



SPEECH
For UNDP/PAPP Special Representative
Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen

Speaking event:	Art Auction
Date and time:	Thursday, 13.12.2007; 19:00 – 21:30
Venue:	Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem
Participants/audience:	Local and international community, artists, etc
Length of speech:	5 minutes
Context of speech:	opening remarks
Draft prepared by:	Communications Unit

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be here once again for the official opening of the “**Colors of Hope 2007**” exhibition, displaying the work of young and very talented Palestinian artists, whose experiences and backgrounds give them perspectives that are quite remarkable.

With this exhibition here in Jerusalem, we see once again that art has no borders and brings people of different nationalities and social backgrounds together.

Art is hugely important in all our lives as it gives expression, be it in music, drama, or the visual arts, to our innermost thoughts and feelings.

Your attendance this evening manifests our shared commitment and interest in furthering arts and cultural cooperation. It also clearly demonstrates the valuable role served by this Forum to promote dialogue and engagement among artists and fans in the oPt.

The exhibition aims to showcase the diversity of Palestinian art and culture, all the while contributing financially to struggling artists from the West Bank and Gaza, and who work under very difficult circumstances.

These artists are a very real testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the indomitable will of man - and woman.

There are 29 artists exhibiting this year, many of whom have exhibited in a number of local and international venues as well previous UNDP art auctions. A wonderful range of media is used - oils, acrylics, watercolors and ink. I hope that over the course of the evening, this exhibition will give much pleasure to us all.



This exhibition, exemplifies one of the key principles that underpins UNDP's support for Palestinian Culture. Since 2001, UNDP/PAPP has been organizing this annual art auction, selling over 200 paintings, and raising approximately US\$113,000 that go directly to the artists.

I am heartened by your attendance tonight, which is not only be instrumental in promoting of art, but is is also a unique opportunity to expose the skills and talents of your artists – this they rightfully deserve.

I would like to congratulate the artists on this successful exhibition and to thank everyone for making this evening possible.

I wish all of you an enjoyable evening and good luck with your bidding.