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Civil Society Empowerment Promoting Good Governance

Another focus of PASSIA's **Civil Society Empowerment** project is **Promoting Good Governance**. The project is based on the notion that the achievement of good governance (transparency, accountability, rule of law, minority rights and absence of corruption) is a learning process that could be most effectively assisted by capitalizing upon the experiences of other emerging democracies or states in transition. It aims to help develop a responsive, efficient and credible public sector, with a transparent legal system and independent judicial institutions. The latter is particularly important given the fact that in countries transitioning to democracy, and the Palestinian case is a good example, the system is often weak and torn between incompatible institutional mandates and traditions. Moreover there is often a tendency to revert to more familiar patterns of authoritarianism – as displayed in the neighboring Arab states - and abuse of power rather than fostering the rule of law.

The project is a combination of research and workshops to analyze both the Palestinian democratization experience as well as the lessons and pitfalls of other countries in their attempts to promote and introduce concepts of participation, decentralization, accountability, transparency and rule of law.

The Program

PASSIA believes that by looking at what others have to say about success and strategic failures on the road to functioning democratic and legal systems new methods that would assist in the search for good governance practices could be developed for the Palestinian case.

As part of the project, a resource database is being developed, containing information about experts and expertise in the field of Governance, which is accessible via PASSIA's website.

The other project component - a series of intensive workshops - will examine Palestine's experience to date as well as that of other countries with regard to the following four major topics: *The Rule of Law, Democracy and Democratization, Decentralization and Local Government, and State-Society Relations*.

For each of these sub-topics a series of three sessions are held beginning with preparatory or brainstorming meetings, in which local civil society practitioners, human rights activists etc. try to identify existing work undertaken locally in the subject area as well as main topics to focus on with regard to the Palestinian case. Based on the results of these sessions, explicit topics for the second session will be selected and respective possible expert speakers approached and invited.

The second set of sessions includes speakers from other emerging democracies to lecture on the given topic. Based on this in-depth look at the best practices other states in transition developed, their failures, missed opportunities and lessons learned, it is hoped to find successful ways to tackle the problems ahead for the Palestinian case.

A third set of sessions then discusses the results of the previous meetings with locally concerned people and prepares recommendations and ways how to introduce and implement the necessary policies at a national Palestinian level.

Meetings 2003

■ **Subtopic: Democracy / Democratization**

9 January 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

The Culture of Democracy in Palestine Under Crisis

- Democracy and the current Intifada.
- Initiatives of civil society institutions related to promoting democracy in Palestine - Major Challenges.
- Suggested ideas and plans for sustaining a culture of democracy in Palestine.

Participant(s): Dr. Gabi Baramki, Advisor, Ministry of Higher Education; Peter Schafer, FES; Manal Abdullah, PWWSD (Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development); Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA; Elise Aghazarian, Projects Coordinator, PASSIA.

6 February 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

Democratic Work in Palestine: Where to? (Arabic Session)

- Evaluating the role of civil society and NGOs in enhancing a culture of democracy.
- Palestine: between an "authoritarian" regime, resisting the occupier and a democratic culture: where to?
- Suggested agenda for future work on democracy that would be in tandem with the situation in Palestine.



Participant(s): Rima Tarazi, General Union of Palestinian Women, President of Board, Al-Bireh; Hani Al-Masri, General Director of Publicity, Palestinian Ministry of Culture and Communication, Ramallah; Fadwa El-Sha'er, Arab Studies Society, Orient House, Jerusalem;

Latifeh el-Huwari, Teacher's Union, Ramallah; Mamdouh Nofal, writer, columnist, Ramallah; Khadijeh H. Abu Ali, freelancer, researcher on women issues, General Union of Palestinian Women, Ramallah; Professor Abdul-Karim Barghouti, Birzeit University, Birzeit; Lubna Hammad, Lawyer, Ramallah; Rima Saba, Consultant, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Ramallah; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA, Jerusalem; Elise Aghazarian, Projects Coordinator, PASSIA, Jerusalem.

22 March, 2003. PASSIA, Ramallah

Democracy Reforms in Palestine within the Prospects of the War on Iraq

Speaker: Dr. George Giacaman, Head of the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy (Muwatin), Professor, Birzeit University.

Participant(s): Taysir Arouri, Physics Department, Birzeit University; Rima Tarazi, Head of the Steering Committee, General Union of Palestinian Women, Ramallah; Dr. Mamdouh Iker, Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, Ramallah; Latifa Huwari, Teachers' Union, Ramallah; Dr. Faisal Awartani, General Manager of Alpha International for Polling, Research & Informatics, Ramallah; Lilly Habash, Commission of NGO Affairs, Ramallah; Muzna Shihabi, Masrouji Trading Company, Ramallah; Lubna Hammad, Legal Advisor, UNICEF - OPT; Ann Mahmood, UNICEF - OPT; Elise Aghazarian, Project Coordinator, PASSIA.

12 April 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

Democracy Development Projects and Programs in Palestine: Between Vision & Implementation - Youth Perceptions

Participant(s): Reem Wahdan, The Youth Times Magazine Reporter; Al-Ram; Amjad Ghosheh, Coordinator of the Youth Opportunities Program (YOP), Y.M.C.A, Ramallah; Niveen Shahin, Coordinator of the TV Program, Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation (PYALARA), Raed Budeir; Director, Young Scientists' Club (Al-Muntada), Ramallah; Hijazi Natsheh, IT for Youth Project, Welfare Association, Jerusalem; Lubna Hammad, Legal Consultant, Unicef, member of "Nuwat" Youth Group, Ramallah; Sabreen Ziben; Coordinator, Participatory Poverty Assessment Program, UNDP and Palestinian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Ramallah; Rania Estephan, Researcher, Development Studies Program, Birzeit University; Lamia' Mansour, Accountant; Bisan Abu Rukteh, Miftah Team, member of "Nuwat" Youth Group, Ramallah; Mawakeb Massad, Palestinian Medical Relief Center, Ramallah; Wafa' Abdel Rahman, Miftah, member of "Nuwat" Youth Group, Ramallah; Muzna Shihabi, Office Manager, Masrouji Trading Company, Ramallah; Amer Badran, Dentist, member of "Nuwat" Youth Group, Ramallah; Elise Aghazarian, Project Coordinator, PASSIA.

14 May 2003, PASSIA, Jerusalem

The Future of Democracy and the Rule of Law in Palestine: Youth Perceptions

Participant(s): Terry Boullata, Principle, New Generation School, Jerusalem; Issa Rabadi, Program Manager, Youth Development Department, Jerusalem; Labib Nasir, Information Coordinator, Miftah; Jad Qadamani, Palestinian Vision; Hala Amas, Manager, Wadi Al-Joz Community Center, Jerusalem; Jamila Ghouh, Youth Coordinator, Wadi Al-Joz Community Center; Sherene Abdul Hadi, Trade and Industrial Advisor, USAID, Member of Majhoul Youth Group, Jerusalem; Elise Aghazarian, Project Coordinator, PASSIA.

14 June 2003, PASSIA, Jerusalem



Lubna Hammad

The Palestinian Constitution & Women

Introductory paper presented by: Lubna Hammad, Legal Advisor, UNICEF

Participant(s): Haifa Baramki, Consultant; Khadijeh Abu Ali, Researcher & Consultant on Women's issues; Shahnaz Jubran, Project Coordinator, Development Studies Program, Birzeit University; Nasser Al-Faqih, PARC; Mamdouh Nofal, writer, columnist, Ramallah; Elise Aghazarian, Researcher/Governance Projects Coordinator, PASSIA.

21 June 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

Towards Better Cooperation on Gender and Democracy Issues in Palestine

Participant(s): Izzat Abdul-Hadi, Bisan Center for Research and Development; Haifa Baramki, Consultant; Gabi Baramki, Ministry of Education and Higher Education; Nasser Al-Faqih, PARC; Khadijeh H. Abu Ali, Researcher and Consultant on Women's Issues, G Rima Tarazi, Director, General Union of Palestinian Women.

25 June 2003, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Democracy & Islam

Speaker: Sheikh Fathi Mansour, Judge, Islamic Shari'a Court

Participant(s): Ranan Al-Muthaffar, Assistant for Programming & Communication, Tamkeen; Ruba El-Ghoul, Accountant, Analyst, ISAM Project; Nuha Qutob, Arab Studies Society; Ghadeer Quttieneh, Arab Studies Society; Elisabeth Peterson, Friedrich Ebert Foundation; Elise Aghazarian, Researcher, PASSIA; Qusay Abbas, Software Engineer; Marwan Bashiti, Coordinator, Old City Youth Association (OCYA), a group of OCYA members: Nezav, Ahmed Jaber, Mohammed, Amer, Ibrahim Khayyat, Ghassan Khalleh, Ahmad Khalifa, Hisham Assila, Ala' Munnayer.



Sheikh Fathi Mansour



31 July 2003, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Democracy and Democratization in Palestine – Donors Perspectives

Introduction by: Dr. Khalil Nakhleh, Director General, Department of Accreditation & Quality Assurance Commission, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Palestine.

Participant(s): Martha Myers, USAID; Rima Ghandour, USAID; Maria Vila Rebolo, FSPC (Spanish Cooperation); Hani Abu-Dayyeh, Businessman Net; Hiba Hussein, Lawyer, Hussein & Hussein; Larry Garber, USAID; Samia Khoury, volunteer; Leila Tarazi, volunteer; Ana Belein Herreras, student of sociology; Andres Bedia Alonso, engineer; Alban Biaussat, European Commission; François Osete, European Commission; Rana Bishara, PNGO Network; Rafiq Hussein, Welfare Association; Rob Dekker, Netherlands Representative Office;



Khalil Nakhleh



Iyad Masrouji, Masrouji Company; Mounir Kleibo, UNU program manager UNDP/PAPP; Fadia Daibes, consultant/water expert; Timothy Rothermel, UNDP; Mohammad Jadallah, Jerusalem Center for Development; Steve Hibbard, Canadian Representative Office; Goran Berg, Consul General of Sweden; Ibrahim Sha'aban, Lecturer; Niall Holohan, Irish Representative; David Codling, Deputy Director, British Council; Abla Nasir, General Secretary, YWCA; Jamal Al-Aref, ANERA; Ayman Mashni, CARE; Omar Bitar, Private; Hanlie Booyesen, South Africa Rep. Office; Rebecca Haessig, National Democratic Institute; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA; Deniz Altayli, Elise Aghazarian, Hijazi Natsheh, PASSIA.

Experts Workshop

9 September 2003 , Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah

Democracy/Democratization: Learning from the Lessons of the Others



Agenda:



Nadim Rouhana

- *Democracy and Ethnic Tyranny: The Experience of Palestine Citizens in Israel*
Dr. Nadim Rouhana, Director of MADA (Center for Applied Social Research), Haifa, Sociology Lecturer, Tel Aviv University

- *Spain's Transition to Democracy: Reflections on the 25th Anniversary of the Spanish Constitution*
Alberto Ucelay, Deputy Consul General, Spanish Consulate, Jerusalem



Alberto Ucelay



Ladislav Venys

- *The Democratization Process in Post-Communist Czech Republic*
Dr. Ladislav Venys, Director, Center for Democracy and Free Enterprise, Prague, The Czech Republic

- *The South African Experience in the Democratization Process*

Dr. Pallo Jordan, Member of the South African Parliament & African National Congress (ANC), Western Cape, South Africa



Pallo Jordan

Participant(s): Radim PECL, Head of Representative Office of the Czech Republic; Hania Toubas; Hadeel Qazzaz, Program Coordinator, Heinrich Böll Foundation; Faisal Awartani, General Manager, Alpha International, Ramallah; Sari Hanafi, Shaml; Ghada Saman, Employee, Financial Ministry; Nadia Hajal, MA Student; Hiba Husseini, Lawyer; Hisham Awartani, Professor; Hanlie



Booyesen, Deputy Representative, South Africa; Abdul Rahman Magrab, Professor; Elisabeth Petersen, Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung; Dr. Ayman Yousef, PhD Political Science; Basima Zaroor, Coordinator for Al-Muntada; Phadime Choshane, Third



Secretary (Political), South Africa Representative Office; Dr. Mufeed Shami; Bassma Khoury, Projects Coordinator, Birzeit University; Elise Aghazarian; Nibal Khalil, Anthropologist; Jamie Welling, Special Project Coordinator, Al-Mustakbal

Foundation; Mohammed Rafique Gangat, Head, South African Representative Office; Chris Mohale, Counsellor (Political), South African Representative Office; Amneh Ma'bad, Lawyer, Al-Haq; Dr. Niall Holohan, Head Irish Representative Office; Majed Abbadi; Adnan Dagher, Journalist; Dr. Taleb Awad, Researcher; Rauf Malki, Architect; Dr. Abdullah Fannoon, Engineer, Planner; Layla Al-Zubidi, Researcher, Information Manager; Katherine Metres Abbadi, Human Rights Researcher; Moheeb Bargoty, Journalist; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA; Deniz Altayli, PASSIA; Sana' Shannak, PASSIA; Hijazi Natsheh, PASSIA.



Subtopic: Decentralization

1 November 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

Decentralization: Is It an Internal Needed or an External Agenda?

Speaker(s): Jamal El-Shobaki

Participant(s): Isam A'qel, Executive Director, Association of Palestinian Local Authorities; Yousef Abu Sway, Ministry of Local Government; Nadia Hajal, Gender, Law & Development; Yasser A'wad; Iyad Masrouji, General Manager, Masrouji Company; Firas Tanineh, Al-Ayyam Newspaper, Saudi Arabia News Agency; Latifa Al-Hawari, General Manager, Teachers Union; Wafa Hamayel, Coordinator, Prime Minister Office; Dr. Atef Alawneh, Deputy, Ministry of Finance; Fathi Bothieh, Mayor, Kifl Haris Municipality; Fadia Daibes, Water Expert, Consulting Company; Salem Ash-Shobaki; Azmi Ash-Shu'aybi, Palestinian Legislative Council member; Burhan Jarrar, Palestinian Legislative Council member; Shifa' Jayousy, Local Rural Development Program, UNDP; Maher Zhaikeh, Association of Palestinian Local Authorities; Ahmad Abu Laban, Ramallah Municipality; Fida' Shihadeh, Panorama; Rami Mihdawi, Panorama; Siham Al-Bargouthy, Palestinian Federation of Woman's Action; Dr. Ayman Yousef, Birzeit University; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA; Areej Al-Yousef, PASSIA.



Jamal El-Shobaki



13 November 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

Refugee Camps & Municipal Elections

Speaker(s): Dr. Sari Hanafi, Director of The Palestinian Diaspora & Refugee Center –Shaml, Ramallah.

Participant(s): Ahmad Hamarshah, Ministry of Education & Higher Education; Nazmi Harb, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics; Maher Zahaikah, Association of Palestinian Local Authorities; Ziad Shari'ah, Netherlands Representative Office; A'laa Lahlouh, Palestinian Center for Policy & Survey Research, Ramallah; Iyad Masrouji, Masrouji Company; Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Mughrabi, Refugee Research Center, Al-Quds University; Fouz Khalifah, Ministry of Local Government; Faisal Awartani, Birzeit University; Mahmoud Radwan, Union of Youth Centers; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA; Hijazi Natsheh and Areej Al-Yousef, PASSIA.



Sari Hanafi

18 November 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

Referendum on Election in Refugees Camps

Speaker: Dr. Sari Hanafi, Director of The Palestinian Diaspora & Refugee Center -Shaml, Ramallah.

Participant(s): Fouz Khalifah, Ministry of Local Government; Sa'ed Abu Fursa, Al-Ayyam Newspaper; Rawan Al-Faqih, Birzeit University; Gabi Baramki, Ministry of Education & Higher Education; Helen Seren, Reem 'Atyeh, Mustafa Shata, SHAML; Nihad 'Alayan, Palestinian Legislative Council; A'laa Lahlouh, Palestinian Center for Policy & Survey Research; Nazmi Harb, Palestinian Central



Bureau of Statistics; Ihsan Abdul Rahman Hamayel, Ja'far Hamayel, Kufr Malek Club; Taha Ahmed Albis, Isma'el Mohammed Alsiraj, Naser Khalil Sharay'ah, Refugees Executive Office; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA; Areej Al-Yousef, Hijazi Natsheh, PASSIA.



6 December 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

Decentralization and Local Governance

Brainstorming session with: Lubna Hammad, Lawyer; Nasser Faqih, PARC; Bassam Abdul Rahim, World Bank; Hijazi Natsheh, PASSIA.

13 December 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

Constitution and Decentralization

Brainstorming session with: Ali Safarini, Lawyer; Dr. Faisal Awartani, General Manager of Alpha International for Polling, Research & Informatics; Dr. Ayman Yousef, Birzeit University; Mahdi Abdul Hadi and Hija