



Amman Center for Human Rights Studies

Newsletter—January 2007

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EMHRN in cooperation with ACHRS held a seminar on the Independence and the Impartiality of the Judiciary in Jordan - Amman 13-14 January 2007

Under the Patronage of his excellency Mr Mohammad Sammed Al-Raghad, President of the Judicial Council of Jordan, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in cooperation with Amman Center for Human Rights Studies hold a seminar on the 13th and 14th of January on the Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary in Jordan.

The seminar has been supported by the European Commission, The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Ministry of Justice of Belgium.

The seminar has been opened by the welcoming speech of both EMHRN and ACHRS, followed by Mr Mohammed Al-Raghad speech that highlighted the importance of the independence of the judiciary, stressing impartiality and transparency as fundamental qualities of a judicial body.

Mr Al-Raghad speech has been followed by the presentation of the EMHRN Report on Justice in the South and East Mediterranean Region by Fabrice Liebaut (EMHRN project coordinator) and a presenta-

Then, there have been presentations by the judge Dr. Arar Khrais on the Role of the Jurisprudence in consolidating the independence of the judiciary and Human Rights, by the lawyers Mr. Zahaa Al-Majali and Mr. Musa Al-Abdallat on Problems and Challenges faced by the Jordanian Judiciary and by the judge Mr. Jihad Al-Utaiby on the Rules of Judicial Conduct, Customs and Traditions in the Judicial System.

The second part of the first day of the seminar host an open discussion, moderated by Her Excellency Mrs. Asma Khader, followed by the Professor Mohammad Olwan introduction to the presentations of the judge Dr. Mohammad Al-Tarawneh on the Role of the Judiciary in protecting Human Rights and the judge Jihad Al-Utaiby on the Experience of the Jordanian High Judicial Council.

The second day of the seminar has been opened by the judge Jihad Al-Utaiby presentation on the Current and Planned Reforms of the Judiciary, and by Mr. Joaquin Tasso-Villalonga presentation of the EU/Jordan Action Plan's impact in the field of Justice.

The last part of the seminar consisted of an open discussion, moderated by the lawyer Mrs. Nour Al-Emman.

The seminar concluded by the proposal of a National Report on the Judiciary that will be issued by the EMHRN. The contents of the Report have been briefly presented by Fabrice Liebaut that has then received comments and suggestions by all the participants on the strategy that should be adopted in order to make the Report the most effective in the field of Justice and Human Rights in Jordan and the Euro-Med Region.

ACHRS kindly thanks EMHRN for organizing the seminar, all the participants for their active participation to the seminar, the Honorable judges that have contributed with their presentations, the EU delegation and the Ambassador of Belgium that have participated on the second day of the Seminar.

ACHRS among groups to sign appeal to bring five years of indefinite detention and torture to an end - groups demand that Guantanamo be shut down

On January 11th, 2002, the first prisoners arrived at the American detainment camp of Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. January 11th, 2007 marks five years of indefinite detention at Guantánamo. On that day, thousands of people will act together to demand an end to torture and indefinite, illegal and immoral detention of hundreds of men at Guantánamo. Actions are planned in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC, in New York, but also in many countries such as England, Holland, Sweden, Australia, Poland and Hungary.

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), along with FIDH's American member organization, the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and with Witness Against Torture, is calling for January 11th, 2007 to be the International Day to Shut Down Guantánamo.

Five years after the first hooded, shackled men were brought to the U.S. prison at Guantánamo, and subjected to interrogation techniques considered by the International Committee of the Red Cross to be "tantamount to torture," not a single prisoner has been charged, tried or convicted of any crime. Many have been released because no evidence has been found against them. Five years later, despite repetitive calls by the United Nations, the European Union and others to close down Guantánamo, more than 400 men remain in indefinite detention without hope of release. Five years later, thousands will stand up on behalf of the victims of the war on terrorism and on behalf of law and justice.

"The situation at Guantánamo impacts all regions in the world," explained Sidiki Kaba, FIDH President. "It threatens to set a dreadful precedent for a large number of other States encouraged to also legalize

the erosion of human rights in the name of the fight against terrorism. It is fundamental that the international community and the civil society worldwide unanimously condemn indefinite detention at Guantánamo and elsewhere.”

While supporting all actions that will take place throughout the world on January 11, 2007, we call on the United States government to:

Charge and try or release all detainees.

Clearly and unequivocally forbid torture and all other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, by the military, the CIA, prison guards, civilian contractors, or anyone else.

Pay reparations to current and former detainees and their families for violations of their human rights.

Shut down Guantánamo, Bagram and all other U.S. prisons overseas, including secret CIA detention facilities.

Repeal the October 2006 Military Commissions Act and restore the right of habeas corpus (i.e. the possibility to challenge before the courts the legality of one’s detention).

Among the first signatories are the following organizations :

Latvian Human Rights Committee (Latvia), League of Human Rights of Czech Republic (Czech Republic), Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights (Kirghizistan), FUNDACION REGIONAL DE ASESORIA EN DERECHOS (Equator), Asociacion Pro Derechos Humanos (Peru), CENTRO PARA LA ACCION LEGAL EN DERECHOS HUMANOS (Guatemala), COMITE DE DEFENSA DE LOS DERECHOS DEL PUEBLO (Chile), Asociacion Permanente de Derechos Humanos (Bolivia), JUSTICA GLOBAL (Brazil), CENTRO NICARAGUENSE DE DERECHOS HUMANOS (Nicaragua), CENTRO DE ASESORIA LABORAL (Peru), COMISION ECUMENICA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS (Equator), COMITE PERMANENTE POR LA DEFENSA DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS (Colombia), CENTRO DE CAPACITACION SOCIAL (Panama), COMISION DE DERECHOS HUMANOS DE GUATEMALA (Guatemala), Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo (Colombia), COMITE DE ACCION JURIDICA (Argentina), Bahrain Human Rights Society (Bahrain), Ligue Iranienne pour la défense des droits de l'Homme (Iran), Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies (Jordan), Association africaine des droits de l'Homme (Democratic Republic of Congo), Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (Egypt), Ligue tunisienne des droits de l'Homme (Tunisia), Ligue des droits de l'Homme (France), SISTERS' ARABIC FORUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (Yemen), PUBLIC COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE IN ISRAEL (Israel), Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (Turkey)

The Arab Network for Election Monitoring has published its fifth "Elections Observer" Journal

The Arab Network for Election Monitoring has published its fifth Journal: "Elections Observer", January 2007.

The issue covers the municipal and the parliamentary elections in the Arab countries and includes, amongst others, a report on the competition between the presidential candidates in Mauritania after the termination of the parliament elections.

The Journal moreover covers arguments regarding the amendments for the parliamentary elections in Jordan, which proposed time will be in the middle of 2007, as well as arguments regarding the admission of the elections law 2007 in Morocco. Additionally, the Journal includes a report on the amending procedure of the constitution, the changing electoral system, the cancellation of judicial supervision and

the changing election method of the President to allow partisan competition in Egypt.

It is noteworthy that the Arab Network for Elections Monitoring was established in July, 2006, organized by Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, and includes 45 organizations and civil society institutions from 14 Arab states. On the first conference the network approved its official name to be "Elections Network in the Arab world" (ENAR).

For further information you can visit our link: www.intekhabat.org.

ACHRS announces the winners of the human rights competition of Ramadan

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies announced the names of the winners of the "Ramadan competition" that the Center had prepared in collaboration with the Jordanian radio station, during Ramadan, 2006.

The competition included 30 questions on the principles of human rights, international conventions ratified by Jordan and some of the items related to public freedoms in the Jordanian Constitution. The competition consisted on one question broadcasted by the radio every day of the holy month.

The purpose of this competition has been of encourage young people, students and the local community towards knowledge of International Treaties, Conventions and Principles of Human Rights in general, which was included in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights", which was announced on 10 / 12 / 1948, and the principles of Human Rights contained in the text of the Jordanian Constitution, in particular. The competition collected many participations and sort out 516 correct answers valid for all the questions. The committee organizing the competition consisted of nine members, from the radio and television corporation, the Ministry of Finance, Amman Center for Human Rights Studies and some Academics.

The winners are:

The committee identified six winners through a lottery process, the results are as follows:

- **First prize valued 500 J.Ds: Naeema Ibrahim Mustafa Ibrahim/ Rusaifa**
- **Second prize valued 500 J.Ds: Eman Ibrahim Muhammad Yousef Hammad/ Al Zarqa**
- **Third prize valued 300 J.Ds: Muhammad Khaled Abdelhaleem Bazbaz/ El Salt**
- **Fourth prize valued 300 J.Ds: Reem Ahmed Noury Ghazou/ Ajloun**
- **Fifth prize valued 200 J.Ds: Rami Mahmoud Awad Mefleh/ Amman**
- **Sixth prize valued 200 J.Ds: Malak Shaher Abdelraheem Mulki/ Amman**

This competition comes as one of ACHRS activities that aim at spreading a Human Rights culture.

Outcome of a training course on Human Rights in Al al-Bayt University

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, in cooperation with the Al Al-Bayt University in Mafrq Under the auspices of His Excellency Dr. Abedelssalam Al-Abadi, head of Al al-Bayt University, held an educational training course on human rights.

The three days training course was attended by 25 participants. The lecturers were the lawyers Manhal Al Saidah, Ra'ed Al-Athamneh, Omar Qadoura, Ghadeer Qadery and the trainers Mohamed Sarsak and Salem Qubailat.

The participants received training on the following topics: introduction to human rights, the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights", "CEDAW", the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights", "The peaceful resolution of disputes", "The Convention against Torture".

It has to be noted that ACHRS has organized up to 233 training courses in human rights, attended by more than 6699 participants from all over Jordan and the Arab countries.

ACHRS held a preparatory meeting to organize an International Conference on Violence against Women

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies held a preparatory meeting with Ms Hind Benyakhlef and Ms Fabienne Cherrier-Pars on December 19th about the organization of an International Conference on Violence against Women to be held in Amman by the end of May or June 2007.

The meeting has taken into consideration the opportunity of working together with Euro-Mediterranean organizations in order to exchange their experience in connection with the fight against such type of violence.

End of workshop on Child's Rights in "Orphan Care Association" in Al-Baqaa

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies held an educational human rights workshop on the occasion of the 58 anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in collaboration with Orphan Care Association in Al-Baqaa, the workshop has discussed the historical development of human rights and the International Convention of Child's Rights. 117 children and young people participated in the workshop, which lasted for one day.

Training Course on Elections' Monitoring for the Syrian Civil Society Institutions

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies in cooperation with the Defense Committees of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria concluded a training course on elections monitoring for the Syrian civil society institutions.

This two days training course, held in the second part of December 2006 was attended by 14 participants from 10 Syrian organizations and civil society institutions. Many subjects were discussed in this course, as: the fundamental freedoms in the Syrian Constitution, legitimate and illegitimate in Syrian legislation, monitor the media performance in covering the elections, how to write a press release or news in the area of elections, international standards for elections from human rights point of view and elections observation before, during and after polling day.

The third meeting of the working group on migration to host the EU ambassador in Jordan

The meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network working group on migration, refugees and asylum seekers took place 16-17 December 2006 in Amman. It was organized in cooperation with the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies and supported by the European Union.

The EU Ambassador in Jordan, Mr. Patrick Renault focused on the EU support for civil society work in the field of migration, refugees and asylum seekers, and stressed the importance of addressing the complex issue of development, dignity and respect for human rights on an international level, and called on non-governmental organizations to continue their work and to make successful proposals that can be implemented to address such issues.

Mr. Habib Balkoush, director of the International Migration Organization in Amman, stressed the importance of dialogue and communication between the organizations of civil society, public authorities and government institutions to advance the progress and protection of human rights and activate the international obligations of governments in this area.

He expressed concern, and so did many of the human rights activities presents, regarding the violations of human rights in many countries of the region and the spirit of the Barcelona Declaration and the norms and principles of international human rights and the protection of migrants and asylum seekers.

The three days workshop took place from the 15th to the 17th of December, 2006.

About ACHRS

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) is an independent, regional, scientific, advocacy center for studies, research and training on issues of human rights and democracy.

In pursuit of contributing to the dissemination of a culture of human rights, our work and activities aim at strengthening civil society in Jordan and in the Arab World, and at inducing a change to the general level of awareness and sensibility towards human rights and democracy.

The projects carried out by ACHRS mainly concentrate on training for democracy and human rights as they are closely related and highly complementary. Conducting studies and research to serve as an informational basis is a further means to achieve our aims.

ACHRS is a ...

- Constituting member of the Federation of Human Rights Centers in the Arab World
- Member of the Arab Network for NGOs
- Member of the Arab Social Forum
- Correspondent member of the International Federation for Human Rights (fidh)
- Member of CIVICUS
- Member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)
- Member of the Arab Coalition for the International Criminal Court
- Member of the International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA)
- Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)
- Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform
- Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum



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