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# QUARTERLY REPORT #7

Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program

Task order 263-I-03-06-00018-00

1 October to 31 December, 2012

# PALESTINIAN JUSTICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

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October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

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## Acronyms

AD	Authentication Department
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contract Officer Representative
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DIMS	Diploma Information Management Software
DJS	Diploma Judicial Studies
DMAS	Document Management Archiving System
DMO	Deputy Minister's Office
DMOJ	Deputy Minister of Justice
DMS	Document Management System
EUPOLCOPPS	EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support
FFP	Freedom Forum Palestine
FY	Fiscal Year
GIA	Grant Implementation Agreement
HJC	High Judicial Council
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IMM	Institute of Modern Media
IT	Information Technology
JIC	Justice Information Center
JLC	Palestinian-Israeli Joint Legal Committee
JRO	Justice Records Offices
KRA	Key Results Area
LAD	Legal Affairs Department
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
NSU	Negotiations Support Unit
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PA	Palestinian Authority
PC	Personal Computer
PIR	Project Intermediate Results
PJEP	Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program

PACE	Palestinian Authority Capacity Enhancement Project
PIRS	Project Indicator Reference Sheets
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PJI	Palestinian Judicial Institute
RFA	Request for Application
SAACB	State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau
SFI	Students' Forum Institute
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
SYF	Sharek Youth Forum
TIMS	Training Information Management System
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UPS	Uninterruptible Power Supply
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VOIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
WAN	Wide Area Network

## Executive Summary

The goal of the Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program (PJEP) is to strengthen public confidence in and respect for justice sector institutions and the Rule of Law in the West Bank. During the quarter, PJEP contributed to this goal through targeted assistance to justice institutions, legal professionals, civil society and the public.

In its continued effort to support the High Judicial Council (HJC) and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), PJEP upgraded 12 West Bank courts and the MOJ Hebron office. PJEP continued to upgrade the Ramallah Conciliation Court in partnership with the USAID Palestinian Authority Capacity Enhancement Project (PACE). PJEP will provide Information Technology (IT) equipment and furniture, and pay the associated engineering and structure design fees, while PACE will completely remodel the physical structure of the court. To further assist the HJC and reduce the case backlog, PJEP's 43 interns continued entering data into the Al Mizan 2 program and scanned backlogged documents using the heavy duty scanners PJEP provided. To date, PJEP interns have entered 135,488 documents in the Al Mizan. PJEP also continued to provide assistance to the MOJ Authentication Department's "Filing Backlog Document Project." PJEP's 4 data entry interns have entered 8,354 documents into the Document Management Archiving System..

An inauguration ceremony of the MOJ new facility in Ramallah took place this quarter. The ceremony was attended by the USAID Mission Director and PJEP's Chief of Party (COP) as well as other distinguished guests. Assistance was also provided to the Deputy Minister's Office (DMO) through PJEP's advisor who is embedded at the MOJ working to improve the administrative procedures at the DMO.

PJEP provided technical assistance to the HJC and MOJ through the IT consultant who continues to advise the MOJ, HJC and the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI) on their IT needs including developing software specifications for the PJI Diploma Information Management Software (DIMS). In addition, PJEP's statistical consultant assisted the HJC Technical Office statistics staff to analyze court data and produce reports using the Al Mizan software. PJEP's research consultant who is embedded at the HJC assisted the Research Department to conduct legal and judicial work as well as assist in improving the research processes in the department. PJEP's International Senior Court Administration Advisor worked with the HJC to create a comprehensive Model Court approach for development and implementation of best practices in court administration and improved caseflow procedures. Additionally, the Justice Sector Institutions Specialist is preparing a report to help develop solutions to the notification problems in the courts. PJEP also provided Case Weighting consultants developed a case weighting study that will be used by the HJC to assess judicial staffing needs. The report includes a statistical model defining the needs for judgeship positions needed to address current case load and a formula to calculate the number of judges needed to address case backlog.

Through the work of the Joint Legal Committee (JLC), the Senior JLC Specialist continued to provide support to the committee that is housed at the MOJ. The Specialist followed up on the mutual legal assistance coordination between the Palestinian and Israeli counterparts in addition to developing the JLC three year strategic manual.

During the quarter, PJEP completed 15 Customer Service trainings for 322 court staff from all over the West Bank. The training aimed to improve the staff's communications, professional conduct and customer service skills to provide better services to the public. Additionally,

Notary Public, Civil Judgment, Notification and Court Registration staff completed a number of trainings that aimed to build the capacity of the staff as well as assisting in providing more efficient and better quality of services to the public. PJEP also finalized the first draft of the court Unified Procedures Manual for the Notary Public, Civil Judgment and Notification Departments and the Court Registry Office which will be used by court staff to help standardize the court procedures and transactions of all the courts.

To assist the PJI, PJEP completed the development of the Civil Law course material that will be added to the PJI's Diploma Judicial Studies (DJS) program. PJEP will continue to develop the Commercial Law, Contracts Law and Land Law course materials. PJEP conducted several trainings for lawyers enrolled in the PJI's DJS who are planning to become practicing judges in Palestine. PJEP also developed a list of training priorities for the Judicial Continuing Education program based on discussions with HJC departments and judges and on the results of a judge's survey PJEP conducted at the HJC Judicial Annual Conference. PJEP subsequently developed and conducted a number of three day "Criminal Procedures Law" trainings.

A PJEP Clinical Education consultant conducted meetings and workshops with deans, faculty, staff and students of five law schools to assist the law schools define next steps to strengthen existing clinical and programs and establish new programs in those universities without clinical education opportunities for their students.

With the aim to improve the practical skills of law students, PJEP participated in the first ever Bilateral Moot Court Competition at Al Ahliya University in Amman, Jordan. Five students from An Najah University competed against students from Al Ahliya (Amman) University. Moreover, PJEP has been preparing for the 2013 National Moot Court Competition. The winners of this year's National Competition will qualify to participate in the International Jessup Moot Court Competition held in Washington DC. PJEP's Clinical Education consultant conducted clinical education workshops for students and faculty of Al Ahliya, Modern College, Hebron, An Najah, and Al Quds university law schools. The purpose of the workshops was to examine the needs and procedures to create legal clinics in the universities.

PJEP is assisting the HJC's public outreach efforts by conducting a number of outreach activities. PJEP along with the HJC have begun part two of the HJC's radio series campaign. In total, 15 episodes will be produced and aired on the national radio stations. The series will discuss fraud, robbery, honor killings, and other relevant subjects. In addition, PJEP is working on producing an animation series called "Al Qanoun" or "The Law". The animation series and radio campaign will be used as creative communication tools that will contribute to the public understanding of legal issues and awareness of the court system.

Also during the quarter, PJEP's grantees Amin News Network, Internews, and Ma'an News completed the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grant cycle. Though progress was made on PJEP's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grant cycles, these have been suspended due to a congressional hold on funds. PJEP received news of a congressional hold on Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 funding to the USAID West Bank/Gaza Mission late in the quarter. Many of PJEP's project activities have been suspended. Project activities and the PJEP's grants program are expected to immediately resume if funding becomes available. Long-term US staff and local long-term staff will continue to provide technical assistance to the counterparts and will remain with the project until further notice.

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

PJEP's goal is to strengthen public confidence and respect for justice sector institutions and the Rule of Law in the West Bank. All PJEP activities contribute to building capacity among targeted justice sector officials and institutions and are directed to supporting the priorities and objectives of those officials and institutions. This section describes this quarter's progress, challenges, and results.

### Component 1 – Enhance accessibility and efficiency of targeted justice sector institutions

The goal of these activities is to enable the judiciary to become more responsive to the public and to improve court user satisfaction in the fairness, accessibility, and efficiency of court processes and services. Rapid and visible improvements in the court processes and services are a priority for the HJC. The MOJ also plays an important role in developing policy, formulating, coordinating, and implementing strategic plans, and in managing relationships with other justice sector institutions that provides critical services to the public. Therefore, focusing PJEP's assistance on strengthening the public services provided by the MOJ, and its impact upon public capacity, is a priority. This component contains two subcomponents: upgrading the capacities of the HJC, and strengthening targeted functions within the MOJ.

#### Subcomponent 1A - Upgrade the capacities of the HJC

Key Result Area: Improve HJC services to the public

*Court Upgrades:* During this quarter, PJEP began the upgrades and delivery of furniture and equipment for 12 West Bank courts. PJEP and the HJC identified the following courts to receive assistance: Salfit, Nablus, Jenin, Tubas, Tulkrum, Qalqilia, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Dora, Halhoul, Hebron, and Jericho. The upgrades included the carpentry work and the installation of A/C units, delivery of fax machines and photocopiers as well as the delivery of counters. PJEP also delivered safe deposit boxes to the courts. The upgrades to the various courts and departments are part of PJEP's overall goal to improve services provided to the public and to assist the HJC to become a more efficient and better functioning justice sector institution as well as to create an improved working environment for the staff.



**PJEP provides queuing systems to the Jenin court**

In addition, at the beginning of the quarter, PJEP completed installing metal shelving in the Civil Judgment and Notary Public departments as well as the Court Registries office for the Jenin, Nablus, Halhoul, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Qalqilia courts. The shelving will create a more efficient way of archiving court documents, keep court records well-organized, and make it easier to retrieve documents.

Also during the quarter, PJEP installed queuing systems in eight courts. The queuing systems will help ease the public's access to the courts and will assist court staff to work efficiently and provide better service. The Chief Justice, the head of Court Administration, the HJC Secretary and the HJC Director General visited the courts after the upgrades in Hebron,

Halhoul, Dora, and Bethlehem and expressed their satisfaction with all the support that PJEP has provided.

The Chief Justice stated that he is impressed with all the modern equipment installed in those courts which include glass counters, queuing systems, and metal shelving. He stressed that the queuing systems have benefited the courts and have enabled court staff to work in a more organized manner, allowing them to provide better service to public.

*Upgrading the Ramallah Conciliation Court:* PJEP was requested by USAID to collaborate



Installing electrical wires at the Ramallah Conciliation Court

with the USAID PACE project to rehabilitate one of the busiest courts in Ramallah. The Ramallah Conciliation Court handles all misdemeanor cases, and a wide range of civil cases related to land, property, and basic commercial disputes. As such, this activity is based on the need for more efficient use of space for public customers, including queuing systems, additional seating, and air conditioning. It will also separate judges from public areas, helping to control public access and provide judges with an improved work environment. The refurbishment will also improve filing areas and create

appropriate, locked areas for evidence storage. PJEP will provide the court with furniture and IT equipment and will pay for engineering and architecture fees while the USAID funded PACE project will rehabilitate and upgrade the court structure.

At the beginning of this quarter, PJEP along with the PACE project conducted several site visits as a pre-renovation assessment to examine the type of work that will be conducted and to determine a start date. Once the assessment was completed and a start date was selected the HJC moved its entire staff and opened the fifth floor for court business. Then the rehabilitation process began with the demolition of the court. Soon after, the space partitioning began as well as the electro-mechanical work. The rehabilitation of the court continued with the partition of the walls going up on the second and third floors of the court. Later in the quarter, the installation of floor tiling in the second and third floors of the court began.

PJEP and the PACE Project have conducted many visits to the court in order to follow-up on rehabilitation of the Ramallah Conciliation court and make sure the process is going smoothly and on schedule. The Chief Justice also conducted visits to the court and PJEP regularly provide him updates on the progress of the court's rehabilitation efforts.

Furthermore, PJEP is working to document the upgrades by taking video footage of scenes before, during and after the rehabilitation of the court. PEP is also conducting interviews with court staff and court users. The information that will be gathered will help determine the impact of this project activity as well as document the work that is taking place.

*Supporting the HJC:* To further aid the justice sector institutions, PJEP recruited 43 data entry



**PJEP provided the HJC with interns to assist courts reduce the backlog in documents**

interns to assist the Salfit, Nablus, Jenin, Tubas, Tulkram, Qalqilia, Ramallah, and Bethlehem, Dora, Halhoul, Hebron, and Jericho courts. The PJEP's interns are working to enter data into the Al Mizan 2 program and scan backlogged documents using the heavy duty scanners PJEP provided. The assistance will help the departments reduce its case backlog and assist in archiving documents that have yet to be handled. The interns received training and an orientation on how to conduct the needed work for the court departments. In addition, PJEP has provided the HJC with computers in order to help reduce the information backlog. This activity is part of PJEP's

efforts to help reduce the backlog of documents in the courts.

During this quarter, PJEP and the HJC assigned the interns to work in the Civil Judgment, Notary Public and Notification departments. These departments were chosen because they have the most case backlog and reducing these backlogs are department priorities. To date, PJEP interns have entered a total of 135,488 documents in the Al Mizan 2 program.

*Technical Support to the HJC:* In continuing its efforts to assist the HJC, PJEP contracted several consultants to assist in building the capacity of the justice sector institutions. Those contracted include an IT consultant, a Statistical consultant, a Legal Research consultant, a Senior Court Administration Specialist, Case Weighting consultants and a Justice Sector Institutions Specialist. Below is a description of each consultant's deliverables.

**IT consultant:** During the quarter, PJEP's IT consultant met with the MOJ IT Manager and PJI Director to discuss the PJI Information and Communication Technology (ICT) needs. After several meetings the consultant completed the PJI's ICT needs assessment and specification report that included hardware and software needs, network upgrade and training needs of the PJI staff. In addition, a business process analysis and software specifications for the PJI Diploma Information Management Software (DIMS) was developed. PJEP will set up the DIMS for the PJI in order to manage registration, course attendance, and other technical and administrative issues for the Diploma Judicial Studies program (DJS) that the PJI conducts for lawyers who are interested in becoming judges.

The consultant met with the Deputy Minister and IT Manager at the MOJ in order to discuss the upgrade needs for the MOJ's Justice Record System (JRO). The consultant also met with the IT Manager, Justice Record Manager, Translation and Arbitration Managers and Network Administrator at the MOJ in order to finalize the MOJ ICT needs assessment report. This report included an initial budgetary analysis, and an assessment of the needed upgrades to the Document Management System (DMS) and JRO, the network upgrade, software applications, and training needs.

The IT consultant also met with the HJC IT manager in order to discuss a more cost effective and faster solution to the existing Wide Area Network (WAN) that is used to connect all West Bank courts, the HJC administrative office and the public. The consultant compiled a report that included a technical analysis of the existing technologies as well as a recommendation for

an alternative solution. In addition, the Voice-Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) systems specifications were discussed in several meetings with the HJC IT Department. Reports from the meetings were developed which outlined specifications for changes and upgrades to the HJC IT Department. In addition, the consultant has begun working on developing the HJC ICT needs assessment. The needs assessment will help determine the type of support PJEP will provide to the HJC ICT. Additional meetings will take place next quarter in order to finalize the needs assessment report. This report is due in January 2013. Furthermore, the IT consultant met with HJC Training Manager in order to discuss the business process analysis and software specifications for the Training Information Management System (TIMS) software needed to manage training activities at the HJC. The consultant will develop a report that includes the needs and specifications for the TIMS which will be submitted early next quarter.

**Statistical consultant:** The PJEP Statistics Specialist who is embedded at the HJC provided technical assistance during the quarter. The Specialist worked on developing a new methodology for data collection which has helped the technical office produce more accurate data reporting. The new methodology included developing data collections forms that are helping the HJC Technical Office statistics staff to analyze court data and produce reports using the Al Mizan software. The new methodology is also facilitating the production of these reports in a timelier manner as well as making the reports more understandable and user friendly. The HJC technical office regularly produces statistical reports that include the impact of the work being conducted in the courts. The Specialist also trained court staff on using the new methodology and data collection forms. The training included how to use the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) for statistical analysis. Training is expected to be completed next quarter.

Furthermore, the Specialist has developed indicators that are helping to measure the court's performance. The Specialist reviewed the statistical analysis in the 2011 HJC Annual Report and submitted a report that included a number of recommendations to the head of the Court Administration department. Some recommendations included having more accurate data and charts as well as having a better review of the document before production.

**Legal Research consultant:** PJEP's Research consultant who is embedded at the HJC in order to assist the Research Department conduct legal and judicial work completed a number of tasks this quarter. The consultant submitted a paper to the Chief Justice about the role of the judicial authority in providing the income tax department with details related to the work of legal professionals. The Researcher continued developing the feasibility study on the necessity to have a Constitutional Court in Palestine that included a constitutional review of different legal systems. The paper will be used by the Chief Justice for an upcoming workshop regarding the possible creation of a Constitutional Court in Palestine. In addition, the consultant developed a paper titled "How to Achieve Justice in Palestine" at the request of the Chief Justice. This paper was submitted to the Regional Conference for the Protection Project that was held on December, 2012 in Alexandria, Egypt. The main task of the consultant is to improve the research processes in the department.

**Senior Court Administration Specialist:** PJEP's Senior Court Administration Specialist is assisting the HJC in creating a comprehensive model court approach for the development of improved case management processes and to strengthen internal court management systems. Model courts can be an effective tool for the development, testing and validation of improved

caseflow processes and other court improvements. A small number of courts - three or four - would be selected by HJC and PJEP to serve as model courts.

This quarter, the Specialist and the COP met with the head of the HJC Planning Department in order to discuss the model court selection process and initial activities. The Specialist also gathered information from the HJC in order to develop a model court study. The model court study was completed this quarter and submitted to the HJC for review and feedback. Further steps and implementation are currently suspended due to the congressional hold on funds.

**Case Weighting Consultants:** Also this quarter, PJEP’s Senior Court Administration Specialist worked with the Case Weighting consultants who were contracted to develop a case weighting study. Case weights are statistical values that represent the amount of work (typically the judge’s work) that needs to be expended within the courts to resolve cases. Once developed and approved, case-weighting formulas can be used to evaluate the total number of judges needed in a judicial system and for allocation of judgeships within that system.

During the quarter, the consultants met with the chief clerk and collected information regarding the criminal case types, the length of each case type proceeding, and the amount of the judges’ effort required at each case stage. The consultants conducted similar meetings with 5 judges from the Nablus First Instance and Conciliation courts. In addition, the Case Weighting consultants met with a judicial focus group selected by the Chief Justice in order to assist in developing the case weight standards. The Case Weighting consultants submitted a case weighting report that included the methodology, statistical model showing any possible need for judgeship positions based on actual caseload, an estimated number of judges needed to address current case load, and a formula to calculate the number of judges needed to address case backlog. The case weighting report is being submitted to the HJC for review and feedback. Further steps and implementation are currently suspended due to the congressional hold on funds.

**Justice Sector Institutions Specialist:** The Justice Sector Institutions Specialist visited the Ramallah Notification Department in order to develop recommendations to improve the work performance in the department. The Specialist met with the Notification Director who explained the notification process conducted by the court notifiers and the department’s management. The Specialist is currently visiting other West Bank Notifications departments for the purpose of gathering information that will assist in developing a report that will include the findings, challenges and recommendations for improving the notifications process in the courts.

**Key Result Area: Provide training and technical assistance to HJC and MOJ Departments  
Subcomponent 1B - Strengthen targeted functions within the MOJ**

**Key Result Area: Improve MOJ public services**

**MOJ Hebron Office Upgrades:** This quarter, PJEP completed the installation of the customer service counter and A/C units at the MOJ Hebron office. PJEP also provided the office with desktop computers, uninterruptible power supply units (UPS) and furniture. The upgrades to the MOJ Hebron office are part of PJEP’s goals to provide better services to the public and to create an improved working environment for the MOJ staff.



*The New MOJ Space:* During the quarter, the MOJ along with PJEP hosted the MOJ facility inauguration ceremony on October 17, 2012 attended by the Mission Director and PJEP's COP. Also in attendance were the Deputy Minister, the Deputy Assistant for Administrative and Financial Affairs, and the acting Attorney General.



The Minister of Justice and the USAID Mission Director cut the ribbon at the MOJ inauguration

Attendees also included Palestinian Legislative Council Members, the head of the Palestinian Judicial Institute, the Minister of Planning Affairs, the Legal Advisor to the President's Office, the head of the Bar Association, the head of the Civil Service Bureau and the Secretary General of the Palestinian Legislative Council. In his opening speech, the USAID Mission Director commented that he is impressed by

the recent positive developments that occurred between the Palestinian ministries, and that USAID is honored to contribute to such progress. He also stressed that USAID is pleased to work with the MOJ and that USAID will continue to support the services the Ministry provides to the Palestinian public. The Minister of Justice thanked USAID for their support and funding for the new space, and described USAID as a strategic partner in the development process of the justice sector in Palestine. After the ribbon cutting, the Minister took the USAID Mission Director and the invited guests on a tour of the new facility. PJEP provided furniture and IT equipment to several departments including the Legal Affairs Department, the Justice Information Center and the JLC office.

*MOJ Authentication Services:* In the Ramallah MOJ office, PJEP is currently working with the MOJ's Authentication Department on the "Filing Backlog Document Project". The project aims to electronically archive official documents verified by the MOJ as part of the authentication services. Archiving these official public documents will make it easier for staff to retrieve documents requested by the public, as well as to preserve the confidentiality of the documents. The assistance will also help the institution reduce its case backlog and assist in archiving documents that have yet to be archived in their proper place, both in paper files and electronically. During the quarter, PJEP recruited 4 interns to work at the MOJ. To date the interns have entered 8,354 documents into the Document Management Archiving System (DMAS). PJEP interns will continue to work at the MOJ next quarter.

*Assistance to Deputy Minister Office (DMO):* To further assist the MOJ, PJEP provided the DMO with an advisor who is embedded at the MOJ and is providing support in order to help improve the administrative procedures in the office. The support provided to the DMO will help improve the administrative practices and help the MOJ to function more efficiently and effectively.

During the quarter, the PJEP advisor worked on the following tasks. The advisor coordinated the Forensic Medicine Technical workshop. The workshop took place on Saturday November 10-14, 2012, at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. The coordination helped the DMO to be better prepared for the workshop that addressed issues in forensic medicine. Additionally, PEJP's advisor to the DMO coordinated the Human Rights Conference that took place on December 10, 2012. As part of the preparations for the conference, the advisor arranged for the MOJ to meet with the head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). A similar meeting was conducted with the United Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC). After the conference, PJEP's advisor and the Minister of Justice met with representatives from OHCHR in order to discuss the outcome of the conference.

The advisor also arranged the visit for the consultant who developed recommendations on reforming the Palestinian judicial sector. The consultant conducted meetings with several counterparts including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Planning and the Minister of Interior. PJEP's advisor also met with the Dutch Representative's Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss arrangements regarding a meeting with the donor community and the MOJ. The meeting focused on the draft paper submitted by the Minister of Justice regarding reform in the justice sector. Moreover, PJEP's advisor facilitated the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) evaluation process of the DMO staff.

Also during the quarter, the advisor along with the Deputy Minister conducted a meeting with the MOJ training committee to finalize the participants' list of the MOJ staff who will take part in the Administrative Skills Diploma Program at Birzeit University. The Administrative Skills Diploma Program aims to strengthen the staff's organizational and professional skills which will help to increase work efficiency and to provide better service to the public.

#### Key Result Area: Assist in activation and development of the Palestinian-Israeli Joint Legal Committee (JLC)

The JLC has recently been revitalized to provide a venue for consideration of practical legal issues concerning both Palestinian and Israeli counterparts. The JLC is a venue for committee members to discuss troublesome technical issues in a technically-oriented, non-political setting.

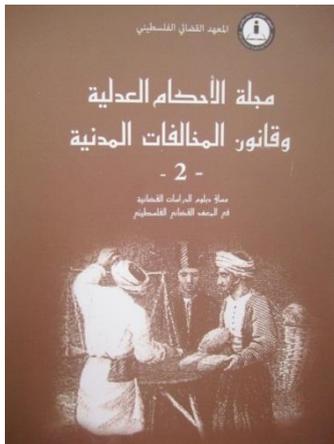
*JLC strategic plan:* This quarter, the Senior JLC Specialist prepared a three year strategic plan for the JLC. The strategic plan was submitted for review and feedback to the Deputy Minister of Justice (DMOJ) who is the head of the Palestinian JLC. The strategic plan included an action plan for the coming three years and will be used as a working guide for the JLC and its activities. The strategic plan also includes the recommendation to recruit someone from within the MOJ to work with the JLC Specialist who will be able to take over the duties of the Specialist once the PJEP contracts ends. The JLC Specialist drafted and sent a memo to the DMOJ requesting the selection of an MOJ employee to work with the JLC Specialist.

*Legal Cooperation:* During this quarter, the JLC Specialist reviewed the law regarding the right of the Palestinian Authority (PA) to prosecute the drivers of cars bearing Israeli license plates that commit traffic violations in the PA territories. Currently, the PA does not prosecute the drivers of cars bearing Israeli plates that commit traffic violations in Palestinian areas. The JLC Specialist reviewed the law and the Palestinian Israeli Interim Agreement and did not find any reasons for not prosecuting the drivers of these cars. Also, in an unprecedented move, the Israeli counterpart did not object to prosecuting the drivers of Israeli plated cars who violate traffic laws in the PA territories. It should be noted that vehicles bearing Israeli license plates have in the past violated traffic laws in the PA territories and were not prosecuted. The implementation of the law allowing for prosecution of these drivers will result in enforcing the law on all vehicles and persons without discrimination.

Additionally, the Senior JLC Specialist provided the DMOJ and the Minister of Justice a summary of the Hebrew 159 page court decision issued by the Israeli District Court in Jerusalem. This decision is a judicial precedent and may result in hundreds of lawsuits against

the PA. The Specialist also received the Arabic translation of the mutual legal assistance request from the Israeli Ministry of Justice related to the enforcement of a court decision issued by the Be'er Seeva' Family Court. The JLC Specialist has started preparing the case to be authenticated as a foreign court decision by the Palestinian MOJ and the Palestinian Shari'a court.

*Coordination Meetings:* Early this quarter, the Senior JLC Specialist met the Rule of Law Quartet representative and the MOJ Deputy Assistant of Legal Affairs. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss JLC progress and the findings of the legal paper produced by the Specialist on the interim agreement related to Palestinian jurisdiction on Israeli ID holders who commit crimes in the Palestinian territories. The participants of the meeting will review and provide feedback on the legal paper which will be used as a guide when handling such cases. Additionally, the JLC Specialist also met with the fingerprint expert from the Ministry of Interior's Fingerprints Department. The JLC Specialist answered the expert's inquiries about the criminal police investigations and evidence procedures.



Upon the request of the MOJ, the Senior JLC Specialist met with the Negotiations Support Unit (NSU) and the JLC member. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information regarding the Palestinian-Israeli Interim Agreement.

Moreover, the DMOJ, the JLC Specialist and the Chief of the Palestinian Liaison Police participated in a meeting with the EUPOL COPPS representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the continued work of coordinating the project being implemented by the EUPOL COPPS and UNOPS concerning the criminal police coordination under the supervision of the JLC MOJ. The DMOJ wanted to ensure that any Palestinian activities related to legal cooperation with Israeli counterparts are coordinated under the supervision of the JLC MOJ. The EUOPL COPPS representative and the Palestinian Liaison Police Chief discussed with the JLC Specialist the possibility of conducting a training course targeting the Liaison Police members on the implementation of the Annex 4 of the Palestinian-Israeli laws. PJEP, after consultation with USAID is moving forward on this request.

## Component 2 – Strengthen the capacity and credibility of justice sector professionals

Under this component, PJEP is working with the PJI staff to develop PJI's DJS courses while taking into account the results of both needs and impact assessments. The courses will target judges, court staff, prosecutors, and other PJI audiences. PJEP is working to strengthen core and specialized legal skills for judges and court staff as well as build the capacity of the PJI staff to develop training impact assessments. PJEP is also working with a number of law schools to conduct local, national and international moot court competitions and has helped establish and upgrade reliable computer labs and moot court facilities for the partnering universities.

### Key Result Area: Strengthen the capacity of the PJI

*Develop DJS Courses:* In a major accomplishment this quarter, PJEP distributed an estimated 800 copies of the Civil Law course to the PJI, HJC, law schools, public libraries, the Bar

Association, and NGOs. PJEP developed and produced the Civil Law course for the DJS program last quarter. The Civil Law course material includes case study exercises and court precedents that will assist in fostering the practical skills of the course. This course is the first of its kind to be added to the DJS program and is anticipated to be introduced into the program in the coming months. PJEP will develop additional courses for the DJS program over the next several months. To date, PJEP has begun developing the Commercial Law, Contracts Law and Land Law course materials. The Component 2 leader will review the draft manuals before submitting the course materials to the HJC judicial committee for final review and approval. The courses will be added to the PJI DJS program which is offered to lawyers who are planning to become practicing judges.

*PJI's Diploma Judicial Studies (DJS) Trainings:* In order to further assist the PJI in



**PJEP implemented the Judicial Mediation training for the DJS program**

implementing the DJS program, PJEP conducted a number of trainings for the registered 20 students taking part in the program. During the quarter, PJEP completed a three day training beginning on October 11, 2012 and held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Jericho. The training focused on human rights issues, conducting fair trials, and juvenile justice cases. The PJI Director spoke at the opening session and stated the significance of this training in enhancing human rights principles among the participants. He also thanked USAID/PJEP for the support they have been providing to strengthen the justice sector.

PJEP's COP stressed USAID/PJEP's readiness to support the PJI in order to improve the justice sector in Palestine.

On November 29, 2012 PJEP conducted the Judicial Mediation training at the Movenpick Hotel in Ramallah for the students of the DJS program. The training focused on how to conduct judicial mediation using practical skills training, procedures for conducting mediation, and the different types of judicial mediation used globally.

Also during the quarter, PJEP's Case Management consultant conducted a training session on case management for the students in the DJS program. The two hour training focused on how to conduct fair trials, the responsibilities of the judge for conducting hearings in a timely manner, and other case management procedures.

Press releases on the training were posted on the following websites:

<http://www.maannnews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=528964>

[http://www.wattan.tv/new\\_index\\_hp\\_details.cfm?id=a5344719a2815440&c\\_id=11#.UHRKqsUp\\_\\_M](http://www.wattan.tv/new_index_hp_details.cfm?id=a5344719a2815440&c_id=11#.UHRKqsUp__M)

**Key Result Area: Strengthen core and specialized legal skills for judges and court staff**

*Judicial Continuing Education Program:* In the beginning of the FY 2012, a request was



submitted to PJEP by the HJC Training Department to assist with developing the continuing education plan for the Judicial Continuing Education Program at the PJI. PJEP developed a list of training priorities for continuing education development based on

**Criminal Procedures Law training for judges**

various discussions conducted with several HJC departments and judges and on the results of a survey PJEP conducted for judges at the HJC Judicial Annual Conference. PJEP along with the PJI and HJC Training Department then compiled a list of training topics to be conducted for the judges. The continuing education program targets practicing judges in order to refresh their skills and enhance their knowledge in specialized areas of the law and core judicial skills.

This quarter, PJEP conducted a number of three day “Criminal Procedures Law” trainings. These trainings are part of a series of trainings that began last quarter. In total, 19 Conciliation judges and 23 First Instance judges took part in this training held at the Movenpick Hotel in Ramallah on October 18, 2012 and November 29, 2012. The trainings were facilitated by senior judges from the Court of Appeals and the First Instance court. The training topics included the competence of the criminal judges, detention, bail and evidence used in criminal cases. Topics also included appeals of a verdict, juvenile justice, and authorized judicial seizures.

Press releases on the training were posted on the following websites:

<http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=531050&MARK=%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B2>

[http://www.wattan.tv/new\\_index\\_hp\\_details.cfm?id=a3312871a9494459&c\\_id=1#.UIVmqSUslX0](http://www.wattan.tv/new_index_hp_details.cfm?id=a3312871a9494459&c_id=1#.UIVmqSUslX0)

*Court Staff Training:* PJEP’s Senior Training specialist conducted several meetings with the HJC Training Department and the head of the Court Administration unit in order to prepare for trainings that took place this quarter. PJEP developed a training schedule that included customer services training, forgery detection training, registration law training, civil judgment training, and civil servant law training. By conducting these trainings for West Bank court staff PJEP has enabled the staff to work more efficiently and assisted the court staff in delivering better services to the public.

*Customer Services Program:* The goal of the customer service trainings has been to enhance court staff’s communications skills as well as equip the staff with skills that will facilitate better customer care for the public. The customer service training topics included communications behaviors, customer service basic skills and how to preserve the confidentiality of court case files. In total 15 separate trainings took place at the Movenpick Hotel in Ramallah for 322 West Bank court staff.

PJEP’s COP and the head of the Court Administration department attended all 15 closing



**West Bank court staff who participated in the customer service training**

ceremonies of the courses and awarded certificates of completion to each trainee. In his speech, the head of the Court Administration unit stressed the crucial role of the court staff in delivering better services to the public. He commented that such courses are essential as they help provide the court staff with the

needed skills to better communicate with the public. He thanked USAID/PJEP for supporting the training. PJEP’s COP stated that the court staff plays a significant role in enhancing and promoting principles of the Rule of Law in Palestine, and that developing their capacities

leads to more efficiency in court performance and builds the public's confidence in the Palestinian justice system.

The trainees expressed great satisfaction with the training and indicated that the topics were relevant to their needs. The trainees stressed that the training in customer service will help them provide better services to the public. The trainer commented that the trainees were very proactive and eager to learn, and stressed that the training program was comprehensive and covered issues related to customer service and professional conduct in the workplace.

*Forgery Detection Training:* Also this quarter, PJEP completed two separate four day trainings on the subject of Forgery Detection. The training took place at the Movenpick Hotel in Ramallah and targeted 25 West Bank Notary Public officers. The training focused on the scientific and practical methods used to detect court files' forgery. The trainees commented that the training was very interesting and useful as it enabled them to detect forged stamps, signatures and transactions.



**Notary Public staff takes part in Forgery Detection training**

*Registration Law Training:* PJEP conducted training on registration law and procedures for 21 registration court staff from all West Bank courts. The training was facilitated by two HJC staff, who took part in the Training of Trainers (TOT) program that PJEP completed in early June, 2012. PJEP's Senior Training Specialist supported the trainers and provided guidance as needed. The trainees commented that the training is relevant to their needs and helped in unifying the procedures in all courts.

During the opening session the head of the Court Administration unit stressed the importance of the training in enhancing the justice sector in Palestine and developing the capacity of the court staff.

*Civil Judgment Law Training:* This quarter, PJEP conducted three separate trainings for West Bank civil judgment officers. On October 11, 2012 14 civil judgment officers from all West Bank courts took part in the civil judgment law and procedures training. On October 18-19, 2012 18 civil judgment officers took part in training on how to implement civil judgment decisions that are handed down by the judge. And on November 22-23, 2012 18 civil judgment officers took part in the civil judgment case filing and procedures training. The trainings were facilitated by a judge and a HJC staff member, who took part in the Training of Trainers (TOT) program that PJEP completed in



**PJEP conducts trainings on Civil Judgment Law**

early June, 2012. PJEP's Senior Training Specialist supported the trainers and provided guidance as needed. The trainees expressed their satisfaction with the training, saying that it addressed their needs and strengthened their knowledge on various civil judgment procedures and processes.

PJEP's COP and the head of the HJC Court Administration unit took part in all of the closing session of the trainings. PJEP's COP stressed that PJEP will do its best to continue supporting the justice system in Palestine. The head of the Court Administration unit commented that such trainings are significant because they enhance the court staff's skills and knowledge.

*Civil Servant Law:* This quarter, PJEP conducted training on civil servant law for 25 notification staff from the northern part of the West Bank and 22 notification staff from the southern part of the West Bank. The training was facilitated by two HJC court staff, who took part in the Training of Trainers (TOT) program that PJEP completed in early June, 2012. PJEP's Senior Training Specialist supported the trainers and provided guidance as needed. The trainees commented that the training addressed their needs and has helped them to enhance their knowledge and skills on civil servant law.

*Unified Procedures Manuals:* This quarter, PJEP finalized the first draft of the court Unified Procedures Manual for the Notary Public, Civil Judgment and Notification Departments and the Court Registry Office. The manual will be used by court staff to help standardize court

procedures and transactions for all of these departments. Lawyers and court users will also have access to the manuals which will help them to better understand how court procedures work. In total 20,000 copies will be printed and distributed next quarter, pending funding availability.



**The Palestinian team from An Najah University competes against Amman Al Ahliya University in the Bilateral Moot Court Competition**

**Key Result Area: Strengthen practical legal education**

*Bilateral Moot Court Competition in Jordan:* The Bilateral Moot Court Competition sponsored by PJEP is the first of its kind to take place in

Jordan. The competition was held on December 11, 2012 in Amman, Jordan at the Amman Ahliya University. Five law students from the Palestinian An Najah University, accompanied by two PJEP staff, traveled to Jordan to take part in the moot court competition against six law students from Amman Ahliya University. Prior to the competition PJEP selected and translated the compromis (case study) into Arabic and circulated the study to the An Najah team and the Amman Ahliya team. PJEP also circulated the rules and regulations of how the competition would proceed. PJEP trained the Palestinian team on how to conduct moot court sessions in front of a panel of judges, how to develop the memorial (case analysis) and how to present the case during the competition.

During the opening ceremony, the President of Amman Ahliya University said he was proud that Ahliya University was selected to take part in such a competition with An Najah University and was looking forward to continuing this type of activity with other Palestinian Universities. The dean of the Amman Ahliya University thanked USAID/PJEP for sponsoring the moot court competition in Jordan and stated that under this precedent, he will introduce moot court competitions to other Jordanian Universities. The lead judge of the competition, who is the Vice President of Ajloun University in Jordan, invited PJEP to conduct a moot competition with Ajloun University in the future.

The competition consisted of two rounds. Each team presented an oral argument for and an argument against the case in front of a panel of judges. The international law case that was presented included the apprehension of citizens in a foreign country, detention and treatment of citizens in a foreign state and prosecution of the detained citizens before a military commission. The competition enabled law students to take part in simulated court proceedings where they presented their memorials (case studies) and participated in oral arguments in front of a panel of judges. The moot court competition is an exercise that has been lacking in the past in both the Jordanian and Palestinian law school curriculum.

At the end of the competition the winning team - An Najah University from Palestine - received awards and certificates of appreciation. Mohammad Ribhi from the Palestinian team stated “the competition was a constructive activity as it helped me develop my legal oral skills. I was given the opportunity to present my case in front of a panel of judges; this is something I have never done before. This experience has complemented my academic studies and has allowed me to be better prepared to become a lawyer or judge in the future.”

*The National Moot Court Competition:* This quarter, PJEP conducted an orientation session to



**PJEP conducted an orientation session in preparation for the National Moot Court Competition**

prepare for the next 2013 National and International moot court competitions. The session took place on December 6, 2012 at the Caesar Hotel in Ramallah and targeted numerous law students from Al Ahliya University in Bethlehem, Hebron University, Al Quds University as well as An-Najah University in Nablus. The trainers included members of PJEP’s staff and the head of the UNODC in Jerusalem. Several students from Palestinian university law schools who participated in the 2012 Jessup Moot Court competition gave a presentation about their moot court experience. The session covered the oral skills needed for arguing a case and the basic skills necessary for

drafting memorials (case study). The session also clarified the official rules and regulations of the Jessup competition which is the international moot court competition for International Law held annually in Washington DC. Also during the session, the trainers and students reviewed several judgments by the International Court of Justice in order to strengthen the students’ legal background on the subject of International Law.

PJEP continued the preparations for the 2013 National Moot Court Competition that will be held in Ramallah. PJEP conducted visits to An Najah and Hebron law schools and provided the selected teams with guidance on how to write the memorials (case studies). If funding is available PJEP will conduct a National Moot Court Competition in preparation for the 2013 Jessup International Competition that will take place in Washington DC.

In order to further prepare for the international Jessup Competition, PJEP assisted Hebron, Al Ahliya, Bethlehem, Al Quds, Arab American and An Najah law schools in registering for the competition. In total, one team of five students and a coach will participate in the International Jessup Moot Court Competition in Washington D.C. The students received the compromis (case study) in order to better prepare for the competition.

The national supplement rules for the Jessup competition are now available on the International Law Student Association (ILSA) website:  
<http://www.ilsa.org/jessup/jessup13/The%202013%20Occupied%20Palestinian%20Territories%20Rules%20Supplement.pdf>

*Developing Legal Clinics:* This quarter, in response to Palestinian law schools who had



**PJEP's Clinical Education consultant conducts training for law students and faculty**

requested PJEP support in their development of experiential clinical education models, practical skills based curricula and faculty training, PJEP provided the services of a local and a US consultants.

PJEP's Clinical Education consultant conducted meetings and workshops with deans, faculty, staff and students of five of the law schools included in the scope of work: Al Quds, An-Naja, Al-Ahliya, Modern University College and

Hebron University Department of Law. The trainings and workshops included how to start a legal clinic, the best practices, syllabi, procedures and forms of the current West Bank (WB) clinical programs, international norms, challenges to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of clinical programs, ethics, and an assessment of the enthusiasm and capacity of students to engage in participatory learning activities. The law schools were in agreement that the creation of clinic manuals that define specific roles, responsibilities and procedures for setting up a legal clinic, faculty responsibilities, teaching strategies and procedures, clinic coordinator responsibilities and procedures and student roles and responsibilities is a key next step to strengthening their programs. In addition to the future development of these manuals the consultants outlined other next steps including clinical program networking, on-going PJEP technical support to the clinics, development of a legal ethics curriculum, development of teaching manuals, conducting public awareness and outreach, and establishing partnerships with US and international law schools. A timeline for implementation of these recommendations was also proposed. The consultant also assessed progress on implementation of law school strengthening recommendations from a prior assessment of law schools in May, 2011 and found that time PJEP has implemented most of the recommendations contained in that assessment.

Press releases on the training were posted on the following websites:

<http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=531049&MARK>

[http://www.wattan.tv/new\\_index\\_hp\\_details.cfm?id=a8672105a7603686&c\\_id=11#.UIVZw8UsIX0](http://www.wattan.tv/new_index_hp_details.cfm?id=a8672105a7603686&c_id=11#.UIVZw8UsIX0)

### **Component 3 – Broaden public awareness of Rule of Law and engagement with the justice sector**

Under this component, PJEP is providing small grants and technical assistance to civil society organizations to build public awareness of legal rights and responsibilities, and enhance the public's understanding of the justice system. The small grants program assists in increasing

public engagement with the justice system and the Rule of Law more generally. PJEP will also assist in providing equipment and technical assistance to the HJC and MOJ in order to empower the units' outreach capabilities during and beyond the project life. Additionally, PJEP is helping the HJC, MOJ, and PJI to develop effective public outreach strategies and campaigns.

#### Key Result Area: Enhance HJC and MOJ public outreach capacities

*Court Signage:* This quarter, PJEP continued to work with the HJC to develop informational and instructional signage that will help provide the public with essential information that will save time and effort when using the courts. Site visits were conducted to the Nablus, Jericho, Qalqilia, Salfit, Hebron and Bethlehem courts in order to determine where to post signage. In total, PJEP will provide 13 West Bank courts with signage.

*Blogging training:* This quarter, Amin Network was selected to implement the Internet Blogging training that will take place if funding is re-instated. The training will work to build the capacity of the HJC, MOJ and State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau (SAACB). Blogging will be used as a tool to promote the principles of the Rule of Law and will be used to conduct advocacy campaigns for justice sector institutions and SAACB.

*HJC Radio Series Campaign:* This quarter, PJEP approved two scripts for the HJC radio series. Ten approved scripts will be produced next quarter. PJEP completed part one of the radio series campaign in April, 2012. The series will discuss fraud, robbery, honor killings, and other relevant subjects. The cases will be selected based on the occurrence of crimes and specific legal procedures that the public may be unaware of. The HJC will promote the campaign on its website. This activity aims to assist the HJC in broadening its public outreach program. The radio series campaign will be used as a creative communication tool to enhance the public understanding of legal issues and awareness of the court system.

*HJC Animation Outreach Series:* The purpose of the animation series is to enhance the public's trust and confidence in the justice sector's services. The animation series will help raise the public's awareness of specific laws, court sentences, legal procedures and judicial practices. The series will stress the consequences of committing crimes and the positive aspects of enhancing Rule of Law among the citizens. The campaign will be used as a creative communication tool to enhance the public's understanding of legal issues and to promote the Rule of Law in Palestinian society.

#### Key Result Area: Increase engagement and public awareness of key justice sector stakeholders

*PJEP's 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of Grants Awards:* This quarter, PJEP concluded implementing all activities under the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of grant awards. PJEP awarded one grant each to Amin Network, Ma'an Network and Internews Network. Under this grant cycle the selected CSOs' objective was to work with journalists and media outlets to expand accurate coverage of Rule of Law issues. These grants were designed to support CSO activities to increase the public's confidence in the justice system. The activities under these grants aimed to bridge the gap between judicial institutions and the public by raising public awareness of the justice sector and working with journalists and media outlets to expand accurate coverage of Rule of Law issues. Following is a summary of the activities implemented this quarter:

**Amin Media Network:** During the quarter, Amin completed the 12 day training on media



Amin implemented a 12 day training on media productions and how to cover justice sector news

production and how to present news coverage in the media related to the High Court and the Cassation Court. The training targeted eight journalists from various media outlets and focused on security and privacy of information, case decisions made by the Cassation Court and the High Court and the independence of the judiciary. The objective of the grant is to build the capacity of journalists so they are better qualified and prepared to cover judicial sector news.

Amin also organized visits for the trainee journalists to the High Court, the Cassation Court, and the HJC Media Center. After the training the journalists began an internship with Amin Network for three months. The internship included working in the judicial sector field, visiting courts, hearing case sessions and developing news stories. During the internship, the journalists received first-hand training on the procedures of the High Court and the Court of Cassation. The overall objective of the grant was to build the capacity of the journalists so they are better qualified and prepared to cover judicial sector news.

**Ma'an Network:** This quarter, Ma'an Network completed broadcasting the court room drama



Ma'an produced 13 episodes of the court room drama series as part of PJEP's 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of grants

series titled "Al Mahkama" or "The Court". The series was broadcast on Ma'an Mix TV twice a day for two weeks in the West Bank/Gaza and also reached viewers across the Middle East. The purpose of the series was to help enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of the Rule of Law. The 13 episode series focused on how judicial proceedings are conducted in the West Bank. PJEP, the HJC, and Ma'an Network received positive comments from the audience regarding the episodes. PJEP posted the episodes on its Facebook page in order to present the episodes to a wider audience.

Several viewers commented that the episodes were very informative and presented legal material in a simplified manner allowing for the viewers to better understand how the Rule of Law works in Palestine.

**Internews Network:** This quarter, Internews completed production of 45 radio and TV spots



Internews showcased some of the TV spots produced in the training during the closing ceremony

as part of the activity titled "Enhancing Media Coverage of the Justice Sector". Internews conducted a series of one-day trainings that examined specific laws and the role of the judicial system for eight selected journalists from several media outlets in the West Bank. The trainings that were conducted by lawyers and CSO representatives addressed the following issues: the rights of women, traffic

law, labor law and election law. As a result of the trainings, the journalists developed and produced radio and TV spots that included information on Palestinian basic law, the right of access to information, freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly and protest. Twenty-five of the spots were aired on Jussor Coalition and on national West Bank and Gaza media outlets. The spots were also posted on PJEP's website.

Internews concluded its project implementation by conducting a graduation ceremony for the journalists who took part in this activity. The ceremony took place on November 20, 2012 at the Caesar Hotel. Attendees included representatives from the Ministry of Information, justice sector staff and various media outlets. During the ceremony, Internews showcased the TV spots that were produced by the journalists. At the end of the event, the journalists were awarded certificates of completion.

*PJEP's 3rd Cycle of Grants Award:* Early in the quarter, PJEP received USAID technical approval for the seven qualified CSOs and media outlets to receive a grant. PJEP signed Grants Implementation Agreements (GIAs) with the following vetted CSOs:

- Al Marsad Arab World Democracy and Electoral Monitor
- Freedom Forum Palestine (FFP)
- Institute of Modern Media (IMM)
- Students' Forum Institute (SFI)
- Safad Advertising Company/Wattan TV- 2 grants
- Sharek Youth Forum (SYF)
- Ma'an News Network

Press releases of the signing of the GIAs were published in the following links:

[http://www.wattan.tv/new\\_index\\_hp\\_details.cfm?id=a9033137a127887&c\\_id=11#.UKtgjOTqmiM](http://www.wattan.tv/new_index_hp_details.cfm?id=a9033137a127887&c_id=11#.UKtgjOTqmiM)

<http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=539756>



**PJEP signs GIAs with CSOs for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grants cycle**

Late in the quarter and shortly after signing the GIAs, PJEP received word that a congressional hold on funds was in place. Based on this news, PJEP informed the CSOs to suspend activities until further notice and pending renewed funding. Following is a summary of each grant objective and the activities that were conducted before the suspension of the activities:

**Students' Forum Institute (SFI):** The objective of SFI's project is to integrate youth in promoting the justice sector's strategic plan (2012-2013). The project will strengthen the concepts of and respect for the Rule of Law among the youth population. As part of the projects' activities, a media committee will be formed and will work to enhance the role of the justice sector in six areas in Bethlehem and Hebron. The targeted areas include Nahhalin, Tuqu', Husan from Bethlehem District, and Yatta, Bani Nai'm, and Beit Ommar from Hebron District.

This quarter, SFI conducted an orientation session for 24 representatives of the six organizations involved in the project activity plan. The organizations include Husan's Rural

Women Development Society, Nahhalin's Center and School for Special Education, Tuqu' Charitable Society, Beit Ommar Youth Sports Club, Yatta's Narsan Cultural Center and Bani Nai'm Charitable Society. The purpose of the session was to introduce the SFI project and to clarify to each organization its role in implementing the activities.

**Al Marsad: Arab World Democracy and Electoral Monitor** The objective of Al Marsad's project is to raise public awareness of the significance of civic education and the Rule of Law among school students. The project will focus on the utilization of the Rule of Law manual which was developed by Al Marsad in a previous PJEP funded activity that targeted school teachers.

This quarter, Al Marsad conducted a meeting with the Directorate General for Education Planning at the Ministry of Education (MOE). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Al Marsad's project which focuses on the utilization of the Rule of Law manual that was developed by Al Marsad in a previous PJEP funded activity that targeted school teachers. The manual includes a general outline, methods and techniques to be used when teaching the Rule of Law in the classroom. Topics in the manual include how the court system works, human rights law, and information on the various judicial branches that exist in the judiciary. As a result of the meeting, the teachers who were trained in the previous phase will train other teachers on the use of the manual by implementing seven training sessions that will begin next quarter if funding is re-instated.

In addition, Al Marsad conducted a meeting with the Student Activities Department at the MOE. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of utilizing the Rule of Law manual. As a result of the meeting, it was agreed that competitions will take place in schools in order to provide civic education and to raise students' awareness of the Rule of Law.

**Institute of Modern Media (IMM):** The objective of IMM's project is to enhance the perception and strengthen the understanding of how the justice system works. The project aims to enhance the trust in the justice system among the youth population. The activities include trainings and educational sessions in the Jenin area. Selected students and teachers will be trained to create core advocacy teams who will transfer their knowledge to other students, parents, and community members. Those core teams will act as facilitators to promote the principles of the Rule of Law and will educate the public on how the justice sector works. No activities were completed this quarter before funding was suspended.

**Wattan TV:** Wattan TV was awarded two grants to implement two project activities. The



Wattan TV's redesigned website

first project will focus on enhancing Wattan's website with content about the justice sector. The justice sector content will include multimedia news, features, in-depth investigative reports, outreach activities and informative electronic banners. The aim of these activities is to improve the public's understanding and perception of the justice sector and enhance the public's confidence in the role of the justice system. In addition, the project aims to create an open and

constructive dialogue between the public and various stakeholders in the justice sector.

The second grant activity aims to support the production and broadcast of 12 TV episodes for a program called “Insaf” (Fairness). The TV program will discuss different topics and themes related to the justice sector. The program will shed light on the difficulties the average Palestinian faces when using the legal system, and seeks to improve the relationship between citizens and the judicial system through raising awareness and by presenting a problem-solving approach. “Insaf” will serve as a two-way communication channel between citizens and justice sector institutions, specifically the MOJ and the HJC. The MOJ and HJC will have the opportunity to receive direct feedback which can be used modify policies and procedures that will help improve the services that are provided to the public. In addition, the program will help the public to understand their legal rights.

To date, Wattan TV began to redesign its website to include a section with information regarding the justice sector. The website redesign included segments for multimedia news, features, in-depth investigative reports, outreach activities and informative electronic banners regarding justice sector related news.

**Sharek Youth Forum (SYF):** The purpose of Sharek’s project is to educate youth about justice sector institutions. The project will provide a space for the MOJ and HJC in order to address issues that are relevant to youth. The project’s activities include training 60 youth in order to participate in 12 debates around the West Bank. The trainings will enhance the participants’ debating skills and help them seek media coverage from local TV and radio stations.

This quarter, Sharek selected youth from various Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, Qalqilia, and Nablus universities to participate in coordinating and carrying out justice sector debates in their region.

**Freedom Forum Palestine (FFP):** The objective of FFP is to enhance civil society’s trust in judicial institutions. The project aims to encourage the public to use the judicial system to resolve disputes. The activities of this project include creating a “Citizens Forum” to foster social debate on subjects concerning the Rule of Law and justice monitoring. The forum will also empower and unify the efforts of organizations already working with the justice sector. FFP will work to raise the public’s awareness about the principles of the Rule of Law. No grant activities have been completed this quarter.

*PJEP’s 4th Cycle of Grants:* The objective of this grant cycle is to increase the public’s confidence in the justice system and to raise the awareness of the role of the State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau (SAACB). The grant program’s goal is to bridge the gap between the judicial institutions and the public sector through outreach activities as well as raise the public’s awareness about the services the justice sector and the SAACB provide.



CSO representatives attend PJEP’s 4<sup>th</sup> grants cycle orientation session

PJEP conducted an orientation session for the 4th grant cycle on October 22nd at the Movenpick Hotel. The purpose of the session was to clarify the grants objectives and

applications procedure for interested CSOs, media outlets, universities, and private sector organizations. An estimated 40 representatives participated in the event.

In his opening speech, PJEP's COP introduced PJEP and its objectives. He stressed that PJEP is focusing on promoting the Rule of Law among youth, as they play an important role in developing the justice sector in Palestine. During the session, PJEP highlighted the program's successes and explained that 10 qualified grantees will receive up to a \$25,000 grant. Also during the session, PJEP explained the application procedure and answered the participants' inquiries about USAID grant regulations. In addition, MOJ, HJC and SAACB representatives provided short presentations on each institution's role and needs. They also suggested intervention ideas that could help enhance their outreach capabilities.

During the quarter, PJEP received 29 concept papers from 25 organizations as part of the 4th grants cycle. After a thorough review PJEP selected and invited 13 CSOs to attend an orientation session for instruction on how to submit a full application. The purpose of the session was to ensure that the applicants submit full applications that meet PJEP's objectives and requirements. During the session, PJEP further clarified USAID rules and regulations. The deadline for submitting the full application was December 21, 2012. Currently, PJEP is reviewing the full applications but due to the congressional hold on funds PJEP has yet to select qualified CSOs to receive a grant. PJEP will complete the rest of this process if the present hold on funds is lifted.

*HJC Strategy Workshop:* This quarter, PJEP began preparing for the HJC 2012-2013 strategy workshop session. The purpose of the session is to publicize the HJC strategy and needs to relevant CSOs. The event was to take place this quarter but with the congressional hold on funds PJEP has postponed the event until at least next quarter. The workshop session is expected to take place at the PJEP office. An estimated 40 CSO representatives are expected to attend the session.

## Component 4 – Windows for Opportunities

This quarter, PJEP met with SAACB to discuss cooperation agreements and outline future tasks. PJEP discussed the SAACB media plan for 2013 which includes redesigning the website, conducting a media campaign to educate the public about the services that SAACB provides, as well as producing a film about the role of SAACB. Currently, activities with SAACB have been suspended until further notice due to the congressional hold on funds.



PJEP met with SAACB to discuss possible partnership

### Other

*Coordination meetings:* This quarter, PJEP's COP and DCOP met with the evaluation team assigned by the USAID Mission in order to conduct a needs assessment for the preparation of future USAID's interventions in the justice sector. The meeting discussed recommendations, challenges, and gaps of PJEP's program to be considered if a PJEP follow on project is conducted. The evaluation team then met with the Component 3 leader who stressed the significance of the grants program in broadening public awareness of the Rule of Law and

presented the impact the grantees have accomplished in the West Bank. PJEP also discussed the achievements made by the CSOs who took part in PJEP's grants program.

*Website and Social Media:* This quarter, PJEP launched its official website [www.wbg-pjep.com](http://www.wbg-pjep.com) that includes information about the program. The website will be updated regularly with the program's success stories, upcoming activities, campaigns and publications. In addition, PJEP will update the grants section with information about previous and current grants as well as any future requests for applications. Moreover, PJEP continues to update the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/wbg.pjep](http://www.facebook.com/wbg.pjep) with photos and news about activities that are consistently being implemented by PJEP. PJEP regularly shares the videos produced by PJEP's grantees that aim to promote the Rule of Law through radio and TV spots. PJEP's Facebook fans have been very interactive as they constantly post positive comments about the success of the program.

## Monitoring & Evaluation

During the quarter, PJEP completed the Year 3 Performance Management Plan (PMP). The plan included project indicators that will best measure the impact and success of PJEP's activities for FY 2013. Discussion and several meetings took place with Component leaders and other relevant staff that covered a review of activities which will assist PJEP in meeting its target indicator goals. In addition, PJEP continued to update the USAID Geo-MIS and Trainet databases on a monthly basis.

## Implementation Challenges

Due to a congressional hold on FY 2012 funding to the USAID West Bank/Gaza Mission, PJEP has not received the anticipated additional funds and 71% of currently obligated funds have been expended. Accordingly, many activities have been suspended although current long term US staff and local long term staff (23) will continue working for the near future. The 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of grants ended normally in December, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> grant cycle has been suspended as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. If funding is re-instated, PJEP will continue the grants program by reinstating the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle and continuing the award process of the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle. Key local STTA support will continue until February 2012, at which time if funding is not received a reduction in the number of STTA working in the justice sector will take place. In addition, PJEP staff will continue to provide direct assistance to counterpart staff and institutions as well as work to implement trainings and other project activities that require no additional funding other than present staff salaries.

## Summary of Proposed Planned Activities for FY12 Quarter 4:

### **Component 1: Enhance accessibility and efficiency of targeted justice sector institutions**

- Complete upgrade of the Ramallah Conciliation Court
- Continue to support the "Filing Backlog Document Project".
- Provide data entry interns to support West Bank courts
- Support the HJC in implementing Model Courts
- Continue to support the HJC IT, Statistical, and Research teams
- Provide support in implementing standards of the "Case Weighting Report"

## **Component 2: Strengthen capacity and credibility of justice sector professionals**

- Publish and distribute the PJI's Land Law and Commercial Law course material
- Develop PJI's Penal Law course material
- Develop the law schools' Public Administration course material
- Conduct the National Moot Court Competition in preparation for the Jessup International Competition that will take place in Washington DC
- Develop and present the HJC training needs assessment report
- Develop the HJC 2013 training plan
- Complete the HJC Training Procedural Manual

## **Component 3: Broaden public awareness of Rule of Law and engagement with justice sector**

- Continue with the broadcast of the phase two radio series outreach campaign
- Re-broadcast the first phase of the radio series outreach campaign on Raya FM
- Conduct two workshops with MOE teachers on the Rule of Law training manual
- Re-broadcast grantee Internews' 26 TV and radio spots on national media services
- Continue reviewing the full applications for the 4<sup>th</sup> grants cycle
- Conduct in-house workshops for HJC and CSOs
- Continue to provide technical assistance to the MOJ and HJC media units
- Produce the Rule of Law animation series which will be used as a public awareness campaign

## PMP Indicator Update

Level/#	Indicator	Baseline	FY 2013 Target	End of Quarter
<b>Project</b>				
1	Percent of public expressing confidence in the justice system <sup>1</sup>	3.18	3.7	0
<b>Component 1</b>				
1.1	No. of USG-assisted courts with improved case management <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a
1.2	Number of legal institutions and associations supported by USG assistance*	0	8	8
1.3	Percent change of justice institution/division users expressing satisfaction in the particular institution or division used*	69%	+5%	0
1.4	Number of divisions that receive improvements of equipment, furniture, or refurbishment	0	10	7
1.5	Percent change in number of transactions completed within a specified time	48%	+5%	0
<b>Component 2</b>				
2.1	Percent of students from law schools receiving USG assistance participating in practical skills training	0	20%	0
2.2	Percent of those trained or those who supervisors report that training helped improve how they did their job*	0	50%	0
2.3	Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance	0	8	3
2.4	Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG Assistance*	0	750	457
2.4(a)	Number of men justice sector personnel that received USG training*	0	585	360
2.4(b)	Number of women justice sector personnel that received USG training*	0	165	97
<b>Component 3</b>				
3.1	Number of justice sector related public outreach activities conducted with USG assistance <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.2	Number of USG-assisted campaigns and programs to enhance public understanding, NGO support and media coverage of judicial independence and accountability *	0	9	0

<sup>1</sup> Baseline number taken from UNDP 2011 survey of public opinion on the justice sector, Table 44, change in rating on a scale of 1 to 5.

<sup>2</sup> Indicator 1.1 will be reported in FY 11 only. Indicator 1.2 will replace indicator 1.1 because indicator 1.2 captures PJEP's activity implementation that will be conducted during the life of the project.

<sup>3</sup> Indicator 3.1 will be reported in FY 11 only. Indicator 3.2 will replace indicator 3.1 because indicator 3.2 is a USAID Operational Indicator and captures PJEP's activity implementation that will be conducted during the life of the project.

Level/#	Indicator	Baseline	FY 2013 Target	End of Quarter
3.3	Number of CSOs receiving USG Assistance engaged in advocacy interventions*	0	18	0
3.4	Number of justice sector materials/publication produced with PJEP support <sup>4</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.5	Percent of public expressing awareness of the role of the justice system in serving citizens <sup>5</sup>	23.15%	30%	0

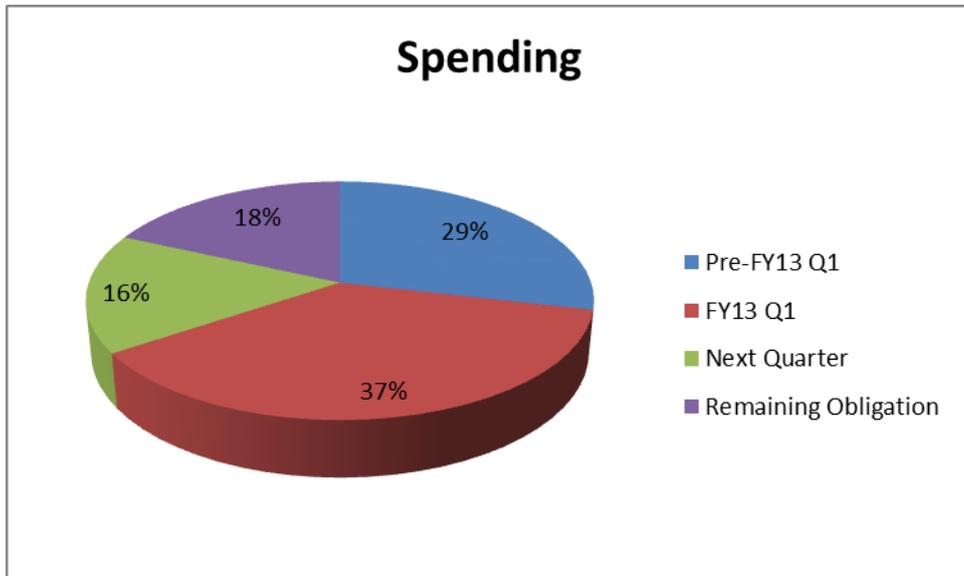
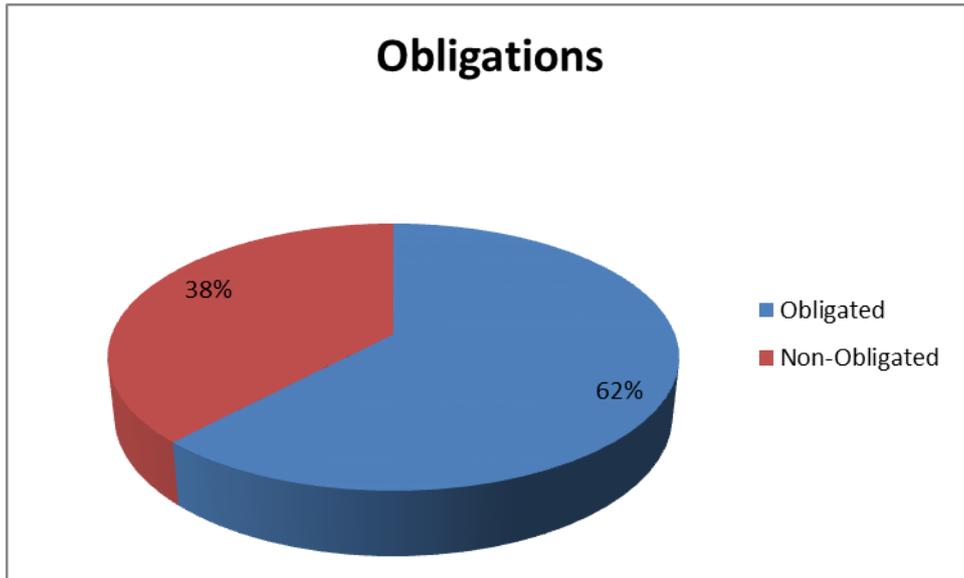
\* = USAID Standard Indicator

<sup>4</sup> Indicator 3.4 was reported in FY 11 only. Indicator 3.4 will replace indicator 3.5 because indicator 3.5 captures PJEP's activity implementation that will be conducted during the life of the project.

<sup>5</sup> Baseline number taken from UNDP 2011 public opinion survey on the justice sector, Table 6, average of questions 2 and 6

## Financial Summary

Ceiling	Obligated	Cumulative through FY2012*	Reporting Quarter (FY13, Q1**)	Projected for Next Quarter (FY13, Q2)
\$14,994,749	\$9,300,000	\$5,906,164	\$1,757,630	\$769,405



\*Invoiced to date through September 2012 Final Invoice

\*\*Final figures for October and November; draft figures for December