



This project is funded by the European Union

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## **Quality judgments - better justice EU-funded Seyada project conducted two training workshops for Senior Judges in Amman, Jordan**

The EU-funded **Seyada II project for Empowering the Palestinian Judicial System finalised two workshops with judges from the Appeal Court and the Cassation Court. The workshops took place in Amman, Jordan between 17 - 21 July 2010.**

Under the guidance of the French Cassation Court judge Tony Mousa, the judges discussed crucial topics regarding reasoning of judgments. They received training sessions on drafting court decisions, and extracting principles from court decisions. The judges exchanged their experiences, and were exposed to comparative models for reasoning of judgments, mainly to the French, Jordanian, and Lebanese models. The participating judges agreed to transfer their knowledge attained through the workshops to their colleagues in the oPt, and welcomed the idea to develop manuals on best practices in reasoning of court decisions.

The Deputy Chief Justice, Sami Sarsour, thanked the judges for their great input and stated: "These workshops supported by Seyada II are a part of the High Judicial Council strategy to further improve the quality of court decisions and, therefore, to provide better justice." Judge Assad Mubarak, the director of the Palestinian Judicial Institute, stated: "I am very thankful to Judge Toni Mousa that he shared his extensive experiences and valuable knowledge on these important topics with the Palestinian judges."

The workshops are part of the activities of the EU-funded Seyada II project for Empowering the Palestinian Judicial System, which aims to contribute to a more independent, impartial, efficient, transparent and modern justice system. The implementing partners include ICON Institute Public Sector GmbH of Germany, the Belgian Technical Cooperation, and the Centre for International Legal Cooperation. The project started in August 2009 and lasts until August 2012.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Seyada II project activities

- Seyada II is supporting the **High Judicial Council**. This includes the Council's Inspection Office, which has overall responsibility for quality control, evaluating judges' work, and ensuring that the law and procedures are properly applied, and that judgments are properly executed. Seyada II is assisting the Council's Technical Office to facilitate access to information and legal resources for judges and the legal community. The project also supports the work of the Council's Media Department, and trains Court of Cassation judges concerning the preparation of judgments. Seyada II will help establish legal libraries throughout the West Bank, and help procure IT equipment required by the justice sector.
- Seyada II is assisting the **Palestinian Judicial Institute** to improve legal professionalism through initial and continuing professional training programmes, such as a judicial training system for judges and public prosecutors, the development of a two-year Judicial Studies Diploma Programme for future judges, training of trainers, and professional education for judicial staff.
- Seyada II is the first international donor-sponsored initiative to support the **Palestinian Bar Association**, through institutional and capacity building, and initial and continuing professional training for lawyers.
- Seyada II is helping design and develop a systematic and sustainable legal aid system in Palestine, through work with all key justice sector institutions working in this area.
- Seyada II aims to improve **Constitutional Review** by the High Court to help ensure the compatibility of laws and regulations with the Palestinian Basic Law. The project will review legislation, train judges in constitutional issues, and work to develop judges' knowledge and skills in judicial review.

### European Union activities supporting the Rule of Law in Palestine

The EU supports a number of important initiatives to improve Palestinian rule of law, investing more than €40 million in such programmes. Current programmes include:

- New Nablus Muqata complex, providing central infrastructure for the security services and detention facilities complying with international standards (€15 million).
- Construction of the Jenin Muqata (€8.5million).
- The EU is the single largest single donor to the Jericho Police Training Centre.
- The EU works closely with many local civil society organizations on rule of law projects.
- The EU will shortly deploy a team of experts in civil justice to work alongside EUPOL COPPS, which focuses on criminal justice.

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