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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**Young Palestinian Leaders Visit Oklahoma on the Heels of Annapolis Conference;  
Delegates to Engage in Dialogue with Local Political Leaders, Study American Political System**

WASHINGTON – From December 5-8, 2007, a delegation of six young, prominent political leaders from the Palestinian Territories will visit Oklahoma City as part of a ten day political exchange program organized by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and funded by the U.S. Department of State. The delegates kicked off their program with meetings and briefings in Washington, D.C. only days after the conclusion of the Annapolis conference on Middle East peace and they will also visit New Jersey before heading home. During their stay in Oklahoma they will be hosted by Thomas D. Larson, Deputy Press Secretary in the Office of Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry and a 2007 ACYPL delegate to Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

ACYPL began exchanging delegations with the Palestinian Territories following the 1997 Phase I of the Likud-Fatah Dialogue – a political skills training program that brought together rising leaders from the Israeli Likud Party and Palestinian Fatah Party's youth organizations who were interested in engaging their colleagues across the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Who:** Political leaders between the ages of twenty five and forty who represent the next generation of Palestinian leaders. Delegation members include:

- **Mr. Thaer Abubaker** - Chief Prosecutor, Office of General Prosecution
- **Mr. Akram Alkhatib** - Prosecutor, Office of General Prosecution
- **Ms. Ola Khuwayrah** - Head, Administrative Affairs Division, Governorate of Ramallah
- **Ms. Rasha Qawas** - Information Department, Palestinian Legislative Council
- **Mr. Nasser Qtami** (Escort) - Assistant Deputy, Ministry of Labor
- **Mr. Majid Sawalha** - Head, Public Relations Department, Agricultural Development Association

**What:** Program highlights will include:

- Meetings and discussions with Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins, Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, Judge Robert Henry of the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and a 1987 ACYPL delegate to China, members of the Oklahoma State Senate and House of Representatives as well as officials from the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism;
- Tours of the Oklahoma State Capitol, the U.S. District Federal Court House, the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum and the Oklahoma History Center.

**When:** December 5-8, 2007

**Why:** The purpose of this exchange program is to:

- Expose the delegates to the American political system at the national, state and local levels;
- Give them a new perspective on American culture; and
- Allow them to engage in dialogue on international issues and forge professional relationships with their American counterparts.

***About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)***

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELEGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 202-857-0999 x27 OR [mgarretson@acypl.org](mailto:mgarretson@acypl.org).

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