

Press Release

The High Judicial Council, EUPOL COPPS and UNDP Inaugurate Newly Refurbished Corruption Crimes Court in Ramallah

Ramallah, 04 February 2014 – The Palestinian High Judicial Council and the United Nations Development Programme inaugurated the newly refurbished Corruption Crime Court in Ramallah on Tuesday 04 February 2014 in partnership with EUPOL COPPS and with funding from the Governments of Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands.

The refurbishment of the Corruption Crimes Court (CCC) in the Ramallah Court Complex was undertaken through the UNDP/EUPOL COPPS Joint Programme on Strengthening Internal Police Accountability, National Anticorruption and Civilian Oversight.

In his welcoming remarks, Honourable Chief Justice Farid Al-Jallad thanked the partners and emphasized that the integrity of the judiciary is extremely important and Justice necessitates an enabling environment in order for it to be implemented. "The fight against corruption has always been one of our main priorities as Palestinians, thus the role of the judicial system is vital," he added.

The USD 107,000 project is envisaged to enhance public confidence in the judiciary sector, tackle corruption, strengthen rule of law in the Palestinian society and allow the courthouse to review more cases, hence reduce existing backlogs.

EUPOL COPPS remains one of the principle providers of support to the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission and the specialized Corruption Crimes Court, created in 2010.

"The Corruption Crimes Court is an important element in the machinery that deals with corruption cases," said Head of EUPOL COPPS Mission Kenneth Deane. "We are convinced that the Corruption Crimes Court will benefit from the refurbished premises in terms of the carrying out of their responsibilities. I hope that the Palestinian Anticorruption Commission and the Corruption Crimes Court will continue to be successful in the coming period and we will continue to support them to the fullest extent possible in realizing this worthy and commendable fight against corruption in whatever form it takes," he added.

Over the years, UNDP worked to build strong partnerships in areas related to anti-corruption, accountability and respect for the rule of law in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip.

In his address, Frode Mauring, UNDP Special Representative of the Administrator highlighted that the opening of the refurbished Corruption Crimes Court is an important milestone for the Palestinians. “This court room and the chambers in which the distinguished judges of this specialised court, prosecutors and lawyers will continue to provide a front-line defence against corruption”. “Strengthening capacities to tackle corruption head-on, through robust legal mechanisms and processes for upholding and enforcing the law are essential to advancing sustainable development,” he added.

The ceremony featured a ribbon cutting followed by an address from H.E. Farid Al-Jallad, Chief Justice / Chairman of the High Judicial Council, Kenneth Deane, EUPOL COPPS Head of Mission and Frode Mauring, UNDP Special Representative of the Administrator, to an audience that included the Palestinian Anti Corruption Commissioner; Head of the Corruption Crimes Court; Head of the Ramallah Court; Members of the High Judicial Council; and other Palestinian institutions, judiciary, civil society and academia.

It is worth noting that UNDP is currently in the stages of launching a new three year programme of support to Rule of Law in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza in which anti-corruption efforts will continue to be of critical importance.

Further Information:

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