



EUPOL COPPS Newsletter - July 2020

Dear friends,

Many of us had hoped that the hot weather of summer might have a decisive impact on the transmission of Covid-19. Sadly, this was not to be - the novel coronavirus continues to disrupt lives across the world, including the regular operations of our partners and our Mission.



Our new reality has required a significant change in the way we work. At EUPOL COPPS, we have put in place new arrangements in order to do the best we can to keep our staff and the people they come into contact with safe. I am proud to say we have also managed to provide support for our partners to aid their transition to the 'new normal'.

Building on the donation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitiser we made to the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) in May, which should cover their needs until the end of summer, we made a significant donation of PPE, sanitiser and IT equipment at the end of last month to support the Palestinian justice sector. This donation should not only help Palestinians working in rule of law institutions protect themselves against the virus, it will also help to aid the process of digitalisation, which will have positive consequences long after the Covid-19 crisis passes.

Another aspect of our support at the moment is related to the fight against gender-based violence and support for human rights. According to NGOs, in Europe as well as in Palestine, unfortunately, the conditions of lockdown have led to a rise in domestic violence. Our colleagues in the PCP have set up a new telephone hotline to report incidents of domestic violence, and we have assisted them to increase public awareness about it.

There are also legitimate fears that the current political and economic disruption might lead to a deterioration in the human rights situation – I recently had a very interesting meeting with Dr Ammar Dwaik, Director General Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights to discuss the current challenges.

I have mentioned in this message a few examples of the support we are delivering at the moment. As the summer progresses, we will continue to try and overcome the constraints that everyone is now working under and find new ways to deliver on our mandate to support our Palestinian partners with policing and rule of law reform.

For those celebrating Eid-al-Adha next week, a sincere and heartfelt Adha Mubarak to you all.

Kind regards,

Kauko

Kauko Aaltomaa
Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS

**EUPOL COPPS delivers equipment to its
rule of law partners in June to assist them
in their fight against Covid-19:**



EUPOL COPPS
delivers protective
equipment to
Palestinian
Prosecution

EUPOL COPPS
donates IT equipment
and software to
Ministry of Justice



EUPOL COPPS funds training for Diwan to improve quality of legislative drafting and provides IT equipment

EUPOL COPPS makes donation to Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI) and the High Judicial Council (HJC)

EUPOL COPPS supports the Palestinian Civil Police in their fight against domestic violence:



EUPOL COPPS is proud to be supporting the Palestinian Civil Police to raise awareness about their new hotline to report domestic violence incidents, including financing a short video.

Find out more:

<https://eupolcoppes.eu/en/node/5697>

**EUPOL COPPS Head of Mission meets
Director General of Palestinian
Independent Commission for Human
Rights to discuss human rights situation**



The Head of EUPOL COPPS, Kauko Aaltomaa met the Director General of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights Dr Ammar Dwaik on 14 July 2020 for an in-depth discussion on the current human rights situation in the West Bank, in particular, the current political, economic and health challenges facing Palestinians and the impact of these challenges on human rights.

“The Covid-19 crisis, in addition to the ongoing open questions surrounding the future of the Middle East Peace Process, has contributed to a challenging political and economic situation, and there are fears that this may weaken human rights protections,” said Mr Aaltomaa. “It was very interesting to hear Dr Dwaik’s views on the areas where protections need to be enhanced, as well as the areas where progress has been made”.

More:

<https://eupolcoppes.eu/en/node/5711>



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