

<b>Proposal Title</b>	Gaza Emergency Response
<b>Reserve Fund</b>	MENA/Southwest Asia
<b>Collaborating Programs</b>	MENASWA; OSF-DC; OSEPI; OSJI; HESP; Communications Department
<b>Recommended by</b>	Ammar Abu Zayyad of the Arab Regional Office (ARO)
<b>Coordinated by</b>	Dalia Zatarra; Rachel Reid
<b>Approver</b>	Anthony Richter
<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>\$905,620</b>
<b>Unforeseen Need (250 words)</b>	<p>Israel's July 2014 'Operation Protective Edge' offensive was not anticipated and thus unforeseen. While the crisis was devastating in humanitarian terms, there are opportunities now to make a real shift in the political and legal landscape, that offer promise, particularly on the issue of accountability for war crimes. We can offer more defensive work to our grantees to counter inevitable attacks on human rights groups pursuing an accountability agenda. The potential for lasting change justifies a major effort in trusted grantees that can use this moment to make a long-term advance in human rights and ending the occupation.</p> <p>The seven-week offensive left over 2100 dead along with destruction and displacement. While the operation was ongoing, the ARO provided some emergency humanitarian support, through a reserve fund allocation. We now pursue the second phase of crisis response, focusing on accountability. There is valid concern that violations of international humanitarian law have been committed systematically. Documentation and evidence collection is of paramount importance in parallel to advocacy efforts in the pursuit of accountability – whether through an established Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry, or through the International Criminal Court (ICC) should the Palestinian leadership decide to accede to it. Even the threat of the ICC conducting an investigation changes the legal landscape. Previously the Israeli government (and Palestinian militant groups) have been relatively unscathed by damning UN and human rights investigations. The pressure on all parties to the conflict to respond to human rights concerns has increased with the prospect of</p>

	<p>an investigation with real consequences.</p>
<p><b>Activities Proposed (500 words)</b></p>	<p>This second tranche will support partners in responding to the human rights and humanitarian situation arising from the offensive:</p> <p><u>Independent Documentation of War Crimes to support the UN's Commission of Inquiry and Any Prospective Litigation.</u></p> <p>Supporting Palestinian and Israeli human rights groups to investigate, document, and collect evidence of violations while strengthening advocacy efforts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support a joint task force comprised of Palestinian human rights organizations to collect information and document human rights violations in Gaza. Support will enable the task force to recruit additional human resources to examine evidence and contribute to development of case files in pursuit of local and international accountability.</li>   <li>2. Support <b>Breaking the Silence</b>, an Israeli organization that collects and publishes IDF soldier testimonies from soldiers who took part in the fighting or sat in command and control centers. Breaking the Silence will expand its testimony collection operations and advocacy activities, along with tours to Europe and the US.</li> </ol> <p><u>Position Palestine's Accession to the ICC In Policy and Public Debates and Broaden Public Support of the Move Internationally.</u></p> <p>Countering international pressure on the PA to refrain from joining the ICC through a three-pronged approach: policy oriented advocacy missions to EU capitals; engaging general public in the EU through regional networks; and boosting effectiveness of voices from the ground with access to strategic communications experts.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the <b>Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)</b> to organize missions to the UK and France (both countries have threatened to stop direct aid if PA pursues joining the ICC), and investigating EU and other actors’ pressure on Palestinians against joining the court.</li> <li>2. <b>Crisis Action</b> plans to coordinate a collective advocacy campaign with European partner NGOs around the donor conference on the reconstruction of Gaza. Support will enable Crisis Action to organize a civil society convention in parallel to the donor conference to ensure reconstruction and aid is not at the expense of justice and accountability, while targeting key EU member states to challenge opposition to Palestinian ratification of the Rome Statute.</li> <li>3. <b>APRODEV</b>, a network of European Protestant Development organizations, will coordinate a Europe-wide civil society alliance with grassroots organizations to influence EU member states to support Palestine’s ICC accession.</li> <li>4. Retain a public relations firm in the US and potentially Europe to provide grantees with strategic communications advice over a six-month period around launching of reports, placing op-eds, getting broadcast media appearances, effective digital media campaigning. This will broaden public debate and support of Palestinian accession to ICC within the US and EU, and also ensure that voices from the ground are widely heard.</li> </ol> <p><u>Supporting Palestinian Civic Engagement and Activism Through Focus on Consumerism and Boycott of Israeli Products</u></p> <p>An opportunity arising out of the recent offensive is a surge in young Palestinians’ interest in public affairs – a departure from the widespread apathy and frustration of recent years. We want to capitalize on the campaigns that emerged during the offensive with a focus on the boycott of Israeli goods in favor of Palestinian products. The significance of these campaigns lies in the motivation of youth, and a momentum that can be capitalized on to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of these efforts. ARO will support the <b>Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO)</b> to coordinate campaigns and efforts among civil society organizations to augment their effectiveness and impact.</p>
	This work is coordinated by the Arab Regional Office
<b>Contributions Expected From</b>	The MENA Regional Advocacy Manager together with OSF-DC and

<b>Various Units Within OSF and Essential Partners or Grantees (250 words)</b>	<p>OSEPI are liaising with regional and international organizations (Crisis Action, EMHRN, APRODEV, ECFR, and others) as well as forging linkages with relevant ARO grantees in Palestine and Israel (Al-Haq, PCHR, Mezan, Gisha, Breaking the Silence and others).</p> <p>The MENA Regional Advocacy Manager and OSF advocacy colleagues in DC and Brussels are instrumental to the success of this response, along with other colleagues and programs who will continue to contribute more of their time and expertise to the overall response effort. OSJI is also involved in conversations with grantees to provide technical assistance and guidance – especially on question of complementarity and the ICC, and would become more involved if the Palestinian Authority seeks OSF assistance on the complementarity side.</p>
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