



## THE RHODES STATEMENT

Rhodes, Greece, 9 July 1998

We, the Palestinian and Israeli media professionals participating in the Media Conference in the Greek island of Rhodes,

- 1) Thank the government of Greece for sponsoring the meeting and the generous people of the island of Rhodes for the hospitality as well as the European Union and the Adenouer Foundation for their support.
- 2) Express our appreciation to the Greek Ministry of Press and Mass Media for inviting us to the Conference of public opinion leaders.
- 3) Proclaim that freedom of expression is an essential condition for the practice of journalism and for fostering the culture of peace in the region through a continuous dialogue with and knowledge of each other through the free flow of ideas.
- 4) Urge all other editors, journalists and concerned authorities to join us in the fight against all kinds of prejudices and stereotypes in the media in order to foster a mutual understanding.
- 5) Share the same aspirations for making peace, regardless of personal opinions of individual participants on the proposed means of achieving them. We express a common concern as to the state of the peace process between the two sides and wish to promote an atmosphere of peace as soon as possible.
- 6) Urge the authorities concerned to remove all obstacles that restrict the daily work of the media professionals in the region and in particular to facilitate freedom of movement for Palestinian and other journalists.
- 7) Recommend an active and open co-operation in the professional field, between Israeli and Palestinian journalists, which will include exchange of journalistic materials i.e. articles, films, pictures, etc.
- 8) Request UNESCO to provide its assistance to set up an Israeli-Palestinian Press House, open to all media professionals without discrimination. This house should be situated at a location accessible to both sides.
- 9) Request UNESCO and the EU to exert their influence towards the fulfilment of this statement.

This information is provided by

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**9 July 1998**