

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



2023 Annual Report

January – December 2023

Contents

1.	Situation Analysis.....	4
2.	Introduction	5
3.	Results by Objective.....	7
1.1	Result 1: Thematic evidence-based research on laws, regulations and policies	7
1.1.1	Documenting human rights violations against Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip	7
1.1.2	Preparing factsheets on various issues in light of Israel genocide in Gaza.....	7
1.1.3	Rapid assessment of the most common forms of discrimination and exclusion in LGUs	8
1.1.4	Providing Financial Indicators of the Family Protection Bill.....	8
1.1.5	Fiscal Justice: Citizens Budgets 2023 and Comparative Spending Reports 2022-2023	8
1.1.6	Midterm review of the implementation of the National Action Plan for the UNSCR 1325-2020-2024	9
1.2	Result 2: Public debate and joint actions for the enhancement of policies and practices are initiated	9
1.2.1	Opening dialogue on the financial implications of the Family Protection Bill.....	9
1.2.2	Opening dialogue on “Proposed amendments to the Local and General Elections Laws to promote the principles of equality and pluralism.”	10
1.2.3	Leading dialogue on civic space restrictions by the PA.....	10
1.3	Result 3: Relevant stakeholders are equipped to support in the realization of the amended policies and legislations.	11
1.3.1	Preparing a new batch of Narrative Ambassadors	11
1.3.2	Carrying out an intensive capacity building program for newly elected women members.	11
1.3.3	Organizing 1 youth camp for Social Justice and Gender Equality Influencers (on FPB, Elections Laws).....	11
1.3.4	Briefing women in Local Government Units on the Complaints system that MIFTAH is developing	13
1.3.5	Orientation of Al Muntada and Amal Coalitions members on the digital system for tracking cases of GBV	13
1.3.6	Raising public awareness about the electoral demands through town hall meetings.....	14
1.3.7	Training on preparation of Citizens Budget in ten line Ministries.	14
1.3.8	Training on human rights conventions as references for security services in coordination with Al Istiqlal University	14
2.1	Result 1: Content of the Palestinian public discourse is formulated and presented continuously	15

2.1.1	MIFTAH uses digital media to promote the Palestinian narrative.	15
2.2	Result 2: Engagement in international advocacy dialogue is facilitated	17
2.2.1	Organizing Political Briefings with Diplomatic Missions:.....	17
2.2.2	MIFTAH organized several networking and advocacy trips to Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium. 17	
2.2.3	MIFTAH Participates in the 52 nd ,53 rd and 54 th Human Rights Council sessions	18
2.2.4	MIFTAH calls for activating protection measures for Palestinian women facing human rights violations and discrimination policies under the Israeli prolonged occupation.....	19
4.	MIFTAH's Publications in 2023:	20

1. Situation Analysis

By the end of 2023, three months into the ongoing Israeli Genocide in Gaza and the International Community is yet to fulfil its legal obligations to stop it. In less than three months of deliberate and indiscriminate air, land and sea attacks, Israel killed more than 22,000 Palestinians, 70% of which are women and children. At least 58,000 Palestinians have been injured by Israeli bombardment including thousands with life-changing injuries such as amputations¹. Thirty out of 36 hospitals in Gaza's are not functioning and 90% of the population are facing food insecurity at crisis level or worse. Journalists and their families have been systematically targeted with 9% of journalists and media workers in Gaza have been killed². Around 85% of the population in Gaza has been displaced, mostly to overcrowded unsanitary shelter and over 60% of all homes have been destroyed or damaged³.

The occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, has witnessed a significant escalation in violence throughout 2023. This has been characterized by heightened tensions, a substantial rise in Palestinian casualties, increased settler violence and demolition of Palestinian-owned structures. There has been an increase in displacement and significant loss of livelihoods, as well as tightened restrictions on access and movement of many Palestinian communities, particularly in Area C. This period also marks one of the most extensive Israeli military operations in the West Bank since the Second Intifada. Since October 7th, Israel has killed at least 276 Palestinian including 70 children. More than 3,000 Palestinians have been arrested by Israeli forces and six Palestinian men have died while in Israeli custody under unclear circumstances - the highest number of cases reported in such a short time-period in decades in Israeli jails⁴.

After a few days of the genocide in Gaza, the world witnessed mass public mobilization, amid silence and inaction from governments. People around the world took to the streets, engaging in direct actions including Boycotting products that support Israel and pressuring their governments to enforce an immediate permanent ceasefire, an end to the blockade of Gaza and an end to the Israeli occupation and apartheid. The positions of governments, particularly in the West, were always far from the demands of their people when it comes to Palestine, and this divide has been clear now more than ever.

Moreover, on 15 October, over 800 scholars and practitioners of international law, conflict studies and genocide studies signed a public statement warning of the possibility of genocide

¹ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact | Day 87 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)

² [Gaza media office says 100 journalists killed since Israeli attacks began | Israel War on Gaza News | Al Jazeera](#)

³ [MIFTAH-100 days of Israel's genocide in Gaza, 14 January 2024.](#)

⁴ [WB info-graphic 15 Dec 2023.pdf](#)

being perpetrated by Israeli forces against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Signatories include prominent Holocaust and genocide studies scholars, as well as many international law scholars⁵. During November, numerous UN experts called on international community to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people. Moreover, and in a significant legal development, South Africa filed a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), accusing it of genocidal acts in Gaza. The ICJ confirmed the application concerning alleged violations of Israel's obligations under the Genocide Convention.

On another front, numerous European nations such as Austria, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland, alongside the European Commission, have implemented actions to suspend or limit their financial support to Palestinian civil society groups. These actions stem from unsubstantiated accusations suggesting that funding has been redirected to 'terrorist organizations' or utilized for promoting 'incitement to hatred and violence.' These allegations fuel deep-seated racist and Islamophobic stereotypes, depicting Arab and Muslim individuals as inherently predisposed to violence and terrorism. It's noteworthy that some initiatives to halt funding to Palestinian NGOs had already been in place long before the events of October.

In 2023, MIFTAH's operations were delineated into two distinct phases: pre-war and post-war. All activities scheduled for the initial three quarters of the year were executed according to plan. However, the events subsequent to October 7th and the Israeli genocide in Gaza, along with escalations in the West Bank, impacted activities slated for the fourth quarter. MIFTAH was compelled to cancel two study tours, an advocacy trip alongside several activities in Gaza. These cancellations necessitated a shift towards emergency response interventions for both Gaza and the West Bank.

Nevertheless, MIFTAH succeeded in realizing a number of achievements presented in this annual report. MIFTAH focused on fostering dialogue in a bid to influence public policies and reach consensus on political positions, and to shed light on the Israeli violations against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and promote the Palestinian narrative on an international level.

2. Introduction

The year 2023 marks the second year in MIFTAH's strategic plan 2022-2026. Within this strategy, MIFTAH worked towards the realizations of three main strategic objectives:

Specific Objective 1: Enhanced policies and practices in line with civil rights and social justice in Palestine

⁵ [Public Statement: Scholars Warn of Potential Genocide in Gaza – TWAILR](#)

Specific Objective 2: Enhanced promotion of the Palestinian narrative at the international level

Specific Objective 3: Improved effective institutional and human capacity development at MIFTAH

To achieve the above strategic objectives, MIFTAH works through two main programs:

1. **Good Governance and Democracy Program** with the following main interventions:
 - a. Conduct analytical research, financial analysis, reviews and opinion polls of different policies, laws and services.
 - b. Generate needed content and use media to reflect the findings and the data collected.
 - c. Open national dialogue with relevant stakeholders to reach consensus on proposed policies and procedures.
 - d. Provide capacity building opportunities for youth and women (and other relevant stakeholders) to support in the realization of the amended policies and legislations.

2. **Communication and Public Diplomacy Program** with the following main interventions:
 - a. Continuously develop and formulate public diplomacy content in addition to the development of oral and written statements and positions.
 - b. Deploy different social media outlets to disseminate the developed content
 - c. Facilitate the dissemination of the narrative through international platforms, exchange visits and camps as well as receiving international delegations
 - d. Conduct policy meetings (briefings) with diplomatic missions and delegates

During 2023, MIFTAH was able to achieve the following results:

3. Results by Objective

Specific Objective 1: Enhanced policies and practices in line with civil rights and social justice in Palestine

1.1 Result 1: Thematic evidence-based research on laws, regulations and policies

1.1.1 Documenting human rights violations against Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

In continuation of MIFTAH's efforts in holding Israel accountable, MIFTAH has continued to collect cases that violate International Humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli occupation and its settler apartheid regime against Palestinians in the West Bank (including Jerusalem) and Gaza. During 2023, MIFTAH has documented 1300 cases focusing on the impact of Israeli settlers' attacks and Israeli forces night raids on women and girls in the West Bank and the environmental impact of violations on women, particularly violations on agricultural lands in the Gaza Strip.

Additionally, MIFTAH documented 113 cases of human rights violations against Palestinian women in Jerusalem, focusing on the disproportionate impact of home demolitions on women and the health status of Jerusalemite refugee women.

[AnalyticalReport_HouseDemolision_HealthRights012024.pdf \(miftah.org\)](#)

At the beginning of the year, MIFTAH published a gendered analytical report under the title "Gendered Impact of Israeli occupation forces night raids on Palestinian Women and young girls". This report focused on the systematic conduct of terrorization, humiliation, and subjection to collective punishment and violation of Palestinian's basic rights.

[Gendered Impact of Israeli occupation forces night raids on Palestinian women and young girls En.pdf \(miftah.org\)](#)

1.1.2 Preparing factsheets on various issues in light of Israel genocide in Gaza

- Following the events of 7 October, MIFTAH prepared a policy paper on Israeli settler terrorism based on documentation collected by MIFTAH and other resources. The policy paper emphasizes persistent infringement in the West Bank and highlights the increase in settler violence during the last quarter of the year.

[Policy Pager on Settler Terrorism \(miftah.org\)](#)

- Preparing a factsheet about the Israeli piracy of Palestinian clearance revenues during the war on Gaza

[مفتاح - إيرادات المقاصّة، والقرصنة الإسرائيلية لها في ظل الحرب على غزة \(miftah.org\)](#)

- Moreover, MIFTAH developed a factsheet about the reflection of human rights violations and war crimes in the Gaza Strip during the military aggression on the Strip and classifying them in accordance with international humanitarian law.

1.1.3 Rapid assessment of the most common forms of discrimination and exclusion in LGUs

MIFTAH conducted a rapid assessment on the most common forms of discrimination and exclusion that newly elected women members in LGUs face. The study showed that the most prominent forms of discrimination and exclusion are the refusal or delays in taking over from previous councils and in forming new councils, excluding female members from the process of forming committees, especially chairing committees in general, and only giving them roles in women's committees and social committees. The results also showed that there is a lack of clear and reliable channels for reporting violations or suspicions of corruption or malpractices within the local authorities.

Therefore, MIFTAH is currently setting up a specialized system to support women members in LGUs file complaints and receive adequate counselling.

This video demonstrates the main findings of the rapid assessment. [Facebook](#)

1.1.4 Providing Financial Indicators of the Family Protection Bill

MIFTAH prepared an assessment of the financial repercussions of the application of the Family Protection Bill. The assessment focuses on some of the financial indicators pertaining to this bill including addressing specialized articles within the law that highlighted the protection programs, policies and services within the Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health and the Police. The financial analysis looks in a comparative approach into the available resources and the required programs and services detailed in the different articles of the Family Protection Bill.

[MIFTAH - Financial indicators for the Family Protection Bill](#)

1.1.5 Fiscal Justice: Citizens Budgets 2023 and Comparative Spending Reports 2022-2023

MIFTAH for the 9th year in a row continues to provide financial data on government budget allocations. This year MIFTAH supported 10 official institutions including ministries through the issuance of the citizen's budgets for the year 2023, and five semi-annual comparative spending reports for the years 2022-2023; Ministries of Education, Health, Social Development, Labor and Ministry of Interior and national security. This published data constitutes a space for carrying out reform interventions and adjustments to financial policies and open dialogue to demand the promotion of social justice in spending allocations for the social sector. This specialized data (citizen budgets and spending reports can be found on the citizen budget e-portal: [Home | موازنة | المواطن \(citizenbudget.ps\)](#)).

For a full list of Citizen Budgets and Spending Report, please follow the link: [MIFTAH - Publications](#)

[MIFTAH - MIFTAH releases 2021-2022 comparative actual spending reports for the social and security sectors, including social justice and gender indicators](#)

Moreover, MIFTAH prepared a policy paper, shared with the Palestinian cabinet, that addresses the citizen budget as a public policy to enhance the participatory approach in preparing the general budget. The policy paper also stressed on taking into account social justice indicators in financial planning.

[ورقة سياسات عامة \(miftah.org\)](#)

1.1.6 Midterm review of the implementation of the National Action Plan for the UNSCR 1325- 2020-2024

MIFTAH in coordination with the Palestinian Women Coalition for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, assessed the implementation of the NAP, two years into its life (2020-2022). This was done with the view of identifying the level of achieved results, in addition to assessing the government's commitments to the implementation of the NAP. Moreover, the review looked into the financing gap for the implementation of the NAP and the level of commitment by the international community towards achieving peace and security for Palestinian women, and to address any setbacks and challenges.

<http://www.miftah.org/arabic/Docs/Reports/2023/Miftah/Factsheet231223B1325.pdf>

The findings and the main results presented in the fact sheet highlighted on the low level of implementation at the activity level with weak monitoring and evaluation indicators and framework, in addition to non-clear identification of roles and responsibilities among partner organizations.

Following the development of the factsheet, MIFTAH hosted the UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW coalitions' member organizations in a policy dialogue session. During the session, MIFTAH shared the main findings and discussed possible actions to advance the implementation of the NAP, with needed advocacy efforts supported by UN agencies and state members at the international level.

1.2 Result 2: Public debate and joint actions for the enhancement of policies and practices are initiated

1.2.1 Opening dialogue on the financial implications of the Family Protection Bill

MIFTAH succeeded in holding a specialized meeting on the financial indicators that reflect the cost of implementing the Family Protection Bill with participation from representatives of civil society organizations and the Palestinian police. The session reviewed some financial indicators related to the draft law, and an estimate of some of the costs that may result from issuing the bill and implementing its provisions, bringing the total estimated expenditures to 16.2 million

shekels, representing only 0.1% of the total public expenditures. [مفتاح - المؤشرات المالية ذات MIFTAH | Facebook](#)
[العلاقة بمشروع قانون](#)

1.2.2 Opening dialogue on “Proposed amendments to the Local and General Elections Laws to promote the principles of equality and pluralism.”

As a result of MIFTAH’s continued and accumulative effort to realize social justice and gender equality in public policies and legislations, MIFTAH continued to foster community and policy dialogues throughout 2023. These dialogue sessions resulted in the formulation of a policy paper that included all consolidated reform and policy recommendations related to elections laws and legislations.

[Policy Paper \(miftah.org\)](#)

MIFTAH stressed through the policy paper on the following amendments in the General Elections Law:

- Amending article (5) on women’s ranking in lists, so they occupy advanced slots (1st or 2nd followed with one woman in the 3rd, 4th or 5th slots)
- Amending Article (45) on candidacy age, so that restrictions on age are lifted.
- Modifying Articles 68 & 69, to promote the CEC monitoring role on the spending on election campaigns run by candidates and setting upper ceilings.

Earlier in the year, MIFTAH opened dialogue with civil society organizations for setting a date for the general elections. Additionally, MIFTAH in partnership with several relevant civil society organizations launched a national campaign calling for general elections [#بدنا انتخابات](#)

[مفتاح - بيان للرأي العام المؤسسات الأهلية تدعو لإعادة MIFTAH | Facebook](#)

[بدنا انتخابات by MIFTAH - مفتاح \(soundcloud.com\)](#)

1.2.3 Leading dialogue on civic space restrictions by the PA

MIFTAH led the dialogue with representatives from political factions on the shrinking civic space for Palestinian civil society organizations and activists and the continued violations of their rights and freedoms by the PA. This comes in light of the lawsuit filed by the Presidential Bureau against the Coalition for Integrity and Accountability (AMAN). The lawsuit was in response to AMAN’s 2022 report on the status of integrity and anti-corruption and the related conference that presented that report.

The participants stressed that the acquisition of decision-making centers in light of the continued absence of elections and the dissolution of the Legislative Council, the weakness of oversight and accountability institutions, the absence of coordination and the collective position of the

various components of civil society regarding the ongoing infringements on public rights and freedoms, reflects the weakness of the political system and negatively affects the societal fabric. The participants formed a committee to organize an expanded meeting that includes all political factions, representatives of unions and federations, civil society institutions and legal figures. The meeting would address the danger of the current and next steps in confronting the Israeli settler-colonial attack, limiting attacks on civil space and public rights and freedoms, and developing an action plan.

[مفتاح - اجتماع مع ممثلين عن أحزاب وفصائل وطنية لبحث سبل مواجهة تحديات التضيق على فضاء المجتمع المدني وتراجع الحريات العامة \(miftah.org\)](https://miftah.org)

[Video](#) | [Facebook](#)

1.3 Result 3: Relevant stakeholders are equipped to support in the realization of the amended policies and legislations.

1.3.1 Preparing a new batch of Narrative Ambassadors

The Narrative Ambassadors Program managed to host a batch of around 25 students from Al Quds and Birzeit Universities in a summer camp at the Youth village. The students were provided with an orientation program on various topics ahead of their studies abroad and maintaining contact with them.

1.3.2 Carrying out an intensive capacity building program for newly elected women members

Due to the escalation of the security situation in the West Bank following the events of October 7th, and the continuous attacks by Israeli settlers and soldiers on Palestinian communities, MIFTAH expanded its capacity building program for women members in LGUs to include emergency response basics. This comes in line with MIFTAH's objective of empowering women members in LGUs and support their participation and leadership roles within these LGUs through providing women with guidelines on how to respond to emergency situations. Thus, MIFTAH built the capacity of 108 women local council members in addition to 19 women activists including female members from Al Najda association and CBOs and CSO representatives across the West Bank. The capacity building focused on Emergency Response guidelines, covering eight governorates including Jenin, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jericho and the Jordan Valley, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jerusalem, and Ramallah.

1.3.3 Organizing 1 youth camp for Social Justice and Gender Equality Influencers (on FPB, Elections Laws)

During July – August 2023, MIFTAH managed to gather around 30 young influencers from different districts in the West Bank, through a 3-day summer youth camp. MIFTAH's media team lead a participatory workshop process with the young influencers which included 1) enhancing their understanding of social justice, gender equality and democratic values, 2) advancing their

knowledge of human rights violations against women under occupation within the framework of WPS, 3) enrich their informative backgrounds about gender gaps in laws and legislation, 4) expand their awareness about the importance of the FPB and the gender gaps in national and local elections laws and lastly 5) build their capacities and skills in leading digital advocacy campaigns and provide them with needed techniques and tools to lead digital media influencing activities on social media platforms.

<https://www.facebook.com/miftahpal/videos/1496806911063829>

MIFTAH planned for a parallel youth camp in Gaza strip to be held on the 10th of October 2023 working with a group of 30 young activists and influencers from the strip. Unfortunately, all activities in Gaza were cancelled.

During the first 3 quarters of 2023, MIFTAH lead a series of trainings with youth groups and activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The training aimed at supporting youth engagement in national dialogues and enhancing their leadership capacities to address duty bearers with clear positions. Additionally, the youth were trained to advocate for promoting social justice, gender equality and combating GBV and discrimination in laws and legislations within the Palestinian context.

Around 110 young activists were trained to become advocates and public speakers (debaters). The 110 youth activists passed through specialized trainings sessions (6 in West Bank and one in Gaza) aiming to support the youths with needed definitions, conceptual and theoretical framework related to debates and negotiations, tools and tactics for running a debate, and requirements of a good debater and negotiator. In addition, MIFTAH, in consultation with field consultants, MIFTAH staff in Gaza and youth groups, worked on identifying two thematic areas for the youth to focus on; Family protection Bill in West Bank and gender equality in elections law in Gaza. These thematic areas were the focus of youth led advocacy through debates which were planned to be held in different districts during September and October 2023.

<https://www.facebook.com/miftahpal/posts/690324969799930>

The youth group in Gaza, with MIFTAH's staff supervision and support, were able to run a centralized debate with the engagement of public figures and political factions, academics, and university students. The youth were able to lead a very successful and participatory debate, which included a diverse audience who were actively engaged in discussions related to gender equality in elections laws through supporting women political participation.

<https://www.facebook.com/miftahpal/posts/681463824019378>

<https://www.soundcloud.com/miftahpal/sets/1496806911063829> (soundcloud.com) [المبادرات الشبابية in حلقة إذاعية - قانون حماية الأسرة](#)

[\(1\) Video | Facebook](#)

[\(1\) Video | Facebook](#)

[\(2\) Facebook Live | Facebook](#)

[MIFTAH...مفتاح - اختارت المبادرة الشبابية في محافظة #جنين بالتنسيق | Facebook](#)

[MIFTAH...ضمن "قانون حماية الأسرة من العنف"مفتاح - حلقة خاصة حول | Facebook](#)

[MIFTAH...تعزيز حماية ومشاركة الشباب"مفتاح - اختتمت مفتاح مشروع | Facebook](#)

1.3.4 Briefing women in Local Government Units on the Complaints system that MIFTAH is developing

MIFTAH held a series of informative workshops with elected women members of local councils on the complaints system across the West Bank including east Jerusalem. The informative sessions were done with the aim of enabling female members of local councils to express and report the problems they face in municipal and village councils.

The informative sessions presented the complaints' mechanism drafted by MIFTAH, the results of MIFTAH rapid assessment, justifications, and reasons behind the institutionalization of the complaints system, emphasizing that that the system would enhance the public confidence in the leadership role of female members of local bodies and enable them to promote the principles of good governance within local bodies (transparency, accountability, equality, and non-discrimination) and enable them to engage in anti-corruption efforts while providing protection for those who submit complaints or are subjected to harassment or exclusion.

1.3.5 Orientation of Al Muntada and Amal Coalitions members on the digital system for tracking cases of GBV

MIFTAH, developed an online portal to facilitate the tracking and monitoring by Al- Muntada member organizations to collect evidence on challenges that face battered women while trying to access protection services. The evidence collected through the monitoring will be used to hold duty bearers accountable for lack of protection means and lack of capacities by official institutions to act fast. The system will also assist in providing reliable data on the number of GBV cases being monitored by coalition members based on the accountability guidebook developed by MIFTAH earlier. This data will also support accountability measures taken by the members and used in advocacy purposes and MIFTAH's dialogue sessions.

MIFTAH conducted orientation and coaching for Al Muntada organizations to ensure a proper utilization of the online platform to collect evidence and prepare position papers and address

demands to guarantee safety and protection measures for battered women including those with disabilities.

1.3.6 Raising public awareness about the electoral demands through town hall meetings

MIFTAH during 2023, through its field advisory team, conducted around 180 awareness sessions on political participation and citizenship rights across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The town hall meetings stressed on the importance of pressing for legislative, presidential and local elections in all West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza Strip districts. They also endorsed the demand for equality in electoral laws, starting with raising the women's quota to a minimum of 30%, raising the candidacy age and lowering the threshold. They urged Palestinian factions to assume a key role in the process of inclusion for women and youth in the public sphere and to prevent the progression of tribalism in the democratic process. The attendees emphasized the importance of monitoring the performance of LGUs in their interaction with local communities and the consistency of their meetings. Finally, they said female council members must be given the opportunity to exercise their role in their respective councils as equals to their male counterparts.

1.3.7 Training on preparation of Citizens Budget in ten line Ministries.

MIFTAH held training workshops on Citizen Budgeting from the perspective of social justice and gender indicators, with the participation of the budget teams and gender units at six ministries; The Palestinian Ministry of Labor, Finance, Health, Education, Interior, and Social Development. The aim of the workshops was to enhance openness with the citizens by publishing financial data in a simplified manner by adopting the preparation of the Citizen's Budget as one of the international transparency standards.

1.3.8 Training on human rights conventions as references for security services in coordination with Al Istiqlal University

MIFTAH empowered military, civilian and academic members of Al Istiqlal University, the Palestinian Academy for Security Sciences in human rights conventions, including The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as references, for Palestinian security services. The training was based on a MIFTAH manual aimed at elevating the performance of the Palestinian security sector and developing policies and measures for its work to respond to the reality of gender discrimination against Palestinian women and girls. The training program included a presentation of gender-related concepts and their significance within the Palestinian context, as an analytical tool for the work of security services and at the level of organizational structures in military training academies, to guarantee equality, equity and non-discrimination based on sex, race or political affiliation. It also included a presentation on the development of women's rights within international conventions,

particularly CEDAW and UNSCR1325 and the extent to which they are applicable to the case of Palestinian women.

Specific Objective 2: Enhanced promotion of the Palestinian narrative at the international level

2.1 Result 1: Content of the Palestinian public discourse is formulated and presented continuously

2.1.1 MIFTAH uses digital media to promote the Palestinian narrative.

During the second half of 2023 with focus on the last quarter of 2023, MIFTAH mitigated the majority of the media productions to highlight on the gendered impact of the war on Gaza with the escalation of the military Israeli actions against Palestinians in West Bank and the active role women are playing during the War.

- Podcasts Women status in the War

https://soundcloud.com/miftahpal/sets/8skkjy9xnyjw?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

- Highlights on the human rights violations during the War on Gaza:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1404219877145535

https://www.instagram.com/p/C1WtIfMNmGG/?img_index=1

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Czd0HN7tRDj/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C0ymgQmPJg7/>

- Women Journalists role during the War on Gaza

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=672273115060972

- Challenges facing CSOs and CBOs in providing humanitarian aid during the War on Gaza

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=362679296456659

- Reproductive health rights of Palestinian women and girls during War in Gaza and the challenges facing health service providers.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1074294357257374

Broadcasting TV episodes focusing on the gendered impact of the Israeli Genocide War in Gaza and the escalation of Israeli military actions in the West Bank

1. The role of Local council women members in leading emergency response actions in the WB.

<https://youtu.be/-c5HKGxU8d0>

2. The Israeli control over clearance tax revenues during the Genocide War on Gaza and its impact on the PA fiscal commitments

<https://youtu.be/wrB93YkB7Qw>

3. The role of youth in leading public diplomacy and its influencing global public opinion.

<https://youtu.be/3yct-xXm-Yw>

4. The role of youth in leading advocacy campaigning through social and digital media.

https://youtu.be/us4_4WmbXqA

5. The violation of the IHL and related human rights conventions during Israeli Genocide War on Gaza

https://youtu.be/8G_OL0ybQdk

During the first half of the year 2023, the Public Discourse & Communication program was able to further disseminate the Palestinian narrative through different avenues and expand its in-person and digital footprint.

In the digital sphere, various topics of the Palestinian cause were covered on MIFTAH's social media platforms, such as Palestinian Prisoner's Day and International Women's Day, publishing digital campaigns, videos, and infographics. In addition, three more episodes of the Jerusalem Track were produced, highlighting self-demolition, freedom of worship, and forced displacement.

[MIFTAH - Healthcare Restricted: Female Cancer Patients in Gaza](#)

[MIFTAH - Israeli state-sanctioned settler terrorism: A gendered lens](#)

[MIFTAH - Denied: Freedom of worship in Jerusalem](#)

[MIFTAH - Twice displaced: Three generations of forced displacement](#)

[MIFTAH - 'Demolished with my own two hands'](#)

[MIFTAH - Today, the Nakba is yours](#)

[MIFTAH - No rest for the weary...life under Israeli occupation](#)

[MIFTAH - There is no place like 'this' home :Freedom of movement denied in Hebron's Old City](#)

[MIFTAH - Jenin, we salute you](#)

2.2 Result 2: Engagement in international advocacy dialogue is facilitated

2.2.1 Organizing Political Briefings with Diplomatic Missions:

Two diplomatic briefings were held in September and October of 2023, the former highlighting the political horizon post-Oslo and the latter discussing the urgent role of the international community during the Gaza genocide.

[\(1\) Facebook](#)

2.2.2 MIFTAH organized several networking and advocacy trips to Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium.

During December an advocacy trip was organized to Brussels and the Hague, highlighting the gendered impact of the unfolding and unprecedented events across historical Palestine with focus on Jerusalem, the genocide in Gaza, rising settler terrorism and mass arbitrary arrest waves in the occupied West Bank and the situation of Palestinian civil society, high-level meetings with top EU and member state officials, showing the focus on Palestine during such a period. The gendered impact of Israeli crimes across Palestine was the highlight, during this time and presented a policy paper on Israeli settlements and settler terrorism, supported with violations of Human Rights documentation, with a set of concrete recommendations to pursue accountability of Israel.

Officials were briefed on the ongoing genocide and their responsibilities to put an end to it with an immediate ceasefire and provision of unconditional humanitarian aid followed by international investigation and accountability. Also, briefings included the widespread torture, especially against women, as part of the mass arbitrary arrest campaign, sharing cases and testimonies.

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ct8ys2SMFF-/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

During September, a delegation from MIFTAH, including a young woman right holder from Jenin Refugee Camp, conducted different meetings with EU parliamentarians, networks, officials from MoFA, diplomatic missions, political parties and representatives from INGOs. The discussion was focused on women status under occupation where evidence was shared based on documented data reflecting the realities of the gendered impact of occupation.

During May, MIFTAH conducted an advocacy and networking trip to Spain, to brief various stakeholders on the situation of Palestinian women under Israeli apartheid and settler-colonialism and to explore collaboration opportunities with like-minded organizations. MIFTAH's delegation also participated in a mass rally in Barcelona marking 75 years of the ongoing [#Nakba](#), mobilizing with friends and allies towards action for Palestine.

<https://twitter.com/miftahpal/status/1661673879280951299>

<https://twitter.com/miftahpal/status/1661298824789336064>

<https://twitter.com/miftahpal/status/1660637535121338368>

<https://twitter.com/miftahpal/status/1659619370044145681>

<https://twitter.com/miftahpal/status/1706949728825455058>

<https://twitter.com/miftahpal/status/1706676007791480955>

2.2.3 MIFTAH Participates in the 52nd ,53rd and 54th Human Rights Council sessions

At international platforms, MIFTAH participated virtually and in person at the United Nations Human Rights Council's 52nd , 53rd and 54th sessions.

Under Item 7 as part of [#HRC54](#), we highlighted the escalating crimes by the current Israeli government, primarily state-sanctioned settler terrorism and its impact on women, and stressed the urgent need for international accountability.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cx-jxnoNBGU/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

Under item 3 of the United Nations [#HRC54](#), as part of the Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, MIFTAH highlighted the continued denial of the Palestinian people's rights, namely self-determination and return.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cx7pktutHNX/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

During the 53rd session, MIFTAH organized a side event, highlighting the situation of Palestinian women and girls across historical Palestine and in exile under Israel's military occupation, apartheid regime and settler-colonial project. The audience were briefed on the varying Israeli crimes and human rights violations committed against Palestinian women and girls based on the imposed geographical fragmentation. The event also hosted Carrie Shelver from the Sexual Rights Initiative, who talked about the importance of intersectional solidarity when it comes to Palestine and gender-related struggles. She also emphasized the need to have a progressive feminist discourse using an anti-colonial lens and including input from the global South. Finally, she discussed Israeli pinkwashing attempts that aim to obscure its crimes by promoting itself as a protector of women and depicting Palestinians as regressive. Finally, Palestinian activist Nada Awad informed the audience of the responsibility and obligations of the international community to end Israel's impunity and hold it accountable for its persistent crimes and human rights violations. She also laid out the various available tools and mechanisms for accountability, including the Commission of Inquiry, UN Special Rapporteurs, the International Criminal Court and the Convention of Ending All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

[MIFTAH - MIFTAH holds side event highlighting situation of Palestinian women under Israeli apartheid and settler-colonialism](#)

MIFTAH also submitted oral interventions at the United Nations Human Rights Council in its 53rd session, discussing the human rights situation in Palestine and the gendered impact of Israeli violations while calling for accountability and justice. During an interactive dialogue with the Working Group on discrimination against women & girls, MIFTAH highlighted Israel's discriminatory apartheid and settler-colonial project and its disproportionate impact on Palestinian women and girls.

For the full statements, please see the video [Facebook](#)

Moreover, in an interactive dialogue with High Commissioner Volker Turk as part of the 53rd session of the HRC, MIFTAH stressed that there is an abundance of documentation and reports on Israeli crimes and human rights violations, what is missing and needed is action and real accountability.

For the full statements, please see the video [Facebook](#)

Under [#Item7](#) as part of the HRC 52nd session, MIFTAH highlighted the impact of Israeli occupation, apartheid regime, and settler-colonialism on Palestinian women across historical Palestine and in exile through an oral statement.

For the full statements, please see the video [Facebook](#)

During the interactive dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on cultural rights Alexandra Xanthaki as part of [#HRC52](#), MIFTAH highlighted Israeli violations against religious rights and holy sites in occupied [#Jerusalem](#) amid attempts of Judaization and demographic engineering.

For the full statements, please see the video [Facebook](#)

During the interactive dialogue with UN High Commissioner Volker Turk as part of the United Nations [#HRC52](#), we highlighted the gendered impact of the Israeli occupation, apartheid regime, and settler-colonial project, referring to the deadliest year for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since 2005.

For the full statements, please see the video [Facebook](#)

2.2.4 MIFTAH calls for activating protection measures for Palestinian women facing human rights violations and discrimination policies under the Israeli prolonged occupation

In September 2023, a Joint Written Submission by MIFTAH, Kayan and the Non-Governmental Women Coalition for the Implementation of CEDAW to the CEDAW Committee was provided reflecting on the Sixth Periodic Report of Israel (2017). The submission was followed with a session on the 30th of October within the 88th Pre-Sessional Working Group of the CEDAW Committee, to discuss Israel's "List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LoIPR)". All partner organizations in addition to MIFTAH participated and shared facts and evidence-based data

related to women status in Jerusalem and in oPt with highlights on facts and figures related to Palestinian women during the Israel genocide war on Gaza and the escalation of military aggressions and invasions by the Israeli Occupation Forces in West Bank including Jerusalem after the 7th of October to discuss Israel's "List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LoIPR)". All partner organizations in addition to MIFTAH participated and shared facts and evidence-based data related to women status in Jerusalem and in oPt with highlights on facts and figures related to Palestinian women during the Israel genocide war on Gaza and the escalation of military aggressions and invasions by the Israeli Occupation Forces in West Bank including Jerusalem after the 7th of October.

CEDAW 88th Pre-Sessional Working Group / Joint submission by MIFTAH, Kayan and CEDAW Coalition tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2671&Lang=en

Specific Objective 3: Improved effective institutional and human capacity development at MIFTAH

MIFTAH during 2023, continued to work on developing its internal capacity and enhancing the principles of good governance and accountability within its work. MIFTAH depended on its internal capacities where possible but also relied on external expertise. To that end, MIFTAH has worked on the following issues:

- Finalizing and approving the Administrative and Financial manuals by the Board of Directors.
- Finalizing and approving the Governance Manual by the Board of Directors.
- Ongoing capacity building activities for staff on administrative and financial procedures in addition to programmatic and technical capacities.
- Implementation of the reviewed and updated staff job descriptions in line with the new hierarchy of the organization according to the new strategic plan 2022-2026. The job descriptions included clear and smart KPIs that were reflected in the annual performance evaluation forms.
- Recruitment of new staff members according to the recruitment plan and annual budget 2023.

4. MIFTAH's Publications in 2023:

Fiscal Justice

- [Citizens' Budget 2023: General Budget](#)
- [Citizens' Budget 2023: Ministry of Education](#)
- [Citizens' Budget 2023: Ministry of Interior](#)
- [Citizens' Budget 2023: Ministry of Health](#)

- [Citizens' Budget 2023: Labor Sector](#)
- [Citizens' Budget 2023: Ministry of Social Development](#)
- [Biannual Comparative Spending Report 2022-2023: Ministry of Interior](#)
- [Biannual Comparative Spending Report 2022-2023: Ministry of Education](#)
- [Biannual Comparative Spending Report 2022-2023: Ministry of Labor](#)
- [Biannual Comparative Spending Report 2022-2023: Ministry of Social Development](#)
- [Biannual Comparative Spending Report 2022-2023: Ministry of Health](#)
- [Annual Comparative Actual Spending Report for the Ministry of Interior and National Security 2021-2022](#)
- [Annual Comparative Actual Spending Report for the Ministry of Health 2021-2022](#)
- [Annual Comparative Actual Spending of the Ministry of Social Development \(MoSD\) for 2021-2022](#)
- [Annual Comparative Report of Actual Spending of the Ministry of Education \(MoE\) and Ministry of Higher Education \(MoHE\) for 2021/2022](#)
- [Financial Implications for the Implementation of the Family Protection Bill](#)
- [Actual Spending on Protection Program for Marginalized and Poor Groups: 2020-2022](#)

Special Reports

- [Analytical Report on Impact of House Demolitions on Jerusalemite Women and the Health Status of Refugee Women in Jerusalem](#)
- [Gendered Impact of Israeli Occupation forces night raids on Palestinian women and young girls](#)
- [Anit-Discrimination Index \(ADI\) in Palestinian Universities: Factsheet](#)