

United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي / برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



Press Release
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PRESS RELEASE **UNDP/PAPP signs a Project Cooperation Agreement Funded** **by the Government of Japan with the Supreme Judicial Council at Gaza**

Gaza, January 24th, 2005- The United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) represented by its Special Representative Mr. Timothy Rothermel signed a project cooperation agreement with Mr, Zuheir Sourani president of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC). The project, with a total amount of US\$500,000 donated by the Government of Japan, aims at strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Judiciary sector and the Nablus court.

The project with a planned duration of one year, is envisaged to ultimately enhance the Public confidence in the Judiciary sector, making the citizens more reliable to the courts, and strengthen the much desired Rule of Law in the society. through the automation of case management at the court level, through the implementation of the Nablus court house overall administrative and managerial performances and through providing technical support in order to contribute to the National Judiciary Reform Programme and to strengthen the capacity of the Supreme Judicial Council. The project includes also the contracting with two Egyptian Judges as experts to provide technical assistance to the development of the judicial sector.

Mr. Zuheir Sourani expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan and to UNDP for all the effort spent in helping the Palestinian people and for their commitment towards the Palestinian Community and its hoped development. He also expressed his gratitude to the Egyptian Government for its help in providing expert assistance for the implementation of this Project. He also added that communication with the Egyptian Embassy is now being held to plan the two Egyptian expert's arrival to the Palestinian Territories.

Mr. Sourani announced also in this occasion the near inauguration of Toubas and Anabta's new Court Houses and said that at the time being final works are being accomplished to equip the two courts for immediate service delivery. He also announced that the construction works of Khan Younis Court House will start in the coming few weeks trough financial assistance from the Government of Japan through UNDP/PAPP.

Mr. Timothy Rothermel the Special Representative of the United Nations Development Programme Administrator expressed his happiness for such an achievement and added "all such positive achievements have been always reached only by the true Palestinian will to self develop and advance towards a better future". He also expressed his appreciation for the Palestinian Authority efforts in accelerating the reform process and thanked the Government of Japan for their continuous fruitful assistance to the Palestinian people.

For further information, please contact:

In Jerusalem: Ehab Shanti, Communications Officer, Tel. +972-2-6268229 – e-mail: ehab.shanti@undp.org; or Dania Darwish, Tel. +972-2-626-8200 – e-mail: dania.darwish@undp.org. In New York: Nadine Shamounki, Communications Officer, Tel. +1 (212) 906-5171 – e-mail: nadine.shamounki@undp.org; or William Orme, Media Section Chief, Tel. +1 (212) 906-5382 – e-mail: william.orme@undp.org.

4A Yakubi St., Jerusalem, 91191, P.O. Box: 51359 Tel: (972 2) 626 8200 Fax: (972 2) 626 8222 www.papp.undp.org



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