

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of **Global Dialogue and Democracy**-MIFTAH  
المبادرة الفلسطينية لتعميق الحوار العالمي والديمقراطية



MIFTAH

# ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2009

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First published in 2010 by:  
MIFTAH

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## Letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees



This is MIFTAH's eleventh annual activities report, which I am honored to present to you today. For over a decade, MIFTAH has been a forerunner in the development and improvement of Palestinian civil society through its unique and diverse activities and projects. It has been perseverant in its dedication to the promotion of dialogue, democracy and good governance, concepts which are necessary for any society to thrive.

In particular, MIFTAH has been extraordinary in their advancement of women and youth issues, two very important sectors of Palestinian society which are often marginalized. Through its projects, MIFTAH has empowered women and youth to become more involved in political life, to move up into decision making positions and to find the means and mechanisms for becoming more self-sufficient and self-reliant.

Over the years, and due to its consistently professional performance, MIFTAH has also secured a respectable place in Palestinian civil society and among international organizations as well. This is apparent in its wide network of relationships and contacts, its media activities and its frequent participation in international conferences and workshops.

On this occasion, I would like to congratulate MIFTAH for its continued excellence and dedication to Palestine and its betterment. MIFTAH has shown that those with such high levels of professionalism and capabilities can and do make a real difference. I am sure MIFTAH will continue to offer this same level of achievement to Palestinian society for years to come.

*Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far*



## Foreword by the Chief Executive Officer



This year marks MIFTAH's eleventh year in existence, which I am proud to say has only shown increasing development and advancement. Over the years, MIFTAH has fully embraced the principles on which it was established: the promotion of democracy, global dialogue and the empowerment of women and youth. This year, MIFTAH's projects and activities embodied all of the above and beyond by taking on new projects that expand its platform both locally and internationally.

As always, MIFTAH has focused much of its attention and efforts on the empowerment of women and youth, the most marginalized sectors of Palestinian society. It has continued with long-term projects such as its Women and Elections project and its work in conjunction with UNFPA on Women, Peace and Security.

In addition, MIFTAH continues to foster its role as a leading Palestinian civil society organization, both in terms of the quality of its projects and its outreach and networking with other organizations both in Palestine and abroad. MIFTAH has become a household name in Palestine in relation to good governance and the promotion of dialogue and democracy. Furthermore, MIFTAH's Media and Information Department continues to further realize its goal of disseminating the Palestinian narrative to a broad audience throughout the world.

MIFTAH has always maintained its goal of bettering Palestinian society through its democratization and development. I am proud to say that, through the dedication, diligence and perseverance of MIFTAH's staff, board and administration this has become not only an attainable goal but one that can be realized in the foreseeable future.

It is because of the incredible teamwork and sportsmanship of MIFTAH's staff and administration coupled with the generous support of our funders that we have been able to maintain this level of excellence for over a decade. It is my hope that the important work that MIFTAH does, which benefits those sectors of Palestinian society most in need, will continue for many years to come. It is my belief that MIFTAH has the capability, the determination and the expertise to continue on its path of advancing and developing Palestinian society in a way that will pave the road to a healthy and sound society in our future independent Palestinian state.

Sincerely,  
**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

Established in Jerusalem in December 1998, with Hanan Ashrawi as its Secretary-General, **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

### Ziad Abu-Amr

Former president of the Palestinian Council of Foreign Relations; member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

### Maha Abu Dayyah-Shammas

Director of the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling

### Rima Hammami

Professor of Anthropology; Director of Women's Studies/ Higher Education Program, Birzeit University

### Khalil Hindi

Professor, Brunel University, UK and AUB, Beirut

### Mohammed Abdel Qader Hussein

Head of the Board of Directors of the Faisal Hussein Foundation; member of the Board of Trustees for the Jerusalem Society for Welfare and Development

### Khalil Jahshan

President of the National Association of Arab-Americans (NAAA); former President of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Washington, DC

### Rashid I. Khalidi

Professor, Columbia University

### Ghassan Khatib

Director of the Prime Minister's Media Office

### Sa'id Khouri

President and co-owner of Consolidated Contractors International Company (CCC), Athens

### Sabih Al Masri

Chairman of ASTRA

### Abdel Muhsin Qattan

Founder and President of the A.M. Qattan Foundation, London

### George Salem

Attorney at Law and Partner at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld, Washington, DC.

### Eyad Sarraj

Director General of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program

### Azmi Shuaibi

AMAN Commissioner for Combating Corruption; MIFTAH treasurer

### Raji Sourani

Director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights

### Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far

Chair of the Board of Trustees

### Hanan Ashrawi

Founder and Chairperson of MIFTAH's Board of Directors



## Who's Who at MIFTAH

Employee	Title
Dr. Lily Feidy	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Dolly Nammour	Development Director
Rula Muzaffar	Director – Financial and Administrative Affairs
Ala'a Karajeh	Arabic Media Coordinator
Joharah Baker	Writer – Media and Information Program
Muath Bakri	IT Coordinator
Bisan Abu Ruqti	Director-Good Governance and Democracy Program
Najwa Yaghi	Project Coordinator
Lamis Hantouli	Project Coordinator
Taghreed Dueibis	Project Coordinator
Arwa Jaber	Administrative Assistant
Uday Abu Karsh	Project Coordinator
Ruham Nimri	Project Coordinator – Media Monitoring Unit
Marina Qaqish	Accountant
Sahar Rafidi	Administrative Assistant
Bisan Samamreh	Administrative Assistant
Khuloud Jubeh	Secretary
Jaafar Ladadweh	Receptionist
Nawal Shawamreh	Services
Nizar Touri	Driver
Employees who left in 2009	Title
Nadia Awad	Researcher
Nahed Abu Sneineh	Project Coordinator
Shadi Abu Ayyash	Arabic Media Coordinator
Maleeha Nassar	Project Coordinator
Rana Obeid	Project Coordinator
Maysa Hindeileh	Administrative Assistant
Reem Wahdan	Project Coordinator
Britain Eakin	Researcher
Saed Karazon	Media Researcher
Manar Harb	Administrative Assistant
Interns	
Iyad Shehadeh	Media and Information Department
Nadine Jitan	Media and Information Department (Arabic)
Jennifer Urgilez	Media and Information Department
Bilal Ladadweh	Media Monitoring Unit





## MIFTAH's Programs

### Good Governance and Democracy

#### Components of the Program:

1. *Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership*
2. *Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leadership*
3. *Policy Formulation*
4. *Monitoring the Legislative Process through Enhancing the Civil Society "Watch Dog" Role*

### Media and Information

#### Components of the Program:

1. *Information and Informatics*

A website in English and Arabic that offers credible analysis, reliable information as well as research and documents on Palestine and related issues  
Intensive media activity on particularly pressing issues through interviews, commentary and targeted press releases  
Political briefings to international groups on timely issues pertaining to the conflict  
Timely media statements

2. *Media Monitoring Unit*

Monitoring Palestinian media  
Research and advocacy activities aimed at reducing incitement, de-humanization and de-legitimization of "the other"  
Educating media students on critical information handling  
Fostering professionalism in the Palestinian media



## Good Governance and Democracy

### Program of Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership

#### 1. Women and Elections-Women Electoral Support Points

[Funder: Creative Associates International]

[Duration of Project: April 2009 – April 2010]

The overall goal of this project is to address 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.

This is the fourth phase of MIFTAH's program entitled Empowerment of Palestinian Women in Politics: Women in Elections; Women Electoral Support Points (WESPs). In its first phase, the program worked with women in the pre-election period to promote their involvement in the electoral process and at the same time supported women candidates and encouraged women to vote. The second phase built upon the first and concentrated on preparing candidates for national and local elections while continuing to support women who had been elected in their new offices.

The third phase was devoted to maintaining the structure of the WESPs and continuing to support elected women. The support provided to women through the WESPs has included training, coaching, information sharing, exchange visits, workshops, public meetings, and media access.

The present fourth phase is a resumption of work in the program with a special focus on identifying new qualified potential women candidates to run for the next phase of elections and to encourage them to run for the forthcoming elections.

#### Activities

- **Capacity Building through Training on Advocacy and Lobbying**

Seven training courses were carried out in seven districts in the West Bank (Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron and Jerusalem). Each training course had 10 training hours over a two-day



Video conference with Gaza - MIFTAH

period (5 hours per training day). The total number of training days was 14 and total number of training hours was 70 with a total of 146 participants.

The training course provided an overview of both advocacy and lobbying concepts and offered information and understanding on how to set and organize a successful campaign to ensure positive results of elections campaigns.

- ***Planning and Conducting Monthly Public Meetings***

MIFTAH's field coordinators organized monthly public meetings in various villages and cities of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The meetings highlighted the following:

1. Promoting women's active participation and highlighting the role of women in local councils
2. Raising women's awareness of their political rights and the importance of their role in decision making and public life
3. Identifying new women potential candidates and encouraging them to run for the next phase of elections
4. Preparing women for the next phase of elections
5. Presenting the achievements and success stories of elected members

- ***Educational and Awareness Raising Workshops***

Two educational workshops were held in all the districts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the months of May and June 2009, entitled "Active Citizenship" and "Women in the Local Councils" respectively. The workshops provided the women with an opportunity to develop their skills, enrich their information, develop their self-confidence to stand for local councils, be effective members and achieve high level of decision making position in public life.

- ***Exchange Visit***

MIFTAH arranged an exchange visit on June 6, 2009 for elected women at the local councils. About 25 women leaders from different cities in the West Bank (Jenin, Tulkarem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron and Jerusalem) met at Howarah's Women Committee Center (Nablus). They discussed a number of issues related to their role as women in local councils, obstacles and challenges they are facing as women, ways of overcoming these difficulties, ways of supporting each other and their success stories.

- ***Individual and Group Consultancy for Elected Members at Local Councils***

Individual and group consultancies concentrated on the following:

1. Supporting and preparing elected women who are already at local councils and who consider running for the next phase of elections
2. Potential women candidates and their interest in running for the future elections of local councils
3. Empowering and strengthening women in their positions

4. Identifying obstacles preventing the women from participating in local councils and how to overcome them
5. Assisting women in submitting small project proposals to donors (CAII).
  - Teach women the skills of writing project proposals depending on their community needs and interests
  - Assist women in fundraising
  - Empower women to manage projects

- ***Networking and Advocacy***

Four meetings were held with the Ministry of Local Governance, Ministry of Woman's Affairs, Women Technical Committee Affairs and the National Center for the Development of Local Councils (Jika) /Jericho to discuss possibilities and ways of coordination, access the largest possible number of women in different locations and discuss the idea of forming a steering committee to ensure the success of the project and its objectives.

MIFTAH also arranged for various meetings with a number of women in formal leadership roles and women activists from civic institutions to support, strengthen and build a strong and direct relationship with them. These meetings come as part of MIFTAH's efforts to empower women to take on leadership roles in their communities and societies and enable them to participate fully in public life and be a part of decision making at all levels.

- ***Creative Associates International, Inc. visit to MIFTAH***

MIFTAH hosted the President and Executive Director of Creative Associates International, Inc, Charito Krivant. The visit was made as a kind of support and empowerment for elected women at the local councils and through Women and Elections Program which is supported by CAII.

- ***International Visitor Leadership Program***

Three elected women from local councils in the West Bank and Jerusalem who are active in MIFTAH's network of women leaders participated in the USA International Visitor Program (IVP). The selected women are current leaders in their communities and potential candidates for the next phase of elections for local councils.

## **2. Instituting a Gender-Responsive Palestinian National Budget**

[Funder: Danish Representative Office]

[Duration of Project: March 2009 – February 2010]

### **Description**

This is phase five of MIFTAH's ongoing project in instituting a gender-responsive budget. The project contributes to developing and implementing strategies for women's participation in economic decision-

making through their engagement in budgetary processes. It also helps increase the transparency of economic governance and management processes and holds national actors accountable for their policy commitments to women. The overall aim of engendering the national budget is to contribute positively to Palestinian women's status and rights, in addition to its contribution to the process of reform through adopting principles of transparency, accountability, and social equity.

### Activities and Achievements

- ***Decision to adopt a gender-sensitive budget***

On June 22, 2009, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad announced his decision to adopt a gender-responsive Palestinian national budget, a process which was initiated and continued by MIFTAH over the past five years. MIFTAH believes this achievement is the green light for more concerted efforts in the long process of putting this decision into practice.



Training workshop - MIFTAH

It is noteworthy to mention that the official decision was processed after the Prime Minister and Cabinet were addressed in an official letter signed by the Minister of Women's Affairs and under the supervision of MIFTAH explaining the process of engendering the national budget and its positive contribution to the status of Palestinian women and their rights, in addition to its contribution to the process of reform through adopting principles of transparency, accountability, and social equity.

- ***Technical orientation workshops***

Prior to the declaration of the official decision on GRB, MIFTAH's project team conducted meetings with stakeholders at the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Women's Affairs to discuss the best methods to empower the MoWA and integrate gender mainstreaming and GRB concepts within the PRDP national strategic planning, and the appropriate mechanisms of targeting the technical core bodies at the line ministries through awareness sessions on GRB related concepts, aims and goals, implementation, and best practices.

With the official adoption of a Palestinian Gender Responsive Budget, these technical sessions became a priority, to target the technical teams at the line ministries before the budget statement is produced and distributed. A series of technical orientation workshops were organized and conducted in July 2009, targeting the key technical teams within different ministries and exposing them to gender concepts, gender mainstreaming and the definition of Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiatives. A four-day technical training was also held on planning, gender mainstreaming, and budget analysis from gender perspective, targeting the staff in the gender units of all ministries.

- **Assessment Studies**

Two assessment studies were conducted on the two large service sectors of education and health. These studies measure the impact of the services provided by the two sectors on the beneficiaries to identify the different impact on men and women.

The results and findings of the two studies were discussed in two separate workshops and later published on MIFTAH's website.

- **Gender Opinion Survey**

MIFTAH implemented a gender opinion survey that targeted teachers in governmental schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and in close coordination with The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). The survey, to be released in February 2010, targeted about 903 teachers (males and females) at 184 public schools in the West Bank area.

### 3. Gender Responsive Budgets in Local Councils

[Funder: Heinrich Boell Foundation (HB)]

[Duration of Project: Feb.-July 2009]

#### Description

Following the pilot project "Gender Responsive Budgets in Local Councils" that was implemented in 2008 at Birzeit municipality, a six-month similar intervention was conducted in the period between February-July 2009. In this new phase, the two municipalities of Halhoul and 'Anabta were targeted. The staff members were introduced to concepts of gender, budgets, and gender-responsive budgets. Target groups included selected members and employees of local councils (Halhoul & Anabta municipalities) and social activists working on women and gender issues within their local communities.



Training on Gender-Responsive Budget – Anabta

#### Project Objectives

1. Promote gender awareness and equality in the work of local councils as a means to strengthen a participatory approach in decision making processes.
2. Raise the capacity of local-council members and employees to participate in presenting the actual key issues related to adopting Gender-Responsive Budgets in their local councils.
3. Improve the collaboration and cooperation among the elected representatives of the local councils, civil society, and local communities.



## Activities

- ***Training on Gender Mainstreaming***

With the goal of sensitizing trainees to gender issues and increasing their gender awareness at the personal, interpersonal and community level, an 18-hour training workshop on gender mainstreaming was conducted by MIFTAH in April and May 2009, in both the Halhoul and 'Anabta municipalities. The training sessions targeted 33 participants in both municipalities (15 in Halhoul and 18 in Anabta) including the mayors, nominated or elected members and selected department heads and employees.

Topics discussed in the training included social roles assigned to women and men, the social construction of gender, concepts of gender: gender relations, practical and strategic needs and access and control over resources; ways towards changing gender inequalities; and an introduction to the concept of gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgets.

- ***Training on Gender-Responsive Budget (GRB)***

A four-day training workshop on GRB concepts, mechanism and implementation was conducted by MIFTAH in July 2009, in both the Halhoul and 'Anabta municipalities. The training targeted 31 participants in both municipalities (13 in Halhoul and 18 in Anabta), most of whom participated in the gender mainstreaming training workshops. The training also included mayors and nominated or elected members and selected department heads and employees, in addition to some social activists. The aim of the training sessions was to promote gender responsive budgets in local and municipal councils by raising their awareness and encouraging them to adopt gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgets in their policies, systems, plans and programs.

The main topics discussed during the training workshops included: how to use the budget heading of local budgets; concepts of gender-responsive budgeting and its tools; engendering the local budget; tools and implementations; a case study on the Birzeit Municipality budgets line items; and identification of projects to be included in the local councils' budgets.

- ***Impact Evaluation Session***

A two-hour impact evaluation session was held on July 30, 2009 at MIFTAH's office, attended by 13 participants representing MIFTAH, HB. GTZ and three local councils (Birzeit, Halhoul and 'Anabta municipalities). At the beginning of the session, a presentation prepared by MIFTAH's project coordinator on the project objectives and activities was given followed by evaluation and recommendations of the municipalities. The aim of the session was to assess the outcomes attributable to the project on gender-responsive budget in local councils.

## 4. Gender, Peace and Security

[Funder: UNFPA]

[Duration of Project: January-December 2009]

### Description

The overall goal of the Gender, Peace and Security project is gender equality and the human rights of woman and adolescent girls, particularly their reproductive rights, integrated in national policies, development framework and laws. The expected CP outcome 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.

MIFTAH is working in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund UNFPA, under this outcome which comes in response to Security Council resolution (SCR) 1325 in 2000 that requires parties in a conflict to respect women's rights and to support their participation in peace negotiations and its post conflict reconstruction.

Work is being conducted on two levels:

- Contributing to influencing policy and legislation related to the laws that ensure protection and freewill for women and girls in Palestinian society, and enabling them to participate actively in the process of construction and the independent Palestinian decision.
- Enabling the community organizations with tools and information needed for the reduction of GBV, and change the stereotypical perception of women, to support their effective participation in decision making process.

### Activities/ Achievements

- *Through its policy dialogue meetings, MIFTAH has succeeded in reaching the indicators that measure the "Quality of Services Provided to Pregnant Women in Palestine" which were included within the Family Health Survey 2010 and which will be conducted by PCBS. This is in addition to reaching a consensus on the need to assess the Palestinian curriculum in terms of incorporating the concepts of GBV and gender.*

These two achievements resulted from a long process begun in 2007 when a training course entitled "How to Prepare a Policy Paper" was conducted. This produced two policy papers-Prenatal Care for Palestinian Women and Domestic Violence in Palestine-which have been followed up with stakeholders through several policy dialogues throughout 2008 and 2009.



The 7th Documentary Film Festival – Al Najah University, Nablus

- *MIFTAH has succeeded in turning SCR 1325 into action in the Nablus and Hebron districts. In these two areas, SCR 1325 coalitions organized two peaceful marches entitled "1325 Protection and Participation" to support women in Area (C) who are constantly exposed to violence and violations by the Israeli occupation.*
- *Throughout the past three years MIFTAH has supported the television production unit at Al Najah University in its annual documentary film festival by providing the unit with equipment (cameras, microphones, speakers, creative sound...etc.). MIFTAH also encouraged the production of documentary films sensitive to gender and population issues. These films have been disseminated through discussion focus groups at the community-based organization (CBOs) level.*
- ***MIFTAH published and disseminated a range of materials, including:***
  1. Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) conference report, "Towards a National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women"
  2. "Palestinian Women and SCR1325" by Rima Nazzal.
  3. The MDG-ICPD (The Millennium Goals international conference on population and development) Palestinian Report in Preparation for ICPD-@15.
  4. Other materials related to SCR 1325.

## 5. Combating Violence against Palestinian Women through the Empowerment of Community-Based Organizations

[Funder: Austrian Development Agency]

[Duration of Project: August 2009-January 2011]\*

### Description

The project "Combating Violence against Women through the Empowerment of Community-Based Organizations" aims at contributing to the elimination of gender-based violence in Palestinian society within the framework of Security Council Resolution 1325, through empowering community-based organizations in Nablus and Hebron districts, and advocating women's issues on the decision-making level.



Preparing a training manual on SCR 1325 - MIFTAH

### Activities

- ***Workshops***

Two workshops were held in Nablus and Hebron on October 7 and 9, 2009 respectively in order to publicize and discuss the project activities, the indicators of achievement among the stakeholders, in addition to identifying their expectations and recommendations in which 26 organizations participated. The

participants included the member organizations of 1325 coalitions, supporters of 1325 coalitions-including the police- Ministry of Education, media representatives, and MIFTAH's field coordinators in both districts.

- ***Assessment of women's situation in Nablus and Hebron***

An assessment study was carried out on the situation of women in Nablus and Hebron after experts in this field were contracted by MIFTAH, which had the following objectives: identifying the gender gaps in both districts in terms of female access to education, resources, and contribution to the labor force; depicting the nature of the demographic situation; identifying the distribution of women's organizations; examining the effectiveness of the available social and legal services; examining the causes and preventive mechanisms of gender- based violence, with the male perspective on the matter; analyzing the situation and its impact on women's access to decision-making positions; providing recommendations for the improvement of the women's situation. A final draft was prepared and will be disseminated in workshops throughout January 2010 to different stakeholders and coalitions members. The study will be printed and distributed to the local media in the coming months.

- ***Training manual on SCR 1325***

MIFTAH contracted Addarb for Consultancy and Training experts in the fields of law and gender to prepare a training manual on UNSCR 1325 that responds to the Palestinian context and to the coalitions' demands mentioned above. The manual is aimed at helping provide a better and more unified understanding of knowledge and related concepts, and as such users of the manual will be better equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge. It is important to note that this training manual is the first of its kind in the Palestinian context.

The training manual's content includes the following points:

- SCR 1325
  - The concept of SCR 1325
  - Security council resolutions pertaining to Palestine
  - SCR 1325-strengths and weaknesses
- Path to SCR 1325
  - The effects of violence of the occupation and the internal conflict on women
  - Strategies and mechanisms to activate SCR 1325 in Palestine
- Gender-based violence
  - Gender-based violence, concepts and forms
  - The implications of GBV – what keeps women silent
- Gender
  - Raising awareness of gender issues
  - Raising self-awareness and gender-based distribution of roles

The training manual was printed and widely disseminated to trainers, social and health workers, and coalition member organizations.

\*Report covers the period between August 2009 and December 2009

## 6. Empowerment of Palestinian Women in Rural Areas through Small Income-Generating Projects

[Funder: OPEC Fund for International Development, OFID]

[Duration of Project: May 20, 2008- Oct. 31, 2009]

### Background

This year, MIFTAH carried out its "Empowerment of Rural Women through Small Income-Generating Projects" which aims at contributing to the empowerment of Palestinian women in rural areas and empowering marginalized groups through involving them in development. This project contributes to helping women improve their standard of living and opens up economic opportunities to them. It also enables them to be in control of their own funds in order to generate their own income and hence become somewhat self-sufficient within their own families. The project also contributes to developing the community through the capacity building of women.



Beneficiaries growing plants in a greenhouse – Deir Ibzei, Ramallah

The project, which was implemented over the course of one and a half years, benefited a number of women in rural areas by setting up several income-generating projects. These include four beekeeping projects in four villages in the Ramallah area and building a greenhouse along with a well beside it in a fifth village. In all, 34 women, that is, 34 families benefited from these projects. The beehive projects generated over 3,000 kilos of honey while the greenhouse project produced a fair amount of cucumbers. The lack of sufficient water resulted in the decrease in cucumber production.

### Activities

- *Village selection*

The selection of villages for the implementation of projects was carried out according to previous projects and their success in these regions, water resources in the villages and income, whereby poorer areas were given priority. The following five villages were chosen for the implementation of projects: Al Mughayer, Abu Falah, Deir Ibzee', Nabi Saleh and Kufr Nimeh. Consequently, participant women were also chosen according to a selection process that included field visits and questionnaires.

- *Training courses*

The second stage of training courses was carried out in April of 2009 and was given in beekeeping to 29 beneficiaries over the course of 47 hours. Besides lectures and workshops given by experts, the women were also shown six films on beekeeping.

Another training course was given on planting in greenhouses to a total of six beneficiaries from Nabi Saleh. Following the initial training course, the women's work was followed up by frequent visits from the supervising engineer.

Two workshops were held by the supervising engineer for the beehive projects on nutrition and illnesses at work. The first was held on 3/8/2009 in Abu Falah and the other 4/8/2009 in Kufr Nimeh.

The women also participated in the Honey Festival, through coordination with the Beekeeper Co-op, which was held on August 16, 17, and 18, 2009. The women were taught marketing skills in addition to methods for the utilization of honey for soap, creams, candles, etc.

- **Exchange visit**

One exchange visit was carried out to the Hebron-area village of Bani Naim on October 17, 2009 where the women visited Al Ru'ya center, which carries out projects similar to MIFTAH's. The visit was an excellent opportunity for the exchange of experience and knowledge in the field.

## Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leadership

### 1. Active Youth for Social Change

[Funder: National Endowment for Democracy]

[Duration of Project: [April 2009 – March 2010]

#### Description

This project builds on MIFTAH's long experience in the area of youth empowerment. It responds to MIFTAH's serious concern for the situation of the youth sector in east Jerusalem and its suburbs and aims at supporting young people in the city as active Palestinian citizens. The project's target group is youth local groups and non-governmental organizations in Jerusalem and its suburbs, which in turn will later take responsibility for mobilizing their own local communities for more social activism towards change.



Workshop on "Voluntary Work: Mobilization and Advocacy" – Jerusalem



## Activities

- ***Mapping and needs assessment study***

A mapping needs assessment research study was developed and published on MIFTAH's website which includes mapping of all Palestinian youth groups, establishments, trends, activities, impact and sustainability, in addition to a needs assessment survey of the youth in east Jerusalem. The results and findings of the study, carried out by researcher Suleiman Qous, were discussed and disseminated among stakeholders, decision and policy makers, some Palestinian GOs and NGOs in Jerusalem, youth institutions, the Jerusalem Affairs Unit in the Palestinian Presidential Office and a representative of the Educational Directorate at Jerusalem. The study was edited, translated into English and published in March 2010, and will be disseminated to stakeholders and decision and policy makers.

- ***Policy paper***

A policy paper entitled "The Status of Palestinian Youth in east Jerusalem" was prepared by researcher Sama Oweida. This paper evaluates the results, findings and recommendations of the research study and highlights the needs of Jerusalemite youths in various sectors. This includes a study of their living environment, the various social political challenges they face daily, the Israeli practices and policies against the development of services targeting the youth in east Jerusalem, the denial of building permits and the demolition of property, denial of residency rights and the confiscation of ID cards, and the physical, economic, political and social isolation of Jerusalem from the West Bank through the construction of the Apartheid Wall and the surrounding settlements.

The paper was presented in a policy meeting in Dec. 2009 to decision and policy makers, stakeholders, some political figures, representatives of NGOs and GOs in Jerusalem and West Bank. MIFTAH plans to advocate the recommendations included in the policy paper by targeting officials, decision and policy makers along with the different GO and PNA units specialized in Jerusalem matters and affairs, in coordination with Jerusalem Affairs Unit in the Palestinian Presidential Office.

- ***Roundtable discussions***

A policy meeting (round table discussion) was held on Monday December 21, 2009. About 20 participants attended representing different GOs and NGOs, political figures (PLC member Abdullah Abdullah), members from the Jerusalem Affairs Unit at the President's Office, Director of the Educational Directorate at Jerusalem, social and political Jerusalemite youth activists, among others. Some political activists and popular national figures attended the policy meeting such as PLC member Abdullah Abdullah, Abdul Qader El Hussein (Director of Faisal Hussein Institution) and Samir Jibril (Director of the Educational Directorate).

- ***Group capacity building***

An 18-hour training session was held targeting 13 Jerusalemite youths on "Management and Mobilization." The training was conducted in Jerusalem at the end of November and the first week of December 2009. The

young trainees were divided into three groups, and were responsible for developing three small proposals including voluntary initiatives, which included three topics: reviving Palestinian culture and heritage in the Shu'fat Refugee camp; assisting in developing an area in the impoverished village Zu'aim, and developing and organizing voluntary work in the Old City of Jerusalem.

## 2. Supporting Young Palestinian Political Leaders

[Funder: Representative Office of Norway]

[Duration of Project: April 2008-July 2009]

### Description

The project aims at building the capacity of young Palestinian leaders so that they are more able to assume senior positions of responsibility, introducing young Palestinian leaders to different experiences and counterparts from various districts, and guiding them through initiatives that respond to specific democratic developmental needs.

The project targeted twenty selected young members (age group 25-35 years) of various PLO factions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who occupy relatively advanced positions in their party, in addition to some independent young leaders.



Public meeting – Nablus

### Activities

- **Capacity building training**

In 2009, MIFTAH resumed the capacity building training started in October 2008. The third training- West Bank & Gaza was held in April and May. 2009. The two-day training was held in response to the youth group recommendations, both in the West Bank and in Gaza. It was built on what was achieved in the second training, and aimed to reinforce the group's knowledge of their parties' bylaws and programs, and at the same time, acquire the skills of formulating a political program.

- **Youth initiative**

A seven-hour workshop, led by a specialized facilitator, was held to train the youth members on the most efficient and realistic methods of coming up with a good initiative within the available human and material resources.

Following that workshop, several meetings were held with the group in order to introduce a youth initiative to be proposed and implemented by the youth groups as a work team. The youth groups suggested a number of ideas some of them were as follows:

1. Preparing for an public awareness campaign on the concept of "Occupied Palestine" which aims at sensitizing the people about this concept
2. A call for issuing a law that decreases the nomination age for the Legislative Council elections to 24 years
3. Supporting a positive intervention for youth in the PLO institutions and factions

The third initiative for a youth positive intervention was adopted. It was agreed that the public opinion should be solicited on the adopted suggestions and as such group planned to hold three public meetings in Nablus, Hebron, and Jenin.

In the three public meetings were held in Hebron on July 9, Nablus July 14, and Jenin 20, 2009. The youth themselves prepared and coordinated these meetings and prepared a presentation on the nature and aim of this initiative.

- ***TV Shows– Bethlehem***

Two TV shows were produced and broadcast in Bethlehem on June 6, 2009. Two essential points were discussed in these TV shows:

1. The ability of the youth to reach leadership positions and their ability to impact decision making process inside their parties.
2. The parties' youth joint cooperation to work on the social issues that affect the youth sector in Palestine.

In the first TV show, four members of the youth group representing the PLO factions, a reporter and a political analyst were hosted. The main topics of discussion were the role of the community, parties' leadership and the role of the youth inside their parties in creating the mechanisms and the opportunities that enable them to reach decision-making positions.

In the second TV show, four members of the youth group representing the PLO factions, a social expert and a political activist were hosted. Some of the issues discussed were the existing cooperation between the PLO factions at the social and the public service level, and the mechanism and sufficiency of this cooperation.

In these two TV shows, the frustration of the youth was observed due to marginalizing their roles in the political decision making process and the restrictions placed upon them in assuming occasional temporary executive responsibilities that require their approval without being engaged in the decisions making process. At the same time, some of the show guests placed the responsibility of the current deteriorating circumstances and marginalization on the youth themselves due to their negligence and dependence on others to lead and control everything even their future.

- ***Developing an electronic link at MIFTAH's website***

There are on-going efforts to develop a webpage within MIFTAH's website where all material related to this project, including the strategic plan, research studies, and project activities implemented during the project period will be posted. The webpage will give the youth group room for active participation and will encourage them to propose ideas.

### Beyond Managing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Demonstrating the Effectiveness of a Model for Social Transformation in Conflict

[Funder: EU-Partnership for Peace Program]

[Duration of Project: January 1, 2009-December 2010]

#### Description

MIFTAH is a partner with Heinrich Baell Foundation in implementing the project, "Beyond Managing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Demonstrating the Effectiveness of a Model for Social Transformation in Conflict." The project is a component of a 10-year program (2003-2013). In this phase, the program is developing and testing a new methodological toolkit for 'Social Transformation in Conflict' (STIC), which will be used by groups or individuals in order to deal with conflicts among themselves and with others; organize themselves towards action; build positive relations and sustainably develop their communities.

The project aims at demonstrating the effectiveness of a methodological synthesis that combines identity-based conflict resolution methods, a structural approach to conflict analysis and action-oriented community development approaches. This can be achieved by forming a core group of leaders/facilitators trained in the use of methods of conflict-sensitive social transformation and committed to building peace from below, both within and between the two societies.

#### Activities

- *A training of trainers workshop was held in Beit Jala from July 16-22 in which five Palestinian trainees were trained.*
- *From July 23-29 a bi-national workshop was held in Beit Jala. The workshop focused on members of the Jerusalem Link Coalition, which is comprised of the Bat Shalom organization and the Jerusalem Center for Women.*
- *Between November 2 and 15 two bi-national workshops were carried out in conjunction with the second training program for the trainers/facilitators. The two bi-national workshops took place over two weekends, Nov. 5-7 and Nov. 12-14, 2009. The training sessions were held over the days leading up to the workshop as well as the days between the workshops.*

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

[Funder: Konrad Adenaur Stiftung]

[Duration of Project: January 2009-December 2009]

#### Description

This project aims at enhancing the role of civil society organizations in the legislative process through follow up on the performance of the PLC throughout the current election cycle, networking with civil

society organizations and political parties, lobbying PLC members, advocating a progressive social agenda and ensuring the integration of democratic principles in the legislations and policies to be approved by the PLC.

### Project Objectives

1. Contribute to developing the capacity of civil society organizations in monitoring the performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council;
2. Foster PLC-civil society dialogue on public issues of concern, and provide a venue for networking and exchange of information and experiences among them;
3. Encourage civil society organizations towards better advocacy and lobbying strategies.



Round table meeting - Bethlehem

### Activities

- ***PLC affairs library***

After months of archiving PLC related documents including articles and news items, visiting public and university libraries and contracting a specialist, MIFTAH set up a mini-library on PLC affairs. Legal research studies, books and magazines both in English and in Arabic are now available at MIFTAH, which were gathered over the last two years as part of this project. The mini-library is accessible to all stakeholders' organizations and researchers, and serves as a reference for all those interested in PLC and legal matters.

- ***Round table discussion***

MIFTAH organized a round table discussion on April 4, 2009 entitled "Civil Society Stance on the Electoral Law- Possible Options towards the Palestinian Unity: Challenges and Perspectives." In light of the political developments regarding the results of the internal dialogue in Cairo, there was an urgent demand to address the issue of the electoral system and the role of the civil society in this regard, especially that the electoral system is one of the controversial issues at the dialogue table. The meeting comprised of former and current PLC members and representatives of different civil society organizations in Ramallah.

- ***Town hall meetings***

- A town hall meeting was held in Jenin on June 17, 2009 discussing "The Role of the Legislative Council in Enhancing Public Freedoms." Many stakeholders and non-governmental institutions approached MIFTAH to request an intervention that draws the accountability of PLC members, media, human right institutions, and the Executive Authority on their role in curbing the breach of the law in light of the activities of Palestinian Security Services and their recent activities in the Palestinian areas.

- A town hall meeting was held in Hebron on August 17, 2009 entitled "The Role of Youth in the Legal Community Mobilization." The meeting points were bridging the gap between Palestinian youth and PLC members, enhancing Palestinian youth participation by reintegrating students, unionists and social activists in a complementary relation with PLC members and the Palestinian field civil society organizations.
- A round table meeting in Nablus was held on October 14, 2009 entitled, "The Effect of Electoral Law on Political Participation" which focused on: recreating communication between different stakeholders in different Palestinian districts and cities; emphasizing the main theoretical trends regarding the applicability, suitability and the effect of the current Palestinian electoral law; creating productive discussions amongst the stakeholders to develop possible solutions for the main gaps in the law; reducing the gap between the people and their political system, represented in "Ramallah and the Gaza Strip"; and identifying the main reasons for the lack of participation from Palestinian society in their political system.

### Recommendations from round table discussion

- Building relations between different actors in the legislative cycle
- Developing and capacitating different Palestinian legislative actors
- Enhancing the ability of the Palestinian public to participate efficiently in their legislative process by conducting surveys and polls
- Palestinian laws should reflect the needs, expectations and perspectives of the Palestinians
- The legislation process should be an integrative process in which Palestinians can participate in their legislation.
- Developing decision making mechanisms
- Developing the role of youth institutions in legislation

### Round table meeting in Bethlehem

A round table discussion entitled "The Nature of the Function of the PLC" was held on November 1, 2009. The workshop aimed at recreating communication between different stakeholders in different Palestinian districts and cities and exploring the efficiency of the alternative mechanisms that the PLC adopted during the period of the split.

- ***PLC performance report***

The PLC Performance Report, completed in 2009, addressed different aspects of the PLC performance during the split, especially in the period between the second half of 2008 to the end of 2009. The report is divided into three main chapters:

- Disagreement over the temporal and legal jurisdiction of the PLC presidency
- PLC work in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip
- Findings and recommendations

- ***Networking and advocacy***

In October and November of 2009, MIFTAH participated in activities hosted by the Coalition for Changing the Penal Code and the Abortion Coalition. A meeting was held on Oct 28, 2009 between civil society

organization representatives and the Minister of Justice to discuss the role of civil society in articulating a draft law to be submitted by the Council of Ministers to the President. A coordination committee was formed to work on the draft law.

The Penal Code coalition met again on Nov. 23, 2009 to discuss the role of civil society in drafting the law, to make sure the process is taking place in full partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the Council of Ministers. A decision was taken to integrate the Abortion Coalition demands and the Child Rights Coalition demands when advocating the penal code.

## Policy Formulation

MIFTAH's Policy Formulation is an ongoing project aimed at promoting accountability and transparency in the public sector in all political issues pertaining to good governance, particularly reform, security and political developments. MIFTAH believes that genuine reform must take place through a transparent process whereby the public and private sectors and civil society are brought together on policy formulation on a range of issues vital to Palestinian decision-making. As such, the program aims at enhancing the ability of decision makers to formulate policies in an inclusive and professional manner through a participatory process that leads to a disclosure of access to information, which genuinely responds to the needs of the Palestinian public.

The main component of the program is the policy dialogue meetings, aimed at enhancing 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. Policy areas include Palestinian strategies for political challenges, discussion of internal political affairs and the overall international scene regarding the Palestinian question.

### Objectives

1. Raise awareness among Palestinian decision makers on the importance of inclusive participatory approach to policy formulation processes.
2. Identify gaps and weaknesses in existing public sector policies.
3. Offer possible solutions and alternatives to problems in internal Palestinian affairs and mechanisms for rectifying these problems and shortcomings.

### Policy Papers

Throughout 2009, MIFTAH held three policy meetings in which it discussed various topics pertinent to the Palestinian situation. The policy meetings were held in January, April and December of 2009. Following is a synopsis of each policy meeting and the subsequent paper.

- *The Impact of Israel's Gaza Aggression on Palestinian Political Realities – January 15, 2009*

The policy meeting discussed Israel's 22-day invasion of the Gaza Strip which left more than 14,00 Palestinians dead and caused an estimated \$1.9 billion in damage and destruction.

Israel's war on Gaza has only served to further divide and polarize internal Palestinian factions. Those same divisions have also been influenced by regional and international positions. All this is



Policy meeting – MIFTAH

occurring as a new American administration under the presidency of Barack Obama is sworn in. International and regional players are re-assessing their positions in preparation for the Obama Administration, with Iran and Syria in particular attempting to position themselves in a more favorable light, especially with regards to the Palestinian cause.

Israel's main goal, however, was to further separate the West Bank from Gaza, thus making the Palestinian project of liberation and statehood seem more impossible. Israel's war on Gaza did not merely target Hamas, but the entire Palestinian people.

Recommendations included: A focus on the priority of Palestinian internal affairs and national unity; ending Israel's aggression in Gaza and an immediate halt to settlement expansion, all within the political framework of ending the occupation.

- *Ramifications of the continued state of internal division in the Palestinian political system – April 16, 2009*

The effects of the internal Palestinian division are still apparent on the overall aspects of political, economic and social life. Ending this division and its ramifications has become a principle point in political positions and actions of various Palestinian parties at the internal and regional levels. The continued split, especially in light of the Israeli invasion on the Gaza Strip and the subsequent phase, greatly affected the regional and international differences and positions. There are increasing calls for Palestinian conciliation, however, none of these calls have come to fruition on the ground.

In terms of future scenarios, it is clear that none of the parties involved want to take responsibility for the failure of talks, including Egypt, who is brokering reconciliation talks between Hamas and Fateh. This division could actually become the protective shield Israel needs to counter international pressures to recognize and commit to the vision of two states. Israel is seeking to reinforce this division through cementing the reality of a mini-state in besieged Gaza while leaving the West Bank at the mercy of settlements.



- ***Future Political Options, Locally and Internationally – December 22, 30, 2009***

The Palestinian scene continues to be extremely complicated as a result of the continued internal division and the dead-end prospects for a peaceful solution through fruitful and serious negotiations. Furthermore, democratic life has come to a halt in the absence of any possibility of holding presidential and legislative elections on their specified constitutional date. The tendencies to bridge the internal Palestinian rift still exist, a rift whose end has become a political demand for all Palestinian and regional political parties. In light of this situation, it is inevitable to adopt innovative public policies instead of mere reactions, to extract ourselves from this waiting game and confront the extremist Israeli policies and measures against the Palestinians.

It has become necessary to focus on the Palestinian political position. The most critical issues include ending the occupation, the right of return and self-determination and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. After admitting to the failure of 18 years of negotiations, there must be a clear and precise position taken on this issue; the next stage must be one of decisions given the futility of past negotiations, which have completely exhausted themselves. The leadership should also not accept transitional stages or any obligations under such solutions.

Future scenarios are scarce given the current chaotic Palestinian situation coupled with the intransigence of the right-wing Israeli government under Benjamin Netanyahu, which has remained unresponsive to all international pressures to halt settlement construction.

There is an urgent need to adopt new ideas and methods in order not to repeat the mistakes of the past in terms of our political decisions. Hence, there must be an adoption of a positive and interactive political program to achieve our national goals at the various levels. There should be support for popular resistance and steadfastness and a revival of the people's energies and national and democratic forces in confronting the measures of the Israeli occupation including attacks, land confiscation, continued settlement expansion and the separation wall.

There must be the start of a popular movement to put pressure on Hamas to sign the Egyptian document. In spite of the retreat of the US administration's position on the Palestinian issue and its pressure on Israel, the leadership should still take advantage of having Barack Obama as president. We should also continue to work towards issuing a Security Council Resolution on the basis of establishing a Palestinian state on the June 4, 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital.

Recommendations include: a reconsideration of the strategy in effect since 1988; Reconstruction and reconsideration of the political system on real democratic bases; Prioritizing the goal of ending the internal split and achieving reconciliation; Reconsidering security coordination with Israel; following up on the Goldstone Report.

## Media and Information

### Background

MIFTAH's **Media and Information Department (MID)** 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 at the local, regional and global levels.



Political briefing- MIFTAH

The department currently comprises into two central areas of operation:

### Information Dissemination (Arabic and English)

This part of the department is primarily concerned with the collection/documentation, formulation and dissemination of information on Palestine, ranging from political developments to civil society issues.



Throughout 2009, MIFTAH's MID continued to provide its readers with three original articles per week in addition to the occasional lengthier special study on key issues on its English website. These include MIFTAH's editorial, viewpoints and the weekly roundup of news, or the "Week in Review." In addition, MIFTAH has continued to publish factsheets, and press statements on urgent developments.

Furthermore, selected articles are sent out each week on our email database of international and local readers, who include political analysts, representatives of foreign governments and international and local NGOs. These articles are also part of our complimentary package, presented to visiting delegations that come to MIFTAH for political briefings.

In addition to MIFTAH's information material, our website provides updated material published by other institutions, including Palestinian and international NGOs, media outlets as well as special reports.

The Arabic website also provides two original articles from MIFTAH's Arabic media head along with selected articles from outside sources. The site additionally provides a monthly update of "Facts and Figures" on Palestinian statistics and up-to-date news on MIFTAH's project news.

### External Relations

External Relations entails MIFTAH's interaction with key target groups at the local and external levels. This includes: 1) conducting a number of briefings with visiting delegations of students, activists, journalists,

associations among others, during which we respond to requests for information on political and internal Palestinian issues. 2) participating in local and international workshops and conferences relevant to our field of work; 3) participating in various committees and initiatives.

As part of this goal, acting head of the MID Joharah Baker participated as speaker at the United Nations Public Forum in Support of the Palestinian People, which took place in tandem with the UN Asian and Pacific Meeting on the Question of Palestine in Jakarta, Indonesia in June, 2009. There, she presented on media perceptions of the Palestinian situation.

### **Achievements/Activities**

In January, 2009, the MID released its book "Viewpoints from Palestine," a compilation of selected essays from 2006-2008. The book, which is divided into two main categories: Internal Palestinian Affairs and The Israeli Occupation, has been widely disseminated and is available at the Ramallah office and on MIFTAH's website.

This year, both the English and Arabic website added an additional feature entitled "MIFTAH Makes a Difference" which involves monthly success stories from a MIFTAH project beneficiary.

Several of MIFTAH's articles have been republished on a plethora of websites, some on a regular basis. These include Media Monitors, the American Task Force on Palestine, the Institute of Middle Eastern Understanding (IMEU) and Australians for Palestine.

In line with MIFTAH's philosophy espousing global exchange and communication, the MID hosts a number of interns a year, mostly from the United States and Britain for a period of one-three months. These interns both volunteer their own expertise and time and also leave with a richer and more comprehensive idea of the overall Palestinian situation and its conflict with Israel in addition to honing their writing and research skills.

## Media Monitoring Unit

### Improved Media Discourse in the Palestinian Territories and Israel

[Funder: Ford Foundation]

[Duration of Project: August 2008 – August 2010 ]

#### Description

Since September 2004, MIFTAH and KESHEV (The Centre for the Protection of Democracy in Israel) have been engaged in a unique and original project, which aims to improve media discourse in both Palestinian and Israeli media through monitoring, research, advocacy and lobbying activities. This project hopes to 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, as well as previous agreements between Israelis and Palestinians, all of which will assist in the re-launching of a genuine peace process.

#### Achievements/Activities

##### Publication of six research reports, three by MIFTAH and three by KESHEV

Reports published by MIFTAH during 2009 include the following:



##### **“The Jerusalem municipality elections on Palestine TV and in the three Palestinian newspapers” – January, 2009**

The report covered the Palestinian controversy over the Jerusalem municipality elections, which most believed should be boycotted given the occupied status of the eastern sector of the city.

##### **“The first day between Cast Lead and Oil Spot” – January, 2009**

Israel’s operation into Gaza took place on December 27, 2008 when Israeli war planes began bombing the Gaza Strip in what was later considered the harshest Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people since the Nakba (Catastrophe). The Israeli government dubbed the operation “Cast Lead” while Palestinian resistance factions coined the term “Oil Spot” for their campaign of rockets launching from Gaza. The three Palestinian papers dedicated their entire front pages to the Gaza incident. All the news on these pages was related to the Israeli bombing of Gaza, in addition to statements and efforts by Palestinian leaders including President Mahmoud Abbas and the government to halt the Israeli aggression. Furthermore, the statements made by Hamas leaders inside and abroad and by the deposed government, appeared on the inside pages. Devoting the entire front page to news and special reports about what was taking place in Gaza was a sound option in that it reflected the gravity of the situation and the magnitude of the disaster in the Strip.

## “Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s speech at Bar Ilan University” – July 15, 2009

The speech delivered by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, June 14 at Bar Ilan University’s Begin–Sadat Center in Tel Aviv, came in the context of his attempt to respond and deal with a new political situation created by the new US administration and the EU. Prime Minister Netanyahu’s speech was more of an attempt at deceit and maneuvering. It was a desperate endeavor to please the US administration and the international community on the one hand and an attempt to preserve his narrow right-wing government, on the other.

## “Reading between the lines – A Palestinian-Israeli guide to critical media consumption” – December 20, 2009

This practical guide to teaching critical reading of news materials arises from a unique cooperative project that has been carried out continuously since 2004. In this joint project KESHEV and MIFTAH each analyze news coverage in the major media outlets on their “own side” and attempt to influence journalists and editors to change patterns of coverage that are problematic and biased.

### Rapid Responses

There was one rapid response conducted by MIFTAH in 2009:

#### **The Media Monitoring Unit calls on Palestinian newspapers and Palestine TV for more objective coverage of events”**

This quick response called for a more objective coverage of the truce between Israel and Hamas at the end of 2008.

### Re-editing of Media Materials

The Media Monitoring Unit carried out a re-editing of the first page of *Al-Ayyam* newspaper where it presented alternative headlines and main news items. The alternative headlines merged the headlines, thereby presenting a different view. The re-edit also included a relocation of news items from the bottom to the top of the page and added colors to important news items.

### Media Presentations

Throughout 2009, the project coordinator at the Media Monitoring Unit at MIFTAH presented lectures and multimedia presentations on the following occasions and at national and international events:

- April 2, 2009 – International Journalism Festival – Perugia, Italy
- April 14, 2009 – MIFTAH workshop on monitoring women’s image in the media
- July 21, 2009 - a seminar for Palestinian and Israeli educators held by Seeds of Peace – Neve Illan, Israel

## MIFTAH Audited Financial Report for 2009

## Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2009

	Notes	2009	2008
		U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non - current assets</b>			
Property and equipment	3	48,602	60,856
<b>Current assets</b>			
Contributions receivable	4	223,516	131,956
Due from Board of Trustees	5	25,000	85,000
Other current assets		4,508	3,533
Cash and cash equivalents	6	821,886	653,692
		1,074,910	874,181
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,123,512</b>	<b>935,037</b>
<b>Net Assets and Liabilities</b>			
<b>Net assets</b>			
Unrestricted net assets		174,941	284,059
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>174,941</b>	<b>284,059</b>
<b>Non - current liabilities</b>			
Deferred revenues	7	42,953	53,878
Provision for employees' indemnity	8	124,631	104,732
		167,584	158,610
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable and accruals	9	64,413	60,407
Temporarily restricted contributions	10	716,574	431,961
		780,987	492,368
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>948,571</b>	<b>650,978</b>
<b>Total Net Assets and Liabilities</b>		<b>1,123,512</b>	<b>935,037</b>

## Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2009

	Notes	2009	2008
		U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<b>Revenues</b>			
Temporarily restricted contributions released from restriction	10	799,119	810,124
Unrestricted contributions	5	65,000	83,113
Deferred revenues recognized	7	20,101	19,923
Other revenues		6,688	9,269
Foreign exchange gain		787	-
		891,695	922,429
<b>Expenses</b>			
Projects' expenses	11	801,770	810,124
Administrative expenses	12	177,526	67,015
Depreciation expense	3	21,517	21,993
Foreign exchange loss		-	13,710
		1,000,813	912,842
<b>(Decrease) increase in net assets</b>		<b>(109,118)</b>	<b>9,587</b>
Net assets, beginning of year		284,059	274,472
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>		<b>174,941</b>	<b>284,059</b>

## Cash Flow Statement

Year ended December 31, 2009

	2009	2008
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<b>Operating Activities:</b>		
(Decrease) increase in net assets	(109,118)	9,587
<b>Adjustments:</b>		
Depreciation	21,517	21,993
Deferred revenues recognized	(20,101)	(19,923)
Provision for employees' indemnity	36,771	28,456
Write-off of contribution receivable	-	450
	(70,931)	40,563
<b>Changes in working capital</b>		
Contributions receivable	(91,560)	111,378
Due from Board of Trustees	60,000	(75,000)
Other current assets	(975)	5,177
Temporarily restricted contributions	284,613	(79,557)
Accounts payable and accruals	4,006	16,339
Deferred revenues	9,176	16,520
Employees' indemnity paid	(16,872)	(8,549)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>177,457</b>	<b>26,871</b>
<b>Investing Activities:</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(9,263)	(19,900)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(9,263)</b>	<b>(19,900)</b>
<b>Increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>168,194</b>	<b>6,971</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	653,692	646,721
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b>821,886</b>	<b>653,692</b>

### 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	Currency difference	end Balance, of year
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (OFID)	144,586	2,681	(147,115)	-	(152)	-
The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures through Keshev (ALF)	-	6,323	(6,712)	-	389	-
Ford Foundation through KESHEV (FF)	-	29,235	(23,728)	-	-	5,507
Danish Representative Office (DRO)	-	110,120	(85,223)	-	-	24,897
Henrich Boell Stiftung (HBS)	-	22,432	(19,624)	-	(2,808)	-
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	-	89,600	(85,233)	(320)	592	4,639
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	906	33,000	(22,657)	-	-	11,249
Representative Office of Norway (NRO)	61,240	114,817	(67,154)	-	-	108,903
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories (KAS)	-	42,451	(38,492)	(5,728)	1,769	-
The Henrich Boell Foundation (HBF) and The Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (IFA)	-	61,689	(50,208)	-	1,091	12,572
Creative Associates International (CA)	-	300,101	(207,777)	(3,051)	-	89,273
Austrian Representative Office (ARO)	-	184,070	(25,467)	-	-	158,603
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ireland (MFAI)	-	89,508	(13,806)	-	-	75,702
Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land (CRIHL)	-	6,000	(5,923)	(77)	-	-
Special donations	225,229	-	-	-	-	225,229
	431,961	1,092,027	(799,119)	(9,176)	881	716,574

## Project expenses

Components of projects expenses are as follows:

	HBF and IFA	CRIHL	CA	HBS	UNFPA	OFID	DRO	NED
	Social Transformation in Conflict	The Portrayal of Religion in the Palestinian Media	Empowerment of Women in Elections	Gender Responsive Budgets in Local Councils	Gender, Peace and Security - Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	The Empowerment of Palestinian Women and Youth in Rural Areas through Income-Generating Projects	Instituting a Gender-Responsive Palestinian National Budget	Active Youth for Social Change
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	27,126	3,116	101,893	9,619	34,927	21,098	31,859	12,246
Office, equipment and hall rental	100	-	20,250	-	1,348	2,246	4,500	1,520
Travel and accommodation	16,403	230	9,676	1,570	3,093	3,384	1,242	600
Information Technology and publications	377	275	6,058	1,801	37,871	108,038	38,917	4,053
Professional fees	-	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	360
Training expenses	2,481	-	29,832	3,331	2,787	4,592	2,475	1,052
Hosting delegations and meetings	2,896	27	28,525	3,293	4,546	2,865	2,538	1,140
Postage, telephone and fax	472	70	2,642	-	311	1,665	1,306	770
Utilities	353	2,195	6,421	-	325	3,181	2,386	866
Sundry	-	10	480	10	25	46	-	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,208</b>	<b>5,923</b>	<b>207,777</b>	<b>19,624</b>	<b>85,233</b>	<b>147,115</b>	<b>85,223</b>	<b>22,657</b>

## Project expenses - continued

		MFAI	FF	ARO *	ALF	NRO	KAS		
	Subtotal	Miftah's Strategic Planning Document 2007-2011	Monitoring Incitement in Palestinian Media	Combating Violence against Palestinian Women through the Empowerment of Community-Based Organisations	Promoting Critical Media	Empowerment of Young Palestinian Political Leadership	Monitoring the Legislative Process through Enhancing the Civil Society	Total Project Expenses 2009	Total Project Expenses 2008
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	241,884	9,079	18,737	21,070	2,232	32,941	22,679	348,622	408,945
Office, equipment and hall rental	29,964	1,200	100	3,200	-	3,500	-	37,964	41,478
Travel and accommodation	36,198	133	1,496	953	-	4,773	1,105	44,658	27,926
Information technology and publications	197,390	1,563	2,508	744	3,696	8,577	10,440	224,918	197,739
Professional fees	2,360	1,500	-	-	-	400	-	4,260	13,717
Training expenses	46,550	-	153	-	-	6,629	1,583	54,915	36,694
Hosting delegations and meetings	45,830	-	-	141	-	5,934	1,842	53,747	42,239
Postage, telephone and fax	7,236	-	113	468	784	2,159	324	11,084	14,327
Utilities	15,727	331	438	1,353	-	2,209	502	20,560	25,553
Sundry	621	-	183	189	-	32	17	1,042	1,506
Total	623,760	13,806	23,728	28,118	6,712	67,154	38,492	801,770	810,124

\* During the year, U.S. \$ 25,467 were expensed from the program's budget and accordingly released from restriction. The remaining amount of U.S. \$ 2,651 was self-financed by MIFTAH.



## Administrative expenses

	2009	2008
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	142,740	55,468
Office rent	10,084	9,159
Utilities	12,465	1,375
Professional fees	4,740	-
Travel and accommodation	5,479	-
Hosting delegations and meetings	1,202	-
Sundry	816	1,013
	177,526	67,015

## Among MIFTAH Supporters

1. Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (OFID)
2. Danish Representative Office (DRO)
3. Heinrich Boell Stiftung (HBS)
4. National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
5. Norwegian Representative Office (NRO)
6. Konrad Adenaur Stiftung in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories (KAS)
7. Creative Associates International, Inc. (CAII)
8. Austrian Representative Office (ARO)
9. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ireland (MFAI)
10. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
11. Ford Foundation
12. Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far
13. Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)
14. A.M.Qattan Foundation