



Project proposals 2008

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Introduction

This brochure is aimed at showing potential donors the areas of the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) which would benefit from assistance. In a sense it is an easy document to write: They need assistance in every area.

The PCP, responsible for basic policing services in the Palestinian urban centres in the West Bank, are poorly equipped to address the very serious challenges they face every day from their own population and from the occupying power.

When the PCP was created in 1994 it received significant donations of equipment. However, soon after that date, aid was reduced significantly and from the beginning of the second Intifada, in late 2000, cut off completely. Further, Israeli military action has caused a loss of equipment and heavy damage to their basic infrastructures.

Despite these obstacles, the Palestinian Civil Police is not a failed organization but made up of a motivated and skilled staff. Evidence of this is how, from early 2006 until the middle of 2007, the PCP officers did not receive their salaries, yet turned up to work every day and carry out their duties in a satisfactory way.

The following pages identify specific areas of police work where the Palestinian Authority needs help. By contributing to the PCP, donors have an opportunity to transform this force into the main Palestinian security organisation and one which safeguards basic civilian rights and freedoms.

This brochure has been designed to give you an overview of some of the areas of policing which would benefit from donor contributions and would help the Palestinian Civil Police get back on its feet.

Donors interested in funding police projects or contributing in some other way should contact the Mission HQ in Ramallah:

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A. CRIME INVESTIGATION



Crime investigation covers three entirely different fields of police work:

- A. Detectives conducting and investigating the cases, who concentrate mainly on interviewing witnesses, victims and suspects.
- B. Crime scene investigation. An expert who examines scenes for forensic evidence, whether it be fingerprints, fibres or blood samples, and thus provides corroborative evidence to support detectives, or gives them leads which subsequently lead to arrest and conviction.
- C. Criminal Intelligence. There is a significant amount of criminal intelligence information available, but no suitable way of collecting, analysing and then disseminating that information.

There is a need for refresher training for all detectives, to update their skills, to make them more aware of the latest techniques and advances in highly specialised areas, scientifically and technically.

It is also necessary to identify the most suitable detectives for advanced training in even more specialised areas for law enforcement against drugs, stolen vehicles, economic crime, corruption in public service, fraud, organised crime, etc.

A critical factor for success will evidently be the ability to purchase the appropriate equipment to test possible evidence, e.g. to determine if unidentified substances are drugs, if documents have been forged or to check for obliteration of identification numbers on vehicles and parts of vehicles.

Crime scene investigation is an area which requires both advanced equipment and a significant amount of training, since the ultimate aim is to be able to speak in court and have the criminal justice system value and accept neutral and objective evidence. Emphasis needs to be made on training to collect, evaluate, and distinguish this kind of evidence and turn it into a decisive factor to discover the facts and ultimately the truth.

Due to the destruction by the Israeli military of PCP equipment, their resources in this field are almost nonexistent. However, there are many police officers who still have the skills and only require refresher training and updating, as well as the tools to put them into practice.

B. Forensic Science



C. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Prior to the second Intifada, The Palestinian Civil Police, were the proud owners of two forensic science facilities in the West Bank and Gaza. These were destroyed by Israeli military action with the loss of all sophisticated equipment that was inside. As a collateral result all the technical personnel was dispersed subsequently to more basic policing functions.

Collecting the best evidence in the world at a crime scene will not be of any use, unless a well qualified forensic scientist can examine it and give a professional opinion which will stand in court.

Seen as a whole, this is a large project with a cost of up to 5 million euros to build and equip a forensic laboratory and train its personnel.

However, it is not necessary to realise the whole project at once. It could start by providing assistance to the small forensic facility created recently at the medical science department of one of the Palestinian universities.

Also, an additional small facility dealing exclusively with fingerprints and having a suitable database facility could be created in the first instance with further development as donor funds become more available.

A building and equipment will cost around 2 million euros. Training is the most expensive part. The cost could however be reduced with donors offering training in their home countries.

Several donors may wish to combine their efforts to achieve what in almost every developed country in the world is seen as an essential tool in the fight against crime.



Within the criminal justice system funding is needed for judges, prosecutors, court buildings and the prison services.

Court buildings lack computers and any other normal office equipment.

Judges, witnesses and buildings themselves are vulnerable to acts of violence and require protection. A Judicial Police is expected to be created very soon, specifically to provide security to the courts and its members and will require specialised training.

Buildings need to be adapted and equipped with basic security systems.

A closer collaboration needs to be established between prosecutors and the police and for this end workshops should be carried out.

Concerning the prison system, funding needs to be channelled to the eight major detention facilities in the West Bank to make up for years of neglect and the damage caused by military action. Some of the facilities do not have reliable electricity and water supplies.

Specialised vehicles for the movement of prisoners are also lacking.

D. JERICHO TRAINING CENTRE



E. Information Technology

A good Training Centre is fundamental for any police force in the world. The Palestinian Civil Police has its own –basic- facility in Jericho. Funding was provided in 2005 to refurbish the existing building and transform it into a training facility with classrooms (including an IT department with 40 computers), showers and toilets.

Subsequently a new one storey high dormitory for 72 occupants was also constructed. This building has been conceived from the start as a three storeys high building, thus enabling to increase its capacity with 72 occupants per additional floor.

Even if today the centre has classrooms for up to 200 students, it seriously lacks accommodation and catering facilities. An older dormitory block –built without foundations- is in a dangerous condition, but kept in use in the absence of another solution. The existing kitchen urgently needs to be expanded. The administrative facilities also require refurbishment.

Outside, the main training yard is covered with sand and stones and needs to be paved.

The needs for the Jericho Training Centre offer to donors a long list of possible projects with a wide range of costs, suitable for smaller or larger contributions.



G. COMMUNICATIONS

Modern policing requires the management of large amounts of information. Technology is a basic need to create, update and have a real-time overview of a criminal record system, crime statistics, accident rates, as well as all other aspects involved in the administration of a large organisation.

Computers, photocopiers and fax machines do exist in some of the PCP facilities, but in insufficient numbers and most of the time they are obsolete or broken. An audit conducted during the months of July-September 2007 established that barely 29 computers in the whole West Bank were less than two years of age.

Another major problem is that there is no electronic network available to the PCP. The exchange of information from districts to headquarters or between stations is limited to the use of old fax machines, sometimes through the exchange of CD recorded information or mostly through hardcopies on paper.

What is more, even this physical exchange of information faces serious difficulties in the West Bank due to the restrictions of movement between the different districts. With the creation of a network, a rapid and reliable system for the exchange of essential information will dramatically improve the working ability of the Palestinian Civil Police.

This project can start with small steps and can then develop as the funds become available. Both the PCP and the Ministry of Interior have valuable expertise in this field but lack the necessary funding to move forwards.



During 2005, donors helped to set up a radio network system throughout the West Bank. They provided a number of radios, both handheld and for vehicles. Since then others have provided funds for maintenance and repair of the still efficiently working system.

However, the number of radios is insufficient and currently the ratio is one radio for every ten police officers. The majority of vehicles are also not fitted with a radio.

Also, the system was purchased second hand and the installation was never completed due to the financial situation. The radio communications system is particularly insufficient in the northwest of the West Bank and is also problematic in densely populated areas.

A solution would be to set up three Motorola Smartnet sites as well as to purchase 500 handheld radios and 100 radios for vehicles.

This is another project where even small contributions can make a significant difference and improve the Palestinian policing capacities on the ground.

Besides completing the existing radio system, consideration is also to be given to a possible conversion from the current analogue system to a digital one. This would allow encryption of messages as well as data transfer. This does not mean, however, disposing of the entire system and starting from scratch, since many components of the existing network system are already digitally capable.

H. PUBLIC ORDER TRAINING



The Palestinian Civil Police has roughly 800 officers, divided into 6 units, specialised in Public Order. Funding is needed for training and to urgently equip them. Due to age, intensive use and lack of maintenance only a small number of the vehicles of these units are still functioning. The public order protective equipment that remains at their disposal – such as shields, helmets, batons and protective clothing - has deteriorated to the point that barely a third of the personnel can be equipped to operate under safe conditions.

The Public Order units of the PCP have suffered more damage to their buildings and equipment than any other.

In Nablus, for example, in 2006 during an Israeli military action, the two buildings belonging to the Public Order unit and all the equipment inside were completely destroyed. In Hebron that same year, a criminal action led by a Palestinian clan had the same result. Until today, none of their equipment, vehicles, etc, has been replaced. This situation has disabled them completely to operate in these two very sensitive districts.

Apart from their basic function to oppose violent demonstrations, the Public Order Police should also be trained and equipped to deal in an appropriate way with the interception of vehicles with armed suspects on board, to have a first response capability to major incidents and even to general patrolling.

Funding for training is currently provided by the Danish Government, but further donations are necessary for both equipment, vehicles and further instruction.

I. TRAFFIC POLICING



J. TRANSPORT

7.5% of the PCP personnel work in the Traffic department. Besides dealing with the usual road policing issues, including accidents and traffic law enforcement, they also provide traffic escorts for many of the visiting official delegations and other VIPs.

In 2005, a limited fleet of cars and motorcycles was supplied to this department but this equipment has become depleted due to lack of maintenance. There is currently a very small –evidently insufficient- budget for vehicle maintenance and repairs.

The officers who drive motorcycles do not have any protective clothing and very few have a helmet, but none of these have a radio communication set built in.

Basic equipment to assist at accident scenes, such as accident warning signs, traffic cones, reflective tape or digital cameras are completely lacking. The Traffic department of the PCP does not have speed monitoring equipment, breath-analysers or any sophisticated apparatus of that kind.

The Palestinian Traffic police very much needs specialised vehicles for dealing with fatal or serious accidents, as well as tow trucks to remove damaged or obstructing vehicles on the roads.



Mobility is a basic requirement for an effective police force to operate. The lack of vehicles in the Palestinian Civil Police has a very negative impact on their ability to fulfil their role and subsequently on the perception by the public. Between 250 and 300 vehicles are needed urgently across all branches of the Palestinian Civil Police to bring them up to a normal working order.

In the West Bank, thirty small stations with anywhere between twelve to twenty officers do not have access to a police vehicle at all, and frequently the officers use their own transport to respond to incidents and events.

More specifically:

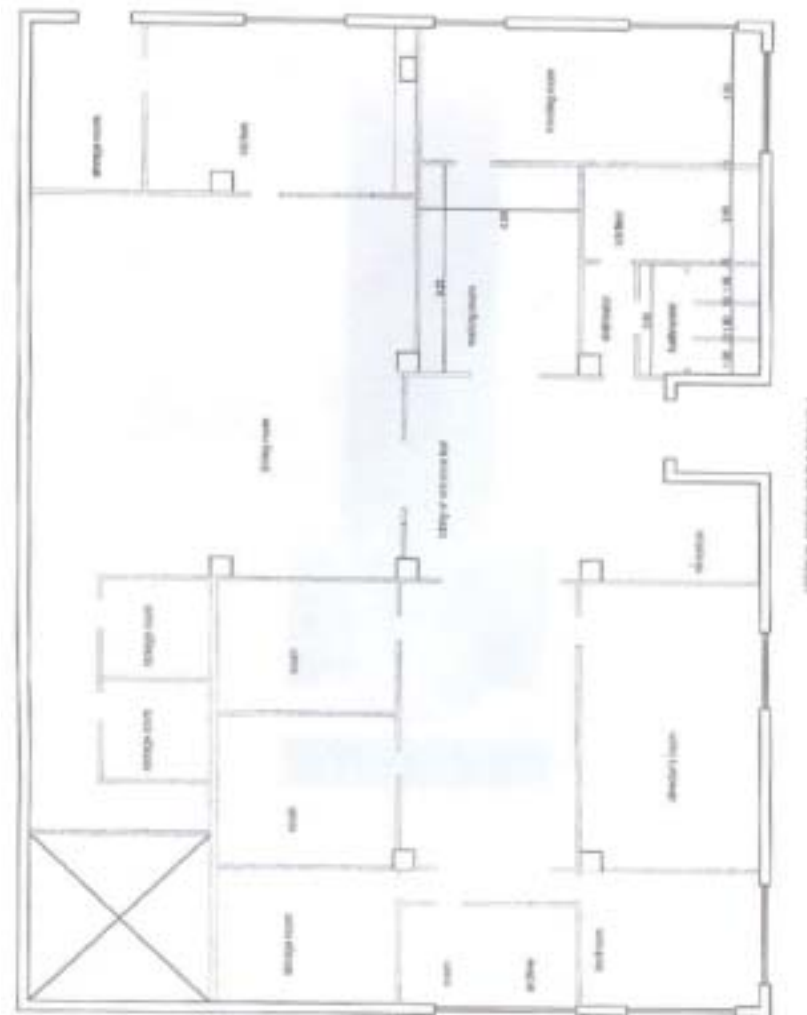
- The Public Order units have an urgent need for a minimum of thirty Land Rover type vehicles.
- The Prison Service has no vehicles dedicated to the transfer of prisoners.
- Most criminal investigation departments share one single vehicle with other units.
- The Logistics Department of the PCP has severe difficulty providing basic supplies simply because of the lack of transport.

Supplying vehicles is most urgent, but would only address part of the problem. EUPOL COPPS strongly advises that the vehicles should also be equipped with a blue light system, a police radio, sufficient spare parts for a three year period including a spare set of tyres.

Further, in order to maintain the vehicles on the road, maintenance workshops will have to be set up, at least two and ideally four. This implies training for the mechanics and supply and storage of spare parts.

Once again this is an area where both small and large donations, of either funds or equipment, can contribute to alleviating the chronic shortage of transport.

K. Infrastructure



During the Second Intifada, in October 2000, no less than 45 facilities of the Palestinian Civil Police were targeted and destroyed by the Israeli Air Force, including academies and prisons. Although the Palestinian Authority lacked the means to rebuild its police infrastructure, over the years some affordable solutions were improvised, leading mostly to a network of “stations of fortune”.

Today, 78 police facilities exist in the West Bank of which quite a number still show the damage inflicted by Israeli military action.

A large number of these “stations of fortune” are in rented buildings, most of the time not very suitable for the purpose and sometimes even in an inappropriate location or area.

The stations owned by the police need refurbishment, as well as considerable improvements to the electricity and water supply system.

There is a particular problem with the detention facilities and hence the detention capacity of the PCP.

