

# Newsletter

AMMAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES



In special consultative status with UN ECOSOC  
Honorary of the UN Human Rights Prize 2023



DIGNITY, FREEDOM & JUSTICE FOR ALL

## UN HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

The ACHRS was honored with the prestigious UN Human Rights Prize 2023. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who congratulated us on the Prize!

Following are a few selected congratulations from our partners:

### SCHOLARS AT RISK

"Congratulations to you, Dr. Nizam, and everyone at the ACHRS for this much deserved honor."

### ROSA LUXEMBURG FOUNDATION:

"Congratulations to RLS partner, Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) on winning the 2023 UN Human Rights Prize for your unwavering dedication to defending human rights! We are incredibly proud to have ACHRS as our partner, and we celebrate this remarkable achievement with them. ACHRS was one of only five human rights organizations worldwide to receive this prestigious award."

Thank you, ACHRS, for your tireless efforts in promoting equality, justice, and compassion for all.

Your impactful work has made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals.

**About the Award:** The UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights is an honorary award given to individuals and organizations in recognition of outstanding achievement in human rights. The Prize was established by the General Assembly in 1966 and was awarded for the first time on 10 December 1968, the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The selection of the Prize recipients is conducted by a Special Committee comprised of five members: the President of the General Assembly; the President of the Economic and Social Council; the President of the Human Rights Council; the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women; and the Chair of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

#HumanRightsChampions  
#UNHumanRightsPrize  
#Congratulations #ACHRS  
#MakingADifference"

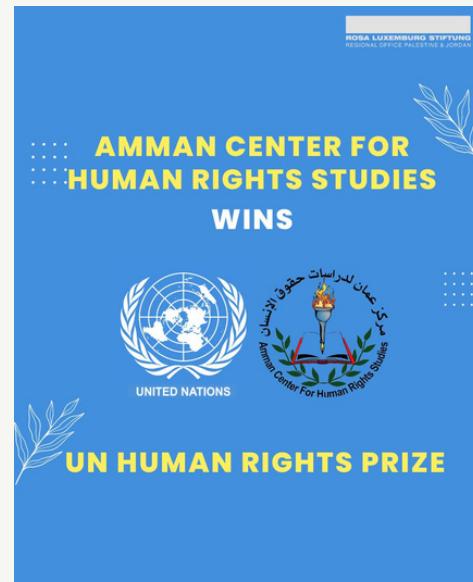


Photo: Rosa Luxemburg Foundation/Facebook

## OUR ACTIVITIES

### THREE TRAINING DAYS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE FOURTH BATCH OF THE 2023 YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The first day, on August 5, focused on the topic of electoral campaign management skills and was facilitated by the Director of the Center, Dr. Nizam Assaf. The second day, on August 19, covered the topic of skills for building social initiatives and was facilitated by the training expert in human resources, Qamar Al-Nabulsi. Additionally, the third day, on August 26, addressed the issue of advocacy skills and was facilitated by trainer and human rights activist Muhammad Sarsak.



### TWO TRAINING DAYS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIFTH BATCH OF THE 2023 YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The first day, on August 2, focused on the topic of the right to education and was facilitated by the educational and legal advisor, as well as training expert, lawyer Khalil Radwan.

Meanwhile, the second training day, on August 23, addressed the topic of Jordanian political parties and was led by Dr. Ibrahim Hijazin, a member of the Scientific Council of the Amman Center.



## A SYMPOSIUM FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS ON THE CHALLENGES OF DEALING WITH PEOPLE WITH HEARING DISABILITIES

The Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) participated in an awareness workshop for medical students regarding the challenges of interacting with hearing-impaired individuals. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the International Federation of Medical Students Associations.

Mrs. Rana Saleem, the coordinator of the People with Disabilities Unit at ACHRS, presented the workshop's objectives and topics. She emphasized the workshop's significance, the quality of services offered to individuals with hearing disabilities, and the fundamentals of sign language.

During the workshop, the translator Saif Saleh, along with the sign language trainers Ibtihal Shajrawi and Muhammad Al-Naimat (both of whom are hearing-impaired), conducted practical training sessions.

They showcased video clips, and the students were tasked with diagnosing the conditions of the individuals depicted. Subsequently, the roles were reversed, with the medical students assuming the roles of people with disabilities. Both hearing and deaf participants predicted the illnesses after the students introduced them to fundamental medical concepts.

The workshop was another event in the ACHRS' series commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Read the full report [here](#).



## SYMPPOSIUM ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

On Tuesday, August 22, the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) hosted a symposium on the topic of international standards for free and fair elections in collaboration with the Independent Electoral Commission and the Legal Clinic at the Faculty of Law.

The director of the ACHRS, Dr. Nizam Assaf, highlighted the most important international standards for free and fair elections, which include freedom of opinion, expression, and media; freedom of association, parties, and trade unions; and freedom of peaceful assembly.

Furthermore, Naser Habashneh, Director of Electoral Operations at the Independent Election Commission, emphasized the Commission's achievements. He highlighted the indicators of independence that are utilized in legislation and executive instructions to manage the electoral process and its budgets.

The symposium was concluded by Dr. Linah Shabib, who is responsible for the legal clinic and serves as a faculty member at the Faculty of Law.

During her conclusion, she emphasized the importance of women's participation in political life, particularly with regards to female students participating in student council elections at colleges and universities. She also requested the organizers to schedule a second symposium for next October.

The symposium is part of a series of human rights awareness activities being conducted by the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies in collaboration with various Jordanian national institutions. These activities are in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the recognition of the Amman Center with the UN Human Rights Prize for 2023.

Read the hole report [here](#).



## THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL OF THE AMMAN CENTER DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN ITS ANNUAL MEETING

The Scientific Council of the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies held its annual meeting on Tuesday evening, August 22, in the Amman Center Hall.

The meeting addressed a number of important issues and challenges that the center is currently facing.

The most important of these issues included the development and organization of qualitative research and awareness activities, updating training and advocacy methods, and strengthening advocacy efforts. Additionally, there were directives regarding the organization of new activities dedicated to celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Furthermore, the members of the Scientific Council highlighted the center's future strategies, particularly following its reception of the United Nations Human Rights Prize in 2023. The Council recommended the enhancement of training mechanisms, methods, and approaches employed in their work. They also urged the encouragement of participants and trainers to contribute to the development of new ideas for improving training systems, integrating them with the suggestions of the Board of Directors. The new strategies will always reflect the center's five priorities, while also incorporating new priorities aligned with the principles of the United Nations' work.

This meeting of the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies is particularly important due to its continuous efforts to develop and promote human rights, raise awareness about them,

and legislatively protect them in Jordan and the Arab world. It also aims to establish cooperation and partnerships with various stakeholders, as well as relevant bodies and institutions.

Read the hole report about the meeting [here](#).



## 5TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PEACE MEETING

On August 26th, the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) participated in the 5th International Women Leaders Peace Meeting. The International Women's Peace Group (IWPG) offers peace education for women to learn about peace management. Furthermore, the IWPG is advocating for the 'Declaration of Peace' to become a part of international law.

The primary theme of the meeting was 'Change and Innovation for the New Generation: The Role of Women and the Future.' Additionally, topics such as climate change, ideological conflicts, and peace activities were discussed.

The first panel speaker, Ghada Chreim Ata, a former Minister for Refugees in Lebanon stated that the protection of human rights, specifically women's rights, cannot be achieved without raising awareness through education, seminars, and campaigns worldwide.

Several other panel speakers focused on Yemen's path to peace, gender-based violence in war and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to their involvement in the 'Declaration of Peace,' the IWPG empowers women to educate themselves about peace management. Through this initiative, women around the world can develop as peace leaders and create peaceful policies and environments.

The ACHRS supports the bottom-up approach of empowering women in their rights, which is a crucial and effective strategy for achieving a more gender-equal world. Their perspective contributes to more inclusive policies and solutions that reflect the needs of society.

Read the hole report [here](#).



Photo: Pixabay

## UN NEWS

### UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF WARNS OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN IRAQ

The UN Human Rights Chief, Völker Türk, concluded his visit to Iraq with a speech in which he warned about a climate emergency.

Iraq is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. The main reasons for the environmental deterioration are global warming, excesses in the oil industry, reduced rainfall, and ineffective water management. According to the Minister of Water Resources, water levels in Iraq are at an all-time low. The UN Human Rights Chief is concerned about serious implications for the region if action is not taken.

[Here](#) you can read the full speech.

### UN RAISES ALARM OVER NEW CYBERCRIME LAW IN JORDAN

The Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Liz Throssel, raises concern over the new cybercrime law in Jordan. The law that will take effect shortly, penalizes online activities by individuals and organizations. Moreover, it criminalizes the criticismis of law enforcement officials and therefore potentially silences public accountability.

Also, it forbids the use of IP addresses. The UN urges the authorities to stay compliant to international human rights law and adjust the new cybercrime law.

More about the concerns of the UN [here](#).

### UN CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN DAY

On August 19th, the United Nations organized its annual memorial ceremony to mark World Humanitarian Day (WHD). This day marked the 20th anniversary of the attack on a hotel in Baghdad in which 22 UN staff members lost their lives. World Humanitarian Day aims to commemorate all the people around the world who have lost their lives during conflicts, geopolitical tensions, or due to violations of international human rights.

Read more about the World Humanitarian Day [here](#).

### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW INTERNS!

Adna holds a Bachelor's degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies and Social Sciences from the Aarhus University in Denmark.

Born and raised in Denmark, the Danish-Somali speaks fluently Danish, English and Somali and holds very strong Arabic skills.



Keja Wynn is American and armed with a bachelor's degree in strategic, legal, and management communication, complemented by a minor in Arabic from Howard University in Washington D.C. During her bachelors, she spent a semester in Morocco where she delved into research that shed light on the feminization of poverty.

As an intern in a human rights law firm in South Africa, she conducted research on the history of Tribal Landed Property of South Africa, assisted with preparing documents for cases helped with drafting answering papers for refugee cases. Keja is also dedicated to empower individuals through education through her teaching endeavors within underserved communities in Madrid, Spain.

With a profound interest in equal education policy, Keja's aspirations align with the ACHRS mission to promote human rights awareness and empowerment. During her time at the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, Keja envisions a research endeavor, particularly in the field of academic freedom.

Her interdisciplinary Bachelor's provided her with insights about the history, politics, culture, and society of the Middle East.

Adna is now pursuing a Master's in Arabic and Islamic Studies, deepening her language and cultural understanding as well as her analytical skills and the comprehensive understanding of the Islamic world.

As an intern at the ACHRS, she can finally apply her broad knowledge in the history, culture and religion of the Islamic world in shaping the Center's research projects, its interactions with organizations and its new strategy.

She shares a deep commitment to the ACHRS' mission of promoting justice through research and awareness. Engaging with the center allows her to contribute actively to their impactful work and collaborate with experts who share her passion.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE 75 YEARS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION

The ACHRS will organize a big Event in December to celebrate 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the honor of the UN Human Rights Prize 2023. More details will be published in the next Newsletter.



### SECOND REGIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

The ACHRS is organizing the second Regional Conference Against the Death Penalty in Collaboration with the Jerash University, the Arab Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the Jordanian Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

The Conference will take place on the 10th of October in remembrance of the World Day against the Death Penalty.

### UN PANEL DISCUSSION

On September 4th, the ACHRS will participate in a panel discussion on the most efficient ways to uphold good governance to address the human rights impacts of the various digital divides organized by the United Nations. A report will be published on the website.

## SDGS CONFERENCE 2023

On September 18-19, the UN will host the SDG Summit to discuss its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). World leaders will review the 17 SDGs and provide political guidance and recommendations for effective actions towards the goals by 2030. The ACHRS will follow up on the conference and report about it.

## MONTHLY PRESS REVIEW

Each month, ACHRS publishes a press review highlighting the latest news regarding the state of human rights in the MENA countries.

Find the latest August publication [here](#) and check out our [website](#) to find out more about our center!

## LATEST STATEMENTS

This month ACHRS published a two statements regarding human rights in MENA countries.

**GREEK BOAT TRAGEDY HAS RAISED SUSPICION REGARDING TIES TO LIBYAN GENERAL KHALIFA HAFTAR**  
*BY SABIRAH MAHMUD*

Early last month, a fishing boat, overloaded with refugees and migrants departing from Libya, capsized about 75 to 87 kilometers off the coast of Greece.

This sinking has been coined as one of the worst ever recorded on the feared central Mediterranean migration route, as noted by Al-Jazeera, with over 70 that have been pronounced dead.

An international media investigation involving El País, Lighthouse reports, and Reporters United determined that many surviving migrants pointed accountability to Libyan General Khalifa Haftar, and that the leaders of the supposed smuggling ring answered to him.

Moreover, Libyan expert Jalal Harchaoui stated that General Haftar is known to boast about his monopoly on the use of force in Eastern Libya, where Tobruk, the city the migrant ship departed from, is located.

While the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies condemns any supposed involvement of government officials in catastrophes such as the capsizing of the migrant boat.

As the investigation into who is responsible has not ended,

the ACHRS urges Greek officials as well as the European commission to be vigilant in their investigations and allow for accountability into the larger systems that fuel unsafe and illegal migration over the Mediterranean.

Read the hole statement [here](#)

**EGYPT'S CRACKDOWN ON HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS CONTINUE DESPITE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS**  
*BY MATTHIAS ALFFRAM*

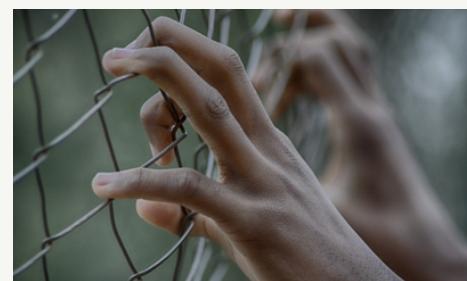


Photo: Pixabay

On Wednesday 19th of July 2023, Egypt granted presidential pardon to two well-known human rights activists.

However, the government had in fact increased its arrests and crackdown on political and environmental activists. Since the eruption of the Arab spring in 2011, the right to protest, freedom of speech and basic civil rights has been severely eroded in Egypt, with almost no space left for Human Rights and freedom of speech.

Furthermore, in 2021, Human Right Watch revealed that "Egypt continued to escalate its use of the death penalty and execution, in many cases following unfair proceedings and mass trials." Egypt is one of the worst countries in the number of executions worldwide.

Moreover, prisoners' detention conditions have severely deteriorated over the years. Independent organizations are constantly barred from inspecting and monitoring the conditions and human rights abuses in prisons. In 2021, the Committee for Justice – an independent association – declared that 57 prisoners had died in custody in the first eight months of 2021.

The ACHRS strongly condemns the Egyptian government's long history of repression on human rights, as we firmly support and believe in the right to protest and freedom of speech.

Read the hole statement [here](#)

## GOOD BYE TO FOUR INTERNS!

In mid-July, two of our former coordinators and long-term interns left the ACHRS.

Matthias and Felix have truly left their mark on our organization and made a lasting impact with their unwavering commitment.

Matthias was at the center for over seven months, Felix stayed for six months. They both were able to progress important projects.

They each took on the role of coordinator consecutively and contributed to the organization in many ways with their skills, motivation, and ideas.

We sincerely thank you for your dedication!



By the end of July, Sabirah Mahmud, and May Clogenson also concluded their terms at the ACHRS after three and four months, respectively. Sabirah Mahmud made a significant contribution to our Human Rights Report as an editor, while May Clogenson specialized in the subject of the death penalty. We extend our heartfelt thanks for your valuable contributions to the center!



The goodbye was celebrated with homecooked food at the Center of the ACHRS.



The ACHRS is now starting in a future with two new interns, and one new intern coming in September. Furthermore, at least three more interns will join the team in October. The ACHRS is looking forward to new challenges in the future with its new team!



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## Monthly Newsletter

The monthly newsletter is a review of the center's highlights from the past month. The newsletter is provided by the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS).

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## ABOUT ACHRS

ACHRS is an independent non-governmental Think Tank center advocating for the enhancement of democracy and human rights in Jordan and the MENA region. The center's five priorities are the right to life, the right to speak, the right to think, the right to participate and women's rights. ACHRS has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

## STAY CONNECTED:

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