



**Memorandum of Understanding  
To Strengthen Cooperation on Environmental and Social Issues**

**Baka al Sharkiya Municipality - Baka al Gharbiya - Jat Municipality**

In a regional meeting held on Thursday, July 19, 2007, the Palestinian Mayor of Baka al Sharkiya, Mr. Moayad Hussein and the Israeli Mayor of Baka al Gharbiya - Jat, Mr. Yitzchak Wald, have agreed to strengthen cooperation between the two municipalities to save the natural heritage in the region in respect to environment and water concerns.

The Mayors hereby declare the importance of cleaning up Wadi Abu Naar/Hadera Stream that flows through both municipalities. Today, Wadi Abu Naar/Hadera Stream is polluted and is a health hazard to the residents of both communities. The Mayors reiterate the need stop all solid waste dumping in the wadi/stream and divert all dumping activities to authorized landfills, to protect and beautify the wadi, and to promote the wadi as a recreational area for residents.

The Mountain Aquifer is the most important underground water source for both Israelis and Palestinians, and is being threatened by pollution from sewage and solid waste. The Mayors declare their commitment to the protection of the Mountain Aquifer by prohibiting the use of cesspits that have negative impacts and cause pollution of the ground water and to create a sewage grid in the residential areas of their respective communities. Baka al Sharkiya Municipality would like to benefit from the sewage treatment plant that is being built in Baka al Gharbiya - Jat by connecting their sewage network to the new treatment plant. Baka al Gharbiya - Jat supports arrangements to be found to link the sewage of Baka al Sharkiya Municipality with the treatment plant of Baka al Gharbiya - Jat.

The Mayors recognize the necessity of allocating resources and funding for joint projects between the two towns, to increase exchange visits between the two town's officials. The social and geographical connections that tie both municipalities necessitate increased cooperation for the benefit of the region.

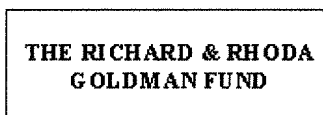
We support the role of EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East in helping pave the way to good neighborly relations based on peace and environment.

Mayor  
Baka al Sharkiya Municipality

Mr. Moayad Hussein

Mayor  
Baka al Gharbiya - Jat Municipality

Mr. Yitzchak Wald



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