



The 3rd National Conference for Strengthening Civil Peace and the Rule of Law:

"Towards Strengthening the Rule of Law and Promoting Social Cohesion in an Independent Palestinian State"



Publishing date: March, 25th - 2019

The Civil Coalition for Strengthening Civil Peace and the Rule of Law held its third annual conference under the patronage of His Excellency, Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, on Monday, 25 February 2019. The Conference was entitled: "Towards Strengthening the Rule of Law and Promoting Social Cohesion in an Independent Palestinian State", and was held following the legal and political recent developments witnessed by the Palestinian society. Amongst which is the deteriorating public trust in opportunities to end the internal split and achieving a national reconciliation, especially after the last round of discussions sponsored by the Russian Federal Republic, and the controversy related to the decision of the Constitutional Court to dissolve the Legislative Council and call for legislative elections within six months.

In addition, the ongoing judicial challenges related to the legality of appointing some pillars within the Palestinian justice structure, and the ongoing disputes over judicial power, the continued recurrence of murders and drug dealing, and the forced displacement of families through clan clotting, have led to eliminating any chance of achieving a comprehensive political solution leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. This, in fact, was coupled with the escalation of the Israeli security policies and settlement expansion to tighten control over Jerusalem and (C) Area in the West Bank and (H2) Area in Hebron, as well as the continuous invasions of Palestinian cities aiming to weaken the Palestinian State sovereignty.



In this context, the participants stressed that the current internal and external risks within Palestinian society imposes a threat to the state of civil peace. Disturbing the state of civil peace threatens to disrupt the civil state, as it hinders Palestinians from addressing the Israel's Colonial Project and leads to severe consequences on the security and stability of the community. Therefore, the Civil Coalition, in partnership with all community components is devoted to maintain civil peace through confronting the threat that tribal interventions impose on the state of civil peace and the rule of law. In addition, the Coalition seeks to promote freedom, independence and state building to challenge the outlawing groups.

The participants also stressed the need for supporting national efforts, towards consolidating the rules of democracy by holding the elections within a fixed timeframe and with a national consensus, and ensure that elections are held in Palestinian territories, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

This conference is part of the Civil Coalition's relentless efforts to promote civil peace and the rule of law. The Annual Civil Conference focused in its third year on

developing mechanisms for strengthening the Palestinian state's sovereignty on the widest possible extent of its territory by enhancing the national partnership in rights and duties with the state bodies. The Conference also worked to strengthen the rule of law in areas facing jurisdictional and legal gaps, to ensure the rights of citizens to security and access to justice, as well as to promote the values of social solidarity.

The participants analyzed during the conference three action researches; the first one is related to the impact of tribal reconciliatory interventions in resolving disputes on the state of civil peace. The second action research identified the role of governorates in receiving and handling citizens' complaints and achieving civil peace, while the third one investigated the evacuation as a collective punishment in the “tribal judiciary”.



In light of the participants' discussions on the three action researches, the public concluded with a set of recommendations, related to the impact of tribal reconciliatory interventions in resolving disputes on the state of civil peace. For instance, participants suggested that the structures for reform committees should

be consolidated. Furthermore, participants urged the government for developing an accurate and up-to-date information system on the scope of informal justice practices and the extent of their relationship to the formal judicial system. They also called for strengthening the deterrence of penalties related to murder cases, as well as accelerating the issuance of the mediation law, and establishing reform committees on legal, rather than tribal bases.

On the action research tackling the role of governorates in receiving complaints, the recommendations stressed the need to raise the level of coordination between the complaints units in governorates, civil society institutions and media agencies as well as the need to educate citizens to be able to resort to complaints units when their rights are violated. In addition, recommendations suggested that the governments adopt a law that authorizes the governorates to play the role of mediation and arbitration in the complaints received before being officially registered in the courts. Participants also urged the complaints units in governorates to refrain categorically from handling any case that is being already presented before official courts, and that the agreements reached in resolving disputes do not conflict with any legal or human right principles.



With regards to the action research tackling evacuation as a collective punishment - in the light of the Palestinian state's adherence to the international conventions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – , the recommendations called for harmonizing the Palestinian legislation in force to address the injustices resulted from evacuating the whole families of the offender in order to achieve justice and ensure the protection for citizens. In the same context, participants recommended to accelerate the process of handling murder cases in order to resolve the disputes as soon as possible, and place the appropriate punishment on the offender only without including their families. Participant also called for implementing awareness-raising campaigns on the various risks and repercussions of evacuation, and conducting a national conference that includes the issuance of an honor code. This honor code shall be responsible for getting the competent authorities to commit to combat evacuation and reduce the correlated violations and assault placed on citizens and their property.

Participants also urged the security services to assume their responsibilities towards effectively seizing the attacks on the families of the offender and bring the aggressors to justice. In regards to mediation and conciliation, participants stressed the need for adopting a law dealing with the topics of mediation, conciliation, arbitration and others in order to alleviate and resolve controversial issues and disputes. Participants also suggested the development of an honor code among Palestinian families to commit to convicting evacuation and seizing the manipulation of citizens' interests.

Furthermore, the need for reforming the informal justice system to be able to address evacuation and “rage” was recommended along with the necessity of enhancing the access of the public, specifically women, to the justice system. Participants also asserted the importance of protecting the civil state through combating all forms of polarization, abandoning antagonism in media agencies, promoting the values of tolerance in schools, ensuring the compatibility of religious discourse with the social values as well as emphasizing the role of religious institutions in promoting tolerance and strengthening the social fabric.

To view the Arabic press release of the Third National Conference for

Strengthening Civil Peace and the Rule of Law, click [HERE](#).



Thank you!