

The Initiative for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

PALESTINIAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The current structure of occupation undermines the security of all of the peoples of the region and hinders efforts to realize effective security policy.

TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S FULL INCLUSION IN THE SECURITY SERVICES (POLICE, PREVENTIVE SECURITY, CIVIL DEFENSE, INTELLIGENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY)

1. In the ongoing effort to reform the security services and reduce the number of employees, retain women and youth to improve equal representation and incorporate a wider range of expertise in the services, especially those with a knowledge of security sector planning, reform, and operations in a democratic context.
2. Undertake a comprehensive assessment of security sector training and education for women. Such an analysis should involve women and examine courses, facilities, mentoring programs, and university recruiting efforts with an eye towards increasing the number of women in the sector and creating equal opportunity.
3. Integrate into the formal curriculum, civil education for secondary schools on policing with a particular emphasis on law enforcement that incorporates concepts of human security and gender.
4. Provide mandatory gender and civil-military relations training for security services and Ministry of Interior personnel.
5. Increase efforts in the security services and by the Ministry of Interior to recruit women as security officers and ensure that they are not only placed in administrative positions.
6. Improve the prison system by building separate prisons for women and offering vocational training for prisoners.
7. Create partnerships with international organizations working on inclusive security to provide training and support to women in the security sector.

TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OVERSIGHT BODIES WITH RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE SECURITY SECTOR

1. Ensure that at least one-third of the staff of the Military Secretary to the President is female.
2. Rejuvenate and restructure the National Security Council (NSC) by:
 - a. Including voices from outside of government through a civil society assembly that involves academia, retired security officers, youth, and media among others; 50 percent of the civil society representatives in the assembly should be women.
 - b. Placing under the NSC the new Security Strategic Planning Department (SSPD) (which is currently under the Ministry of the Interior) and ensuring that at least one-third of the advisers are women. Within the SSPD, establish a National Security Assessment Unit with at least one-third female employees.

The following recommendations for ensuring women's inclusion in the security sector were developed by a group of Palestinian women security experts convened by The Initiative for Inclusive Security in January 2008.

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3. Building on President Abbas' August 2005 Presidential Decree with regard to the involvement of women and consistent with UN Security Resolution 1325, a law should be passed within the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) to:
 - a. Mandate that women comprise at least one-third of the membership of all committees, with women as chairs of some committees.
 - b. Provide mandatory training for all PLC members on security issues to include modules on human security and women and security.
 - c. Mandate women's participation in national security decision making in cooperation with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Executive, among others.
 - d. Involve women PLC members, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and women civil society organizations in the review of laws on security services and the judiciary.
4. Ensure that at least one-third of all judges are women, including on the Higher Judiciary Council.

TO PROMOTE CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH SECURITY SECTOR ACTORS, ESPECIALLY INITIATIVES LED BY WOMEN

1. Support advocacy and awareness-raising by civil society, particularly women civil society members, around issues of national and human security.
2. Engage and support civil society's role in oversight of security sector performance, particularly through facility visits and expanded hearings like those undertaken by the Ministry of Interior with human rights organizations.
3. Support research institutions and think tanks to analyze issues of human security, the impact of the security services on Palestinian society, and Palestinian attitudes towards security.
4. Support outreach on the role of women in the security sector and expand programs for students such as those organized by the Ministry of Interior on gender and security.