LAC

SECRETARIAT

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Local Aid Coordination Secretariat
Tel: 02- 297-6330/1/2/4
Fax: 02-297-6335
Email: secretariat@lacs.ps
Website: www.ldf.ps

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

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, 7 September 2016:** Economic Policy SG and Fiscal SWG meeting at 10:00 at the Palestinian Public Finance Institute.
- **Monday, 24 October 2016:** Health Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the MoH.

Documents & Reports

United Nations

OCHA

- Protection of Civilians:, 16 – 22 August 2016
  http://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-weekly-report-16-22-august-2016
- Protection of Civilians, 9 – 15 August 2016
  https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-weekly-report-09-15-august-2016
- Gaza: Two Years since the 2014 Hostilities, August 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29805
- Updated Map – Gaza Strip Access and movement, August 2016
  http://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-strip-access-and-movement-august-2016

FAO

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 22-25 August 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29800
- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 14-18 August 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29782
- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 7-11 August 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29775

WFP

- State of Palestine: Country Brief – July 2016, 26 August 2016

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29795

ILO – PCBS

- Labour market transitions of young women and men in the Occupied Palestinian Territory – Results of the 2015 school-to-work transition survey – July 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29804

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Prime Minister's Office

PM Hamdallah: No one is above the law, 25 August 2016

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, during an interview which will air on Ma'an TV, said that ensuring public security is paramount, stressing that the upcoming local elections will proceed as scheduled.

"No one is above the law," Prime Minister Hamdallah said in reference to the recent incidents in Nablus. "Those who threaten Palestinian security and public safety will be brought to justice, without exception."

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29792

PMO: Israel's Horrific Treatment of Bilal Kayed Amounts to Torture, 23 August 2016

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah called for the immediate release of Bilal Kayed, who has been on a hunger strike for 70 days, and who is currently shackled to his bed in an Israeli hospital.

"Israel is violating all medical ethics by shackling a human being like an animal," he said. "The Israeli authorities are directly responsible for Mr. Kayed's well-being and should release him immediately."

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29784

PMO: Is Palestinian Education a Threat to Israel?, 17 August 2016

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah issued a statement reiterating his support for the Bedouin community of Khan al Ahmar, where Israeli authorities have ordered the immediate shut down of its only school.

"Everyone is entitled to education; it is a fundamental human right," said Prime Minister Hamdallah. "We stand with the community of Khan al Ahmar and we commend all those who are supporting it."

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29777

PMO: Israel Plans to Cut the West Bank in Two, 15 August 2016

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah condemned Israel's plan to appropriate Palestinian land in order to establish a new settlement in the West Bank.

"Israel's move to build a new illegal settlement and bypass road next to Bethlehem is another step into cutting the West Bank in two, and annexing Area C," Hamdallah said. "Israeli authorities are doing their best to destroy the historic character of Bethlehem," he added.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29776

UN

Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 29 August 2016

With no prospect for resuming negotiations in sight, developments on the ground continue to undermine an already precarious situation. Illegal settlement construction advances, Gaza remains beyond the control of the legitimate Palestinian authority and the political leadership on both sides continues to shy away from the steps that are necessary for peace. This is the reality which continues to erode trust in the prospect of a two-state solution, the constituency for which is dwindling both in Israel and Palestine.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29801

Statement by UN Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Robert Piper, on the upcoming local council elections in Palestine, 24 August 2016

United Nations Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Robert Piper met today with the Chairman of the Central Elections Commission (CEC), Dr. Hanna Nasir to discuss the latest preparations for the upcoming local council elections scheduled to take place on 8 October 2016 and issued the following statement:

"I am encouraged by the efforts of the CEC and the dedication of its staff in preparing for this important election which is to be carried out across the State of Palestine. It will be the first concurrent poll in the occupied West Bank and Gaza since 2006.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29787

Statement by the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance and Development Aid in the occupied Palestinian territory, Mr. Robert Piper, on Israel's continued practice of administrative detention, 20 August 2016

I am deeply concerned about the deteriorating health of Palestinian detainee Bilal Kayed, after 67 days of a hunger strike protesting his detention without charge or trial. This is an egregious case, in which Mr. Kayed was placed on administrative detention on the day of his scheduled release after completing a 14.5 year prison sentence.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29781

UNCT

Two years after the 2014 Gaza hostilities, 16 heads of UN agencies in Palestine call for greater flow of material and funding to reverse Gaza's de-development spiral, 26 August 2016

On the day marking two years since the 26 August 2014 ceasefire which ended the most devastating round of hostilities in Gaza since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, 16 heads of United Nations agencies in Palestine call for the uninterrupted and predictable flow of material and increased funding to address humanitarian needs and boost economic prospects for Gaza's 1.9 million residents. In a report released today, UN agencies document collective progress made in the last two years, as well as some of the remaining challenges in the recovery and reconstruction effort following the 2014 hostilities, which left at least 1,400 Palestinian and six Israelis civilians dead, 11,200 Palestinians injured and an estimated 100,000 people homeless. Children and women accounted for over 60 percent of all fatalities and injuries in Gaza.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29796

World Bank

Reconstructing Gaza – Donor Pledges, 29 August 2016

At the request of Norway, as Chair of the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) and the Palestinian Authority (PA), the World Bank is leading a stocktaking exercise to assess the disbursement progress of funding pledged at the "Cairo Conference on Palestine – Reconstructing Gaza".

The Conference was organized by Egypt, Norway and the Palestinian Authority and was held in Cairo on October 12th, 2014 to raise aid for rebuilding Gaza following the July-August 2014 war. The financial support is to be provided over a period of three years (2014-2017) to strengthen the Palestinian Authority's ability to assume its responsibility in the recovery and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/rebuilding-gaza-donor-pledges

OCHA

UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities calls for international support to bring much-needed change for Gaza, 31 August 2016

Following a visit today to the occupied Gaza Strip with diplomats from Australia, Belgium, Canada, the EU, and the UK, the UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities, Robert Piper, called for increased diplomatic and donor action to reduce reliance on aid, increase respect for international law and accelerate recovery and reconstruction.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ochaopt.org/content/press-release-un-coordinator-humanitarian-aid-and-development-activities-calls-international

UN's Humanitarian Coordinator in Palestine warns of a heightened risk of forcible transfers of Bedouins in the West Bank, 22 August 2016

Following a visit to the Palestinian community of Abu Nuwar in the Jerusalem governorate today, the UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities, Robert Piper, warned that many Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank are facing a heightened risk of forcible transfer.

During the course of just last week, Israeli authorities displaced 64 Palestinians, including 24 children, by demolishing 29 structures across eight locations. Since 1 August, Israeli security forces have destroyed or confiscated a total of 85 civilian structures across 28 West Bank communities, displacing 129 Palestinians and affecting the livelihoods of at least another 2,100.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ochaopt.org/content/un-s-humanitarian-coordinator-palestine-warns-heightened-risk-forcible-transfers-bedouins

EU

The European Union provides €10 million to support families in need in the West Bank and Gaza, 29 August 2016

The European Union made the second contribution this year to the Palestinian Authority's (PA) quarterly payment of social allowances to Palestinian families living in poverty in the West Bank and Gaza. Around 115,000 poor Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza will receive social allowances through the PA's cash transfer programme. The contribution of €10 million from the European budget is equivalent to nearly one-third of the budget for this payment.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29799

Statement of the EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah regarding the death in custody of detainee Ahmad Ezz Halaweh, 26 August 2016

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah are gravely concerned by the death in custody of detainee Ahmad Ezz Halaweh, allegedly at the hands of members of the Palestinian Security Forces, on 23rd August. The incident raises serious concerns over respect for fundamental human rights by the Palestinian Security Forces in the context of the arrest, detention and questioning of suspects, as well as the implementation of the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29794

The EU provides €14 million to East Jerusalem Hospitals, 22 August 2016

The EU and the Government of Finland have joined forces to provide €14 million to help East Jerusalem Hospitals maintain critical medical services to Palestinians. The contribution, which is channelled through the European Union's PEGASE mechanism, will help to cover part of outstanding costs of referrals of patients for treatment to East Jerusalem Hospitals by the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29783

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn death sentence issued in Gaza, 19 August 2016

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the death sentence issued in Gaza on 17th August.

As in their most recent statement on 21st July, the EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall the EU's firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment. The EU considers that abolition of the death penalty contributes to the protection of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29780

British Consulate General

British Consulate General reiterates the UK's support to Susiya, 18 August 2016

A British Consulate General team, headed by Deputy British Consul General, James Downer, today visited the village of Susiya, which is under threat of demolition.

The team toured the village and talked to residents to learn more about the difficulties facing the village. They were then briefed on the legal situation of the village by the Norwegian Refugee Council.

During the visit Mr Downer expressed the UK Government's condemnation of Israel's practice of house demolitions in Area C of the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. He also reiterated that the UK would continue to support Palestinians in Area C.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29778 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29779 (in Arabic)

Representative Office of Japan

Completion of a Project for Rehabilitation of Water Network in Za'atara, Funded by Japan, 29 August 2016

Today, August 29th,2016, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Za'atara in Bethlehem Governorate to celebrate the

completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The grant of US $101,110 extended to Za'atara Municipality was used to secure sufficient tap water supply for the residents who currently suffer from insufficient clean water, by replacing the old damaged water pipes in 5 locations in the village. The direct beneficiaries are estimated around 2,000 residents (324 households).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29802 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29803 (in Arabic)

Grant Signing Ceremony for Replacing Air Medium Voltage Network in Qarawat Bani Hassan, funded by Japan, 25 August 2016

Grant Contracts for one Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) was signed today by Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, and Mayor of Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality at the Representative Office of Japan in Ramallah for a total amount of US$ 82,009.

Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality will use the funds to replace 900 meters of old electric wire to underground and remove 8 old lattices column and install one new lattice column.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29790 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29791 (in Arabic)

Japan International Cooperation Agency - Department of Refugee Affairs

Record of Discussion Signing Ceremony of Technical Assistance Project: Refugee Camp Improvement Project, 31 August 2016

Head of Department of Refugee Affairs (DoRA), H.E. Dr. Zakaria Al-Agha, and JICA's Chief Representative Ms. Yuko MITSUI signed ''Refugee Camp Improvement Project'' on Wednesday, 31st August, 2016, with presence of representatives of Ministry of Finance and Planning.

The project will be implemented by DoRA and Japanese experts for improving capacity of DoRA and relevant community groups necessary for camp improvement. This is the first cooperation between DoRA and JICA.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29808 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29809 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Increase in the Producer Price Index during July, 29 August 2016

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 102.17 in July 2016, as it increased by 1.86% compared to June 2016.

Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 102.33 in July 2016, which indicates an increase by 2.05% compared to June 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29797 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29798 (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 July, 25 August 2016

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings reached 102.66 with a decrease of 0.45% in the West Bank during July compared with June 2016 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29788 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29789 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of June, 23 August 2016

Exports decreased in June, 2016 by 6.9% compared to May, 2016. It also decreased by 9.8% compared to June, 2015 and reached USD 77.7 Million.

Exports to Israel decreased in June, 2016 by 7.3% compared to May, 2016 and represented 87.5% of total exports in June, 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29785 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29786 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, August 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29810 (in English)
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29811 (in Arabic)

- **Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, August 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29793

New Arrivals

- **Ms. Hilde Haraldstad** has joined the Representative Office of Norway as Representative. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: hih@mfa.no , phone: 02-2358600