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A message from the Head of Mission

I am very pleased to have had the opportunity this month to hold several meetings with our Palestinian counterparts as well as members of the international community. These fruitful meetings will enable the Mission to better serve and cooperate with our counterparts. I was also happy to launch an EUPOL COPPS social media campaign on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to raise awareness about gender-based violence which still affects one in three women in their lifetime. To that end, the Mission embarked on posting short videos of its staff members, conveying key messages related to violence against women and girls. The clips will be posted on Facebook daily for the 16 days of activism. This is just a small attempt to lend support to what is now a well-established global campaign.

Palestinian police concludes study visit to Portugal on social media

Seven Palestinian police officers concluded a study visit to Portugal to further enhance their capabilities on the usage of social media. The five-day study visit to Lisbon for the public relations and media officers aimed at exploiting social media to engage with the public and to use such platforms of communications as a vehicle to contribute in solving crimes. During the visit, the Palestinian and the Portuguese police ex-

changed their experience in the field of utilising social media in their day-to-day police work. On the side-line of the study visit, the head of the delegation of the Palestinian Civil Police Col. Waddah Azamtah, met with the National Director of the Portuguese Police Luis Farinha. The delegation also visited the Higher Institute for Police Sciences and Internal Security in Lisbon and were briefed about the courses

offered by the university. The Portuguese police has a unique experience in building bridges with the public via using social media. The study visit was organized and funded by the Mission.



Palestinian Bar Association concludes study visit to Florence



A five-member delegation of the Council of the Palestinian Bar Association (PBA) visited the Florence Bar Association (FBA) in the context of the coopera-

tion established between the two Bars since 2013. The four-day study visit, has been organized and financed by the EUPOL COPPS Mission, which as part of Mission's activities, supports the PBA in its restructuring. In the course of the meetings, the PBA visited the FBA headquarters and its departments and attend-

ed the FBA Council meeting. Intensive meetings took place also with regard to the roles and responsibilities of the President and the Council of the Bar, their interaction with the personnel and the power of delegation between the Council and the Committees and the Bar administration. During the visit, a member of the PBA delegation gave a presentation on a daily work of a Palestinian lawyer.

Palestinian prosecutors wrap up study visit to Sweden on Domestic Violence



Five Palestinian prosecutors from the Family Protection from Violence Unit concluded a three day study visit to Stockholm to learn more about how cases concerning domestic violence and violence against women and children are dealt with in Sweden. During the visit, the participants met with

the Swedish Prosecution Authority, the Swedish Police, and the District Court of Stockholm, Social services and other municipal initiatives as well as civil society organizations. The participants discussed several topics, including the cooperation between the prosecutors, the Police and other authorities, and exchanged views on how to make risk assessments

and how to protect vulnerable victims through coercive measures and other decisions / initiatives. Also some sessions was devoted to comparisons between the prosecutorial and judicial systems in Palestine and Sweden, which showed that although there are significant differences, there are also astonishing similarities.

Palestinian Police concludes study visit to Portugal on operational tactics

Four senior Palestinian Civil Police officers / Special Police Force (SPF) concluded a study visit to the Public Security Police in Portugal to further enhance their capabilities on operational tactics and management. This five-day study visit to Lisbon and Porto for SPF officers at the management level gave the participants

knowledge and update about the work, organization, training and equipment used by similar units in Portugal. During the trip, the participants had an opportunity to visit the Portuguese special operations unit to be familiar with the decision-making process used in this unit at the strategic level. Regarding the crowd manage-

ment control and tactical reaction teams, the SPF officers were introduced to their structure and attended live exercises.



Gender Equality, eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls and women's empowerment are fundamental human rights. They are universal and enshrined in international law.