ACHRS Newsletter – no. 23
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Dear readers,
The Amman Center For The Human Rights Studies is pleased to present the 23rd newsletter and the first of the 2015. Despite the difficulties and the contemporary situations throughout the MENA region, in the first six months of this year, the Center has been strongly involved in a wide range of activities and initiatives aimed at improving Human Rights in Jordan as well as in the Arab Region. Youth and women’s rights maintained their position as a primary area of the ACHRIS activities with the installment of the fifth and the sixth groups of training women leadership program in Jordan as well as the launch of the Women’s leadership program in Yemen.
Also in order to strengthen its commitment to enhance human rights throughout the Arab Region, ACHRIS has signed a couple of agreement that have testified the willingness to cooperate with other organizations outside Jordan, such as the one signed with the “Organization pour les Libérés d’Information et d’Expression au Maroc”.
In April ACHRIS has furthermore participated at the 4th International Human Rights Conference in Beirut, Lebanon, while a representative for the Organization, DR. Lubna Bayok participated to the 10th General Assembly held by the Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Brussels in June.
This newsletter will provide further details on the mentioned activities as well as on others, as always ACHRIS plays a leading role in regional human rights defense and is hard at work in that regard. The Center has continued to reach a high number of professionals: journalists, NGO workers, public officials and lawyers to take part in these activities, all of whom help ensuring the success of our projects. Enjoy reading the newsletter and many thanks for your continued support and interest in ACHRIS!

Giulia Guarnieri Calo’Carducci
ACHRS Coordinator for the International Relations
Center’s activities in the field of justice and human rights

➢ On the 26th- 27th- 31st of January 2015, ACHRS hold three seminars in Amman to discuss about the topic of the judiciary processes. During these joint meetings, it has been discussed about several aspects linked to such topic, in particular after it has been trying to identify the reasons of the length of the judiciary processes, the discussion focused on the possible solutions to solve this problem, how to minimize the time and shorten the procedures.

➢ During the 15th and the 16th of April, ACHRS organized a two days meetings with the Judicial Council Delegation from Kurdistan, Iraq, headed by his President, Ahmad Zubair. The delegation was made up of 4 judges and 3 lawyers from different Kurdistan NGO’S. The meeting had
the purpose to provide a general framework of the Jordanian experience in the field of the judiciary development.

ACHRS had previously contacted the Jordanian Ministry of justice, the Legal Parliament Committee and the Jordanian High Judicial Council, in order to organize five different meeting with the Kurdistan delegation.

Firstly, the Kurdistan Delegation met the President of the Jordanian High Judicial Council, his Excellency Hishman Tal.

During the second and the third meetings, the Delegation met Dr. Mustafa Yaghi, vice-President of the Legal Committee of the Jordanian
Parliament, and then also the Minister of Justice, his Excellence Bassam Talhouni.

The fourth meeting took place in the ACHRS office, where the Director, Dr. Nizam Assaf provided the delegation with a brief comment about the activities of the Center. The meeting has been than followed by the signature of a cooperation agreement between the parties.

Lastly, ACHRS organized a seminar in the Jerusalem Hotel that saw the participation of 18 between Jordanian judges and lawyers together with Dr. Mohammad Tarawneh, Judge of the Jordanian Court of Appeal. During this ending meeting, it has been discussed about the challenges faced by the Jordanian judiciary system, including all the positive steps and the problems that have to be solved.

- Amman Center for Human Rights Studies Participated through a representative member of the Scientific Council of the Center, the lawyer Dr. Mustafa Yaghi, at the General Conference for the development of the judicial system in the Kurdistan Region - Iraq, which was held in the city of Irbil on the 29-30/05/2015

Dr. Mustafa Yaghi presented at the conference a document entitled "The harmonization of national legislation with international standards and conventions."

Also the judge Dr. Mohammed Al-Tarawneh participated in the conference. He presented a working paper entitled "Judicial Reform in the Jordanian experience plan."

Such conference represented a further development in the relations between our Center and the Kurdistan Iraqi judges Union, after the signature of the cooperation agreement, mentioned previously.
ACHRS continues its commitment to enhancing women leadership

According to his view and objectives, the Amman Center For The Human Rights Studies keeps in improving and empowering women’s rights through training courses, workshops and lectures. In fact, building on the success of previous years, ACHRS has implemented a new installment of its program in women leadership in 2015. Moreover, besides training Jordanian women, the Center also continued its commitment to women leadership development programs.
in the wider Arab region in the wake of the Lybia program success which saw the graduation of 15 Libyan women in the 2014.

ACHRS in collaboration with the Yemeni Organization For The Cooperation together with the Women’s Network for Peace and Security, has organized and conducted in Sanaa, Yemen, the launch of the Women’s Leadership Program, from the 17th to the 21th of January.

Dr. Nizam Assaf, director of the Amman Center, emphasized the importance of such program in Yemen as well as in other Arab countries in order to increase the participation of women in both the political and public domains.

ACHRS received more than 100 applications and after an accurate selection based on an individual face to face meeting, the participants have been chosen taking into account the geographical, ethnic and religious diversity, and there have been selected 26 women from Jordan,
Syria, Iraq and Sudan and so divided in 2 groups. The first meeting regarding the installment of the fifth group of the Jordanian Institute’s program for women leaders was held the 6th of February, while the ones for the installment of the sixth group on the 7th of February. On the occasion of the International Women's Day in the Amman Center for Human Rights
Studies it was held on the 6 and 7 March 2015 the first training course for the fifth group of the Jordanian Institute for Women's Leadership (JIWL). While in the occasion of the mother’s day on the 20 and 21 it was held the first training course for the sixth group. Both these training courses concerned the same issue, that is to say, the "political analysis skills" in the Arab situation during the past four years, focusing on the causes and factors that took place during the Arab spring since 2011 and its developments and prospects for the upcoming future.

Until the end of June, ACHR​S has almost organized eight training courses addressed to both the groups, that included several topics such as the contents of issues of state, society, power, citizenship, democracy, human rights, election, parties, civil society, women’s rights and a specific training about the coach successful skills as well as training strategies.

**Conferences, workshops, seminars and lectures**

On the 28th of February, the Palestinian Center for Policy Research and Strategic Studies in cooperation with ACHR​S, organized a seminar regarding the Palestinian issues of by focusing more specifically on the challenges risks and opportunities for Palestinians.
Participation to the 4th International Human Rights Conference

On the 22th – 23th of April 2015, ACHRS participated at the two-day 4th International Human Rights Conference, organized in Beirut, Lebanon, by the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights, in order to address the legal situation in Bahrain.

The executive session entitled “Bahrain: Absence of Justice and the Violation of the International Obligations”, was attended by a group of parliamentarians and representatives of International and Arab human rights organizations, as well as by jurists from nine countries.

The main topic of the discussion was the absence of justice in Bahrain and the Al Khalifa regime’s violation of its international commitments. Moreover, the discussion was addressed to the topic of both, the just trials which deprived the political opposition figures of their citizenship, as well as toward the human rights violations in Jaw Central
Prison. In so doing, participants also called for the release of Bahraini opposition leader Sheikh Ali Salman.

With respect to these topics, participants in the Conference discussed about the way to encourage the Bahrain government to implement the international mechanism for the protection of the Human Rights.

**ACHRS commitment in the schools**

The Center received the visit from the Members of the schools Parliament of Baqaa, Rusaifa, Nooza, Hashemi, Awjan.

Throughout the month of March and April 2015, ACHRS organized 11 educational dialogues with several schools, were students were the audience and the guests of such meetings in education toward human rights issues.
A C H R S initiatives and other activities

➢ COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The 29th of April 2015, in the Amman Center For The Human Rights Studies, a cooperation agreement was signed between Nizam Assaf, president of ACHRS and Mohammed El Aouni, president of the
“Organization pour les Liberates d ’Information et d ’Expression au Maroc”.
During the bilateral meeting, that saw the participation of the Presidents of the both Organizations and the representative lawyer of the Moroccan Organization Fatima Zahra Altozani, it has been discussed about the main activities of the Organizations in order to lay the foundations for a future cooperation.

➢ PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF EMHRN

On the 12th- 13th- 14th of June the Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), which is one of few regional organizations bringing human rights activists and civil society activists on both sides of the Mediterranean together, held the 10th General Assembly in Brussels. Dr. Lubna Bayouq represented the ACHRS during this meeting as our Center is a member of EMHRN.
The General Assembly elected a president and a new Executive Committee, admitted new members and adopted political priorities to face the actual difficulties in the Euro-Med region such as the escalation of conflicts, the deaths at the sea, refugees and displacement crisis.

It also run three workshops: “Multiple Borders: Deaths, Encounters and Access to Rights”, “Human Rights and the Militarization of Politics in South of the Mediterranean” and “ENP Revision: Human Rights First”.

➢ **PARTICIPATION IN EU WORKSHOP**

ACHRS participated to the Workshop “Civil Society Facility South” held in Tunis on the last 15th – 16th of June. This event brought together representatives from the Mediterranean region and from Europe in order to discuss together about concrete and effective support to civil society in the southern Mediterranean region.

The workshop objectives were:

- To inform CSOs on our strategic approach for the next 2 years and results of the mapping.
- In participatory approach with participating CSOs revise the capacity building needs.
- Invite the CSOs to reflect their views and needs in the ENP consultation paper to inform a coordinated and reflective process respecting the voice of CSOs in the South.
- Bring different CSOs in the Southern Mediterranean into a common discussion to exchange ideas, experiences, analyses, needs, national and regional networking.

During this workshop, Dr. Nizam Assaf, director of ACHRS participated to several activities such as the Capacity building Parallel Working groups activity and the dialogue regarding the New European Neighbourhood Policy.
ENAR’s contribution in the MENA region. Participation in the launch of the “Arab Organization for Electoral Management Bodies”

As a founding member of the election network in the Arab region, or ENAR, the ACHRSH has contributed to election monitoring activities since 2006.

Six national electoral management bodies in the Arab region launched in Beirut on the 8th-9th of June, the “Arab Organization for Electoral Management Bodies - ArabEMBs” -- the first such professional organization dedicated to promoting cooperation on all aspects of election management in the region. Representatives of the founding six electoral
management bodies of Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, and Yemen signed the charter of the new organization. Also the Election Network in the Arab Region (ENAR), participated in the launch through the executive director Dr. Nizam Assaf.

The establishment of the organization represents the final step of a strenuous process. Primarily, the creation of a preparatory committee in Cordoba, Spain in June 2014. Then, the writing of a first draft of a charter for the organization, which took place in January in Beirut. After which came the final charter including the organization’s executive, financial, and transitional regulations at a meeting in the Dead Sea in March 2015.

All the above was made possible with the assistance of the UNDP Regional Electoral Support Project for Middle East and North Africa, financed by the Swedish International Development Agency.

The new organization will enhance professional development and exchange on elections administration, to ensure integrity and transparency.
ACHRS' HISTORY IN A NUTSHELI

In 1999 the Amman Center was established in order to strengthen and spread the human rights culture in Jordan and in the MENA region by facilitating a platform that promotes dialogue, integration and coordination of governmental and nongovernmental efforts. ACHRS accomplishes its objectives through education, cultural and intellectual activities, such as conferences, workshops and research on the human rights situations throughout the Middle East and North Africa. All of which serve to raise awareness to promote and protect the sanctity human rights.

Between 2000 and 2014, ACHRS Organized 142 conferences, seminars, and round tables on various issues related to human rights. More than 1588 Professors, Experts, and Activists from governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions from 20 Arab Countries participated in these activities.

Throughout these years, the ACHRS has also held over 500 training courses on diverse human rights topics where there have been more than 17,000 participants from 17 Arab nations. Over 70% of participants were under 30, and around 60% have been women. ACHRS is a member of 9 regional human rights networks.