

United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي/ برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



PRESS RELEASE *Colours of Hope* **UNDP/PAPP's Fifth Annual Art Auction** **7pm, November 30, 2006**

Jerusalem, November 30, 2006 —*Colours of Hope*, is UNDP/PAPP's Fifth Annual Art Auction and features a diverse collection of work by young male and female artists from across the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. The art auction will be held today, Thursday, November 30, 2006, at 7pm at the Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem. The exhibition includes the work of many renowned and promising Palestinian artists including Saadeh Radhy, Basel Magoussi, Sulaiman Mansour, Taleb Dweik, Ibrahim Nubani and many more. The night will also exhibit the elaborate works of the Mosaic School in Jericho, the fruits of Sabreen's Stained Glass Workshop, as well as captivating photos by the Palestinian Association of Journalists.

Since UNDP/PAPP's art auctions were initiated in 2002, over 150 works of Palestinian art have been sold with the total proceeds of approximately US\$85,000 going directly to the artists. UNDP/PAPP has also provided support to the national art gallery and museum, *Al Hoash* which will provide a permanent venue for Palestinian visual art and create a common space for artists, art collectors and enthusiasts in Jerusalem.

"For UNDP this annual event not only marks our steadfast commitment to the idea that culture is a central pillar of development, but it also affords us an opportunity to showcase the richness and vibrancy of Palestinian culture, all the while contributing financially to struggling artists," said Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, UNDP Special Representative. "Some of the artists have already earned significant recognition for their remarkable talents, while others are at the beginning of their professional careers as artists. Wherever they stand in terms of professional recognition, their works all reflect the remarkable vibrancy and creativity of Palestinians and their rich culture."

For over 28 years, support to Palestinian culture has been a central aim of UNDP/PAPP. From support to ensembles and organizations, to over US\$25 million toward the restoration and preservation of Palestinian cultural heritage, UNDP/PAPP has consistently shown its commitment to Palestinian culture.

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