

We, members of the police force:

- Enforce the laws and instructions and are firm in performing our duties whatever the imminent danger.
- We respect citizens and protect their lives and property.
- We are fair, just and impartial in enforcing the law.
- All are equal and enjoy similar rights as provided for in the law.
- We respect privacy and confidentiality in work and do not misuse information.
- We act ethically towards citizens and refrain from arrogance.
- Priority shall be for official work and we shall keep away from privacy and nepotism.
- Our doctrine is to serve the citizen, enforce of the law, and respect human rights.

State of Palestine

Ministry of Interior



المديرية العامة للشرطة
General Directorate of Police

Code of Conduct and Ethics of the Palestinian Police

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*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



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Introduction:

The police is considered one of the pillars of security, stability, and the spread of tranquillity in society, as its acts to protect lives, honour and property, maintain security and public order, and provide policing services without discrimination.

The hard work of the police in maintaining security and public order and its commitment to integrity, transparency and accountability in the performance of its duties is considered a major responsibility to be performed only by those qualified to undertake this task.

The responsibility to enforce the law confers on the police special powers with the potential to affect the citizen and his life. Misuse of such powers impairs the confidence of the citizen in the police,

and infringes on the principle of the rule of law, which requires that the police shall be subject to legal controls in the course of performing their duties. As such, it is necessary to emphasise the controls that maintain human rights and protect human dignity according to local and international laws and norms, and the values of the police institution we cherish.

Objectives of the Code:

The Objectives of this Code are as follows:

1. To identify the rules of conduct of police officers which enhance the relationship between the police officer and the citizen.
2. To ensure that the police is an impartial and professional body which plays a pivotal role in maintaining the basic values of the rule of law, and that the conduct of police officers complies with national laws and international human rights norms.
3. To underscore that policing reflects the concept of law in its noble dimension to ensure to every person the right to enjoy his basic freedoms.

The Values of the Code:

- • Honesty: We declare the truth in

word and deed.

- Integrity: Firmness in our ethical and behavioural values.
- Professionalism: We are aware of our role, skills and knowledge in implementing our obligations towards our citizens.
- Sympathy: We care for others in our practices and words.
- Transparency and accountability: We are committed to the rule of law.
- Justice and equality: We perform our duties regardless of affiliation, sex, religion or geography.
- Respect: We respect rights, values, beliefs and freedoms without bias to anybody.
- Quality and excellence: The provision of the best and more accurate service with less time, effort and cost.

Principles of the Code

First: Doctrine of Police Officers

The entrenched belief of police officers is protecting homeland and citizens, defending rights, upholding good deeds and countering injustice and aggression. Police officers represent the law and shall possess confidence to enforce the law. Their powers and duties as outlined in the law aim, in sum, at serving society, protecting lives and property, and maintaining security and public order as outlined in the law.

Second: Maintenance of Rights and Freedoms

The task of the police is to maintain security and public order and to enforce judicial and administrative decisions taking into consideration human rights norms and standards to ensure the protection of the rights, the public

freedoms and the human dignity of the citizen while giving special attention to the weak and the marginalised groups in society like women, children, people with special needs and the old aged.

Third: The Rule of Law

In the performance of their duties and in exercising the powers accorded to them, police officers shall comply with the limits of the law without exceeding or abusing them and shall implement the law in an impartial, integral and transparent manner and without discrimination for any reason according to principles of law consistent with local and international norms.

Fourth: Standards for Enforcing the Law

Police officers shall perform their duties according to the provisions of the law and of international conventions and agreements on human rights and shall

specifically abide by:

1. The absolute prohibition of torture or any sort of ill-treatment. They may not invoke superior orders or exceptional circumstances such as: the state of war or the existence of a threat to national public order to justify torture or ill-treatment and shall abide by international humanitarian law.
2. Police officers shall commit to protect human life and the health of persons in their custody.
3. During the performance of their duties, police officers shall respect legal rights and human rights norms when dealing with witnesses, the accused and those suspected of committing crimes.
4. They shall perform their duties with precision while abiding by the law in all work related procedures.
5. They shall observe the confidentiality

of documents and information in their possession.

6. Police officers shall refrain from committing any act of corruption.
7. They shall refrain from arrogance when dealing with others and the predominant moral character shall be modesty and the feeling at all times that they are serving the Palestinian society and the law.
8. Refrain from any action that might stir sedition within society.
9. They shall refrain from belonging to any political faction or groups prohibited by law.
10. They shall refrain from exploiting any of their powers or information available to them in the course of their duties to secure personal gains, acceptance of mediation or personal gifts from anybody or person that could affect their integrity and their work.

Fifth: The Principle of the Gradual Use of Force

1. The use of force by the police entrusted with the enforcement of the law shall be considered an exceptional measure and shall only be utilised in the circumstances of extreme danger.
2. The force used shall be proportional to the level of danger to be avoided (or the danger that threatens the subject of protection).
3. The use of force and weapons shall be gradual. Force and weapons may not be utilised except after exhausting all other other means and until the ineffectiveness of such means is beyond doubt.
4. The police entrusted to enforce the law shall exercise the highest level of self-control when they use force or weapons.
5. The use of force shall cease when the

- reason leading to its use ends.
6. There shall be an attempt to reduce to the minimum damage and injuries.
 7. The police shall ensure provision of medical assistance to injured persons in their care as soon as possible.
 8. Exceptional circumstances such as internal political instability or any other general emergency may not be invoked to justify any deviation from these basic principles.
 9. The police shall undertake to conduct an investigation after each case on the use of force and weapons.

Sixth: Professional Conduct

In the performance of its tasks, the police shall commit to:

1. Quick response: The ability to respond rapidly to accidents and emergency calls.

2. **Transparency:** The clear and simple procedures characterised by the integrity, the objectivity and the honesty of police officers and members of society.
3. **Accountability:** The accountability of all police officers towards superiors and society without discrimination or bias.
4. **Humanity:** Dealing with all social segments in a humanitarian and civilised manner.
5. **Partnership:** Enhancing participation with society and institutions and the creation of a healthy and secure environment and the achievement of the principle that security is the responsibility of all.

Seventh: Excellence in Providing Policing Service

1. Police officers shall commit to provide the highest level of policing

- service through a disciplined approach that helps in upholding stability in the service of the citizen.
2. Taking all legal measures to prevent crimes and to apprehend its perpetrators.
 3. Performing firmly the tasks assigned to them by law in a manner consistent with human rights norms and standards.
 4. Stressing the enhancement of cooperation and communication with citizens and the public since as partners in maintaining public security in a comprehensive context, by their effective participation in solving social problems for social and security stability.

Eighth: Respect the Terms of the Code

This Code is a step to a better future in the light of mutual respect and confidence between society and the police. As

such, police officers shall abide by the provisions of this Code and shall take all measures and avail all opportunities to enhance and develop the level of their awareness and knowledge of its provisions. They shall follow a path that does not harm their institution or themselves and shall set an example to others to enjoy the respect of the society they are living in.

After reviewing the Code, police officers shall implement its provisions and shall be held responsible for any breach of same. Moreover, they shall equally abide by it in all security situations.

The district police chiefs, the heads of administrations and the unit commanders shall supervise the implementation of the provisions of this Code