

## NORWEGIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND LETTERS

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Drammensveien 78  
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April 11, 2002

**Dear Dr. Khatib,**

As you noticed at the meeting of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies in Paris last May scientist and scholars from countries all over the world are deeply disturbed by the fate of Palestine, and by Israel's long-standing violations of international law, its generation-long abuse and exploitation of Palestinians and its repeated infringements of human rights. Israel's current defiance of resolutions of the United Nations continues this trend.

Unfortunately, what you now report about the Israeli soldiers' vandalism and destruction of the Academy offices and office equipment also fits into the general pattern. The head of the Norwegian Red Cross operations in Palestine, who has had to work on many war scenes, has never seen anything as revolting as the behaviour of the Israeli soldiers. It appears to him that the Israeli army is totally without control, since he cannot imagine that they have been ordered to do what they are doing. Similar reports come from very many of the peace workers and church people who have been working in the occupied territories. Fortunately, there have been many Israelis who have tried to bring food and medical supplies to the Palestinians. However, they have been prevented from doing so by the Israeli army.

It may comfort you to know that the news of what is happening in Palestine are coming through in spite of Israel's blocking foreign journalists from access to the areas where the atrocities take place. We are extremely sad about the suicide bombers and very much against those actions. We are also very depressed about the situation that has led these young men and women to their desperate actions, and we are distressed that even more Palestinian civilians have been killed. We are astounded when Sharon and his ambassador in Norway state that Israel has to keep on with their destructions and killings until they have eradicated all Palestinian terrorism. It is difficult to understand that anybody can believe that this is the way to end terrorism, and - even worse - be callous enough to act on that belief. We are very sorry that we have to agree with you that these barbaric acts lead to a build-up of hate and threaten to destroy all hope for peace. It is no doubt easier for the Israeli government to do something with the settlements than for Arafat to stop the suicide bombers, who are in part provoked by the settlements. Still, we hope that there will be a radical change both with regard to the settlements and the terrorism, so that meaningful negotiations can begin.

It may be a comfort to us all that very many of Israel's own scientists and scholars feel the same way about what is happening. We have been in contact with many of them to see whether there can be any way out of the situation. They are as sad and pessimistic as you and we are about the possibility of a solution. However, you can rest confident that there is a tremendous sympathy for Palestine here in Norway, and whatever happens, there will be a very strong will to help rebuild what is now being destroyed.

Sincerely yours,

The Committee on Human Rights of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters		
Dagfinn Fllesdal	Arne Haaland	Francis Sejersted
Professor of Philosophy	Professor of Chemistry	Professor of History
Former President of the Academy	Former Chair, Amnesty International, Norway	Former Chair of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee

cc: **H.E. Jan Petersen, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway**  
**H.E. Liora Hwrzl, Ambassador of Israel to Norway**

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PALESTINE ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# NEWSLETTER

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## Editorial

**Dr. Imad Khatib**

This new issue of the academy newsletter should have seen the light last April. However, like many other activities we were supposed to conduct, it was postponed. The situation that has been in persistence for almost two years has been and still is making it impossible for the academy to function properly. Moreover, it must be noted that the past four months have been especially difficult due to the Israeli forces' incursion into the Palestinian National Authority areas which has resulted in the brutal and indiscriminate killing of many Palestinians including women, children and the elderly.

Not only have human lives not been spared, but also a lot of Palestinian public, academic and R&D institutions have been systematically stormed and mostly damaged beyond repair. All this wrongdoing has been committed in the name of "uprooting terrorism"; rhetoric that has come to provide the green light to disregard international law in addition to being an ornamented cover to all kinds of measures whether just or unjust.

As many of you are aware, our academy offices have also been stormed by Israeli soldiers who used explosives to break in causing severe

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## Academy Damage and Foreign Solidarity

**Irene Akra**

Palestine Academy, like many other scientific institutions, was not exempt from the Israeli attack during their last incursion into the Palestinian cities last April. Naturally, during that period, none of the academy staff members even those residing in Ramallah had access to the academy offices due to the imposed curfew.

However, as it was known to us that many institutions were stormed, an academy neighbor who contacted us, confirmed that the Israeli IDF soldiers had blown off the main door using explosives. He also reported that he heard some things being smashed and some shots being fired. For many days afterwards, we could not verify whether what the neighbor had reported was accurate since curfew was imposed for some time in the city of Ramallah. It was only after the curfew was lifted that the Secretary General could reach the Academy offices on Sunday the 21st April. Of course, as the situation

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damage to the main door and the balcony, in addition to having spared nothing in the offices including computers, equipment, books and files, furniture and other hardware. These unnecessary harsh measures seem to have recurred in many other scientific and academic institutes which only proves that these actions were in no way sporadic or random, but rather intentional and solely aiming at destroying Palestinian infrastructure; the more reason to strongly condemn these unjustifiable actions. Indeed, the responses from the international scientific community were those expressing outrage. We were, of course, simultaneously pleased by and not astonished at the level of sympathy and support from counterpart institutes and individual scientists, who have either directed emails, statements and appeals to us or personally visited our Academy offices in solidarity. Their message unequivocally conveyed that we were not alone, thus the Academy wishes to extend its sincere thanks to each and everyone for their moral support. We would also like to iterate our commitment to "re-cuperate" and help other institutions as well.

In the region as well as in the Globe, as critical problems such as poverty, illiteracy, lack of democracy, dwindling of natural resources, pollution, disease, etc... are considered to be of utmost importance, we become more and more aware that addressing and encountering such problems necessitate consorted regional efforts. It is; therefore, our belief that it is of extreme importance for the scientific community to extend a helping hand especially in raising the awareness of those with political might that bloodshed avails to nothing other than instilling hatred. Thus, for the sake of the generations to come, we must have the courage to be able change the situation for the better in order to help justice and peace prevail, otherwise we will find ourselves entrapped in ignorance.

*Continued from page 1 (Academy Damage and Foreign Solidarity)*

was still dangerous, he could only stay there for about one hour during which he took pictures of the damage inflicted so that a preliminary assessment could be prepared and sent out to our fellow academies and concerned friends all over the world. It must be noted that we at the Academy were pleased by the many positive responses from the international scientific community expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people in general and with the academy in particular. Among many, responses of solidarity came from Profs. Dagfin Follesdal, Arne Haaland, Francis Sejersted from the Committee on Human Rights of the Norwegian Academy, Dr. Carol Corillon and Prof. Ayse Erzan from the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies, Prof. Gerard Toulouse the president of ALLEA's Standing Committee on Science and Ethics, Prof. Yves Quere from the Third World Academy of Sciences, Drs. John Boright and Michael Greene from the US National Academies, Prof. Karl Knutsson from the Swedish Academy, Dr. David Schaeffer from ICTP, Jean Luc De Paepe the deputy secretary of the Int'l Union of Academies, James Cohen from the University of Paris VIII, Stefan Trechsel from the University of Zurich, and Cristianne Darde from Paris.

It must also be noted that few conscientious and responsible Israeli scientists expressed their shock and dismay to what has been wrongly committed against a purely scientific institution such as the academy.

## News from Academies around the World

### March:

ZAGREB - Croatia is one of the ten countries in the world with the largest number of buried and uncleared landmines. The Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts joined the endeavours to expedite the process of mine removal in the Republic of Croatia, and to enable the return of refugees into cleared regions. The Croatian Academy appeals for any possible help to solve this problem. For more information or concrete help, please contact the Croatian Mine Action Center, [Mirko.Ivanusic@hcr.hr](mailto:Mirko.Ivanusic@hcr.hr), Website: <http://www.hcr.hr>

FP 6 - The European Commission reports that, from 11 to 13 November 2002, it will hold a major conference to mark the launch of the EU's Sixth Framework Programme for research, which will cover the period from 2002 to 2006. Based on the experience of a similar event in February 1999 the conference will be a major forum to present the objectives and priorities of the Framework Programme and to explain rules for participation. At the same time the conference is meant to create opportunities for scientific debate and exchange of best practice beyond those subjects addressed in the Framework Programme. More information about the conference can be found at

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/programme\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/programme_en.html)

### APRIL:

ROYAL NETHERLANDS ACADEMY - On May 13, the President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), cardiologist Professor Robert S. Reneman, will hand over his duties to his successor, Professor W.J.M. (Pim) Levelt. Professor Levelt will remain part time Director of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

YOUNG CHEMISTS - From September 30 till 2 October, the second pan-European meeting for younger research chemists will be held in Heidelberg, Germany.

The aim of this meeting for chemists up to the age of 35 is to bring younger European chemists together, and to enable them to give poster presentations, showing their research and discoveries. During the meeting, one young chemist will be awarded the prestigious 2002 Europa Medal for Chemistry. There will also be keynote presentations by two Nobel Prize Winners, J.-M. Lehn (France) and H. Kroto (UK). For more information, please check <http://www.setforeurope.org> or mail Dr. Eric Wharton, [ericw@setforeurope.demon.co.uk](mailto:ericw@setforeurope.demon.co.uk).

### May:

Both the Inter Academy Panel (IAP) and the Inter Academy Council (IAC) have new website addresses, respectively, [www.interacademies.net/iap](http://www.interacademies.net/iap) and [www.interacademies.net/iac](http://www.interacademies.net/iac)

Source: **Allea News Issues** 2002-3, 2002-4, 2002-5

## Higher Education in Palestine Present and Future

### Prof. Dr. Thiab Ayyoush, Secretary General of the Palestinian Council for Higher Education

Higher education in Palestine is currently facing unprecedented crises primarily due to the inability of the various educational institutions to function properly as a direct result of the Israeli Forces' incursion into the Palestinian Authority areas in addition to the imposed siege and the forced segregation of all Palestinian districts.

The occupation and the siege accompanied by the imposed curfew for extended periods of time, especially in the Northern governorates, and the inability of students and staff members to resume their respective academic and administrative work yields academic institutions' opportunities of development and capacity building more vulnerable and wavering than ever. Moreover, many of the obstacles that had emerged are actually preventing the scheduled resumption of the educational process, which in turn postpones the graduation of thousands of students, in addition to paralyzing the educational institutions both financially and morally.

In my opinion, for the growth and development of higher education in Palestine, a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue should be attained since a healthy environment for education is contingent on the stability of the political situation. Moreover, academic institutions in general and universities in particular should attain constant financial and moral support until self-sufficiency is achieved.

What we most aspire to witness in the near future is the resumption of the educational process simultaneously providing an appropriate political environment and security for students, academicians, administrators, and employees as a whole. In addition, more contact should be established with foreign academic institutions in order to explore areas of cooperation such as providing scholarships, exchange visits, financial support and most importantly the exchange of views and positive experiences with counterpart institutions in neighboring Arab countries.

Another important aspect that should be tackled is the conspicuous lack of appropriate academic and administrative cadres and human resources, which has in turn adversely affected the progressing and development of higher education programs leading Palestinian financial resources to be transferred abroad where Palestinian students pursue their education. It is, therefore, prominent that a basic necessity for higher education is the development of the different academic and administrative human resources in addition to providing the proper incentives for highly qualified professionals in the aim of ameliorating the academic, technical and serviceability aspects of the institutions and to ensure the quality of all outputs.

To sum up, the following points are needed in order to attain a promising future for higher education in Palestine:

- 1) Providing higher education institutions with consistent moral and financial support.
- 2) Encompassing and including disciplines not currently found in higher education programs.
- 3) Emphasizing the importance of postgraduate studies and expanding their scope according to the national needs, ultimately providing a strong infrastructure for higher education, in turn

keeping the Palestinian Financial resources in Palestine instead of transferring them to foreign universities abroad.

- 4) Expanding vocational education and training and emphasizing the role of vocational centers and technical colleges in providing enough technicians whose roles are also of high importance to the society.

*Continued from page 5 (News from Palestinian Universities)*

affected, especially in the genetics research lab and the BETCEN, the local site of one of five UNESCO Biotechnology centers in the world. The latter, in addition to losing many days of work, suffered considerable damage to research on Entomopathogenic Nematodes and to experiments with plant tissue culture and experiments on plant viruses.

## An-Najah National University

### Nablus

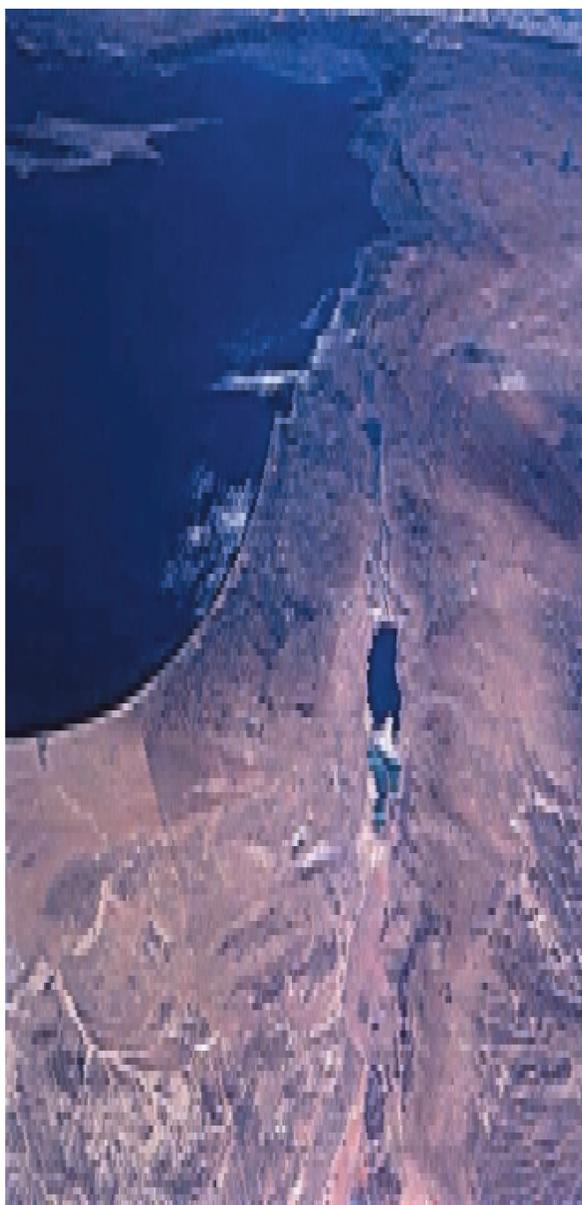
The facilities of the Khadouri Campus College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences situated in the area of Tulkarem has been subjected to a lot of damage. The damage was inflicted both on the external structure and the internal one, where gates, research units, health units, laboratories, water pipes and sewage water outlets, in addition to an irrigation network were completely destroyed. In addition, many of the animals were either killed or died due to lack of proper care and an orchard of fruit trees was destroyed while the Israeli tanks were maneuvering inside the campus.

Although the other faculties situated in Nablus were not subjected to the same kind of damage, the curfew imposed had many adverse implications such as the constant irregularities in student and professor attendance due to the lack of access which in turn has led to the freezing of all the research and masters program in the university. In addition, shipments of material for laboratory use were received either late or sometimes not received at all. Finally, the graduation of the students has been postponed to further notice.

## Hebron University

### Hebron

Although the main campus of Hebron University had not been attacked directly, damage had been caused to the Research Center Building belonging to the University. Major damage was caused to the utility networks including electricity, water and telecommunications systems. In addition, various electrical devices and office equipment such as computers, printers, and a photocopying machine have been destroyed beyond repair. As for the animal farms, a lot of the animals died and in the plant research station, a lot of damage has been caused. As a direct result, research activities were completely stopped and a lot of the activities and conferences were cancelled. As the students and professors did not have access to the university, the academic year had to be extended to make up for the lost time, the graduation had to be postponed and at times, accommodation had to be provided for some students outside the city of Hebron, thus depriving them from going home for long periods of time.



## GLOWA "Jordan River" Part 2 – Integrated Land and Water Management in the Lower Jordan River Basin

As a scientific partner in GLOWA project, the Academy has participated in the project preparatory workshop held at Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact, PIK in Potsdam/Germany during the period 10-12th March 2002.

The project is part of GLOWA "Jordan River" funded by German Ministry of Sciences. The project GLOWA (GLObalen wandel des WAsserkreislauf - Eng.: Global Change of Water Cycle) focuses on one of the most critical regions with respect to sustainable water supply. The area has one of the lowest per capita water availabilities worldwide and is experiencing rising water demands, while available water is gradually decreasing. The Jordan River Region has been the main source of water and food production not only for its residents, but also for regions outside its catchment. Over the last fifty years, the Jordan River flows have dropped significantly due to the diversion of its tributaries' waters and over abstraction of upstream groundwater resources. Climatic changes and development projects among other factors that have also taken place affected the water availability.

The Jordan River and much of the groundwater of the region are transboundary resources; require that strategies for sustainable management of the water resources be based on collaboration between the regional stakeholders. In order to get an overall picture of the research area, two complementary projects will cover the scientific tasks of the GLOWA Jordan River project.

GLOWA Jordan River Part 1, which will work mainly on the upper catchment of the Jordan River.  
GLOWA Jordan River Part 2, which will be focusing on the lower catchment of the Jordan River.

Links between both projects will be performed wherever needed and possible. Long term goals are joint activities and the integration of both parts of the project, in order to provide scientific support for a joint management of water resources - including transboundary resources - in all parts of the basin (including outside regions that receive water from the basin).

## Academy Publications : « The current Status of Scientific Research in Palestine : Obstacles and Means of Development ».

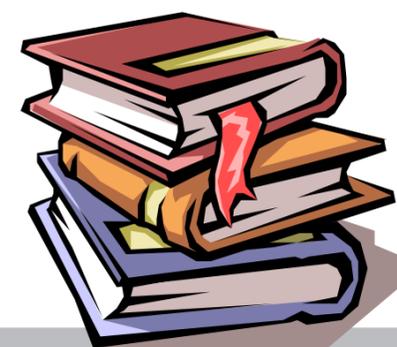
Palestine Academy has taken the initiative to assess scientific research, its status and its obstacles over a year ago. Indeed, a preliminary meeting was conducted, after which a questionnaire was circulated in the aim of collecting more information for the final report that was due to be published after the second workshop in which all the participants would provide their recommendations concerning the important role that the academy could assume to improve both the status and the scope of scientific research in Palestine. Although the questionnaire had been circulated, the Academy has, unfortunately, been unable to conduct the workshop due to the closure and curfew imposed on most Palestinian cities impeding people from attending the workshop. As a result, and due to the continued instability of the political situation, the Academy has decided to publish the report leaving out the participants' final recommendations to be annexed later to the report when the situation allows the academy to conduct the workshop. Moreover, the report is in its final stages of preparation and will be published in the very near future. It must also be noted that the Academy is very grateful for the **British Consulate General in Jerusalem, especially Mr. Geoffrey Adams the Consul General and Ms Rasha Samaan**, for their contribution and co-financing of this activity and the publishing of the report

## Washington Meeting and the Frontiers Program

Last January, the Association of Scientific Academies of Councils of the Middle East Region has organized an informal meeting on Inter Academy Cooperation for Long Term Regional Stability which had taken place in the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC. Dr. Imad Khatib from the Palestine Academy for Science and Technology, Dr. Hikmat Ajjuri from the Palestine Council of Health and Dr. Munther Dajani from Al Quds University represented the Palestine Academy. In this meeting several long term issues relating to the region of the Middle East were tackled among which were the need to maintain existing relationships and programs in science and technology, among the participating academies, the need to develop the educational opportunities in addition to infrastructure that will strengthen research capacity in the region, and the need to strengthen the role of science academies in order to address key problems both nationally and regionally.

Moreover, work conducted by other existing scientific associations in the region was introduced such as the Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies which promotes human rights work among counterpart academies and of course IAP which aims at organizing and coordinating multi academy cooperation on local or regional problems, in addition to the Inter Academy Medical Panel (IAMP) which is focusing on emerging infections.

Finally, new initiatives were discussed, most prominent of which are the Frontiers of Science and Frontiers of Engineering Programs which are organized by the National Academies. These programs bring together young scientists and engineers from different countries to spend several days in scientific discussions focusing on the major research problems in their disciplines, meth-



## Summer 2002 Upcoming Events

Event	Place	Date
Workshop "Promoting & developing Scientific research in Palestine"	Gaza Ramallah	July 25th 2002 W.T.P.
<b>In Press</b> A report on the Israeli Destruction of Palestinian Academic and Scientific Institutions		August 2002
The Current Status of Scientific Research in Palestine: Obstacles and Means of Development		September 2002

odologies and limitations to progress. It is worth noting that collaborative research projects could materialize proceedings the discussions. We at Palestine Academy are pleased to participate in the upcoming meetings for this program scheduled to take place during September and October of this year. And indeed three Palestinian candidates from the West Bank and Gaza are going to participate in the program.

## IAP Membership

Due to our extreme interest at Palestine Academy to foster strong relations and to enhance cooperation between local and international bodies, we approached the Inter Academy Panel (IAP) on international issues to explore whether our Academy could become a member in such a prestigious body, which is a network of academies around the world working together through bilateral, regional and world-wide collaboration to tackle issues of global concern, and to provide mutual support to member academies. It gives us great pleasure that our candidature to IAP membership has been favorably considered and we look forward to being full members working for sustainable development in the region.

## IAMP Meeting in Paris

During March 20th till the 22nd, the Inter Academy Medical Panel (IAMP), held a conference in Paris entitled Confronting Infections and Antibiotic Resistance around the World. Dr. Hikmat Ajjuri, Director General of the Palestine Council of Health, attended the conference on behalf of the Academy. The conference basically tackled issues of the prevalence of infectious and parasitic diseases especially in the Third World Countries where poverty persists in addition to antibiotic abuse and ways and infrastructure of disease control and how the academies of medicine around the world could assume a more active role to ameliorate the situation. Towards the end of the conference, a presentation of the White Paper on Policies for Dealing with Emerging Infections and Antibiotic Resistance in Developed and Developing Countries was made where the need to fight poverty and the utter importance of constant cooperation between academies of medicine were highly emphasized.

## Greek Delegation and signing the Protocol

In expression of their solidarity with the Palestinian people in general and Palestine Academy in particular, a Greek delegation comprised of university professors from the Athens Technological and Educational Institution (T.E.I) made a few days' visit to the country. During the visit, the Academy saw to it that these professors were exposed to as many people and as many places as possible.

Naturally, the group was introduced to the premises of Palestine Academy and were given a presentation on the damage that was inflicted on the academy as a direct result of the Israeli incursion. Moreover, they were presented with statistics concerning the human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people emphasizing the targeting of Palestinian infrastructure especially the breaking in and damaging of various scientific and research and development institutions.

The delegation then met with Mr. Younis Al Khatib, the director of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, who explained the increasingly important role of the PRCS during these difficult times.

Furthermore, They had met with Mr. Mahdi Abdel Hadi, Director of the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA) where he provided them with insight on the current political situation in addition to the emerging phenomena during this Intifada. Finally, they had met with Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, the president of Al-Quds University, who elaborated on the current difficulties imposed on education and educational institutes and suggested to them the various areas of academic cooperation that could materialize between Al Quds University and T.E.I. of Athens. By the end of the visit, and in an attempt to contribute, the delegation expressed their endorsement of the proposition of writing a petition to be signed by professors in Greece and other European countries calling for the free movement of students and calling for a public investigation to be made into the invasion and destruction of the Palestine Academy for Science and Technology and other educational Palestinian organizations and putting forward those responsible for carrying out these activities to trial, in addition to the commitment of the occupying Israeli authorities to respect the protection of scientific, health and cultural organizations agreed upon under the international law for human rights and the Finally, the delegation pledged to keep constant contact with Palestine Academy which was agreed to be the umbrella for any future local or regional initiative involving T.E.I. and any Palestinian institute. Furthermore, a protocol concerning future scientific and educational cooperation between T.E.I and Palestine Academy has been signed by both.



## Euro-Mediterranean Information System (EUEMEDIS)

The Academy, being the Palestinian main partner of the project, has participated in the kick-off meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership project "Improving competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises through IT based Environmental Planning (SMITE)". The meeting took place in Athens/Greece during the period 25th - 26th April 2002. The countries participating in the project are: Greece, Germany, Denmark, Cyprus, Malta, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Tunisia, Turkey, and Palestine. The SMITE project aims at addressing the particular needs of SMEs in the field of Environmental Management while the scope of the project is the development of a Mediterranean network of SMEs, active in the field of Environmental Management. A web-based informational node for the food, textile and hotel sectors will be created to assist the interested firms to identify why, how and what to improve in their environmental performance. An interactive, multimedia and multilingual informational system via the Internet will provide SMEs with up-to-date tools and access to environmental information customized for their specific needs. Palestine Polytechnic University will participate in this project as the technical partner and the project will be implemented in cooperation with the Palestinian Federal Industries and the Hotel Associations.

## IPPNW visit to Academy offices in Ramallah

On Monday, May 6 2002 a group of five German physicians visited the academy offices in Ramallah. Four of them (Dr. Matthias Jochheim/Director of IPPNW-Germany, Martin Pfaffensteller, Dr. Anton Scoesser, and Dr. Ludveg Nohr) are currently members of the German section of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) while Dr. Isolde de Vries, is a member of the of the German-Israeli Working Group for Peace in the Middle East (DIAK). The group was accompanied by Dr. Abdulaziz al-Labadi, deputy chair of IPPNW Palestinian section. The group has been exposed to the situation in Palestinian cities under Israeli siege. At the academy offices, discussions emphasized the role of IPPNW in preventing the spread of mass destruction weapons in the Middle East countries, including Israel in addition to the actions that the IPPNW should consider taking with regard to the use of other lethal weapons in Palestinian territories (including: nerve gases, tungsten-carbide ammunitions, etc).

## News from Palestinian Universities .....

In this issue, and due to the political situation in the country, most of the universities all over the West Bank and Gaza have not functioned normally for an extended period of time, in addition to having been damaged by the Israeli forces due to the Israeli incursion into the many cities of the West Bank. This situation has caused crises for both the university administration and staff and the students. Following is a briefing of the major damage caused in addition to the implications of the damage in general. Detailed information can be attained from the report on the Israeli Destruction of Palestinian Academic & Scientific Institutions enclosed with this newsletter.

### Birzeit University Ramallah

The board of trustees building and some university apartments in Ramallah were invaded causing a lot of damage to them. Although the University campus itself was not invaded, the imposed curfew and the checkpoints prevented the university from functioning for an extended period of time. During the last invasion alone, the university was closed for a whole month, which means the loss of valuable teaching days which in some cases obliged some students to leave the country and resume their studies abroad, in addition to completely stopping all scientific research and all community based programs. As a result, the scholastic year had to be extended and the graduation had to be postponed. Moreover, one student was killed by the Israelis and 30 others were detained.

### Al Quds Open University Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza

Al Quds Open University has faculties scattered all over the West Bank and Gaza. Some of these faculties such as the ones in the Bethlehem and Tulkarem educational areas were subject to a lot of damage to the main entrance doors, gates and windows. Moreover, a lot of internal damage was caused including damage to computers (containing important data), office equipment, the sewage network and the solar heater in addition to the confiscation of hard disks, Cd Roms, speakers and motherboards. An Olympus camera and maintenance tools were also stolen. As expected, the scholastic year had to be extended. Research had to be stopped and activities had to be cancelled. In addition, 40 students were killed and 80 others were arrested.

### Bethlehem University Bethlehem

During the several incursions into the city of Bethlehem, a lot of damage has been inflicted on the university. During the first two incursions in October 2001 and March 2002, the university was struck by several Israeli missiles breaking a lot of windows and causing severe structural damage to the walls, water pipes, telephone and Internet connections. In addition, Bethlehem University suffered severe damage to its two newest facilities, Millennium Hall, the new classroom and office building that had been in service for one month and the University library Building called Turathuna Center (Palestinian Heritage Cultural Center). As for the invasion into the university campus and facilities in April 2002, various classrooms were seriously damaged, and several devices were smashed in addition to vehicles being hit by grenades or by bullets. During the entire period, instruction at the university was completely stopped, in turn, the semester had to be extended, the graduation was postponed and the summer courses were cancelled. Moreover, scientific research activities were adversely

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