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 Recent Meetings

- **Wednesday, 22 February 2017**: Education Sector Working Group meeting at 12:30 at the main meeting hall of the MoEHE

Documents & Reports

United Nations

❖ OCHA

Protection of Civilians, 24 January – 06 February 2017
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30247

❖ WHO

Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip – December 2016, 1 February 2017
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30227

❖ UNICEF

Working with children to build peace in Palestinian communities, 7 February 2017
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30238

GIZ

Strengthening of Police Structures Programme, 6 February 2017
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30232 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30233 (in Arabic)

NGO Development Center

Documentary film – NDC supports NGOs to reach out to vulnerable communities and groups in unserved areas, 13 February 2017
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-Q706mjjWU

Press Releases and Formal Statements

UN

Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, on the so-called "Regularization Bill", 6 February 2017

I am concerned by the scheduled vote on the so-called "Regularisation Bill" as it would enable the continued use of privately-owned Palestinian land for Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. If adopted into law, it will have far reaching legal consequences for Israel and greatly diminish the prospects for Arab-Israeli peace. The bill has been deemed unconstitutional by the Attorney General of Israel and is in contravention of international law.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30236

UNRWA

The Vision Project for Blind and Visually Impaired Children in Gaza Successfully Concluded, 7 February 2017

The Vision Project for over two hundred blind and visually impaired children in Gaza has come to a successful conclusion, with teachers and children affirming the transformative impact of the project. The education initiative for 217 children uses cutting-edge "Voice Dream Reader" technology, which allows digital information imported onto mobile devices to be read in a human voice.

UNRWA is grateful to project funder, the UK-registered charity, Interpal for their generous support. "This project has had a tangible impact in the lives of children whose education prospects had been severely curtailed.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30237

Switzerland Supports Core UNRWA Programmes and Makes Additional Contribution to Emergency Response in the occupied Palestinian territory, 3 February 2017

The Swiss Confederation, through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has signed a multi-year agreement with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) totaling CHF 75.5 million (approximately US$ 73.7 million) that will go towards the Agency's core programmes and services – including education, health care, relief and social services and protection – over the 2017-2020 period. This agreement comes shortly after Switzerland's additional contribution of CHF 1.35 million (approximately US$ 1.32 million) in December 2016 to the UNRWA Emergency Appeal for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) to support the Agency's temporary shelter cash assistance programme in Gaza and protection interventions in the West Bank.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30231

EU

Statement by the EU High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the most recent announcement of 3,000 new settlements in the West Bank, 1 February 2017

The announcement by the Israeli government on 1 February to build an additional 3,000 settlement units, including units deep inside the West Bank, following the announcement on 24 January of the construction of 2,500 units and the approval of building permits for 566 settlement units in East Jerusalem on 22 January, marks a very worrying trend, posing a direct challenge to the prospects of a viable two-state solution, which is increasingly difficult and risks becoming impossible.

The European Union is strongly opposed to this policy and deeply regrets that Israel is proceeding with this, despite the continuous serious international concern and objections, which have been constantly raised at all levels.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30218

British Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood statement on Israel's Land Regularisation Bill, 7 February 2017

British Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood condemned Israel's Land Regularisation Bill that passed through the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset. Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood said: "It is of great concern that the bill paves the way for significant growth in settlements deep in the West Bank, threatening the viability of the two-state solution".

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30239 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30240 (in Arabic)

Minister for the Middle East statement on settlement units in the West Bank, 1 February 2017

British Minister for the Middle East, Tobias Ellwood, condemned the Israeli Government's announcement to build 3,000 settlement units in the West Bank. Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood said:

The announcement of further settlement units in the West Bank is part of a growing trend which we condemn. We have consistently been clear that settlements are illegal under international law, and not conducive to peace.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30220 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30221 (in Arabic)

Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Authorisation for settlements in West Bank, 1 February 2017

Spain condemns the decision taken by the Israeli Government on Tuesday to authorise the construction of 3,000 dwellings in settlements in the West Bank.

This decision is in violation of international law, together with another two very recent decisions on settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30222

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement over the approval of additional settlements in the West Bank, 1 February 2017

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterates its concern over the approval of 3000 additional house units in the West Bank, following the announcements in the previous days.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30223

Consulate General of Sweden

The Swedish statement regarding Israeli decision to confiscate privately owned Palestinian land, 7 February 2017

The Government condemns the Knesset decision yesterday to illegally confiscate privately owned Palestinian land. The decision is a flagrant violation of international law and Security Council resolution 2334, and raises serious doubts about Israel's willingness to reach a two-state solution. If the decision is implemented, it will seriously undermine the two-state solution. The UN, the EU and the Quartet (the UN, the EU, the United States and Russia) have repeatedly called on Israel to abandon its settlement policy and promote a meaningful peace process.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30243

Swedish Government statement on Israel's decision concerning settlement units on occupied territory, 2 February 2017

The Swedish Government strongly condemns the Israeli announcements made of plans for a total of more than 6 000 settlement units on occupied territory. The settlements constitute a flagrant violation of international law and contravene Security Council resolution 2334 on Israeli settlements, adopted on 23 December 2016.

In the resolution, the Security Council repeated its demand that Israel immediately freeze all settlement activity. The issue was discussed again in the Security Council on 25 January under the Swedish Presidency.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30226

Representative Office of Argentine

The Argentinian Government press release regarding the decision of the Israeli Parliament of the Regularization Law, 10 February 2017

Argentina observes with concern the enactment by the Israeli Parliament of the Regularization Law on 6 February, which legalizes the construction of settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30251

Consulate General of Italy – UNDP

Under the Auspices of H.E. Prime Minister Al Hamdallah – The Ministry of Local Government, Italy and UNDP Celebrate Completion of projects in Area C, 8 February 2017

Jericho, 08 February 2017 – In the presence of the H.E. Prime Minister Rami Al Hamdallah, and representatives of various ministries, missions and organizations, the Government of Italy and UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People marked the completion of 14 infrastructure projects in support of communities and institutions located in Area C and East Jerusalem.

During the event, H.E. Dr. Al Hamdallah reiterated the importance of strengthening the resilience of the Palestinian population in East Jerusalem and Area C as a national priority. He highlighted that the government's vision in essence is based on "the citizen first" and interventions are targeted towards providing services to all citizens, especially in Area C and East Jerusalem.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30252

Representative Office of Japan

Japan's New Assistance to Palestinian People (USD 46,688,925), 11 February 2017

The Government of Japan has committed new assistance of USD 46,668,925 to the Palestinian people through international organizations and Japanese NGOs.

This new package includes humanitarian assistance through UNRWA, budget assistance through the World Bank's Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (PRDP) as well as infrastructure assistance, mainly for further development of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), through UNDP.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30249 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30250 (in Arabic)

Adoption of Regulation Law Regarding Settlements by Israeli Parliament- (Statement by Foreign Press Secretary Norio Maruyama), 7 February 2017

The Government of Japan deeply deplores that the Israeli parliament adopted regulation law regarding settlements.

Settlement activities are in violation of international law and the Government of Japan has repeatedly called upon the Government of Israel to fully freeze settlement activities. The Government of Japan strongly urges the Government of Israel not to implement the law and desist from unilateral actions that are undermining the viability of a two-state solution.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30242 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30241 (in Arabic)

Completion of the Project for Improvement of Electricity Supply in Burqeen, funded by Japan, 5 February 2017

Today, February 5th,2017, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Burqeen in Jenin 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 statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30234 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30235 (in Arabic)

Statement by the Japanese Foreign Press Secretary Norio Maruyama on Advancing the plans of settlement construction by Israel, 2 February 2017

The Government of Japan deeply deplores that the Government of Israel announced the approval of the construction of about 3000 housing units in the Jewish settlements in 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 statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30229 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30230 (in Arabic)

Grant Signing Ceremonies for Two GGP Projects in Palestine, funded by Japan, 1 February 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 Al-Tawfiq cooperative society for fishermen and Al-Mughraqa Municipality at UNDP Headquarter in Gaza for a total amount of US$ 162,375.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30224 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30225 (in Arabic)

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

The FDFA reaffirms its support for a two-state solution, 8 February 2017

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) notes that the adoption by the Israeli parliament on Monday 6 February 2017 of a law aimed at legalising under Israeli law the building of homes, and in particular the building of numerous outposts, on private Palestinian land in the occupied Palestinian territory makes the prospect of a two-state solution, which the FDFA advocates, even more difficult.

Before this law was adopted, the FDFA had already repeatedly expressed its concerns to the Israeli authorities. Because the law has retroactive effect, it is designed to legalise, for the first time under Israeli law, the expropriation of private Palestinian land with the specific objective of establishing settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30246

Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan TD, on the Legalisation Bill, 8 February 2017

"I am deeply disappointed by the decision of Israeli legislators to pass the so-called Legalisation Bill on settlements in the West Bank.
"This represents a further serious setback for the Middle East Peace Process. It has been widely criticised both internationally and by many in Israel.
"It is a deepening of the settlements and a flagrant violation of international law.
"I am calling on the Israeli government to recognise the damaging consequences of this course of action and to take a clear decision not to implement the new law.
The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30244

Chile Representative Office

Chile rejects the expansion of settlements in Palestinian territories, 9 February 2017

The Chilean government expresses its deep dissatisfaction with the passing of a law by the Israeli parliament, which allows for the expropriation of Palestinian private property in the West Bank. This law would facilitate the legalization of dozens of outposts and settlements built illegally in Palestinian territory.
Chile joins the international community's rejection of the expansion of these settlements, which represents a serious obstacle to achieving a lasting peace based on the two-state-solution of two states that live together in peace and security with internationally recognized borders.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30245

Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Israeli Government's approval for the construction of 3.000 additional units in illegal settlements on the occupied Palestinian territories, 1 February 2017

We condemn Israeli Government's approval for the construction of 3.000 additional units in illegal settlements on the occupied Palestinian territories.
The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30228

Newsletters

- **EUPOL COPPS Newsletter, January 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30219

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 5 February 2017**

  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_125/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm

  (in English)

  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_125/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm

  (in Arabic)