

## Biannual MIFTAH Newsletter - First Edition (January - June 2017)

### Publication of the Social Development and Education and Higher Education Ministries' 2017 Citizens' Budget

MIFTAH developed and published the 2017 Citizens' Budget of the Social Development and Education and Higher Education Ministries by following a highly participatory approach in budgeting and planning. The Citizens' Budget is a simplified version of the Public Budget of the Ministry. It summarises the policies, approaches and priorities of the ministry for the coming year. The importance of publishing the Citizens' Budget lies in promoting transparency of the public budget, opening dialogue between the civil society and Palestinian authorities and holding officials accountable to their declared commitments. MIFTAH seeks to expand the scope of this work to include the Health and Finance and Planning Ministries.



This first biannual MIFTAH newsletter highlights the most significant achievements and accomplishments of the organisation over the past six months and offers our friends and partners a snapshot of our activities and accomplishments. MIFTAH hopes that the biannual newsletter becomes an on-going tradition.

### Publication of a study on the hindrances to youth and women's political participation



As part of MIFTAH's strategic approach to promote the participation of societal sectors, including women and youth in political decision-making, a first of its kind research study, entitled "Obstacles which hinder equal representation of women and youth inside various bodies of the PLO and limit their access to decision-making positions" was conducted and published. The case study sets the stage to organise the necessary dialogue to revive youth and women's participation in the PLO's political bodies. It includes a number of applicable recommendations aimed at lobbying decision makers towards "integrating women and

youth in the current and on-going discussions aimed at reforming PLO bodies" and "adopting a youth and women's quota that ensures a 30% representation each for youth and women in PLO bodies".

### MIFTAH Publishes position paper of 'Women's National Reconciliation Shadow Committee' on women's participation in reconciliation efforts

MIFTAH published a position paper on the participation of Palestinian women in national reconciliation efforts. The position paper emanated from a study conducted by MIFTAH on the impact of the division on Palestinian women, especially in the Gaza Strip and includes testimonies of women who have been affected by the division. MIFTAH seeks to support the women's shadow committee in opening dialogue on the paper to adopt practical steps towards promoting women's participation in national reconciliation efforts.

### Presentation and discussion of Palestinian women's vision on the UN released global review of implementing UNSCR 1325

MIFTAH organised a roundtable discussion attended by representatives of international and regional organisations and diplomatic missions, as well as representatives of the National Women's Coalition for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 to discuss the 10-strategy vision on women, peace and security agenda. The document highlighted the gaps of the global review on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in presenting violations of Palestinian women's rights under the Israeli occupation. The meeting focused on the important role that international organisations can play in supporting Palestinian women's international efforts in demanding an end to the occupation.

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### MIFTAH's Bazaar: towards the motivation and economic empowerment of marginalised Palestinian women



MIFTAH organised the “Bab Al Amoud [Damascus Gate]” bazaar in Ramallah on May 9 and 10 as a culmination of the efforts to support the economic empowerment of marginalised Palestinian women in Jerusalem through income-generating projects. The projects and bazaar particularly targeted women in different districts of Jerusalem that are in close proximity to the separation wall and Israeli settlements. The bazaar was visited by several citizens and organisations and achieved an important success in terms of the future of their projects. Their products were uniquely showcased in booths throughout the bazaar's wings and sections, including embroidered pieces, traditional clothing, food and household products.

### Development of the Youth Political Agenda

The MIFTAH-established “Palestinian Political and Social Active Youth Network” developed and published a 'Youth Political Agenda'. This is in line with MIFTAH's strategic approaches in promoting the participation of societal sectors including youth in the political decision-making process, and comes in light of the absence of a national political agenda to integrate youth in public life and revive their socio-political role. This document is the first of its kind and aims to develop a socio-political framework towards promoting youth participation in decision-making. The agenda includes the vision of youth on the nature of the Palestinian polity, including the foundations of citizenship, rights and duties. In the coming months, MIFTAH will manage the dialogue between all the relevant parties to reach a consensus on this agenda to serve as a reference for youth action in Palestine.



### Facts and figures

MIFTAH believes that presenting accurate information is a key part of its mission. MIFTAH's "Facts and Figures" offers specific information on subjects related to the Palestinian condition, Palestinian-Israeli conflict and final status issues. Most recently, the following fact sheets have been compiled:

- \* Palestinian Prisoners
- \* Palestinian local, legislative and presidential elections
- \* Settlements: an obstacle to peace
- \* Forced Displacement in east Jerusalem

### Hosted by MIFTAH

MIFTAH publishes interviews with prominent individuals and political leaders, which discuss the current situation developments at the national and international levels and their impact on the Palestinian cause.

So far, MIFTAH has conducted interviews with the following:

- \* Engineer Mazen Ghneim, head of the Palestinian Water Authority
- \* Ambassador Ammar Hijazi, Palestinian deputy foreign minister for multilateral relations
- \* Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, PLO Executive Committee member