

Fifty Young Journalists Attend Training Focused on Applying Ethical Principles in Practice

Ramallah, 16th March 2013

Two workshops for young journalists, exploring the importance of applying ethical principles to journalistic practice began in Ramallah on 16th March, and will run for three days. Fifty journalists, many of whom are new graduates, came from all areas of the West Bank and gathered at the Caesar Hotel for the intensive, three-day training. The training comes as part of a wider project focused on ethical journalism, particularly around elections, implemented by Civic Forum Institute (CFI) and Electoral Reform Services International (ERIS) and funded by the British Consulate in Jerusalem. Through this project, representatives of Palestinian Media Outlets developed a Code of Conduct for Election Reporting, at a two-day workshop in November. This Code of Conduct forms the foundation of this training.

Welcoming the participants and trainers, Muhammed Abu Diab, Director of CFI, said, *'we are thrilled to see so many people here today, and are disappointed that we have had to turn away many other young journalists who also wanted to attend. We hope that this training helps you to see that the Code of Conduct is not just a piece of paper, but is a real set of rules or guidelines that can support you in your day to day work'*.

Led by a distinguished group of trainers from Palestine, Hisham Abdullah, Mohammed Daraghmeh, Nabhan Khraisi and Abdelrahim Abdullah, with additional input from international expert, Emad El Hady, the trainees undertook a mixture of theoretical and practical exercises, beginning with considering the role of a journalist, their expectations as young journalists and as trainees on the course. In addition, the groups worked to re-create an editorial meeting, each taking on different roles, to analyze how and why they might report relevant news stories, such as the upcoming visit of Barak Obama.

Trainer, Mohammed Daraghmeh said, *'the trainees are demonstrating a high level of interest in the subjects discussed and in learning new skills. The groups are interacting well and are asking well-considered, thoughtful questions, worthy of journalists of many more years experience'*.

A second two workshops, with another fifty participants are scheduled for the 23rd to 25th March. The workshops are already fully subscribed.