

# BULLETIN

United Nations Development Programme  
Washington Liaison Office



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*The UNDP Washington Bulletin is a regular update by the Washington Office of UNDP activities and events. We invite you to share the Bulletin with interested colleagues.*

## **UNDP MOURNS STAFF LOST IN DECEMBER BOMBING OF UN OFFICES IN ALGIERS**

On December 11<sup>th</sup> UNDP and the UN family suffered a tragic loss as a result of the bombing of the UN offices in Algiers. Seven UNDP staff were killed in the bombing: Saadia Boucelham, Samia Hammoutene, Chadli Hamza, Mohamed Khelladi, Steven Olejas, Hind Boukroufa, and Djamel Rezzoug. Thirteen others from the UN system also were killed.

UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş, who visited injured UN staff and the families of the victims immediately after the bombings, said, "It was saddening for me to see with my own eyes the impact of this attack on colleagues so committed to helping create sustainable livelihoods for Algeria's poor, supporting access to justice, strengthening the national parliament and promoting environmental protection. The victims are not soldiers who signed up for battle, but people, mostly Algerians, who [were] working for peace, development and to alleviate human suffering."

The Secretary-General will appoint an independent panel to establish all the facts concerning the Algiers attack and also to address issues vital to staff security for the UN in its operations around the world. UNDP will redouble its efforts to ensure maximum security for its staff in concert with the UN Secretariat.

## **UNDP IN DARFUR: ADDRESSING SEXUAL & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, UPHOLDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

UNDP is one of few organizations with a presence in all three states of Darfur. There, UNDP works from three sub-offices in extreme conditions, undertaking development activities in parallel with ongoing relief operations. UNDP's work in Sudan focuses on promoting rule of law; upholding human rights and combating gender-based violence; and providing legal protection to marginalized groups, internally displaced persons and local communities.

UNDP in Darfur undertook extensive activities to address sexual and gender-based violence and promote women's legal rights in November and December. For example, UNDP and the Governor's Advisor for Women and Child Affairs in West Darfur State organized a series of workshops to sensitize both men and women about violence against women and HIV/AIDS. As part of these efforts, UNDP produced materials for public dissemination on HIV/AIDS and sexual and gender-based violence and initiated a weekly radio program on the link between the two.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law at the State University of Nyala, UNDP organized a workshop on women's legal rights, targeting third-year law students. In El Fasher, UNDP teamed up with the UN

Mission in Sudan and the International Rescue Committee to organize a lecture on human rights and the national constitution on December 10-12<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to advocating for change, UNDP's program on sexual and gender-based violence provides support and guidance on legal and social services available in Darfur. The program also helps judicial and law enforcement agencies effectively prosecute and provide just decisions in cases involving such violence.

For more information about UNDP's work in Sudan, click [here](#).

## UNDP AND LARGEST PRIVATE ARAB FOUNDATION TO BOOST REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE

UNDP and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, the largest private foundation in the Arab world, recently signed a landmark agreement in support of knowledge in the Arab world that will span over five years and total approximately US \$20 million. The agreement will pave the way for an assessment of the quality of higher education in the Arab world and publication of the *Arab Knowledge Report*, a policy and advocacy tool examining the state of knowledge in the Arab region.

The *Arab Knowledge Report* will build on the momentum established by UNDP's *Arab Human Development Report 2003: Building a Knowledge Society*. Emphasizing the need for Arab governments to close a growing knowledge gap by enabling innovation and investing heavily in education, the *Arab Human Development Report 2003* ignited intense debate with policy repercussions at the global, regional and national levels.

The Arab Knowledge Report will expand on that analysis, presenting new data and studies on recent trends and identifying lessons for the flourishing of an Arab knowledge society marked by high levels of quality education and a productive, diversified engagement with the global knowledge economy.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation was launched at the 2007 World Economic Forum in Jordan with an endowment of US \$10 billion committed in personal capacity by Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Prime Minister and Vice President of the United Arab Emirates, and ruler of Dubai. MBRF supports a wide range of initiatives to boost the knowledge capital of the region, from funding research institutions and youth leadership programs to providing scholarships and research grants. It is the largest private foundation in the Arab World.

The agreement ushers in the first partnership between UNDP and a private foundation in the region, and represents a major step forward for UNDP's initiative to work with all sectors of Arab society, including governments, the private sector, civil society and private foundations.

For UNDP and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, the collaboration on the *Arab Knowledge Report* marks the beginning of a long-term commitment to work together for human development in the Arab region.

For more information, please visit [www.undp.org/arabstates](http://www.undp.org/arabstates).

## STAFF CHANGES AT UNDP WASHINGTON LIAISON OFFICE

**Frederick S. Tipson** has joined UNDP as Director of the office, coming from the Washington office of Microsoft. Fred's career has included positions with AT&T, HongKong Telecom, and the Markle Foundation, as well as Chief Counsel to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

**Paolo Galli** returns to the Washington Liaison Office as Deputy Director after three years in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Paolo's experience with the UN and UNDP includes posts focusing on Africa and the Balkans and a field assignment in Afghanistan. He has also worked with the UN Office for Project Services (UN/OPS), the UNDP's Private Sector Development Program, and has served in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

To learn about the work of UNDP's Washington Liaison office, click [here](#).

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*UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.*

**For additional information** on the above news, please contact communications officer Cara Santos Pianesi at **UNDP's Washington Office** at 202.331.9130 or [cara.santos@undp.org](mailto:cara.santos@undp.org).

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