
UNICEF Celebrates Palestinian Child Day

GAZA -- In celebration of the Palestinian Child Day, UNICEF opened an exhibit featuring photographs of Palestinian children from the UNRWA and UNICEF archives. The exhibit, aptly named "Childhood", is located at the French Cultural Center in Gaza. As the Palestinian Child Day is indeed a day for children, the French Cultural Center organized some fun activities during the course of the day, including performances by clowns, short plays, folklore dancing, singing and drawing.

A host of representatives from national and international NGOs joined school children from Gaza in celebrating the Palestinian Child Day during the opening ceremony. The ceremony commenced with opening remarks from John Ging, UNRWA's Director of Operations, in which he stressed that the exhibit reflects the reality of Palestinian children, a reality that simply must change. Following John Ging was Reem Tarazi, UNICEF's Adolescents and Child Protection Officer, who urged leaders to put children first on their agenda. Reem also reiterated UNICEF's promise to Palestinian children of exerting every effort to safeguard their rights and wellbeing.

The opening ceremony was concluded with closing remarks by Majdy Shaqqorah, Deputy Chief of Consular Affairs in the French Consulate. Majdy Shaqqorah urged UNICEF, UNRWA and the international NGOs to put their hands together for the sake of the Palestinian children. The final day of the photo exhibit is on 17 April 2009.