Press Release
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The EU Launches "Know Your Rights" Campaign Marking Human Rights Day in Palestine

The EU launched yesterday the "Know Your Rights" Campaign in Palestine to mark Human Rights Day and the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Representative of the European Union in Jerusalem, Ralph Tarraf, launched the public campaign on 10 December by taking part in various events to commemorate the occasion.

Respect for human rights, rule of law, and democracy are founding principles of the European Union. In its foreign relations, the EU is committed to promoting and protecting human rights worldwide.

The "*Know Your Rights*" campaign was launched in Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Gaza. The campaign aims at raising awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) among Palestinians. The UDHR is a milestone document in the history of human rights. The articles within the declaration set the basic human rights for any person and the obligations of states and actors towards their citizens.

"*Human rights are free born rights for every human being. These are the rights that guarantee people's dignity, equality, and freedom. Every country in the EU is committed to respect for Human Rights. This is a founding principle that replaced a history of wars and bloodshed across Europe,* "said the **EU Representative Ralph Tarraf**. "*In Palestine, we are committed to promoting and protecting human rights and human rights defenders,"* he added.

Throughout the year 2018, the EU has undertaken a number of activities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The EU and Member States kicked off the activities with the Palestine Marathon at which over 200 Europeans and Palestinian ran for human rights. An online campaign was launched afterwards on social media to shed light on the articles of the UDHR.

Videos and success stories were prepared to highlight the indispensable role of Human Rights Defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights. A video

on a Palestinian Human Rights Defender, Nawal Barakat from Nabil Simuel village in East Jerusalem was produced and promoted through social media.

The EU works to protect and support human rights defenders. Human rights defenders, who can be civil society activists, journalists, bloggers, or anyone who works to promote human rights in a non-violent way, face increasing pressure in many countries, and are regularly subjected to intimidation, harassment and violence.

As part of the campaign, the EU Representative Ralph Tarraf participated in a round table discussion organised, in cooperation with the UN OHCHR, with Human Rights Defenders in Nablus on 10 December. Youth, human rights defenders and journalists discussed with diplomats the shrinking space for civil society.

The European Union is engaged with the Palestinian Authority on Human Rights issues on the political and cooperation levels. It also works closely with civil society organisations to manage and implement projects focused at preventing human rights violations.

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