

Dear Friends,

This newsletter includes briefings on what we have done during the year 2012.

Our activities were mainly tailored to influence decision makers, opinion shapers and the broad public in Palestine, as well as the key international stakeholders towards reaching an end game solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the two-state vision. We pursued this objective through mobilizing for a broader coalition supporting a peaceful resolution for the conflict in accordance with the UN resolutions and within the parameters of the Geneva Accord and its annexes.

2012 witnessed a significant achievement by the Palestinian leadership represented in the UN recognition of Palestine as non-member state. We believe that this move would create a good platform for re launching peace talks which would lead to ending the conflict and establishing the Palestinian State.

The PPC-GI gave a special significance to the internal Palestinian issue – as we firmly believe that the internal reconciliation is extremely needed for pursuing the national aspiration of independence – hence, we created a platform for dialogue among the members of the civil society sector, including political parties, unions, business sector and other social movements in Palestine to push for reconciliation.

Thanks to the generous support of our partners, we will continue pursuing our objectives.

Sincerely,

Palestinian Peace Coalition – Geneva Initiative



Conferences:

The conferences aimed to advance a negotiated and comprehensive Palestinian-Israeli final-status agreement, within the parameters of Geneva initiative, and to end the internal split and endorse reconciliation. The conferences provided the room and space for participants to discuss the current political issues and the future alternatives and preferences towards ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, such as the UN recognition of Palestine as a non member state and the non violent resistance.

Palestinian Reconciliation



Jineen: Mr. Qaddura Musa, Mr. Jamal Huweil, Dr. Khaled Sa'eed.

The Issue of Palestinian Prisoners in the Israeli Jails;



Tubas: Mr. Wasel Abu Youssef, Mr. Qadri Abu Wasel, Mr. Iqab Daraghmeh, Mahmoud Sawafta



Jineen: Mr. Qaddura Fares, Mr. Jamal Hweil, Dr. Khaled Yahya

The Jordan Valley as the main component of the Palestinian State.



Tubas: Dr. Marwan Tubassi, Dr. Samih A'bed, Mr. Nidal Fuqaha.

Palestinian Leadership Move towards the UN General Assembly

PPC-GI held several conferences in Ramallah to discuss the importance of the UN recognition of Palestine as a non member state, and future alternatives and preferences towards ending the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The conferences hosted PLO executive committee members and other Palestinian Leaders.



Ramallah: Mr. Qais Abdelkareem, Dr. Abdallah Abdallah

UN recognition of Palestine as a non Member State; Facts and Challenges.



Ramallah: Mr. Yasser Abd Rabbo, Mr. Qais Abdelkareem, Mr. Nazeer Mjally

Local Leadership Assemblies

In 2013, the PPC-GI held several assemblies in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem which targeted officials from the government, parliamentarians, representatives of political parties, civil society activists and women. The assemblies addressed a series of topics, mainly the prospects of reaching a peaceful agreement for the conflict, within the parameters of Geneva, and putting an end for the internal Palestinian split.

The assemblies discussed the potentials for peace as well as the importance of peaceful resistance and the positive role it has played in the West Bank.

The assemblies hosted PLO executive committee members, Ministers, Governors, PLC members and political party's leaders and members.

Palestinian Reconciliation and Civil Society

Speakers and participants stressed the need for Palestinian society to foster a culture of tolerance and acceptance which would play a crucial role in the steps to reconciliation. The participants discussed the needs to creating a strategy to achieve reconciliation which would strengthen the Palestinian leadership's goal for achieving the two-state solution as an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



Hebron



Gaza

The Current Political situation: Chances and Challenges

The PPC-GI held a series of seminars that aimed to raise debate on the current political situation, the regional and international developments, focusing on the UN recognition of Palestine as non member state and future alternatives and preferences. The seminars stressed the need of reaching two states solution within the parameters of GI.



Ramallah



Nablus

The Wall and Settlements & Non Violent resistance

The PPC-GI held a series of seminars which discussed the negative impact of the wall on the socio-economic life of Palestinians, as well as the damage caused by increasing the settlement activities in East Jerusalem and the West Bank to the chances of reaching peace and achieving the two states solution vision.



Qlqilia



Hebron

PPC calls to free Palestinian Prisoners held without trial in administrative detention, and reinstate family visits to Gaza prisoners in the Israeli Jails



Gaza



Jenin

Capacity Building Workshops

The PPC-GI organized a series of workshops in the west bank and Gaza Strip. The workshops targeted young leaders and women activists, with a special focus on those of significant influence in their surroundings. The main aim of these workshops is to educate the target group on the current political situation and to help them improve their communication skills so that they can contribute to ending the internal split and be part of the decision-making process.

The Role of Media

The workshops discussed the role of media in promoting peace and ending the internal split.



Ramallah



Qalqilia

The Role of Youth

The workshops discussed the role of youth in making change and focused on empowering their leadership skills and supporting their involvement in the political arena.



Nablus



Gaza

Advanced Course on Leadership Skills

During the course, selected participants took part in an in-depth course designed to deepen knowledge of the political and ideological underpinnings of some of the core issues of the conflict. Participants were introduced and trained on negotiations skills; and addressed core issues such as borders and Jerusalem which will lead to the two- states solution.

The seminars hosted Dr. Samih Abed, Dr. Nazmi Ju'beh, Mr. Ashraf Ajrami, Mr. Nidal Foqaha



Ramallah

Young Leaders Seminars

PPC-GI raises debate on models of solution for Security, borders and Jerusalem as indicated in GI annexes

Within the PPC-GI's approach of reaching out to the Palestinian universities and youth organizations, a three days camp was organized in Beithlehem (21-23 June). The camp has served as a platform for 90 university students (52 Male + 38 Female) from different political groups including the opposition (15 Person). The camp focused mainly on how a solution will look like, as well as what role the youth can play in the process.



"Role of Youth in Protecting the National Cause/Project"

The Palestinian Peace Coalition (PPC-GI) organized a summer camp for youth on September 27, 2012 in Ramallah. Some 45 (29 Male + 16 Female) young leader and activists, include two people from Hamass and 10 people from different opposition groups, attended the event that hosted Mr. Nidal Foqaha, the General Director of PPC-GI and Mr. Reyad Shrim, social and political activist and a trainer. The event discussed several issues of concern to the youth especially their role in the political process, in maintaining civil peace, and their role in making social and political change possible.



Palestinian Youth & Policy Making

The seminars dealt mainly with issues of concern to the youth such as their political participation and their role in the decision-making process. In addition to that, the young leaders met with politicians and public representatives for updates on the current political situation, as well as the recent developments on the international level regarding the peace process in the region.



Ramallah



Beithlehem

Role of Youth in Promoting Reconciliation

The speakers stressed the urgent need to achieve reconciliation which should put an end to the internal split. The seminars promote Palestinian unity and emphasize on maintaining the Palestinian political program adopted by PLO and respect it's role as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.



Beithlehem



Gaza

The State of Palestine: Challenges & Priorities

The seminars discussed the priorities of the Palestinians after the UN recognition of Palestine as a non-member state, focusing on the role of youth in making the political and social change possible. The discussions raised debate on the negative impact of the internal split and on constitutional rights; women and youth activists' rights in particular.



Jericho



Jenin

Peace Education Program for Women

PPC-GI convened several seminars in the West bank and Gaza Strip which focused on how to foster peace building by strengthening the role of women in the political process. The seminars focused on women's empowerment socially, economically, and politically. The main objective was to improve women knowledge and develop their skills in order to transform women traditional stereotypes to the real progressive ones and increase their involvement within their own local and regional communities and their presence in the political arena.

The facilitators and speakers stressed the need for engaging women in the political process. The speakers shared their own stories and how they became actively involved within their own local and regional communities.



Qalqilia



Tubas



Bidya\ Salfit



Qarawa\ Ramallah



Gaza



Hebron

Women Organizations Discuss Ways of Collaboration to Expand their Roll

The activity focused on the ways of collaboration between different women's organizations in the city of Jenin, in order to expand their roll in the political arena, as well as in the wider civil society.



Jenin

Local Authorities

The PPC-GI organized a series of seminars in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with representatives of municipalities and local councils. The seminars discussed ways of cooperation and development within the civil society towards achieving peace.

The seminars hosted Mr. Kamel Hmeid, Mr. Hassan Saleh, Muhammad Najar.



Salfeet



Qalqilia



Tubas



Hebron



Gaza

Meeting with president Abbas.

The Geneva Initiative organized two meetings with president Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday, April 08th, with senior representatives of the Geneva Initiative, Chairman Dr. yossi Belin, Haim Oron, Amnon Lipkin Shahan and director general Gadi Baltiansky. On Sunday, October 14th the Geneva Initiative organized a meeting with president Abbas for a senior delegation of around 30 Israeli members of Knesset, mayors, and political activists from Likud, Kadima, Labor and Meretz. The delegation included new political candidates for the next Knesset and leaders from the Russian-speaking community, Ethiopian community, and other target groups that have previously taken part and continue to be engaged in Geneva Initiative activities.



International Advocacy

The international advocacy campaign took the form of briefings and round tables for international delegations visiting Palestine, foreign diplomats and representatives of foreign press. Also, our representatives participated in several conferences convened abroad.

Harvard Kennedy School Delegation Meets with the PPC-GI Representatives in

The delegation consists of more than 50 senior public officials, high-level active duty military officers, diplomats, and private sector managers from more than 15 countries, including the United States & Israel. The delegation met with Dr. Saeb Erekat, Fatah Central Committee & PLO Executive Committee Member and Nidal Foqaha, Executive Director of PPC-GI.



German Delegation Visits Ramallah in a Fact Finding Mission

The delegation consists of more than 30 senior public officials, academics and journalists. The delegation met with PLO Executive Committee Secretary General, Mr. Yasser Abd Rabbo and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, PLC member and head of Fatah political committee.



Geneva Initiative leaders meet Swiss Parliamentarian

The Geneva Initiative senior leadership, met with Swiss Members of Parliament, and Ministers in Bern, Switzerland. Chairman of the Geneva Initiative, Yasser Abed Rabbo, and Director-Generals, Nidal Foqaha and Gadi Baltiansky, met with Swiss Members of Parliament and different political parties in order to brief them on the current political outlook in the region.



GI leaders join UN Asia and Pacific meeting on Palestinian - Israeli peace

Geneva Initiative Palestinian and Israeli Directors-General addressed the United Nations Asian and Pacific meeting in support of Israeli-Palestinian peace.

The event took place in Bangkok, Thailand and looked at obstacles and opportunities on the road to achieving peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

PPC-GI hosts Meretz USA

PPC-GI organized a one day visit to Ramallah for a delegation of Partners for Progressive Israel (formerly friends of Meretz USA). The delegation met with PLO Executive Committee secretary general, Mr. Yasser Abd Rabbo, Prime Minister, Dr. Salaam Fayyad and PLO Executive Committee member, Dr. Hanaan Ashrawi.

