



Youth as Human Rights Defenders Project

Brief Overview

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy “MIFTAH” is implementing, with support from the European Union, the project “Youth as Human Rights Defenders” over a three year period, commencing from March 2018 and terminating in February 2021. The implementation comes in line with MIFTAH’s strategic directions to empower and activate Palestinian social groups in disseminating awareness on international human rights standards and promoting adherence of all stakeholders. The project also comes in continuation with MIFTAH’s accomplishments in monitoring and documenting human rights violations.

MIFTAH seeks, through the project, to enhance implementation of human rights instruments, mainly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in five localities in the occupied State of Palestine within three years, and particularly in east Jerusalem, Old City of Hebron and Access Restricted Area in Gaza Strip. Within this framework, the capacities of 25 Palestinian youth media and law graduates and 5 Palestinian community-based and civil society organisations will be built in the targeted communities. This will come with the view of enabling the monitoring and documentation of human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces and those incurred due to gaps in Palestinian legislative framework. Human rights monitoring and documentation tools will be developed for the targeted communities through the adaptation of the Universal Human Rights Index to the Palestinian context. Special focus will be given to the disproportionate impact that Israeli policies and practices has on vulnerable and marginalised social groups, including but not limited to children, women and people with disabilities. The developed tools will be used to document violations in the targeted communities and periodic reports issued accordingly. Additionally, the young human rights defenders will lead the planning and implementation of advocacy campaigns in partnership with civil and grassroots organisations.

Based on the periodic documentation reports, analytical research, factsheets and other publications will be developed and released. These will be utilised to open dialogue with national and international stakeholders to identify practical steps to promote protection of the human rights of vulnerable and marginalised social groups in the targeted



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communities. In continuation with the advocacy efforts, the targeted youth will be empowered to present the violations Palestinians are subjected to before national and international platforms in order to hold occupation authorities accountable to violations perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the targeted communities.

Additionally, civil society organisations working in the field of human rights will be consulted throughout the project through the project steering committee. The steering committee will be created to reflect MIFTAH's approach in expanding networking and coordination among civil society organisations, ensure avoidance of duplication, build on the achievements of other organisations working in the field and promote sustainability, effectiveness and quality of implemented interventions and adopted methodologies.