Press release

28 JULY 2016

EU supports the expansion of Jenin Courthouse

The European Union and the High Judicial Council inaugurated yesterday the new improved facility of the Jenin Courthouse in Jenin, north of the West Bank. The event took place in the presence of Chief of Justice Sami Sarsour, General Attorney Dr Ahmad Barrak, representatives of the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and the EU Representative Office.

The EU financed the expansion of Jenin courthouse as part of the support to the justice sector and judicial infrastructure. This support aims to improve the quality of judicial services for the Palestinian people and provide an appropriate work environment for judges and lawyers. The EU is funding the construction of new courthouses in Qalqiliya, Salfeet, Dura and the expansion of Jenin courthouse. The new buildings are designed in line with international standards so to facilitate and enhance the work of the justice sector.

"*Our goal is to help the Palestinian Authority develop an effective justice sector and institutions which represent an important building block of a future, independent Palestinian State. Today we mark an important moment in a work which goes beyond infrastructure. In the last few years the EU has specifically focused on the rule of law sector. We are working closely with all Palestinian justice institutions to improve the quality of services and encourage reforms that safeguard the independence of the judiciary",* said Mr. Riccardo Rossi, from the EU Representative Office, at the occasion of the inauguration.

Background

In the last three years, the EU has invested a total of €28 million in the justice sector. Aside from infrastructure, it has supported and assisted the Palestinian Authority programs in the field of legal aid, juvenile justice, judicial affairs and aspects of the Palestinian Authority's overall administration of justice. The EU also supports the development of the legal education system through the Palestinian Judicial Institute, the Bar Association and Palestinian Universities. Master degrees in Advanced Legal Studies have been also developed across Palestinian universities with EU support.

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