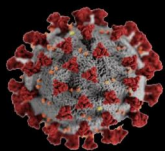


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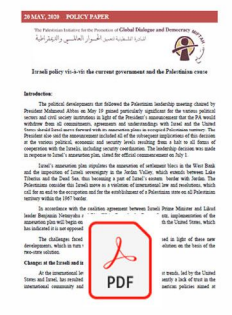
COVID - 19

#WearAMask #StaySafe



MIFTAH held a public policy session on Israeli policy vis-à-vis the current government and the Palestinian cause

Within the context of the unfavorable international developments currently taking place -- the nature of the populist, rightist takeover in many western countries, the inability of the EU to counter Israeli policies, Russia's preoccupation with other affairs, the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the agenda of several countries and the Arab world's regional conflicts, which in turn has weakened the international structure for holding Israel accountable – MIFTAH held a public policy session, which brought together Palestinian political and national leaders. The session resulted in a policy paper that summarizes the main ideas discussed in the meeting in a bid to find grounds for developing a national agenda, followed by more dialogue and discussion.



MIFTAH's seventh bi-annual newsletter comes amid challenging economic, political and health conditions that have ravaged occupied Palestine. Nevertheless, MIFTAH succeeded in realizing a number of achievements, which we are pleased to present here to our friends and partners.

Supporting women-headed households with parcels that meet the needs of families during the state of emergency

MIFTAH's efforts in empowering women, supporting their leadership role and achieving protection, social justice and equity within Palestinian society continued during the state of emergency. This support was manifested in the distribution of 800 food, health and medical parcels for women-headed households in eight governorates (Hebron, Nablus, Tulkarem, Jenin, Jerusalem, Jericho and the Jordan Valley, Bethlehem, Gaza Strip). This initiative will be replicated in a second phase prior to Eid Al-Adha, so that MIFTAH's support can reach approximately 2000 families.



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MIFTAH concludes four training workshops on "Supporting Women's Participation in National Elections"

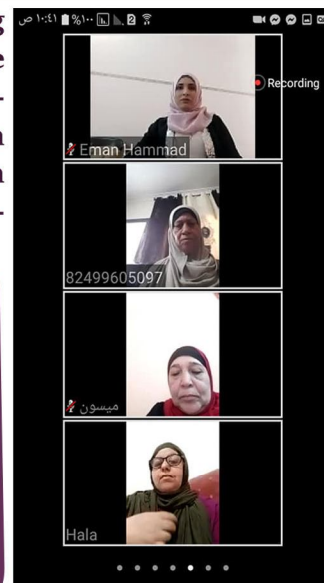
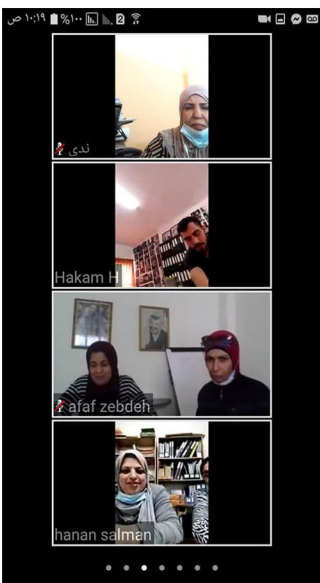


MIFTAH concluded four training workshops, each which lasted four days, on "Supporting women's participation in national elections". The workshops targeted several women activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who represent the various factions. The objective of the training was to contribute to the capacity-building and empowerment of women activists within Palestinian factions and parties and to prepare them for running in the upcoming legislative elections. The training workshops aimed at providing the women with information about national election laws and the electoral system in Palestine; offering them skills on preparing electoral platforms and speech-making; being able to participate in political debates based on the political and social programs of their parties or factions; managing campaigns and election publicity and skills on how to reach their target groups through the use of the media. These training workshops come within the framework of MIFTAH's efforts to prepare women and young leaders ready to enter public and political life and to guarantee their just representation in decision-making bodies by supporting the candidacy of youth and women in local and national elections.

Preparing a parallel report on the status of Palestinian women within Beijing +25 Platform for Action

MIFTAH initiated a dialogue on the draft parallel report to the Beijing Platform for Action 25 years after its announcement. The dialogue brought together a group of women's and human rights organizations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to validate and enrich the data presented in the report, which was prepared in collaboration between MIFTAH and the Women Center for Legal Aid and Counseling. The report addresses six main areas:

- 1) Gender-based violence.
- 2) Women and poverty.
- 3) Peaceful societies.
- 4) Women's political participation and representation in decision-making positions.
- 5) Women and work.
- 6) Women and the environment.



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Supporting the representation and participation of Palestinian women in efforts to end the political division and achieve national reconciliation

MIFTAH completed the implementation of the initiatives from the "Shufuna" platform, an interactive space for over 250 youth, women, activists, and political and social actors from Gaza and the West Bank, including Jerusalem. The initiatives were implemented during the state of emergency and were divided into three main pillars:

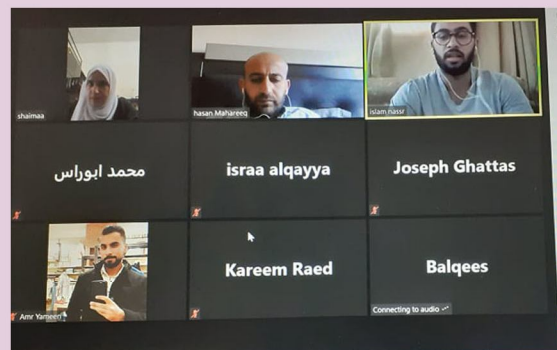
- 1) **Accountability:** Collecting over 3000 signatures on a petition prepared by Shufuna members, demanding increased representation and participation of women and youth in political life and in decision-making positions. Additionally, the members prepared audio-visual messages targeting the President, the Prime Minister, the General Secretaries and members of the political bureaus of the Palestinian factions, and duty bearers within the Palestinian government.
- 2) **Raising public awareness** on the political participation of women, for which several events were organized and conveyed messages to the local community on the role of women and the importance of their political participation.
- 3) **Modeling the leadership role of Palestinian women:** Developing video clips on various models of the leadership roles of Palestinian women in different sectors.



MIFTAH holds discussion session on the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the political participation of women and youth

MIFTAH held a discussion session with participants from the Palestinian Political and Social Active Youth Network who explained that the repercussions of the pandemic had surpassed its direct health impacts and negatively affected socioeconomic conditions as well. They maintained that over and above the hindrances already limiting youth participation before the pandemic, the changes that came in tandem with it resulted in an even more complicated situation with tools such as conferences, marches and direct campaigns no longer available.

The participants proposed a number of steps that could reinforce the presence of youth in the current political arena, most importantly carrying out activities to push back against Israeli annexation plans. This could be achieved through intensive media campaigns, which put Jordan Valley regions back at the forefront of the Palestinian conversation and bring to light the impacts of Israel's ongoing annexation policies. By increasing media campaigns, this could expose the actions of the Israeli government, which are based on displacement, expulsion of the indigenous Palestinian population and systematic racist measures against the Palestinian people.



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Hosted by MIFTAH

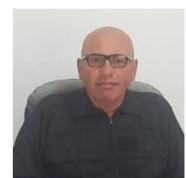
MIFTAH publishes interviews with political and prominent personalities to discuss the current developments in the Palestinian political arena, the changes in international political tracks and their impact on the Palestinian cause.

Throughout the first half of 2020, the following interviews were published:

George Giacaman: Professor at Birzeit University, political analyst and Board of Directors member of Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights: he discussed the developments that followed the official announcement of the “Deal of the Century” and the Palestinian, Arab and international stances prompted by this declaration. He also touched on several issues, most notably the decision of the International Criminal Court [to open an inquiry into Israeli war crimes], the continuous pursuit of the BDS movement, the Palestinian division and the importance of holding Palestinian elections.



Mazen Jabari: Director of the Arab Studies Society’s Youth Development Institute in Jerusalem: he discussed the Israeli occupation’s new approach against the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem by boosting Israeli municipality-affiliated community centers and allocating millions of shekels to prompt the Palestinian Jerusalemite community into accepting the occupation. Additionally, the views of some Jerusalem activists on these centers and how to deal with this new policy are included in the interview.



Daoud Al Deek, Deputy Minister of Social Development and Basri Saleh, Deputy Minister of Education: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the two discussed their respective ministries’ plans under the state of emergency, in addition to diagnosing the reality of marginalized groups and the education sector in light of the pandemic. They also talked about the programs their ministries are looking to implement to reduce risks.



Muayyed Afana: Economic Expert and Refaat Sabbah, head of the Palestinian Education Coalition: Mr. Afana reviewed the financial and budgetary situation, economic repercussions and the sectors most affected while Mr. Sabbah discussed the civil society crisis, during the state of emergency, concluding that civil society organizations have been forced to contemplate this new reality facing them.



Fadi Hidmi: Minister of Jerusalem Affairs, showcased the ministry’s work and developments in the city in spite of the huge challenges and impediments imposed by the Israeli occupation. These impediments are manifested in the continuous arrest and pursuit of young activists, the shutting down of health facilities and the undermining of Palestinian official and civil society institutions in the city.



MIFTAH Publications in 2020

Guidebooks:



Training Manual on UNSC Resolution 1325 which includes CEDAW recommendations 30, 32, 35



Guidebook on civic peace and women’s participation in peace and security efforts

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MIFTAH's Publications in 2020

Factsheet:

-  * Marking the 72nd anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba: Palestinian refugees
-  * International Labor Day: Labor market indicators in Palestine
-  * Palestinian Prisoners Day: Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails
-  * Locked in: Israel's house arrest policy against Palestinian children
-  * Palestinian Land Day: Israeli Settlements
-  * The reality of women and youth political participation in the Palestinian context: local and national electoral laws

Documentary and Advocacy Films:

- * An animation video was prepared that demonstrates the gaps and realities of the National Referral System for Battered Women with Disabilities.



- * In the context of supporting partner ministries, especially the ministries of health, labor and social development during the COVID-19 outbreak, MIFTAH worked on producing a number of awareness videos about the dangers of the virus and ways of prevention. The messages targeted the different social groups that benefit from the services of these ministries.



- * Actual spending report on the social sector during 2019
- * Actual spending report on the Ministry of Social Development during 2019
- * Actual spending report on the Ministry of Education and Higher Education during 2019
- * Actual spending report on the Ministry of Health during 2019

