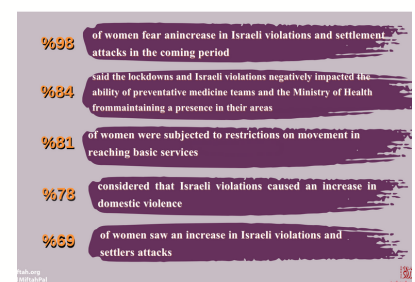
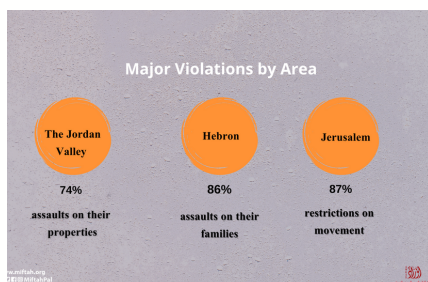


Biannual Newsletter Eighth Issue (July – December 2020)

MIFTAH's eighth biannual 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.

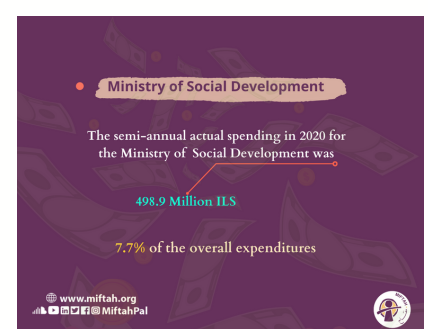
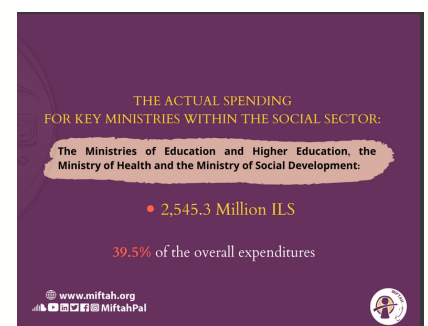
Launching of 2021-2024 second-generation strategic lobbying and advocacy plan for the Palestinian Women's Coalition for Implementing UNSCR 1325

MIFTAH sponsored the development and launching of the 2021-2024 second-generation strategic lobbying and advocacy plan for the Women's Coalition for UNSCR 1325 headed by the General Union of Palestinian Women and which is part of MIFTAH's efforts to promote the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Palestine. What distinguishes the strategic plan is that it was developed based on a process of broad consultations and on the needs and priorities of Palestinian women everywhere within the scope of Resolution 1325: participation, protection, accountability, prevention, and human security. The strategic plan for lobbying and advocacy includes the 2021 executive plan that would contribute to supporting Palestinian women's efforts in holding Israel accountable for its crimes and violations and ensure it does not have impunity, in addition to demanding the international community to assume its international legal responsibilities in protecting Palestinian women under international mechanisms. MIFTAH, as a first step in implementing the executive plan, released a study that monitored and documented Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian women during the state of emergency imposed during the coronavirus pandemic. The study was conducted in the districts of Jerusalem, Hebron, and the Jordan Valley and presented testimonies from a number of women, shedding light on the impact of occupation practices on Palestinian women.



MIFTAH submits demand papers to the Ministry of Finance to support social justice

MIFTAH submitted demand papers to the Ministry of Finance that request an increase in budget allocations to specific programs in line with ministries within the social sector. This would contribute to increasing citizens' access to social, health, and educational services in a way that enhances social justice in fiscal policies. The demand papers were a result of a series of consultations and dialogue sessions that included representatives of official and civil society institutions in addition to monitoring of government spending in line ministries within the social sector. They also fall within the framework of following up on the fiscal policies of the Palestinian government during the state of emergency, in addition to carrying out an economic and social analysis of these policies. These demands papers called for an increase in budget allocations for the vocational and technical training program at the Ministry of Education, which is considered an important entry point to reduce the high unemployment rates among women and youth, which stood at 52%, and to increase allocations for the integration and protection program at the Ministry of Social Development, which receives about 6% of the total budget of the ministry. This program is designed to enhance the protection of vulnerable community groups including women victims of GBV. The papers also called for an increase in allocations to the secondary and tertiary health services and care program at the Ministry of Health, through which the ministry seeks to provide comprehensive and sustainable health services.



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MIFTAH prepares to shed light on the implementation of CEDAW in occupied Jerusalem

As part of MIFTAH's efforts to disseminate the Palestinian narrative as a just cause, based on human rights conventions, including the implementation of "CEDAW" in Jerusalem, MIFTAH has begun working with a group of Palestinian civil institutions to document the complex situation of Jerusalemite women due to the multiple challenges and discriminatory practices in the city. This imposed reality is characterized by a decline in rights, widening legal gaps, and an increase in the discriminatory policies against Jerusalemite women. MIFTAH releases specialized reports based on "CEDAW" that document pieces of evidence related to the daily struggles of Jerusalemite women in their confrontation with the occupation and with the conflict in terms of the legal, social, and economic structures this reality imposes. These policies constitute constant hurdles for Jerusalemite women in accessing protection and justice.

Expanding dialogue circles to include General Union of Palestine Students (GUPS) branches in the Diaspora

Within its Youth Empowerment program, "MIFTAH" worked on expanding dialogue sessions aimed at reviving the General Union of Palestine Students. These sessions were held with representatives from the union's branches in the diaspora: Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria. The sessions discussed the proposed amendments to the union's constitution and called for the coordination of activities in a way that serves to accelerate the convention of its general conference. This was based on the premise of renewing the legitimacy of the union and preserving the unity of the youth given that GUPS is the national youth platform for all youth groups in factions and parties within the PLO.



MIFTAH continues awareness campaigns on elections through youth groups

MIFTAH continues its work on promoting public awareness of women's political participation and participation in the upcoming elections through the implementation of awareness workshops in all governorates of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These workshops, led by youth activists, contributed to raising public awareness on citizen rights, elections, and the political participation of women and youth. The youth activists received training on how to manage workshops, formulate action plans and mechanisms, conduct workshops in community centers and parties, and pass on the expertise and skills they acquired, with a special focus on the political participation of women. The training also helped to empower participants to promote themselves and their issues in a better way.

MIFTAH supports a group of youth and women activists within the "Shufuna" platform to hold political leaders accountable

MIFTAH supports a group of youth and women activists within the "Shufuna" platform to hold political leaders accountable for the decline in women's representation and exclusion of youth from national reconciliation dialogues by sponsoring the national reconciliation bus. The platform toured the offices of the general secretaries of the Palestinian factions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This was followed by the launching of the "Shufuna" strategy towards enhancing women's political participation and increasing the representation of women and youth in decision-making positions and in leading public affairs and national dialogues.



Young human rights defenders urge WHO to commit to the establishment of scientific laboratories for soil testing in the Gaza Strip

As part of MIFTAH's efforts to disseminate the Palestinian narrative based on human rights conventions, MIFTAH held a meeting to present its analytical report on documentation of Palestinian youth human rights defenders. The report contains the most prominent results of the youths' documentation during 2019-2020 and its legal analysis under international law. The meeting was attended by senior representatives from international and national human rights institutions. Among the most prominent recommendations is urging WHO to commit to following-up the establishment of scientific laboratories for soil testing for contaminants in the Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip caused by Israeli weapons.

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Multifaceted participation in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

As part of its role to shed light on the situation of Palestinian women and the multilayered violence against them by the Israeli occupation and society, MIFTAH held a number of interventions during the second half of 2020. These interventions included participation in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence with a special focus on the Family Protection Bill; #OrangetheWorld #Together_for_homes_free_of_violence. MIFTAH produced a series of television episodes that were aired on "Wattan" Network, in which discussions were opened on several topics related to the adoption of the Family Protection Bill, the official position, the position of religions, the law as a means of protection and prevention and the law between the human rights identity and the societal outlook. MIFTAH also prepared a factsheet entitled "Annexation plan of the Jordan Valley" which showcases the most important facts and figures on the Israeli annexation plan for the occupied Palestinian lands and projects the expected effects of this annexation on Palestinian women. Additionally, MIFTAH prepared multi-media productions explaining the spread of GBV in Palestine in an attempt to raise awareness on the importance of passing of the Family Protection Bill. MIFTAH staff also supported the campaign's activities:



Hosted by MIFTAH:

MIFTAH publishes interviews with political and prominent personalities to discuss current developments in the Palestinian political arena, the changes in international political tracks, and their impact on the Palestinian cause. Throughout the second half of 2020, the following interviews were published:

Political pundits: Dr. Ghassan Al Khatib, Khalil Shahin, Dr. Honaida Ghanem: the recent US presidential elections and Democratic candidate Joe Biden's victory will have repercussions on the relationship of the new US administration with both Palestinians and Israelis. They also say these results will generate tangible changes to US policies, to the Biden administration's international relations, and to domestic American affairs.



Zakariya Odeh: Coordinator for the Civil Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem: Israel's policies on the social, health, and economic rights of Jerusalemites, in particular towards housing, have escalated in the recent period; he cited the spike in the number of demolished homes, whether by Israeli municipal teams or coerced self-demolitions.

Jerusalem personalities: Hatem Abdel Qader, Rasem Obeidat, Ismail Maslamani, Madhat Deebe, Mazen Ja'bari, Ziad Hammouri, and Fouad Abu Ahmad: the coronavirus pandemic was exploited to further Israel's racist policies towards Jerusalemites through the preventative measures against Covid-19 which were employed in the service of the occupation.



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MIFTAH Publications in 2020:

Special Studies:

Government Spending on Remote Learning at the Ministry of Education During COVID-19 Pandemic



Comparison between the Contributions of the Privet Sector and Large Companies Regarding Tax Exemptions During Coronavirus Pandemic 'Waqfet Izz'



The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Public Health Services



Government Spending on Antipoverty Policies During COVID-19



Analytical Report on the Violations of Social and Cultural Rights as monitored by the Young Human Rights Defenders in 2019



The reality of political participation and economic implications for Palestinian women during the state of emergency



Status of Palestinian women political participation – Follow-up on the implementation of CEDAW committee recommendations related to Article 7



The Actual Spending on Key Ministries within the Social Sector in 2019 & 2020



A Diagnostic Study on International Funds for Women, Peace and Security Agenda



Protection of Women from Violence in Times of Armed Conflict: Palestinian Women as a Case Study



National Strategies:

Palestinian Women's Coalition for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace, and Security: Strategic Framework for Lobbying and Advocacy (2021-2024)



Shufuna Strategy: Towards the Integration of Palestinian Women and Increasing their Representation in National Reconciliation Dialogues and Decision-Making Positions



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 Publications in 2020:

Factsheets:

Info-graphic on women and youth political representation within the applied national and local electoral systems in Palestine



Wakfat Izz Fund: Brief Report



Actual spending report on the social sector during 2019



Palestinian Land Day: Israeli Settlements



Actual spending report on the Ministry of Education and Higher Education during 2019



Actual spending report on the Ministry of Social Development during 2019



Marking the 72nd anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba: Palestinian refugees



Actual spending report on the Ministry of Health during 2019



Palestinian Prisoners Day: Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails



international Labor Day: Labor market indicators in Palestine



Annexation plan of the Jordan Valley and its effect on women



Locked in: Israel's house arrest policy against Palestinian children

