

The House of Wisdom Institute



Annual Report

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA

WWW.HOWGAZA.ORG

2013

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The House of Wisdom Institute for Conflict Resolution & Governance is a Palestinian non-profit company registered according to the Palestinian Company Laws of 1929. It was established in the last quarter of 2007 and registered in the local authorities at the beginning of 2008.

The House of Wisdom Institute's Board of Trustees consists of well-known figures in Palestinian society on a political and academic level, including both representatives from political factions and independents.

The House of Wisdom is an independent Palestinian Institute which aims mainly to contribute in the field of capacity building of human resources in all work sectors by targeting the decision makers. The Institute focuses its efforts on fostering good governance, socioeconomic development, civil stability and political responsibility at all levels of Palestinian government, it also works on correcting any stereotypes about the Palestinian cause and bridging the gap between the Western world and the Muslim world.

The House of Wisdom has set a group of goals such as:

- **Enhancing policies that achieve the good governance in Palestinian society.**
- **Providing decision-makers with practical strategic advice on socioeconomic policy and conflict resolution.**
- **To reconcile the different viewpoints between the Palestinian society and the western societies.**
- **Enhancing the role of the security sector in serving the Palestinian society.**
- **Developing and encouraging innovative youth ideas, and supporting them.**

The House of Wisdom has published a series of books and booklets in different fields such as the issue of Palestinian reconciliation and the issues of Security Sector Reform and Good Governance.

In order to reach the above mentioned goals, the House of Wisdom divided its scope of interest into three sectors; the first is a Palestinian elders group known as the Palestinian Reconciliation Committee which is formed by an elite group of politicians, academics and well-known figures in Palestinian society, to present recommendations to decision makers and specialized studies on certain topics. The group also conducts discussion sessions and workshops with foreigners visiting Gaza.

The second sector is the diplomacy club whose activities are focused on conducting training related to good governance and democracy, in order to train a generation to understand how best to deal with the West.

The third group is for the youth, a HoW-established youth advocacy team called PYAN. The team consists of university students and new graduates who are provided with specialized training and workshops. The institute also encourages and adopts their innovative projects for capacity building in the field of advocacy and the good governance.

The 2013 Annual Report

This report recounts the activities executed by the House of Wisdom Institute over the course of 2013. These activities included organising seminars, workshops, training courses and conferences, as well as receiving foreign delegations.

In addition to this, the House of Wisdom has accomplished the first phase of a project entitled '**Building a Criminal Justice Strategy in Palestine**'. The project, which ran from March to December 2013, by organised three conferences to introduce the strategy to all community sectors and interested parties.

The Seminars

1- HOW organised a seminar entitled 'Enhancing the unity relationship between the Muslims & Christians'

16-2-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute (HOW), in cooperation with the Palestinian National Reconciliation Committee (PNRC), organized a seminar entitled 'Improving the relationship between Muslims and Christians'. A number of religious scholars – Muslims and Christians – attended the seminar along with other interested individuals.

Dr Ahmed Yousef Head of HOW's Board of Trustees and the current Head of the PNRC opened the seminar by welcoming the two main guests, Dr Salem Salama, the Head of Palestine Muslims Scholars Association, and Patriarch Alexious, the Head of the Orthodox Church in Palestine. Dr Yousef thanked the guests for attending the seminar in which represents how they are meant to retain the normal relations among Muslims and Christians in Palestine.



2- HOW organises a seminar with the Head of UNRWA

21-4-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute, in cooperation with the Palestinian Reconciliation Committee, organized a seminar with Mr Robert Turner, the Head of UNRWA operations in the Gaza Strip. The attendees were representatives from Palestinian political factions, NGOs and members of the Palestinian Reconciliation Committee. Dr Ahmed Yousef, the Head of HOW board of Trustees, welcomed Mr Turner and the guests. Dr Yousef said that the purpose of the seminar is to have an open discussion about UNRWA and to get clarifications about UNRWA's work.

From his side, Mr Turner said that the UNRWA accepts criticism if it is constructive. Mr Turner said that the UNRWA faced a number of allegations that UNRWA is to decrease its assistance to the Gaza Strip, which is not true, and on the contrary, UNRWA is fact increasing its programs to cover all refugees.

3- HOW organises a seminar on Salam Fayyad's resignation

23-4-2013 In the presence of academic figures, intellectuals and interested students, the House of Wisdom Institute (HOW) held a seminar entitled 'The Resignation of Fayyad: the Motives and Repercussions'. Dr Ahmed Yousef, the Head of HOW Board of Trustees, welcomed the guests and confirmed that HOW is always interested in raising topics regarding Palestinian affairs.

Dr Ibrahim Abrash – a political science lecturer at AL-Azhar University – said that it is unfortunate that Palestinians have begun infighting between governments and ministries rather than focussing on confronting the Occupation. Dr Abrash said that Fayyad came to the Ministry of Finance as a financial expert but later became politically ambitious and formed a political bloc through which he won election to the Palestinian Legislative Council in 2006. While Fayyad was Prime Minister in the West Bank, there were a lot of pressures and conditions on his government which made his government unable to fulfil its duties as promised. Dr Abrash refuted allegations that Fayyad was an obstacle to reconciliation.

At the end of the seminar, Mr Abu Sa'da summarised the speakers' reasons for Fayyad's resignation in the following points:

- The presence of the Occupation in the West Bank.
- The lack of a political party on which Salam Fayyad could rely.
- The perception of Fayyad as a hindrance by several corrupt political figures.
- The conditions imposed on the financing of the Palestinian Authority, which gave priority to the West Bank.
- The Palestinian Authority's reliance on external aids and Loans.



4- HOW held a political seminar entitled 'The Chilean Truth & Reconciliation Commission'

17-7-2013. The House of Wisdom Institute held a political seminar entitled 'The Chilean Truth & Reconciliation Commission'. The seminar was presented by Mr Hans Jacob, the Norwegian Ambassador to the PA. A number of politicians and academics attended the seminar. Mr Jacob talked about the political experience of the Republic of Chile and how the government moved from dictatorship to democratic rule through revolutions calling for change.

Mr Jacob said, "There is no peace without justice and vice versa, they are both sides of the same coin, each is complementary to the other, as the justice had to arrest and punish those who violate the laws." The Norwegian Ambassador mentioned that Chile passed a very difficult period, during which the persecution and violation of human rights by dictators prompted citizens to appeal to the international community to help them to isolate those in charge.

He noted that in Chile it took 10 years to bring about the desired change and political stability, stressing that it was the trial of a large number of politicians who have proved their involvement in human rights violations.



5- HOW organized a meeting between UNRWA and Gaza community leaders

15-9-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute organized a meeting for the Head of the UNRWA operations in Gaza, Mr Robert Turner. The Institute invited leaders of the Palestinian factions as well as leaders from the local community in Gaza to attend the meeting.

At the beginning of his talk, Mr Turner spoke about the UNRWA commitment to keep in touch with the local community in Gaza. Mr Turner also spoke about the services provided by UNRWA to the Palestinian Refugees in Gaza in particular in the fields of education, health and providing food security, but he stated that UNRWA is still facing problems and challenges, like an insufficient budget.

Regarding the crisis of the Rafah Crossing, Mr Turner said that UNRWA had warned the international community of the closure of the Rafah Crossing, and said that the opening of the Rafah Crossing is dependent upon the will of the Egyptian authorities.



6- HOW conducts a seminar on 'The Future of the Egyptian-Palestinian Relationship'

19-9-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute organised a seminar entitled 'The Future of the Egyptian-Palestinian relationship'. The speakers of the seminar were Dr Ghazi Hamad, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Ma'moun Abu Amer, a political analyst, and Dr Mahmoud Al-Hartani, an academic. The Institute invited researchers and students of Political Science and Media as well as other interested people.

Mr Mohammad Abu Sa'da opened the seminar and welcomed the speakers and attendees in his welcoming speech he said that Egypt is considered the main supporter of the Palestinian cause and Palestine needs Egypt. Mr Abu Sa'da said that the goal of this seminar was to explore possibilities for an end to the crisis.

Mr Ma'moun Abu Amer said that this was not the first attempt to consider the Palestinians as an enemy. During the rule of previous Presidents Jamal Abdel Nasser, Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak there were similar attempts, referring that to the failure of the Egyptian regime to define the specifics of Egyptian National Security.

Dr Ghazi Hamad said that there is no justification for the incitement campaigns against the Palestinians, reiterating that the Palestinians defy them to prove a single accusation against Gaza or the Palestinians. Dr Ghazi added that Palestinians have never intervened in the internal affairs in Egypt. He added that the government is in contact with the current Egyptian regime to make its stance clear and to deny all the accusations being disseminated through the Egyptian media. He also said that the government has sent letters to the international community in general to ask them to pressure on the Egyptian authorities to reopen the Rafah Crossing. Dr Ghazi ended his talk by saying the only way out of this crisis is to end the state of division among the Palestinians.





7- HOW conducted a seminar on Jerusalem

22-9-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute organised a seminar entitled 'Al-Quds between the Past and Future'. The Institute invited Dr Khaled al-Khaldi, a Lecturer of History at the Islamic University to speak in the seminar. The Institute invited the students of Media and Politics from the Palestinian university to attend the seminar.

This bit doesn't make sense. Noting that the House of Wisdom is executing a program of activities related to educate and enlighten the Palestinian students about the Palestinian cause.

8- HOW held a seminar on South African Reconciliation

3-10-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute organised a seminar entitled 'Transitional Justice and Reconciliation'. The speaker and principal guest at the seminar was Mr Solo Tshivhula from the South African Embassy in Palestine. The Institute invited politicians, representatives of political parties as well as academics to attend and participate in the seminar.

In his speech, Mr TSHIVHULA outlined the most important turning points and events in the South African attempts to reach the reconciliation. He said that the problem in Palestine is that there is no unified leadership that represents all Palestinians despite the common goal of liberation and independence. Mr Tshivhula said that Palestinians were not in need of meetings in places outside Palestine but could conduct the reconciliation process among the Palestinians themselves. He added that external effects and interference, and the fact that there was bloodshed during the fighting, were not justifications to suspend the reconciliation process.



9- HOW organizes a seminar on Mandela's life

9-12-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute (HOW) organised a seminar in memory of Nelson Mandela. The seminar was entitled 'The Life of Nelson Mandela', and the attendees were interested students and youth activists.

HOW's Mohammad Abu Sa'da reviewed the important stages of Mandela's life: his struggle against the apartheid regime and his leadership of the African National Council (ANC) Youth League until being imprisoned for 27 years on Robben Island. After his release Mandela was elected as president of the ANC in 1991, awarded the Nobel Prize in 1993, and became the first democratic



elected President of South Africa in 1994 after which he led the national and social reconciliation in his country.

Mr Abu Sa'da said Mandela was a man of peace of the 20th century and was a close friend to the Palestinian cause. Mandela was also a close friend to the late Palestinian President Yassir Arafat, and will remain in the hearts of free people around the world.

10- HOW conducts a seminar on the prisoner situation

22-12-2013 Under the title of 'Behind Prison Bars, the Stories Born', the PYAN advocacy team of the House of Wisdom Institute organised a meeting with a freed prisoner, Ayman Al-Sharawna. From the House of Wisdom, Mr Mohammad Abu Sa'da welcomed the guest and the attendees from Palestinian universities, and said that this meeting is not to listen to stories from a free prisoner but to look into the real suffering of Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails.

Mr Sharawna began his speech by giving statistics on the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. He said that there are more than 5,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, 1,200 of them are suffering from chronic illnesses and 28 prisoners are cancer patients. Mr Ayman added that there are more than 16 Palestinian officials among the prisoners – ministers, MPs and local officials – and that there are 236 children under the age of 18 in Israeli jails. There are more than 550 prisoners sentenced to life. Mr Ayman clarified that the life sentence in Israeli jails is 99 years not 25 years.

Mr Ayman mentioned that the Israeli authorities torture prisoners on a daily basis and deprive them of most of their rights according to international laws and standards. At the end of the meeting, Mr Ayman confirmed that it was not only the prisoners who were suffering but also their families.



The Training Courses

1- HOW celebrates the end of ' The Security Sector Reform and Good Governance Training Course''

18-3-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute organised a graduation ceremony after finalising the Security Sector Reform and Good Governance training course, which was conducted over 96 hours between May 2012 and February 2013, with the participation of government employees.

In his speech, Dr.Ahmed Yousef, the Head of the HOW Board of Trustees, confirmed that the Institute will continue providing specialised courses which contribute to developing the skills and professionalism of the employees. At the end of the ceremony, HOW distributed the certificates for the training course attendees.



2- HOW organises a training course on Human Rights

5/7-3-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute, in cooperation with the Geneva Institute for Human Rights in Switzerland, held a training course entitled 'Ways for Protecting Human Rights', in which a number of Palestinian officials participated. The trainers, who were from the Geneva Institute and were experts in the field of human rights, included Dr Ameen Madani, Mr Nezar Abdel Qader and Mr Mahmoud Qandeel.

The course topics were distributed over three days of training. The main titles were: terms and idioms related to human rights, UN bodies, international conventions and laws related to human rights, the training course ended with a discussion on the possibilities and ways to protect human rights.

At the end of the training course, the House of Wisdom distributed certificates to the participants along with recommendations for how to continue their training.



3- HOW celebrates the end of four specialised training courses in Media Skills

20-5-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute (HOW) held a graduation ceremony for participants who completed one of four training courses conducted at HOW during April and May. The courses were conducted by a South African expert in the field of media and communication. All four of the communication and media skills training courses were conducted in English.

During the ceremony, graduating participants were awarded certificates of completion and the trainer was awarded a plaque as a token of appreciation for his efforts and for making the courses a success.

Dr Ahmed Yousef – the head of the HOW Board of Trustees – said that HOW will conduct other specialized training courses with the participation of experts from outside Palestine.



4- HOW completes training course entitled Guarantees of a Fair Trial

29-5-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute, in cooperation with the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, ended a training Course entitled 'Guarantees of a Fair Trial', conducted over three days. The target group of the training course were officials from the Palestinian government, members of the Judiciary and Parliament.

The training course included several topics concerning fair trials such as presenting and discussing the UN Conventions against Torture and the international standards for fair trial guarantees, as well as introducing the UN Human Rights Committee: General Comment (32) 'Right to equality before courts and tribunals and to a fair trial'. The training course also included a general discussion on how to regulate the national legal system in Palestine within the standards of international law.



The trainees were divided into working groups to discuss the above-mentioned topics, and there was a simulation of a criminal trial. At the end of the training, HOW awarded the trainers from the Geneva Institute with certificates of appreciation, while the trainees were awarded certificates of participation.

5- HOW executes a Turkish language course

1-9-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute organised a Turkish language course. The course was directed to those interested in learning Turkish as well as students who had been granted scholarships to study in Turkey. There were 20 participants on the course and was carried out over 30 hours. The course came as a step by the Institute to foster the friendly relationship between the Turkish and Palestinian peoples.

Dr Ahmed Yousef, head of the HOW Board of Trustees and participant in the course, indicated that the number of Palestinians willing to learn the Turkish language are increasing, which reflects Palestinian admiration for the Turkish people and their government.



The workshops

HOW organized a workshop entitled 'The Future of the Islamists in Egypt'



24-8-2013 The Middle East Centre for Studies (MECS) of the House of Wisdom Institute (HOW) executed a workshop entitled 'The Future of the Islamists in Egypt', in the presence of politicians and academics as well as students of political science. The aim of the workshop was to reflect on the impact of the Egyptian internal conflict on the Gaza Strip.

Dr Adnan Abu Amer – speaker of the workshop – said that Israel is the only side benefitting from the end of Islamist rule in Egypt, especially considering that Egypt, under the rule of President Morsi, backed the Gaza Strip against the Israeli aggression in November 2012.

On the topic of the future of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the politician Akram Atallah said that the Muslim Brotherhood has various options and scenarios such as the Turkish, Tunisian, Jordanian or confrontational options. Mr Atallaah said it is difficult within the current circumstances to predict what will be the position of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt because of the various international interventions.

While Mr Mohammad Abu Sa'da from the MECS spoke about the importance of Egypt in the region, stating that its stability is the key to stabilizing the whole region. Mr Abu Sa'da said that the government in Gaza facing hard times because of what is going in Egypt, noting the importance of achieving reconciliation and dealing with the regional changes with wisdom.

The Conferences

HOW participates in the Egyptian Palestinian Conference

3-11-2013 Under the auspice of the House of Wisdom Institute, along with other local NGOs, the Popular Conference for the Enhancement of Egyptian-Palestinian Relations was executed in Gaza with the attendance of Palestinians from all community sectors, such as academics, members of student unions, prominent local leaders, politicians and representatives from the Palestinian factions. The conference was organised to send a message of brotherhood and friendship to the Egyptian people.

Dr Ahmed Yousef – Head of HOW Board of Trustees - in his speech said that the relation between Egypt and Palestine is historical and Egypt has always been the main supporter of the Palestinian cause. Dr Ahmed said that Egypt had made sacrifices for Palestine and a lot of Egyptian martyrs had been killed defending Palestine. Dr Ahmed called upon media agencies to be careful in covering the news.

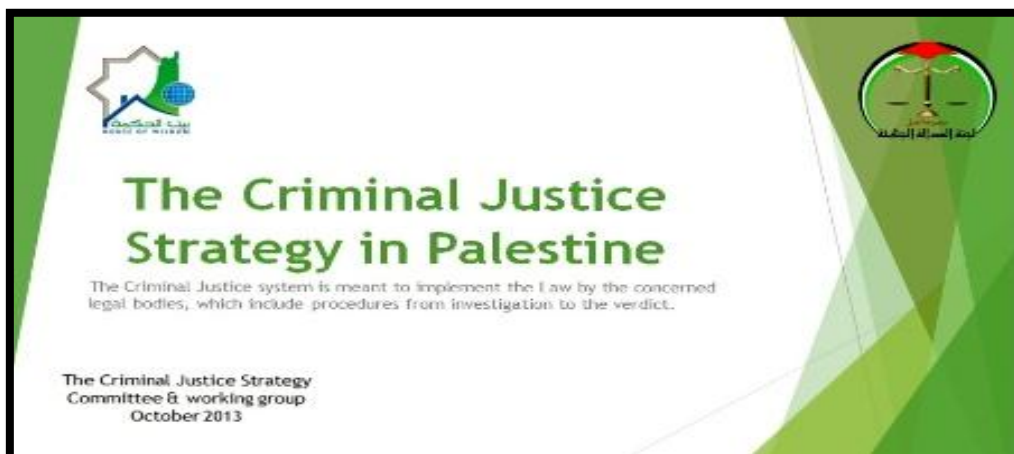
At the end the conference, the attendees urged the Egyptian authorities to reopen the Rafah Crossing and allow the free movement of the individuals and goods to Gaza.



HOW organises a series of meetings in preparation for the Popular Conference

26-10-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute organised a meeting for the leaders of the principal families as well as local leaders in the Gaza Strip. The meeting was held in preparation for the Popular Conference for the Enhancement of the Egyptian Palestinian Relations. Dr Hussam Adwan - member of HOW board of Trustees - opened the meeting by emphasising the historically important role of Egypt in supporting the Palestinian cause and insisted on the importance of conducting such a conference.

The Criminal Justice Strategy in Palestine project



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1- HOW begins implement a project for the reform of the Criminal Justice System in Palestine

3-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute (HOW) began executing a project entitled 'Reforming the Criminal Justice in Palestine'. HOW is working on the project in cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior. HOW organised working groups of legal experts as well as specialists for accomplishing the project.

Over seven months, HOW will organize more than 24 meetings and workshops, and will aim to formalise a draft of the Criminal Justice system. HOW will also organise workshops and meetings with political factions and legal centres in order to get feedback and include their suggestions.

The project is expected to be accomplished at the end of this year, and will be translated into an executable action plan. After that, it is expected to be discussed in the West Bank who will apply its outcomes too. The working groups of the project viewed experiences of other countries such as Georgia, Mexico and Scotland, in order to be aware of the other countries' experiences and to fit into international standards of criminal justice reform.

2- HOW presents the Criminal Justice Strategy for international legal experts

21-10-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute received an international legal delegation. Dr Ahmed Yousef, along with the Board of Trustees, welcomed the delegation and presented them with HOW's work on the Criminal Justice strategy in Palestine, which is being executed in cooperation with the concerned ministries e.g. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior.

The delegation listened to a presentation on the Criminal Justice strategy project; the delegation expressed its admiration for the project which studies successful experiences of countries in building their own criminal justice strategy. The delegation confirmed its willingness to present this project to international NGOs concerned with the legal and justice issues in order to gain support and develop the idea.

The delegation listened to presentations for projects that the House of Wisdom will implement concerning the enhancement of women's role in the society, youth programs and Palestinian social reconciliation programs.

The House of Wisdom also received two expert delegations from Norway and India and presented the same project to them in order to gain the support and guarantee the continuity of the work.

3- HOW presents the Criminal Justice strategy to the Political Committee

5-11-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute (HOW) organised a meeting for the consultative political committee assigned to supervise work on the Criminal Justice Strategy in Palestine. The meeting was held in Al-Mathaf Hotel in Gaza. Dr Ahmed Yousef – Head of the HOW Board of Trustees – began the meeting by welcoming the members of the committee representing the various Palestinian political factions, and presented the fourth draft of the Criminal Justice Strategy, which had been drawn up by the strategy's work groups.

Dr Khaled Al-Batsh – a prominent leader in the Islamic Jihad movement – commented on the draft strategy and said it was good but needed some modifications in order to be suitable and applicable to the Palestinian situation after ending

the political division between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. During the meeting all representatives of the Palestinian factions and movements presented their comments on the draft.

At the end of the meeting, Eng. Mahmoud Al-Madhoun – member of the Board of Trustees – said that completing the work in the strategy would be done by the end of November 2013 and the action plan of the criminal justice strategy for 2014, 2015 & 2016 will be finalized by the end of December 2013.



4- The First Conference on Establishing the Criminal Justice Strategy

13-1-2013, the House of Wisdom Institute organised a conference entitled 'The Establishment of a Criminal Justice Strategy in Palestine' The conference took place in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza, and the attendees at the conference were the specialists of law and justice as well as community and local leaders and interested persons in Gaza.



Dr Ghazi Hamad, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and member of the HOW Board of Trustees, said in his speech on

behalf of the government that the Palestinian government aims to adopt and apply all international standards related to Human Rights. While Dr Husam Adwan, Vice Chairman of the HOW Board of Trustees, said in his speech after welcoming guests that this strategy – the Criminal Justice Strategy – was formalised as a result of HOW cooperation with the government in order to reach the principle of good governance in Palestine. After that Eng. Jobair Dahman, member of the working group of the Criminal Justice strategy, presented to the attendees the draft criminal justice strategy. The attendees of the conference then participated in commenting on the draft strategy, which HOW will take into consideration when formalising the final draft of the strategy.

5- HOW organises second conference introducing the criminal justice

14-11-2013 The House of Wisdom organised a second conference introducing the Strategy of Establishing the Criminal Justice in Palestine, held in Khan Younis City. The attendees of the conference were concerned members of the public as well as community and family leaders in the southern area of the Gaza Strip.

Dr Ahmed Yousef – Head of the HOW board of Trustees – in his speech confirmed HOW's aim of trying to reach the principle of good governance. After that a presentation was made on the criminal justice strategy. The conference listened to comments from the attendees which will be taken into consideration in the formalisation of the final draft of the strategy.





6- The Third Conference on the Criminal Justice Strategy

20-11-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute organised its third conference on establishing a Criminal Justice Strategy in Palestine. The conference took place in the central Gaza Strip. The conference was attended by any interested members of the public, officials and community and family leaders from the central region.

In his speech, Dr Mohammad Awad, a member of the HOW Board of Trustees, said that the aim of such a conference is to encourage the culture of cooperation between the Government and NGOs in order for them to

attain good governance and the protection of human rights. During his speech on behalf of the government Mr Kamel Abu Madi, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Interior, spoke about the Government of Palestine's aim to modernise Palestinian law to be in line with international standards and match technological and societal developments.

Other Activities

1- HOW receives a British Parliamentary delegation

17-2-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute received a Parliamentary delegation from the UK consisting of 11 parliamentarians. The delegation was headed by MP Philipe Hollobone and Dr Ibrahim Hewitt, the Head Interpal charitable organization. Dr Ahmed Yousef, the head of the Board of Trustees of the House of Wisdom, and Dr Husam Adwan, Deputy Head of the Board of Trustees, received the delegation along with the Youth Advocacy team of the House Wisdom PYAN.

Dr Yousef welcomed the delegation and thanked them for their efforts in breaking the siege on Gaza, and spoke with them on the situation of the Palestinians and the obstacles imposed by the Occupation. At the end of the meeting, the Institute presented some souvenirs for the delegation.



2- HOW observation team joined the observation process

20-2-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute's observation team ended their work observing the registration process of the Palestinians eligible to vote in the Gaza strip, as a local centre observer.

The registration process and the updating of the record of voters ran from the 11th of February till the 20th. The team noticed the long queues in front of the registration centres.

The House of Wisdom appreciated the work and role of all observation teams and registrars. The Institute confirmed the accuracy of the registration, which demonstrated the awareness and goodness of the Palestinian people.

3- PYAN organized an event in the 65 anniversary of NAKBA

15-5-2013 The Palestinian Youth Advocacy Network (PYAN) of The House of Wisdom Institute organized an event for the 65th anniversary of the NAKBA by drawing a map with people. Through social media PYAN invited youth activists to participate in the event.

Hundreds of youth activists participated in the event that took place in Al-Kateeba area in Gaza to voice their support for the Palestinians right of return.

European activists participated in the event, one of the activists who participated said, "This way of commemorating the Palestinian NAKBA is wonderful and helpful in sending and conveying the message to the world and emphasising their right to return".



4- HOW received a Youth Spanish Delegation



29-8-2013 The Youth Advocacy team of the House of Wisdom Institute received a youth Spanish delegation headed by Mr Manuel Marine from the House of Wisdom. Dr Ahmed Yousef received the delegation along with the youths of the House of Wisdom.

Dr Yousef thanked the delegation for their efforts to break the siege on Gaza and their solidarity activities with the Palestinian people. Dr Ahmed spoke with them on the Israeli propaganda in Europe which misinforms people of what is happening on the ground and accuses the Palestinians of being terrorists while the Israelis are committing violation against the Palestinians on a daily basis.

5- HOW organised a Condolence Ceremony for the late Nelson Mandela

11-12-2013 The Representative Office of South Africa in Ramallah in cooperation with the House of -Wisdom Institute in Gaza held a Condolence Ceremony for Nelson Mandela. The ceremony was held at the Commodore Hotel in Gaza.

Political leaders, academics, MPs, elite figures, university students and members of the public from all sections of Palestinian society participated in the Condolence Ceremony. Many gave speeches expressing their sympathy for South Africa during this time of mourning and eulogizing one of the greatest global icons of the modern era.



6- HOW receives a South African delegation

26-12-2013 The House of Wisdom Institute (HOW) received a solidarity delegation from South Africa consisted of 23 solidarity members. The PYAN youth advocacy team welcomed the South African delegation and thanked them coming to Gaza at this difficult time.



Dr Ahmed Yousef, Head of the HOW Board of Trustees, confirmed the historical relations of brotherhood and friendship between Palestine and South Africa. Dr Ahmed said that the Palestinians view South Africa as an example of the struggle against the injustice and oppression.

The Head of South Africa delegation, Mr Jonaind, confirmed that South Africa will keep supporting Palestine until the end of the occupation. The delegation listened to a number of PYAN members who spoke about the situation in Gaza and explained to them the aspects of suffering.

Publications

HOW's Publications

- 1- **"Man is a stand"**: a controversy of country and organization

In January 2013, the institute published the first part of 'Man is a Stand', a book written by Dr Ahmed Yousef.

- 2- **'Qatar and Hamas'**: the generosity of giving and political controversy.

In November 2013, the institute published the third booklet of a series on International Relations. The booklet was written by Dr Ahmed Yousef.

Publications in cooperation with other NGOs

Since its establishment, the House of Wisdom Institute signed agreements of cooperation with a number of NGOs and INGOs for the purpose of executing activities of common interest. The main activities addressed the issue of the Security Sector Reform and Good Governance in the Gaza Strip. These activities were in the form of training courses and workshops.

Additionally, the institute published a number of books in cooperation with DCAF with titles related to the Security Sector Reform & Good Governance. The target group of these books was government officials, police commanders, politicians, MPs, intellectuals, NGOs & INGOs operating in Gaza, Human Rights centres, academics, jurists and students.

The books published in 2013 were:

1. **'Financial and Administrative oversight in the Security sector'**: a Palestinian legal collection.
2. **'Procedural Manual for the Palestinian Security forces assigned to Judiciary'**

END OF THE REPORT