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

- **Monday, 30th January 2017:** Presentation of the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection for Workers by the Minister of Labor, H.E. Ma'moun Abu Shahla at 1:00 at LACS Office.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Education Sector Working Group Meeting, 12 December 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30179
  - Education Annual plan, 12 December 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30185
  - Education Annual Budget and Work plan, 12 December 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30189

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians, 10 – 23 January 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30209

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Prime Minister's Office

PM Hamdallah Urges Apple and Google to include Palestinian communities in Area C in their maps, 26 January 2017

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah urged both the Apple and Google companies to include all Palestinian communities in the West Bank in their online maps.

"It is baffling that, while Palestinians in Area C can´t even find their own community on either maps, Israeli settlers can get driving directions to cross the West Bank in its entirety to get from one illegal settlement to another."

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30207

UN

Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 17 January 2017

I report to you today in the aftermath of the appalling truck-ramming attack on January 8th that killed four Israelis and injured 17 more in Jerusalem. Such attacks can never be justified and must be universally condemned. This act of cowardice was neither courageous, nor heroic. Such terrorist attacks must be unequivocally condemned by all. It is regrettable that some Palestinian factions and leaders have chosen to praise it, to glorify it or have simply remained silent.

The full briefing is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30180

The Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, on the reactivation of the Israeli – Palestinian Joint Water Committee, 16 January 2017

"I welcome the signature of an agreement to renew the activity of the Israeli – Palestinian Joint Water Committee to improve the water infrastructure and supply in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

This, along with previous joint agreements on electricity, water, mail and 3G cellular coverage, is in line with the Middle East Quartet's recommendations.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30174

World Bank

An Additional US$5.6 Million in Budget Supportto the Palestinian Authority, 16 Janaury 2017

Washington, January 16, 2017- The World Bank has transferred an amount of about US$5.6 million to the Palestinian Authority from the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan Trust Fund (PRDP-MDTF), a multi-donor budget support mechanism administered by the Bank.

The funds contributed by the Royal Government of Norway, will help support the urgent budget needs of the Palestinian Authority (PA), providing inter alia support for ongoing macroeconomic and public financial management reforms.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30173

UNICEF

EU and UNICEF inaugurate Gaza's largest seawater desalination plant, 19 January 2017

Gaza, 19 January, 2017 – Today the European Union and UNICEF officially inaugurated the largest seawater desalination plant built in the Gaza Strip so far.

The €10 million plant, funded by the European Union, has the capacity of producing 6,000 m3 of potable water daily to provide around 75,000 Palestinians with safe drinking water in the southern Gaza Strip—about 35,000 people in Khan Younis and 40,000 people in Rafah.

The European Union has already granted an additional funding of €10 Million to double the capacity of the plant. The works of this second phase, which have just started, will enable the plant to produce a total of 12,000 m3 of safe drinkable water daily, serving around 150,000 Palestinians.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30187

UNOPS

10 families sign contracts with UNOPS to receive cash assistance to reconstruct their damaged homes in Gaza, 26 January 2017

Gaza – The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), signed contracts with the first families whose homes have been destroyed during the 2014 conflict in Gaza under the UNOPS Housing Reconstruction Project. These families are the first of over hundred to receive the first payment of cash assistance for reconstructing their homes and reconstructing their lives.

The primary aim of this project is to provide legal, financial and technical support to the most vulnerable internally displaced (IDPs) households who had their houses totally destroyed in the conflict.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30205

UNFPA

The letter by Mr. Anders Thomsen, UNFPA Representative to the Minister of Health, HE Dr. Jawad Awwad, on issuing a decree to exempt Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors from medical fees, 26 January 2017

On behalf of UNFPA, I would like to congratulate you on issuing a decree to exempt GBV survivors from medical fees. Such a decision is immense support from the Ministry of Health under your esteemed leadership to women, and especially GBV survivors, to their health and mental health.

The full letter is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30206

UNESCO

University Teachers in Palestine trained to become first to pilot UNESCO- International Federation of Journalists Model Course on Safety of Journalists, 30 January 2017

From 25 to 27 January 2017, the UNESCO Office in Ramallah organized a training workshop to introduce Palestinian university teachers to the Model Course on the Safety of Journalists developed by UNESCO and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) for the Arab region. This course is aimed at providing media students with a detailed understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects relating to safety. The training, which took place in the city of Jericho, was held in partnership with the IFJ, represented by its local counterpart the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS).

The full press statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30212

USAID – Global Affairs Canada

The Governments of the U.S. and Canada Join the Palestinian Authority to inaugurate the new Qabatiya-Al Jalameh Road, 19 January 2017

Jalameh Crossing, Jenin Governorate – Today, the governments of the United States and Canada, the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and Prime Minister Hamdallah joined Jenin Governorate officials and community members to inaugurate the newly rehabilitated Qabatiya-Al Jalameh Road.

This $14.6 million activity was a collaborative effort between USAID and Global Affairs Canada to rehabilitate 14.2-kilometers of the Qabatiya-Al Jalameh Road to improve the living conditions of Palestinians and support Palestinian economic growth.

The full press statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30188

EU

The EU and Swiss Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn death sentences issued in Gaza, 26 January 2017

The European Union Representative, the EU Heads of Mission and the Head of Mission of Switzerland in Jerusalem and Ramallah issue the following statement.

The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the two death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip on 24th January.

The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall their firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment.

The full press statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30200

Statement by the Spokesperson on the Israeli announcement to build 2.500 settlement units, 25 January 2017

The announcement by the Israeli government on 24 January to build 2.500 settlement units across the West Bank, and the approval of building permits for 566 settlement units in East Jerusalem on 22 January, further seriously undermine the prospects for a viable two-state solution. It is regrettable that Israel is proceeding with this policy, despite the continuous serious international concern and objections, which have been constantly raised at all levels.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30194

EU support to Gaza: Inauguration the first phase of seawater desalination plant and launching the works at Sufa landfill site, 19 January 2017

The Director for the Neighbourhood South at the European Commission, Michael Köhler, visited today a number of EU-funded projects in Gaza. During his visit, Director Köhler and the Head of the Palestinian Water Authority Mazen Ghuneim inaugurated the first phase of the new desalination plant in Khan Younis that will provide immediately fresh water to 75,000 Palestinians in Gaza. Director Köhler also attended the first digging at Sufa (Al-Fukhari) landfill site. This strategic infrastructure project will benefit almost half of Gaza population and will have major positive environmental implications for the Gaza strip.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30186

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn death sentences issued in Gaza, 16 January 2017

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the two death sentences issued in Gaza City on 10th January.

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. It considers capital punishment to be cruel and inhuman, that it fails to provide deterrence to criminal behaviour, and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30178

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

Israeli government's decision to build new settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory regrettable, 25 January 2017

Bern, 25.01.2017 – The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) considers regrettable the decision of the Israeli government taken on 24 January 2017 to authorise the planning and construction of 2,500 new houses in the occupied Palestinian territory.

This decision comes just two days after the government approved the construction of another 566 homes in East Jerusalem.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30197

British Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Minister for the Middle East statement on settlement units in the West Bank, 26 January 2017

Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood statement on the Israeli Government's announcement to build 2,500 settlement units in the West Bank.

Foreign Office minister, Tobias Ellwood, said:

"The British Government reiterates its support for a two-state solution leading to a secure Israel that is safe from terrorism, and a contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian state".

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30198 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30199 (in Arabic)

Minister for the Middle East statement on settlement units in East Jerusalem, 24 January 2017

British Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood has commented on the Jerusalem municipality approving plans to build 566 new settlement homes in East Jerusalem.

Foreign Office minister, Tobias Ellwood, said:

"It is the long held view of the British Government that settlements built on occupied Palestinian territory are contrary to international law and an obstacle to a two-state solution and we condemn them".

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30192 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30193 (in Arabic)

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The statement by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the approval of new settlements in East Jerusalem and in the West Bank, 26 January 2017

Concern of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the approval of 562 new house units in East Jerusalem and of 2500 additional units in the West Bank.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30208

Representative Office of Ireland

Statement by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, Charlie Flanagan, on Israeli settlement announcements, 25 January 2017

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan TD, has condemned recent announcements by Israeli authorities of further settlement construction in the occupied Palestinian Territories.

Minister Flanagan said: "Ireland's views on Israeli settlements couldn't be clearer. Indeed, the views of the international community on settlements couldn't be clearer – they are comprehensively set out in UN Security Council Resolution 2334 and in the declaration of the Paris Conference at which I participated earlier this month.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30201

Representative Office of Japan

Completion of the Project for Rehabilitation of Electricity Network in Sebastiya, funded by Japan, 31 January 2017

Today, January 31st,2017, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Sebastiya in Nablus Governorate to celebrate the completion of the project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30215 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30216 (in Arabic)

Statement by the Japanese Foreign Press Secretary Norio Maruyama on "Advancing the plans of settlement construction by Israel", 25 January 2017

The Government of Japan deeply deplores that, according to information, the Government of Israel has approved plans for settlements in the East Jerusalem and the West Bank, despite repeated calls from the international community including Japan for freezing settlement activities.

Settlement activities are in violation of international law and Japan has repeatedly called upon the Government of Israel to fully freeze settlement activities.

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30195 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30196 (in Arabic)

Completion of the Project for improvement of container waste collection in Joint Service Council for Solid Waste Management/ Nablus Governorate, funded by Japan, 18 January 2017

Today, January 18th,2017, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Nablus in Nablus Governorate to celebrate the completion of the project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The full press statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30183 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30184 (in Arabic)

Grant Signing Ceremonies for Two GGP Projects in Palestine, funded by Japan, 16 January 2017

Grant Contracts for two Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) were signed today by Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, and representatives of Huwwara Municipality and Palestinian Youth Union at the Representative Office of Japan in Ramallah for a total amount of US$ 158,550.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30176 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30177 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Palestinian Producer Price Index, during 2016 & December 2016, 31 January 2017

The overall PPI in Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 101.07 in 2016, which indicates an increase by 2.57% compared to 2015.

Prices of PPI for 2016 increased due to the increase in the prices of goods in Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply group by 14.64%, prices of goods in Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities group by 7.28%, prices of goods in Manufacturing group by 2.29%, and the prices of goods in Agriculture, forestry and fishing group by 0.86%.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30213 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30214 (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 2016 & December 2016, 26 January 2017

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Residential buildings in the West Bank reached 101.79 during 2016 with an increase of 1.29% compared with 2015 (base year 2013=100).

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Non-residential buildings in the West Bank reached 101.95 during 2016 with an increase of 1.25% compared with 2015 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30202 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30203 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of November, 23 January 2017

Exports increased in November, 2016 by 13.7% compared to October, 2016. It also increased by 10.3% compared to November, 2015 and reached USD 89.7 Million.

Exports to Israel increased in November, 2016 by 12.3% compared to October, 2016 and represented 82.5% of total exports in November, 2016

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30190 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30191 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Wholesale Price Index, during 2016 & Fourth Quarter of 2016, 19 January 2017

The overall Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in Palestine with its base year (2007=100) reached 125.63 in 2016, which indicates an increase by 1.62% compared with 2015.

Prices of WPI for 2016 increased due to the increase in the prices of Fishing goods by 17.20%, Agriculture goods by 2.45%, and the prices of goods in Manufacturing group by 1.25%, while the prices of goods in Mining and quarrying group decreased by 0.76%.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30181 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30182 (in Arabic)

Announcements

- Global Affairs Canada has launched a Call for Preliminary Proposals on Women and Youth Empowerment, Entrepreneurship and Employment in the West Bank and Gaza. For more details, please see the following website: http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/wbg-cbg-2017.aspx?lang=eng

Newsletters

- The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, January 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30210

- UNRWA Gender Bulletin, January 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30211