

# ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2008

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



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The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy

**MIFTAH**

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## Letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees



It is my pleasure to present MIFTAH's tenth annual activities report. On this occasion, let me also offer congratulations to this organization's administration, board and staff for their continued excellence in effectively contributing to Palestinian society. Since its inception, MIFTAH has been a beacon in Palestine for the promotion of democracy, good governance and empowerment, especially of marginalized sectors. It has also demonstrated exemplary ability towards professionalism, both in implementing its activities on the ground and in terms of accountability and transparency and in offering an independent Palestinian perspective through its media program.

Through its various projects, MIFTAH has been a frontrunner in the empowerment of women and youth in Palestinian society, two sectors all too often marginalized. In addition, MIFTAH has played a key role in promoting open and free dialogue among all sectors of Palestinian society and has advocated and embraced the free flow of information and independent analysis.

Throughout the past decade, MIFTAH has won and maintained a respectable reputation among Palestine's NGOs and has continued to uphold its high standards and work ethics in contributing to the development of Palestinian society. MIFTAH has equally maintained its status in the international arena through its projects and participation in international conferences and workshops.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank MIFTAH for the exemplary work it has provided to Palestinian society as a whole and for its continued endeavors and commitment to maintain and strive for excellence.

*Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far*

## Foreword by the Secretary General of MIFTAH



As MIFTAH's Secretary General, I would like to present the organization's tenth annual activities report, which gives an outline of MIFTAH's implemented projects and activities throughout this year and also its future aspirations.

I am pleased to say that this year has been extremely productive in terms of our projects and of MIFTAH's overall fulfillment of its mission statement towards promoting global dialogue, democracy and good governance. To this end, we have continued our work with women and youth, both in the political arenas and on the ground in order to empower these marginalized sectors and thus render them more effective in society.

In addition, MIFTAH has also continued its efforts in strengthening the role of the media in enhancing systems of accountability and transparency and access to information through its endeavors of media monitoring. Several media monitoring reports have been issued on major events.

MIFTAH's women leadership and youth empowerment programs continue to top its priorities, specially of supporting women and youth in political life and decision-making positions. MIFTAH is also involved with these sectors in income-generating projects in Palestinian rural areas in a bid to strengthen their role in society and offer them more independence in their communities and at home.

It is my belief that MIFTAH has and continues to do important and crucial work within Palestinian society towards advancing this society and transforming it into a more democratic and responsible entity. Part of MIFTAH's philosophy is that for a sound society to be developed, principles and values of good governance, responsible citizenship and the free flow of information and ideas must be instilled. MIFTAH has played an active role over the past 10 years to realize this aspiration.

Hence, allow me to give thanks to MIFTAH's board members, funders, administration and staff for showing incredible team work and realizing the goals which we set for ourselves at the beginning of this year. We are equally as committed to further developing and advancing our work for the years to come in order to widen our platform of influence and increase our positive role in our society. I am confident that MIFTAH's team is competent, ready and willing to take on any new challenges set for it in the future, equipped with a commitment to creating a better Palestine.

*Lily Feidy*

## MIFTAH's Vision, Mission and Objectives

### **Vision**

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

### **Mission**

MIFTAH seeks to promote the principles of democracy and good governance within various components of Palestinian society; it further seeks to engage local and international public 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 official and popular bodies and decision-makers.
2. To empower effective leadership within all components of Palestinian society, focusing on marginalized sectors, in order to enhance democracy and good governance and raise public 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 capability to achieve its objectives and mission efficiently and effectively.

## MIFTAH's Board of Trustees

### **Hanan Ashrawi**

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

### **Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far**

*Chair of the Board of Trustees*

### **Lily Feidy**

*Secretary General*

### **Ziad Abu-Amr**

*Former President of the Palestinian Council on Foreign Relations; member of the Palestinian Legislative Council*

### **Maha Abu Dayyeh-Shammas**

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

### **Ghassan Khatib**

*Director of the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center*

### **Rema Hammami**

*Professor of Anthropology; Head 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 of 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*

### **Sa'id Khouri**

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

### **Sabih Al-Masri**

*Chairman of ASTRA Group*

### **Abdel-Muhsin Qattan**

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

### **George Salem**

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

### **Eyad Al-Sarraj**

*Director General of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program*

### **Azmi Shuaibi**

*AMAN Commissioner for Combating Corruption; MIFTAH treasurer*

### **Raji Sourani**

*Director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights*

## Who's Who at MIFTAH

Employee	Title
Dr. Lily Feidy	Secretary General
Dolly Nammour	Development Director
Rula Muzaffar	Director – Financial and Administrative Affairs
Shadi Abu Ayyash	Arabic Media Coordinator
Joharah Baker	Writer – Media and Information Program
Nadia Awad	Researcher – Media and Information Program
Mu'ath Bakri	IT Coordinator
Bisan Abu Ruqti	Project Director
Reem Wahdan	Project Coordinator
Najwa Yaghi	Project Coordinator
Maleeha Nassar	Project Coordinator
Ruham Nimri	Project Coordinator – Media Monitoring Unit
Muhammed Abed Rabbo	Analyst – Media Monitoring Unit
Ala' Karajeh	Information Coordinator – Media Monitoring Unit
Nahed Abu Sneineh	Project Coordinator
Marina Qaqish	Assistant to Financial Director
Arwa Jaber	Project assistant
Maysa Hindeleh	Administrative Assistant to different projects
Manar Harb	Executive Assistant to the Secretary General and the Executive Committee
Khuloud Ju'beh	Secretary
Ja'far Ladadweh	Receptionist
Nizar Al Touri	Driver
Nawal Harb	Services
Employees who left in 2008	Title
Reem Shadid	Special Assistant to the Secretary General and the Executive Committee
Caelum Moffatt	Writer for Media and Information Unit [June 2007-June 2008]
Mousa Qous	Arabic Media Coordinator [January 2005-January 2008]
Suha Jabareen	Services
Interns	
Yasmin Abou Amer	Media and Information Program
Maiko Sato Karam	Media and Information Program

## MIFTAH's Programs

### DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Components of the Program

**Empowerment of Palestinian women leadership**

**Empowerment of Palestinian youth leadership**

**Policy Formulation**

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

**Strengthening the role of the media and access to information**

### MEDIA AND INFORMATION

Components of the Program

#### **Information and Informatics**

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

#### **Media Monitoring Unit**

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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MIFTAH'S ACTIVITIES

*Following is a summary of the organization's project achievements.*

### GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

#### **Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership**

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

MIFTAH's activities in the Women and Elections Project included inviting some elected PLC female members to a town hall meeting in July 2008 as part of MIFTAH's project "Enhancing the Role of Civil Society in the Legislative Process" where they discussed informal justice and the rule of law.

On July 12, 2008, MIFTAH arranged the fifth exchange visit for elected women at the local councils which was attended by 20 women leaders from different West Bank cities. Topics discussed included: role of women in local councils; obstacles and challenges facing women; ways of overcoming difficulties and ways of supporting each other. MIFTAH is currently working with other women's organization on reviving the "National Campaign for Improving Women's Political Participation."

##### **2. Gender, Peace and Security**

This project, aimed at putting into operation UN Resolution 1325, carried out a number of activities throughout 2008. These included: the printing and distribution of one thousand copies of policy briefs; four media events combating gender-based violence; the project's user guide and lexicon was promoted with coalitions; and support for the National Committee for Combating Violence against Women was increased.

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

This project is aimed at establishing a gender-sensitive Palestinian national budget and promoting gender responsive budgeting in Palestine.

Throughout the year, a group of official experts recruited from the line ministries in charge of setting their ministries' budgets was formed and targeted by an information session that took place in April 2008 when they were introduced to the concept of Gender-Responsive Budget (GRB). Another session was held in June 2008 for 14 officials from the Budget Department in the Ministry of Finance.

MIFTAH held a meeting in the Council of Ministries on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2008 that aimed at presenting the concept of GRB and the main results and recommendations of the sectoral research studies that were carried out in the following sectors: education, health, labour and social affairs. The results and recommendations were presented to 24 representatives of the above mentioned ministries in a workshop in October 2008.

An international expert on GBV -Kathrin Schneider- was invited to conduct a three-day training course on April 23-25, 2008. About 15 participants from the line ministries, women's organizations, Project Steering Committee, and free lance trainers attended.

A pilot gender opinion survey was conducted in partnership with The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). The results of the survey were presented in a workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2008. 35 participants from NGOs and GOs, researchers, and Steering Committee members attended.

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

For over a year now, MIFTAH has started implementing a project for "The Empowerment of Palestinian Women in Rural Areas through Income-Generating Projects," by establishing five income-generating projects in five villages for 35 poor women (four Beekeeping projects, and one Green House project. A five-day management course for small projects was carried out in the Ramallah-area village of Kufr Nimeh.

An educational meeting was also held in the five villages where the project was being carried out entitled "How to deal with children from behavioral and psychological aspects."

The projects were reported in the local media including the print and radio media in addition to a radio interview with the project coordinator on Voice of Palestine.

## **Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leadership**

### **1. Active Youth for Democratic Citizenship**

The project attempted to build on MIFTAH's experience in the area of youth empowerment.

A three-day training course targeting the youth was held in March and stimulated general interest in constitutionalism and active democratic citizenship and focused on the definition of concepts such as democratic citizenship, political and civil rights, citizens' responsibilities and the rule of law in light of the Basic Law.

### **2. Supporting Young Palestinian Political Leaders**

This project aimed at building the capacity of young Palestinian leaders so that they are more able to assume senior positions of responsibility in their political parties.

A mass media campaign was conducted. Billboards and flyers were designed for the project. Daily advertisements were published in the local official newspapers with a wide outreach for two weeks.

Furthermore, a research study was conducted on Youth and Parties in Palestine **and** aimed at identifying the reality and the role of the youth in the Palestinian political life. A training course was held in October 2009 in Ramallah and Gaza simultaneously aimed at creating strategic plans for the political parties.

## **Policy Formulation**

In tradition with MIFTAH's convening of policy meetings, in 2008 one meeting was held which resulted in a policy paper on April 24, 2008 that revolved around Palestinian alternatives and strategies for the coming phase in light of the political and geographic split between the West Bank and Gaza.

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

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

**The project** aimed at enhancing the role of civil society organizations in the legislative process through establishing a **Monitoring Unit** to follow up the performance of the PLC .

Part of this project’s activities is establishing a multimedia Library. The project’s team at MIFTAH continues to gather resources, documents and information in an effort to build up the PLC multimedia library it started in 2007.

Furthermore, six town hall meetings were held with PLC members on pertinent issues that dealt with the relationship between citizens and lawmakers. The last town hall meeting was held in Jerusalem and entitled “Supporting Education in the Jerusalem Schools Run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education”

A workshop was held on October 22, 2008 to discuss the study entitled “Decrees Having the Status of a Law Promulgated by the President in Cases of Emergency” in which representatives from civil society, legal experts, PLC members and representatives from the President’s office attended.

A paper entitled, “Decree Law No.1 of 2007 Pertaining to General Elections” was also written. The paper gives a historical review of the development of the Palestinian Elections Law, and discusses how the newly issued presidential decree influences the Palestinian political system.

A workshop was held on November 12, 2008 to discuss a report prepared by MIFTAH on the “Performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council in the Period between July 2007 and July 2008.” This is the organization’s second report on the PLC’s performance.

MIFTAH conducted a mass media campaign under the slogan, “A Participating Citizen, an Efficient Palestinian Legislative Council, and a country for All” during December, 2008, which included television spots, billboards and flyers.

## MEDIA AND INFORMATION PROGRAM

As is the case with each year, this program handles all the media aspects of the organization in English and Arabic, including the updating of the website, writing of original articles and press statements in addition to factsheets and special studies. In addition to this, the Media and Information team met with several foreign delegations and student groups for political briefings on the situation. MIFTAH's senior writer was a participant speaker in a UN conference held on June, 2008 in Malta on the Question of Palestine. Several articles originally printed on the MIFTAH website have been republished in other places. In addition, select articles get sent out to MIFTAH's mailer list of approximately 8,200 recipients, to which MIFTAH receives weekly feedback.

### Media Monitoring Unit

#### Media Monitoring Unit

MIFTAH has established the first professional Media Monitoring Unit in the Palestinian territory that monitors the local media outlets and educates journalist and the public about problematic patterns in media coverage. It is anticipated that this action will improve communication between the media and news consumers to further develop action plans for changing the discourse in the mass media. The first of these actions started with a partnership between MIFTAH and the Israeli Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel-Keshev-on monitoring incitement. Now MIFTAH has been called to monitor the portrayal of religions and the portrayal of women as decision-makers.

MIFTAH regularly monitors the main Palestinian newspapers as well as the Palestine Broadcasting Corporation. MIFTAH has also monitored Al-Aqsa Television from the Gaza Strip, for its report on coverage of infighting between Palestinian factions.

Throughout 2008, MIFTAH produced the three following reports:

1. Media Coverage by Palestine Television (PBC) and Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel Following Hamas' Military Takeover of Gaza (April 2008)
2. Palestine Investment Conference (August 2008)
3. Annapolis: The Coverage of the Three Palestinian Newspapers and Palestine Television of the Conference (September 2008)

In addition, the Unit produced three periodic updates:

1. Dimona Operation: The Coverage of the Three Newspapers and Palestine Satellite Television (May 2008)
2. The “Bulldozer Operation” in Jerusalem: A Balanced Media Coverage (August 2008)
3. President Bush’s first visit to the region (May 2008)

## Ongoing Core Activities

As part of its effort to continue its work in promoting democracy and good governance, MIFTAH has maintained its networking and advocacy activities year round. It continues to hold meetings and contacts with several Palestinian ministries and officials, especially those related to its projects on women and youth, in addition to holding meetings that promote an open dialogue among the different components of Palestinian society.

# Good Governance and Democracy Program

## I. Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership

### Projects

1. Women in Elections – Women Electoral Support Points (WESPs)
2. Women Electoral Points (Evaluation of women's program)
3. Gender Peace and Security
4. Instituting a Gender-Responsive Palestinian National Budget
5. Gender Responsive Budget in Local Councils
6. The Empowerment of Palestinian Women and Youth in Rural Areas through Income-Generating Projects

## II. Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leadership

### Projects

1. Active Palestinian Youth for Democratic Citizenship, Palestine.
2. Supporting Young Palestinian Political Leaders

## III. Monitoring the Legislative Process through Enhancing the Civil Society “Watch dog” Role

## IV. Policy Formulation

## EMPOWERMENT OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN LEADERSHIP

### Women and Elections: Women Electoral Support Points

[Funder: International Republican Institute (IRI)]

[Duration of Project: August 2007- July 2008]

#### Description:

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



WESP's training – Ramallah June 2008

#### Project Objectives:

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

**Activities:****Elected Members' Consultancy**

Capacity building and individual consultancy for female leaders and elected members in the local councils and the PLC are among the main components of MIFTAH's project. The coordinators are keen on staying in touch with every elected woman the project wishes to support.

As part of the project, MIFTAH's activities included inviting some elected PLC female members (MIFTAH's group) to town hall meetings. The meeting was held on July 16, 2008, as part of MIFTAH's project "Enhancing the Role of Civil Society in the Legislative Process," and discussed informal justice and rule of law. Legislator Najat Astal also attended a workshop that was organized by MIFTAH on June 30, 2008 as part of MIFTAH's project of "Gender, Peace and Security" to discuss a policy paper that laid out recommendations for decision makers regarding domestic violence against women.

As for elected members of the local councils in Hebron and Jerusalem, the field coordinators worked closely with the women who submitted project proposals to MEPI. In Ramallah, MIFTAH worked closely with the elected women in some village councils to select those women who are economically disadvantaged who will receive small grants to start their income generating projects (a project that MIFTAH is implementing funded by OFID).

**Exchange visit**

On July 12, 2008 MIFTAH arranged the fifth exchange visit for elected women at the local councils which was attended by 20 women leaders from different West Bank cities. Topics discussed included: role of women in local councils; obstacles and challenges facing women; ways of overcoming difficulties and ways of supporting each other.

**Training session**

A training session was held on July 12-13, 2008 in Khan Younis for 27 women leaders and activists in Human Resource Management.

## Networking and Advocacy

MIFTAH focused on public and open meetings in response to the needs of women in the local communities to give them an opportunity to meet with decision makers and discuss the latest political developments. A public meeting was conducted in each district by MIFTAH and in coordination with local organizations to advocate women's active citizenship and get community support for elected women.

MIFTAH is currently working with other women's organization on reviving the "National Campaign for Improving Women's Political Participation." A framework was designed and several meetings were conducted to discuss prospective steps of mobilization in order to guarantee women's involvement in peace negotiations, internal dialogue, and legal reform, since the Palestinian President's Office is currently amending a set of laws (including Family Law).

## Gender, Peace and Security

[Funder: UNFPA]

[Duration of Project: January-December 2008]

### Description:

The project "Gender, Peace and Security" is based on the CP outcome of institutional mechanisms and social-cultural practices that promote and protect the rights of women and girls and advance gender equity. 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.

The project activities aim at building on the previous three years' experience in putting into operation UN Resolution 1325 that promotes gender, peace and security. Project activities include strengthening networks of



Gender opinion survey – Ramallah December 2008

NGOs and journalists to create forums for the dissemination of information on the role of gender equality in peace and security, capacity building and media events.

### **Achievements:**

1. Two stockholder meetings were held to finalize the two policy briefs during which valuable recommendations were made.
2. One thousand copies of the policy briefs were printed and distributed.
3. Consensual action plan for Resolution 1325 coalition was supported.
4. Four media events combating GBV were funded.
5. User guide and lexicon promoted with coalitions.
6. Support of the National Committee for Combating Violence against Women was increased

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

[Duration of project: December 2007-December 2008]

[Funder: Danish Representative Office]



Policy Meeting – Ramallah October 2008

### **Description:**

This project is aimed at establishing a gender-sensitive Palestinian national budget and promoting gender responding budgeting in Palestine. It aims to contribute positively to the Palestinian women's status and rights through making proposals for a reprioritization of expenditures and revenues, which take into account the different needs and priorities of women. It also aims at increasing the transparency of economic governance and management processes, and hold national actors accountable to their policy commitment to women. Added to that is the aim to develop and implement strategies for women's participation in economic decision-making through their engagement in budgetary processes.

## **Achievements:**

### **The Formation of a Palestinian Forum of Official Experts**

A group of official experts recruited from the line ministries in charge of setting their ministries' budgets was formed and targeted by an information session that took place on 16 April 2008 where the expert introduced the concept of a GRB. Another session was held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008 for 14 officials from the Budget Department in the Ministry of Finance, and led by a local expert.

The project team also decided to start systematic advocacy work to get an official (political) commitment to GRB through lobbying the Prime Minister and the President in an efficient way. As such, a local expert was contracted to prepare a concept paper on how to target decision makers, how to formulate specific demands and draft letters to be sent to them.

Miftah held a meeting in the Council of Ministries on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2008, aimed at presenting the concept of GRB and the main results and recommendations of the sectoral researches for 18 participants from line ministries including Secretary General of cabinet and the General Director of the budget department at the Ministry of Finance.

### **Research Studies**

Four sectoral research studies were carried out in the following sectors: education, health, labour and social affairs. The researchers examined the gender aspect of the four ministries' policies, budget and programs with the hope that these studies will help decision makers take decisions, plan and formulate policies on the priority fields of work to be done in this phase. The researchers submitted their work by end of July 2008 and the results and recommendations were presented to 24 representatives of concerned ministries in a workshop that took place in the Ministry of Finance on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

### **International Expert Visit**

An international expert on GBV -Kathrin Schneider- was invited to conduct a three-day training on April 23-25, 2008. About 15 participants from the line ministries, women's organizations, project Steering Committee, and free lance trainers attended. The expert's visit was coordinated with Henrich Boll Foundation through MIFTAH's partnership in the project "Gender Responsive Budget in Local Council."

The main topics covered by the trainer included: Definition, basic concepts and objectives of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB); Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiatives – Good practices and lessons learnt; The planning and budget process in Palestine; Sector specific issues related to gender responsive budgeting; Sex-disaggregated statistics and time use data; Case studies: Morocco and India.

### **Gender Opinion Survey**

A pilot gender opinion survey was conducted in cooperation and partnership with The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). The results of the survey were presented in a workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2008. 35 participants from NGOs and GOs, researches, and the Steering Committee members, discussed the results of the survey, and concluded that these kinds of surveys are very important for women's organizations' work and useful for GRB work since it provides evidence on topics that are not measured by standard survey.

The survey was printed and distributed to the different stakeholders, public libraries and universities.

### **Study Visit to Morocco**

A study visit was organized to explore the Moroccan experience in the GRB field on 19<sup>th</sup> till 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The delegation had the opportunity to learn more about steps, chances, viability in Morocco's experience which Palestinians can benefit from, as this visit provided a clear vision to a new experience to change the civil status law, and the penal code, in parallel with the reform and development Palestinian plan.

### **The Empowerment of Palestinian Women and Youth in Rural Areas through Income-Generating Projects**

[Funder: OPEC Fund for International Development, OFID]

[Duration: May 2008 – December 2009]

#### **Description:**

The project primarily aims at contributing to the empowerment of Palestinian women in rural areas through small income-generating projects. Its other goals include:

1. Empowering marginalized groups such as women, and involving them in the development process;

2. Supporting women's initiatives to improve their standards of living and offering them economic opportunities;
3. Helping women to own their own income-generating resources so they can achieve a certain level of self-sufficiency for their families and so they could be part of the decision making process.
4. Contributing to the development of the community through developing capacities and implementing women's projects.



Income generating project for women – Ramallah November 2008

### **Activities:**

#### **Management course for small projects in Kufr Nimeh**

The first stage of this training course was completed for the beneficiaries, which focused on administrative and financial issues related to income-generating projects. The course was for 30 hours over a period of five days in November, 2008. The training was carried out in conjunction with Asala and two of their trainers in the field of small project management.

#### **Steering committee meetings**

The steering committee's second meeting was held on October 25, 2008 and addressed the issues of contracts, tenders and agreements.

#### **Preparation of tenders for the five villages**

Preparation of necessities and tenders were carried out for the two income-generating projects – beehives and greenhouses – which officially began in March, 2009 in conjunction with the project manager and an agricultural engineer.

#### **Educational meetings in five villages**

In preparation for the projects, educational meetings were held in the chosen villages. The first meeting was entitled, "**How to deal with children from behavioral and psychological aspects.**"

## Media coverage

The projects were reported in the local media including the print and radio media in addition to a radio interview with the project coordinator of Voice of Palestine.

## EMPOWERMENT OF PALESTINIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP

### Active Youth for Democratic Citizenship

[Funder: National Endowment for Democracy]

[Duration of Project: February, 2008 – January, 2009]



Youth training – Ramallah March 2008

#### Description:

MIFTAH's project, *Active Youth for Democratic Citizenship* is an attempt to build on MIFTAH's experience in the area of youth empowerment. It aims at making youth aware of the fact that citizenship is not only a legal and political concept, but an –all embracing one. On the one hand, citizenship implies that all citizens, women and men alike, should have full enjoyment of human rights and learn how they are protected by the democratic society. On the other hand,

citizenship also implies that everyone needs to get involved in matters that concern life in society and to act throughout their lives as active and responsible citizens advocating democracy and respect for the rights of others.

#### Activities:

Activities were planned in two phases, which include training courses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. One training course was carried in Ramallah. It stimulated general interest in constitutionalism and active democratic citizenship; strengthened the commitment of the target group to expanding knowledge in the field of democratic citizenship into practice; the youth leaders-participants- better understand and present principles of democratic citizenship and key concepts of active citizenship and rule of law; and are better equipped to promote principles of democracy, citizenship, and active participation

The three-day training course with a total of 18 training hours was held on March 23-25, 2009 and targeted 14 selected young leaders from different districts of the West Bank. The training course aimed at involving the participants in an in-depth review and analysis of the definition of the following: democratic citizenship, political and civil rights in the Palestinian Basic Law, majority rule, minority rights, civil-military relations in the Palestinian laws, negative rights, positive rights, government accountability, citizens' responsibilities and rule of law, in light of the Palestinian Basic Law and the Amended Basic Law.

### **Evaluation:**

MIFTAH worked on two levels of assessment and evaluation of the training. One comprises the assessment made by the trainer and the project's coordination team, and the other includes the evaluation made by the beneficiaries- the participants- themselves through evaluation forms. The team held daily briefings to assess the flow of the training and to decide on any changes in approach that might deem better results. The trainer believed that there was a good level of communication among the participants, which helped in the smooth-sailing of the training, and felt that the variety of participant cultural, educational, and political views also added a flavor to the discussions. MIFTAH continues to invest in these participants and expose them to new opportunities. As such, MIFTAH suggested their names to the US Consulate International Visit's Program for 2008, and made sure they received "NASEEJ" Youth Initiatives call for proposals (Affiliate of Save the Children International), so as to encourage them towards more community service by youth planned, organized and implemented initiatives.

### **Evaluation by Trainees:**

Participants voted *excellent* to *good* on the following :

- The inter-connection among the discussed issues and subjects;
- The discussions achieving the set results and participant expectations;
- The training fulfilling the participant expectations;
- The practicality of the training;
- The time given for the discussions;
- The success in facilitating discussions.

## Supporting Young Palestinian Political Leaders

[Funder: Norwegian Representative Office]

[Duration of Project: May 2008 – July 2009]



Discussion Session – Ramallah October 2008

### Description:

The project aims at building the capacity of young Palestinian leaders so that they are more able to assume senior positions of responsibility by introducing young Palestinian leaders to different experiences and counterparts from various districts, and guiding them through initiatives that respond to specific democratic development needs. The project targets selected young members (age group 25-35) 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. This project provides an opportunity to reach out to women in political parties.

### Activities:

#### Mobilization media campaign

MIFTAH contracted a qualified advertisement firm for conducting a mass media campaign. The firm designed billboards and flyers for the project. Daily advertisements were published in the local official newspapers with a wide outreach for two weeks. In response to the media campaign, 12 young men became participants in the program.

#### Selection process for the young leaders' group

An evaluation model was developed to measure the compliance of the nominees with the project's selection criteria. Then, 48 young leaders were interviewed and grades were given to evaluate skills such as leadership, dialogue, charisma, strength of personality, vision, as well as the general and political education. Field visits were also carried out for that purpose in some cities in the West Bank.

## Research Study

A research study was conducted on Youth and Parties in Palestine. It aimed at identifying the reality and the role of the youth in the Palestinian political life. The hypothesis of the study was that neither the Palestinian youth nor the political forces succeeded in achieving a breakthrough in their mutual relation. This is a dichotomous problem for which the political parties and factions are mostly responsible.

The study presented the following findings:

- The participating Palestinian parties and movements do not take into consideration youth programs and interests.
- Young people play a main role in recruitment, confrontation and resistance against occupation, but they fail to break through their parties' internal structures or leadership positions;
- Palestinian youth currently live through a period of deterioration in the process of liberation and the struggle against occupation;
- The internal bylaws of parties and movements consider the youth a target group that needs development, activation and framework.

## Discussion of Research Study

Twenty one participants comprising leaders in some PLO factions, non-governmental organizations that address youth issues, some researchers and members of the Legislative Council (PLC) attended the discussion session on October 8, 2008. At the end of the discussions, the participants recommended a number of things including focusing on youth education and further involving youth in political parties.

## Capacity Building Training Course

A training course was held between October 10-12, 2008 in Ramallah and Gaza simultaneously. The main topics covered were as follows:

- Contributing to creating and preparing strategic plans for the political parties, shifting them from the strategic level to the executive level
- Formulating and preparing main plans and controlling implementation
- Distributing human and technical resources in an organized way within limited and known time periods



### Objectives:

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

### Policy Papers:

Due to the unusual circumstances in which Palestinians lived, including difficulties in traveling and gathering in the West Bank and Gaza, MIFTAH was only able to hold one policy meeting on April 24, 2008 which revolved around Palestinian alternatives and strategies for the coming phase. Following is a summary of the meeting.

#### **Palestinian Strategies and Alternatives for the Coming Phase [April 24, 2008]:**

Incertitude and confusion continue to envelop Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which are being held in the absence of any content. Despite the declared American desire and pursuit to reach an agreement by the end of this year, and with talks about the proximity of reaching an agreement in the form of a declaration of principles, there is no real indication on the ground that the current talks will lead to an agreement. Israel continues to build and expand settlements, isolate Jerusalem, construct the Apartheid wall, and persists in carrying out military operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while tightening the restrictions on the movement of citizens and goods, thus significantly undermining the ability of the Palestinian government to implement its reform and development programs at both the security and economic levels. The consequences of the military action that brought Hamas into control in the Gaza Strip continue to amplify the internal crisis. Added to that is Hamas' insistence on establishing a military rule there, which will have a negative impact on the Palestinian internal dispute, especially after the failure of Arab efforts, most recently the Yemeni initiative, in advancing dialogue between Hamas and Fateh. Now, Egypt is concerting efforts to achieve a truce agreement between Hamas and Israel, while the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip continue to suffer under the Israeli hermetic siege.

## ENHANCING SYSTEMS OF INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE PALESTINIAN PUBLIC SECTOR

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

[Effective dates of project: January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008]

[Funder: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung]



Discussion Session – Ramallah October 2008

#### Description:

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

#### Achievements/Activities: Library

The project's team at MIFTAH continues to gather resources, documents and information in an effort to build up the PLC multimedia library it started in 2007 by adding new laws, presidential decrees, and legal research studies and by updating the available lists and resources.

#### Town Hall Meetings

In all, six town hall meetings were held with PLC members on pertinent issues concerning citizens. The first was held in Bethlehem on June 30, 2008 and discussed civil society and the PLC's responsibility towards combating the rise in prices. The second meeting, held in Hebron on July 16, 2008, was entitled "Informal Justice and Related Legislation." The

third, held in Tulkarm on August 21, 2008 was entitled "Taxes, Economy and Legislation." In Nablus, the meeting held on November 19, 2008 discussed "Public opinion and crime in light of the PLC paralysis". The final town meeting was held in Jerusalem on December 3, 2008 and discussed "The Role of the Palestinian Legislative Council in Supporting Education in the Jerusalem Schools Run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education."

### **Legal Studies and Research**

A workshop was held on October 22, 2008 to discuss the study entitled "Decrees Having the Status of a Law Promulgated by the President in Cases of Emergency" in which representatives from civil society, legal experts, PLC members and representatives from the President's office attended.

In the second session, participants discussed "Parliamentary Precedents of the PLC:1996-2007. PLC members, experts in parliamentary work, who have a strong background on the works of the PLC, and civil society activists who have monitored the PLC performance in the past attended.

The third activity in this regard was a study entitled, "Decree Law No.1 of 2007 Pertaining to General Elections". The paper gives a historical review of the development of the Palestinian Elections Law, and discusses how the newly issued presidential decree influences the Palestinian political system.

### **PLC Monitoring**

A workshop was held on November 12, 2008 to discuss a report prepared by MIFTAH on the "Performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council in the Period between July 2007 and July 2008." This is the organization's second report on the PLC' performance.

### **Advocacy and Campaigning: Media Campaign**

MIFTAH conducted a mass media campaign under the slogan, "A Participating Citizen, an Efficient Palestinian Legislative Council, and a country for All" during December, 2008. The campaign involved:

- nine billboards in all major West Bank and Gaza districts
- five newspaper bulletins in three major newspapers
- three television shows on 11 local channels and produced by Watan Television Channel.

The first TV show was entitled “The PLC Paralysis in Light of Internal Divide;” the second talk show was entitled “The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Light of PLC Paralysis;” and the third talk show discussed the “Decree-Law No. 1 of 2007 pertaining to General Elections.”

**Obstacles:**

The role of the PLC continued to be hampered during the year 2008 due to the deep polarization in the Palestinian political arena and the struggle that has been going on since the events of June 2007. This placed the legislative process on the back burn as the conflict between Fateh and Hamas continues in the West Bank and Gaza. Consequently, the legislative process has been ceased, limiting any intervention the civil society can make to influence the amendment, ratification, or reading of draft-laws and presidential decrees. In this context, the project, whose main objective was to better improve civil society involvement has faced several challenges.

# Media and Information Program

## Background

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

The program is currently comprised of two central elements:

### 1) Information Material (Arabic and English)

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

This year, MIFTAH's MIP continued to provide its readers with three original articles per week. These include editorials, viewpoints and its weekly roundup of news entitled "Week in Review." In addition, the websites' press statements, factsheets and special studies (in-depth reports) have continued to be updated.

Throughout the week, select articles are distributed to our email database (approximately 8,000 recipients). Furthermore, our information is an integral part of our complimentary packages, presented during our briefings to visiting delegations.

At the end of 2008, MIFTAH's English-language media team began compilation of a book of essays, which was later published in early 2009.

### 2) External Relations

This entails MIFTAH's direct and active interaction with key target groups, on the local and external levels. These include 1) conducting briefings with visiting delegations of students, activists, journalists, associations, among others, during which we respond to requests for information on political issues, internal issues, and any topic we are able

and willing to discuss, 2) participating in local and international workshops and/or conferences relevant to our field of work, and 3) participating in various committees and initiatives (locally and internationally).

As part of this goal, MIFTAH's senior writer, Joharah Baker participated as a speaker at the United Nation's Meeting on the Question of Palestine in Qawra, Malta in June, 2008. Representing MIFTAH, she presented on the situation of Jerusalem and the significance of finding a permanent solution to the city.

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

### **Impact and Effects of Activities**

As an organization, MIFTAH remains a hugely influential body both amongst Palestinians and the international community. This reputation is just as apparent within the Media and Information Program. Testament to the respect MIFTAH receives is the plethora of websites which reprint our publications regularly. The American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP), The American Palestine Public Affair Forum (APPAF), Palestine Chronicle and the Institute of Middle Eastern Understanding (IMEU) are a few of the established international organizations which believe that MIFTAH analysis warrants further exposure. MIFTAH's work is reprinted all over the world on websites as close as Israel and as far as Southeast Asia and the US. MIFTAH's strength and reason for its support, success and appeal is its ability to offer expert analysis, written in a cohesive and coherent manner which appeals to Western observers while at the same time offering a unique Palestinian perspective. The MIFTAH website is earning the reputation as an organization that merges in-house news headlines, editorials and factsheets with commentaries from other influential sources, thus transforming it into a "one stop" hub of conclusive and succinct political analysis.

### **Conclusions and Future Plans**

Having recognized this purpose, it is imperative that MIFTAH continues on this direction and strives to become a leading voice on events in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. Presently, MIFTAH has only one full time contributor and is looking for a part time writer to join

its staff. It has become apparent through the numerous requests to our department that information provided by the MIFTAH website is crucial to a wide range of organizations and individuals, which means we are in need of additional employees to achieve this goal. During the summer seasons in particular, MIFTAH hosts interns usually from the US and Britain who volunteer their expertise and time to working with the MIP for a period between 1 – 3 months. MIFTAH feels that by accommodating these interns, we contribute a share in opening up the world of Palestine to those who want this opportunity. This is a chance for them to work in a professional Palestinian environment and hone their skills in writing and research.

## MEDIA MONITORING UNIT

### **More than Words – Joint Palestinian-Israeli action to improve media coverage in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict**

[Duration of Project: November 2007 – November 2008]

[Funders: EU, Canadian Representative Office, Ford Foundation – **check**]

#### **Introduction:**

Since September 2004, MIFTAH and Keshev (The Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel) have been engaged in a unique project aimed at improving media discourse in both the Palestinian and Israeli media through monitoring, research, advocacy and lobbying activities and encouraging a public and media discourse free of incitement, prejudice and dehumanization of the other.

#### **Achievements:**

**Among the project's major achievements are the following:**

#### **1. Daily Monitoring of Media Outlets**

MIFTAH regularly monitors the Palestinian newspapers Al-Ayyam, Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, as well as the news broadcasts of the Palestine Broadcasting Corporation. MIFTAH has also monitored Al-Aqsa Television, the television broadcasts of Hamas from the Gaza Strip, for its report on coverage of infighting between Palestinian factions.

## 2. Re-editing of Media Contents

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

One re-editing by MIFTAH was of Al-Ayyam's front page on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 edition, for which it presented alternative headlines and edited the text of the main news items; of course the relocation of news items, addition and removal of pictures was included in the re-editing process.

## 3. Research Reports

MIFTAH published three reports in 2008 as follows:

***“Media Coverage by Palestine Television (PBC) and Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel Following Hamas’ Military Takeover of Gaza”*** (April 2008)

***“Palestine Investment Conference ”*** (August 2008)

***“Annapolis: The Coverage of the Three Palestinian Newspapers and Palestine Television of the Conference”*** (September 2008)

## 4. Periodic Updates (special issues)

MIFTAH's periodic updates for 2008 are as follows:

***Dimona Operation: The Coverage of the Three Newspapers and Palestine Satellite Television”*** (May 2008).

***The “Bulldozer Operation” in Jerusalem: A Balanced Media Coverage”*** (August 2008)

***“President Bush’s first visit to the region”*** (May 2008).

## 5. Sources and Contact Booklets

MIFTAH has developed its comprehensive resource booklet for Palestinian journalists, which includes names, titles and contact information for prominent Israeli Journalists and professionals in fields like human rights, media, law and the peace process which can serve as sources of information for Palestinian reporters. The booklet is published at MIFTAH's website and was printed and distributed among Palestinian media persons.

## MIFTAH's FINANCIAL AUDITED REPORT 2008



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### Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of Trustees of The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH)

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2008, and the statement of activities and changes in net assets and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

#### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

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

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

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) as of December 31, 2008 and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.



May 31, 2009  
Ramallah, Palestine

## Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2008

	Notes	2008	2007
		U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non - current assets</b>			
Property and equipment	3	60,856	62,949
<b>Current assets</b>			
Contributions receivable	4	131,956	243,784
Due from related party	5	85,000	10,000
Other current assets		3,533	8,710
Cash and cash equivalents	6	653,692	646,721
		874,181	909,215
<b>Total Assets</b>		935,037	972,164
<b>Net Assets and Liabilities</b>			
<b>Net assets</b>			
Unrestricted net assets		284,059	274,472
<b>Total net assets</b>		284,059	274,472
<b>Non - current liabilities</b>			
Deferred revenues	7	53,878	57,281
Provision for severance pay	8	104,732	84,825
		158,610	142,106
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable and accruals	9	60,407	44,068
Temporarily restricted contributions	10	431,961	511,518
		492,368	555,586
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		650,978	697,692
<b>Total Net Assets and Liabilities</b>		935,037	972,164

## Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Year ended December 31, 2008

	Notes	2008	2007
		U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<b>Revenues</b>			
Temporarily restricted contributions released from restriction	10	810,124	732,991
Unrestricted contributions		83,113	75,000
Deferred revenues recognized	7	19,923	15,997
Foreign exchange gain		-	7,029
Other revenues		9,269	7,636
		922,429	838,653
<b>Expenses</b>			
Projects' expenses	11	810,124	732,991
Administrative expenses	12	67,015	-
Depreciation expense		21,993	18,165
Foreign exchange loss		13,710	-
		912,842	751,156
<b>Increase in net assets</b>		9,587	87,497
Net assets, beginning of year		274,472	186,975
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>		284,059	274,472

## Cash Flow Statement

### Year ended December 31, 2008

	2008	2007
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<b>Operating Activities:</b>		
Increase in net assets	9,587	87,497
<b>Adjustments:</b>		
Depreciation	21,993	18,165
Deferred revenues recognized	(19,923)	(15,997)
Loss from disposal of property and equipment	-	424
Provision for severance pay	28,456	32,904
Write-off of contribution receivable	450	-
	40,563	122,993
<b>Changes in working capital</b>		
Contributions receivable	111,378	(81,284)
Due from Board of Trustees	(75,000)	90,000
Other current assets	5,177	(4,584)
Temporarily restricted contributions	(79,557)	(125,942)
Accounts payable and accruals	16,339	(8,425)
Deferred revenues	16,520	45,763
Payment of employees' severance pay	(8,549)	(19,526)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>26,871</b>	<b>18,995</b>
<b>Investing Activities:</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(19,900)	(50,451)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(19,900)</b>	<b>(50,451)</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>6,971</b>	<b>(31,456)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	646,721	678,177
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b>653,692</b>	<b>646,721</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2008

### 1. General

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) was established in December 1998 as a non-governmental non-partisan Jerusalem-based institution dedicated to fostering democracy and good governance within the Palestinian society through promoting public accountability, transparency, the free flow of information and ideas, and challenging of stereotyping at home and abroad. MIFTAH's aim is to serve as a Palestinian platform for global dialogue and cooperation guided by the principles of democracy, human rights, gender equity, and participatory governance. To this end, MIFTAH undertakes the pro-active generation and presentation of policy proposals and the focused dissemination of reliable information. Since its establishment, MIFTAH has established the cogency of its positions in Palestine and in the region, and has formulated long and short-term policies and strategies to deal with particular pressing issues. Through networking with like-minded organizations locally, regionally and internationally, and with Palestinian expatriate communities, MIFTAH maintains lasting relationships and partnerships in pursuit of a common vision of dialogue and democracy.

MIFTAH's financial statements as of December 31, 2008 were approved by the Board of Trustees on May 31, 2009.

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The financial statements have been presented in U.S. Dollars.

#### Donation revenues

Donors' unconditional pledges are those pledges where donors do not specify prerequisites that have to be carried out by the recipient before obtaining the fund.

Donation revenues from unconditional pledges are recognized as follows:

- Unconditional pledges that are not restricted for specific purpose or time are recognized when the pledge is obtained.
- Unconditional pledges that are temporarily restricted by donor for specific purpose or time are recognized when such purpose or time is satisfied.

#### Deferred revenues

Donations related to property and equipment are measured at fair value, recorded as deferred revenues and recognized as revenue on a systematic basis over the useful life of the asset.

### Expenses recognition

Expenses are recognized when incurred based on the accrual basis of accounting.

### Impairment and uncollectibility of financial assets

An assessment is made at each financial statement date to determine whether there is objective evidence that a specific financial asset may be impaired. If such evidence exists, any impairment loss is recognized in the statement of activities and changes in net assets. Impairment is determined as follows:

- For assets carried at fair value, impairment is the difference between cost and fair value less any impairment loss previously recognized in the statement of activities and changes in net assets;
- For assets carried at cost, impairment is the difference between carrying value and present value of future cash flows discounted at the current market rate of return for a similar financial asset;
- For assets carried at amortized cost, impairment is the difference between carrying amount and the present value of future cash flows discounted at the original effective interest rate.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, bank balances and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

### Contributions receivable

Contributions receivable are stated at the original amount of the unconditional pledge less amounts received and any uncollectible pledges. An estimate for the uncollectible amount is made when the collection of full unconditional pledge is no longer probable.

### Property and equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment in value.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis over the useful life of the assets as follows:

	Useful life (years)
Office equipment	4-5
Office furniture	6-7
Leasehold improvements	4

The carrying values of property and equipment are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. If any such indication exists and where the carrying values exceed the estimated recoverable amount, the assets are written down to their recoverable amount, being the higher of their fair value less costs to sell or their value in use.

Expenditure incurred to replace a component of an item of property, and equipment that is accounted for separately is capitalised and the carrying amount of the component that is replaced is written off. Other subsequent expenditures are capitalized only when they increase future economic benefits of the related item of property and equipment. All other expenditures are recognized in the statement of activities and changes in net assets as the expense is incurred.

### Income taxes

MIFTAH is a not-for-profit organization; accordingly, it is not subject to income tax.

### Provision for severance pay

Provision for severance pay is calculated in accordance with the labour law prevailing in Palestine, and MIFTAH's internal policies, based on one-month indemnity for each year of employment.

### Accounts payable and accruals

Liabilities are recognized for amounts to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether billed by the supplier or not.

### Judgements and estimation uncertainty

MIFTAH's financial position and results of activities are sensitive to accounting methods, assumptions, estimates and judgments that underlie the preparation of the financial statements. MIFTAH bases its estimates on its past experience and on various other assumptions deemed reasonable, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities. Due to different assumptions and situations, the actual results may differ significantly from these estimates.

### Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the statement of financial position date. All differences are recognized in the statement of activities and changes in net assets.

## 3. Property and Equipment

	Office equipment	Office furniture	Leasehold improvements	Total
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<b>Cost:</b>				
At January 1, 2008	169,096	64,420	28,495	262,011
Additions	19,900	-	-	19,900
At December 31, 2008	188,996	64,420	28,495	281,911
<b>Depreciation:</b>				
At January 1, 2008	152,029	40,776	6,257	199,062
charge for the year Depreciation	13,880	2,893	5,220	21,993
At December 31, 2008	165,909	43,669	11,477	221,055
<b>Net carrying value:</b>				
At December 31, 2008	23,087	20,751	17,018	60,856
At December 31, 2007	17,067	23,644	22,238	62,949

Property and equipment include U.S. \$ 180,234 and U.S. \$ 156,022 of fully depreciated assets that are still operational as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

#### 4. Contributions receivable

	Balance, beginning of year	Additions	Cash received	Currency difference	Write Off	Balance, end of year
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Arab Fund for economic and social development	-	170,000	(60,885)	-	-	109,115
The European Community and Ford Foundation through KESHEV	3,686	116,353	(100,531)	-	(450)	19,058
Danish Representative Office	-	105,550	(101,767)	-	-	3,783
International Republican Institute (IRI)	221,600	3,550	(225,150)	-	-	-
Henrich Boell Foundation	16,742	-	(17,837)	1,095	-	-
United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA)	1,756	70,230	(70,871)	(1,115)	-	-
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-	-
Representative office of Norway	-	129,870	(129,870)	-	-	-
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)	-	138,022	(129,385)	(8,637)	-	-
Special donations	-	4,142	(4,142)	-	-	-
	243,784	767,717	(870,438)	(8,657)	(450)	131,956

#### 5. Due from related party

During 2008 and 2007, a number of MIFTAH's Board of Trustees made commitments to donate unrestricted contributions of U.S. \$ 75,000 and U.S. \$ 75,000, respectively. As of December 31, 2008 unrestricted contributions of U.S. \$ 85,000 were still uncollected.

## 6. Cash and cash equivalents

	2008	2007
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Cash in hand and at banks	214,116	200,850
Short-term deposits	439,576	445,871
	653,692	646,721

Short term deposits in U.S. \$ are due within one month after the financial statements date with an average interest rate of 0.8 %, and 2.5% during the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Short-term deposits as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 include U.S. \$ 104,732 U.S. \$ 84,825, respectively as restricted deposits against employees' severance pay.

## 7. Deferred revenues

This item represents the value of property and equipment acquired during the year using the temporarily restricted contributions. Such property and equipment are recorded as deferred revenues and recognized as revenues on a systematic basis over the useful lives of the property and equipment. Movement on deferred revenues during the year was as follows:

	2008	2007
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Balance, beginning of year	57,281	27,515
Additions (Note 10)	16,520	45,763
Deferred revenues recognized	(19,923)	(15,997)
Balance, end of year	53,878	57,281

## 8. Provision for severance pay

Following is a summary of the movement on the provision for severance pay during the year:

	2008	2007
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Balance, beginning of year	84,825	71,447
Additions	28,456	32,904
Payments	(8,549)	(19,526)
Balance, end of year	104,732	84,825

## 9. Accounts payable and accruals

	2008	2007
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Postponed checks	39,962	20,073
Accrued expenses	14,415	16,598
Accounts payable	6,030	7,397
	60,407	44,068

## 10. 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	Returned to donor	Currency difference	Balance, of end year
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Arab Fund for economic and social development	-	170,000	(25,349)	(65)	-	-	144,586
Representative Office of Norway	-	129,870	(66,960)	(1,670)	-	-	61,240
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	-	30,000	(29,094)	-	-	-	906
International Republican Institute (IRI)	238,630	3,550	(229,064)	(13,116)	-	-	-
Henrich Boell Foundation	31,223	-	(31,223)	-	-	-	-
United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA)	-	70,230	(66,464)	(1,041)	-	(2,725)	-
The European Community and Ford Foundation through KESHEV	5,171	116,353	(121,360)	(164)	-	-	-
Kvinna Till Kvinna	3,767	-	-	-	(3,767)	-	-
Danish Representative Office	-	105,550	(105,550)	-	-	-	-
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)	-	138,022	(123,420)	(464)	-	(14,138)	-
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	11,640	-	(11,640)	-	-	-	-
Special donations	221,087	4,142	-	-	-	-	225,229
	511,518	767,717	(810,124)	(16,520)	(3,767)	(16,863)	431,961

## 11. Projects expenses

Components of projects expenses are as follows:

	<i>IRI</i>	<i>Henrich Boell Foundation</i>	<i>UNFPA</i>	<i>OFID</i>	<i>DRO</i>	<i>NED</i>
	<i>Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership - Elections' (Phase II)</i>	<i>Gender Responsive Budget in Local Councils</i>	<i>Gender, Peace and Security</i>	<i>The Empowerment of Palestinian Women and Youth in Rural Areas through Income-Generating Projects</i>	<i>Instituting a Gender-Responsive Palestinian National Budget</i>	<i>Active Palestinian Youth for Democratic Citizenship</i>
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	116,200	4,480	25,790	12,719	42,502	11,887
Office, equipment and hall rental	24,837	-	400	5,150	5,450	1,400
Travel and accommodation	11,677	960	1,634	905	4,138	1,890
Information Technology and publications	19,772	20,468	30,816	596	42,379	1,215
Professional fees	1,500	-	-	-	-	650
Training expenses	18,086	2,037	3,866	1,884	780	4,966
Hosting delegations and meetings	17,510	2,851	2,874	2,551	3,841	3,587
Postage, telephone and fax	3,862	240	246	512	3,762	1,096
Utilities	14,899	187	486	1,019	2,688	2,342
Sundry	721	-	352	13	10	61
Total	229,064	31,223	66,464	25,349	105,550	29,094

## 12. Projects expenses - continued

		<i>The European commission and Ford Foundation through KESHÉV</i>	UNDP	Norway	KAS		
	<i>Subtotal</i>	Monitoring Incitement in Palestinian Media	Publications	Empowerment of Young Palestinian Political Leadership	<i>Enhancing the Role of Civil Society in the Legislative Process</i>	Total Project Expenses 2008	Total Project Expenses 2007
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	213,578	93,527	1,023	34,348	66,469	408,945	419,147
Office, equipment and hall rental	37,237	200	-	3,600	441	41,478	46,247
Travel and accommodation	21,204	3,172	-	2,478	1,072	27,926	22,907
Information technology and publications	115,246	16,504	10,617	17,846	37,526	197,739	113,506
Professional fees	2,150	1,500	-	800	9,267	13,717	14,203
Training expenses	31,619	-	-	2,520	2,555	36,694	40,583
Hosting delegations and meetings	33,214	1,129	-	1,848	6,048	42,239	47,245
Postage, telephone and fax	9,718	3,271	-	1,338	-	14,327	12,094
Utilities	21,621	1,771	-	2,161	-	25,553	14,509
Sundry	1,157	286	-	21	42	1,506	2,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>486,744</b>	<b>121,360</b>	<b>11,640</b>	<b>66,960</b>	<b>123,420</b>	<b>810,124</b>	<b>732,991</b>

### 1. Administrative expenses

	2008	2007
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	55,468	-
Office rent	9,159	-
Utilities	1,375	-
Write off of contribution receivable	450	-
Sundry	563	-
	<b>67,015</b>	<b>-</b>

## 2. Related party transactions

This represents transaction with key management personnel.

	2008	2007
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Due from Board of Trustees	85,000	10,000
Unrestricted contributions	83,113	75,000
Key management personnel compensation		
Short-term benefits	43,522	40,964
Termination benefits	3,764	3,413

## 3. Fair values of financial instruments

Financial instruments comprise financial assets and financial liabilities.

Financial assets consist of contributions receivable, due from Board of Trustees and cash and cash equivalents. Financial liabilities consist of accounts payable and accruals.

The fair values of financial instruments are not materially different from their carrying values.

## 4. Risk management

### Interest rate risk

MIFTAH is exposed to interest rate risk on its short-term deposit.

The following table demonstrates the sensitivity of the statement of activities and changes in net assets to reasonably possible changes in interest rates, with all other variables held constant:

	Increase/ decrease in basis points	Effect on results of activities U.S.\$
2008		
U.S. \$	+20	879
U.S. \$	- 50	(2,198)
2007		
U.S. \$	+20	892
U.S. \$	- 50	(2,229)

### Liquidity risk

MIFTAH limits its liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash balances to meet its current obligations and to finance its operating activities. In addition, the activities of MIFTAH are financed by multiple donors.

Most of MIFTAH's financial liabilities are due within a period of three months.

### Foreign currency risk

The table below indicates MIFTAH's foreign currency exposure, as a result of its monetary assets and liabilities. The analysis calculates the effect of a reasonably possible movement of the U.S. \$ currency rate against the Israeli Sheqel (ILS) and European Monetary Unit (Euro) with all other variables held constant, on the statement of activities and changes in net assets.

	Increase / decrease in ILS rate to U.S. \$	Effect on results of activities	Increase / decrease in Euro rate to U.S. \$	Effect on results of activities
	%	U.S. \$	%	U.S. \$
<b>2008</b>				
U.S. \$	+5	1,020	+5	5,443
U.S. \$	-5	(1,020)	- 5	(5,443)
<b>2007</b>				
U.S. \$	+5	3,493	+5	1,057
U.S. \$	-5	(3,493)	- 5	(1,057)

## 5. Concentration of risk in geographic area

MIFTAH is carrying out all of its activities in Palestine. The political and economic situation in the area increases the risk of carrying out these activities and may adversely affect MIFTAH's performance.

## Among MIFTAH's Supporters

- Danish Representative Office (DRO)
- UNFPA
- OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)
- International Republican Institute (IRI)
- Heinrich Boell Foundation
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- The Representative Office of Norway (NRO)
- Konrad Adenaur Stiftung (KAS)



