



المبادرة الفلسطينية لتعميق الحوار العالمي والديمقراطية

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

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

2007

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MIFTAH

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Table of Contents

5	Letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees
7	Foreword by the Secretary General of MIFTAH
9	MIFTAH's Mission, Vision and Objectives
11	MIFTAH's Board of Trustees
13	MIFTAH's staff
17	Good Governance and Democracy Program
17	Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership
33	Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leadership
39	Strengthening the Role of the Media in Enhancing Systems of Accountability and Access to Information
41	Enhancing Systems of Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in the Palestinian Public Sector
44	Policy Formulation
45	Policy Papers
49	Media and Information Program
49	Information and Informatics
53	Media Monitoring Unit
61	MIFTAH's Audited Financial Report
71	Among MIFTAH's Supporters



Letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

I am honored to present MIFTAH's ninth annual report and to offer my congratulations to this organization, which continues to embrace valuable principles and values necessary to improve our society and institutions. Throughout the years, MIFTAH has continued to promote the principles of democracy and good governance, accountability and independence of the media.



It has been a forerunner in the promotion of women and youth empowerment in Palestinian society and has also contributed

immensely to local and international forums advocating democracy, the free flow of information and dialogue.

Through its various projects and endeavors and its close working relationship with people and institutions on the ground both in Palestine and abroad, MIFTAH has exhibited its ability and intention of continuing to serve the Palestinian cause and its people. MIFTAH's continuous work with Palestinian women and youth in addition to its ever advancing media unit is testimony to its dynamic nature and invaluable contributions.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate MIFTAH's administration and staff for their exceptional work and commitment to advancing our society and continuing the mission that MIFTAH was so rightfully established for.

Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far



Foreword by the Secretary General of MIFTAH

I am pleased to present this year's annual report by MIFTAH, which lays out both the organization's achievements throughout the year and its aspirations for years to come. The report offers a window into MIFTAH's dedication to the promotion of democracy and good governance in addition to a variety of other activities relevant to our Palestinian society. This year, MIFTAH has made a concerted effort to push forward in projects and initiatives we find extremely important for the advancement of society, including



youth and women's projects and extensive work with Palestinian lawmakers and official bodies in a bid to make positive changes within the various social forums.

Furthermore, as has been the case in previous years, MIFTAH continues to advance in its aim to reinforce and bolster principles of accountability, women and youth empowerment along with improving the role of our media.

In the past year, MIFTAH has carried on with its work in the empowerment of women and youth. It has continued in conjunction with its partner AMAN to fight corruption within Palestinian society and has achieved qualitative reports in the field of media monitoring along with its Israeli counterpart KESHEV. MIFTAH's English and Arabic websites offer a continuous flow of valuable information to our readers along with original and professional journalistic work by MIFTAH's writers.

As in previous years, MIFTAH has forged forward with pioneer work in the

fields of good governance, democracy and responsible citizenship. With the combined efforts and commitment of its shareholders, funders, administrators and employees, MIFTAH continues to work towards bettering Palestinian society and mapping out future plans and programs that will further develop and advance the accumulative efforts of our organization over the years.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to our board members, funders, staff and administrators. Without them, this organization would not be the success it is today. I am confident that our team is ready and willing to take on any future challenges with competence and commitment and is eager to continue with its future plans and programs aimed at bettering our society.

Lily Feidy

MIFTAH's, Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

An independent, democratic and sovereign Palestinian state, which grants Palestinians their basic rights, preserves their dignity, and enjoys international recognition and respect.

Mission

MIFTAH seeks to promote the principles of democracy and good governance within various components of Palestinian society; it further seeks to engage local and international public opinion and official circles on the Palestinian cause. To that end, MIFTAH adopts the mechanisms of an active and in-depth dialogue, the free flow of information and ideas, as well as local and international networking.

Strategic Objectives

1. To disseminate the Palestinian narrative and discourse globally to both official and popular bodies and decision-makers
2. To empower effective leadership within all components of Palestinian society in order to enhance democracy and good governance and raise public awareness concerning the rights and responsibilities of good citizenship
3. To influence policy and legislation to ensure their safeguarding of civil and social rights for all sectors and their adherence to principles of good governance
4. To bolster MIFTAH's capacity and its capability to achieve its objectives and mission efficiently and effectively



MIFTAH'S Board of Trustees

Hanan Ashrawi Founder and Head of MIFTAH's Executive Committee; member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far Chair of the Board of Trustees

Lily Feidy Secretary General

Ziad Abu-Amr Former President of the Palestinian Council on Foreign Relations; member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

Maha Abu Dayyeh-Shammas Director of Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling

Mustafa Barghouthi President of the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees and Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

Ghassan Khatib Director of the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center

Rema Hamammi Professor of Anthropology; Head of Women's Studies/Higher Education Program, Birzeit University; women and human rights activist

Khalil Hindi	Professor, Brunel University, UK and AUB, 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); Former President of Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Washington, D.C.
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Sa'id Khoury	President and Co-owner of Consolidated Contractors International Company (CCC), Athens
Sabih Al-Masri	Chairman of ASTRA Group
Abdel-Muhsin Qattan	Founder and President of A.M. Qattan Foundation, London
George Salem	Attorney at Law and Partner at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld, Washington D.C.
Eyad Al-Sarraj	Director General of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program
Azmi Shuaibi	AMAN Commissioner for Combating corruption; MIFTAH treasurer
Raji Sourani	Director of Palestinian Center for Human Rights

Who's Who at MIFTAH



Employee	Title
Dr. Lily Feidy	Secretary General
Dolly Nammour	Development Director
Rula Muzaffar	Director – Financial and Administrative Affairs
Mousa Qous	Arabic Media Coordinator
Joharah Baker	Writer-Media and Information Program
Caelum Moffatt	Researcher -Media and Information Program
Mu'ath Bakri	IT Coordinator
Bisan Abu Ruqti	Project Director
Reem Wahdan	Project Coordinator
Najwa Yaghi	Project Coordinator

Raji Odeh	Project Coordinator
Ruham Nimri	Project Coordinator-Media Monitoring Unit
Muhammed Abed Rabbo	Analyst -Media Monitoring Unit
Ala' Karajeh	Information Coordinator-Media Monitoring Unit
Nahed Abu Sneineh	Administrative Assistant to different projects
Maysa Hindaileh	Administrative Assistant to different projects
Reem Shadid	Executive Assistant to the Secretary General and the Executive Committee
Khuloud Ju'beh	Secretary
Ja'far Ladadweh	Receptionist
Eyad Awar	Driver
Suha Jabareen	Services
Employees who left mid-2007	Title
Margarette Sabella	Special Assistant to the Secretary General and the Executive Committee (Oct., 2004-August 2007)
Rami Bathish	Director – Media and Information Program (Feb. 2006 – Feb. 2007)
Sana' Assi	Project Coordinator (October 2003 –June 2007)
Hiba Tibi	Project Coordinator (Sept. 2005-March 2007)
Mouna Hawwash	Project Coordinator (January – July 2007)
Ruba Hassan	Administrative Assistant to different projects (June 2005 – July 2007)
Mansour Tahboub	Analyst – Media Monitoring Unit (September 2006 – April 2007)

MIFTAH's Programs

Democracy and Good Governance

Components of the Program

- **E**mpowerment of Palestinian women leadership
- Empowerment of Palestinian youth leadership
- Policy Formulation
- Enhancing systems of integrity, transparency and accountability in the Palestinian public sector
- Strengthening the role of the media and access to information

Media and Information

Components of the Program

Information and Informatics

- A web site in English and Arabic that offers credible analyses, reliable information, as well as researches and documents on Palestine and related issues.
- Intensive media activity on particularly pressing issues through interviews, commentary, and targeted press releases and briefings
- Networking and coordination with media institutions at the local and international levels
- Timely statements and petitions

Media Monitoring Unit

- Monitoring Palestinian media
- Research and advocacy activities aiming to reduce incitement, de-humanization and de-legitimization of “the other”
- Educating media students on critical information handling
- Fostering professionalism in the Palestinian media

Democracy and Good Governance Program

MIFTAH's Democracy and Good Governance program is aimed at strengthening good governance and the rule of law, creating transparent systems of accountability, promoting political pluralism and participation in governance along with encouraging and supporting leadership among women and youth.

I. Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership

Projects

1. Women in Peace Negotiations-Phase II
2. Women in Elections-Women Electoral Support Points (WESPs)
3. Gender Peace and Security
4. Strengthening the Capacity of a National Team for a Gender-Responsive National Budget Support to Palestinian Leadership
5. Gender Responsive Budget in Local Councils (Pilot Project)
6. Palestinian Women's roles in the workplace and society

II. Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leadership

Projects

1. Supporting Youth Leadership
2. Support to Palestinian Leadership Empowerment

I. Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership

1. Women in Peace Negotiations: Phase II

[Funder: Ford Foundation]

[Duration of Project: 2005-February 2007]

Description

The *Women in the Peace Negotiations* project is a component of MIFTAH's Program of Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership-Women in Politics and complements the other program: Women in Elections. It is an attempt to build on MIFTAH's experience in the areas of advocating human rights and the promotion of participatory governance and to create linkages between gender equality issues, conflict management and peace building. Women in Peace Negotiations-Phase II builds on the outcomes of MIFTAH's project *Women in Peace-Phase I*, which was implemented in November 2003-September 2004 and was funded by the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The main goal of the second phase of *Women in the Peace Negotiations* is to enhance women's political participation in peace building and the negotiations process through networking, capacity building and simulated negotiations with Israelis.

Achievements

Women's Political Forum¹

In response to the priority needs identified by women in the first phase of the project, MIFTAH assisted in the creation and the foundation of the Women's Political Forum. The Forum created a space for women activists to discuss political, social and cultural issues from a women's perspective. It acted as an independent and open outer space for all women initiatives. In order to sustain this Forum, the women participants elected a steering committee to develop its vision and perspective of women's participation in politics and

¹ Application forms and invitation letters were sent to 60 active women and 30 participants were selected to form the core group of the Forum. Selected members represent women activists in civil society, political parties, universities and non-governmental organizations

negotiation in particular, with a defined plan of action for future activities. On the other hand, MIFTAH is currently working to raise funds to guarantee the sustainability of the Forum; some of the funds for the next year have already been granted.

In the aftermath of Hamas' victory in the PLC elections and their formation of the government which led to a paralysis in the peace process and negotiations with Israel, women participating in the Forum hesitated to start up a negotiation channel with Israeli women but worked on broadening their knowledge in preparation for the next phase. The Forum hosted different meetings and briefings on political issues pertaining to political negotiations.

Women's Capacity Building

Information Sessions

Within the same area of preparing the participating women, a comprehensive series of informative sessions on the main negotiation topics (Palestinian and Israeli negotiations, water, borders, settlements, refugees and Jerusalem) was implemented in cooperation with the official representatives of the Palestinian Affairs Department and Negotiations Support Unit.

A small library for the members was created that covers analysis for the Israeli society and latest issues within the Palestinian context.

Seven interconnected sessions summarizing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations were held. The topics were chosen by the participants as follows:

- Hamas' historical background and internal organization
- Palestinian- Israeli negotiations-historical background
- Jerusalem
- Borders
- Water
- Settlements

Negotiation skills' training course

MIFTAH conducted a comprehensive three-day training course in negotiation skills in Jericho on February 21-24, 2007. Objectives of the training course were as follows:

- Stimulate participants' *awareness* of the complexities of negotiation.
- Equip participants with a *framework* for understanding, diagnosing and leading the negotiation process.
- Enhance participants' *skills* through hands-on experience and feedback.
- Provide participants with a process for *continued improvement and learning*.

This training took place in cooperation with IRI who provided the trainers. Twenty-four women from the West Bank and Gaza Strip (women leaders and members of MIFTAH's Women Political Forum, IRI coordinators and selected beneficiaries, MIFTAH staff members) participated in the course.

Mapping of Israeli Peace Organizations

In addition, the Palestinian Center for Israeli Studies -Madar- was contracted to conduct a mapping of Israeli peace organizations. The methodology used in the mapping is the following:

- Organizations' web sites
- Organizations' literature and main activities
- Books and publications by the organizations
- Reports of research centers on targeted organizations.

2. Women in Elections-Women Electoral Support Points: Phase II

[Funder: International Republican Institute (IRI)]

[Duration of Project: Dec. 2006-Feb. 2007 and August 2007-July 2008]

This phase of MIFTAH's program of Empowerment of Palestinian Women in Politics: Women in Elections aims at addressing the gender deficit in local politics and governance by developing a support network for Palestinian women interested in assuming a more prominent role in public life. The primary vehicle for such a network was establishing the Women's Electoral Support Points (WESPs) throughout the West Bank and Gaza devoted to training, empowering and mobilizing women in pursuit of inclusion and equality in all sectors of public life.

Project Objectives

- 1.Sustain the established network of women leaders.
- 2.Provide a framework for reaching out to and building the capacity of women members in elected offices at both the local and international levels.
3. Mobilize the women's constituency to gain support for elected women.
- 4.Provide a local framework for ongoing contact and coordination among women to address their needs as they arise and provide them with a locally-available and accessible support point within their communities.
- 5.Provide the framework for various training.
- 6.Network with local organizations.

Achievements

- Newly-elected members' consultancy
 - Individual and group consultancy for newly-elected members at the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC):
 - Individual and group consultancy for newly-elected members at the local councils

The uniqueness of this project resides in the relationship established between MIFTAH's coordinators and election candidates. The coordinators were keen on staying in touch with every potential candidate the project wishes to support. To continue this relationship, the field coordinators kept the female legislators informed of the latest developments pertaining to local events and activities centrally and in their districts. In addition, MIFTAH invited newly elected PLC female members to participate in other activities like the Women's Political Forum and policy formulation meetings.

Some of the training conducted included topics such as:

- How to start dialogue and ways of communication
- Negotiating across and behind the table
- Strategies and tactics in diplomacy and international negotiations (threats and ultimatums, brinkmanship etc.)
- Asymmetric negotiations
- Multilateral negotiations, including the issues of sequencing, coalition-building and decision-making mechanisms
- The use of media in international negotiations
- Strategic Thinking: Identifying and Assessing the Political Environment
- Mobilizing Constituency: Rallies

Currently, MIFTAH is adopting a new approach that aims at providing tangible support for members of local councils by helping them prepare project proposals and contacting donors to fund their own projects. As such, the women will get the chance to practice the skills they learned through capacity building sessions while providing useful services to their community.

Networking and advocacy

MIFTAH focused on public meetings as a response to the needs of the women in local communities to meet with decision makers and discuss the latest political developments. MIFTAH's field coordinators have continued coordination with other organizations implementing projects that target newly-elected women in the local councils in order to guarantee efficiency and avoid duplication. MIFTAH also worked closely with other organizations on the occasion of International Women's Day.



WESPs Training-Tulkarem

Public Meetings

In response to the coordinators' recommendations and due to the need to raise public awareness on women's involvement in the decision making process in areas of active political participation, several public meetings were conducted by MIFTAH in each district and in coordination with local organizations to advocate women's active citizenship and raise community support for elected women. The meetings also addressed the current political situation and the role of women in ending the internal tension and security chaos.



WESPs Training-Gaza

Note: MIFTAH, in cooperation with Heinrich Boll Foundation, began a pilot project with the Birzeit municipality. The project entitled "Gender Responding Budget in the Local Authorities" is aimed at building the capacity of municipality members and staff in setting a gender sensitive budget. Female members at the municipality, active in MIFTAH's women and elections projects, will be involved in the work and will help in introducing this process to other local councils.



National Gathering of Women-Bethlehem

Educational workshops

Educational workshops on Active Citizenship were held at the WESPs by representatives of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights PICCR, and lawyers. The workshops focused on:

- Meaning of citizenship
- Citizenship from a gender point of view
- Principles of citizenship
- Role of women in building an active citizenship education

Best Practices and code of conduct workshop for local council members

Workshop focused on the following:

- Principles of integrity
- Accountability and transparency
- Relationship with voters and constituency
- Regulations and laws
- Ethical and professional measurements

Final Remarks

Israeli military incursions and closure imposed on most of the districts coupled with the security situation and internal clashes in Gaza negatively affected the project's proceedings. Hence, the political situation was not discussed in meetings in Gaza.

MIFTAH's coordinators observed a rise in the number of women at the grassroots level who are disappointed and who express their unwillingness to vote in the next elections.

Unfortunately, women's efficiency in the local councils decreased due to several reasons primarily, the lack of support provided by women's organizations and the lack of funding for municipalities as a result of the international siege. In many cases, this caused a paralysis in several local councils due to the tension between Fateh and Hamas.

3. Gender, Peace and Security Project

[Funder: UNFPA]

[Duration of Project: January-December 2007]

The project "Gender Peace and Security" is based on the CP outcome of institutional mechanisms and socio-cultural practices that promote and protect the rights of women and girls and advance gender equity. The expected CP output is to have built the technical and organizational capacities of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and civil society organizations to institutionalize gender principles and human rights.

The project activities aim at building on the previous two years' experience in putting into operation UN Resolution 1325 that promotes gender, peace and security. Project activities include strengthening networks of NGOs and journalists to create forums for dissemination of information on the role of gender equality in peace and security, capacity building and media events.

Achievements

User Guide to Lexicon for RH terminology in Coalition

A user guide which can be used as a tool for planning, training, researching and documentation was compiled. The user guide included an appendix with all tables for MUNTADA members' training material to be later developed.

Meetings with MUNTADA members

Two meetings – in June and September 2007 – were held with MUNTADA members to discuss various topics and to agree on possible techniques to institutionalize the concepts, including the lexicon, at all organizational levels.

Printing and publication of the User Guide

One thousand copies of the user guide were printed and distributed to the stakeholders.

Training

A number of activities on Security Council Resolution 1325 like workshops and training sessions with women's organizations at the district level were implemented. Meetings and training sessions on strengthening women's support at the community level were conducted in Hebron and Nablus. These activities are aimed at raising the awareness of the CBOs and identifying organizational needs to activate work in this field.

A three-day training session for 15 members of the Journalist Forum was held on November 1-2, 2007. The training was on the coverage of women's events and other special events. It was implemented in cooperation with WCLAC. Print media journalists from West Bank cities attended the session in Ramallah.

Follow up on the training continued through December 2007 where the trainees, together with the trainers, will collectively review the materials published during the VAW campaign.

A five-day training course on policy paper preparation for GBV and Prenatal Care was implemented on November 26-30, 2007. Two policy papers, based on the Domestic Violence Survey and The Demographic and Health Survey (PCBS), were produced by the trainees

with the help of the trainers. The GBV policy paper was discussed, translated, and printed in December 2007.

Other Activities

A Coalition of women's organizations was formed in Hebron. The formation of a coalition in Nablus was implemented in December 2007. Other activities like setting an action plan for each coalition of women's organizations were also implemented in December 2007. The action plans will help the coalitions in implementing 1325 within the communities.



Taining on Policy Paper Preparationfor GBV-Ramallah

MIFTAH provided technical support to the documentary film festival at An-Najah University. The support included technical consultation to the staff and the students, in addition to conceptual consultancy on gender issues. MIFTAH also provided copies of its publications, including its lexicon, to the students. The Festival was successfully held on December 2, 2007.

Media Events

a. VAW Campaign

MIFTAH actively participated in the VAW campaign through the following activities:

- Preparation for VAW campaign with Al MUNTADA members
- Press conference for launching the Campaign on November 24, 2007. The Minister of Women's Affairs and the Minister of Justice participated.
- Radio spots and TV round table discussion
- Protest tent and petition signed

b. Media event on International Women's Day with Birzeit University

Recommendation for further action include

- More coordination between MIFTAH and grassroots NGOs
- Support to coalition in Nablus and Hebron
- Additional capacity building and training for journalists in audiovisual media
- Support to An-Najah annual film festival.

4. Strengthening the Capacity of a National Team for a Gender-Responsive National Budget

[Funder: Kvinna till Kvinna (ktk)]

[Duration of Project: January- December 2007]

Description

MIFTAH's project of *Strengthening the Capacity of the National Team for a Gender Responsive Palestinian National Budget* aims at increasing readiness in the Palestinian context to achieve a gender responsive budget.

The project's main objectives are to establish a network that could support the process of engendering the national budget, build a core team that could handle the process of engendering the budget, establish qualified and skilled local trainers, and produce a training manual on engendering the budget.

Achievements

International Consultancy Visit

Debbie Budlender, the GBD international consultant, held a gender-responsive training workshop from February 26-March 3, 2007 in which 16 local experts

participated. The training concentrated on basic presentation and discussion of government functions and budget in Palestine.

Debbie Budlender also gave a presentation organized by Heinrich Boell for the Israeli Women's Budget Forum in Tel Aviv on March 2, 2007.

A one-day workshop was held for the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Representatives from the departments of Gender Statistics, Labor Force survey and the National Account System participated in the workshop, which covered four issues: Gender analysis and statistics to support GRB; unpaid care work and its value; encompassing women's work in the labor force survey; and gender opinion surveys.

Study Visit to the Dead Sea in Jordan

KtK organized a workshop for their Palestinian and Israeli partners at the Dead Sea in Jordan to increase cooperation and networking among KtK partners and to discuss a feministic peace approach.

Training manual

MIFTAH completed a training manual on gender responsive budgets, which was printed in July 2007. The manual was distributed to the trainees, selected trainers, research centers and women's organizations.



GRB Training-Ramallah

Research Studies

Four specialized research studies were implemented by MIFTAH. The first investigated the accuracy of the methods currently used to measure women's

labor force and its findings were presented in a meeting on June 13, 2007. The second investigated the question of whether or not gender equality contributes to economic growth. Its findings were presented in a workshop on September 9, 2007. The third research examined the value of women's unpaid work and was discussed on November 11, 2007. The fourth research dealt with the manner in which GRB relates to pro-poor budget making and was discussed in a workshop on December 27, 2007.

Training in Gaza

MIFTAH organized a training session in Gaza from November 6-8, 2007 on the concept and methods of gender-responsive budget. Thirty-one trainees from the public and NGO sectors attended.

Remarks

MIFTAH has become a leading institution in good governance and democracy issues with the aim of establishing the gender responsive budget as a tool of change for more transparent governance through its training sessions, workshops, seminars and policy formulation sessions with policy makers and parliamentarians.

At the level of GRB, MIFTAH is now one of the very few institutions with an advanced capacity in the field of gender-responsive budgets in the Arab region and the first local NGO which placed the gender responsive budget on the national agenda.

5. Gender Responsive Budget in Local Councils (Pilot Project)-MIFTAH as a partner with Heinrich Boell Foundation (German-Palestinian Technical Cooperation)

[Funder: Heinrich Boll Foundation]

[Duration of project: November 2007- April 2008]

Overall objective

Adopting gender responsive budgets in local councils as a means to strengthen participatory approaches in political processes, to improve the collaboration of elected representatives of local councils and civil society and to promote gender equality in the work of local councils.

Activities of the Project

Selection of the local council

Birzeit Municipality was chosen for the implementation of this pilot project. It was chosen for several reasons, most importantly: Birzeit Municipality as a pioneering municipality in the region, it's excellent track record of a cooperating mayor, who has an economic background which made it easier for the team to work with, and finally because Birzeit is a close town to Ramallah City.

Gender audit of the local council

Birzeit Municipality will be given a full gender audit by two specialists who identify the different gender gaps and needs with the focus on services the local council provides, revenues it collects, budget allocation with analysis to income and expenditure.

Implementation of two three-days training on gender mainstreaming

The training sessions will concentrate on gender mainstreaming and on tackling the areas of intervention. The first training will target the local council members; the second will target the administrative staff.

Developing training manual on GRB at the local level



Training Manual on GRB-Ramallah

Parallel to the above mentioned activities and based on the gender audit of the local council a special training manual on gender responsive budgeting will be prepared. The manual will have real life examples and will be prepared to fit the specific needs of local councils.

Training on GRB manual

A three-day training on gender mainstreaming will be held by an expert and consultant in gender issues.

Introducing the manual to other local councils

Three public meetings will be held to present the manual to other local councils to encourage them to adopt the developed tools and maintain a long term connection between them and MIFTAH who will keep working on the issue.

Printing of the manual

The manual will be designed in a user friendly style and copies will be available for local councils and NGOs who are interested to promote gender responsive budgets and participatory budgeting procedures.

6. Advocacy Towards Changing the Cultural and Traditional Stereotyping of Palestinian Women's roles in the Workplace and Society

[Funder: British Council]

[Duration of project: February-March 2007]

Description

This two-month project, in partnership with the British Council aimed at highlighting the importance of breaking Palestinian women's stereotypical image in both the workplace and society.

Achievements

An Open Dialogue was conducted at Al Najah University on March 6, 2007. Seventy four students and lecturers, in addition to two representatives from the British Council, attended. A one-hour open discussion among the two women and the students was held.

Fact sheet: A fact sheet on Palestinian women and work compiled by MIFTAH and the British Council was distributed to the group and also widely distributed to other Palestinian universities.

The meeting which targeted students from all corners of the West Bank and Gaza proved very important and also provided a platform for young Palestinians to talk about their own experiences along with listening to women leaders.

II. Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leaders

1. Supporting Youth leadership: Palestine

[Funder: National Endowment for Democracy]

[Duration of Project October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007]

Description

MIFTAH's project *Supporting Young Leadership: Palestine* comes as a direct response to recommendations put forth by young political leaders, particularly

those who participated in a previous youth empowerment NED-funded project and who stressed the need to continue focusing on them in order to involve emerging leaders in democracy building efforts. These young leaders feel they need to have a vested interest and ability to meaningfully participate in the political process.

The project aims at enhancing the communication skills of young Palestinian political leaders in order to build a national consensus on young leaders' issues in Palestine and to strengthen youth leadership roles in public life.

In line with this objective, a meeting was held at the start of the program for a group of young leaders from various political parties to discuss the topics at hand, including the role of student movements, the Palestinian governance system from the perspective of youth, political parties' bylaws, and polarization in Palestinian partisan life.

Achievements

Fact sheets

As part of this project, MIFTAH published a fact sheet providing statistical presentation on the participation of youth in the public arena. The fact sheet focused on youth in decision making positions in the political parties, public institutions, PLO, elected office (PLC and local councils), in addition to some facts related to education, time use, population, marriage and labor market among others.

The fact sheet, which provided extremely valuable information, was widely printed and distributed.

Round Table Meetings

Eight round table meetings were held over the course of the project in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza City. Between 16 and 28 young leaders representing political parties, civil society organizations and other forums attended the meetings, which focused on the following topics:

- the political role of the student movement and student councils at universities
- the perspective of youths on the electoral system
- empowering youth in the political sphere
- ways of activating youth participation in the political decision making process
- lack of and ways to reactivate collective youth activities
- the effect of youth perspectives on the approach of political parties at the political and social levels

Central Workshop

The first workshop was held in Ramallah on May 17, 2007 to provide a forum for the emerging leadership to present its main priorities regarding its role in political life.

The workshop's agenda included discussing young political leaders' issues highlighted by the project's target group.



Leadership Workshop-Bethlehem

- Two papers were presented by young leaders. The first was on internal elections as a tool for democracy in partisan life and its efficacy as a mechanism that guarantees youth involvement in the decision making process. The second focused on the status of the student movement in Palestine and its role in creating leaders.
- Recommendations and presentations were then emailed to the invitees and to decision makers.

Evaluation of MIFTAH's Youth Empowerment Program

MIFTAH conducted an overall evaluation of its previous work in the area of youth empowerment to identify the weaknesses and strengths of the program and to set a comprehensive strategic plan for MIFTAH's work with young leaders. The process included meetings with different stakeholders, political leaders and the target group and the production of a strategic planning document for future work on the empowerment of Palestinian youth.

Final Remarks

The second central workshop in the Gaza Strip was not held due to the difficult political situation there after Hamas takeover in June.

Instead of an open letter from the youth leaders, MIFTAH strongly recommended that the Young Leaders' fact sheet serve the same purpose. The fact sheet lists eight obstacles faced by young leaders in reaching leadership positions in the public sphere. The fact sheet was widely distributed and received positive feedback.

2. Support to Palestinian Leadership Empowerment and MIFTAH's Capacity Building

[Funder: The Representative Office of Norway]
[Duration of project: January-December 2007]

Description

The aim of this project is to contribute to the capacity building of MIFTAH's political forum, support the IWC for a sustainable Palestinian-Israeli peace, provide a space for women activists to discuss political, social and cultural issues and create a trained cadre of young women and men leaders well versed in the nature of democracy, active citizenship, and good governance.

Achievements

Training

A three-day training course was held on June 26-28, 2007 in Ramallah for 15 youth leaders. The course aimed at building the capacity of young leaders to become more qualified decision makers. A similar training course was held in Gaza on September 8 -10, 2007.



Youth Meeting-Gaza

A second three-day training entitled “The Electoral Systems, Gender and Lobbying” was organized between September 9 -11, 2007 in Ramallah. In Gaza, a similar training was conducted between October 29- 31, 2007.

The third training course was entitled “Negotiations and Media” Two days were dedicated to discussing basic terms of negotiations in relation to every day life.

Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leaders

Members of the Women’s Political Forum participated in a meeting on March 29, 2007 at MIFTAH with Dr. Hanan Ashrawi and a delegation from the Middle East Partnership Initiative. Women leaders from both sides discussed global challenges facing women.

A meeting was organized on July 24, 2007 at MIFTAH to gather IWC and WPF members with newly appointed female ministers in the 13th Palestinian government. The IWC and WPF members met with Tahani Abu Daqa, Minister of Youth and Sports; Kholoud Ideibes, Minister of Tourism, the Minister of Women Affairs; and Lamees Al-Alami, Minister of Education and Higher Education.

A Women's Political Forum evaluation meeting was held on September 18, 2007 and was aimed at assessing the Forum's activities and the obstacles it faces. A meeting was then held on October 31 to emphasize national unity at all levels. The meeting addressed women's concerns about the new reality in Gaza and agreed to set up a mechanism to document violations against women in the Strip.

Forum meeting with Dr. Saeb Erekat

The Forum hosted a meeting with Dr. Saeb Erekat to discuss the lack of women's participation in negotiations. Dr. Erekat proposed a list of outstanding women leaders who could be potential candidates for the negotiating teams.

Policy formulation meetings

Several policy formulation meetings were held at MIFTAH in response to the political situation, especially after Hamas' takeover of Gaza. The meetings were attended by PLC members, experts, civil society representatives, government officials and heads of parties and parliamentary blocs.

MIFTAH's Strategic Planning and Capacity Building

1. MIFTAH's strategic document for 2007 - 2011 was produced as part of the strategic planning workshops conducted in 2006 and was later translated into English.
2. Strategic Planning Consultation Meetings
3. Research and Consultation
4. Capacity Building Activities

Strengthening the role of the media and access to information

Enhancing the Role of Media Professionals in Combating Corruption- MIFTAH and AMAN

[Effective Dates: April-August, 2007]

Description

This project, "Enhancing the Role of Media Professionals in Combating Corruption" is an integral part of the overall strategy of the Palestinian civil national initiative to halt corruption. It is part of MIFTAH's joint work with AMAN (Coalition for Accountability and Integrity), which has been ongoing since August 2002. The aim of this joint work is to enhance systems of accountability, principles of transparency and values of integrity in the Palestinian public sector through promoting public information and expanding public participation at the decision-making level with the goal of curbing corruption. In this respect, MIFTAH, in conjunction with AMAN conducted the following activities:

Implemented Activities

- A three-day training course was held in Jericho for 18 journalists, which was part of a series of courses for journalists. The course, which focused on investigative reporting, aimed at enhancing the capacity of media professionals in handling corruption issues in a professional manner.
- Determining and promoting legislation necessary for the protection of media institutions and professionals.
- *Press syndicate law drafted*

A central workshop was held in Ramallah and Gaza to discuss the final drafts of the media law and press syndicate law to be submitted to the PLC. The

workshop activities included roundtable discussions, open meetings with journalists and specialized workshops.

- A legal paper was prepared on the legal framework that regulates the media and freedom of expression in Palestine, which was presented in two workshops in Ramallah and Gaza on February 28 and June 2, 2007 respectively.
- Media Code of Conduct

On July 28, dozens of journalists signed the media code of conduct in Ramallah under the auspices of MIFTAH and AMAN. In April and May, two workshops were held in Ramallah and Gaza to discuss the code of conduct.

- Establishment of Media Network for Transparency and Accountability

[January, March, April, May, 2007]

Four meetings were held to discuss and formulate the work agenda for this network, which were attended by journalists from various media outlets. The main suggestions proposed at the meeting were the following:

- Publishing investigative reports on corruption cases in a newspaper supplement.
- Launching a website for network members' where topics and reports are posted, especially those that are censored or banned by local media outlets.
- Building the capacity of network members, especially in the use of new technology.

Nonetheless, **the project faced a number of obstacles as well**, including:

- Coordination with stakeholders and partners required additional efforts in light of the competition among them.

- Cooperation with the press syndicate was very difficult because of a lack of trust between the syndicate and the journalists.
- The current political situation hindered the project's proceedings; for example, the PLC was absent; journalists were mainly preoccupied with the developments on the ground; and communication with Gaza was very difficult.

Enhancing systems of integrity, transparency and accountability in the Palestinian public sector

Monitoring the Legislative Process through Enhancing the Civil Society "Watch Dog" Role

[Effective dates of project: September 20-December 31, 2007]
[Funder : Konrad Adenauer Stiftung]

Description

This project aims at enhancing the role of civil society organizations in the legislative process through establishing a **Monitoring Unit** to follow up on the performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) throughout the current election cycle, network with civil society organizations and political parties, lobby PLC members, advocate a progressive social agenda and ensure the integration of democratic principles in the legislations and policies to be approved by the PLC.

Achievements

Project Set Up

A steering committee including civil society activists, legal and parliamentary researchers and experts was formed. The participants discussed mechanisms of intervention by civil society organizations in the legislative process, achievements accomplished and future activities.

Expert Database

Experts in various fields were contacted to compile a database of information on the PLC.

An expert was contracted to map and compile the ratified laws and draft-laws presented for ratification along with a list of parliamentarians, parliamentary blocs and their contact information.

A roster of legal institutions, research centers, and individual researchers in Palestinian universities was compiled. A collection of news items on the PLC, published in the three local newspapers during the period between Nov.1, 2007-Feb. 28, 2008, was published.

An Advocate and legal researcher is preparing a legal methodology for monitoring the Palestinian Legislative Council. Another expert was contracted for the project's external evaluation.

Videotaping of Gaza PLC sessions

Four PLC sessions were held in Gaza and are available on CD at the project library.

Legal Studies

- An advocate was contracted to conduct a legal study on "The legality of PLC Imprisoned Members Meeting by Proxy." The legal study provided background information on the work of the previous Legislative Council up to the parliamentary elections in 2006. It then debated the legality of this procedure according to the constitutional law and norms of the Palestinian Legislative Council and also discussed the procedure in light of civil law.
- A Parliamentary affairs expert prepared a study entitled the "PLC Performance between February 2006 and June 2007" which is a complete overview of the structure and work of the PLC after the second elections. The study presented a strong database of information on the work that has been done and reported the status of the pending work.

Roundtable Discussion

A round table meeting on the study was held on Dec.17, 2007, attended by members of the Steering Committee, representatives of civil society organizations, and prominent PLC members. Participants presented their input and feedback on how to better improve the content of the study and its accuracy. The final study was then distributed to stakeholders and interested organizations.

Media Campaign – “A Responsible Citizen - An Accountable Legislative Council”

A mass media campaign in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was implemented in the period between Dec.15- 29, 2007. The campaign included:

- 9 billboards distributed in all districts;
- A radio spot aired 450 times on 9 local radios;
- Broadcasting 2 TV shows on 11 local TV channels;
- 5 newspaper bulletins in the three main local newspapers;
- Two TV shows were aired on Ma’an TV Network (9 local TV channels) and Al-Fajer Al-Jadeed in Nablus and Gama TV in Tulkarem. On Dec. 17, 2007 the first show was aired under the title: “A Responsible Citizen- An Accountable Legislative Council.” The second show aired on Dec 27, 2007 under the title “Possible Solutions to Resolve the Legislative Council’s Crisis”, which hosted civil society activists, experts in PLC affairs, PLC employees, and PLC members.

Town hall meetings

Four town hall meetings were held in Hebron on Dec. 13, 2007, Nablus on Dec. 16, 2007, Tulkarem on Dec. 16, 2007, and Jerusalem on Dec. 30, 2000, including PLC members, NGO representatives, advocates and legal experts, community activists, and women leaders.



Town Hall Meeting-Jerusalem

Policy Formulation

Overview

MIFTAH's Policy Formulation is an ongoing project aimed at promoting accountability and transparency of the public sector in all policy issues pertaining to good governance, particularly reform and security and political developments. These include short term ad hoc and long term plans. MIFTAH believes that genuine reform must take place through a transparent process whereby the public sector, the private sector and civil society are brought together on policy formulation on a range of issues vital to Palestinian decision making.

The main component of the program is the policy dialogue meetings that aim to enhance multi-channel communication between and among all society members, including government, civil society organizations and the private

sector on a number of different but related issues with a view of supporting policy formulation. The policy areas identified include: *the necessity of national reform and unity, positive international intervention in Palestine, developing a democratic system in Palestine and avoiding the separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.*

MIFTAH's Policy Formulation aims to enhance the ability of decision-makers to formulate policies in an inclusive and professional manner through a participatory process that leads to a disclosure of and access to information and that genuinely responds to the needs of the Palestinian public.

Objectives

- Promote policy dialogue among the various stakeholders and present timely analyses of issues that inform policy decision making.
- Raise awareness among Palestinian decision-makers on the importance of the inclusive participatory approach to policy formulation processes.
- Identify gaps and weaknesses in existing public sector policies.
- Offer possible solutions and alternatives to the existing predicaments in internal Palestinian affairs and mechanisms of rectifying Palestinian shortcomings.

Policy Papers

Throughout 2007, MIFTAH conducted a series of closed dialogue sessions within the framework of its Public Policies Program. These sessions addressed a number of pressing issues through engaging Palestinian academics, decision makers, and politicians, among other segments of society, in an open and candid exchange of information and ideas. The tangible outcome of these sessions was a series of public policy papers (six) that included detailed

analyses of the Palestinian political situation and the ongoing internal crises, in an attempt to formulate ideas, alternatives, and exit strategies.

1. After the National Unity Government [March 1, 2007]

After the signing of the Mecca Agreement in February, 2007 a national unity government was formed, thus constituting the 11th Palestinian government. The birth of the government came at the expense of priorities, qualifications and performance. However, an analysis of the framework in which this government was born shows it serves as a tool for escaping the tragic fighting between Hamas and Fateh in Gaza. The government also gave the presidency complete authority to sit at the negotiating table.

2. Towards a National Instrument for Reform [May 17, 2007]

The Palestinian arena currently suffers from a loss of direction and a failure to reach a settlement that recognizes Palestinian rights. The development of Palestinian national performance and reconstruction is an urgent prerequisite for establishing a professional system with relevant executive powers and a number of members that are compatible to the nature of the tasks assigned.

3. Positive International Intervention in Palestine [June 12, 2007]

Calls for international intervention intensified, particularly following the Fateh/Hamas confrontations and the threat of a political separation between the West Bank and Gaza. This situation created a number of options such as: dissolving the PA, calling for a democratic bi-national state, opting for the Jordanian alternative, separating Gaza from the West Bank, foreign intervention and maintaining the status quo.

4. Ways to save the democratic system in Palestine [July 25, 2007]

A democratic system in any country requires stability, steadiness, elections,

rotation of power, rule of law and political independence. In Palestine, the democratic option is of particular importance since it contributes to achieving national aspirations and the goal of a two-state solution, which is an option marred by many doubts because of the Israeli occupation. Despite the establishment of Palestinian institutions and the issuance of several documents related to democracy such as the declaration of independence, the issue is still controversial and subject to debate.

5. Organizing the Relationship between the West Bank and Gaza Strip [October 24, 2007]

The current phase facing the Palestinians is considered the harshest in the relationship between the West Bank and Gaza. It is characterized by division after " Hamas " coupe and its determination to control the authority and administrate all vital sectors in the Strip, this was



Policy Meeting-Ramallah

accompanied by the retraction of the central government's control, whose role became limited to paying the salaries of most of the civil servants in Gaza.



Policy Meeting-Ramallah/Gaza

6. Mechanisms for the Prevention of Separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip [November 22, 2007]

The unnatural situation in the Gaza Strip continues to develop towards institutionalizing the financial and administrative systems and security regulations, in a way that enforces internal division. It became necessary not only to diagnose this exceptional situation, but to also examine how to remedy the predicament and respond to the de-facto authority in Gaza. Given the existing reality, there is a belief that the de-facto situation in Gaza will remain thus enforcing a complete dissociation from the West Bank.

Media and Information Program

Background

MIFTAH's Media and Information Program (MIP) is one of the two components embedded in the organization's Media division. It is within this Department where MIFTAH's overall mission is translated into action; specifically the presentation of the Palestinian narrative on the local, regional and global levels.

The program is currently comprised of two central elements:

1. Information Material (Arabic and English)

This aspect of the program is primarily concerned with the collection/ documentation, formulation, and dissemination of information on key Palestinian issues ranging from political and field developments to civil society issues.

This year, MIFTAH introduced additional features to the website in order to improve the effectiveness of our service by offering a wider ranging variety of styles and producing material presented in a way more conducive to our readers' interests. MIFTAH still continues to provide opinion pieces and editorials, statements, factsheets and special studies (in-depth reports). However, news stories which were published in response to events as they happened have now been replaced by a **"Week in Review"** section which acts as a synopsis of affairs occurring in Palestine/Israel that particular week. This way, MIFTAH is able to broadcast a unique Palestinian-oriented service that allows readers to inspect how reoccurring themes are relayed in the news in contrast with the non-analytical based mainstream media outlets.

In addition, MIFTAH introduced a **"Viewpoint"** segment which permits the contributor to operate beyond the realms of MIFTAH's general philosophy

and offer the reader an alternative, more personal, first-hand analysis of political developments and social life in Palestine that does not necessarily reflect or act in accordance with the organization's opinions. This information is posted on our website (www.miftah.org) and select articles are distributed to our email database (approximately 8,000 recipients) and our media fax lists. Furthermore, our information is an integral part of our complimentary packages, presented during our briefings to visiting delegations.

2. External Relations

This entails our direct and active interaction with our key target groups, on the local and external levels. These include a) conducting briefings with visiting delegations of students, activists, journalists, associations, among others, during which we respond to requests for information on political issues, internal issues, and any topic we are able and willing to discuss, b) participating in local and international workshops and/or conferences relevant to our field of work, and c) participating in various committees and initiatives (locally and internationally).

Tangible Results

While MIFTAH can deduce how many readers visit our website, it is difficult to obtain quantitative indicators of our progress in particular subjects. Therefore, to address this issue, MIFTAH is currently devising a method of judging our success on specific sections/articles so that we can ascertain where our strengths are concentrated, which areas of our website visitors enjoy the most and what topics they find most fascinating, in order to subsequently cater to their interests. Although this tool is still in the process of being launched, MIFTAH is keen on monitoring and evaluating the number of publications which we produce.

Below is an outline of MIFTAH's ENGLISH information material during the period from December 2006 – December 2007.

Publication	Quantity	Topics
New Stories / Week in Review*	82 / 9	Covers a vast spectrum of topics including advancements in the peace process, realities on the ground concerning final status issues and movement/access restrictions, internal infighting between Palestinians as well as Israeli/Palestinian violence and international responses to events in the region.
Op-Eds	68	A variety of subject matters from the Mecca Agreement, Hamas' takeover of Gaza, peace meetings, internal divisions in both the Palestinian and Israeli political spheres, Annapolis, final status issues, the Israeli embargo of Gaza, the aspect of legality regarding Israeli actions, the humanitarian/political ramifications of Palestinian/Israeli actions and the relatively silent international involvement in the region.
Viewpointst	12	More personal insight/analysis of the contributors on timely issues concerning Palestinian life. Areas of focus have entailed the banning of Palestinian teenagers from playing football in England, the nature of the Palestinian countryside, unemployment in the West Bank, complexities with Palestinian party structures, obituaries of influential Palestinian figures, the one state/two state question and the violations of legal practice by Israel with respect to both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
Statements	12	MIFTAH statements condemn instances of Israeli violence on Palestinians, internal Palestinian fighting, call for the protection of educational and health institutions and urge the international community to become more involved.

Fact Sheets	7	Factsheets have provided detailed information on house demolitions, Israeli checkpoints, family reunification, Al-Nakba, Palestinian governmental changes, Palestinian infighting and a chronology of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict with further factsheets on Palestinian prisoners and Gaza imminent.
Special Studies	1	The humanitarian and political impact of the Segregation and Annexation Wall with a further study to be released on Israeli Settlements currently being researched

* News Stories replaced by Week in Review at the beginning of November 2007

† Viewpoints introduced at the end of August 2007

In addition to MIFTAH's information material, our web site provides updated material released by other institutions, including Palestinian and international NGOs, media outlets, as well as special reports by specialized institutions such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the International Crisis Group.

Impact and Effects of Activities

As an organization, MIFTAH remains a hugely influential body both amongst Palestinians and the international community. This reputation is just as apparent within the Media and Information Program. Testament to the respect MIFTAH receives is the plethora of websites which reprint our publications regularly. The American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP), The American Palestine Public Affair Forum (APPAP), Palestine Chronicle and the Institute of Middle Eastern Understanding (IMEU) are just a handful of the established international organizations which believe that MIFTAH's analysis warrants further exposure. MIFTAH's work is reprinted all over the world on websites as close as Israel and as far as Southeast Asia and the US. MIFTAH's strength and reason for its

support, success and appeal is its ability to offer expert analysis, written in a cohesive and coherent manner which appeals to Western observers while at the same time offering a unique Palestinian perspective. MIFTAH's website is earning the reputation as an organization that merges in-house news headlines, editorials and factsheets with commentaries from other influential sources, thus transforming it into a "one stop" hub of conclusive and succinct political analysis.

Conclusions and Future Plans

Having recognized this purpose, it is imperative that MIFTAH continue in this direction and strive to become a leading voice on events in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. Presently, MIFTAH has one full time contributor and one part time writer. The aim of the Media and Information Program is to expand by recruiting more individuals in the areas of research and statistics so that MIFTAH can efficiently progress upon this path as a center of political thought and expertise. It has become apparent through the numerous requests to our department that information provided by the MIFTAH website is crucial to a wide range of organizations and individuals. Nonetheless, there is agreement among members of the organization that we will need to expand our program and incorporate more diverse forms of information material to cater to our growing readership.

Media Monitoring

More Than Words – Joint Palestinian-Israeli action to improve media coverage in the Palestinian- Israeli conflict

[Duration of Project: September 1, 2006 – October 15, 2007]

[Funders: EU, Canadian Representative Office, Ford Foundation]

Introduction

Since September 2004, MIFTAH and Keshev (The Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel) have been engaged in a unique project aimed at improving media discourse in both the Palestinian and Israeli media through

monitoring, research, advocacy and lobbying activities. The goal of this project is to facilitate the development of an independent media and a culture of moderation, tolerance and understanding between the two peoples. It also aims at the implementation of the anti-incitement clause of the Roadmap and other previous agreements signed between the two sides, all of which help the re-launching of a genuine peace process.

Aim of Project

To encourage a public and media discourse free of incitement, prejudice and dehumanization of the other in Palestine and Israel. The project also seeks to increase trust between the parties and develop an environment of peace. This is achieved through raising public awareness in Palestine and Israel regarding incitement, bias, defamation, delegitimization and dehumanization of the other frequently found in the media and public discourse regarding the peace process and relations between the two peoples.

Achievements

- 1. Reaffirming the basis for joint work**
- 2. Staff refreshment and training**
- 3. Assimilation of Technical Equipment**
- 4. Daily Monitoring of Media Outlets**

This part of the project involved Keshev monitoring six major Israeli outlets while MIFTAH regularly monitored major Palestinian newspapers and news broadcasts of the Palestine Broadcasting Corporation. MIFTAH also monitored Al Aqsa Television for a later report, which is broadcast by Hamas from the Gaza Strip.

Our work was dealt a major blow less than a month after the onset of the project's second stage with the outbreak of confrontations between Hamas and Fateh in the Gaza Strip in early October, 2007. The events were covered by the unit in a special report on Palestinian media coverage.

5. Re-Editing of Media Contents

Both MIFTAH and Keshev carried out the exercise of re-editing actual news items and distributing them to various audiences with the aim of showing that an alternative media discourse is possible.

6. Meetings with Journalists and Editorial Staffs

Since the outset of this project KESHEV has consistently met with journalists, students and other interested parties to convey findings from the organization's media research.

7. Research Reports

During the period of the project, Keshev published two reports: "When the Cannons Roar – From the Gaza Beach to Beit Hanun: Israeli Media Coverage of Killings of Palestinian Civilians in the Gaza Strip", which was published in May, 2007 and which examines the events in which 30 Palestinian civilians were killed. The second report was entitled, "War Till the Last Moment". KESHEV found that critical coverage of the war and its handling was systematically marginalized by editors of Israeli newspapers and that the media by and large promoted an atmosphere of unrestrained support for the war and its justness.

MIFTAH's first report was released on March 14, 2007 entitled, "The Palestinian National Unity government and Prospects for Peace." This report addressed two main issues: the efforts for the formation of a national unity government and the prospects for peace between Palestinians and Israelis following the Lebanon War.

MIFTAH's second report was released on July 12, 2007 entitled, "Caricature in the media coverage of the Mecca Agreement and the unity government." The report covered the cartoons published in the three main newspapers between January 1 and March 31, 2007.

MIFTAH released its third report on October 29 entitled, "Mecca Agreement and the National Unity Government" which covered the period between January 1, 2007 and March 31, 2007. This report followed the violent events

that led up to the signing of the Mecca Agreement and the formation of the national unity government.

8. Periodic Updates (special issues)

In November 2006, KESHEV inaugurated a new feature on its website called "Keshev Close-Up," this feature includes periodic short analyses of recent media coverage. The periodic updates are published close to the time of the news items that they critique and they are thus able to stir-up public awareness of media misconduct in ways that the longer comprehensive reports cannot.

On March 1, KESHEV published a periodic update that called attention to problematic media coverage of the killing of a 50 year-old Palestinian civilian in Nablus on February 26.

KESHEV released another rapid response on March 13 in response to coverage in Ma'ariv that exaggerated the threat that Arab citizens of Israel pose to the state.

In May 2007 KESHEV published an on-line update which accompanied the publication of a major research report on Palestinian civilians killed in the Gaza Strip.

A similar update was published in July 2007 announcing the publication of KESHEV's comprehensive report on Israeli media coverage of the Second Lebanon War.

MIFTAH released its first periodic update (special issue) on January 15, 2007 entitled "Bloody Sunday" in which nine Palestinians were killed during Palestinian infighting.

MIFTAH's second periodic update was released on May 31, 2007 entitled "The Eilat Operation".

The third periodic update issued by MIFTAH was on October 22, 2007 entitled "The coverage of the June 1967 War in the three Palestinian newspapers

and Palestine Television on June 5, 6, and 7, 2007", in reference to the 40th anniversary of the June 1967 War.

9. Multimedia Presentations in Public Forums

Representatives from MIFTAH and KESHEV gave various presentations to both local and international audiences on the joint media work carried out by the two organizations. Venues included Tel Aviv University, the Rome Municipality and the Ma'asiyahu Prison in Israel.

In addition, the media project was cited in several prominent Israeli and Palestinian news outlets.

10. Rapid responses

These releases were published in response to immediate problems identified in media coverage. On April 30, turning to editors at the major media outlets in Israel, KESHEV called for an investigation of the Israeli media's conduct during the Second Lebanon War, parallel to the Winograd committee's investigation of political and military officials. In July 2007, KESHEV placed two large notices in Ha'aretz to promote public awareness of how media coverage affected public perceptions of the Second Lebanon War.

On May 16, 2007, MIFTAH released an appeal to all media outlets in Palestine to decrease the inflammatory rhetoric between Hamas and Fateh in the media. The appeal was published in the three major Palestinian newspapers, Al Quds, Al Ayyam, Al Hayat Al Jadida and the Ma'an News Agency.

11. Capacity-Building and Evaluation Seminars in Italy



Seminar-Italy

A capacity-building and evaluation seminar was held in Pavia, Italy, on September 5-9, 2007. The seminar was attended by project staff and members of the steering committee from KESHEV and MIFTAH as well as the staff of CIPMO. The seminar opened with presentations by KESHEV and MIFTAH of each organization's work in the past year. KESHEV presented findings from its research on media coverage of killings of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and of the Second Lebanon War. MIFTAH presented findings from its research on media coverage of infighting among Palestinian factions and of political cartoons that appeared in the three major newspapers. These presentations were followed by a discussion of how political changes in the region have affected the media.

12. Enrichment Training for Young Israeli and Palestinian Journalists



Taining-Italy

From May 21 to May 25, 2006, KESHEV and MIFTAH led a delegation of up-and-coming Israeli and Palestinian journalists on an enrichment training visit to RAI NEWS 24 in Rome, organized and facilitated by CIPMO. Five Israeli journalists and five Palestinian journalists participated in the training, along with KESHEV's Executive Director (and project manager), Yizhar Be'er along with MIFTAH's director of the media monitoring unit, Ruham Nimri.

13.Survey of Journalists

Keshev developed a survey questionnaire that was distributed among Israeli journalists. The questionnaire included 23 questions that asked journalists to give scores from 0-10 indicating their assessment of the Israeli media, of the reliability of various Israeli and Palestinian sources, and of the Israeli public's interest in coverage of Palestinians.

In April, 2007, MIFTAH published the findings of an opinion survey conducted by its Media Monitoring Unit on the 'Perception of Palestinian Journalists of the Performance of Palestinian Media in the Coverage of the Palestinian –Israeli Conflict.' The survey included 102 journalists working in the surveyed media channels. Findings of the opinion survey indicate that the surveyed journalists considered the coverage of the conflict as average.



MIFTAH's Audited Financial Report for 2007

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2007

Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of Trustees of

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2007, and the statement of activities and changes in net assets and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors' Responsibility

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 comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate for the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) as of December 31, 2007 and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Ernst & Young

May 29, 2008

Ramallah, Palestine

THE PALESTINIAN INITIATIVE FOR THE PROMOTION OF GLOBAL DIALOGUE AND DEMOCRACY (MIFTAH)

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2007

		2007	2006
	Notes	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Assets			
Non - current assets			
Property and equipment	3	62,949	31,087
Current assets			
Contributions receivable	4	243,784	162,500
Due from Board of Trustees	5	10,000	100,000
Other current assets		8,710	4,126
Cash and cash equivalents	6	646,721	678,177
		909,215	944,803
Total Assets		972,164	975,890
Net Assets and Liabilities			
Net assets			
Unrestricted net assets		274,472	186,975
Total net assets		274,472	186,975
Non - current liabilities			
Deferred revenues	7	57,281	27,515
Provision for severance pay	8	84,825	71,447
		142,106	98,962
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accruals	9	44,068	52,493
Temporarily restricted contributions	10	511,518	637,460
		555,586	689,953
Total Liabilities		697,692	788,915
Total Net Assets and Liabilities		972,164	975,890

THE PALESTINIAN INITIATIVE FOR THE PROMOTION OF GLOBAL DIALOUGE AND DEMOCRACY (MIFTAH)

Statement of Activities

Year ended December 31, 2007

		2007	2006
	Notes	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Revenues			
Temporarily restricted contributions released from restriction	10	732,991	521,762
Unrestricted contributions	5	75,000	162,000
Deferred revenues recognized	7	15,997	10,494
Sundry		14,665	7,861
		<u>838,653</u>	<u>702,117</u>
Expenses			
Projects' expenses	11	732,991	521,762
Administrative expenses	12	-	79,332
Depreciation expense		18,165	14,592
		<u>751,156</u>	<u>615,686</u>
Increase in net assets		87,497	86,431
Net assets, beginning of year		186,975	100,544
Net assets, end of year		<u>274,472</u>	<u>186,975</u>

PALESTINIAN INITIATIVE FOR THE PROMOTION OF GLOBAL DIALOUGE AND DEMOCRACY (MIFTAH)

Cash flow Statement

Year ended December 31, 2007

	2007	2006
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Operating Activities:		
Increase in net assets	87,497	86,431
Adjustments:		
Depreciation	18,165	14,592
Deferred revenues recognized	(15,997)	(10,494)
Loss from disposal property and equipment	424	-
Provision for severance pay	32,904	23,898
	122,993	114,427
Changes in working capital		
Contributions receivable	(81,284)	129,249
Due from Board of Trustees	90,000	(100,000)
Other current assets	(4,584)	21,953
Temporarily restricted contributions	(125,942)	(38,188)
Accounts payable and accruals	(8,425)	(8,550)
Deferred revenues	45,763	11,655
Payment of employees' severance pay	(19,526)	(23,796)
Net cash flows from operating activities	18,995	106,750
Investing Activities:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(50,451)	(12,125)
Net cash used in investing activities	(50,451)	(12,125)
(Decrease) Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(31,456)	94,625
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	678,177	583,552
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	646,721	678,177

Temporarily restricted contributions

This item comprises temporarily restricted contributions subject to purpose restriction. These amounts represent the excess of donations received over the expenditures made out to satisfy the purposes stipulated by the donors. The movement on the temporarily restricted contributions is as follows:

	Balance, beginning of year	Additions	Temporarily restricted contributions released from restriction	Deferred revenues	Write off	Currency difference	Balance, end of year
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
International Republican Institute (IRI)	99,554	332,400	(188,930)	(4,394)	-	-	238,630
Henrich Boell Foundation	-	32,775	(2,240)	-	-	688	31,223
Canadian Representative Office	-	30,000	(24,829)	-	-	-	5,171
United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA)	-	64,600	(63,757)	-	-	(843)	-
The European Community and Ford Foundation through KESHEV	95,402	29,968	(126,683)	(3,793)	-	5,106	-
Kvinna Till Kvinna	-	56,790	(51,523)	(1,500)	-	-	3,767
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	24,940	-	(24,886)	(54)	-	-	-
The Ford Foundation	58,327	-	(57,097)	(1,230)	-	-	-
Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMIAN)	-	32,737	(28,000)	-	(7,087)	2,350	-
British Council	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-	-	-
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)	-	60,676	(57,000)	(5,848)	-	2,172	-
Representative Office of Norway	107,731	-	(105,546)	(2,185)	-	-	-
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	11,640	-	-	-	-	-	11,640
Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)	26,759	-	-	(26,759)	-	-	-
Special donations	213,107	7,980	-	-	-	-	221,087
	637,460	650,426	(732,991)	(45,763)	(7,087)	9,473	511,518

Projects expenses

Components of projects expenses are as follows:

	The Ford Foundation		IRI	Henrich Boell Foundation	UNFPA	Kvinna Till Kvinna	Subtotal
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$					
	Institutional Support and Policy Formulation	Empowerment of Women in Peace	Enhancing Accountability in the Public Sector	Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership Elections' (Phase II)	Gender Responsive Budget in Local Councils	Strengthening the Capacity of the National Team for a Gender Responsive National Budget	
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	18,465	2,300	7,100	96,000	2,240	28,420	178,975
Experts honoraria and training fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office, equipment and hall rental	2,340	-	-	22,610	-	4,500	30,200
Travel and accommodation	286	3,761	-	8,580	-	1,016	14,652
Information Technology and publications	1,003	3,118	11,621	5,920	-	25,237	53,060
Professional fees	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	7,100
Training expenses	-	692	-	24,161	-	6,029	31,482
Hosting delegations and meetings	147	3,834	-	18,060	-	5,734	30,912
Postage, telephone and fax	1,021	-	481	4,434	-	25	8,061
Utilities	823	-	-	4,929	-	454	8,621
Sundry	105	-	-	236	-	62	484
Total	24,190	13,705	19,202	188,930	2,240	63,757	363,547

Projects expenses - continued

	British Council	NED	The European Community and Ford Foundation through KESHEV	Canadian Representative Office	AMAN	Norway	KAS		
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	178,975	10,263	118,849	12,620	12,128	67,552	16,873	419,147	316,587
Experts honoraria and training fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,174
Office, equipment and hall rental	30,200	1,919	650	4,200	1,893	6,950	435	46,247	38,148
Travel and accommodation	14,652	123	91	1,057	1,149	3,884	1,097	22,907	3,762
Information technology and publications	53,060	113	4,100	5,888	7,388	6,033	33,370	113,506	90,927
Professional fees	7,100	-	-	-	-	1,499	3,004	14,203	4,700
Training expenses	31,482	-	-	-	1,186	6,041	737	40,583	13,870
Hosting delegations and meetings	30,912	1,920	1,127	-	3,603	8,012	1,371	47,245	20,300
Postage, telephone and fax	8,061	77	-	355	214	2,158	31	12,094	12,622
Utilities	8,621	-	-	607	439	3,342	69	14,509	13,972
Sundry	484	-	1,866	102	-	75	13	2,550	3,700
Total	363,547	24,886	126,683	24,829	28,000	105,546	57,000	732,991	521,762

Administrative expenses

	2007	2006
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	-	69,266
Experts honoraria and training fees	-	1,400
Travel and accommodation	-	1,200
Information technology and publications	-	21
Professional fees	-	1,300
Postage, telephone and fax	-	1,280
Utilities	-	4,579
Sundry	-	286
	-	79,332

During the year, MIFTAH allocated all administrative expenses to the projects based on financial budgets approved by MIFTAH donors.



Among MIFTAH's Supporters

- I
- International Republican Institute (IRI)
 - EU Partnership for Peace
 - The Ford Foundation
 - National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
 - Representative Office of Norway
 - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
 - Kvinna till Kvinna (Sweden)
 - Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
 - Heinrich Boll Foundation
 - Canadian Representative Office
 - The British Council
 - A.M. Qattan Foundation
 - Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far
 - Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)