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

List of Recent Meetings

- **Wednesday, 7 September 2016:** Economic Policy SG and Fiscal SWG meeting at 10:00 at the Palestinian Public Finance Institute.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Monday, 19 September 2016:** Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting in New York.
- **Wednesday, 21 September 2016:** Education Sector Working Group meeting at 9:15 at the MoEHE.
- **Monday, 24 October 2016:** Health Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the MoH.

Documents & Reports

United Nations

OCHA

- Protection of Civilians, 23 August – 5 September 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29833
- Gaza Crossings Operations Status, August 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29835
- Humanitarian Bulletin – August 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29826
- Protection of Civilians:, 16 – 22 August 2016
  http://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-weekly-report-16-22-august-2016

WHO

- Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip – July 2016, 7 September 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29831

IMF

- IMF West Bank and Gaza Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 19 September 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29832

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Prime Minister's Office

PMO: Israeli Authorities Continue to Abuse Palestinian Children, 1 September 2016

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Hamdallah condemned the ongoing abuse of Palestinian minors held in Israeli jails and their ill-treatment in interrogation rooms.

"This pattern of abuse by Israel is inhumane and very troubling," said Prime Minister Hamdallah. "It is cruel and unlawful, and sadly leaves a lasting psychological impact on our children."

Recently, two minor detainees, Mu'men Hamayel and Oday Bader, told the attorneys from the Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs that they have been physically abused and severely beaten after their arrest in the West Bank.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29813

UN

Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on the electricity deal reached by Israeli and Palestinian authorities, 14 September 2016

I welcome the agreement reached by Israeli and Palestinian authorities to resolve the issue of the outstanding electricity debts and to create a new energy market. The agreement includes the transfer of authority to the Palestinian government for collecting payments for electricity distributed to Palestinian territory and will provide an important increase to the Palestinian revenue base.

Such a significant step is in line with the Quartet's recommendations calling on both sides to take steps to strengthen Palestinian institutions and develop a sustainable economy, consistent with the transition to greater Palestinian civil authority as contemplated by prior agreements.

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29840

UNRWA

Italy Contributes EUR 6.6 million to Core UNRWA Programmes and Services, 1 September 2016

The Government of Italy, through the Italian Development Cooperation, has contributed EUR 6.6 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency's core programmes and services. This year's amount represents a 61 per cent increase over the Italian contribution to the UNRWA Programme Budget in 2015 and is the first part of a total EUR 10 million commitment by the Italian government to the Agency in 2016. This commitment was announced during the Commissioner-General's two-day mission to

Italy in May, during which he met with several senior government officials, as well as members of the academic, non-profit and media sectors.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29814 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29815 (in Arabic)

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Important agreement reached by Israeli and Palestinian authorities, 13 September 2016

I would like to congratulate both parties on reaching agreement on the collection of electricity payments. This is the most extensive agreement between Israeli and Palestinian authorities for a very long time. Both parties have shown a willingness and ability to make compromises and have shown leadership in a difficult situation,' said Minister of Foreign Affairs Børge Brende.

After more than a year of negotiations, the Israeli and Palestinian authorities have concluded an agreement on the collection of electricity payments. Norway maintained contact with both parties during the negotiations.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29839

EU

The EU and the Netherlands contribute €29 million to the PA's payment of August salaries and pensions, 6 September 2016

The European Union is making today a contribution of €29.0 million to the payment of August salaries and pensions of 65,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This contribution, which is channelled through the PEGASE mechanism, is being funded by the European Union (€28.0 million) and the Government of the Netherlands (€1.0 million earmarked specifically for PA salaries in the justice sector).

By this contribution, the EU has disbursed €134 million out of the €168 million that the European Union allocated this year to support the Palestinian Authority payment of salaries, pensions, social allowances, and referral to East Jerusalem hospitals.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29821

Statement by the EU Spokesperson on the approval of new settlements units in the occupied West Bank, 1 September 2016

The Israeli decision yesterday to endorse an additional 463 housing units in the occupied West Bank and to retroactively approve 179 existing units is a serious concern. Since January 2016, Israeli authorities have promoted or retroactively legalised 2,706 units in West Bank settlements.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29816

Consulate General of France

Statement by the spokesperson of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development on destruction of humanitarian facilities, 14 September 2016

France condemns the destruction on September 7 by Israel of humanitarian facilities funded by European and international donors, including France, in the Palestinian village of Al Aqaba (in Area C of the West Bank). This is the fourth time that Israeli authorities have destroyed humanitarian structures funded by French humanitarian assistance since the start of 2016.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29841

Statement by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development on the French initiative, 7 September 2016

In the Near-East, some think that the situation between Israel and Palestine, which deteriorates every day, is not the priority of the moment; this is a mistake because there will be no peace in the region without a settlement of the conflict, which feeds the violence and the propaganda of radicals on all sides. It is our duty not to give up. It was thus necessary to take the initiative. And the presence of approximately thirty of our partners in Paris on 3 June has proved us right.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29828

Consulate General of Italy

Bethlehem Municipality Launches Road Rehabilitation Works with support from the Government of Italy and UNDP, 6 September 2016

Bethlehem, 06 September 2016 – The Bethlehem Municipality, Government of Italy and UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People launched the Caritas road rehabilitation activities at the northern entrance of Bethlehem City, under the Facilitating Access to Infrastructure Resilience in Area C and East Jerusalem (FAIR) programme.

Fabio Sokolowicz, Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem, Dr Vincenzo Racalbuto, Head of the Italian Development Cooperation Agency, Director General at Ministry of Local Government Mr Shukri Rdaydeh, Mr Roberto Valent, UNDP Special Representative of the Administrator attended the event that took place under the auspices of the Mayor of Bethlehem, Ms Vera Baboun.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29836

Consulate General of Belgium

The statement by the Belgium Minister of Foreign Affairs on the new announcements concerning West Bank settlements, 6 September 2016

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders firmly condemns the adoption of the construction plans for 463 housing units and the retroactive approval of 179 other units in various West Bank settlements.

These decisions raise the number of housing units concerned by the settlement plans since January 2016 to 2,706. As emphasised by the Quartet (United Nations, European Union, United States,

Russia) in its report published on 1 July, these decisions severely compromise any peace prospects and gradually undermine the viability of a two-state solution.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29827

Representative Office of Japan

State Minister Sonoura Attends the Fifth Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit for the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity, 9 September 2016

On September 7, Mr. Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the Fifth Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit for the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" in Jericho, Palestine, during his visit. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Mr. Hussein al-Sheikh, Minister of Civil Affairs of the Palestinian Authority, H.E. Mr. Tzachi Hanegbi, Israeli Minister at Prime Minister Office, and H.E. Dr. Saleh Al-Kharabsheh, Jordanian Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. State Minister Sonoura served as Chair.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29837 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29838 (in Arabic)

Chairman's Summary: The Fifth Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit for the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity, 8 September 2016

The Fifth Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit for the initiative of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" was held in Jericho on 7th September, 2016. Mr. Kentaro Sonoura, Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hussein Al-Sheikh, Palestinian Minister of Civil Affairs, Mr. Tzachi Hanegubi, Israeli Minister at the Prime Minister Office and Dr. Saleh Kharabsheh, Jordanian Secretary General of minister of Planning and International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Participants") attended the meeting.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29834

Signing and Exchange of Notes concerning General Cultural Grant Assistance to Palestine, 6 September 2016

On September 6, Mr. Takeshi OKUBO, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the Palestinian Authority, and Mr. Shukri BISHARA, Minister of Finance and Planning, signed and exchanged notes in Ramallah, regarding General Cultural Grant Assistance of up to one billion two hundred thirty-five Million Yen (¥ 1.235.000.000 almost US$ 12 Millions) related to the Project for the Construction of the Protective Shelter and the Presentation of the Great Bath at Hisham's Palace, in the presence of Mr. Kentaro SONOURA, Vice Foreign Minister of Japan, and Dr. Rami HAMDALLAH Prime Minister of Palestine.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29822 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29823 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Increase in the Consumer Price Index during August, 8 September 2016

The overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Palestine during August 2016 increased by 0.35% compared with July 2016 (by 0.77% in Gaza Strip, and by 0.66% in the West Bank, while it decreased by 0.36% in Jerusalem J1).

The CPI during August 2016 increased by 0.45% compared with August 2015 (by 1.03% in the West Bank, while it decreased by 0.84% in Jerusalem J1, and by 0.48% in Gaza Strip).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29829 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29830 (in Arabic)

PCBS press release on the Eve of International Literacy Day, 7 September 2016

On the eve of the International Literacy Day, 8th September 2016, the President of Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics announced that there were about 94 thousands illiterate persons in Palestine aged 15 years and above in 2015. According to the United Nations for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – the illiterate person applies to persons unable to read and write with understanding a simple statement related to one's daily life.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29824 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29825 (in Arabic)

The PCBS press release on Hotel Activities Survey in the West Bank during the Second Quarter 2016

During the second quarter 2016, 113,517 guests stayed in hotels in the West Bank: 27% were from European Union countries and 11% were Palestinians.

The number of hotel guests was 42% higher than in the first quarter of 2016 and 21% lower than the second quarter 2015.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29819 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29820 (in Arabic)

Decrease in the Industrial Production Index in Palestine during July, 5 September 2016

The overall Quantity of Industrial Production Index (IPI) in Palestine reached 98.52 during July 2016 with a decrease of 4.18% 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=29817 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29818 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 4 September 2016**
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_120/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm
  (in English)
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_120/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm
  (in Arabic)

New Arrivals

- **Ms. Marina Wes** has joined the World Bank as Country Director. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: mwes@worldbank.org ,phone: 02-2366500

- **Mr. Sam Rothenberg** has joined the US-Consulate General as Deputy Chief, Economic Section. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: RothenbergSF@state.gov ,phone: 02-6226984

- **Mr. Tomas Niklasson** has joined the Office of the European Union Representative (EUREP) as Deputy Representative.
  His contact details are as follows:
  Email: Tomas.NIKLASSON@eeas.europa.eu ,phone: 02-5415817

- **Ms. Myriam Sekkat** has joined the Office of the European Union Representative (EUREP) as OPS1 – Trade Policy Officer. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: Myriam.SEKKAT@eeas.europa.eu; phone: 02-5415826

- **Ms. Marzia Dalla Vedova** has joined the Office of the European Union Representative (EUREP) as Programme Manager – OPS1 – Skills and Employment Development/TVET/NSA. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: Marzia.DALLA-VEDOVA@eeas.europa.eu ,phone: 02-5415853

- **Mr. Joao Anselmo** has joined the Office of the European Union Representative (EUREP) as Programme Manager – OPS2- Agriculture – Food Security. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: Joao.ANSELMO@eeas.europa.eu , phone: 02-5415838

- **Mr. Simone Brotini** has joined the Office of the European Union Representative (EUREP) as Programme Manager – OPS4 – PEGASE DFS CSP – Education. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: Simone.BROTINI@eeas.europa.eu ,phone: 02-5415880

- **Ms. Stephanie Rousseau** has joined the Office of the European Union Representative (EUREP) as Programme Manager – OPS4 – DFS VPF – Social Protection & Health. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: Stephanie.ROUSSEAU@eeas.europa.eu ,phone: 02-5415810

- **Mr. Douglas Scott Proudfoot** has joined the Representative Office of Canada as Representative. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: Douglas.Proudfoot@international.gc.ca ,phone: 02-2978430

- **Ms. Ashley Durec** has joined the Representative Office of Canada as Political Officer. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: Ashley.Durec@international.gc.ca ,phone: 02-2978430

- **Mr. Rafael Matos González de Careaga** has joined the Consulate General of Spain as Consul General. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: rafael.matos@maec.es ,phone: 02-5350100

- **Mr. José Luis Gonzalez García** has joined the Consulate General of Spain as Deputy Consul General. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: jluis.gonzalez@maec.es ,phone: 02-5350100

- **Ms. Mattia Poretti** has joined SDC as Deputy Director of Cooperation. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: mattia.poretti@eda.admin.ch ,phone: 02- 5452403

- **Mr. Fabio Sokolowicz** has joined the Consulate General of Italy as Consul General. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: fabio.sokolowicz@esteri.it ,phone: 02-5618966

- **Mr. Federico Dimonopoli** has joined the Consulate General of Italy as Consul. His contact details are as follows: Email: federico.dimonopoli@esteri.it ,phone: 02-5618966

- **Ms. Annika Johansson** has joined the Consulate General of Sweden as Consul – Deputy Head of Development Cooperation – Private Sector Development. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: annika.johansson@gov.se ,phone: 02-6465862