



## EUPOL COPPS Newsletter - June 2020

Dear friends,

Every six months I report on our activities to the ambassadors of the EU's Political and Security Committee. I delivered my presentation via video link on Tuesday and we had an excellent discussion afterwards.



The past six months have been very much a story of two halves – almost exactly similar in time, but very, very different in content. From December last year until the end of February this year, we were making steady progress on implementing our regular mandate, including supporting strategic plans for the Ministry of Interior and the justice sector and moving forward with our mentoring activities for our Palestinian partners.

And then came March. Like so many other organisations, we had to respond to an entirely new situation. I am happy to say that we were able to adapt and have provided support for our Palestinian partners in new ways.

Last month, we were able to provide our friends in the Palestinian Civil Police with Personal Protective Equipment and sanitiser worth EUR 60,000 that should cover their needs for the next three months. In the coming days, we will also make a similar donation to the Attorney General's Office worth EUR 45,000 as well as a donation of IT equipment worth EUR 50,000 to the Palestinian justice institutions (Ministry of Justice, High Judicial Council, Diwan, Palestinian Judicial Institute) in order to help support the all-important process of digitalisation and teleworking.

All the while, we have been continuing our regular work – in this month's newsletter, we highlight efforts to promote early legal representation in the West Bank as well as our support for increasing the representation of women in the justice sector.

There is a lot of uncertainty at the moment about the future of the Middle East Peace Process. Along with the other members of the EU family of institutions, we will maintain our support for a negotiated two state solution and continue to play our part in supporting the policing and rule of law institutions of a future Palestinian state.

In a world of uncertainty, our Palestinian friends can at least be certain of that.

Kind regards,

Kauko

Kauko Aaltomaa  
Head of Mission  
EUPOL COPPS

**To support ongoing fight against Covid-19, EUPOL COPPS donates protective equipment and sanitiser to Palestinian Civil Police**



“The Palestinian Civil Police are carrying out their duty to serve the public in extremely challenging circumstances. Frontline police officers do not have the option of working from home, and they need to be provided with the necessary protective equipment. For the public to be kept safe, the police need to be kept safe also. We are very happy to provide the assistance that our partners in the PCP asked for and would like to pay tribute to their courage and dedication during this difficult period,” said EUPOL COPPS Deputy Head of Mission Katja Dominik on 19 May. She met Colonel Tareq Dawabshah, Deputy Head of Chief of the PCP Secretariat/ Head of International Liaison Office at a safe distance to deliver EUR 60,000 of Personal Protective Equipment and sanitiser.

 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5688>

**“If a defendant has a lawyer present from the beginning, the trial will be fairer”**



“Early representation is essentially the right to have a lawyer present from the moment law enforcement bodies first suspect that you may have committed a crime,” explains Karin Lundstrom-Kron, EUPOL COPPS Senior Criminal Justice Expert, who is currently working on a project to promote the possibility for all suspects in the West Bank to have access to a lawyer as early as possible.

Currently, Palestinian legislation only allows for lawyers to be present once an official investigation starts at the prosecution level. There is however a pre-investigation period where law enforcement officials can gather evidence and take the statement of a suspect for 24 hours without a lawyer being present.

Drawing on her own experiences of juvenile crimes and sexual offences in her native country Sweden, Lundstrom-Kron believes that the quality of justice is significantly improved if lawyers are present as early as possible.

<https://eupolcoppes.eu/en/node/5693>

**“You want women to have role models”**



Lina Zettergren is a Judge Referee at the Supreme Court in her native country, Sweden. She joined EUPOL COPPS as a Senior Criminal Justice Expert in October last year. In her role in Ramallah, she is involved in a number of projects designed to support changes in the Palestinian criminal justice system, including issues related to fair trials, witness protection, anti-corruption and access to justice. But if you ask her

to name a project especially close to her heart, she will immediately start talking about her work on mentoring and empowering female lawyers.

“Coming from a country like Sweden, where gender related issues have been debated for a long time now and has a feminist foreign policy, I find it important to empower women everywhere. The idea is for women to find role models and increase their own influence in their professions,” Zettergren says.

 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5691>



---

**Our mailing address is:**

[newsletter@eupolcopps.eu](mailto:newsletter@eupolcopps.eu)

Do you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter?  
Please send us an e-mail with the subject line 'UNSUBSCRIBE'