
 - Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
 - Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK)
 - UNFPA
 - EU Partnership for Peace
 - The Ford Foundation
 - United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
 - The Representative Office of Norway
 - Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)
 - A.M. Qattan Foundation