LAC

SECRETARIAT

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LACS Newsletter

Local Aid Coordination Secretariat

Shared Calendar of Events

Please click on link to see a full calendar of aid coordination meetings:

http://www.ldf.ps/EventCalendarEndUser.aspx

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Minutes – Justice Sector Working Group Meeting, 2 June 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28723
  - Justice Sector Technical Group – Presentation of the 2014-2015 M&E Matrix, 2 June 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28724
  - HJC – Justice Sector strategy and priorities development process for the years 2017-2022
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28725
  - AGO – Justice Sector strategy Acheivements , 2 June 2016 (in Arabic)
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28726

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians, 19 – 25 July 2016
    https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-weekly-report-19-25-july-2016
  - Protection of Civilians ,12 – 18 July 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28729
  - The Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin, June 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28706

Press Releases and Formal Statement

Prime Minister's Office

PM Hamdallah Condemns Israel's Systematic Uprooting of Palestinians, 27 July 2016

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah strongly condemned Israel's house demolitions in the village of Qalandiya.

"The purpose of Israel's demolitions is to uproot the largest number of Palestinians in order to make room for more illegal settlements," Hamdallah said. "This is against international law and against every standard of human decency."

Eleven Palestinian homes were razed to the ground overnight, because Israeli authorities alleged that the owners didn't obtain building permits. Securing a building permit from Israel is almost impossible for Palestinians living in Area C, according to OCHA; only 33 building permits have been approved out of 2,020 applications submitted between 2010 and 2014.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28738

PMO: Expanding support for settlements underscores Israel's true intentions, 12 July 2016

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah issued a statement condemning Israel's plan to support the illegal Kiryat Arba settlement and the Jewish settlers in Hebron with an additional 50 million Shekels.

"The continued expansion of illegal settlements and the substantial sums poured into their development shows that Israel's purported support of a two-state solution is not credible," Hamdallah said.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28711

UN

Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on Israeli settlement expansion in occupied West Bank, 25 July 2016

I strongly condemn the recent decision by Israeli authorities to advance plans to build some 770 housing units in the settlement of Gilo, built on the lands of occupied Palestinian towns and villages between Bethlehem and East Jerusalem.

I am also concerned about repeated efforts by a number of families to rebuild the Israeli outpost of Mitzpeh Avichai near Hebron in the occupied West Bank.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28732

The Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on the torching of a house in occupied West Bank, 20 July 2016

I am concerned by reports of yet another arson attack on the home of the Dawabsha family last night in Duma in the occupied West Bank. If confirmed, this despicable act would be the third incident in this particular village in the last year.

Since the 31 July 2015 terrorist arson attack in which Jewish extremists torched the Dawabsha home, killing three family members and leaving four year-old Ahmed orphaned, indictments have been made, but the perpetrators of this terrible crime have yet to face justice

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28720

Remarks by the UN Secretary General to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 12 July 2016.

Late last month, I returned from my eleventh visit to Israel and Palestine as Secretary-General. As it happened, it was also as Israel's occupation entered its 50th year.

I carried a clear and consistent message to leaders on both sides: Time is running out.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28712

UN-HABITAT

Utilizing Minecraft as a tool for community participation: Supporting the development of public spaces in East Jerusalem, 19 July 2016

East Jerusalem, July 19th, 2016 -UN-Habitat in partnership with Bimkom -Planners for Planning Rights, Al Enaya Community Center, and the Green Mosque Group are creating an inclusive public space in Wadi Al Joz neighborhood in East Jerusalem in order to improve the urban environment and the living conditions of residents, in particular children and youth.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28716

UNOPS

Germany, UNOPS and NRC join efforts to rebuild totally damaged homes in Gaza, July 2016

July 2016 – Jerusalem -- The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Government of Germany, through the German Development Bank (KfW) have signed an agreement to reconstruct approximately 100 totally damaged homes. Under this Government of Germany funding, UNOPS has partnered with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and is working closely with the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH), to provide families with legal, technical and financial assistance, to help them reconstruct and return to their homes damaged in the 2014 conflict.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28736

UNESCO

UNESCO, The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs officially launch a new program phase to support Gender Equality in Palestine: establishing the Gender Policy Institute, 27 July 2016

Ramallah, 27 July 2016 – The Minister of Women's Affairs Dr. Haifa Al Agha, the Norwegian Representative to the Palestinian Authority Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund and the UNESCO Representative to Palestine Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi officially launched the transition of the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Centre (PWRDC) into the Gender Policy Institute, a 'think tank' on gender equality unique in its own in Palestine and in the region.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28737

EU

EU supports the expansion of Jenin Courthouse, 28 July 2016

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 full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28744

Statement by the EU Spokesperson on Israel's decision to advance plans for housing units in Gilo settlement in East Jerusalem, 27 July 2016

Israel's recent decision to advance plans for some 770 housing units in the settlement of Gilo, built on occupied Palestinian land in East Jerusalem, undermines the viability of a two-state solution. It contributes to the establishment of a ring of Israeli settlements around the city, thus further cutting East Jerusalem off from the southern West.
The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28735

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn death sentences issued in Gaza, 21 July 2016

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the three death sentences issued in Gaza on 19th July.
As in their most recent statement on 31st May, the EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall the EU's firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28727

Mr. Jean Arthuis, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the EP Committee on Budgets, visits Gaza, 19 July 2016

Mr. Jean Arthuis, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the EP Committee on Budgets, paid a visit today to the Gaza Strip. He visited projects funded by the EU, designed to promote sustainable economic development and the empowerment of women as well as some infrastructure projects in the water sector, inter alia the North Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment Plant NGEST and the recently inaugurated Water Desalination Plant in Deir Balah next to Khan Yunis.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28717

Statement by the EU Spokesperson on Israel's announcement of new settlement units in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, 5 July 2016

Israel's decision on Sunday to advance several hundred new settlement units in East Jerusalem and the West Bank threatens the viability of the two-state solution and calls into question Israel's commitment to a negotiated agreement with the Palestinians.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28708

EU – BTC

The EU launches a EUR 3.5 million programme to support start-up businesses and boost private sector development and employment, 25 July 2016

Ramallah, Palestine (25 July, 2016) – the EU launched today a new programme to support Business Start-up Incubators in Palestine. The programme will be implemented by the Belgium Development Agency (BTC).

The Business Start-up Incubators Programme aims at helping entrepreneurs to translate their ideas into new businesses. It will enhance entrepreneur's skills to make their start-ups more competitive and financially sustainable. The programme will support start-up incubators in Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, East Jerusalem and Gaza. Incubators provide entrepreneurs with shared office space and resources, business advice, training and coaching.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28739

IMF

IMF Staff Concludes Visit to West Bank and Gaza, 25 July 2016

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission led by Karen Ongley visited East Jerusalem and Ramallah from July 13-25, 2016, to assess recent economic developments in the West Bank and Gaza and the financial situation of the Palestinian Authority (PA). The mission met with Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, Finance Minister Shukry Bishara, Governor Azzam Shawwa, and other Palestinian officials.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2016/07/25/18/47/PR16357-West-Bank-and-Gaza-IMF-Staff-Concludes-Visit

France

Statement made by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development regarding next Palestinian local elections, 20 July 2016

Q. In Palestine, Hamas has made it known that it intends, this time, to take part in the local elections scheduled for October. Is Paris in favour of Hamas taking part in this ballot or do you still deem it

a «terrorist» organization? And what's your reaction to the information circulating on manoeuvres (from the United Arab Emirates in particular) aimed at «ousting» Mahmoud Abbas to replace him with, for example, Mohammed Dahlan?

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28728

British Foreign & Commonwealth Office

British Minister for the Middle East statement on settlement units in East Jerusalem, 29 July 2016

The UK condemns the Israeli authorities' decision to issue tenders for a further 323 settlement units in East Jerusalem. This follows recent development of plans for 770 new units in the Jerusalem suburbs.

As set out in the Quartet report, settlement activity is counterproductive and undermines progress towards a two-state solution. This announcement comes on the back of an alarming increase in demolitions of Palestinian houses throughout 2016, including in East Jerusalem.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28747 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28748 (in Arabic)

UK Minister for the Middle East expresses concern over new settlement units between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, 27 July 2016

The UK is concerned to see plans for 770 settlement units between Jerusalem and Bethlehem progressing. As we have previously made clear, all settlement activity is illegal under international law, and damages prospects for a two-state solution.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28740 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28741 (in Arabic)

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Statement by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the decision to expand settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, 27 July 2016

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs learned with deep concern about the Israeli decision to expand, by building 770 new housing units, the settlement of Gilo, between East Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Settlements are illegal under international law and undermine ongoing efforts for a lasting peace on the basis of the two-State solution.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28742

Turkey

The article by Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Sarnıç, Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Jerusalem, 20 July 2016

On the evening of July 15th, a faction of the Turkish Armed Forces attempted to stage a coup in various cities of Turkey, particularly in Ankara and İstanbul. It was understood in a short time that this was a terrorist campaign. The perpetrators fired at their own people, betrayed their commanders and bombed the National Parliament and the Office of the Presidency. From the very beginning, the command chain and vast majority of the Turkish Armed Forces stood up against the coup attempt. It was merely some elements of the Air Forces, Gendarmerie and armored units that joined the violent conspiracy.

The full article is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28721 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28722 (in Arabic)

The Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic regarding the situation in Turkey, 16 July 2016

The situation unfolded in Turkey was a coup attempt to overthrow the democratically-elected government. This attempt was foiled by the Turkish people in unity and solidarity. Our President and Government are in charge. Turkish Armed Forces was not involved in the coup attempt in its entirety. It was conducted by a clique within the Armed Forces and received a well-deserved response from our nation.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28715

Representative Office of Japan

Statement by Foreign Press Secretary Yasuhisa Kawamura on advancing the plans of settlement construction by Israel, 28 July 2016

The Government of Japan deeply deplores that the Government of Israel is advancing a series of settlement activities even after the Middle East Quartet released its report with the recommendations that called on Israel to cease the policy of settlement construction and expansion in early July.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28745 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28746 (in Arabic)

AIDA

Gaza Blockade Preventing Vital Reconstruction: International Agencies Sound the Alarm, 7 July 2016

Two years since the outbreak of the 2014 war that cost the lives of 1,492 Palestinian civilians, including 551 children, much of the Gaza Strip remains in ruins. Entire neighbourhoods remain cut off from water supplies, destroyed hospitals and clinics have not yet been rebuilt, and tens of thousands remain without a home.
While some reconstruction has progressed, the situation in Gaza remains dire. Less than 10% of the 11,000 homes that were completely destroyed during the 51 day bombardment have been rebuilt. As a result of the war and the impact of the blockade imposed in 2007 by Israel, more than 75,000 Palestinians in Gaza still have no home to return to.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28707

PCBS

Decrease in the Producer Price Index, during June 2016

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 100.31 in June 2016, as it decreased by 1.60% compared to May 2016.
Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 100.27 in June 2016, which indicates a decrease by 1.73% compared to May 2016.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28749 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28750 (in Arabic)

Construction Cost Index (CCI), Road Cost Index (RCI), Water Networks Cost Index (WNCI) and Sewage Networks Cost Index (SNCI) in the West Bank during June, 26 July 2016

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings reached 103.12 with an increase of 0.51% in the West Bank during June compared with May 2016 (base year 2013=100).
The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings increased due to the increase in labor wages by 2.79%, while the prices of raw materials decreased by 0.58%, and rental of equipment decreased by 0.25% during June 2016 compared with the previous month.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28733 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28734 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of May 2016

Exports increased in May, 2016 by 4.4% compared to April, 2016. While it decreased by 1.8% compared to May, 2015 and reached USD 83.5 Million. Exports to Israel increased in May, 2016 by 3.5% compared to April, 2016 and represented 87.9% of total exports in May, 2016.At the same

time, exports to other countries increased by 11.2% during the same period compared to April, 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28730 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28731 (in Arabic)

Increase in the Wholesale Price1 Index during the Second Quarter of 2016, 20 July 2016

The overall Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in Palestine with its base year (2007=100) reached 125.09 in the Second quarter 2016, which indicates an increase by 1.01% compared with the First quarter 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28718 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28719 (in Arabic)

PCBS – Increase in the Consumer Price Index during June, 14 July 2016

The overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Palestine during June 2016 increased by 0.22% compared with May 2016 (by 1.75% in Jerusalem J1, and by 0.55% in the West Bank, while it decreased by 0.33% in Gaza Strip).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28713 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28714 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and National Population Committee press release on the Eve of the International Population Day, 11 July 2016

The Estimated Population of Palestine at mid-2016 was about 4.81 Million

The total population of Palestine at mid-2016 was about 4.81 million; 2.45 million males and 2.36 million females. The estimated population of West Bank was 2.93 million of which 1.49 million males and 1.44 million females.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28709 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28710 (in Arabic)

Decrease in the Industrial Production in Palestine during May, 3 July 2016

The overall Quantity of Industrial Production Index (IPI) in Palestine reached 107.94 during May 2016 with an increase of 6.09% compared to the previous month (Base Month December 2015 = 100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28704 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28705 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, July 2016**

http://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/gender_bulletin_issue_69.pdf (in English)

http://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/gender_bulletin_issue_69_arabic_0.pdf (in Arabic)

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, July 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28743

New Arrivals

- **Mr. Trevor Cadieu** has joined the USSC as USSC CA – Task Force Commander. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: trevor.cadieu@forces.gc.ca , phone: 02-6226929

- **Mr. Jim Fosbrink** has joined the USSC as Director Security Sector Governance. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: fosbrinkja@state.gov , phone: 02-6227619

- **Ms. Christine Bazarin** has joined the USSC as Deputy Security Sector Governance PM. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: christine.bazarin@forces.gc.ca , phone: 02-6226929

- **Mr. Artūras Gailiūnas** has joined the Representative Office of the Republic of Lithuania as Head of Mission. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: office.ramallah@mfa.lt ,phone: 02-2415290