



Amman Center for Human Rights Studies

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In this issue:

- ACHRS participated in CIVICUS World Assembly Conference
- Jordanian Coalition for Civil Society Concluded the Second Training Course in Election Monitoring
- EMHRN participation in Syria Roundtable Conference
- Social liability and work ethics workshop
- The Day Labourer Committee visits ACHRS
- ACHRS lunches Website for the Academic Freedom Watch in Jordan
- ACHRS participation in the Second Forum on Democracy
- EMHRN organizes Gender Mainstreaming Training in Beirut
- ACHRS mourns the loss of Ben Zakra
- Jordanian Coalition for Civil Society concluded the first Training Course in Election Monitoring

ACHRS participated in CIVICUS World Assembly Conference

ACHRS, represented by Attorney Manhal Al-Sayedah, coordinator of the Training Unit, participated in the seventh CIVICUS World Assembly, which was held in Glasgow, Scotland from May 23 to May 27. More than two thousand participants from all over the world attended the assembly.

The assembly discussed several subjects relevant to youth leadership, child rights, communication within organizations, and the governmental accountability as well as media accountability. The full programme of the World Assembly can be found at <http://www.civicusassembly.org>.

Jordanian Coalition for Civil Society Concluded two Training Courses in Election Monitoring

The Jordanian Coalition for Civil Society Organizations, in cooperation with Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, held the first training course in elections monitoring from 4 to 6 of May. 19 participants from the different organizations that are members of the Jordanian Coalition for Civil Society Organizations attended the course.

The second course on election monitoring was held by the Arab Organization for Human Rights , in cooperation with the Jordanian Coalition for Civil Society Organizations and the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies. 15 participants attended the course from the different associations that are members of the Jordanian Coalition for Civil Society Organizations. The course lasted for three days ,18 -20 of May.

Various sessions

The courses included a number of training sessions about the purpose of election monitoring the rules that the local monitor should follow, monitoring the electoral promotions, the process of the election monitoring, the roles of the monitor through the opening, the voting, the closing, the counting, and the announcing. It also exposed a monitoring experience from Yemen.

Call for preparation

At the first course, attorney Hani Al-Dahlah, director of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, indicated at the graduation ceremony the importance of a new coalition for the independent civil society organisations. He also called to unify the efforts in the election monitoring. He explained that a fair election contributes to the process of establishing democracy, as it opens up the ability of people to practice their rights in elections. Moreover, he called for a reform of the one vote rule.

At the second training course, attorney Sameh Sonnuqrut, Secretary of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, indicated though the graduation ceremony the importance of monitoring the parliamentary elections by the coalition for the independent civil society organizations. He also called to prepare many hundreds of domestics observers for the elections monitoring in Jordan.

Background information

It is noteworthy that The Jordanian Coalition for Civil Society Organizations was established by Eleven civil society organizations, these are: The Arab Human Rights Organization, the National Forum for Youth and Culture, Working Women's Committee, the Cultural Committee for Child and Youth, Center for Child Rights "Haq", the Committee of Jordanian, Amnesty International, Arab Women's media Center, Amman Center for Human Rights, Jordanian Committee for Human Rights, Arab Women's Organization.

Social liability and work ethics workshop

With the patronage of the Minister of Labour, Rehabilitation and Welfare Society a workshop was organized about Social liability and work ethics, in cooperation with the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, the Textile, Fabric and Cloth Union, the Jordanian Committee for Human Rights, the European delegation in Jordan, the Amman Chamber of Commerce, the Jordan chamber of industry, and the International Union for Workers' Education Associations.

This workshop was attended by the representative of Labour Unions and by representatives of the sponsors. The workshop discussed the concept of social liability and work ethics and the implementation of employer liability. It also discussed a number of experiences for some organizations to help in promoting the concept of social liability within their institutions. Finally, the chamber of commerce displayed its point of view in regards to this subject.

EMHRN participation in Syria Roundtable Conference

On 14 to 16 May, the Syria Roundtable Conference was held in Istanbul. The conference was organized by the Aspen Institute Berlin in cooperation with the Foreign Policy Forum – TÜSIAD, Istanbul. The conference focused on the civil society in Syria and Syrian NGO's working with human rights issues participated in the conference.

Promoting human rights in Syria

The director of Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, Dr. Assaf, participated in the conference where he represented the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, of which ACHRS is a member.

The Syria Roundtable Conference held sessions on a number of issues concerning NGO's working to promote human rights in Syria. Among the issues were:

- Foreign Policy – Syria, its neighbours & the West
- Human Rights & the Legal System of Syria
- The Political Opposition
- The potential of the Elections 2007
- Free Media and the World Wide Web
- The Future of Syria's Civil Society
- Women's Rights in Syria / Ethnical & Religious Minorities

Background

ACHRS are regularly working together with Syrian NGO's on human rights issues and election monitoring in Syria. In the last two years, the ACHRS has organized 8 conferences and events with 15 different Syrian NGO's, in which 200 people have participated. The ACHRS have a agreement of cooperation with 10 Syrian NGO's.

ACHRS participation in the Second Forum on Democracy

ACHRS participated in the Second Forum on Democracy and Political Reform in the Arab World, which was held in the Qatari capital Doha on 27-29, May 2007.

In the concluding session of the conference, they announced the establishment of the Arab Institution for Democracy in which Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missnad was elected the president of the Board of Trustees and Dr. Ali bin Smaig Almarey the Secretary-General.

The conference discussed major topics including civil society and political parties; constitutions and laws; women, youth and political participation; the role of media and information technology in enhancing democracy; governments, parliaments and transparency; the role of private sector in enhancing democracy and government; Islam, minority and democracy; and the role of foreign influence in democracy changes.

Moreover, ACHRS attended the second meeting of the Arab World Election Network in Doha on 27 May 2007.

EMHRN organizes Gender Mainstreaming Training in Beirut

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies participated in a training package on gender on 26-27 May 2007. This program, which was held in Beirut, was organized by EMHRN .

Attorney Islam Al-Radaidah, the representative of ACHRS Women Unit, attended the meeting; this meeting structured the program's framework on mainstreaming gender and its concepts and issues in Human Rights organizations. It also discussed the necessary practical tools and instruments to fulfill this program.

ACHRS mourns the loss of Ben Zakra

Amman Center for Human Rights offers the deepest sympathies to the death of the late Edres Ben Zakra, the director of the consultation committee for Human Rights and a member in the Moroccan organization for Human Rights.

The late had initiated the establishment the Truth and Just Forum in Morocco. Under his struggle to disseminate the principals of human right, he had accomplished great things in this field.

ACHRS wishes to express sincere condolences to his lost as he gave exemplary service to promote our shared values of freedom and human rights. He was a great man, and he will be greatly missed.

ACHRS launches Website for the Academic Freedom Watch in Jordan

ACHRS has launched a Website about the Academic Freedom in Jordan. The name of the site is Academic Freedom Observer in Jordan. This website monitor the academic freedom in the Jordanian universities especially the public ones. It also includes the activities, conferences, articles and opinions, media statements, reports and researches, complaints, conventions and covenants, resources, and finally an electronic library for academic freedom.

The Canada Fund who continuously sponsor governmental and non-governmental institutions sponsor this initiative.

It is noteworthy that ACHRS lunched a Website for Monitoring the Academic Freedom in the Arab World and had organized a conference about academic freedom in the Arab universities in 2004. The center also organized a conference about academic freedom in the Iraqi universities in 2006. Moreover, the center plans to organize another one under the same title but in the Middle East , Egypt and Sudan. For more information go on www.jafwinfo.org

The Day Labourer Committee visits ACHRS

The coordinator and staff of Labour Education unit in ACHRS met the members of the Day Labourer Committee. The members of the committee gave a brief explanation about their issues and demands which include their right to equality with other workers especially in regards to an allowance for the last year as a refund for the increasing prices of petroleum products.

This comes after the decision of the government to add these allowances for employees except for the daily workers, in spite their legal right to this allowance for the humble salary they are paid.

On the other hand, the coordinator of Labour Education in Amman was welcomed by the Center at this meeting and he showed his sympathies. He also promised to provide all the possible means to help fulfil these fair demands.

At the end of the meeting the two parties agreed to organize a workshop, which will be attended by a number of participants from different institutions concerned with labours rights.

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:

- Consultative status with ECOSOC
- Constituting member of the Federation of Human Rights Centers in the Arab World (NAS)
- Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)
- Affiliated member of the International Federation for Human Rights (fidh)
- Member of the Arab Network for NGOs
- Member of the International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA)
- Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform
- Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum
- Initiator for establishing the Election Network in the Arab Region (ENAR)
- Constituting member of the Jordanian Alliance for the CSO in Jordan
- Initiator for establishing the Arab Network for HR Trainers
- Initiator for establishing the Jordanian Network for HR Trainers
- Initiator for establishing the Iraqi Network for Supporting Women and Youth in Elections
- Member of the Arab Social Forum
- Member of CIVICUS
- Member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)
- Member of the Arab Coalition for the International Criminal Court



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